

is currently being implemented to the benefit of millions of Americans.

I urge Speaker BOEHNER and the other House Republican leaders to follow the will of the American people—end their politically-manufactured government shutdown, and pass the clean Senate CR, so that the government can get back to helping the American people.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important issue.

HONORING THE WEST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the members of the West Haven Fire Department, past and present, as they celebrate their 125th anniversary. This is a milestone for this wonderful organization and I am proud to have this opportunity to honor their outstanding work on behalf of the West Haven community.

The men and women who serve as firefighters face risks that few of us can comprehend. Each day, they must be ready to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations as we have all witnessed in recent days. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Our firefighters provide us with that peace of mind. Their commitment and dedication cannot be questioned and our thanks can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety. A combination of career and volunteer firefighters, the members of the West Haven Fire Department have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to our community.

On November 6, 1888, a fire broke out at the Hinman Hotel on the Corner of Washington Avenue and Beach Street. Not having a fire department of their own, the City of West Haven sent word to New Haven and asking for assistance. Unfortunately, by the time the New Haven Fire Department was able to respond, the Hinman Hotel had burned to the ground. This prompted the people of West Haven to form their own fire department and on November 18, 1888, Engine & Hose Company #1 was founded.

It was not until 1892 that two more companies were formed. In January of that year, the James Graham Hook & Ladder and the West Haven Hook & Ladder both came to be. In 1895 North End Hose #3 and Seaside Hose #4 (later to become Savin Rock Hose #4) both entered the department. Although the James Grahams would disband in 1902, Engine #1, Hook & Ladder, Engine #3 and Engine #4 all remain active companies to this day. During World War II, a group of firefighters would be formed and funded by the Federal Government for civil defense. At the end of the war these men founded Steven Heights Engine Company #5, bringing the total number of the volunteer companies back up to five.

In 1919, shortly after the passing of House Bill 177, West Haven's first official Board of

Commissioners was seated and they continue to serve in the same capacity to this day. On January 24, 1933, the Commissioners appointed the first six permanent paid firemen, establishing the career department. Lloyd Cameron was appointed Chief of Department by the new board in 1919. In 1936 the board made Chief Cameron the first Permanent Paid Chief of the department. Over its 125 year history, the career department would expand from six men to its current compliment of 54. All in all 167 men have been hired by the career department including those who are currently employed.

In 1988, in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the department, the Department began their Explorer Post program. Young boys and girls of high school age are able to join the Explorers, learn about firefighting and train alongside the members of the Department. Most go on to join the volunteer companies and a few have even become career firefighters.

Today, as they reflect on their history and look towards their future, I am honored to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to every member of the West Haven Fire Department, career or volunteer, past and present, for their outstanding service to our community. Happy 125th anniversary.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN CITIES LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the celebration of its 25th anniversary. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Minnesota, and the thousands of families, individuals, businesses, and residents that Twin Cities LISC has supported throughout the years, I am proud to offer congratulations on this milestone.

During the past 25 years, Twin Cities LISC has served as an integral partner in creating safe, livable and sustainable communities. Their dedication to solving society's most pressing issues with collaborative, community-driven solutions has gone a long way toward increasing the health and wellness of thousands of Minnesota families.

As one of 30 urban and regional branches of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Twin Cities LISC has established a reputation as a national leader in rebuilding blighted neighborhoods and improving quality of life. Focusing early attention on improving the quality of low-income housing in Saint Paul, their vision and strategy has expanded to include health and wellness, improving education, increasing family net worth and creating better paying jobs. To date, Twin Cities LISC has invested more than \$350 million in grants and leveraged an additional \$1 billion in total development into building sustainable communities.

Twin Cities LISC has been a vital partner in developing the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit, Minnesota's largest to-date infrastruc-

ture project. By focusing on transit-oriented development, Twin Cities LISC has ensured that the project successfully connects neighborhoods. To address disruptions caused by construction, Twin Cities LISC provided support services to help with job and housing retention. Their efforts to promote diversity and jobs have helped to expand the opportunity created by this major infrastructure project.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Twin Cities LISC and their record of accomplishment in promoting thriving, sustainable communities, I am pleased to submit this statement in recognition of the organization's 25th anniversary.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Maine at Farmington as it begins celebrating its sesquicentennial this academic year.

More than 150 years ago, teachers from Franklin County petitioned the Maine State Legislature to establish a State Normal School. In March 1863, after heated debate, the Legislature passed the Normal School Act. That fall, Farmington was chosen as the site for the Western State Normal School, the first public institution of higher learning in the State of Maine. Originally a teachers' college with an emphasis on liberal arts, the Western State Normal School first opened its doors on August 24, 1864 to 31 students who convened in the attic of a building in downtown Farmington. Over 100 years and several name changes later, the school merged into the University of Maine System in 1968 and became formally known as the University of Maine at Farmington, or UMF, in 1971.

UMF currently enrolls over 2,000 students from across the country and the world. It continues to be a national leader in producing exceptional teaching professionals that have a direct impact on the state of Maine. Approximately seventeen percent of Maine's educators earned their degree from the University of Maine at Farmington, including four of the last six Maine "Teacher of the Year" recipients. In addition to maintaining its commitment to training quality educators, UMF has made efforts to strengthen other academic areas, such as the arts and sciences, health, and rehabilitation.

Today, October 9th, also known as Charter Day, marks 150 years to the day since the Maine Legislature signed the school's charter and is the highlight of the Sesquicentennial celebration. The day's events feature a ceremony honoring notable dignitaries, an array of cultural events, a ribbon cutting ceremony for the restoration of Abbot Park, and an evening of visual and performing art. The anniversary will continue to be observed throughout the academic year focusing on the six key academic disciplines of education, psychology, English, biology, mathematics and history. I am proud to have the opportunity to share the impressive accomplishments of the University of Maine at Farmington and look forward to watching the University continue its growth during the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University of Maine at Farmington as they celebrate their sesquicentennial.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 102nd National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Also known as "Double Ten Day," this important anniversary marks a special occasion for the good people of Taiwan.

Taiwan is a modern-day success story that exemplifies the prosperity and opportunity that comes from a strong commitment to the rule of law, democracy, and human rights. I know that the people of Taiwan are rightfully proud of these achievements, and I will stand with them to preserve the free and open society that exists there. Indeed, Taiwan has come a long way in a short time. This is why it is more important than ever to strengthen the United States' relationship with Taiwan.

The U.S.-Taiwan relationship is the cornerstone of American foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific region. Earlier this year, I led the successful bipartisan effort to end over four decades of isolation for Taiwan at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), because safety in international air travel should not be held hostage to geopolitics. I commend the President for signing this important legislation into law, and I am even more excited that as a direct result of our efforts in Congress, Taiwan has finally been invited to participate in ICAO this year. It is the first time since 1971 that this has happened.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. enjoys a very positive and productive economic relationship with Taiwan. It comes as no surprise that Taiwan is America's 11th largest trading partner. In fact, in my home State of California, the two-way trade with Taiwan is even more significant, particularly with so many Taiwanese visitors travelling to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program. Given the importance of our trading relationship, I urge the Administration to quickly finish the ongoing U.S.-Taiwan Trade and Investment Framework Agreement negotiations and move on to a broader, more comprehensive Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan.

As we join with the people of Taiwan in celebration of Double Ten Day, it is important to remember that the bond between the U.S. and Taiwan remains vibrant and strong. As a longtime friend of Taiwan, I know that Taiwan's national day is a very special occasion for Taiwanese people living all over the world. So, as we mark the 102nd National Day of Taiwan, let us salute the strong friendship between the U.S. and Taiwan, and let us recognize the shared strengths that make this relationship one of the most important.

HONORING THE BRANFORD
ITALIAN-AMERICAN CLUB ON
THE OCCASION OF THEIR 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Branford community in extending my heartfelt congratulations to the Branford Italian-American Club as they gather in celebration of their 75th Anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure!

Today, as the Club members and their families gather to commemorate their 75th Anniversary, they also celebrate the many invaluable contributions the Club has made to our community. People across the country struggle to create a sense of community, a sense of belonging. Growing up in an Italian-American neighborhood, I know the feeling of heritage and kinship that organizations like the Branford Italian-American Club provide. Like so many others, the Club has played an important role in forging strong bonds of friendship throughout the community.

The Branford Italian-American Club's strength lies in the participation and commitment of its members. Over the seventy-five years, the Club's membership has worked hard to preserve and protect the rich history of our ancestors. Whether it through the Bocce League, Dart Club, the Club Cruise, or their participation in such local events as the Branford Festival, the activities offered through the Club allow families to connect with each other—celebrating our shared history and traditions. That sense of heritage and culture is the special gift that the Club gives to their members, our community, and future generations.

Our communities would not be the same without the efforts of volunteers like you whose energy, compassion, and concern touches people's lives every day. Throughout its history, a commitment to community service has been at the center of the Branford Italian-American Club's mission. Its members have volunteered for countless community efforts, volunteering as mentors for children in the local school system, and adopting families in need during the holiday season.

Today, as they gather to celebrate the past 75 years, the members of the Branford Italian-American Club can be proud of the many ways in which they have helped to shape our community. I am proud to have this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Club's leadership and its members for all of their outstanding efforts to improve the quality of life for others and to make our community a better place. I am also honored to stand today to congratulate them on this very special anniversary and wish them a the best for many more years of success.

CONGRATULATING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM T. BISSETTE, JR. FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE U.S. ARMY AND AS GARRISON COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR AT FORT MCCOY, WISCONSIN

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Command Sergeant Major William T. Bissonette, whose tenure as Garrison Command Sergeant Major at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, concludes October 10, 2013. CSM Bissonette's official retirement from the U.S. Army Reserves is January 31, 2014.

CSM Bissonette's 32 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Army is noteworthy in every respect. CSM Bissonette assumed his duties at Fort McCoy on June 26, 2009. Immediately prior to this assignment he served as the command sergeant major of the 378th Military Intelligence Battalion (Battlefield Surveillance Brigade).

CSM Bissonette, a native of Massena, N.Y., entered active duty March 16, 1982 and attended one-station unit training at Fort Benning, Ga., where he became an infantry anti-armor specialist. His overseas assignments include the Republic of Korea, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Republic of Iraq. His stateside assignments include tours at Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; Fort Bliss, Texas; the Pentagon; Fort McPherson, Ga.; and Fort Sheridan, Ill.

CSM Bissonette has served in a variety of duty positions to include anti-armor specialist, machine gunner, weapons team leader, drill sergeant, recruiter, training and evaluation noncommissioned officer (NCO), unit training NCO, advanced NCO Course instructor, first sergeant, operations NCO, operations sergeant major, G7 sergeant major.

He has attended various military schools including the Air Assault School, Drill Sergeant School, Recruiting School, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Battle Focused Instructor Trainer Course, Emergency Preparedness Course, Force Integration Course, First Sergeant Course, Sergeants Major Course, Command Sergeants Major Course, and Garrison Command Sergeants Major Course. He holds an associate degree from Central Texas College.

CSM Bissonette has committed his life to serving our country and has received many deserving awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Expert Infantry Badge, Air Assault Badge, Joint Staff Identification Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Basic Recruiter Badge with two Gold Stars, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Army Superior Unit Award, as well as various campaign and service medals.

It has been an honor for me to serve as U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's Third Congressional District during CSM Bissonette's tenure at Fort McCoy. During his