

In doing so, Jefferson demonstrated great bravery, instinct and skill when he saved the lives of Brandy, Patrick and Lynzee. For his efforts, Jefferson was awarded the New York State Senate Liberty medal, one of the highest civilian honors a New Yorker can receive.

His actions are nothing short of heroic, demonstrating the best in our citizenry through selflessness and courage. I stand with everyone in the community thanking him for this selfless act and his continued commitment to public service and to serving this country.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO CREATE A PERMANENT
INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation that would create a permanent inspector general for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA).

My bill would amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 by creating a special post with the sole duty of providing long term oversight of MWAA. Only the U.S. Secretary of Transportation can appoint and remove the IG and no additional action from any jurisdiction on the state or local level is required for this position to be established. In addition, MWAA would be required to pay for the IG using its revenues, not taxpayer dollars.

I am reintroducing this legislation because I believe that due to the continued growth of the Dulles corridor, the Dulles rail project is the most important transportation project in the Commonwealth. It must be completed on time and at, or under, budget.

I appreciate Secretary Ray LaHood appointing an accountability officer to monitor the MWAA, but it is clear this entity, which is responsible for overseeing the entire construction of the Dulles rail project, requires a permanent IG to provide long term oversight of its actions.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES
CHRESTMAN

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Charles Chrestman, of Lumberton, North Carolina, for his commitment and service to his community. Dr. Chrestman retired from his position as President of Robeson Community College on December 31, 2012, but his legacy of dedicated leadership in education will stay strong for generations to come. Dr. Chrestman has not only been a steward to higher education in Robeson County, but a trusted advisor and dear friend.

Dr. Chrestman's colleagues acknowledge the remarkable progress the college has made during his decade of service as President. During his tenure, Dr. Chrestman worked to reaffirm Robeson Community College's status

as a nationally accredited institution. He also helped oversee the creation of three new buildings on campus: a Continuing Education building, a Health Science building, and a Workforce Development Center. Two others were completely renovated. The College also landed one of the state's NCCCS Biotechnology Network regional centers that now serves a statewide role in advancing bio-agriculture.

Dr. Chrestman's dream was to see all graduates become productive laborers within the community and the great state of North Carolina. During his tenure, Robeson Community College began offering the ACT's WorkKeys Assessment, which leads to a Career Readiness Certificate. Today, Robeson County ranks in the top three among the state's 100 counties with more than 5,000 individuals holding the certificate. These and many other accomplishments are a testament to Dr. Chrestman's leadership.

I am personally grateful to Dr. Chrestman for his service as Chairman of my Education Advisory Committee, a small group of education leaders from the seventh congressional district of North Carolina who regularly meet to discuss education issues affecting our communities. His leadership in this capacity has been invaluable to me, and I will remain thankful.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Charles Chrestman's forty years in higher education as he retires as President of Robeson Community College. His long record of public service will continue to benefit the students and citizens of Robeson County and beyond.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, On January 3, 2009, the day I took office, the national debt was \$10,627,961,295,930.67.

Today, it is \$16,432,643,996,680.64. We've added \$5,804,682,700,749.97 to our debt in 4 years. This is a \$5.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a Balanced Budget Amendment. We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW
COLUMBIA ADMISSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the New Columbia Admission Act. The residents of our nation's capital are and always have been citizens of the United States. Yet they are the only taxpaying Americans who are not treated as full and equal citizens. The only way for them to obtain the citizenship rights they are entitled to is through the same statehood used by other Americans. Therefore, I am introducing the New Columbia Admission Act to create a state from essentially the eight home-town wards of the District

of Columbia. This 51st state, however, would have no jurisdiction over the federal territory, or enclave that now consists of the Washington that Members of Congress and visitors associate with the capital of our country. The U.S. Capitol premises, the principal federal monuments, federal buildings and grounds, the National Mall and other federal property here would remain under federal jurisdiction. Our bill provides that the State of New Columbia would be equal to the other fifty states in all respects. Consequently, residents of New Columbia would have all the rights of citizenship they are entitled to as taxpaying American citizens, including two senators and, initially, one House member.

Just as the New Columbia Admission Act was the first bill I introduced after I was first sworn in as a Member of Congress in the 102nd Congress in 1991, this is my first bill in the 113th Congress. Our first try for statehood received significant support in the House. In 1993, we got the first and only vote on statehood for the District, with nearly 60% of Democrats and one Republican voting for the New Columbia Admission Act. The Senate held a hearing on its companion bill, introduced by Senator Ted Kennedy, but the committee of jurisdiction did not proceed further. Although this start was encouraging, soon thereafter, the District, which is the only U.S. city that pays for state functions, found it necessary to ask the federal government to take over the costs of some state functions, posing fiscal barriers to entry into the Union on an equal basis, and in addition, the Democrats lost control of the House. The District of Columbia recognizes that it can enter the Union only on an equal basis and is prepared to do so. I then introduced the second best option available, a bill for Senate and House representation for D.C., and later, when Republicans controlled the House, a bill for a House vote. Because these bills had strong support from Democrats, I will introduce them again as well, but with the understanding that residents will never stop short of their full citizenship rights and, therefore, of statehood.

The final analysis is that we have no alternative. To be content with less than statehood is to concede the equality of citizenship that is the birthright of our residents as citizens of the United States. It is too late for the residents of the District of Columbia to make such a concession as we approach the 212th year in our fight for equal treatment in our country. This bill is the first I file in the 113th Congress, and it reaffirms our determination to obtain each and every right enjoyed by citizens of the United States by becoming the 51st State of the Union.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. for the votes that occurred on January 3, 2013 and January 4, 2013 and was not sworn in as a Member of Congress until January 14, 2013. As a result, I missed the votes listed below. I regret missing these votes but it was necessary to be in Portland

for my family. Had I been in Washington, D.C., I would have voted as follows:

H. Resolution 5: A resolution providing for the House Rules of the 113th Congress

I would have voted no on H. Res. 5. The House Rules package maintains the House of Representative's discriminatory stance on the Defense of Marriage Act, which I have opposed, restricts the District of Columbia's electoral representation, prohibits the House of Representatives from acting on health care recommendations from a nonpartisan scientific panel, and supports the partisan and unnecessary attacks on Attorney General Eric Holder.

H.R. 41: To temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program

I would have voted yes on H.R. 41. To limit the danger of future storms, it is important to ensure the careful reconstruction of areas damaged by Hurricane Sandy. That effort will take many years, however, and should not unnecessarily limit access to resources provided by the National Flood Insurance Program. I support the increased lending authority to that program to ensure adequate support to victims of Hurricane Sandy.

H.R. 219: Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013

I would have voted to approve this legislation, which combines several changes the House had previously supported to improve recovery projects for Hurricane Sandy.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION AMENDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to reduce the size of the board of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, MWAA, and provide Virginia a clear majority of the seats, given that both Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Reagan, and Washington Dulles International Airport, Dulles, are located in Virginia.

The health of the airports and the Dulles Metrorail Extension project have an enormous impact on northern Virginia. I have often said that the Dulles corridor is the "main street" of Virginia. The number of businesses that have chosen to locate in this region is a testament to the strength of the airports and the services it provides as a hub for national and international travel. The success of the Dulles corridor, northern Virginia and the entire Commonwealth depend on MWAA being able to capably run the airports and the rail project.

I firmly believe that it is in the best interest of Virginia residents for the Commonwealth to have a majority of seats on the MWAA board to ensure that the airports continue to thrive, Dulles Rail is completed successfully and the Dulles Corridor will continue to be the economic engine of not only the National Capital Region, but the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. I stand ready to work with all interested

parties to make sure that both the airports and the Dulles Rail project are successful.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE NEW YORK 2012 WOMEN OF VALOR MARLENE ALTMAN, JOAN DEAN, JO RENEE FINE, JUDITH O'NEILL AND ANDREA PASTOR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to five extraordinary women being honored at the American Jewish Committee, AJC, New York's 2012 Woman of Valor event. This year, AJC New York is awarding Marlene Altman, Joan Dean, Jo Renee Fine, Judith O'Neill, and Andrea Pastor with this outstanding distinction. All of the honorees have made important contributions in their personal and professional lives to the vital mission of AJC to advocate for the security of Jewish people around the world.

Marlene Altman studied mathematics at the University of Colorado, and spent her early career working for the U.S. Bureau of the Census. After moving to New York in 1983, Ms. Altman became CBS News Director of Election Operations. Political and cultural activism has always been central in her life. In 1993, Ms. Altman moved to St. Louis with her husband Murray, where she earned a Masters degree in Political Science and became involved in the AJC, the Jewish Community Center, JCC, and other arts and cultural organizations. She has continued been active in AJC and UJA since returning to New York City in 2002.

I am proud to see that Joan Dean is being honored as a Woman of Valor. Ms. Dean is a strong community leader who served as my Finance Director from 2006–2008. She has been active in politics and fundraising for most of her career, much of which she spent in California. She is a board member of AJC New York and co-chair of the National Outreach and Advocacy Committee. Ms. Dean has shown extraordinary leadership in Jewish organizations for many years. She founded an Upstate New York Hadassah chapter, was Vice President of the Upper New York State Region of Hadassah, and served as President of the AJC Board in San Diego, CA. Ms. Dean is the proud mother of Lisa and Amy Cohen and loving grandmother to five grandchildren.

Jo Renee Fine is a renowned educator and photographer who has 35 years of experience in private and public sectors advising organizations on web and print communication. Dr. Fine has published two photo-documentary books: *The Synagogues of New York's Lower East Side* and a more recent edition with the same title. Dr. Fine is on the AJC New York Regional Board of Directors for which she chairs the Interreligious and Intergroup Relations Committee. She is also a member of the AJC National Board of Governors, Co-chair of Project People Foundation, and Vice President of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. Dr. Fine and her husband, Dr. Edward Trieber, are proud parents to their daughter, Jessica.

Judith O'Neill is an attorney with 37 years of experience in the telecommunications and en-

ergy sector. She has done consulting work in more than 85 countries and throughout the developing world. In her role as Surgeons of Hope Board member, she is working with the Nicaraguan government to develop a Pediatric Cardiac Surgical Center for children in Managua. Ms. O'Neill is an active member of both AJC-New York Region and the national AJC Board, where she chairs the Energy Steering Committee.

Andrea Pastor spent her career in the information technology sector working as Chief of Management Information Services for the Bureau of Drugs and as a securities law attorney in New York City. After retiring, she became involved in AJC chapters across the country. Ms. Pastor served as President of AJC-Milwaukee and AJC-Palm Beach chapters. She was also President and Chair of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation Women's Division Political Awareness program and held leadership positions in philanthropic organizations, such as the American Heart Association. Ms. Pastor is on the AJC-New York Board and Executive Committee, and co-chairs the Region's Immigration Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting these truly inspiring Women of Valor who are all outstanding leaders in the Jewish community and New York City at large.

IN HONOR OF JAMES GILBERT, PRESIDENT, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE CAPITOL CITY LODGE NO. 9

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Congressman STEVE STIVERS and I are pleased to congratulate James Gilbert upon the completion of his service as president of the Fraternal Order of Police.

For the past six years, the citizens of the Greater Columbus area and the law enforcement officers of the Columbus Police Department have received unparalleled service and leadership from Jim Gilbert. His dedication has been illustrated through his many hospital visits to every officer injured in the line of duty and his commitment to personally coaching officers through the emotional process associated with using their weapons in the line of duty.

Jim Gilbert's talents are so well respected that even the most contentious issues between his membership and the city of Columbus have been resolved with no disruption to department operations. His tenure saw no layoffs of personnel in spite of hard economic circumstances. He has often been called upon to aid other officers and/or their families in tragic circumstances and received great praise for his attention to the needs of injured or fallen comrades.

The Fraternal Order of Police will miss Jim Gilbert's presence and influence, but will continue to rely on his continued service as a patrolman in his new assignment. His legacy will remain with the officers he has mentored, and Franklin County residents can rest assured knowing their streets will be under his watch as he returns to his duties as an officer.

We offer our best wishes to Jim Gilbert and his family during this transition in his career.