

and meaningful improvements in their health and healthcare. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recognize National Sleep Awareness Week.

HONORING REVEREND HECTOR
VILLEGAS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Newman Community, Reverend Hector Villegas, and to recognize his tireless work as the Pastor of St. Joachim's Catholic Church. Ministering to thousands, Reverend Villegas earned the respect of fellow clergy and civic leaders alike.

The Rev. Hector Villegas of Newman passed away March 1 at the age of 48, only days from his 49th birthday. The Rev. Villegas was known for serving the parish with compassion and devotion, a spiritual leader whose own life was guided by his deep faith.

He was born and raised in Tijuana, where he was surrounded by many friends and enjoyed childhood adventures with his older sister Patricia. He had a lifelong passion for exercise, and through adulthood could often be found working out at a gym. His participation in a youth ministry camp inspired him to become a priest.

After graduating from the Tijuana Diocese Seminary with a degree in philosophy, the Rev. Villegas came to California in 1998 as a seminarian at St. Jude's parish in Ceres. He attended St. John's Seminary in Camarillo and St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park before being ordained June 29, 2002, by Bishop Stephen Blaire at the Cathedral of the Annunciation.

The Rev. Villegas served at St. Stanislaus in Modesto from 2002 to 2007, serving as a parochial vicar and later administrator pro tem.

He is survived by his mother, Evangelina Villegas of San Diego; and two sisters, Patricia Hernandez of Chula Vista and Adriana Quiroz Villegas of San Diego.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Reverend Villegas for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions as Pastor of St. Joachim's Catholic Church. The life of Reverend Hector Villegas serves as an example of excellence to those in our community, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

CANCEL THE SEQUESTER ACT OF
2013

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise my voice against the set of across-the-board cuts—known as “the sequester”—currently taking effect across the country.

These devastating cuts are unique among American public policies for a simple reason: they were purposefully designed to be a bad idea.

During the debt ceiling standoff of 2011, the “sequester” was designed as a default option so revolting to both Democrats and Republicans that it would force the bipartisan “Super Committee” to adopt a workable budget plan. While that Committee failed at this objective, the American people have been left to pay the price.

The sequester, if fully implemented, will put more than 2 million jobs at risk—more than half of which are associated with small businesses:

The sequester will also create tremendous uncertainty in financial markets and among consumers, ultimately contributing to an estimated one-half of one percent drag on economic growth this year;

These cuts will also undermine military readiness, educational quality, and research output while leaving us with longer airport security lines, more untreated mental illnesses, more hunger, more homelessness, and fewer federal criminal prosecutions.

It should come as no surprise that, according to a Wall Street Journal/NBC News Poll, Americans oppose the sequester by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

If Congress is unable to craft a bipartisan agreement that takes sequestration off the table, this body has a duty to avert these catastrophic cuts by any means necessary. This is why I introduced the “Cancel the Sequester Act,” a one-sentence bill that would repeal the section of the Budget Control Act of 2011 that created these senseless, job-destroying cuts.

Please consider cosponsoring the “Cancel the Sequester Act,” so that we can prevent Washington's dysfunction from inflicting further harm on the American people.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WILLIAM
LYON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Congressman DARRELL ISSA, Congressman JOHN CAMPBELL and Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER, and on behalf of the entire California Republican Congressional Delegation, to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country and state are exceptional. We have been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities, and country, a better place to live and work. General William Lyon is one of these individuals. General Lyon's many accomplishments are wide ranging, as he has made his mark as a successful businessman, a decorated member of the military and an active supporter of the community. On March 9, 2013, General Lyon will be celebrating his 90th birthday.

General Lyon was born in 1923 in Los Angeles, California. Prior to entering the United States Army Air Corps in 1943, he attended the University of Southern California and the Dallas Aviation School and Air College. He completed the Air War College in 1971 and the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Senior Officers Orientation Course in 1972 and 1974. Additionally, he attended the Indus-

trial College of the Armed Forces National Seminar in 1973. In 1943, General Lyon enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a reservist and continued serving as a civilian flight instructor until he received a direct appointment as a flight officer in June 1944. During World War II, he was assigned to the 6th Ferrying Group and ferried aircraft to the Pacific and European theaters. In 1945 he was assigned to the North African Division of the Air Transport Command and returned to the United States in 1946.

In 1947, General Lyon was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and participated in various Reserve assignments until his voluntary recall to active duty in 1951. He was then assigned to Headquarters Air Training Command as a staff pilot and was later transferred to the Military Air Transport Service, flying air evacuation and ferrying missions. In 1953 he volunteered for a tour of duty in Korea and flew 75 combat missions in the C-46 and C-47. From 1954 to 1963, General Lyon was assigned to various positions in the Reserve and served as a flight commander and operations officer. In 1963 he was named Commander of the 929th Tactical Airlift Squadron, March Air Force Base, California, and subsequently served as Commander of the parent unit, the 943d Tactical Airlift Group.

In June 1970, General Lyon was assigned as mobilization assistant to the commander, Sacramento Air Materiel Area, McClellan Air Force Base, California, and in February 1972, he became mobilization assistant to the Commander, Fifteenth Air Force at March Air Force Base. He was promoted to the grade of Major General on April 24, 1974, with date of rank May 24, 1972. In March 1974 he was appointed mobilization assistant to the commander in chief, Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, where he was involved in the planning of the transfer of designated KC-135 units to the Reserve Forces. In 1975, General Lyon was appointed by President Gerald R. Ford to serve as Chief of Air Force Reserve Headquarters at the Pentagon, where he was responsible for managing a \$700 million budget as well as the activities of some 53,000 Air Force Reservists. Four years later, on April 16, 1979, he retired from military service.

General Lyon's many military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hour glass device, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

More than 50 years ago, General Lyon started building homes for returning military personnel and others who wanted to make a life in California. This modest effort evolved to become William Lyon Homes, which is now one of the nation's largest private homebuilders. Headquartered in Newport Beach, California, William Lyon Homes has constructed more than 100,000 new residences in Arizona, California and Nevada.

General Lyon's business success isn't limited to homebuilding. In 1981 he and a partner purchased AirCal, a regional air carrier based in Newport Beach, California. General Lyon served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer until 1987 when AirCal was purchased by American Airlines. His love of flying then led him to acquire Martin Aviation, a fixed

based operator, at John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California and in 2009 he established the Lyon Air Museum to preserve and promote the memory of WWII and "The Greatest Generation."

It is hard to imagine that General Lyon would have any free time on his hands yet he always found time for his community. He currently serves as a Director on the Segerstrom Center for the Arts Board, having been a former Chairman of that Board. General Lyon is the founding Chairman of the Orangewood Children's Foundation, and past Chairman of Boy Scouts of America, Orange County Council. Additionally, he has served as Board Chairman of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of The United Way.

Throughout General Lyon's incredible life he has been loved and supported by his wonderful family including his wife Willa Dean Lyon, and children, Christine Lyon Rhoades, Mary Susan Lyon Isola, William H. Lyon, Marcia Stone and Byron Russell.

We have come to know General Lyon well through many years working together on a variety of projects in California. We can all personally attest to General Lyon's incredible work-ethic, professionalism, and positive attitude. In light of all General Lyon has done for southern California and our country, it is only fitting that he be honored as he celebrates his 90th birthday. General Lyon's honorable service to our country and tireless passion for public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our country, state and community. We are proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many people are grateful for his service and salute him on this great milestone.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC SCHOOL WEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Public School Week. This weeklong series of events is designed to inform and transform the civic conversation around public education. In order for America to lead in the 21st century, our foremost social and economic imperative should be to provide a quality education to all of our students.

In my city of Dallas, four magnet schools were identified as Blue Ribbon schools. These four Dallas Independent School District (ISD) schools are the Environmental Science Academy, the Townview School of Science and Engineering Magnet High School, the Rosie M. Collins Sorrells School of Education and the Social Services Magnet High School and Irma Lerma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School. Being identified as a Blue Ribbon school means they are among the finest schools in the country, and I am proud of these four stellar institutions and others like them.

Townview Magnet is one of the most diverse schools in Texas, with minorities representing over half of the student population. Townview is a gem in my Congressional district and home to some of the Nation's best and brightest students. Newsweek Magazine

has consistently rated Townview's Science and Engineering Magnet as one of the top high schools in the Nation. Townview serves as a model for other institutions of learning across the country.

Mr. Speaker, many of our best and our brightest students attend public schools and with encouragement and support from their principals and teachers they are capable of achieving remarkable success. We cannot allow our schools to lose the critical funding they need to operate simply because we as a Congress cannot work together to solve sequestration. Texas is poised to lose approximately \$67.8 million for primary and secondary education, putting around 930 teacher and aide jobs at risk. In addition about 172,000 fewer students would be served and approximately 280 fewer schools would receive funding.

Mr. Speaker, supporting our Nation's public schools will help us out-educate, out-innovate, and out-build the rest of the world. We must identify ways to help improve schools like these that provide educational excellence to our communities. We must not waver in our commitment to our children and the future of this country.

HARROWISM! IN HONOR OF TEAM LEADER CAPTAIN BENJAMIN CONRAD HARROW 7TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Team Leader Captain Benjamin Harrow of The United States Army, 7th Special Forces Group, Green Berets. On May 15, 2012 while out on patrol, an IED explosion almost left Benjamin mortally wounded. Losing both of his legs and sustaining numerous other life threatening injuries he has come back from the dead. Already in such a short time his recovery is at full speed ahead. With the help of his and her family and his lovely wife Gina and son Peyton, he has found the strength and inspiration to heal. Spend a little time with Ben, and you will understand why he became Team Leader of one of our Nation's elite members of The Special Forces Group 7. Ben is a graduate of The United States Military Academy at West Point. He was a star lacrosse player for Army. I submit this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell.

HARROWISM!

A hero!
And from where do they all so come?
Men of honor,
who so walk upon battlefields of death . . .
as Thy Kingdom Come!
And all of those who from out of the ashes,
rebuild their lives with not much left who
have begun . . .
As when they come back home all in this
most magnificent quests!
Indeed, these are but America's most heroic
of all sons who so bless!
Who so go off to war where angels so fear to
tread . . .
Who for all of us heroically have so died,
and bled!
And come back home so very close to death!

To somehow lift up their fine heads!
All in what their most magnificent hearts
have so said!
Armed, with but only their Harrowism which
so beats within their chests!
As from out of all of this darkness,
they must now so pass that test!
To so summon up,
all of the courage and the strength To But
Be The Best!
Oh what A Special Force this is no less!
As they come back home so cheating death!
As we so watch all in such awe as we lose our
breath!
As they rise up to so teach us all about
Harrowism no less!
As high above all others they now stand so
yes!
Heroes!
Because, Heroes come in all shapes and sizes!
But, it's what's within their great hearts
that which so comprises!
But who they are!
Moving all out into that darkness of death
all at light speeds,
as their fine hearts so crest!
As out across a nation,
a mother now so weeps in her sorrow . . .
All because for us,
her most precious son gave up his tomor-
row's yes!
For they lead!
And we will follow!
And ah yes,
for these are but such a special breed who in
pity will not so wallow!
And then there is a special breed,
The Special Forces!
A SPECIAL FORCE of nature so complete!
As all throughout their veins their most he-
roic blood beats!
The ones who the enemy so fears,
and so heed's!
Who upon battlefields of honor bright,
come all at them fast breaking all at such
speeds!
The ones who can not so be checked,
by any enemy!
Whose most selfless souls,
now so make the angels weep!
As we so pray to our Lord,
to watch over them to keep!
And for all of those ones,
who must now come back home on this night
. . .
Who must now begin their new most gallant
of all fights . . .
All on that hard road to recovery,
as we watch their brave hearts so ignite!
Men without arms and legs,
who so teach us all about faith!
Whose families,
so give to them the strength to meet each
new coming day!
Who now so stand with tears in eyes!
As before them all in pieces their loved ones
lie!
As these Heroes so touch our hearts and
souls,
with but all of their most amazing grace as
we behold!
To so show to this our world how Angels are
made!
For these are men of such courage and con-
viction!
And of such undying faith we are so wit-
nessing!
Rising up from the ashes,
Who All In The Game of Life so lead the way
. . .
All in what their most precious lives have to
say!
And, from out of all our Nation's Academes
. . .
But, have come our Nation's very best!