

Cleveland Hughes III 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.

James Hughes 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 James 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 James Hughes for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. James 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. James'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 James Cleveland Hughes III on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

MEDICARE DEMONSTRATION OF COVERAGE FOR LOW VISION DE- VICES ACT OF 2013

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that more than 60 million Americans are at risk of serious vision loss—a number expected to increase as the baby boomer generation ages. Along with my colleague Rep. GUS BILIRAKIS, I am proud to introduce legislation to support Americans with limited or impaired vision. For someone with a visual impairment, reading a book or crossing the street could be blurred or distorted even with the help of glasses or contact lenses. In many cases a physician can prescribe magnifiers or special optical devices to help an individual remain independent. While there are a wide variety of options to help people with low vision, currently, there is an exclusion from Medicare coverage for devices that include a lens to aid vision or provide magnification of images for impaired vision. Ultimately, not having these assistance devices could shift more individuals from independent living to care facilities or nursing homes.

To understand the impact of covering these devices for America's seniors, we are introducing the Medicare Demonstration of Coverage for Low Vision Devices Act of 2013. This legislation would create a five-year national demonstration project administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate the economic impact of allowing reimbursement for certain low vision devices under the Social Security Act. Coverage of such devices could help Medicare beneficiaries with low vision lead healthy, safe, and independent lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 636, H.R. 1992, I was unable to be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE W.H. JEFFERSON FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historic and family legacy, W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home.

W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home was founded in 1894 by William Henry and Lucy Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson was the first African-American funeral director in the State of Mississippi, while Mrs. Jefferson was a leader in education. Both fought hard to make Vicksburg and Warren County a wonderful place for all its citizens.

The Jeffersons' values for service, integrity, excellence and putting people first are honored by the facility that carries their name. The new facility, completed in 2002, provides large visitation rooms, a chapel that seats over 300, a spacious break room, and unlimited parking.

The business has grown with Vicksburg through the leadership of the family from generation to generation. Currently, W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home is co-owned by James E. Jefferson, Jr. and his uncle, Robert, Sr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the W. H. Jefferson Funeral Home for its legacy and strong history in the Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi, area.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAK- LAND COUNTY COMMUNITY MEN- TAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's service to the Oakland County community.

Currently, only 28 percent of Americans with a diagnosable mental illness receive the treatment they need, and even Americans who do have health insurance too often find themselves unable to receive care because of discriminatory policies in their health plans. The Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority helps to fill this void by ensuring that more than 22,000 Oakland County citizens have access to high quality mental health services. The Authority provides lifesaving services to those adults and children who are affected by mental health illness, emotional disturbance, or substance abuse. Most notable is the Authority's dedication to serving the under- and uninsured.

Today, the Authority serves as a national leader in the delivery of quality mental health services that improve the health and quality of life of those who are in need of mental health support.

As part of its services, the Authority is opening a new Resource and Crisis Services Center for Oakland County citizens. This facility will serve as an accessible centralized resource for individuals facing crisis and seeking referral to quality support and mental health services. I congratulate Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority for its new Resource and Crisis Services Center, and I look forward to the Authority's expanded impact in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority will celebrate its many contributions to the Oakland County community on December 17, 2013. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority, and its dedicated staff, for its five decades of service to Michigan residents.

HONORING LCDR DANIEL PROCHAZKA, USN

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Lieutenant Commander Daniel "Prozac" Prochazka, United States Navy.

For the past year, Lieutenant Commander Prochazka, a proud naval aviator and graduate of Georgia Tech, served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Lieutenant Commander Prochazka executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Lieutenant Commander Prochazka directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Lieutenant Commander Prochazka took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Lieutenant Commander Prochazka's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Commander Prochazka for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, for our Nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. After spending the last 12 years as an E-2C Hawkeye pilot in Japan and Virginia and completing eight deployments, which included flying combat support missions over Iraq and Afghanistan, Lieutenant Commander Prochazka and his family are headed to Norfolk, VA where he will become the Executive Officer of VAW-125, the "Tiger Tails." Lieutenant Commander Prochazka, who has been selected for the rank of Commander, will return to sea and to leading Sailors as he goes back into harm's way to execute his trade as naval aviator in the service of this great Nation, flying the new E-2D Hawkeye. I have no doubt that Lieutenant Commander Prochazka will continue to serve the United States Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him, his wife Jen, and his daughter Amelia the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Navy family. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Lieutenant Commander Dan Prochazka are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Lieutenant Commander Prochazka, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and all the Sailors you are charged with leading. Fair winds and following seas.

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Trade and Environment Enforcement Act, also known as the Green 301 Act. Green 301 expands the Section 301 provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 to encompass environmental effects. It provides tools to help prevent practices by other countries that cause negative environmental impacts to human, animal, or plant life or health, or to prevent the conservation of exhaustible natural resources domestically or internationally.

The United States has helped to create the largest trade network the world has ever seen.

As we leverage our commercial influence in the global economy, we can also ensure the countries we are doing business with are adhering to basic environmental standards.

Green 301 would allow the U.S. government to impose penalties, including the increase of tariffs, on countries that: fail to effectively enforce the environmental laws of a foreign country; waived or otherwise derogated from the environmental laws of a foreign country or weakened the protections afforded by such laws; fail to provide for judicial or administrative proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country; fail to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of the environmental laws of a foreign country; or fail to effectively enforce environmental commitments in agreements to which a foreign country and the United States are a Party.

The promise of an open, mutually beneficial trade relationship with the U.S. is both a carrot and a stick. Green 301 lets our trade partners know that, not only does the United States expect our partners to adhere to environmental agreements, but now there could be serious economic penalties for countries that don't hold up their end of the bargain.

My support for international trade agreements has always been predicated on the notion that agreements establish a fair, rules-based trading regime. The economy of my state is heavily trade-dependent. Oregon's iconic brands would not exist without strong international trading relationships. Oregon's largest private employer, Intel, is a product of the international market for high-tech products.

Oregon and other states are greatly disadvantaged when our trading partners derogate from their environmental laws, which provide them with an unfair advantage and undercuts U.S. companies, which operate under our own strong environmental protections. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that trade remains free and open, but, in incorporating environmental and labor protections, also meets basic expectations of fairness.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 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 \$17,222,454,811,203.79. We've added \$6,595,577,762,290.71 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I speak today to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniver-

sary of the National Industries for the Blind (NIB). It was seventy-five years ago when the Wagner-O'Day Act originally helped spur the creation of NIB, whose mission is to enhance economic and personal independence for the blind and visually impaired. Each day NIB upholds its mission by relentlessly creating, sustaining, and improving employment opportunities for those who it serves.

To best meet its objectives, the NIB collaborates with over ninety-one associated nonprofit agencies—based in thirty-five states and home to more than two hundred and fifty locations—which includes the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, IFB, located in North Carolina.

In August of this year, I had the pleasure of being invited to visit the Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind in Asheville, NC. During my tour, I was fortunate to learn that the facility's state-of-the-art cutting and ultra-sonic welding capabilities enable workers to compete for new, complex commercial and government opportunities. More impressive was the confidence and independence that Asheville's first-rate facility brought to its workforce—composed of more than fifty individuals who are either blind or visually impaired—that has earned competitive contracts with our U.S. military and internationally-recognized achievements in quality control.

In the last few years, IFB has employed over three hundred blind and visually impaired workers at manufacturing facilities located in Asheville and Winston-Salem. Both facilities manufacture a significant number of quality products that are utilized to protect everyday Americans such as you and me. Altogether, IFB positively impacts our visually impaired community in seventy-seven counties throughout North Carolina, and it will continue to enhance its economic presence in our region through the introduction of a new mobile eye clinic.

Through the endeavors of IFB, many members of our community who are visually impaired or blind are afforded the opportunity to gain the confidence and financial independence—which many of us take for granted—by achieving their goal of a commendable career. As an advocate of IFB, I appreciate its proactive efforts to improve the livelihoods of our blind and visually impaired community, and I will continue to support IFB's efforts as it continually extends valuable opportunities and services in my home state of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Public Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2013. This legislation seeks to modernize the Corps permitting process so that crucial public safety infrastructure projects can be built in a sensible and timely fashion while ensuring there is a thorough environmental review. The National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Act guide the Corps' actions to protect our Nation's waterways, but they have flaws that lead to unnecessary and costly delays that do not balance public safety