

and all of Warren County, in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating the City of Indianola in being selected to receive this certification, and I wish the city and its people continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP
JONATHAN TATE, SR.

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Jonathan Tate, Sr., as he celebrates 50 years as pastor of The Anointed Temple Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God in Gulfport, Mississippi.

He began his work with the Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God as an elder, and soon emerged as the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas District Overseer. After many years of dedication and commitment, he now serves as the Mississippi, Louisiana & Texas Diocese Bishop under Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God Presiding Prelate, Bishop G.W. Ayers.

Bishop Tate has served his Church and community in the highest regard and during that time has received numerous honors from local and national organizations, ranging from the NAACP to the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce. A scholar, he holds the degree of Master of Theology in Biblical Studies and is a Certified Counselor. Bishop Tate has been married for 56 years to Reverend Mother Shirley Tate, who has faithfully worked alongside him. They are the parents of seven children, seventeen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A notable spiritual leader in the South Mississippi, I am proud today to acknowledge Bishop Tate, Sr., and his many accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Bishop Jonathan Tate, Sr., and congratulate him on 50 years as pastor.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF MIKE HIGGINS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Michael R. "Mike" Higgins, a member of professional staff with the House Committee on Armed Services, for his retirement from his dedicated service in the House of Representatives, for safeguarding America families by promoting a strong national defense.

Mike has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. His career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion.

I have had the pleasure of working with him throughout my 12-year tenure in Congress and I know firsthand of his professionalism. He has brought a variety of skills to his role

with the committee, including a bright intellect, a strong work ethic, and a deeply felt commitment to serve the United States and the service men and women of our United States military. He is truly an asset to the committee and will be sorely missed when he retires in February 2013.

Mike is a military personnel policy expert and it is no accident that people have been at the center of his professional life. His empathy for the needs of the people he serves and commitment to respond to those needs is evident in all that he does. As part of the committee staff, Mike has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of military members and their families. His record and reputation will remain vibrant long after his departure.

As Mike embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States of America. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, and may his life be filled with health and happiness.

HONORING MAXIMILIAN E.
GALLEGOS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Maximilian E. Gallegos. Maximilian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Maximilian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Maximilian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Maximilian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Maximilian E. Gallegos for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BILL BARRS AS THE
2013 DODGE COUNTY ROTARY
FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Bill Barrs as this year's 2013 Dodge County Rotary Farmer of the Year. It is certainly an honor that he richly deserves for his role in Georgia's agricultural community.

A native of Laurens County, Bill attended Abraham Baldwin College where he majored in plant science. After graduation, he worked

with the Griffin Warehouse until he began his farming operation in 2003. Since then, his farming operation has grown to 800 acres with cotton and peanuts as his primary row crops—two vital products of Georgia agriculture industry. He also cuts and sells quality hay from more than 150 acres of grassland. Married with two children, Bill and his family are active members of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, on behalf of the great people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, in recognizing Bill for his service to our community and our State.

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH INTO
THE EFFECTS OF CONTAMINATION
ON REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of federally supported women's health research; especially reproductive health research in regions of the country that have high contamination such as Superfund sites.

The reproductive health effects of environmental toxins can have significant ramifications for bone, cardiovascular, neurological, and sexual health, resulting in serious health conditions such as osteoporosis, heart attack, and stroke. In the state of Illinois, we currently have 70 Superfund sites that could pose a health threat to nearby communities. While the Federal Government supports a strong portfolio of research into the health implications of exposure to chemicals at these sites, there is a noticeable lack of reproductive health research in this area. It is essential that Congress supports this important area of research.

Northwestern University is developing one of the first major studies on the impact of Superfund contaminants on our reproductive health. The study will examine the reproductive health impacts of exposure to metals including zinc and lead that are present near a former zinc smelter site on the Illinois River near the Village of DePue, Illinois. The site is one of over 30 similar zinc and lead smelter sites across the country, so understanding the health impacts at DePue will help determine best practices for future disposal of those toxic chemicals.

Northwestern has also spearheaded an effort to update the scientific guidelines that the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, uses to determine the threat of environmental toxins to our reproductive health. The Guidelines for Reproductive Toxicity Risk Assessment have not been reviewed or revised since 1996. I strongly support their effort to ensure that the scientific guidelines adequately account for the reproductive health threats posed by toxins to both sexes and across the lifespan. This will help ensure that the EPA has the most comprehensive and up-to-date scientific guidance to assess the risks of chemicals in our environment on our reproductive health.

The environmental effects of toxins threaten the health of more than 10 percent of men, women, and children. It is critical that we increase support for research into the reproductive health implications of different environmental exposures.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MAJOR GENERAL MELVIN
SPIESE ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the military service of Major General (MajGen) Melvin Spiese on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Marine Corps. I commend MajGen Spiese's career and offer my sincerest thanks for his more than 36 years of dedicated service in protecting our nation.

In 1976, MajGen Spiese was commissioned via the NROTC program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and he began his long and successful career in the United States Marine Corps as a rifle platoon commander with 3d Battalion, 4th Marines.

Nearly four decades later, MajGen Spiese retires now from his post as both Deputy Commanding General of I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) and Commanding General (CG) of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB).

As Deputy CG of I MEF, MajGen Spiese oversaw the daily activities of 57,000 Marines and Sailors, the largest warfighting organization in the Marine Corps. From the moment he became Deputy CG, he provided critical direction to the staff and allowed the CG of I MEF to successfully focus on his concurrent duties as Commander, Marine Forces Central Command.

Simultaneously, as the CG of 1st MEB, MajGen Spiese successfully transformed the organization from concept to an operational, warfighting organization. MajGen Spiese developed establishing orders and planning documents that were firsts of their kind for Marine Expeditionary Brigades, pushed his staff to 48-month planning cycles rather than the standard 12 months, and integrated 1st MEB into major Marine Corps, Navy, and international training events such as JAVELIN THRUST with Marine Forces Reserve units, DAWN BLITZ with the Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group Three and THIRD Fleet, and IRON FIST with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force.

Through the development of the MEB Order, MEB Training Continuum, Capstone Document, and yearly I MEF Campaign Plans he leaves an established path for future Marine leaders to follow.

I offer MajGen Spiese my warmest congratulations and hope that he enjoys a rich and rewarding retirement with his wife Filomena and their children D'arcy, Lindsey and MG and their grandchildren Lucy and Christian.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing the career of MajGen Melvin Spiese.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HALT
INDEX TRADING OF ENERGY
COMMODITIES OR HITEC ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Halt Index Trading of Energy Commodities, or HITEC, Act. I am reintroducing this bill, which was H.R. 5186 in the previous Congress, with Representative DELAURO because urgent action is still needed to protect our nation's oil and refined product commodities markets from artificial and excessive levels of volatility caused by the trading practices of certain Wall Street traders. Since 1991, Wall Street investment banks such as Goldman Sachs have created and marketed a new financial product known as commodity index funds, which are really energy speculation funds, gasoline gambles. These energy speculation funds track the financial performance of one or more commodities. If a speculation fund has an investment in oil and the value of oil goes up, then the value of the fund goes up; if the value of oil goes down, the value of the speculation fund goes down.

These investments have had an adverse effect on the operation of the markets for the commodities that comprise the funds. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been invested in various energy speculation funds, artificially inflating the prices of our commodities. While these energy speculation funds may be driving up prices for many different commodities, they are having an especially pernicious effect on energy commodities. According to testimony submitted to the House Natural Resources Committee, excessive speculation added nearly \$1.00 to the per gallon price of gasoline last spring, and energy speculation funds appear to have been largely responsible. Due to the activities of these energy speculation funds, Wall Street investment banks have profited by introducing new and unprecedented levels of volatility and speculation into oil and refined product markets.

Energy speculation funds have changed the very nature of our commodities markets. Traditionally, the commodities market was dominated by companies who actually used the commodities to hedge the business risk associated with oil or refined products prices. Large oil, gasoline, diesel or jet fuel consumers such as airlines, trucking firms, and shipping services were the largest participants in these markets. Indeed, in 1996, companies who actually bought oil on the commodities market so they could use it owned 93% of the oil futures or derivatives in that market. Now, however, these companies only own 37% of the oil futures or derivatives in that market. The bulk of the remaining 63% is owned by speculators who have invested in these energy speculation funds, none of whom will actually use any of the oil or natural gas in which they have invested.

Given how much these energy speculation funds have hurt consumers and business, one might at least think that these energy speculation funds are good investment vehicles. Yet, all evidence is that they have provided mediocre returns in recent years. According to the Wall Street Journal, Standard and Poor's popular GSCI index provided just .08% in annual

returns in 2012, far below the returns of the S&P 500. Worse, in 2011, the returns from the GSCI were actually negative. Unsurprisingly, institutional investors like pension funds are moving away from investing in energy speculation funds: Not only do they hurt average Americans and business, but they do not even provide excellent returns for their investors. In truth, the only group of people who seem to be benefiting from the existence of these funds is Wall Street.

Despite only being 22 years old, energy speculation funds have already had a profound impact on our country. They have increased the size of our commodities market. They have increased the volatility of our commodities prices. They have hurt consumers' wallets and small businesses by making them pay more at the pump. They have slowed the growth of our economy by requiring that we devote even more money to energy instead of creating new jobs. They do all these things, and they do not even provide much benefit to their own investors. These energy speculation funds are a danger to our economy, our financial system, and the average American's wallet.

The HITEC Act will restore order to our energy commodity markets and end this experiment. The bill will ban all new investment in energy commodities like light sweet crude oil, natural gas, heating oil, and gasoline by these commodity index funds from the date of enactment. The day the President signs this bill, energy speculation funds will not be allowed to grow any more if they count speculators among their investors. Existing energy speculation funds that continue to count speculators among their investors will then have two years to wind down their investments. As the average length of a "spot" commodity contract is one year, this should allow energy speculation funds that continue to house speculators more than enough time to wind down their investments in a fair and orderly fashion.

This bill does not prohibit energy speculation funds from investing in agricultural commodities like wheat or corn, nor does it prohibit those funds from investing in metals such as gold. The bill also does not implicate trading of electricity in any way, shape, or form. Instead, this bill just prohibits energy speculation funds from interfering with our energy commodities, a market that determines the prices for the fuels that power our economy.

This bill will end an unnecessary and harmful source of excessive price volatility that has only served to benefit Wall Street traders and has harmed our economy by pumping up oil, gasoline, and other refined product prices. Enactment of this legislation will address one major source of the pain American consumers have recently been feeling at the pump, and I once again urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this critical legislation.

HONORING SHILO G. OSBORN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shilo G. Osborn. Shilo is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and