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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.

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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

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; River City Patriots 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.

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HONORING LORI DEMERSSEMAN

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, Today, I rise to recognize Lori DeMersseman, who will be honored by the Los Angeles Democratic Party as a 2013 Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democrat of the Year.

Lori is a political leader whose tireless efforts can be seen in her important contribution to our community. As a founder and the current President of the Democratic Singles of Ventura County, Lori created an organization for like-minded individuals who are passionate about the economic, social and environmental issues facing our nation. The DSVC is a welcoming club for individuals to volunteer and socialize with other Democrats while participating in the political process.

Lori has always been engaged in improving our community. She is a committed advocate for equality and has long supported the priorities of the Democratic Party.

For being an exemplary grassroots activist who is consistently helping Democratic candidates and important statewide propositions, I extend my sincere congratulations and join the Los Angeles Democratic Party in honoring Lori DeMersseman.

SUPPORT OF BLOOMFIELD REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

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 Bloomfield Republican Women's Club of 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.

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HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LORIE GRINNAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a dear friend of mine, Lorie Grinnan, on her retirement as the County Commissioner of Precinct 2 in Rockwall County. Lorie has served as Commissioner for eight years, and was the first woman to be re-elected to that position. During that time, she has been dedicated to serving the community of Rockwall, TX.

I have known Lorie for many years, and her commitment to implementing sound policies that benefit the citizens of Rockwall County is unparalleled. She has served in public office for 17 years, and during that time has undertaken many projects from transportation to emergency services.

Besides serving as County Commissioner, Lorie was also a member of the Rockwall Independent School District Board for nine years, and served as a member of the Juvenile Services Board as Commissioner and school board member. She also currently presides as the president of the Emergency Services Board. In addition to her roles as a public servant, she is a member of many community organizations including the Rockwall Noon Rotary, First United Methodist Church, Chamber of Congress, and city councils of Rockwall, Heath, Rowlett, and McLendon-Chisolm.

Some of her active projects as County Commissioner include a \$100 million road bond, infrastructure improvements to various roads in the area, and work to maintain quick ambulance response time despite construction.

Among one of her greatest undertakings was spearheading the Veterans Advisory Committee to help oversee the construction of the Veterans Memorial. Over 2,000 citizens attended the opening ceremony which was held on November 11, 2011.

Commissioner Grinnan, as well as her husband Jeff, and their two children Nicholas and Kimberley, all attended Texas A&M University. Kimberley is also seeking a law degree from Texas Tech University.

Upon her retirement, Lorie will leave behind a distinguished legacy and her influence will be felt throughout Rockwall County for many years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Lorie Grinnan, and wishing her the best of luck on her future opportunities.

SUPPORT OF THE BIRMINGHAM REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

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 Birmingham Republican Women's Club of Michigan, who like so many 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.

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