

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETIREMENT OF POLICE OFFICER
JOHN D. COOPER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Officer John D. Cooper as he retires after more than 28 years of law enforcement service, with 25 years of that service to the City of Fairfield.

After serving three years as a Deputy Sheriff with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, he was hired as a police officer with the Fairfield Police Department on March 14, 1988. As an officer, Cooper worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Youth Services, School Resources, and Field Training. His high work ethic and dedication to police work was evident and he was promoted to Police Corporal on December 31, 1999. Officer Cooper has a genuine attitude of putting public service before himself and as a trainer of newly hired police officers, he taught them to be public servants as well as police officers.

Some of Officer Cooper's most significant contributions to the Police Department have been his ability to remain calm and communicate well during crisis situations. He has assisted with the investigation of numerous major crimes and high profile cases, and his keen investigative skills have contributed to the successful resolution and conviction of numerous criminals. Officer Cooper has been a good representation of the City of Fairfield and the Fairfield Police Department.

He has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evident on a daily basis. Officer Cooper was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

IN MEMORY OF FRED ESMOND

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Fred Esmond who passed away on October 2, 2013.

Fred Esmond served in the U.S. Army Reserves, was a small business owner, participated in many community organizations, and beginning in 2001 was elected four times to serve as the Mayor of Utica, Illinois. I have no doubt that he will be remembered for his stewardship and love for his community during some of its most trying times, including a devastating tornado and multiple floods.

Mayor Esmond leaves a legacy that will continue to serve the residents of Utica for years to come. Under his leadership, the town constructed a new village hall, fire station, and

numerous community buildings. Additionally, visitors and residents often recognize the beautiful streetscapes lining the realigned Illinois Route 178 and a striking memorial to the victims of a 2004 tornado.

Fred is survived by his wife Sandra; his daughters, Sarah Schweickert and Lisa Esmond; his grandchildren, Addison and Bailey Schweickert; and his three brothers, Jack, William, and Truman. While Fred has passed, his legacy and memory will endure in the hearts and minds of his friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I offer my heartfelt condolences to Mayor Esmond's family. The State of Illinois has lost an outstanding citizen and the Illinois River Valley community will miss him dearly.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, brinksmanship makes for poor politics, and defaulting on America's debts will make for a poor national economy and a poor global image. It should not be understated how devastating defaulting on the debt ceiling would be for America's growing economy. A default as a result of political games would be even more embarrassing.

Most games have winners and losers, but if the political games being employed by the Republican party cause a default on America's financial obligations, everyone loses. To be clear, this is not a game. The consequences on the American economy, our country's global image, and the lives of all Americans will be very real.

The Republican government shutdown has illuminated the party's willingness to put politics before people. If the Republican political brinksmanship causes a default on America's obligations, it will demonstrate their willingness to torpedo a growing American economy. This brinksmanship must end and we must raise the debt ceiling and continue advancing policies that have and will continue to allow our economy to grow.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
HONOREES

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF VIVIAN RODRIGUEZ

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the inspiring career of Vivian Rodriguez. Vivian is the President of the Democratic His-

panic Caucus of Florida and the Constituent Field Representative for my office.

She presently holds the position of Vice Chair for the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee and is on the Advisory Board of the Central Florida Community Initiative, an organization acting as a liaison between the Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit and the citizens of Orange and Osceola County. Vivian was the Political Director of Hispanic Outreach for Joe Saunders, Florida House Representative for District 49, contributing to the successful election of one of the first openly gay legislators in Tallahassee. She is also on the Board of Directors for Equality Florida, which advocates for equality and justice for the LGBT community.

Vivian retired from the New York City Police Department in August 2004, after completing twenty-one years of honorable service and achieving the highest recognition within the NYPD Detective Bureau, Promotion to First-Grade Detective. She was assigned to various specialized elite units which included the Intelligence Division, Executive Protection Unit, Dignitary Protection Unit, the Organized Crime Control Bureau, Task Force Mobilization Unit, Recruitment Section, and the LGBT Sensitivity Training Program for all incoming NYPD police cadets. Vivian was the President of the Gay Officers Action League and Secretary to the NYPD Hispanic Society. She has been acknowledged for her dedicated work in public service and has received various accolades within the Hispanic and LGBT community.

Vivian's last assignment in the NYPD was with the Intelligence Liaison Unit. This unit was created after the 9/11 Attacks in New York City, to combat the global international threat of terrorism in the NYC area. Vivian participated in several counter-terrorism operations to detect and deter terrorist reconnaissance and pre-operational activity to protect the city from future terrorist attacks. Upon retirement, Vivian became a consultant with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and several other law enforcement agencies instructing on intelligence and terrorism.

Vivian's greatest accomplishment was meeting her life partner Valerie Finello, who continues to support all her endeavors. Her pride and joy is her loving son, Tyler, who has grown into a fine young man.

I am happy to honor Vivian Rodriguez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her exemplary career in public service and commitment to equality and justice.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EURIBIADES
CERRUD II

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Euribiades Cerrud II for all he has contributed to the city of Orlando.

Euribiades Cerrud II, better known as "Euri," was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on January 26, 1972. Euri was born to an immigrant father from Panama and a Puerto Rican mother. His father was the first person in his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

hometown to graduate from high school and grew up to become a world-class oncologic surgeon. His mother was a pediatrician who dedicated herself to care for impoverished children.

After graduating from high school, Euri moved to Orlando, FL, to complete his education. While taking a course at Valencia Community College, he met the love of his life, Karen N. Cerrud-Santos. After completing his associate's degree, he continued his education at the University of Central Florida. While attending UCF, out of his own monthly allowance, Euri paid for the civil engineering degree of a homeless man. He also shared his apartment, on different occasions, with individuals who could not afford a place to live.

Having developed a great interest in pure mathematics, he attended Rollins College on a full scholarship where he completed a bachelor's degree in Mathematics with minors in humanities, physics, chemistry, and business administration. As part of his thesis, Euri developed an advanced equations system that was converted into an interactive computer program for the estimation of dieting, insulin, and food intake of diabetic patients. The program was eventually donated to the National Institutes of Health and modified to program insulin pumps.

After completing his mathematics degree, Euri went to New England Law in Boston to study law. He successfully graduated at the top of his class, while having a newborn with his wife, holding a full-time position at the legal department of the Boston Stock Exchange, and volunteering part-time to teach law to gifted students at a charter program in Boston.

Upon his return to Orlando, Euri has been very involved in the community. He served as a board member of Christian Help providing Christmas gifts and dinners to dozens of families in the community and also as board member of the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce during three separate terms. Currently, he serves as Vice-Chair of the City of Orlando Civil Service Board, Advisory Board Member to the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund and the UCF Small Business Development Center, Ambassador to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, member of the editorial board of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Vision Magazine and Chair of Pack 25 of Cub Scouts Troop 25 at Good Shepherd Catholic School. He is also a lecturer to the Orange County Bar Association's Business Law Section.

I am happy to honor Euri Cerrud, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his contributions to the Hispanic community and to Orlando.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF LUIS M. MARTINEZ-ALICEA

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Luis M. Martinez-Alicea. Mr. Martinez earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from the University of the Sacred Heart in Puerto Rico and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Ana G. Mendez University System, Orlando Campus. During his college years, he worked at the Puerto Rico Department of State as Press Officer.

Mr. Martinez founded Starlight Productions, a nonprofit organization devoted to encouraging talented youth to develop their artistic abilities through training and live musical-theater productions.

In 2000, Mr. Martinez relocated to Orlando to pursue a Master's degree in business. He worked at Walt Disney World and studied Arts

Management at the University of Central Florida. Mr. Martinez was also the host of local events, performed as an actor in theater plays, and worked on TV commercials targeted to the Hispanic market. During his personal time off, he served as a volunteer in various community organizations.

Mr. Martinez worked as Marketing Coordinator and Reporter at El Nuevo Dia newspaper. He later served for five years as Director of Marketing & Recruitment at the Ana G. Mendez University System, in which he implemented innovative recruitment and marketing strategies and developed strong community ties to increase corporate branding and diversity.

In January 2012, Mr. Martinez was appointed by Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer as Director of Multicultural Affairs, an executive position that promotes the engagement of minority communities, businesses and residents with the city of Orlando. In addition, he serves as the Mayor's Hispanic Spokesperson to local Hispanic and Brazilian media and assists Orlando's Economic Development Department.

I am happy to honor Luis M. Martinez-Alicea, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his many accomplishments and service to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN CORTES

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize John Cortes for his leadership in the Hispanic community and his many years of service to Central Florida. John has been a valuable member of his community and has worked to better the lives of his family, friends, and the community at large in Osceola County.

John Cortes is a retired New York City Corrections Officer who now serves as the First Vice President for the Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida. John was born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in Puerto Rico where he graduated from high school. He attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York for two years and graduated from the New York City Department of Corrections Training Academy for Disasters. John has lived in Osceola County for the past 14 years with his loving wife, Caridad Cortes.

John is the Precinct Committeeman for the Osceola County Democratic Executive Committee and serves as the Vice President for the Osceola County Democratic Hispanic Caucus. He is also a current member and former president of the Kissimmee Neighborhood Crime Watch, as well as the former president of the Osceola County Democratic Hispanic Caucus. John served on the Social Service Funding Board for the United Way, and on the Board of Parks and Recreation for Osceola County. John is also a graduate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program, and a graduate of the Kissimmee Police Department Civilian Police Academy in Osceola County.

I am happy to honor John Cortes, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his years of service within Florida's Ninth District.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES AUFFANT

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize James Auffant for his leadership within the Central Florida community. James currently serves as the Secretary for the Florida Democratic Party.

James was born in New York City and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He attended

American University in San Juan and graduated with a BA in Political Science. After graduating from law school, James moved to Orlando in 1977 with his wife, Lillian. James became a member of the Florida Bar in 1978 and has continued to practice law in Orlando since that time.

James worked for the Legal Aid Society of Orange County and for the Office of the Public Defender before going into private practice in 1982. James is very active in the Central Florida community and is a former board member of Valencia Community College. James was on the City of Orlando's Nominating Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for Orange County, the Minority Business Board of Orange County, the United Cerebral Palsy Board, and the Community Action Board of Orange County. He also acted as Chair for the Florida Bar's Juvenile Rules Committee and currently serves as a board member of the Apopka Family Learning Center. James serves as the State Committeeman for the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee and was the founding president of the Hispanic Community Center in Central Florida, Asociación Borinquerña de la Florida Central.

I am happy to honor James Auffant, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to the Central Florida community and the state of Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WANDA RAMOS

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Wanda Ramos for her service to the Central Florida community and for her advocacy on behalf of workers and their families.

Wanda Ramos was born and raised in Puerto Rico and is a dedicated wife and proud mother of a 15 year old son. Mrs. Ramos moved to Orlando in 1999 where she became involved in fighting for workers' rights, empowering new voters, advocating for civil rights, and creating awareness about the importance of parental involvement in education.

While working at a retailer, Mrs. Ramos organized workers to achieve better working conditions and better pay. When the unionizing efforts were discouraged by her employer, Mrs. Ramos still managed to accomplish the implementation of safety standards for a better working environment and better pay for workers.

Mrs. Ramos has been an active member of Jobs With Justice where she eventually earned a place on their Board of Directors. She joined the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) and served in various capacities and campaigns to empower and elect Latinos in Central Florida.

Through her involvement with the Family Leadership Institute, Mrs. Ramos has traveled to other states to raise awareness of parental involvement in education by speaking to parents, teachers, and administrators. Mrs. Ramos is also a member of the PTSA, SAC, the OCPS Hispanic Advisory Council.

In 2008, she joined the presidential campaign of Barack Obama performing many duties as a volunteer, including giving a speech to introduce Hillary Clinton when she came to Central Florida to campaign for Mr. Obama.

Mrs. Ramos has advocated for women and children through organizations such as Community Legal Services of Mid Florida (CLSMF) and Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida (LACCF), where she served as a board member for 2 years.

As a talk show host of a radio program at Latina 1580 AM Radio, Mrs. Ramos gave community organizations and elected officials the opportunity to provide information and create awareness about important issues affecting the community.

I am happy to honor Wanda Ramos, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her many accomplishments and her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF CHAD M. BRANDT

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Chad M. Brandt for his contributions to the Central Florida community. Mr. Brandt was born in Melbourne, Florida, in 1970. He is a first generation Cuban-American who has witnessed firsthand the challenges that immigrants face in the United States. He has dedicated his life and career to serve the cause of the immigrants in his community.

Mr. Brandt received a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida International University and a law degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, both with honors. He is currently a member of the Florida Bar, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and admitted before the Florida Supreme Court and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Mr. Brandt is the owner and founder of Brandt Immigration, a law firm specialized in immigration law. He devotes a substantial portion of his immigration practice to deportation defense and representing individuals, families, and businesses during interviews and appearances before immigration officials. Additionally, Mr. Brandt assists clients in obtaining temporary visas and permanent resident status.

Mr. Brandt is also actively involved in his community. He is currently a board member of the statewide and the local chapter of the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Hispanic entrepreneurs. He is also a member of the Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando. He has lectured on immigration law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law and his articles have been featured in the Orlando Sentinel and Ahora Magazine.

Mr. Brandt currently lives in Orlando, FL, with his wife, Jennifer, and his five children, Chad Jr., Emily, Ethan, Lily, and William.

I am happy to honor Chad Brandt, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his service to the immigrant community in Central Florida.

INTRODUCING THE DEBT LIMIT REFORM ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Debt Limit Reform Act. This bill will reform the statutory limits on our nation's federal debt by providing the President of the United States with explicit authority to raise the debt ceiling without Congressional approval, and by removing intragovernmental accounts from the debt ceiling calculation. As Congress faces an ongoing government shutdown that has left hundreds of thousands of American workers without a

paycheck, we are getting ever closer to our nation defaulting on its debt obligations. On October 17th, the debt ceiling is expected to be breached. Democrats and Republicans must come together before then to act or risk a global economic catastrophe. This is exactly where we were just two years ago, and where we will be again in the near future if we do not take any steps to reform the way in which we calculate and consider our nation's debt.

Congress has legislatively limited federal debt for nearly 100 years, from the Second Liberty Bond Act of 1917 to the more recent Budget Control Act of 2011 and subsequent increases. These increases, however, do not address the fact that the current manner in which we determine the debt ceiling is no longer relevant to how we govern today.

We need a new debt limit law—one that takes the modern world into account. Under this bill, the debt ceiling will distinguish between mere accounting techniques and actual debt. No longer will debt owed from one branch of our government to another be considered the same as debt held by foreign governments, banks, pension funds, and other entities. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), of the \$16.699 trillion in outstanding debt subject to limit, roughly \$11.9 trillion is held by the public and about \$4.8 trillion is held by government accounts.

By excluding these government-held accounts from the debt limit calculation—particularly the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and the Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds that constitute the Social Security Trust Funds, Medicare Parts A and B, the Civil Service and Military Retirement Trust Funds, Unemployment Insurance, the Highway Trust Fund, Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Trust Fund, and Airport and Airway Trust Fund—we will have a more accurate view of our actual debt obligations.

These intra-governmental accounts are the means by which the Treasury tracks payouts and obligations to other government entities. They are accounting techniques, not debts. These funds serve to help retired workers and their families, the families of deceased workers, and disabled workers and their families. In addition, they provide inpatient hospital stay and medical insurance benefits; fund programs for civilian and military retirement; provide unemployment benefits to eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own; fund road construction and mass transit projects; provide insurance for long-term services in the case of disability; and fund the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). They need not be considered the same as our government's debt for purposes of calculating the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when partisan gridlock is having a devastating impact on our nation's economy through a government shutdown and further threatening to destabilize global financial systems, this legislation represents a common sense solution to modernizing the way in which we calculate our nation's debt and increase the debt ceiling. By excluding intragovernmental accounts from the Treasury's debt ceiling equation and authorizing the Executive to alter the ceiling as needed, the Debt Limit Reform Act will help Congress avoid some of the last-minute showdowns that have become all too common in recent years. In this way we can begin to tackle the real challenges facing this country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week September 23, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Rollcall vote No. 484: H.R. 1961, "nay;"
Rollcall vote No. 485: H. Res. 354, "yea;"
Rollcall vote No. 486: H.R. 3095, "yea;"
Rollcall vote No. 487: H.R. 2600, "yea;"
Rollcall vote No. 488: Journal Vote, "yea;"
Rollcall vote No. 489: Grijalva Amendment, "aye;"
Rollcall vote No. 490: Napolitano Amendment, "aye;"
Rollcall vote No. 491: Senate Amendment to H.R. 1412, "yea;"
Rollcall vote No. 492: H.R. 3096, "aye;"
Rollcall vote No. 493: H. Res. 361—Martial Law Authority Rule, "nay;"
Rollcall vote No. 494: Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule, "nay;"
Rollcall vote No. 495: H. Res. 366—Rule providing for consideration of both the amendments to the Senate Amendment to H.J. Res. 59, "nay;"
Rollcall vote No. 496: H.R. 2251, "yea;"
Rollcall vote No. 497: Motion to Concur with the Senate Amendment with a House Amendment, Part 1 (Paulsen), "yea;"
Rollcall vote No. 498: Motion to Concur with the Senate Amendment with a House Amendment, Part 2 (Blackburn), "nay;"
Rollcall vote No. 499: H.R. 3210—Pay Our Military Act, "yea;" and
Rollcall vote No. 500: H.R. 2848—Department of State Operations and Embassy Security Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2014, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 14, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 548.

HONORING JIM MURAKAMI OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor and pay tribute to Jim Murakami, a great community leader who dedicated much of his life to advocating for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which achieved redress for the 120,000 United States citizens of Japanese descent on the West Coast that were wrongfully incarcerated in internment camps during World War II.

Mr. Murakami was born and raised in Santa Rosa, California. When WWII broke out, Mr. Murakami and his family were first incarcerated in the temporary internment camp in