

California, Elks Club, Rotary International, Masons, and Shriners. He also served for three years as a member of the Board of Trustees for the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, which helps contribute to state-of-the-art healthcare in the Tri-Valley.

During his life, Johnny enjoyed hunting and sports, and he was an avid fan of the San Francisco Giants and the San Francisco 49ers. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 65 years, Maxine; his four sons: Michael, Terry, Joey, and Lane; and, his five grandchildren. Johnny will be missed by many.

MEDAL OF HONOR FOR DONALD P. SLOAT

HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 28, 2013, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3304, a bill to authorize and request the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor. I am a proud original co-sponsor of H.R. 3304.

The late Mr. Donald P. Sloat was a constituent in the First District of Oklahoma. Then-Specialist Four Donald P. Sloat served our country during the Vietnam Conflict. On January 17, 1970, then-Specialist Four Donald Sloat, a machinegunner with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry, Americal Division was killed saving the lives of three of his fellow soldiers by shielding them from a grenade blast with his own body.

For his gallantry and intrepidity, then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates determined that Mr. Sloat's actions merited the Medal of Honor. I submit the following letter from Secretary Gates to Representative Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. In his letter, Secretary Gates notes that the Medal of Honor must be awarded "within three years after the date of the act justifying the award." Congress must waive the time limit before the President of the United States can award the Medal of Honor to Mr. Sloat. By passing H.R. 3304, the House of Representatives took the first step in ensuring that Mr. Sloat receives the honor he so richly deserves.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON,

Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing in response to requests from Senator Tom Coburn and Representative John Sullivan for award of the Medal of Honor (MoH) to then-Specialist Four (SP4) Donald P. Sloat under the provisions of title 10, U.S.C., section 1130, of "Consideration of proposals for decorations not previously submitted in timely fashion: procedures for review."

I reviewed the proposal for award of the MoH to then-SP4 Sloat for saving the lives of

three of his fellow soldiers by shielding them from a grenade blast with his own body on January 17, 1970, during the Vietnam conflict. After giving the nomination careful consideration, I believe then-SP4 Sloat's actions merit award of the MoH. However, title 10, U.S.C., section 3744, requires that the MoH be awarded "within three years after the date of the act justifying the award." Therefore, a statutory time waiver to title 10, U.S.C., section 3744, is required before the President of the United States may, if he so chooses, award the MoH to then-SP4 Sloat.

The final award authority for the MoH rests solely with the President of the United States. My favorable determination in no way presumes what the President's decision might be.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. A similar letter is being sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Senator Tom Coburn, and Representative John Sullivan.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. GATES,
Secretary of Defense.

DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION RE-
LATING TO DEBT LIMIT IN-
CREASE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 99.

My Republican colleagues can't help themselves. It wasn't enough that they nearly caused a global economic meltdown by forcing the government to close and stonewalling an increase in the debt limit earlier this month. Now they want to do it all over again by revoking the President's authority to raise the debt limit, which Congress granted him in a bipartisan manner. Republicans in the House aren't just welshing on that compromise, but they're also signaling their intention to take the country over the brink again, all to score political points.

This is a farcical exercise and one undeserving of this body's consideration. I would hope that early October's nightmare taught us a lesson or two, but it appears that some of my colleagues haven't learned a thing. All of this boils down to a simple question: Do you support preventing a catastrophic worldwide economic calamity that will decimate the lives of your constituents? If so, then vote down H.J. Res. 99.

RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF
HILLSBORO VFW POST 9094

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the members of Hillsboro VFW Post 9094 for their patriotism and volunteerism.

This week, Post 9094 celebrates their 75th anniversary, which is a testament to the lasting commitment these veterans have to help-

ing fellow veterans and non-veterans in Highland County.

The Korean War Memorial is inscribed "Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

In conflicts around the globe, the members of VFW Post 9094 answered this call.

Southern Ohio and our nation are eternally grateful to them for their service, and deeply grateful that these dedicated veterans continue to answer the call to support and protect all veterans and families in need in Highland County, as Post 9094 has now done for 75 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION
LIMITATION ACT OF 2013

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my bill, the National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Limitation Act of 2013, which requires that any expansion of a national wildlife refuge be approved by Congress. Currently, there is little Congressional oversight of the Federal Government's ability to arbitrarily designate land as biologically necessary for increasing a public land management unit. While I'm a firm believer in ensuring our environment is flourishing with wildlife, this is not the path to follow. Washington purchasing up private lands will have long term consequences.

Mr. Speaker, by introducing this bill, I hope to prevent the Federal Government from creating instability in economically depressed rural regions by drawing arbitrary acquisition boundaries around private land and creating hundreds of disconnected, protected refuge areas. Aggressively creating islands of "hold-out parcel" farmland surrounded by environmentally protected refuge lands has shown to be disruptive to economically important rural industries. Whether by regulation or the Federal Government passively forcing out landowners by excessive regulation and poor refuge maintenance, the private landowners lose.

My district is a prime example of the Federal Government's unwanted advances. In the Eighth District of Tennessee, the Fish & Wildlife Service is attempting to purchase 120,000 additional acres of land, which equates to over 1,000 privately owned parcels along 49 miles of the Mississippi River and 106 miles of the Hatchie River. This land grab is on top of the existing 27,947 acres already purchased and protected by the federal government. Even more alarming, the Fish & Wildlife Service has not even completed purchasing lands within the existing refuge designation.

This expansion equates to the largest refuge east of the Mississippi, impacting our crop production, tax base, freedom of land use, and people's way of life. At a time of government shut downs, sequestration, fiscal cliffs, debt debates, and legislative stalemates, rapid expansion projects seem extremely short sighted. Under-funded, under-maintained refuges lead to a loss of realistic recreational use, productive farm land, and tax revenue for county rolls across the country.

Under current law, it does not require an Act of Congress to spend the \$22 million collected each year from waterfowl hunters who must buy an annual federal duck stamp. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support me in passing the National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Limitation Act of 2013, in order to ensure that Americans who do not want the Federal Government next door have a voice in Congress for wildlife refuge expansion oversight.

TRIBUTE TO KILLEEN MAYOR DAN CORBIN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the great work of Killeen Mayor Dan Corbin. This experienced leader and Vietnam veteran is the right man to work on behalf of the home of Fort Hood.

A railroad town since the 1880s, Killeen weathered the Great Depression and later became the proud home of Camp Hood in 1942. Recommissioned as Fort Hood eight years later, it's now the largest military base in the world. "The Great Place" is so much a part of daily life in Killeen that the town's motto is "Thanks for the memories."

Dan was born and raised on a dairy and hog farm in northwestern Illinois. A Vietnam veteran, he rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel in the National Army Reserves. During his time in the Army, he earned the Meritorious Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, and three Army Commendation Medals. Knowing firsthand the importance of our veterans, he's active in the American Legion, VFW, and the Fort Hood Area Veterans Advisory Committee. Dan's ability to relate to both enlistees and officers has added an extra dimension to his skills as a public servant. He knows how to be lead and how to lead.

As mayor, Dan has embraced new technology and the internet as part of public service and constituent outreach. His tenure on the Water Sewage and Drainage Committee allows him to use his expertise on critical Texas water issues. He's looking toward a bright future of water reuse, new water treatment capacity, repairs to south sewage treatment plant, and implementing a citywide recycling program. Dan has fostered developments to downtown, work on homeless shelters, and better code enforcement.

As the proud representative of Fort Hood, I'm glad civic-minded leaders like Mayor Dan Corbin are working hard to improve their community. The people of Killeen deserve no less.

WAKE TECH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Wake Technical Community College on its 50th Anniversary.

In the late 1950s, the North Carolina General Assembly launched an innovative concept

in higher education and provided funding for new industrial education centers that would train adults with the vocational and technical skills needed in the region for emerging industries.

In 1958, Wake Technical Community College, then named Wake County Industrial Education Center, started offering a few classes to about 70 students. By 1963, the new institution had found a home, and the W.W. Holding Industrial Education Center officially opened in October 1963, with 34 full-time students and an additional 270 students taking classes at community sites. Today, Wake Tech has expanded to five campuses, and is soon to develop a sixth. The college also operates two centers and dozens of community sites throughout Wake County. It offers 180 associates degrees, diplomas and certificates, preparing students for immediate employment and increasingly serving as a gateway to four-year institutions. Enrollment has grown to nearly 70,000 students this year, making Wake Tech the largest community college in North Carolina. It is the second fastest growing community college in all of America!

For years, North Carolina's leaders have recognized the critical role that technical and community colleges play as drivers of economic growth and renewal. Visionaries such as Governor Terry Sanford understood that community colleges could help lift generations of North Carolinians out of poverty, and that they could be a powerful magnet drawing new businesses and industries to our state. Nowhere has the success of this vision been more prominent than in the "Research Triangle." Education has been the catalyst for this economic transformation, and our region's community colleges—Wake Tech in particular—have served as its engine.

Wake Tech has produced world-class business leaders and entrepreneurs, as well as highly capable workers, and has done so while constantly reinventing itself as industries have evolved or given way to new ones. I commend Wake Tech on its ability to recruit and retain quality faculty, and its ability to maintain flexible, accessible, customized educational and training programs for North Carolina citizens. Its effective and beneficial community partnerships, outstanding ability to identify the workforce needs of the region, and commitment to measuring resource allocation and quality outcomes are only part of what make Wake Tech such an asset to the region. Fifty years after opening its doors, Wake Tech is still leading the way in world-class training, education, and workforce development.

In honor of its 50th anniversary, Wake Tech has launched a new logo, featuring a torch to symbolize the role Wake Tech plays in helping students find their way along the path of higher education. The new motto, "Lead the Way" speaks to students' ability to take charge of their lives as they learn and grow, as well as to lead and inspire others. It is also fitting as an allusion to the innovation and focus on the future that have been a hallmark of Wake Tech programs and services for the last 50 years.

I extend my congratulations to Wake Technical Community College on their fiftieth anniversary and look forward to the 50 years to come!

NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last month was National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. With the theme A Healthy Baby Begins with You and You and You, the month is established to highlight the tragic occurrences of infant deaths across the nation, and to bring attention to programs that can help save lives and ensure our children are healthy. Measured as a rate of infant deaths per 1,000 live births, infant mortality refers to deaths that occurred during infancy, in the first year of life, or from a live birth to age one.

Not all infant deaths are preventable, but with the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we can begin to reduce the risk of infant death. The ACA is an investment in both the health of women and the health of newborns. Health care for women, preconception health, reproductive health, and maternity and well child care are covered benefits. One in five women of childbearing age is currently uninsured. With the enactment of this law, approximately 17 million women will have an increased opportunity to access and receive regular preventive services and prenatal care.

Although the overall infant mortality rate (IMR) in the United States declined steadily for several decades, it has leveled off for the past several years. In 2011, the rate of infant deaths before age one for the U.S. was 6.05 per 1,000 live births. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the U.S. IMR continues to be higher than the rates in most other developed countries, and the gap between the U.S. IMR and the rates for the countries with the lowest infant mortality appears to be widening.

In Maryland, infant mortality profoundly impacts women and their families. The most recent Maryland Vital Statistics numbers indicate an overall IMR in our State of 6.3 in 2012. The average IMR dropped from 9.5 to 8.6 in Prince George's County during 2012, while it rose from 5.1 in 2011 to 6.4 in 2012 in Anne Arundel County.

While Prince George's County experienced a decline in the African-American IMR last year—from 10.5 to 9.3—the rate remains significantly higher than the white IMR of 6.4. Likewise, while Anne Arundel County experienced a steep drop in the African-American IMR—from 13.0 in 2011 to 9.0 in 2012—the rate remains nearly double that of the white rate, which in 2012 increased to 5.5. And, in nearby Montgomery County, the IMR was reduced to 5.1 last year but the African-American rate stood at 8.2, almost double the rate for white infants at 4.2. This alarming and ongoing disparity across our region challenges us to continue seeking answers and solutions.

National Infant Mortality Month provides us a chance to raise public education and awareness about the levels at which this problem continues to affect our communities, and to educate women about ways they may reduce infant mortality with good health care during the mother's pregnancy and the early years of the child's life. A number of federal programs strive to reduce the IMR, by improving the