

TEXAS NAVY SERVING THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 1836, Texas declared her independence from Mexico, and on April 21, 1836 at the Battle of San Jacinto—the most important military victory in Texas history—Texas actually became a Republic all unto herself and remained so for nine glorious years.

On the marshy plains of San Jacinto, the victory over Santa Anna and the Mexican Army under General Sam Houston and the Boys can be credited not only to the Texas Army on land but also to the forces patrolling the Gulf of Mexico—the first Texas Navy.

The Texas Navy was established on November 25, 1835 to protect supply lines between Texas and New Orleans from Mexican naval ships. A tiny fleet of four schooners, named the Independence, Brutus, Invincible and Liberty, were purchased to protect and supply the new Republic. The Navy had its own Commodore, Captain Charles Hawkins, appointed by the Republic's own president, David G. Burnet.

Commodore Hawkins was born in New York in 1802. At the age of 16, Hawkins enlisted in the United States Navy as a midshipman and began his military career in the Atlantic before transferring to the West Indies. On board a ship in the West Indies, Hawkins met Commodore David Porter, a hero of the War of 1812. Commodore Porter got himself into some mischief after invading a town in Puerto Rico in 1825 and was court-martialed. He resigned, chose to go command the Mexican Navy fleet and recruited the feisty, young sailor Hawkins to join him in the Mexican Navy.

Hawkins spent the next several years as a Mexican naval commander, fighting against Spaniard ships opposing Mexico's Independence in the Gulf of Mexico. The Mexican Navy soon began to have doubts about American officers serving aboard their ships; these worries caused Hawkins to resign and move to Texas in 1828. Once in Texas, Hawkins worked as a river captain on the Chattahoochee.

Hawkins' path to the Texas Navy started when he met General Sam Houston in San Felipe. Houston was impressed with Hawkins' experience and his desire to serve as navy captain to the new Texas Republic. Houston referred Hawkins to Governor Henry Smith, who then sent Hawkins to New Orleans to begin command over the Independence. At the age of 34, as Commander of the Texas Navy, Hawkins sailed the Independence to the Gulf of Mexico to patrol the coast between Galveston and New Orleans.

Meanwhile, General Sam Houston was busy building the Texas Army to defeat Santa Anna near the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou at Lynch's Ferry. On the afternoon of April 21st, General Sam and the Boys, 700 Texas Freedom fighters, marched double time, in a single line of independence—taking on a professional army over twice their size.

Santa Anna's army, caught napping, was routed. Most of the enemy was killed or wounded. The rest were captured or disappeared. The victory was stunning. The rest,

as they say, is Texas history. But one of the most important factors in that Texas victory, mentioned briefly by some historians, was the maritime activity and success of the first Texas Navy.

Commodore Hawkins and his brave crew of gutsy, scrappy sailors changed the course of Texas history on April 21, 1836. The Texas Navy helped win Texas independence by preventing Mexican ships from supplying Santa Anna, seizing gunpowder on Mexican ships and delivering aid to General Sam Houston's army. The heroic acts of the first Texas Navy resulted in one of the largest land transfers in world history and gave way to a new independent nation—the Republic of Texas.

Texas still has an "Honorary" Texas Navy. In the 1980s, the Governor of Texas appointed me as an Admiral in the Texas Navy. (Everyone in the Navy is an Admiral.) During my tenure as a judge, I ordered offenders to be "enlisted" in the "Texas Navy." The probationers were skilled welders, painters, plumbers and electricians. They were required to help in the restoration efforts of the Battleship Texas. This became another effective tool that both served the public and the probationer—a few went on to be hired by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The probationers became a part of the history of the great ship "Texas". After being dry docked in Galveston in the 80's, many much needed repairs were made by different organizations and thousands of volunteers—all to help preserve the Battleship Texas.

The Texas Navy is one of the unique historical traditions of our great State.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING COLONEL ROBERT S.
CRANSTON

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of World War II veteran and military broadcaster, and a dear friend, Colonel Robert S. Cranston, of Bedford County, Virginia.

In November of 1942, Colonel Cranston signed up to serve. At 22, he was promoted to sergeant major of the 51st Signal Battalion and by 1943 he was named a second lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps. He bravely fought in Normandy following the D-Day invasion and was later wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. And he served side by side with General Eisenhower as he commanded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Col. Cranston dedicated his life to serving our nation and to keeping our troops and all Americans informed through broadcast media. Our community has suffered a great loss and I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the life of Col. Cranston for his selflessness, courage, and sacrifice and for his important role in history as a source of information to our men and women in uniform fighting abroad to defend our freedoms at home.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE HUMPHREY HAWKINS FULL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have reintroduced the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013. It is my hope that with the reintroduction of this bill, Congress will begin to examine the idea that the federal government has a significant role to play in putting America back to work, especially during our current economic downturn. Noted economists have shown that the private sector alone will not be able to create a full employment economy in the foreseeable future.

The Federal Government must use its full authority and powers to put Americans back to work. In our nation, we have far too many people desperately seeking a full-time job. These people are veterans, construction workers, young men and women, and those who have lost their jobs to unfair foreign competition. We know the financial pressures and personal hardships that result from being unemployed for long periods of time: the loss of one's dignity, housing and food insecurity, loss of health insurance, homelessness, marital problems, and the inability to care for one's self or family.

During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt struck a New Deal that put millions of Americans back to work building roads, schools, community centers, dams, bridges, parks, and electrification systems. In this program, many women were employed constructing blankets for our nation's hospitals, and our troops who fought in World War II.

President Roosevelt was resolute in the idea that every American who wanted a job should be able to have one. I also share this view. Help provide an unemployed man or woman with a job, and their lives come together, and they regain their dignity and sense of self-worth. People just do better when they are working. It is just that simple.

There is no reason why America cannot have a 21st Century New Deal, where unemployed Americans become gainfully employed restoring our communities, assisting people in need, and repairing our crumbling infrastructure. This is what the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013 seeks to accomplish.

Under the Act, the Department of Labor would work collaboratively with local and state governments, non-profits, and the private sector to fund community-based "fast track" jobs. This work could include renovating housing and schools, weatherizing homes, fixing our aging infrastructure, expanding access to broadband and wireless Internet, neighborhood beautification projects, or other community initiatives in the health and education sectors.

It is apparent to me that the next wave of significant job growth will be in the green jobs and clean energy sectors. The Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013 would help pay for the training of workers to install solar panels in houses and buildings, or manufacture wind turbines, electric batteries, and electric cars.

Funds could be used to train workers to build roads, bridges, levees, and clean mass transit systems such as electric bus and metro rail cars.

The bill would provide cities and states with the needed funding to pay unemployed inner city youth and adults to rebuild our nation's crumbling and dilapidated schools, housing, and neighborhoods.

There are so many youth whose lives are needlessly ruined, because they cannot envision a future that includes dignified work. I truly believe young people could be steered away from costly lives of crime if they believe they will be able to have a meaningful career. We need more jobs, not jails.

Think about all the unemployed people in America who could be employed in the field of child care, working as preschool teachers, or assisting our nation's seniors and disabled in their own homes.

Under the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013, there would be a significant increase in funding for job training programs funded under the Workforce Investment Act. Funds would go towards successful programs like the Job Corps, which would be expanded to provide additional job training and job placement opportunities.

Funds would automatically continue to be disbursed from the Act's Full Employment and Training Trust Fund to cities and states, until every American worker who wants a job can find one. Additionally, the act will be fully funded by a tax on Wall Street speculation, and will not add a dime to the federal debt.

I respectfully urge my fellow colleagues on both sides of the aisle to consider supporting the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act of 2013. The American people need jobs now.

HONORING LOIS M. SAHYOUN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor San Joaquin County Clerk to the Board of Supervisors Ms. Lois M. Sahyoun, who is retiring after more than 33 years of outstanding service to our county.

Ms. Sahyoun graduated from Edison High School and San Joaquin Delta College. She continued her education at the University of the Pacific, earning a Certificate of Completion for Public Management in Changing Environment. She also completed the San Joaquin County Human Resources Leadership Academy.

In 1966, she began her career in county service as a Clerk Typist with the Department of Public Assistance, where she was promoted to Clerk Stenographer in Administration and worked for the Assistant Director. Lois was then hired by the Board of Supervisors and promoted to Board Secretary/Office Manager.

In 1979, Lois took a job with Representative Norman D. Shumway and worked as his District Coordinator for nine years. She returned to the Board of Supervisors in 1991 as an Administrative Manager. In 1993, she was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as Clerk of the Board.

The San Joaquin County Committees on which Ms. Sahyoun has served include the San Joaquin County-Wide Internet Security Committee, San Joaquin County Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinator, Department Head Retreat Committee, Diversity Luncheon Committee, San Joaquin County Mentor-Mentee Partnership Program, County Content Management System Committee, and the San Joaquin County Green Committee. Ms. Sahyoun is also currently in her fourth four-year term as a Commissioner with the San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Additionally, Lois served on the City of Stockton Planning Commission, the Board of Directors of the Central Valley Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, and was the former President and District Commissioner of the Little League and Babe Ruth Sports Programs in Stockton, California. On the Statewide California Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Association, she served as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President. She has dedicated her time as Editor of the Capstone Publication and her efforts to the Education Committee, Nomination Committee, Mentor Committee, New Clerks Institute, and the New Supervisors Institute.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Ms. Lois M. Sahyoun for her numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am re-introducing a bill similar to a bill I have introduced since the 109th Congress, the Universal Prekindergarten and Early Childhood Education Act of 2013 (Universal Pre-K), to begin the process of providing universal public prekindergarten education in public and public charter schools. Although I have consistently introduced a bill in the past, this year it is particularly ripe in light of President Obama's call for early education for all children in his recent State of the Union speech. My bill is meant to fill a hole in the "No Child Left Behind Act," which addresses elementary and secondary education but ignores the prekindergarten years, perhaps the most critical years for children's brain development. The President's proposal has not been committed to legislation yet, but his cost-sharing model is similar to my bill. My bill seeks a breakthrough in public elementary school education by providing the initial funding for states to encourage local school districts to add prekindergarten for children four years of age, as kindergarten programs were for five-year-olds that are now routinely available in public schools. The bill would eliminate some of the major shortcomings of unevenly available commercial daycare and, importantly, would ensure access to qualified teachers and the safe facilities of public schools. Unless early education becomes a necessary part of a child's education, I believe that it will continue to be un-

available to the majority of families with children.

My bill provides federal funds to states, which must be matched by at least 20 percent of state funds, to create universal, voluntary prekindergarten in public and public charter schools for four-year-olds, regardless of income. The classes, which would be full-day and run throughout the entire school year, must be taught by teachers who possess equivalent or similar qualifications to those in other grades in the school. The funds would supplement, not supplant, other federal funds for early childhood education. The unique aspect of my bill is that it uses the existing public school infrastructure and trained teachers to make early childhood education available to all.

The success of Head Start and other pre-kindergarten programs, combined with new scientific evidence concerning the importance of brain development in early childhood, virtually mandate the expansion of early childhood education to all children today. However, early learning programs have been available only to the affluent, who can afford them, and to low-income families in programs such as Head Start, which would be unaffected by my bill. My bill provides a practical way to gradually move to universal public preschool education. The goal of the bill is to afford the great majority of the American working poor, lower-middle-class, and middle-class families, most of whom have been left out, the benefits of early childhood education.

We cannot afford to continue to allow the most fertile years for childhood development to pass, only to later wonder why we cannot teach Johnny to read. The bill responds both to the great needs of parents who seek early childhood education, as well as today's brain science, which shows that a child's brain development begins much earlier than previously understood. However, many parents are unable to afford the stimulating education necessary to ensure optimal brain development.

Considering the staggering cost of daycare, the inaccessibility of early childhood education, and the opportunity that early education offers to improve a child's chances of success, schooling for four-year-olds is overdue. The absence of viable options for working families demands our immediate attention.

My bill reflects what jurisdictions increasingly are trying to accomplish. The District of Columbia, for example, has achieved an extensive integration of early childhood education as part of a larger effort to improve the D.C. public schools. A recent report highlighted the economic benefits of early childhood education, emphasizing its role in expanding job opportunities and in decreasing the amount of money spent on programs to address teen pregnancy, crime, and the like.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

COMMENDING TIME WARNER CABLE FOR THEIR CONNECT A MILLION MINDS PROGRAM

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Time Warner Cable for its Connect a