

his building, its congregation, and their commitment to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KEVIN SANDERS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous actions of Kevin Sanders, a native resident of Plainfield, Illinois, who passed away earlier last month. Kevin was one of the first responders who gave their lives in the evacuation efforts when a fire broke out at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas on April 17, 2013.

Kevin was an extraordinary individual who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting others. From a young age, he looked to heroes like Superman for inspiration. He was an individual who truly lived to serve others, as exemplified by his participation in the Plainfield Emergency Management Agency in Illinois and the Bruceville-Eddy Volunteer Fire Department in Texas.

His heroism lives on through his wife, Sarah, and his 3-month-old son, Reeve. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a true hero—Kevin Sanders, a real life man of steel.

HONORING THE AROOSTOOK MEDICAL CENTER

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Aroostook Medical Center (TAMC) on becoming the first facility in Maine, and second in the Nation, to use compressed natural gas for both heat and cooling.

For over 100 years, TAMC has played a vital role in providing health services to Maine's northern communities. TAMC is one of the area's largest economic drivers, employing over 1000 staff members and 60 physicians. On May 13, 2013, this Maine institution will cement its role as an environmental leader as well, kicking-off National Hospital Week by officially transitioning from oil fuel to compressed natural gas (CNG).

According to TAMC's Vice President of Diagnostic and Support Services James McKenney, CNG produces about 45 percent less carbon dioxide than coal, 30 percent less than oil, and 15 percent less than wood. In addition to dramatically reducing its environmental footprint, the conversion is expected to save the hospital between \$400,000 and \$500,000 each year.

TAMC's "valve turning" ceremony on the 13th is just part of the hospital's broader efforts to improve its environmental impact. The Food Service Department has eliminated foam cups and trays, while incentivizing staff to purchase coffee with mugs rather than paper cups. The hospital is also revamping its recycling processes, expanding composting activities, and switching to environmentally friendly chemicals wherever possible. These efforts

have brought TAMC closer to local producers, the University of Maine at Presque Isle, and the City of Presque Isle itself.

I am pleased to join countless families across northern Maine in helping TAMC celebrate this exciting new chapter.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating TAMC for taking this important next step forward.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Week. I am proud to honor the tireless work of the more than three million men and women who form the core of the American healthcare system.

Nurses are at the forefront of patient care in our hospitals and clinics, our schools and workplaces, in the military, and throughout our communities. They handle the daunting responsibility of caring for millions of unique patients with unparalleled grace. From bedside care to university classrooms, nurses are the leaders in promoting and maintaining our Nation's health. As equal parts caretakers, advocates, researchers, and educators, nurses work selflessly to protect the safety and well-being of all Americans. They are truly some of our Nation's most devoted professionals.

As our population ages, and our healthcare industry focuses increasingly on preventative care, the demand for nursing services will be greater than ever. We must do everything we can to support nursing students, and ensure that our healthcare system is able to meet growing patient needs for years to come.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring nurses across the country. We should all be tremendously grateful for their invaluable work, not just this week, but every day of the year.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, thank you Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for hosting this special order and for your ongoing and unwavering leadership.

I rise today in recognition of National Nurses Week, and to thank the millions of nurses who are on the front lines of our health care system.

Although a doctor is usually considered to be the primary health care provider for a patient, Nurses are expert clinicians who provide high-quality and cost-effective care in every care community and in every setting throughout the world.

Let me just say that I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and commitment nurses have to their patients' health and well-being. Their crucial role delivering health care cannot be understated.

Around the world, nurses are the first and often the only link to health care for millions of

people living in resource limited settings, particularly in Africa and parts of Asia.

So this week I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the nurses who continue to serve us, and to renew our commitment to supporting this profession.

ACADEMIC COMPETITION RESOLUTION, 2013

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome and congratulate students from the Oswego East High School Rocket Team and the Nequa Valley High School Rocket Team.

The Oswego East and Nequa Valley Rocket Teams are coming to Washington, D.C. to compete in the Team America Rocketry Challenge National Fly-Off competition on May 11th. They qualified for the National Fly-Off by finishing in the top 100 out of 725 teams that competed nationwide to build a rocket that could carry a raw egg 750 feet in the air, and then use a parachute to return the egg uncracked.

These students have spent many hours designing, building, testing and launching model rockets in order to create the entries that qualified for the National Fly-Off. I am proud of their hard work, perseverance, and creativity, and I commend them on this achievement.

I am also thrilled to see students embracing a project that involves elements of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. As a scientist and manufacturer, I know how rewarding it can be to research and explore, and to discover what you can accomplish when you design and build things from scratch.

This country needs more young people who are excited about studying and working in the STEM fields. STEM graduates are critical to a thriving national economy, but at present, our education system is not producing nearly enough STEM graduates to meet the private sector's need for highly skilled employees. I'm pleased to see that there are contests like the Team America Rocketry Challenge that are encouraging students to explore STEM fields through fun, hands-on projects, and I'm proud of the students from my district who took on this challenge. I hope that this will be only the first of their accomplishments in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 2013, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following rollcall votes: number 129 for H.R. 588, number 130 for H.R. 291, and number 131 for H.R. 507. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three rollcall votes.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT
TROOP 7

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 7 of Grapevine, Texas. This troop has a rich history of developing boys into responsible young men.

Boy Scout Troop 7 was founded in 1913, only three years with William D. Boyce founded Scouting in the United States. The origin of Troop 7 began when the Mayor of Grapevine, Benjamin Richard Wall, traveled to New York to learn about scouting. He returned home to Grapevine with the number 7 Boy Scout Unit Charter, one of the first charters west of the Mississippi River. Mayor Wall was actively involved with the troop from its founding until 1954.

In 1923, Troop 7 was chartered in Arlington, Texas, but it moved back to Grapevine in 1931 whereupon it was chartered to the Grapevine Business Men's League. In 1932, the group's charter transferred to the Grapevine City Council under Mayor Ernest E. Lowe as the Scoutmaster. In 1939, the Grapevine Lions club assumed the troop's charter. The Lions Club till this day continues to support Troop 7 by collaborating with the scouts at Grapevine festival events. The St. Lawrence Episcopal Church hosted the troop charter from 1976–1978. The charter lapsed in 1979 which broke the long tenure for Troop 7. St Francis Catholic Church in Grapevine became the chartering organization in 1980 and continues as such today.

As of today, Troop 7 is led by Scoutmaster Don Blan, who is an Eagle Scout. Troop 7 has over 50 scouts who actively assist community organizations such as Bluebonnet Hills during its Memorial Day service, schools, municipalities, and other organizations that benefit from Eagle Scout projects.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Boy Scout Troop 7 on its 100th Anniversary.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY
ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1406, The Working Families Flexibility Act. This bill is a sham! It does not offer working families flexibility, nor does it protect employee rights. But what it does is strip employees of their rights by eliminating the Federal Labor Standards Act statute guaranteeing overtime pay for time worked over 40 hours per week.

It shifts control of overtime from a monetarily incentivized program for the employee to an employer-controlled one incentivized by cheaper labor and less need to hire more

workers. This bill also contains no avenue for employees to file grievances if requests for time off are denied or not responded to.

Under H.R. 1406, after the employee makes a request to use compensatory time, the employer's only responsibility is to permit the employee "to use such time within a reasonable period after making the request if the use of the compensatory time does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer." There is no responsibility on the part of the employer to respond in a timely manner or accommodate an employee request.

H.R. 1406 turns back years of hard won victories for American workers and their families by undermining the Federal Labor Standards Act and giving the employer virtually complete control over when the overtime is used.

The AFL-CIO, the Communication Workers of America, the National Partnership for Women & Families, and numerous other organizations oppose this bill. However, imagine my surprise when I received an e-mail from the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce also urging me to oppose this bill!

As a rule, Chambers of Commerce usually support "pro-employer" bills. However, in this case, the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce wrote, "all employers want as low a payroll expenditure as possible but there is a reason to be concerned that employers incentivized by H.R. 1406 would reward those employees who agree to "comp time" in lieu of overtime payments. Employers incentivized by a reduced payroll might well give "comp time" employees the preferred shifts, the needed hours, and the promotions. There is no protection in H.R. 1406 against this kind of employer behavior."

Make no mistake about it—H.R. 1406 hurts American workers and their families. This bill is just another Republican attempt to destroy the American worker. So I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 1406.

HONORING OUR NATION'S TEACHERS
FOR THEIR COMMITMENT
TO EXCELLENCE

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise for National Teacher Appreciation Day. I would like to thank Ms. Lillian Anderson who gave me my first exposure to government with a 4th grade class history project on the State of Illinois at Ben Franklin School in Glen Ellyn. I still have the folder with the assignment featured in my district office to remind me of why I entered public service. Unfortunately, Ms. Anderson passed away a few years ago but I am reminded of her invaluable contributions to the community every time I am back home.

We often take our teachers for granted. We drop our children off at school or send them to the bus stop and pick them up at the end of the day, but the job of our nation's teachers is hardly 9–5. It starts well before the children arrive and continues long after they leave.

We forget that the job involves countless hours of preparation; weekends spent shopping for supplies, and most importantly working with our students to help them become the next generation of authors, doctors, young professionals, and yes, even teachers.

I encourage everyone to take time at their next parent teacher conference or other interaction with you children's teacher to take a moment and thank them for all the hard work they are doing to prepare the next generation.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CONSOLIDATION OF WINSTON-
SALEM, NC

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the residents of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, part of which is located in my congressional district, as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the consolidation of the Town of Salem and the City of Winston. Winston and Salem consolidated on May 9, 1913 and the city is now hosting a four day celebration (May 9–13, 2013) to celebrate this historic consolidation.

Today, Winston-Salem has approximately 229,000 residents, is the fourth largest city in North Carolina and is the county seat of Forsyth County. Winston-Salem is a city with a focus on education and healthcare. It is the home of Winston-Salem State University, Salem College, Wake Forest University, the North Carolina School of the Arts, Forsyth Technical Community College, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and Forsyth County Hospital. Winston-Salem is also a city with a focus on the arts. Along with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, it is home to the Reynolda House Museum of American Art, the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art and the National Black Theatre Festival.

I wish all the best to Mayor Allen Joines and to the residents of Winston-Salem as they celebrate "Winston-Salem Centennial 1913–2013."

THE STORY OF OUR TIME

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in light of ongoing budget discussions and damaging sequestration cuts to programs that help our most vulnerable populations, it is time to end the austerity debate. I urge all of my colleagues to read and consider Paul Krugman's New York Times Opinion piece, "The Story of Our Time."

Those of us who have spent years arguing against premature fiscal austerity have just had a good two weeks. Academic studies that supposedly justified austerity have lost credibility; hard-liners in the European Commission and elsewhere have softened their rhetoric. The tone of the conversation has definitely changed.

My sense, however, is that many people still don't understand what this is all about. So this seems like a good time to offer a sort of refresher on the nature of our economic woes, and why this remains a very bad time for spending cuts.

Let's start with what may be the most crucial thing to understand: the economy is not like an individual family.