

During their struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire, the people of Crete endured political oppression and unspeakable atrocities, but they never stopped living their lives under the creed "Elefteria I Thanatos" "Freedom or Death." Since rejoining with Greece, Crete has remained a pillar of the fight against tyranny and oppressive regimes. Nowhere was this exhibited more than during the Battle of Crete, when Cretans stood alongside Allied troops and fought off German paratroopers. And—like Crete itself—the Battle had an oversized influence on the outcome of World War II. The damage the Cretans and their Western allies inflicted on the German air force and paratrooper corps prevented Nazi Germany from carrying out another airborne invasion for the remainder of World War II.

For over 267 years, the people of Crete fought a brave battle to rejoin their Greek motherland and I stand here today to recognize their sacrifices and honor their memories.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NIH FUNDING

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for full funding of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The largest source of funding for medical research in the world, the NIH has supported more than 130 Nobel Prize winners.

Medical breakthroughs funded through the NIH include new treatments for cancer and chronic conditions. Clinical trials hosted at the NIH award patients newfound hope that they will be able to overcome debilitating diseases or conditions.

While the significance of NIH funding can be measured through patients reached and treatments developed, it can also be gauged through economic impact. For every dollar of NIH funding spent in New York State, more than twice as much is generated in economic output. In 2011, NIH grants and contracts created and supported more than 33,193 jobs in the state alone and more than 500,000 jobs nationwide.

Due to budget cuts, the NIH funded approximately 700 fewer research grants in 2013 than 2012 and admitted 750 fewer patients to the NIH Clinical Center. Almost immediately, these cuts affected patients hoping to be admitted to clinical trials and research jobs at universities nationwide. In the long term, these cuts will almost certainly delay progress in medical breakthroughs.

We must not allow the significant legacy of the National Institutes of Health be diminished by the harmful effects of funding cuts.

RECOGNIZING THE WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGE SOCCER TEAM

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the William Smith College soccer team,

which recently won the 2013 NCAA Division III National Championship. On December 7, 2013, the Herons concluded their record-breaking season with a 2–0 victory over Trinity University, successfully capturing their second national championship title in program history.

Setting new standards for the William Smith soccer program, the Herons completed their season with a record of 23–1–0. Their impressive winning streak of twenty-three games broke the previous school record. Remarkably, twenty-one of those games were complete shutouts, including all six victories in the NCAA tournament. The Herons have now competed in the Final Four ten times in the past twenty-five years and have won the Liberty League title in seven consecutive seasons.

Following the championship game, five players from this incredibly talented squad were named to the NCAA Women's All-Tournament Team. Forward Kara Shue, midfielder Zoe Eth, and goalkeeper Chelsea Dunay were among those who were recognized. In addition, forward Krista Longo and defender Olivia Zitoli were respectively named Most Outstanding Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year.

This gifted team was led by their accomplished and experienced coach, Aliceann Wilber. As the only head coach that the William Smith Herons have ever known, Coach Wilber's 34th season proved to be her most successful yet. The national championship marked Wilber's 480th career win, making her the winningest coach in Division III women's soccer history. She also became the first female collegiate soccer coach to earn more than 400 career wins.

The 2013 William Smith College soccer team demonstrated that hard work and dedication truly pay off. I have no doubt that under the leadership of Coach Wilber, the Herons will continue their extraordinary level of success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 10, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather and missed two rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both rollcall 630, the Department of Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Lease Authorization Act, and rollcall 631, the VA Expanding Authorities Extension Act.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the human rights situation in North Korea. We all remain hopeful that the transition to the leadership of Kim Jong-Un has created new possibilities but we are well aware that there remain fundamental human rights violations in North Korea and hu-

manitarian conditions in North Korea remain deplorable. I believe it is fair to say that the findings in the 2004 North Korean Human Rights Act and 2008 and 2012 Reauthorizations remain substantially accurate today. That is not just my opinion, it was the bi-partisan consensus of this Congress when it reauthorized the North Korean Human Rights Act until 2017.

Mr. Speaker, we know that democracy, economic growth and human development are intimately linked and perhaps nowhere is that more evident than the comparison of North and South Korea. South Korea has taken the path toward more democracy, more human rights, more education, higher living standards and economic self-sufficiency. North Korea has shunned that road . . . and the results of those policies are now glaringly evident. Perhaps even more relevant in today's world is the link of democracy and economic growth to peace. South Korea is not only a major trading partner but an ally in the region while North Korea remains a major source of regional and global instability and insecurity.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has one of the largest Korean populations outside of the Korean Peninsula with millions who have family ties to North Korea and the Seventh Congressional District has its share of the Korean diaspora. Like so many of my constituents, I believe the U.S. must continue its commitment to aid North Korean refugees and advocate for the human rights of the North Korean people. We share the pain of those who have been deprived of these most basic rights and the suffering of those who live in miserable conditions and look forward to the day when the Korean leadership will provide transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and guarantee the rights of those who seek refuge abroad.

I want to thank my constituent Mr. David Chang, a consistent advocate of human rights, for helping to maintain a focus on this critical issue.

HONORING EARL P. WILLIAMS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Earl P. Williams on his retirement and celebrate his over 20 years of service to the cotton industry and the Central Valley's agriculture industry as a whole.

A native of Arkansas, Earl moved to Buttonwillow, California in 1958. He received a Bachelor of Science in Crop Production from California Polytechnic State University in 1965 and began his agricultural career in California.

Earl was one of fifteen charter members of the California Cotton Ginners Association's Board of Directors and served on the board from 1972 to 1980. He joined the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations as the Executive Vice President in 1993, and was later named President and Chief Executive Officer.

Earl is also the past President of the Buttonwillow Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. He is a past member and chairman of the Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Crop Science Department's Advisory Council. In 1963 he

was the Crops Club President and in 1996 received the Crops Club's Distinguished Agriculturist Award. Additionally, he served two terms on the California Industrial Welfare Commission's Wage Board #8. He is a past board member of the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association and a past board member of the California Agricultural Education Foundation.

In his various leadership roles, Earl has worked closely with California Governor Gray Davis, and other Democrat and Republican legislators, as well as his colleagues in the agriculture community to pass legislation to assist farmers and agribusinesses in California. Additionally, Earl has been a champion for air pollution and water quality issues facing the San Joaquin Valley of California.

Without a doubt, Earl has been a key player in California's agriculture industry for a number of years. It is with great pride that I recognize Earl P. Williams for his service and leadership and congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 630, "yea," on rollcall No. 631, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent yesterday due to several flight cancellations and delays due to severe weather. As a result, I missed two votes on Tuesday, December 10, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 630 and 631.

CONGRATULATING JORDAN
MARCUS PATE ON ACHIEVING
THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Jordan Marcus Pate of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Jordan Pate has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Jordan has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Jordan will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Jordan's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jordan Marcus Pate on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,234,005,998,603.93. We've added \$6,607,128,949,690.85 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

COMMENDING VIRAJ PURI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Viraj Puri, a 13-year-old student at Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, Virginia.

Viraj is interested in technology, music, advocacy, and writes a blog about mobile devices. He is also a certified DJ (DJ Droid) and built his own powerful computer which he uses for his DJ performances. Viraj performs in front of kids, adults and seniors.

As an Indian American teenager, Viraj saw the effects of bullying on his older brother and decided to blend advocacy and technology. He built a website which can be accessed at www.bullyvention.com.

Viraj's website calls for teenagers to Write on Washington, to make their voices roar by

contacting their lawmakers and urging them to join the campaign to stop bullying now. Viraj believes that kids who are bullied need to know they are powerful enough to reach out to those in position to make a difference.

Bullyvention is the first site to team up with the U.S. House of Representatives' Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus (CABC). Viraj's website trends from Capitol Hill where he interviews Members of Congress who have a story to share or advice to give victims of bullying.

In support of his vision that the "pen is mightier than the sword," Viraj has been successful in getting Members of Congress involved in a campaign he calls Raise Your Pen. Former Speaker and now Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives NANCY PELOSI has raised her pen to stop bullying now. President Barack Obama also sent a message of praise and a note of encouragement in response to a hand-written letter Viraj sent to him.

I am pleased that Viraj is also interviewing and posting photos of State Attorneys General, School Superintendents, and others who want to join the campaign. He is creating an online interactive map that highlights areas of concern by searching through keywords in social media like Facebook, Instagram, etc., and by school district, state, and county. It is the only interactive map on this subject.

I commend Viraj for taking a public stand against bullying and for putting his technology skills to use in a way that draws all of us together. His work, especially with Members of Congress, on behalf of teens across America is the first of its kind. And so, for historical purposes, I submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to recognize Viraj for his advocacy efforts. Viraj is a remarkable young man with a very bright future. I am proud to know him, and I extend to him and his family my kindest regards and best wishes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on December 9, the weather delayed my arrival to Washington DC for the afternoon votes, and I missed rollcall No. 631, or H.R. 1402. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1402.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF IRA

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeff Ira for his 16 years of outstanding service on the Redwood City City Council, two terms as mayor. To say that Jeff's enthusiasm and expertise will be missed by his colleagues and all residents would be the understatement of the decade. Jeff has demonstrated superb leadership in setting Redwood City on a stable financial path and in making it a better place to live. I am proud to call Jeff a colleague and