

in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. Their generation and our country did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, the Greatest Generation defended and then rebuilt our nation to make it even stronger. Their patriotism, service, and sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation and the American people. Their legacy endures today.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 161—H.R. 258; 162—H.R. 1073; and 163—Approving the Journal, I was delayed by weather and my flight arrived late. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

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INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPARENCY FOR LETHAL CONTROL ACT (TLC)

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC), legislation requiring the United States Department of Agriculture to publish clear and accessible information on animals killed through the Wildlife Services program of the Animal Health and Inspection Service.

The Wildlife Services program is responsible for intervening in situations when an animal is considered a threat or serious nuisance to humans. In some cases, animals are killed to fulfill this mission.

Efforts to gather adequate information regarding Wildlife Services operations have been difficult. The USDA has not made detailed data available to the public relating to where, why, how, and which animals have been killed. This lack of transparency and public reporting makes oversight impossible. The USDA could be acting inappropriately or recklessly and without this data, we can't know. That is why I am introducing legislation to require the USDA to publish kill data online by state, county (or other similar political subdivision), and municipality.

The killing of animals should not be a routine or reflexive government response. It should only be undertaken, if at all, after careful deliberation and under strict supervision. For that reason, the public and Congress need to have the opportunity for vigorous oversight to ensure that the USDA is acting appropriately and considering all cheaper and more humane alternatives.

Congress must improve oversight of the Wildlife Services program and ensure that the USDA is using tax dollars efficiently and appropriately. I urge passage of the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC).

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DENNY HECK**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House yesterday, Monday, May 20, 2013. Because of this absence, I missed three votes on the House floor and would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance. The votes were:

Rollcall No. 161, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 258, the Stolen Valor Act. I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 162, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1073, the Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013. I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 163, on Approval of the Journal. I would have voted “yea.”

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BRANDON PULLIG

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Brandon Pullig is a senior at Deer Park High School in Harris County, Texas. His essay topic is:

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ROLE SHOULD GOVERNMENT PLAY IN OUR LIVES?

Ever since the times of the philosopher John Locke to Revolutionary heroes such as Patrick Henry and Thomas Paine to the current President Barack Obama, people have had many different beliefs on how government should play a role in our lives. While there have been differing views since the start, there has been one thing in common; the explicit disagreement on the role of which government should follow. Yes, everyone believes their opinion is correct because that is the definition of a belief. However, I write today not to share why my beliefs are correct nor to express how the U.S. Government should be leading the nation, but to tell my Congress, the most powerful body of our government, what not to do.

Now, I digress momentarily to inform you that I am not a writer. I am not a literary mastermind who can reach into thin air, pick out the perfect sentence, and transfer it

onto paper for all to read. No; I am but a worried 17 year-old, frightened for the future of our country. Thus being said, I apologize for my lack of professionalism and formality. When asked to write this, I saw it as an opportunity to directly communicate with Congress and not as an assignment to write about my feelings whilst hiding behind fancy words causing a lack of personality. Ergo, I plead with you to listen to what I have to say and to take it to heart.

As a young man on the verge of becoming part of the “real world,” leaving high school behind, I find it crucial that I involve myself into the world of government, trying to find what makes it tick. By doing so, I have found that our government is fantastic. The system our founding fathers established is the only reason we, as a nation, have survived the past 236 years. We have evolved the governmental process commendably as well. These facts do not, unfortunately, make up for the horrendous damage politics have caused. The concept of politics has torn apart our government. The lack of cooperation between the two major parties in the last decade and a half has been detrimental to the well being of our nation. Of course our government should tax, regulate trade, deal with foreign nations, create laws to protect the rights of the people, etc. Yet, we have fixated our beliefs so heavily on the ideals of one party or the other and I, as a concerned citizen, am tired of the gridlock that has been hopefully unintentionally created. I urge you to remember the prosperous years in which our nation's leaders, Congress, set aside their party and worked for the better good of all people. This may be hard to do because our minds have been corrupted into thinking black and white, but remember the generation—my generation—that must live with the mistakes made by the Republican and Democratic leaders who were too ignorant to look past their parties' beliefs and to accept what will benefit all. I write to defend my generation and for you to remember the true role of our government, which is to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 157 regarding the Hurt Amendment No. 2 to the “SEC Regulatory Accountability Act” (H.R. 1062). Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 161, 162, 163, had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

RECOGNIZING COL. JASON BOHM

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, throughout the journey of life, we meet many people. Some of these people you will know for a lifetime, and some you will only know for a brief period. I have had the pleasure of knowing Colonel Jason Bohm, USMC, for a brief, but meaningful time.

Col. Bohm has served as the director of the Marine Corps liaison office for the U.S. House of Representatives for the past two years. Having the privilege to represent the Marines of Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point MCAS, I have worked with Col. Bohm on numerous occasions.

He has served as a knowledgeable advisor to me and my staff on various issues concerning active-duty Marines, veterans and military families. We have all found Col. Jason Bohm to be a man of integrity, sincerity, and a true friend to the Corps.

He has assisted me greatly with an issue that I have worked on for over 11 years, and I want to thank him for his interest and his tremendous efforts to help me in my mission of clearing the names of two pilots. For his assistance, I will always be grateful.

As a man of faith, I appreciate Col. Bohm's commitment to his faith and his family. His wife, Sonja, has offered unwavering support, along with their children Ashley, Ethan and Emily. I wish them all the best on their new journey to Camp Pendleton, California.

May God continue to bless the Bohm family, our men and women in uniform, and the United States of America.

**FOOD ALLERGIES**

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, approximately 15 million Americans have a food allergy, a life-altering and potentially life-threatening disease that affects one in every 13 children in the U.S. That's roughly two in every classroom. Food allergies among children increased by 50 percent from 1997–99 to 2009–11, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and every three minutes, a food allergy reaction sends someone to the emergency room. The numbers are growing and becoming more serious—but there is no clear answer as to why.

The increased impact of food allergies is being felt in schools, playgrounds, restaurants, workplaces and emergency care facilities, and constitutes a growing public health issue with substantial financial, educational and medical implications. That is why I am speaking today to alert you that this week is Food Allergy Awareness Week.

Unfortunately, resources dedicated to identifying the source and a cure for food allergies has not kept pace with the increasing inci-

dence and its impact. Total governmental support, including the National Institutes of Health, amounts to less than \$30 million in food allergy research. Private sources, like Food Allergy Research and Education—a patient-centered advocacy and support organization—provide limited additional research support. That is less than \$2.00 in annual research funding for every American living with a potentially life-threatening food allergy.

Mr. Speaker, beyond government research support, the risk to individuals, especially children, of severe, life-threatening reactions also needs to be addressed and prepared for. While many children with known food allergies are permitted to bring their epinephrine auto-injectors to school, studies have shown that 25 percent of epinephrine administrations in schools involve individuals without a previously known allergy. Consequently, the availability of stock epinephrine—undesignated devices that are not prescribed to a particular student and that may be used in anaphylactic emergencies—is critical. Many students who will need epinephrine may have no known history of allergy to food, bee stings, latex and other allergens, and therefore would not have a prescription of their own.

As this health crisis continues to grow, other responses are becoming increasingly necessary. In addition to school personnel, restaurants and their staff need to be made aware of the risks, know how to properly prepare food to avoid allergic reactions, and how to respond in an emergency. Emergency responders need to be properly authorized, trained and equipped to recognize and administer treatment. And ultimately, epinephrine needs to become a standard of emergency first aid in public spaces, nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, 19 states have now passed legislation that would allow schools to stock emergency epinephrine auto-injectors for those instances. Congress has had before it legislation that would provide an incentive for states to require the stocking of this emergency medication for the children and staff who may be faced with this life-threatening situation, and I hope that that legislation will be revisited during this session.

It is critical for the public to appreciate the extent of the problem and, importantly, the severity of the disease. It is a health crisis that affects every race, age, income group and geographic area, and is growing dramatically. And what the public increasingly needs to understand is that this is not simply an inconvenient condition. As the recent tragic deaths of children in Utah, New Jersey and Massachusetts show, it is frequently a life-threatening disease. We hope that public understanding and appreciation is enhanced during Food Allergy Awareness Week.

**ARIEL ZAGALA**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I

have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Ariel Zagala is a senior at Needville High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

**WHAT ROLE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE?**

George Washington once said, "Government is not a reason; it is not eloquence. It is force." This is relevant to me because I do believe government should show force, but not have power. The main role of the government should be the protection of the citizens rather than the complete dominance over the people. Our leaders need to set forth the rules that our founding fathers created for us to live by, but not hold our hands and walk us through life. One example would be protection. Ideally, the government's protection should consist of having someone available when needed or providing aid. In reality, the government's version of protection is tuning into our conversations and running surveillance on us. Government, appointed by the people, should make the rules and the people of a society should respect and abide by them. The nation's leaders should occasionally check to see how the nation is working and give motivation. However, the government should not dictate and attempt to control every aspect of life. One prime example would be gun control. Currently we have had numerous situations where people use guns to harm and in worse situations, kill as well. Some shootings include the Sandy Hook Shooting and the Theatre Massacre. The government does its job on stepping up and applying force by stopping the situation and persecuting the criminal. What they do not stop to realize is how sometimes they can be controlling in situations like these. By trying to take our weapons, they are stripping us of the Second Amendment and ultimately gaining power over society. There is a noticeable difference between force and power in that force means to influence, whereas power means having control over something. President Washington was right that government is a force, but overtime our government has blindly tried to consume power. Having a government is important for the country. They are a symbol of leadership and a sense of security. They are the voice and examples of who we are as a nation and show that to other nations. In conclusion, our government is a working progress. They provide the force but occasionally want power, but just like us, no one is perfect.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 21, 2013*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, due to a family issue that required my attention, I missed several votes on May 20, 2013. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 161, "yea" on rollcall vote 162, and "yea" on rollcall vote 163.