

The most recent trip was to the Jersey Shore to assist in the clean-up from Superstorm Sandy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Episcopal Church of St. James in celebrating its 125th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING DAVE BORCKY

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dave Borcky for his efforts in support of the newly renovated City of McFarland's Veterans Community Center.

A native of McFarland, California, Dave served our country as a member of the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. Since his return, he has worked tirelessly in the community to ensure veterans receive the recognition they deserve. Dave is an active member of the Lions Club and coaches 27 students from McFarland High School in the aptly named the LEOS Club. Dave and his fellow Lions organize local food drives, back-to-school drives and many other activities that improve the lives of the McFarland residents.

In December 2011, Dave was named Grand Marshall for the McFarland Christmas Parade. Mr. Borcky is also an active member of his American Legion Post, Boys and Girls State activities.

Without a doubt, Dave has been a key player in McFarland's community for a number of years. It is with great pride that I recognize Mr. Dave Borcky for his service and leadership and congratulate him on his efforts to memorialize American heroes through the McFarland Veterans Community Center.

RECOGNIZING DENIS O'SULLIVAN AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Denis O'Sullivan as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Denis lives every day with enthusiasm and appreciation for all of life's offerings. His story is reflective of the American dream, working hard to create fruitful lives for himself and his family.

Denis was born on December 2, 1933, in New York City at Lennox Hill Hospital. His intelligence and entrepreneurial spirit led him to be the owner and founder of a lucrative business, O'Sullivan Menu Publishing. The company started out small with less than 10 employees and eventually grew to a staff of over 200 individuals who were based out of the United States and Great Britain. O'Sullivan Menu Publishing provided menus to airlines, cruise lines, and various restaurant chains. Denis' company had a groundbreaking impact on the airline industry by providing the first comprehensive service for the creation and production of printed menus.

Since Denis' retirement in 2008, he has volunteered much of his time to local charities.

He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey, and maintains special interest in their Alzheimer's disease support facility. In addition, Denis is a longstanding supporter of the fundraising activities at St. Clare's Hospital in Denville, NJ.

Denis stays busy in his philanthropic endeavors, but he cherishes his time with family the most. He is a devoted husband to his wife of 33 years, Elizabeth; a caring father to his children; Roberta, Eric, Kerin, Cathlyn, Christopher, and Patricia; and a loving grandfather to his nine grandchildren. On a personal note, Denis has been a great supporter and true friend to me—his brother-in-law. Denis and Elizabeth appreciate every day of their lives whether it is by spending time with family, traveling around the world, or simply enjoying each other's company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Denis O'Sullivan's 80th birthday. We acknowledge Denis during this milestone and for all that he has achieved.

RECOGNIZING THE PACE HIGH SCHOOL "PRIDE OF THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE" MARCHING BAND AS THE 2013 CLASS 5A FLORIDA MARCHING BAND GRAND CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pace High School "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" Marching Band as the 2013 Class 5A Florida Marching Band Grand Champions.

For more than 40 years, the Pace High School Band has regaled crowds at Pace High sporting events, played at parades and events in Northwest Florida and represented the school at competitions on the local, state, and national levels. Today, more than 200 students make up Pace's band program, which includes three concert ensembles, a marching band, a jazz ensemble, chamber ensembles, an indoor percussion ensemble, and a winterguard program. This diverse and versatile repertoire highlights the hard work and dedication of the students and faculty of the Pace High Band and is the one of the keys to their success.

The 2013 Florida Marching Band Championships, held on November 23 at Tropicana Field in Saint Petersburg, FL, played host to more than 80 talented bands from across the state of Florida. The Pace High School "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" Marching Band began their preparations for this prestigious event more than six months ago and worked tirelessly to perfect their show, entitled "Once Upon Another Time," which featured pieces celebrating different eras in American history with sections on the industrial revolution, the civil rights era and the space race.

The assiduous work of the "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" paid off during the Class 5A semi-finals, where the band was awarded the highest scores in the Visual, General Effect, and Music categories and the highest overall score of any of the 80 bands

competing in the various class semi-finals. The "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" then followed their success in the semi-final round with another near-flawless performance in the finals, where they scored 92.38 out of 100 to take home the Class 5A championship.

Pace High's success at the 2013 Florida Marching Band Championships is a testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the band, and it is a great reflection on the entire Pace High and Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the "Pride of the Red, White, and Blue" on their state championship and wish them all the best as they continue to proudly represent our area.

INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3309) to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to make improvements and technical corrections, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Innovation Act (H.R. 3309). While this legislation is not perfect, it represents an important step in our efforts to prevent patent assertion entities (PAE), commonly referred to as patent trolls, from extracting unfair and exorbitant settlements from innocent businesses through the threat of frivolous and expensive patent litigation.

This legislation ensures that when alleging infringement in a lawsuit, a party must at least identify what patents and claims are being infringed upon, and provide specificity as to how they are being infringed. This will provide more clarity and integrity to patent infringement claims, shining a light on the disingenuous claims from patent trolls.

Additionally, this legislation will help to protect the small businesses that have been accused of patent infringement for purchasing ubiquitous products and who are clearly not involved in the alleged infringement in a patent lawsuit. H.R. 3309 will allow for the action against the downstream customers to be stayed as the manufacturer of the product litigates the lawsuit. This is done so those with the knowledge of the production process, and not the innocent consumer, can argue the case—and it is only allowed if the customer agrees to be bound by the final judgment of the court.

I do, however, continue to have reservations with several provisions in this bill. Primarily, I oppose the provision that allows in some cases for the shifting of court and legal fees from the prevailing parties. I believe this provision has the potential to discourage legitimate patent infringement lawsuits by inventors and owners of intellectual property that may not be deep pocketed. I am also worried about the precedent that this reform could set with respect to protecting access to the courts for all Americans. I voted for the substitute amendment proposed by Ranking Member CONYERS

and Congressman WATT, which I believe strikes a more equitable balance than this legislation and which did not contain any fee shifting provisions. I look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues in the Senate to produce an ultimate agreement that stops patent trolls and continues to protect the pursuit of legitimate patent infringement claims.

ISRAEL QME ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, one of the cornerstones of America's security commitment to Israel is an assurance that the United States will help maintain Israel's capability to defend itself, by itself. We do this by safeguarding Israel's qualitative military edge (QME)—the ability for Israel to counter and defeat any threat that might arise from non-state actors, individual states, or even a regional coalition of states.

Four decades after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when a coalition of Arab states launched a surprise attack against Israel on the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, Israel continues to face hostilities on every border: rocket fire from Hamas and Hezbollah, spillover from the conflict in Syria, increased terrorism in Egypt's Sinai, and the ever-looming threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

That is why it is critical we redouble our efforts to ensure Israel has the tools necessary to counter any and all threats. H.R. 1992, the Israel QME Enhancement Act, is an important piece of bipartisan legislation that does just that, by preserving and strengthening Israel's QME. Specifically, this law would expand the definition of QME to include defense against cyber and asymmetric threats while also increasing the Administration's reporting requirements to Congress from every 4 to every 2 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1992.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE GEORGE R. GREENE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today we ask for the House's attention to honor Circuit Court Judge George R. Greene, who is retiring from his position as the Circuit Court Judge in Russell County.

In 1975, Judge Greene began serving in the Russell County District Attorney's office as the Assistant District Attorney. He served in the position for four years until 1979, when he was appointed District Judge in Russell County. Judge Greene served as District Judge for over 18 years, and he was elected to this position in three different elections. In 1998, Judge Greene was elected to serve Russell County as the Circuit Court Judge. He has held the office of Circuit Court Judge since that election.

Judge George R. Greene is one of the longest serving judges in the state of Alabama, having served 31 years in the Judicial 26th Circuit. He is also dedicated to his community, and he is known for his selfless public service. He is involved in numerous civic and state public service organizations. One of his initiatives was the establishment of the Cora Reid Greene Home for Children, which provides protection and housing for abused children in the Russell County Area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Judge Greene for his tireless pursuit of justice in Russell County. Join me also in wishing him the best in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was participating in a Congressional Delegation trip to South Africa to honor the life and legacy of President Nelson Mandela and missed the following votes:

1. H.R. 2019 Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

2. H.R. 2319—The Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

3. S. 1471—Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

4. H.R. 3212—Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction prevention and Return Act of 2013, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

5. H.R. 1992—Israel QME Enhanced Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

6. Journal Vote—Had I been present for the journal vote, I would have voted "yes".

TO HONOR DOUGLAS GREENFIELD ON HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Douglas Greenfield on his 85th birthday. Douglas lives a competitive and successful life in Levittown, PA. He has been an active bowler for the past 50 years and won a bet in the 1960's to walk 50 miles through Bucks County in one day.

Supporting the community's youth is another passion of Mr. Greenfield. In the 60's and 70's he was active with the Boy Scouts of America and taught Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (C.C.D.) at Bishop Egan High School. He also worked to establish the Pennsbury High School boys lacrosse team and today, students still recognize "Gran-Pa" for his tireless effort on and off the field.

A true American role model, Doug, and his wife, Alice, continue to volunteer in their church and community in my home town, Levittown, PA. I want to wish Doug a very Happy 85th Birthday.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3458, THE
FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS ASSISTANCE
TAX CLARIFICATION ACT
OF 2013

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, we're here today because of a heinous act that took place in Webster, New York on December 24th, 2012, when a group of volunteer firefighters responding to a fire was ambushed by a gunman who had deliberately set the fire. Two firefighters were killed and two others were injured.

While donations for the firefighters and their families were made to the West Webster Fire Department, a 501(c)(3) organization, the rules governing non-profit groups prevent the funds from being distributed in a way that does not further the organization's exempt purpose. In this case, these rules prevented the donations from being distributed as intended to the victims and their families.

I am proud to stand here today in support of the "Fallen Firefighters Assistance Tax Clarification Act of 2013," introduced by my colleague from New York Rep. LOUISE SLAUGHTER to address the error and help care for these firefighters and their families.

With the anniversary of this terrible act approaching, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the memory and sacrifice of these volunteer responders and approve this common sense legislation.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
TRANSIT PARITY ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Transit Parity Act of 2013. The bill will extend federal tax benefits for mass transit and parking at current levels for one year. There is currently a permanent provision providing federal tax benefits for parking and mass transit; however, the mass transit benefit is funded at half the level of the parking benefit. The mass transit benefit was temporarily raised this year, but with cuts to the mass transit benefit set to occur on January 1, 2014, impacts will be felt throughout this region and the country.

Millions of people commute in and out of cities every day, bolstering their economies and improving the overall wellbeing of the country, with this region as a prime example. Why would we want to encourage people to drive rather than use mass transit? At the very least, there is no excuse for preferential treatment of driving.

I support a permanent equalization of commuter benefits, but given the costs associated with a permanent extension, the focus of this bill is a temporary one-year extension of benefits. I will seek to bring this bill to the floor before Congress adjourns for the year. If the bill is not passed before then, I will seek retroactive equalization of benefits.

The bill will continue to encourage commuters to use mass transit by equalizing tax