

minimal, ensuring tax payer funds are spent almost exclusively on "boots on the ground."

This modest proposal offers a highly effective way to stretch our limited foreign aid dollars to advance our national security interests, promote better environmental stewardship, avoid conflicts, encourage sustainable development and alleviate poverty.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. Let's take advantage of this unique opportunity presented by a highly qualified corps of U.S. professionals to help developing countries establish good governance.

AVIATION SECURITY STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION ACT OF 2013

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that strengthens our transportation security.

The 9/11 Commission identified key vulnerabilities that existed across our transportation security and how they were exploited by the 9/11 hijackers.

Soon after 9/11, industry representatives across the transportation sector, including labor, cargo and aviation representatives came together to support the Transportation Security Administration in developing a robust and layered security program that addressed threats and vulnerabilities across the aviation security.

The Aviation Security Advisory Committee, first established in 1989 after the Pan American World Airways Flight 103, has played a critical role in the development of transportation security policies and protocols.

However, under TSA, the ASAC remained inactive for several years and reportedly reorganized in 2008 and renewed with a charter in 2011 after receiving pressure from Congress to reconstitute this group.

This was done after stakeholders expressed ongoing frustrations to Congress about the lack in dialog between them and TSA in developing transportation security policies.

This legislation will establish the Aviation Security Advisory Committee (ASAC) into law and will ensure that TSA engages with critical stakeholders prior and throughout the modification of critical policy changes such as the one announced last week.

Specifically, my legislation authorizes the ASAC and requires the establishment of targeted working groups on air cargo, general aviation, perimeter security and risk based security, which will allow the ASAC to address security issues that require effective collaboration between the government and the private sector.

One glaring example that underscores the need for this legislation is TSA's recent decision to modify its prohibited items list and allow knives and sporting equipment that could be used as weapons through checkpoint security without a robust and formal engagement with stakeholders.

TSA decided that passengers would be allowed to bring knives with blades as long as 2.36 inches on airplanes. Further, TSA ad-

justed its "Prohibited Items List" to allow passengers to bring up to one hockey stick, one lacrosse stick, two golf clubs, and small souvenir bats as carry on items.

Not surprising, this announcement immediately received significant criticism from industry representatives, air carriers, passenger groups, flight attendants, pilots, law enforcement groups and even the representative for TSA's frontline screener workforce.

I too have expressed my deepest concerns with this policy, not just because TSA is allowing certain questionable items aboard a plane without a justification for its decision, but because TSA decided not to consult with stakeholder representatives prior to announcing changes to this policy.

The general public and stakeholders such as flight attendants, pilots, airlines, and air marshals are the most affected by this decision.

By authorizing the ASAC into law, we can ensure that TSA will not dismantle the important advisory committee and be required to utilize this valuable mechanism when developing policies that impact millions of passengers and critical stakeholders.

I want to also recognize my colleagues Congressman RICHMOND, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, and all other members of the Subcommittee, including Congresswoman JACKSON LEE and Congressman SWALWELL, as original cosponsors to this legislation.

Enactment of my legislation will increase security in the aviation system and mitigate ever-present terrorist threats.

HONORING JOHN J. SERPA

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the San Joaquin Valley, John J. Serpa. Patriarch of the Serpa family, John passed away due to heart failure on March 5, 2013.

John was born in 1925 at the family's ranch house in the wilds of Siskiyou County. The first son of immigrants Joseph Cardoza Serpa and Luduvina Texeira, John attended school in Etna at Mound School, one of California's disappearing one-room schools in the Scarface Hamlin Gulch area of the Scott Mountain Range. Even as a young boy, John's concern was always the welfare of this family. The Great Depression had swept through the country like wildfire, causing the family to lose its ranch, its livestock and its way of life. John's sense of family responsibility sent him to work driving a derrick for more fortunate neighboring ranchers. He earned 75 cents a day, which he gave his mother for groceries, although he himself was without shoes.

The family moved to Stockton in 1936, when John's father learned of an opportunity to obtain ranching property there. John soon became his father's right-hand man in managing the family's holdings. He graduated from Stockton High School, where he excelled in sports and business curriculum. He enrolled at College of the Pacific (now University of the

Pacific), and quickly became a member of the university's renowned football team under the guidance of its famed coach, Amos Alonzo Staff.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, John's classmates were drafted into the military to serve their country in World War II. Although he was a principal in running his father's ranch and qualified for exemption from the draft, John interrupted his education to enlist in the United States Marines. He was sent to boot training at the Marine Corps Depot in San Diego, California. After completing basic training, John was transferred from San Diego to the Asiatic Pacific Theatre, seeing action in the Philippines and Okinawa, where he was severely injured.

When he returned home, John invested his military savings in ranch property that his father wanted to buy on Corral Hollow Road in Tracy. John loved law enforcement and soon left ranching to join the Tracy Police Department, where he quickly rose to the rank of Captain. He was an accomplished marksman, gun enthusiast, hunter and outdoorsman and spent his off-hours hunting elk with his brothers in the wilds of Idaho.

In January of 1952, he married Dolores Azevedo, the mother of his children, whom he met when they both were members of St. Bernard's Catholic Church. She preceded him in death on March 17, 2007.

A graduate of Delta College with emphasis on Police Science, John continued his law enforcement studies at San Jose State, UC Davis, Chabot College, Modesto Junior College, and Contra Costa Junior College. He also held an advanced certificate from California Peace Officers Standards and Training, as well as an NRA Lifetime Masters Shooters Certificate in the police combat category, under which he created and trained a police combat shooting team, winning many state championships.

John retired from the Tracy Police Department after 20 years of dedicated service, during which he greatly advanced the department's training program. After retirement, John's interest in business and community service moved him to the city of Lathrop, where he invested in real estate and became a leader in civic activities. He served two terms on the San Joaquin County Grand Jury, one term as its Vice Chairman; served on the County Board of Zoning Adjustments and the Lathrop Planning Commission; served two terms on the board of the Lathrop County Water District; served on the Lathrop Advisory Committee and Lathrop City Incorporation Committee; and was a powerful voice in numerous municipal legislative hearings. He was a past president of the Interstate 5 Association and a past president of a number of community service clubs, including the Rotary, the Kiwanis, and the Lions Clubs.

John received numerous honors and national recognition for his continuing involvement over three decades with the United States Marine Corps League. He was named Honorary National Past Commandant of the League at its national convention in Rochester, Minnesota—only the fourth time in the history of the Marine Corps League that a member has been granted that title.

John is survived by his current wife of 27 years, Linda "Lyn" Ann-Marie Serpa; his children Gaylene Serpa of Tracy, Michael Serpa of Galt, Paul Serpa of Manteca, and John

Thomas Serpa of Lathrop; and stepchildren Scott Rosenquist, Kristen Wight, Wendy Frink, and Susan Rosenquist. Other survivors included grandchildren Nicole Vertar, Gregory Serpa, Marissa Serpa, Nicholas Serpa, Anthony Serpa, and Matthew Serpa; one great-granddaughter, Aria Serpa; 11 step-grandchildren and two step great-grandchildren; sisters Alma Carroll of San Francisco, Mary Compton of Fair Oaks and Margaret Buckingham of Cambria; and brother Edwin Serpa of Tracy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring John Serpa for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions. He will be remembered as a highly respected Tracy businessman, deeply involved in community and civic affairs, and well known for his efforts in bettering and developing services for veterans under the auspices of his beloved Marine Corps League.

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO PREVENT THE PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TO INDIVIDUALS DISCHARGED FOR DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I introduced today legislation that would prevent the payment of unemployment compensation to individuals fired for drug or alcohol use. Under current federal law, employees who are terminated by their employer for "misconduct" cannot collect unemployment compensation. However, since federal law does not clearly define misconduct, each state must develop its own definition. Consequently, more than one-third of states do not currently have a provision to prevent these individuals from receiving benefits, which are funded using scarce taxpayer dollars. These differing standards allow for lax treatment of these individuals when they apply for unemployment insurance benefits.

We must take steps to ensure that a fair and equitable standard is in place for unem-

ployment insurance eligibility. This common-sense legislation would strengthen the unemployment compensation system; ensuring benefits go to those who have lost their job for reasons outside their control. Under this legislation, individuals fired for drug or alcohol use in connection with work would also be required to secure new employment and meet state criteria before becoming eligible for unemployment compensation again. However, it would not require the recipient to undergo drug testing to receive unemployment compensation benefits.

At a time when state and federal resources are strained, rewarding individuals who willfully violate the law and workplace policies is fiscally irresponsible and unfair to law-abiding citizens.

In short, this legislation would create a fair and equitable standard, which not only protects the taxpayer, but also ensures displaced employees who do follow the law and workplace policies can continue to receive this assistance. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this legislation through Congress.

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2013*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the thousands of Americans who benefit from the work of social workers in observance of March being National Social Work Month. Social work has been identified as the profession charged with serving as the safety net of our society, thus serving and advocating for society's most vulnerable groups including children, the elderly, veterans, mentally ill, and so on. From its start in the 1960s, Social Work Month has been a nationwide effort. According to Social Work Pioneer Robert Cohen, "The initial idea of Social Work Month was to try to combat the widespread notion that social work was something anyone can do; or that it just involved people who were good Samaritans trying to help others. The profession has taken

a long time to demonstrate and explain the professional nature of social work."

While many Americans recognize the work of social workers in the community, many Americans are not aware of the noteworthy roles social workers have historically played in shaping our social policies. In fact, social work pioneer Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet as Secretary of Labor, drafted a significant portion of the New Deal legislation related to the Social Security Act, labor laws including a minimum wage, child labor protections, worker's compensation, safety standards developed through OSHA, unemployment compensation, and so on. Through the decades, Social Work Month themes have evolved along with the profession. From "Doing Good Isn't Bad—It Isn't Easy Either" (March 1973) to the latest theme of 2013, "Weaving Threads of Resilience and Advocacy," this important month continues to celebrate the profession, and be a voice for all social workers.

I am proud to represent the state of Illinois which is home to a mega chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. NASW is a professional association of social workers that advocates for resources to meet the needs of clients, allocation of resources that is open, fair, and non discriminatory, and promotes social justice. Currently, NASW Illinois has 7000 members in eight districts throughout the state. Additionally, there are hundreds of social workers in my district providing supports to families, including a member of my staff. For instance, Big Brothers Big Sisters, an organization that has been helping change the lives of kids for over a century, is located in my district. Through mentoring, coaching, fundraising, and other activities, BBBS has consistently reported positive outcomes for youth including children that participate in BBBS are 46 percent less likely to use illegal drugs and 52 percent less likely to skip school.

I urge my colleagues to reflect on the valuable contributions of social workers in their respective districts and I acknowledge my social work colleagues serving in Congress with me today. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recognize National Social Work Month.