

leaders receive in order to effectively deal with suicide situations. Further, he worked extensively on combat operation stress, particularly with its diagnosis and response. He co-authored a chapter in a 2012 Marine Corp University textbook on combat operation stress titled, "Spiritual Injuries: Wounds of the American Warrior on the Battlefield of the Soul." He was also instrumental in training chaplains on how to minister to these hidden wounds. As a pastor and an educator, Chaplain Gibson has had an enormous impact on our Armed Services both in Northwest Florida and throughout the United States.

From an early age, Chaplain Gibson learned the importance of serving God and his community. It is evident that this dedication has remained over the years, and thousands have been touched by his presence and service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the selfless service of David L. Gibson. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing David, his wife Tami, and their children, Zachary and Micah, all of the best.

NORTHERN ROUTE APPROVAL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3) to approve the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes:

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in astonishment that the House even had to consider H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act. Now, I'm a cosponsor of this bill and I strongly supported its passage yesterday in the House. But we wouldn't need to pass it if the Administration would've green-lighted the Keystone XL pipeline like it should have long ago. For more than seventeen-hundred days, Americans have waited for the Administration to approve this pipeline. We have waited long enough for 20,000 new jobs—600 of which would be created in my home state of Iowa. We have waited for \$20 billion to be added to the economy, much of it in the Midwest and Iowa. And we have waited for more than 800,000 barrels of North American oil per day to be carried to U.S. refineries—to help fuel our economy. The State Department has found twice that this pipeline would have a limited impact on the environment. Labor groups support its construction. And seventeen Senate Democrats endorsed it earlier this year by helping to pass a budget amendment approving the pipeline. Approval of the Keystone XL pipeline means jobs, a boost to the economy and greater American independence when it comes to energy.

So today, Mr. Chair, I urge our colleagues in the U.S. Senate, in the strongest possible terms, to consider and pass this bill as soon as possible—but I also urge the Administration to stop hitting the snooze button on real chances to create American jobs and energy independence.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE MAY 23, 2013 HONOR FLIGHT OF THE QUAD CITIES

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, over ninety Iowa veterans of World War II and the Korean War will travel to our Nation's Capital. Together, they will visit the monuments that were built in their honor by a grateful Nation.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude. For many, today will be the first time they will see the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. I can think of no greater honor than to be able to greet them and thank Iowa's—and our Nation's—heroes for their service to our country.

That is why I am deeply honored to join them for their visit to the National World War II Memorial to personally thank these heroes for their service to our Nation and to pay tribute to the incredible sacrifice they made for our country.

We owe these heroes a debt of gratitude and the Honor Flight demonstrates that we as a State and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our Nation's uniform. As a reminder of the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation, I am proud to have a piece of marble in my office from the quarry that was used to build the World War II Memorial. Our World War II and Korean War veterans rose to defend not just our Nation, but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest Nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Honor Flight of the Quad Cities and Iowa's veterans of World War II 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the needs of my constituents took me away from D.C. and my work here in this Chamber. Though this absence was excused, I would like the record to show my support for legislation which was passed to repeal the misguided and over-burdensome health care law known as Obamacare, and two bills which increase analysis of new and existing regulations and strengthen our local financial institutions. I have supported these pieces of legislation in the past, and would have voted for them had I been here.

That being said, last week, a devastating forest fire—the largest Wisconsin has seen in 33 years—hit the northwest corner of my district in Douglas County. I was grateful to be back home to evaluate the damage, offer assistance to those who suffered loss and personally thank the first responders. By the

grace of God, and with the help of many selfless first responders and firefighters, no one was injured and the destruction was limited. I was inspired by neighbors coming together to help each other, and was proud to see governments at the local, State, and Federal level respond quickly and effectively. I commend all those who stepped up and took charge in this situation, and my staff and I will continue to offer our assistance in any way we can.

HONORING WHITNEY COY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FIREWIVES.COM

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of my constituents from Lancaster, Ohio, who pulled together to make a difference in the wake of an explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas that injured hundreds and killed at least 14 people.

Of those lost in the explosion on April 17, many were firefighters from different departments who responded to the fire and explosion. When the wives of Lancaster firefighters and members of "Firewives.com" heard about what happened, they knew something had to be done.

Whitney Coy and the other members of "Firewives.com" formed a committee to fundraise for the West, Texas Volunteer Fire Department. Their group has grown to roughly 350 members since April. The group's original goal was to sell 150 T-shirts, which they sold in the very first day. So far, they have sold more than 850 t-shirts and raised more than \$7,500 for West, Texas.

The money raised by our neighbors in Lancaster will be used to purchase new equipment to help protect firefighters in West, Texas. I am confident that Whitney Coy and her team played a very important role in ensuring the new equipment could be purchased.

Again, I am thankful for Whitney Coy's hard work in helping the people of West, Texas. I ask that all Members of Congress stand with me to recognize her, and her team, for their acts of selflessness and kindness.

CONGRATULATING THE COMMITTEE OF 100 ON THE FEDERAL CITY ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating The Committee of 100 on the Federal City on its 90th anniversary and for its work in promoting the District of Columbia's distinction, beauty, and grace as a community.

Founded in 1923 by Frederic A. Delano under the auspices of the American Civic Association, the Committee of 100 was formed to sustain and to safeguard the fundamental values for establishing strong standards for parks, monuments, public buildings, and scenic vistas far beyond the monumental core of

Washington, D.C. Today, the Committee of 100 acts as a force of conscience in the evolution of the nation's capital city, engaging in the planning processes for the development of significant large sites in the District, including the Southwest Waterfront, St. Elizabeths, Walter Reed and the McMillan Reservoir.

For 90 years the Committee of 100 has continued to work to ensure that what is built—or not built—in the nation's capital reflects the historical significance of the District and its diverse, growing population. We appreciate the Committee 100 for its long presence in the District and its continued service to the ever-changing landscape of the District, and we wish them many more years of outstanding service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 90th anniversary of Committee of 100 on the Federal City.

FULL HMTF UTILIZATION RESOLUTION

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, our ports are a vital part of our nation's economy. They move more than 2.3 billion tons of cargo a year in the United States, generating economic activity that touches every Congressional district in the country.

Our ports are more than just gateways, they are engines—for the economy and for jobs.

Unfortunately, our nation's ports and harbors are severely under-dredged and under-maintained. According to a recent report by the American Association of Port Authorities, full channel dimensions are available less than 35% of the time.

We need to keep our ports strong. And so in 1986, we came up with a way to fund strong, fully dredged and well maintained ports and harbors, by assessing a tax on the goods imported through U.S. ports. That Harbor Maintenance Tax collects roughly \$1.6 billion a year: plenty of money to keep our ports and harbors the best in the world.

Yet as our ports suffer from historic under-dredging and lack of investment, we continue to spend only half of the funds we collect with the Harbor Maintenance Tax on maintaining our harbors.

We have an \$8 billion dollar surplus sitting in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. That's outrageous.

When our ports have such a clear need, when we have such a desperate need for the jobs that the work of dredging and modernizing our ports would create, it is scandalous that we will not fully utilize the funds we have collected for that very purpose.

I am introducing this resolution because we need to fully utilize the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The wind in Congress is shifting, and I believe that we will pass legislation to achieve that. The Army Corps of Engineers needs to prepare to put people to work fixing our ports the day after the President signs that bill into law.

A TRIBUTE TO THE IOWA ELK'S ASSOCIATION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the great work of the Iowa Elk's Association for their efforts to make the reunion of Marine Sergeant Ross Gundlach and his former combat partner, a yellow Labrador named Casey, a reality. Their dedication to this great event has truly changed two deserving lives.

In Afghanistan, Sergeant Gundlach and Casey were deployed on more than 125 missions to detect and clear suspicious packages along military convoy routes. Sergeant Gundlach and Casey's great work no doubt saved American lives as they were able to detect improvised explosive devices along the road and contain them before they could harm US Marines aboard the convoy. As their tour of duty concluded, Sergeant Gundlach made a promise to Casey he would do everything in his power to find her and care for her when they returned to America.

Upon returning home, Sergeant Gundlach, a Wisconsin native, was able to locate Casey, who had been acquired to continue her work detecting bombs in Iowa on behalf of the State Fire Marshal's Office. He reached out to Casey's new handler via email in an attempt to adopt Casey, often relaying photographs and stories of their service together. Unfortunately, hope for a reunion looked dim as the State Fire Marshal's Office would require \$8,500 to acquire a replacement dog equipped to inspect venues for explosives should Casey's position be vacated.

To make this reunion happen, the Iowa Elk's Association, a fraternal organization with a proud history of assisting our veterans, graciously donated the full sum required to the State of Iowa to purchase a new explosive detection K-9. Governor Terry Branstad accepted the gift request and Sergeant Gundlach was unknowingly invited to Iowa under the pretense he would have to present his case for the adoption of Casey to a bureaucratic state board. Instead, the Iowa Elk's generosity supported a heartwarming surprise ceremony in Iowa's Capitol to formally reunite this remarkable veteran and his faithful companion after 333 days of separation. The selfless efforts of the Governor's Office, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Iowa Elk's Association left few dry eyes as Casey greeted her old friend and new adoptive parent.

Mr. Speaker, in an increasingly chaotic and unpredictable world, it can seem good news is harder and harder to come by. Yet, the actions of the Iowa Elk's Association and the State of Iowa as a whole to do the right thing in such a remarkable fashion is a testament to our state and nation's innate optimism and gratitude to our servicemembers. It is with great pride that I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking all those involved in this heartwarming event and wishing both Sergeant Gundlach and his dog Casey a long and happy future as the friends they have been from day one.

CONGRATULATING NOREEN SALAH BURPEE

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Noreen Salah Burpee on winning the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Ms. Burpee is an outstanding member of our community, and I am proud to represent her in Florida's 22nd District.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor recognizes American immigrants who make extraordinary contributions to the community, and Ms. Burpee has certainly earned this distinction. As the executive director of The Salah Foundation, she helps distribute millions of dollars to small nonprofits nationwide, while helping those nonprofits maximize their funds and fulfill their missions. Many of the Salah Foundation's beneficiaries are right here in Palm Beach and Broward Counties. For example, she worked with nonprofit Broward Health Systems, helping them mobilize more than \$1 million to improve cancer-treatment facilities and marketing efforts.

In honor of her Ellis Island Medal of Honor, I am proud to recognize Noreen Salah Burpee for her amazing achievements and wish her continued success in her endeavors.

HONORING DICK WEAVER FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day 2013, I hope that everyone spends some time this holiday to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our nation's freedoms. We also need to thank those who serve today in harm's way for their dedication to the ideals and principles that made this country great.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell the story of one such man who performed heroic feats on the battlefield, and thankfully, is still with us today so that we may honor him for his service. That man is named C.W. (Dick) Weaver, Jr., and he lives in the Sixth District of North Carolina.

Dick Weaver is a man who was destined to receive honors for his leadership ability in many aspects of his life. He graduated in 1951 from Rankin High School in Guilford County, North Carolina, where he was Valedictorian and President of the Senior Class. As an athlete at Rankin, he was All Conference for two years in baseball and football. He then attended Lees McRae Junior College until he became a United States Marine. Dick was shipped overseas to join the Korean Conflict.

On March 28, 1953, Sergeant Weaver was subject to devastating enemy artillery fire. The unit received word that one of the men had been wounded and was lying helpless and unprotected. Under heavy artillery fire, Sergeant Weaver rushed to the stricken man and carried him to cover. He was painfully injured in his heroic act of courage. Sergeant Weaver, by his outstanding leadership, indomitable