

colleague and honoring him for his service.

ENCOURAGING UKRAINIANS TO STAND FIRM

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I have been watching the live feed online of the protest in Kiev, and I would like to encourage Ukrainians to stand firm and continue to voice their opinions. I also call upon the Ukrainian Government to respect the Ukrainians' right to free assembly and to refrain from using force against peaceful protesters.

I again urge Ukraine to look toward the West for their future success as the success of their nation depends upon democratic policies and freedom. The door is still open. Strengthening ties with Russia will only bring more of the same desolation, disunity, frustration, distrust, and anger that has been so prevalent in the past.

Ukraine, the whole world is watching.

FAREWELL REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE MEL WATT

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, this is definitely the last time I will be addressing this House. As my colleague, DAVID PRICE, has indicated, I have been confirmed to a new position as regulator and director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

I just wanted to take a moment to express to my colleagues how much of an honor it has been to be a part of this body, and to grow and learn and share with my colleagues from all across the Nation. It has been a great honor, and I thank all of them for the expressions in the last few days, and I look forward to working with them in the new position that I will be assuming. I thank you.

And, of course, we have already acknowledged my wife in the gallery. I thank her. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time once and for all.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF WILLIAM MALLORY, SR.

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of a legendary Ohio political figure, a great father and a tremendous role model, William Mallory, Sr., whom I had the honor to know and call a friend.

Bill Mallory's life is a true American success story. He rose from working-class roots to become the first African

American to serve as majority floor leader in the Ohio House of Representatives, a position he held longer than any lawmaker in Ohio history.

During his 28-year tenure in the Ohio House, Bill Mallory, a former teacher, championed education issues and helped create Ohio's first statewide drug prevention program.

But perhaps his most enduring legacy is his family's dedication to public service and community involvement. Of Bill Mallory's five sons, one is an elections administrator at the Hamilton County Board of Elections, two are Hamilton County municipal court judges, another is an Ohio State Representative, and the fifth is the outgoing two-term mayor of Cincinnati.

Mr. Speaker, William Mallory, Sr., will long be remembered for his devotion to his family, to his community, and to the State of Ohio.

HELPING WEST WEBSTER FIREFIGHTERS

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, during the early morning hours of December 24, 2012, the town of West Webster, New York, suffered a horrible tragedy as a troubled individual set his sister on fire, along with her house, and then lay in wait until the firefighters arrived. He shot and killed two firemen and wounded two more.

In the days and weeks that followed, the town of West Webster, the city of Rochester, and our entire region responded with an outpouring of support for the families whose lives had been irrevocably changed because of the attack.

Donations poured into the nonprofit, volunteer West Webster Fire Department in hopes that they would reach the families whose loved ones had been killed. Unfortunately, the fire department was in no position to deal with the complex legalities of delivering these donations to the intended families. As a result, the majority of that money has still not been able to reach the families.

For almost a year now, I have worked with the people of West Webster, particularly West Webster Fire Chief Ken Smith, to finally deliver the charitable donations. And thanks to the generous efforts of Chairman CAMP and our allies in the Senate, we will finally be able to help these families today.

The assistance of Chairman CAMP and his staff, in particular, has been vital to resolving this issue once and for all. His commitment over the recent months to helping West Webster firefighters and their loved ones is a testament to his dedication to public service.

Today's vote is terribly important to the recipients. There are no words that can heal the wounds that were suffered

by Ted Scardino and Joe Hofstetter, and nothing we can do will ever bring back Mike "Chip" Chipparini and Tomasz Kaczowka. But passing today's legislation can help to lessen their burden, hopefully to ease their pain, and to prove that even in our darkest hours, our country will be there to support our public servants, their families, and communities in need.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT ERIC SUMMERS

(Mr. SMITH of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, tonight southeast Missouri will welcome back Staff Sergeant Eric Summers for the last time. Sergeant Summers was tragically killed on November 13 while serving his country at Camp Pendleton in California.

Summers served 13 years with the United States Marines and is a war hero. He served five tours of duty in the Middle East and was highly decorated, earning the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Without men like Sergeant Summers willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms, our country could not survive.

I would ask my colleagues and those watching to keep Sergeant Summers, his family, and all of our brave men and women in uniform in your thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO NICARSIA MAYES ON HER RETIREMENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, along with our good friend, Congressman MEL WATT, I am delighted to rise today to say farewell to a very able and important American, Nicarsia "Nikki" Mayes, who has served this House of Representatives for 36 years.

She began her career in the House of Representatives and for the people of the United States on September 7, 1977, when she was hired on the recommendation of Congressman Augustus Hawkins of California as an elevator operator and entrusted to operate the last "Members Only" manual elevator.

In 1980, Nicarsia Mayes, or Nikki as we affectionately know her to be, was hired as a staff member of then the Office of the Doorkeeper. She was the first African American woman ever hired by that office. Because of her dutifulness and her leadership, other doors were opened. In 1994, Nikki joined the staff of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, serving as a member of the Chamber Security Division until her retirement this month, December 2013.

It is important to note that her excellent performance, distinguished service, and good cheer paved the way for more African Americans to secure appointments in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and other important House institutions earning her the respect and friendship of her colleagues and, of course, Members of Congress.

She has a wonderful family, including her son John Mayes, III, who works for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and David, who works for the Department of Homeland Security; and her daughter, Tira, who is a forensic specialist. You know she has done well at home and well here in the House of Representatives. Her children have learned from her. Her grandchildren will benefit from her. I am delighted to indicate that we have introduced a resolution, H. Res. 444, into the House RECORD to honor Nikki Mayes.

I am delighted to say that we honor you and appreciate you for 36 years of service and being a pioneering woman of service and an African American woman who led for others. Thank you so very much.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay to tribute to the remarkable accomplishments of Nicarsia Mayes, a Capitol Hill trailblazer and the first African-American woman to serve as a Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.

Nicarsia Mayes began her career of service to the House of Representatives and the people of the United States on September 7, 1977, when she was hired on the recommendation of Congressman Augustus Hawkins of California as an elevator operator and entrusted to operate the last "Members Only" manual elevator.

In 1980, Nicarsia Mayes, or "Nikki," as she was affectionately known, was hired as a staff member of the then Office of the Doorkeeper, the first African-American woman ever hired by that office.

In 1994, Nikki joined the staff of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, serving as a member of the Chamber Security Division until her retirement in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, Nikki's excellent performance, distinguished service, professionalism, and good cheer paved the way for more African Americans to secure appointments in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and other important House institutions, earned her the respect and friendship of her colleagues, and endeared her to Members of Congress.

This month, December 2013, Nikki Mayes retires after 36 years of faithful, honorable, and distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States.

I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to Nikki for her service to our nation and our very best wishes for a happy and productive retirement.

I know how much she is looking forward to spending more time with her family, including her sons John Mayes III, who works for the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and David, who works for the Department of Homeland Security; and her daughter, Tira, who is a forensic specialist with the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department.

Inspired by her example, each of Nikki's children learned the value of helping others

and chose a public service career. That is perhaps the greatest testament to the character of this great public servant.

Mr. Speaker, Nicarsia "Nikki" Mayes is a wonderful human being, a great friend, and one of the finest public servants I have the honor to know. She will be greatly missed but not ever forgotten.

PASS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this evening, this Congress defied a rocky trajectory that has defined the past year of government shutdowns and starting with the fiscal cliff by passing a 2-year compromise budget deal. I worked with you, Mr. Speaker, and others in our bipartisan United Solutions Caucus to support this bipartisan compromise, knowing that it is not the deal that ideally I would want. It doesn't do enough to restore Head Start funding or NIH funding, but it is a compromise and it is a step forward.

Now I am asking my colleagues in this Chamber, let's build on this momentum. Today I am ending a 24-hour fast for comprehensive immigration reform. I will end it in about one hour. Let's come back in January and do the right thing for the people in our country who are living in the shadows, the undocumented immigrants; and let's finally pass comprehensive immigration reform and build on the momentum we showed we can do tonight.

TRIBUTE TO NICARSIA MAYES ON HER RETIREMENT

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to pay tribute to a very special lady, Nicarsia "Nikki" Mayes, the first African American woman to serve as a doorkeeper of the House of Representatives. She started her service in September of 1977 and after today will retire after 36 years of service.

She has always served every day with a warm smile, pleasant greeting, encouraging and kind words, and the highest level of professionalism. So we want to just say tonight that we thank you for your 36 years of excellent service to the House of Representatives and to all of us, and wish you a wonderful retirement.

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UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am going to read a letter that I re-

ceived from a constituent who is about to have her unemployment benefits cut. I quote:

Now that I am laid off and older, I am having difficulty finding a job. I understand now I cannot get unemployment extension. I have never collected anything in my life. So now what? I am going to be homeless. I do not qualify for anything because I made too much money. I have spent my savings, applied for 500-plus jobs to an aimless black hole. What am I going to do? A homeless shelter? My credit is damaged and soon I will not pass a background check. I do not qualify for retraining programs, et cetera, because I have excellent skill sets. All I hear is I am in a perfect storm, "Sorry, you are not alone."

I have been a productive member of society for many years and do not consider myself a "taker." How many unemployed will lose their homes, dignity, and hope? I wanted you to know.

So, to my constituent, I do know and Americans know. It was wrong to leave without fixing this problem.

TRIBUTE TO NICARISA MAYES

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, in addition to saluting and congratulating our colleague and friend, Congressman MEL WATT, I want to rise and salute our friend Nikki Mayes tonight.

Nikki, I just have to say to you first of all, I was a staffer for Ron Dellums when I first met Nikki, and I know tonight Ron would want to salute you, congratulate you, and thank you so much for your 36 years of service. So on behalf of Ron Dellums and myself, let me just say what a great role model you have been for all of us.

I also want to thank you for helping us navigate this great institution. We will always remember you. We will cherish your friendship. And I want to say to you that, as you start this new chapter of your life, I hope you get some rest and I hope you have a lot of fun.

Thank you, again, Nikki.

HOLIDAY GREETING TO OUR TROOPS

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank all of our brave heroes who are serving overseas and are not home with their families this holiday season. While most of us will be returning to our homes to celebrate with family and friends, let us not forget all of the men and women serving our country who will not be able to be with their loved ones.

My region of Illinois is home to thousands of veterans who have served honorably in wartime and peacetime. It is also home to many Active Duty servicemembers, National Guard members, and Ready Reservists.

I was heartened to learn recently that the Peoria-based Army National