

overdue investments in our nation's water infrastructure systems that will benefit both our communities and our economy.

When it comes to America's infrastructure, the role of the Federal government is both critical and clear. Never has the need for Federal investment been greater, and in my district, perhaps more urgent both in the short term and long term.

As the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure heard at its Water Resources and Development Act hearing last month, America's waterways related infrastructure projects are in drastic need of Federal investment that will create jobs and benefit our economy. So too, will federal investment in our wastewater infrastructure systems provide economic benefits and create jobs while rebuilding and expanding our treatment systems. For every \$1 billion this nation spends on wastewater infrastructure it can create as many as 33,000 jobs in communities across America while improving our public health and the environment. It is a win-win proposition.

Around the country, states report a need of close to \$300 billion in wastewater treatment, pipe replacement and repair, and stormwater management projects over the next twenty years. This need is especially pressing in many cities and communities where pipes and sewage treatment facilities are reaching the end of their expected useful life.

Without a greater Federal investment, communities that cannot upgrade and expand their wastewater systems will find it harder to attract new business and build new homes. Existing businesses and homes will see treatment costs rise as short term fixes are sought. Current Federal appropriations that equal a small fraction of the identified need to modernize and repair these systems are clearly not sufficient. The time for a new approach to Federal investment and financing of these efforts is now.

The "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2013" we are introducing today is intended to provide the "all of the above" approach to water infrastructure investment and financing that will be needed to close our current funding gaps. The bill renews the Federal commitment to addressing our Nation's substantial needs for wastewater infrastructure by investing \$13.8 billion in the State Revolving Funds over the next five years. For decades, the SRFs have been the traditional mechanism for Federal wastewater infrastructure assistance.

Yet, also recognizing that significant additional resources will be necessary, the bill establishes two complementary new initiatives for the long-term, sustainable financing of wastewater infrastructure. The first is a direct loan and loan guarantee program and the second, a Clean Water Infrastructure Trust Fund. These proposals, when implemented in concert, would leverage billions of additional dollars to meet local wastewater infrastructure needs, create jobs, and protect our public health and environmental quality.

Meeting the critical water infrastructure investment needs of our local communities is a bipartisan issue, and indeed, this bill has bipartisan support. Members from both sides of the aisle recognize that the investments that we make will benefit our local constituents, the economies of our towns, cities, and States, and provide the added benefit of protecting public health and the overall condition of the environment.

I am pleased that this legislation has garnered bipartisan support for introduction, and I am also pleased that Republican and Democratic staff on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee have had several productive meetings to discuss this issue and explore a collaborative path forward. I look forward to working with Chairmen SHUSTER and GIBBS and Ranking Member RAHALL to advance long-term, sustained investment in our nation's wastewater infrastructure that has broad support from cities and communities around the country, industry, utilities, environmental groups, unions, equipment suppliers, and engineers.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bill is good for America and American workers, and I urge my colleagues to join myself and my fellow co-sponsors in supporting this very important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BALANCING FOOD, FARM, AND THE ENVIRONMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Balancing Food, Farm, and the Environment Act of 2013. This legislation modernizes the conservation title of the Farm Bill to better reflect farmers' needs and the priorities of the American public. I know from working with farmers in Oregon that many farmers are the best possible stewards of their land, and they are producing healthy, local food in ways that protect their livelihood, their farm, and the environment. The Farm Bill as a whole, however, does far too little to reward good stewardship, support sustainable farming practices, or meet conservation priorities.

The Balancing Food, Farm, and the Environment Act of 2013 leverages current Farm Bill programs to produce better environmental outcomes and increase ease of access for farmers. The bill prioritizes longer terms of protection for high-priority environmentally-sensitive lands, providing a better return for taxpayers and stability for farmers. It also makes clean water a higher priority in conservation programs, increasing protection and restoration for riverbanks. The Balancing Act targets wetlands and critical habitat to protect wildlife population. It increases access to program funding for farmers, and expands the funding available for technical assistance. It helps keep antibiotics out of our water and food by reducing grants to factory farms and by helping farmers transition to organic or less antibiotic intensive farming methods. Finally, the Balancing Act acknowledges that American farmers are experiencing impacts from climate change, and it provides funding for adaptation and mitigation of these effects.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation on behalf of our farmers, the millions of Americans who care about a safe, healthy, domestic food supply, and our grandchildren, who will live with the air, water, and soil we pass on to them.

CONGRATULATING THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 49th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars, composed of 141 high school seniors who have excelled in academics or the arts. I am especially proud that a student from my district, James Y. Wang, has been selected as one of two students from Indiana for this prestigious honor.

These outstanding young people are selected by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars as a result of their academic success, community service, leadership, and commitment to excellence. Each state will send a young man and a young woman to Washington, DC, on June 16, where they will receive a Presidential Scholar Medallion.

This achievement is a wonderful reflection of the quality of academic instruction in my district and of the hard work and dedication of the students. I would like to congratulate not only Mr. Wang, but also University High School in Carmel, Indiana, and Derek Thomas, who has been recognized as an outstanding educator.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I know how important it is to our nation's future to encourage academic excellence in high schools across the country. We must do everything we can to support our great educators and train a generation of students ready to succeed in a dynamic 21st century economy.

The winners of this unique competition are an inspiration to their peers, educators, and parents throughout Indiana's 5th District and across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Mr. Wang, Mr. Thomas, and University High School. I am very proud of you.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT CONGRESS AND THE STATES SHOULD INVESTIGATE AND CORRECT ABUSIVE, UNSANITARY, AND ILLEGAL ABORTION PRACTICES

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I'm heartbroken as I've heard more and more about Dr. Kermit Gosnell's Philadelphia medical practice during the past few weeks. The brutal method Dr. Gosnell used to ensure death from a botched abortion, severing the spinal cord of a baby born alive, is disgusting. I pray we are all shocked and disturbed by what has been revealed about abortion during this trial.

While Dr. Gosnell stands trial, there are still over a million babies who die from abortion each year in the United States. That's almost 2 times more deaths than caused by cancer in the U.S. every year and 2 times more than heart disease. Abortion is taking an innocent life and we have to stand against it.

That's why I am introducing this House resolution to review public policies that led to the

illegal abortion practices of Dr. Kermit Gosnell and others. The resolution resolves that Congress and States should gather information about and correct abusive, unsanitary, and illegal abortion practices and the interstate referral of women and girls to facilities engaged in dangerous or illegal second- and third-trimester procedures.

The resolution also recognizes that there is substantial medical evidence that an unborn child is capable of experiencing pain at 20 weeks after fertilization, or earlier, and resolves that there is a compelling governmental interest in protecting the lives of unborn children beginning at least from the stage at which substantial medical evidence indicates that they are capable of feeling pain.

Life is precious, children are precious. People talk about choice when we talk about abortion, and we should encourage more Americans to choose life and protect the most innocent in our nation.

HONORING CHIEF JOHN STEVENS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of John Stevens, former Chief of the Passamaquoddy and Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the State of Maine.

Chief Stevens is known throughout Maine as a man of great wisdom and compassion. His distinguished career in public service has led him to serve the state's native peoples in a variety of capacities. As a Tribal Councilor, John worked to strengthen Passamaquoddy cultural values and promote economic progress. During his terms as Chief, John worked effectively to combat unemployment and crippling debt. He also played an enormous role in the legal battle that would eventually result in Congressional Legislation to grant federal recognition to the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Maliseet. Chief Stevens would also go on to serve as the first Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the State of Maine.

In addition to his devotion for the native peoples of Maine, John is also a proud veteran of the Korean War. He has often cited the war-devastated villages he encountered overseas as an inspiration behind his efforts to improve conditions for his own people. Today, the Passamaquoddy Tribe owns more than 200,000 acres of land in the State.

I consider myself privileged to have had the opportunity to work with John as a fellow public servant and as a friend. On May 9, 2013, Chief Joseph Socobasin, Vice Chief Clayton Sockabasin and the Indian Township Tribal Council will dedicate the Tribal Government Office Building in Chief Stevens' honor. I can think of no one more deserving of this tremendous honor.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in honoring Chief John Stevens for his long and remarkable career of public service.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of National Nurses Week. Nurses form the backbone of our nation's healthcare system. Patients depend upon nurses when they are at their most vulnerable, families entrust the care and comfort of their loved ones to their capable hands, and a happy and healthy nursing workforce means a happy and healthy American people.

This week is an opportunity for us to thank the roughly 3 million registered nurses in the United States, who provide the front-line patient contact that is critical to medical treatment that is effective and efficient—and they do so with a humanity that is refreshing. They provide understanding care to victims of domestic violence, a compassionate touch for family members who have lost a loved one, and the support and strength our wounded veterans need to recover.

As our nation looks towards implementing the Affordable Care Act, nurses will play a leading role in providing cost-effective, high-quality care to millions of new patients. One of the most important things we can do to control costs and improve patient outcomes is encourage and support both current and future members of the nursing profession. The current nursing shortage is a major hurdle that we must confront if we want to lead the world in health care quality and efficiency. By recruiting, training, and retaining the best nursing workforce that we possibly can, our nation will be investing in itself.

The acknowledged relationship between increased nurse staffing levels and decreased patient complications and reduced hospital stay lengths is too important to ignore. Shorter hospital stays means smaller premiums for all Americans. It also means fewer tax dollars being spent. But in more important terms, it means husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters who are around longer, with better quality of life. That is what nurses provide, and it is that for which I rise to say thank you.

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize the 21st anniversary of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month during the month of May. It is with great honor that I stand to commemorate the many accomplishments and contributions from Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. As leaders in business, education, STEM, military, medicine or the arts, Asian Americans have contributed to our nation's prosperity and culture. The story of the APA community is a testament to what is possible in America.

This year's theme is Building Leadership: Embracing Cultural Values and Inclusion

which is definitely portrayed throughout this country and New York. The Asian Pacific American population is 18.2 million and expected to reach 20.9 million in the next five years. New York is home to 1.7 million Asian Pacific Americans and 10.1 percent of APA-owned businesses. Organizations in my congressional district in New York City, such as The Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans improve our communities with advocacy efforts for APAs, and cultural contributions. In addition, the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce in New York has dedicated itself to the economic empowerment of APAs, and building the relationship between Asian and U.S. companies.

My colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and I are committed to fulfilling the various economic needs and civic engagement of the APA community as we work to secure comprehensive immigration reform and business empowerment opportunities for small business owners. Through strength and determination, the APA community has overcome prejudice, oppression and countless barriers to achieve enormous heights in America. I join Asian Pacific Americans in celebrating their heritage and their well-deserved successes."

COMMEMORATING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SULLY DISTRICT POLICE STATION SHOOTING

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, it was seven years ago today that two Fairfax County police officers were killed outside the Sully District Police Station in a tragedy that galvanized our community. I was Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at the time. Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino and Detective Vicki Armel showed tremendous courage, heroism, and self-sacrifice in protecting their fellow officers when a troubled young man launched an assault on the station with an arsenal of high-powered weapons. They were the first officers to be killed in the line of duty in the Fairfax County Police Department's 72-year history.

MPO Garbarino, 53, had just returned to the station and was sitting in his cruiser, preparing to go off duty, when he was shot. Detective Armel, 40, was at her car nearby, preparing to respond to a report of a carjacking. We later discovered that the shooter, 18-year-old Michael Kennedy, had a history of mental illness. The assailant stole a van and drove to the station armed with two rifles and five handguns. Detective Armel immediately returned fire, but she was fatally wounded when a high-powered round pierced her protective vest. She died on scene. Despite his injuries, MPO Garbarino was able to use his police radio to call for assistance and provide tactical information to responding officers that led to the killing of the shooter and prevented further casualties at the Sully Police Station. In standing their posts, they saved other lives.

MPO Garbarino was transported to the hospital in critical condition and succumbed to his injuries nine days later. He was a 23-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department.