

a fact!
 For you are a grunt!
 Ever out on the hunt!
 To our freedoms to so bring!
 Of thee I sing!
 To so live by a code!
 To lock and load!
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!
 The United States Army,
 Who with his band of Brothers are but ready
 to bare the load!
 And 10th Mountain Men,
 who into the face evil do so go!
 The ones who so live by a code!
 Where you go!
 I go!
 Who so lock and load!
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!
 Lock and load!
 For Seth, U . . . R . . . Tall!
 Because,
 you have so answered that most noble of
 calls!
 That Call To Arms!
 That Call to War!
 That Call to Death,
 as so for sure!
 To so march off so bravely with clenched
 fists!
 To lock and load!
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!
 As all around you such death and gore ap-
 pears!
 As has your fine young life,
 been so all so here!
 For such men of honor!
 For such men of might!
 Surely they will one day so see Heaven's
 light!
 Where you Go!
 I Go!
 All in that blood that binds you so!
 As it was while out on patrol!
 That you so almost lost your young life,
 but not your soul!
 Standing so close to death,
 right on that very edge . . .
 To a place where courage crests!
 As when Seth,
 you so reached so deep down inside . . .
 To a place where only courage so lies!
 As you so began your climb!
 To lock and load!
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!
 As you got up out of that bed!
 With such Strength In Honor,
 with no regrets!
 All in your actions what was so said!
 All at speed,
 as somehow you became even Army Stronger
 so indeed!
 Because 10th Mountain do not follow,
 they lead!
 They lead!
 For you are Army Strong!
 As your fine heart beats loud and long!
 That's right,
 For only The Few,
 have so led such a most
 courageous life as have all of you!
 Who so Lock and Load,
 who all in the face of death so come shining
 through!
 Who so live by a code!
 A code of honor!
 A code of war!
 All for your Brothers In Arms,
 So Ready All So To Die For!
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!
 As I remember on those first early days,
 as you were but a shell of what you are
 today!
 As you got up and told pity to get out of
 your way!
 For you had mountains to so climb!
 Because 10th Mountain do it all the time!
 And Seth,

you have so many hearts to so heal!
 Yea, Seth,
 you are Ahead of The Pack we can feel . . .
 For that's where we will so find you out on
 attack!
 Leading us all so in time!
 And where would our Nation all so be,
 if it were but not for such men and families
 as all of these?
 Who, where you go!
 I go with speed!
 Who so live by a code!
 Who so lock and load!
 Who so look into the face so we can all be
 free!
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat Tat . . . Tat . . . Tat!
 Way out in front,
 ahead of the Pack!
 To so teach us!
 To so beseech us!
 To so reach us!
 As one of Utah's brightest of all sons
 Who so shines this one!
 And if ever I had a son,
 I'd wish that he could walk as tall,
 as this one!
 Ahead of The Pack!
 A Rat! A Rat! A Rat . . . Tat . . . Tat . . .
 Tat!
 Who so shines as one of America's most he-
 roic sons!
 Who to all of our hearts so run!

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES
 "BUCK" KOONCE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James "Buck" Koonce. Buck recently retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). There he served as the Director of Economic Development and assisted with the management of the Livermore Valley Open Campus (LVOC).

LLNL and Sandia National Laboratories have partnered with the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish the LVOC in order to leverage resources and create a bridge between these national labs and the broader scientific community. Through public-private partnerships with industry, government, and academia, the LVOC involves scientists and engineers from around the world with its unique science facilities, major research and development efforts, industrial collaborations, educational programs, and technology incubators to solve national security challenges.

Buck's economic development efforts have leveraged LLNL functions such as intellectual property management, licensing, and sponsored research, to cultivate partnerships with businesses, industries, entrepreneurs, economic development organizations, community stakeholders, and institutions of higher education. This proactive engagement enables the LLNL management team to set priorities and leverage investments in pilot projects, collaborations, equipment, and facilities to ensure continued growth and improved effectiveness.

Prior to LLNL, Buck held several senior management positions throughout his 35 year career with the University of California. Buck has been an integral part of the management and governance of Lawrence Berkeley Na-

tional Laboratory (LBNL), Los Alamos National Laboratory, and LLNL.

Buck began his career at the University of California at Berkeley's Molecular Biology and Virus Laboratory in 1974, and he then moved to LBNL where he held positions of increasing responsibility in the Offices of Energy and Environment, Computing, and Engineering Divisions, and finally the Director's Office where he lead the development of LBNL's first Long-Range Development Plan. Buck has been active in many DOE-wide initiatives and is well respected by DOE, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and the national laboratory community.

On a more personal note, Mr. Speaker, Buck has played a vital role in assisting me in the development of my own thinking on economic policy strategies and the appropriate role of our national labs. I was honored when he agreed to serve on my Economic Development Advisory Committee, and I have learned a great deal from him. I want to thank Buck for his helping me and for his contributions to the East Bay, and I wish him the very best as he begins this new chapter of his life.

SBA LOAN PAPERWORK
 REDUCTION ACT OF 2013

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, in my time in Congress, I have met with over 200 small businesses in my district, touring their businesses, sitting down with them in round tables. And one of the biggest things that they tell me is standing in the way of their success and growth is the difficulty they have in accessing capital.

That's why the work of the Small Business Administration's loan guaranty programs is so important. But often, the paperwork it takes to apply to these programs discourages small businesses from seeking this assistance. Over and over again, small businesses tell me that their biggest obstacle in working with the Small Business Administration is the arduous amounts of paperwork needed to access SBA loans. If we are going to get our economy back on track, we need to make sure our small business owners and entrepreneurs have access to capital.

That is why I am re-introducing the SBA Loan Paperwork Reduction Act, which will make permanent the SBA's pilot Small Loan Advantage Program which features streamlined paperwork, with a two-page application for borrowers and a faster approval time. I have updated this bill to allow the SBA further flexibility to expand the program in future.

Small business owners are having a hard enough time in this economy without having to spend their valuable time and resources wading through a mountain of paperwork.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that our entrepreneurs are given the chance to succeed and our small business owners can access the capital they need to grow and hire more workers.

H.R. 1595, THE STUDENT LOAN
RELIEF ACT OF 2013

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of extending the 3.4 interest rate on Stafford Student loans to protect students from seeing their interest rates double on July 1, 2013. As the cost of higher education continues to climb and total student loan debt eclipsed credit card debt for the first time, the consequences of inaction are unacceptable. We need to be making college more affordable for all students, not putting it further out of reach.

As an advanced degree becomes more and more of a requirement for well paying jobs, it is vital that low interest loans be available so that students can access an affordable college education. Approximately 60 percent of students take out loans to attend college and increasing the cost of borrowing will prevent millions from being able to obtain a degree.

H.R. 1595, the Student Loan Relief Act of 2013, is a clean extension that would freeze the 3.4 interest rate on Stafford loans for two years. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation to prevent a crippling hike in rates and give Congress time to find a true long-term solution to student loans and college affordability that is worthy of our nation's young people.

A strong middle-class, well educated workforce and the opportunity for upward mobility are the building blocks of a thriving economy. To maintain and strengthen each, every student must have the opportunity to pursue higher education, not just the privileged few.

College educated students are the future engine of our country, and anyone who wants to pursue a post-secondary education should have the opportunity to do so without going into crushing debt. I urge my colleagues to stop rates from doubling and extend the current interest rate of 3.4 percent.

EN BLOC PACKAGE: AMENDMENT
60—MILITARY FAMILY HOME
PROTECTION HR. 1960, NATIONAL
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the bill's managers for including in this en bloc amendment a provision I submitted to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Under current law, certain disabled veterans, servicemembers and their families are not receiving the critical protection they need. As a result, banks are foreclosing on their homes at the very moment when our heroes most deserve our support.

Our amendment extends foreclosure protections to all servicemembers receiving hostile fire or imminent danger pay, to the surviving spouses of servicemembers killed in the line of duty, and to veterans who become disabled due to service-connected injuries.

Last Congress, I introduced a similar amendment that passed the house with overwhelming bipartisan support.

I ask Members to vote in favor of this amendment.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM
AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1947) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to this Farm Bill, H.R. 1947, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, due to the unconscionable cuts to the SNAP program, formerly known as food stamps.

Across the country, over 47 million of our fellow Americans depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to put food on their tables each and every day. In my home state of New Jersey alone, SNAP serves over 800,000 individuals. These are our friends, family, and neighbors. An average monthly benefit of \$133.36 per person for recipients in New Jersey amounts to \$1.48 per meal. This does not go very far towards buying nutritious food in a state where the cost of living is high. That's why 90 percent of benefits are redeemed by the third week of the month.

Eighty-three percent of SNAP benefits go to households with children, seniors, or disabled Americans. These are not freeloaders or people trying to game the system; they are our most vulnerable citizens. When the going gets tough, we have a responsibility to ensure that a safety net is in place for them. When our people go hungry, we pay the consequences down the road. Poor nutrition and hunger leads to costly but entirely avoidable health problems. Furthermore, as a former teacher, I know that students who go hungry have trouble focusing in school. We need to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to excel to keep us competitive in today's global economy.

This bill, however, would take us down the wrong path. It further tightens eligibility requirements for SNAP, cutting \$20.5 billion by kicking about two million people off the program. This bill will also kick 210,000 kids off of school meals, and reduce benefits by an average of \$90 for 850,000 additional households. If we want to reduce the costs of this program, don't cruelly throw people off the roles. Let's create some jobs and as our economic recovery gains steam, SNAP costs will decline as more and more Americans find steady work.

We are the greatest nation on earth. Our Farm Bills are designed to ensure that we can produce food to feed the world. Shouldn't we first ensure that we can provide for our own?

HONORING LOES HEDGE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Loes Hedge of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Loes is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Woman in Volunteerism Award.

Loes Hedge is a retired educator that continues to have a positive influence in the Saint Joseph community to this day. Loes has served as the President of Saint Joseph's NAACP and continues her work with them today as it's current secretary. Recently she was awarded the YWCA's Racial Justice Award in recognition of her many efforts to bridge diversity, empower at risk students and to strengthen education universally. Loes has also been honored as an inductee to the Black Archives Museum Hall of Fame.

Loes also continues in her role as mentor for young educators and serves as a Co-Chair for the Saint Joseph School District Long-Range Planning Committee. She has served on the YWCA Board of Directors, has been involved in voter registration efforts throughout Saint Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Loes Hedge. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF LINDA BEST
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL to recognize the outstanding career of Ms. Linda Best, a dynamic leader in the community, and congratulate her as she retires after more than thirty-two years in service to the people of Contra Costa County.

In 1981, after earning a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree from Stanford University, Linda began her successful career as the Executive Director of the Coalition of Labor and Business. Three years later she became Executive Director for the Contra Costa Council, an organization she would help shape and expand throughout her tenure. From 2004 on, Linda has served as President and CEO of the Council and continued her strong commitment to the organization and the communities which it serves.

In her nine years as President, Linda has been the heartbeat of the organization and shown a remarkable command of the issues most critical to business, education, the environment, transportation, and workforce development. Under her leadership, the Council has been an engine for economic development, public policy formation, and an informed decision-making voice for the region. Linda has