

service, she continued her educational pursuits and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work, a Masters Degree in Social Work, and an Executive Masters of Science Degree in Health Administration.

Ms. Woods stated that her service to America taught her that she can succeed in her life pursuits. She has utilized her social work skills during her tenure in law enforcement and developed a Crime Victims Assistance Program with the Department of Veterans Affairs where she provided mental health services. Ms. Woods has also served as Director of Social Work at Delta Health Center and Aaron Henry Health Center. Ms. Woods is the daughter of the late Percy and Annie Woods.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Elizabeth Woods for her dedication to serving our great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 25, 2013, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 46 (on approving the journal) and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 47 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 667).

RECOGNIZING MR. LEE WRIGHT AND HIS 48 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and commend Lee Wright of Woodbridge, Va., for his 30 years of honorable service with the United States Air Force and for his subsequent 18 years of civilian service with the Defense Intelligence Agency. We are fortunate to have among us veterans with Mr. Wright's sense of duty and continued commitment to public service.

Mr. Wright began his career stationed at Cam Rahn Bay, RVN in 1964. After the war, Mr. Wright served at multiple air stations, eventually serving on staff at the USAF Military Air Command, Non-Commissioned Officer Academy. Mr. Wright soon moved on to DIA assignments spanning Western Europe, Turkey, Eurasia and Russia where he served multiple roles in intelligence operations. His devotion, hard work, and expertise on Russia led to successive roles within DIA's Russia/EURASIA Division, where Mr. Wright would eventually become Division Chief.

Since August of 2011, Mr. Wright has lent his considerable experience to DIA's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs where his leadership, work ethic and knowledge base have proven invaluable to his colleagues. There is little doubt that after 48 years of serving his country, Mr. Wright has earned some well-deserved R&R.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in recognizing and thanking Lee Wright for his committed and selfless service to his colleagues and our country. We wish Mr. Wright, his wife, Dottie, and his family well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING RARE DISEASE DAY

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, today, February 28, 2013, marks the sixth annual International Rare Disease Day, a day to raise awareness of the nearly 7,000 rare diseases affecting 30 million Americans, or about one in ten people. Here in the United States, any disease affecting 200,000 people or fewer is considered rare.

Rare Disease Day is also an opportunity to celebrate the life-saving advances in science and research that continue to transform the diagnosis, treatment, and standard of care for many orphan diseases, thanks in no small part to the advocacy efforts of the medical community, patients and their families, and rare disease organizations.

In my congressional district, I have met with a number of constituents and their families whose lives have been impacted by rare diseases, cystic fibrosis among them.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States and is characterized by a reduction in the flow of salt and water across cell membranes, which leads to the buildup of thick, sticky mucus in the lungs. In 1955, with limited therapies available, children with cystic fibrosis were not expected to live long enough to attend elementary school. Today, due to significant improvements in medical treatment and care, people with the disease are living longer, healthier lives. The median predicted age of survival now stands at 38 years.

Today, I have never been more hopeful of the promise science holds for all patients affected by rare diseases; however, there remains much work to be done. On this sixth annual International Rare Disease Day, I join with patients and their families in urging my colleagues to think about what more Congress can do to help bring hope to those suffering from rare diseases.

CLUSTER MUNITIONS CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to join my esteemed colleagues, Representative CHARLES BOUSTANY (R-LA) and Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA) and PATRICK LEAHY (D-VT) in introducing the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2013. This bill will restrict the use and deployment of dangerous cluster munitions.

Cluster bombs are canisters designed to open in the air before making contact, dispersing between 200 and 400 small munitions that can saturate a radius of 250 yards. The bombs are intended for military use when attacking enemy troop formations, but are often used in or near populated areas. This is a problem because up to 40 percent of these bomblets fail to explode and become de facto landmines, posing a significant risk to civilians—particularly children—lasting years after a conflict ends.

The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act prevents any U.S. military funds from being used on cluster munitions with a failure rate of more than 1 percent, unless the rules of engagement specify that cluster munitions (1) will only be used against clearly defined military targets, and (2) will not be used where civilians are known to be present or in areas normally inhabited by civilians.

The bill requires the president to report to Congress on the plan to clean up unexploded cluster munitions, and it includes a national security waiver allowing the president to waive the prohibition if he determines such a waiver is vital to national security.

Mr. Speaker, current law prohibits U.S. sales, exports and transfers of cluster munitions that have a failure rate exceeding 1 percent. The law also requires any sale, export or transfer agreement to include a requirement that the cluster munitions will be used only against military targets. Regrettably, the Pentagon insists that the U.S. should continue to have the ability to use millions of stockpiled cluster munitions that have estimated failure rates of 5 to 20 percent until 2018. This is simply not acceptable; we can do better.

I believe strongly that the United States should be an international leader in ending the terrible toll on civilian populations caused by the high failure rate of these weapons. Passage of this bill would establish in law the Pentagon's standard of a 99 percent functioning rate for all U.S. cluster munitions, and ensure that our deployment and use of these munitions adhere uniformly to this standard. We must do everything possible to spare innocent civilians intended for military targets. The current risk posed by cluster munitions is simply unacceptable.

In 2011, Handicap International studied the effects of cluster bombs in 24 countries and regions, including Afghanistan, Chechnya, Laos and Lebanon. Its report found civilians make up 98 percent of those killed or injured by cluster bombs, and 27 percent of the casualties were children.

The Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions—which has been signed by 111 countries and ratified by 77—prohibits the production, use and export of cluster munitions and requires signatories to eliminate their arsenals within eight years. While nearly all of our major military allies have joined this treaty, to date, the United States has not.

There will always be those who will argue against such a change in military policy and practice, who will say this can't be done. History argues otherwise. I am hopeful that we can make significant progress on this issue and pass this legislation during the 113th Congress.

THE LAST DOUGHBOY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there was once a man who wouldn't take no for an answer when told he was too young to join the United States Army.

He looked for ways to join, even if it meant telling a recruiter a whopper about his age.

In the recruiter's eyes he was 21 when he was just 16.

And the only way he could land foot in the action of World War I was to drive an ambulance.

It was the quickest way he could get to the battlefield.

He desperately wanted to help other Americans that were already fighting the war to end all wars.

During the war, not only did he rescue Americans, but he rescued the other wounded allies and took them back behind enemy lines.

This brave man was Frank Buckles.

Even after being told "no," he became the last surviving doughboy from America.

This week marks 2 years since his death.

He was 110 years old, and a true fighter, Mr. Speaker.

Today, I remember my friend and patriot, Mr. Buckles.

We celebrate the remarkable life that he lived.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING NED GATHWRIGHT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable veteran of the Korean Conflict from July 30, 1954 until July 25, 1957.

Ned Gathwright served in the United States Army in the Infantry 11 Bravo Company. He received his Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His duty stations were Airborne School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Co E 505th Infantry 2nd Airborne Battalion Group in Augsburg, Germany. For his service, he has received the National Defense Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Gathwright's early education was in the Coahoma County Schools, graduating in 1954 from Coahoma County Agricultural High School. In 1957, he enrolled at Coahoma Junior College on the Montgomery GI Bill. Upon graduating, he entered Jackson State University and received his Bachelor Degree in 1960. The Quitman County School District employed him in the district's Science and Math Departments the same year. He continued his formal education at UCLA, Texas A & M, Michigan State University, and received his Master in Education at the University of Mississippi.

He is married to the former Fannie Hurst and they have two daughters: Sabrina and Katrina. He's a member of the Greenhill Missionary Baptist Church and Coahoma Community College Board of Trustee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ned Gathwright, who has dedicated his life to serving his country and community.

RECOGNIZING LORI SALTZMAN
FOR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE IN
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of my constituent, Lori Saltzman. After 34 years of service in the United States federal government, Lori is retiring as the Director of the Health Sciences Division at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Lori began her career in the federal government in 1978 as a research scientist in the Pulmonary Branch of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, while attending graduate school at George Washington University. In 1984, she joined the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Directorate for Health Sciences as a toxicologist, where she spent the remainder of her career.

In 1991, Lori was selected to be a candidate in CPSC's Women's Executive Leadership Program, where she learned valuable management skills that helped further CPSC's regulatory and policy development. In 1994, Lori was named acting director of the Health Effects division of Health Sciences and eventually Director of the Division of Health Sciences.

Under her leadership, the Health Sciences staff made significant contributions in helping the CPSC address a number of important consumer product issues, including assessing the toxicity and risk associated with the use of lead and cadmium in children's jewelry, fire retardant chemicals in upholstered furniture and mattresses, phthalates in children's products, and arsenic from pressure treated wood preservatives used on decks and playgrounds.

Lori also represented CPSC on numerous federal interagency groups and task forces. She served as one of the early co-chairs of the federally mandated Committee on Indoor Air Quality (CIAQ), as a federal liaison to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (ACCLPP), and as a representative to the recent Interagency Task Force on Problem Drywall.

Because of Lori's understanding of CPSC's scientific issues, as well as its compliance and enforcement activities, her opinions and technical expertise were often relied upon by Compliance officials to support their actions against regulated industries. Throughout her career she has been dedicated to developing and mentoring her staff to assure that the Commission's compliance activities continue to be supported with the best scientific analyses possible. Her talents in both the scientific and policy arenas led to detail assignments as a special assistant with former CPSC Chairman Ann Brown and Commissioner Nancy Nord, as well as Associate Director in the CPSC's Office of Compliance. Among her many honors and accomplishments, Lori is also a licensed medical technologist registered with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lori Saltzman and in extending our Nation's gratitude to her for her honorable and dedicated service to the United States government. I wish her the best of luck in her retirement and all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 28, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this February marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act. The Family and Medical Leave Act afforded millions of employees leave of their jobs for personal and family emergencies while keeping their job security intact. This bill expanded access to extended medical leaves to millions of workers and military caregivers enabling these citizens to take a leave intermittently whenever medically necessary to care for a loved one with a serious injury or illness.

The Family and Medical Leave Act has afforded millions of Americans with up to 12 work weeks of unpaid leave in one year for family and health events without jeopardizing their employment or their health insurance. Since enactment, American families have used the law more than 100 million times. The law has given mothers and fathers the ability to care for a new baby or a seriously-ill child. The law has helped adults caring for a sick spouse, child, or parent with serious health conditions—a protection that will grow exponentially in importance as the generation of baby boomers age.

Despite the strides we have taken in protecting our workers, many Americans are not able to take advantage of the time off and protections offered under the Family and Medical Leave Act. For example, businesses with fewer than 50 employees are exempt from the law, leaving tens of millions of workers ineligible. The need for continued improvement to federal law is clear from the story of Toya, as told by the Family Values at Work organization. Working as a substitute teacher at the grade school level, Toya needed to take time off to care for her sick children. After several days her boss posed a question to her that should never be asked: "What's more important, your children or your job?" Upon choosing her children, she was told her services were no longer needed. Federal law should not condone, support, or facilitate these situations.

The anniversary of this legislation provides an opportunity to re-affirm that our nation is committed to fair benefits for all workers and to serve as a launching point to strengthen federal laws protecting workers. I celebrate this law and the relief it provides daily to millions of Americans, allowing them the ability to securely take leave from work in order to accommodate emergencies. Such protections constitute a worker's right, not a privilege. On this anniversary, we should examine the law's success as well as areas for improvement. I celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act and the piece of mind