

## TRIBUTE TO PEYTON ROBERTSON

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peyton Robertson, who is America's 2013 Top Young Scientist in the "Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge."

Peyton, a 5th grade student, created an innovative sandbag designed that is reusable and easy to transport. After seeing the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy and from experiencing hurricanes in South Florida, Peyton wanted to help protect folks in Florida.

This is not the first time that Peyton has worked to improve the lives of those around him with inventions. When he discovered that the golf balls he loved to hit didn't go as far when they were cold, he created a golf ball warmer. Peyton also invented retractable training wheels to help his sister learn how to ride a bike. When he grows up, Peyton would like to be an inventor, scientist, or engineer.

Peyton, congratulations again on being named America's Top Young Scientist for 2013. Your innovative spirit and desire to improve the world is an inspiration to us all!

## SUPPORT OF THE WAYNE COUNTY CAMPAIGN FOR LIBERTY

**HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Wayne County Campaign for Liberty of the Great State of Michigan who like so many grassroots organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; Wayne County's Campaign for Liberty promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Constitu-

tional Republic that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number of the state; a Constitutional Republic that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are a visionary group of individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and the Blessings of individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grassroots organization.

## IN HONOR OF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE RICHARD A. SCHELL

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 25th year that United States District Judge Richard A. Schell has served with distinction on the Federal bench of the Eastern District of Texas. It is a privilege to recognize and pay tribute to him, along with members of the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association who will honor him at their 17th Annual Eastern District Bench Bar Conference October 30, November 1 in Plano, Texas.

Judge Schell was nominated by President Ronald Reagan on April 13, 1988, to a seat vacated by the late Judge William M. Steger. He was confirmed by the Senate on May 27, 1988, and received his commission on June 6, 1988. Judge Schell served as Chief Judge of the Eastern District from 1994 2001 and also served on the U.S. Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules as well as the Board of the Federal Judges Association. During his tenure as Chief Judge he also supported the effort to create the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association, which today is recognized as one of the preeminent Federal bar associations in the United States.

A native Texan, Judge Schell was raised in a family whose community involvement in Plano, Texas, stretches back over 130 years. His maternal great-grandfather served as mayor of Plano, and his paternal grandfather was the longest serving mayor in the City's history, serving more than 16 years. His father was the longest appointed official in Plano's history, serving as its representative on the North Texas Municipal Water District for 45 years.

Judge Schell received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Southern Methodist University in 1972 and his Juris Doctorate from SMU's School of Law in 1975. He served as an instructor at the Law School from 1975-1976, then became Assistant District Attorney for Collin County in 1976. He practiced law in the private sector in McKinney from 1977-1982, then returned to public service as Judge, Collin County Court-at-Law, from 1982-1986. From 1986-1988 he presided as Judge of Collin County's 219th District Court before assuming the bench as U.S. District Judge. Since 2010 he also has served as a Visiting

Professor at SMU's Dedman School of Law, which awarded him the Distinguished Alumni Award for Judicial Service in 2005. His law clerks and staff have established a programmatic endowment at the law school in his honor.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Schell presided over the Norplant MDL, several complex civil matters and a number of environmental issues. He is currently responsible for the continued oversight and enforcement of a consent decree that resolved a class action between the State of Texas and children who receive Medicaid benefits. As Resident Judge in Plano with a higher-than-average docket, Judge Schell spent 683 hours in the courtroom in the past year alone. This is 247 percent above the circuit median and 243 percent above the circuit average. Judge Schell is universally recognized for his excellent judicial temperament, work ethic, integrity, and fairness.

Judge Schell has the support of a wonderful family—his wife, Janice, and sons Christopher and Ben. Christopher serves as the Legislative Director in my Washington, DC office, while attending law school in the evening at American University. Ben previously worked on the Space Subcommittee of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology during my tenure as Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is fortunate to have a Judge with as much integrity and commitment to justice as Judge Schell possesses. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American and esteemed United States District Judge, Richard A. Schell, for his 25 years of distinguished service on behalf of our Nation.

## SUPPORT OF THE OAKLAND COUNTY CAMPAIGN FOR LIBERTY

**HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Oakland County Campaign for Liberty of the Great State of Michigan who like so many grassroots organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; Oakland County's Campaign for Liberty promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Constitutional Republic that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number of the state; a Constitutional Republic that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are a visionary group of individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and the Blessings of individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grassroots organization.

## GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the sixteenth day of the federal government shutdown to submit for the record a satire sent to me by my constituent, Donna Rusinski of Huntington New York. Donna's satire perfectly portrays the current state of affairs in our nation's capital and I am pleased I can share her short story with you today.

So, imagine that the company you work for held a poll, and asked everyone if they thought it would be a good idea to put a soda machine in the break room. The poll came back, and the majority of your colleagues said "Yes," indicating that they would like a soda machine. Some said no, but the majority said yes. So, a week later, there's a soda machine.

Now imagine that Bill in accounting voted against the soda machine. He has a strong hatred for caffeinated soft drinks, thinks they are bad for you, whatever. He campaigns throughout the office to get the machine removed.

Well, management decides "OK, we'll ask again" and again, the majority of people say "Yes, let's keep the soda machine."

Bill continues to campaign, and management continues to ask the employees, and every time, the answer is in favor of the soda machine. This happens, let's say 35 times. Eventually, Bill says "OK, I'm not processing payroll anymore until the soday machine is removed," so nobody will get paid unless management removes the machine.

What should we do?

Answer: Fire Bill and get someone who will do the darn job.

Bonus: Bill tells everyone that he was willing to "Negotiate," to come to a solution where everyone got their payroll checks, but only so long as that negotiation capitulated to his demand to remove the soda machine.

Bill is a dope.

## BRIGHTON TEA PARTY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

### HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Brighton Tea Party of Livingston County, Michigan, who like so many grassroot organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious, and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a democracy that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number; a democracy that seeks equality in liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are visionary individuals who understand the moral foundations of a constitutional republic, the benefits of free markets, and individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to give this testimony in support of a truly American grassroots organization.

## IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. OLSEN

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to a friend, a leader, and a living legend in Connecticut politics and the labor movement, John W. Olsen. After 25 years at the helm of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, John retired as President on September 25. John leaves a deep and enduring mark on the State of Connecticut after a quarter century of extraordinary leadership and dedication.

A plumber by trade, John joined the Plumbers and Pipefitters union 44 years ago. He

served as President of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters, Local 133, and a former Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council.

In 1988, at the age of 38, John was elected President of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, representing 220,000 union members across the state. His 25 years as President of the AFL-CIO represents the longest tenure in the federation's history.

John provided the leading public voice for organized labor for 25 years. He also presided over—and kept united—a diverse union umbrella in Connecticut. During an era where friction grew nationally between industrial and service unions and ruptured decades-old alliances, John's assiduous and fair leadership kept Connecticut's unions unified and strong and maintained labor's collective potency to advocate on behalf of working families in our state.

In the political arena, John has been a force on the national, state, and local level for four decades. He pulled an upset to win a contest to become Chairman of the State Democratic Party from 2000 to 2002. He served as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee from 1982 to 1995, as Co-Chair of the State Central Platform Committee, and on the Democratic National Committee since 1996. Even in the Town of Clinton in my Congressional District, John served one term as Chair and one as Treasurer and on his hometown Democratic Town Committee.

I will always be grateful for John's support and counsel for my three campaigns as a challenger, in unsuccessful efforts for Lieutenant Governor and the U.S. House in 1998 and 2002, respectively, and for my successful effort for the House in 2006. John loved an underdog, and there was never a more fierce or loyal ally to have at your side for a political fight.

John's remarkable legacy at the center of Connecticut's political and policy debate for a quarter of century is a story of keen instincts, dogged determination, and ardent honesty. John's fidelity was never to his ego or personal standing but always to the cause and a positive outcome. His service will be missed, but I have no doubts that he will be as active in his "retirement" as he was during his sterling career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my colleagues in the Connecticut delegation, John's wife Janeen, three children, Amy, Elizabeth and Christopher, and grandson, Hunter, to honor a true Connecticut patriot, John Olsen.

## SUPPORT OF THE RIVER CITY PATRIOTS OF GRAND RAPIDS

### HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the River City Patriots of Grand Rapids, Michigan who like so many grassroot organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a