

let out for the summer and students tried to find summer work.

That is why I have re-introduced the "Port Opportunity, Reinvestment and Training (PORT) Act" with my colleague, Chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus and PORTS Caucus member, Congressman CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania. This legislation authorizes the creation of a grant program at ports throughout the country to hire eligible high school students over the summer. This is a win-win for the American economy. Our nation's ports have long been engines of economic growth, and so there is no better place for students to learn the skills they need to compete in today's workforce.

These grants are an investment in the communities that need them most. Not only will these grants put money in the pockets of high school students facing unprecedented levels of unemployment, but they will build a foundation for successful communities and successful adults.

I urge my colleagues to support this crucial investment in our students, our communities, and our economy.

CELEBRATING JOHN AND JEANETTE MASON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John and Jeanette Mason, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this month. As John and Jeanette have discovered, the secret to a successful marriage is having a supportive partner. Interestingly enough, this same quality serves as the foundation for strong and vibrant communities. John and Jeanette's commitment not only to one another but also to our community has touched the lives of countless families in Fairfax City and across Northern Virginia, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this wonderful couple.

John's public service began with the U.S. Army, where he served for 21 years before retiring as a Colonel. Any longtime resident of Northern Virginia is familiar with the tremendous work done during John's 14-year tenure as the Mayor of the City of Fairfax, where his leadership ensured adoption of the city's "2020 Plan," which became the roadmap for Fairfax City's revitalization efforts. Moreover, John is responsible for spearheading the redevelopment of Old Town Fairfax, including the new City of Fairfax Regional Library that serves as the anchor for the area's redevelopment efforts. John and Jeanette were instrumental in the building of the beautiful Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax City and countless other community projects that have ensured Fairfax remains one of the region's top-rated communities in which to live, work, and raise a family.

I have had the privilege of working closely with John on many of the issues he is most passionate about and dedicated to, including the future of transportation in Northern Virginia. After retiring from the Army, John was tapped by SAIC for his expertise on transportation issues, and with Jeanette's support,

John's decision to enter public service once again ensured that Northern Virginia benefitted from his wealth of knowledge on transportation policy. Through John's tireless work on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, he became the go-to elected official on regional transportation issues. Over the years, John became a force to be reckoned with. As many can attest, few individuals know more than John does about bus fleets, congestion patterns, Metro, or commuter delays in Northern Virginia.

John's work on the Fairfax County-Fairfax City Interjurisdictional Committee and his belief in vigorous good neighbor policies elevated the relationship between the City and County to new heights. In addition, John worked to strengthen the City's ties with neighboring George Mason University, which would not enjoy the prominence it does today without John's advocacy for a robust relationship between the university and the surrounding community.

More recently, John and Jeanette have made incalculable contributions to Fairfax's local arts community. John has served as the Chairman of the Arts Council of Fairfax County and as the President of the Fairfax Symphony. He currently serves as the President and CEO of the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, where he oversees all aspects of the art center's planning and operations. He is also the founder and president of Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts, an annual three-week festival that showcases artists in local venues. And of course, many of the region's music patrons are familiar with John and Jeanette's active support of the City of Fairfax Band Association, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, not to mention many other orchestras across Northern Virginia.

John and Jeanette's marriage is a testament to the durability of a loving relationship, and our community continues to benefit mightily from the local contributions from their partnership. John would happily admit that his many accomplishments would not be possible without the love and support of Jeanette. Her care, love, and support during John's battle with cancer assured his return to vigor, ensuring a healthy retirement spent with their children, John Jr., Joanna, and Jeffrey, and their grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating John and Jeanette Mason on their 50th anniversary and in wishing them many more years of happiness.

IMPROVING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1412, the "Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013." There are over 800,000 veterans unemployed, or unable to find work in the United States, and the number is rising every year. If our brave men and women are to serve at home and abroad, it is our moral obligation to help

ensure they can successfully transition into the workforce. For this reason I support the legislation before us.

H.R. 1412 would extend for one month an expiring provision of law that limits pensions paid to certain veterans who are receiving Medicaid coverage in Medicaid-approved nursing homes. The bill also would modify the conditions for veterans to receive education benefit payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for participating in on-the-job training and require VA to enter into agreements with other federal agencies to promote on-the-job training opportunities for veterans.

The Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act will reduce the final OJT/Apprenticeship salary requirements that employers pay of the normal wage from 85% to 75% to encourage employers to offer more OJT/Apprenticeship training for an additional 4 years. The bill also requires other Federal agencies to enter into agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs to hire veterans using the OJT/Apprenticeship benefit and extends reduced pension benefits for certain veterans in Medicaid funded nursing homes.

If enacted, CBO estimates that, on net, the bill would decrease direct spending by \$14 million over the next five years and by \$12 million over the next ten years. Because the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting H.R. 1412 would not affect revenues. In addition, implementing H.R. 1412 would have an insignificant effect on discretionary spending.

Mr. Speaker, instead of returning home to their loving families, friends, and loved ones, 12 percent of veterans—about 1 in 8—are returning home to find unemployment lines. We owe it to these men and women who selflessly served our nation to help them change their condition for the better. The legislation before us, H.R. 1412, is a step in the right direction for veterans across the country and for many of the 35,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars who live in the Houston metropolitan area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join in me in supporting H.R. 1412, the "Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013."

RECOGNIZING NEW MEXICO STATE REPRESENTATIVE NICK SALAZAR

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor New Mexico Rep. Nick Salazar who received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Rep. Salazar is one of the most distinguished members of the New Mexico Legislature, having represented his district, which encompasses Colfax, Mora, Rio Arriba and San Miguel counties, since 1973. Incredibly, Rep. Salazar has worked for Los Alamos National Laboratory for 63 years. In both roles, Rep. Salazar has been an effective leader who has had a profound impact on his community, his state and a thankful nation.

During his distinguished career at LANL, Rep. Salazar was responsible for ensuring that the lab was a responsible and productive

partner to the communities of northern New Mexico. He played a key role in expanding opportunities for research and development, the development of small and minority-owned businesses, technology transfer initiatives, math and science programs, and job training and development. He promoted these programs while advocating for stringent environmental regulations that protected the public. He also served as a member of the Los Alamos National Security Board of Governors.

Rep. Salazar honorably served his country as a Sergeant in the United States Air Force and his community as a County Commissioner from 1964 to 1968.

Rep. Salazar is one of the longest-serving members of the state House of Representatives, having been elected 20 times and serving 40 years. He has been a champion for working class families. Rep. Salazar sponsored legislation to create Northern New Mexico College in Espanola, and led the effort to broaden the mission of the school to allow for four-year degrees. He has also served as chairman of the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District for decades. Rep. Salazar is one of New Mexico's foremost advocates for the state's senior citizens. In 1991, he led the effort to establish the nation's first Indian Area Agency on Aging, and in 2003, he sponsored legislation that created the New Mexico Aging & Long-Term Services Department, elevating the agency to Cabinet-level status.

Rep. Salazar's colleagues in the Legislature have turned to him through the years as a trusted mentor, known for his erudition and his principled approach to the most important issues facing the state. He is a quintessential leader who cares deeply for his family, his community, the Labs and the institution of the New Mexico House of Representatives.

Rep. Nick Salazar is a resident of San Juan Pueblo. He is married to Maria Ana and has three adult children, Yvonne, Earl and Gregory.

IN HONOR OF THE LITERACY
COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Literacy Council of Montgomery County, Maryland ("LCMC") on its 50th anniversary.

In 1963, Elizabeth Kilgore, a county resident who recognized serious literacy deficiencies in her community, began working with community leaders, educators, clergy, and other concerned residents to develop an organizational plan and charter to create the LCMC. Utilizing only volunteers, and because 96% of Montgomery County residents spoke English as their first language, LCMC initially focused on improving the literacy skills of native-born citizens. In 1967, LCMC offered its first English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring program to serve the growing immigrant population in Montgomery County.

Fifty years later, LCMC, based in Rockville, Maryland, has developed into an organization of more than 800 volunteers, teachers and

staff. Now with 12 full- and part-time staff members, LCMC's programs include intensive classroom-based instruction taught by professional instructors, conversation classes, independent computer-based instruction, short-term "life-skills" classes, an online GED preparation program, and a workplace literacy program. In its 50 years of service, LCMC has provided literacy instruction to approximately 15,000 adult learners and has trained nearly 8,700 volunteer tutors. Its programs currently serve 1,500 adults each year.

In Montgomery County, where approximately 40% of the current population speaks a language other than English at home, the success of this program is critical. Nearly 15% of Montgomery County residents over age 5 speak English less than "very well." Twelve percent of children in Montgomery County public schools are enrolled in ESOL classes and are likely to have parents with limited English proficiency. LCMC also serves native-born adults who are able to speak English, but are unable to read and/or write.

Thanks to LCMC's outstanding work, many members of our community have been able to overcome the challenges posed by illiteracy, allowing them to participate more fully in the community and to improve their quality of life. In short, LCMC has transformed the lives of thousands of adults and families.

I am proud that LCMC is located in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating LCMC on its extraordinary accomplishments and extend to it all good wishes for continued success.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
STEVEN RUDDER

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, Brigadier General Steven Rudder is a man for whom I have great respect. During his time in Washington serving the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, I have gotten to know BGen Rudder in his efforts to work with me to clear the names of two Marine pilots who were killed in a V22 crash.

Because of this issue, I have had many opportunities to meet with BGen Rudder over the past two years and have found him to be a man of great integrity and reason. He is a man who does all he can to help someone else.

He has served as a knowledgeable advisor to me and my staff and I believe our country is better protected because of leaders like him.

I will always be grateful for BGen Rudder's assistance and I wish him and his family all the best in their move to Japan. I know he will continue to serve our country with honor.

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

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF MARINE PFC OSCAR A. MARTINEZ AND NAVY MASTER-AT-ARMS 2ND CLASS MICHAEL J. BRODSKY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two American heroes, Marine PFC Oscar A. Martinez and Navy Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (MA2) Michael J. Brodsky, who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. They are the first residents of the City of North Lauderdale, Florida to be killed while serving in the Armed Forces since it was founded 50 years ago, and I am truly honored to have had the privilege to represent them in Congress. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of these two young men for their loss.

PFC Oscar Martinez was born in Dallas in 1984. Originally from El Salvador, his family settled in South Florida in 1987. Oscar's mother died when he was a child, leaving him and his three younger siblings to be raised by his uncle, Rene Martinez, and the children's grandmother, Maria Marta Mendez. According to his sister, Morena Martinez, Oscar dreamt of being a Marine ever since he was little, and was determined to be the best at what he did.

Oscar joined the Marine Corps in 2003, shortly before graduating from North Lauderdale High School, and was assigned to the I Marine Expeditionary Force based out of Camp Pendleton, California. Sadly, he was killed on October 12, 2004 when a mortar fired by insurgents exploded at a U.S. base where he was eating with his unit in the Iraqi province of Anbar. He was just 19 years old.

MA2 Michael Brodsky, of Tamarac, Florida, enlisted in the Navy in 2001, following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He was stationed in the security department at Sasebo Naval Base in Japan from 2002 to 2005 before earning the award of Distinguished Graduate from the Military Working Dog Course at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Mike also served at Naval Support Activity (NAS) Bahrain. In December 2010, he was assigned to Navy Region Southwest Security Detachment in San Diego, California.

On July 7, 2012, Mike was on patrol in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom when his unit started taking fire. He rushed to protect his dog Jackson by putting him back in the truck as he was trained to do, and then returned to the fight. It was then that Mike stepped on the pressure plate of an improvised explosive device (IED), and the blast took both his legs. In critical condition and unresponsive, he was flown to Germany where doctors tried to save him. On the morning of July 17, 2012, Mike was awarded the Purple Heart. Tragically, the 33-year-old died from his injuries on July 21, 2012 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He is survived by his daughter Natalia, parents Debra and Steven Brodsky, younger brother Corey Brodsky, and grandfather Stanley Brodsky.

Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2013, the City of North Lauderdale will be dedicating a fallen soldier statue in memory of PFC Oscar Martinez and MA2 Michael Brodsky, who gave