

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4812 “HONOR FLIGHT ACT”

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2014*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the former ranking member and chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act of 2014.

H.R. 4812 authorizes the collaboration between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Honor Flight Network, as well as other non-profit organizations that transport veterans to visit memorials, to ensure continued expedited and dignified passenger screening for veterans travelling to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials and other tributes to their bravery, heroism, and sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of veterans across the country fought to protect the freedoms we take for granted and to keep our nation safe. They are deserving of our gratitude for the valor and courage they displayed in risking their lives to keep us free and to liberate captive peoples in other lands.

They are veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars—Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

With each passing day, the number of World War II and Korea veterans declines by the hundreds. For many of these heroes, one of their last wishes is to visit the national war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Honoring and facilitating that request is the least we can do for those who did so much for us.

TSA works with the Honor Flight Network in expediting the screening process for veterans visiting the national war memorials, saving the veterans’ time and showing them their due respect and appreciation.

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to transporting veterans on charter flights operated by commercial airlines to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials built in honor of their service.

Currently, the Honor Flight Network gives priority to WWII veterans and those from any war who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The Honor Flight Network plans to expand the program in the future to include the veterans who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, followed by veterans of the wars in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, my home state of Texas has the second largest number of veterans of any state in the nation, with just over 1.6 million veterans. My home city of Houston is proud to be the residence of more than 300,000 veterans.

I strongly support the bill before us because I strongly support the efforts of TSA and the Honor Flight Network in making real the dreams, and in many cases the last wishes, of thousands of veterans who wish to visit the memorials dedicated by the nation in their honor.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H.R. 4812 so that our veterans continue to receive the security accommodations they need

and deserve as they travel to Washington, D.C. to view the national memorials consecrated by their sacrifice in defense of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I requested leave and was absent from the House on June 25 and June 26 due to a death in the family, and missed several rollcall votes during that time.

Had I been present on Wednesday, June 25, I would have voted as follows: Roll 355 on the Previous Question: “yea;” roll 356 on the Adoption of the Rule: “yea;” Roll 357 on the Adoption of the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 6: “nay;” roll 358 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 6: “nay;” roll 359 on the Passage of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act: “yea.”

Had I been present on Thursday, June 26, I would have voted as follows: Roll 360 on the Adoption of the Wittman Amendment to H.R. 4899: “yea;” roll 361 on the Adoption of the Lowenthal Amendment to H.R. 4899: “nay;” roll 362 on the Adoption of the Capps Amendment to H.R. 4899: “nay;” roll 363 on the Adoption of the Deutch Amendment to H.R. 4899: “nay;” roll 364 on the Adoption of the Blumenauer Amendment to H.R. 4899: “nay;” roll 365 on the Adoption of the Bishop of Utah Amendment to H.R. 4899: “yea;” roll 366 on the Adoption of the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 4899: “nay;” roll 367 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4899: “Nay;” roll 368 on the Passage of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014: “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2014*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I write to inform you that I was unable to be on the House floor for votes on June 25, 2014 related to H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act (rollcall No. 359). Had I been there, I would have voted in support of the legislation.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL “MR. PAUL” S. AMOS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2014*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, July 5 funeral services were held for Paul “Mr. Paul” S. Amos. Mr. Amos, 88, was remembered as a man of “rock-solid integrity” and was the last surviving founder of Columbus-based Aflac Insurance. As a representative of South Carolina’s Second District, I especially appreciate Aflac’s extraor-

dinary success and expansion acquiring Continental American Insurance Company led by CFO Chris Goodall in Columbia generating hundreds of jobs.

Funeral services were held at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia, with interment following the service in Parkhill Cemetery.

His obituary in The Ledger-Enquirer of Columbus, Georgia, contained this tribute:

Paul S. Amos, who with his two brothers founded Aflac Incorporated nearly six decades ago, passed away late Wednesday night, July 2, 2014, after a lengthy illness. He was 88 years old. Funeral services will be held at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus, GA, at 3:00 PM on Saturday, July 5, 2014. It will be preceded by public visitation beginning at 2:00 PM at the St. Luke United Methodist Church Ministry Center. There will be a private burial service following the funeral.

Paul S. Amos was born April 23, 1926 in Enterprise, Ala. the son of the late John Shelby and Helen Mullins Amos. Mr. Amos was raised in Enterprise, Ala. and Milton, Fla. He and his wife, the former Jean Roberts, met in church when she was just 17 years old and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in October of last year. The couple’s only child, Daniel P. Amos, is Aflac’s current chairman and CEO. The Amos brothers founded Aflac in 1955 and, in its first year of business, the company had 6,426 policyholders and \$388,000 in assets. Today, it is a Fortune 500 company with more than \$121 billion in assets and insures more than 50 million people worldwide. Aflac is the leading provider of supplemental insurance products and pays cash directly to policyholders to use as needed. During his long tenure at Aflac, Mr. Amos held numerous positions, both at corporate headquarters and as a hands-on member of the sales force. He served as state sales manager for Alabama/West Florida, first vice president/director of marketing, president, vice chairman and chairman. Although he retired in 2001, he remained a familiar figure at Aflac and loved to be among the employees and sales team members who continued the company’s legacy. Amos, who continued to make daily visits to Aflac’s offices in Columbus, Ga., and served as Chairman Emeritus, was beloved by the insurer’s more than 8,000 employees and 185,000 agents worldwide. He was known affectionately throughout the company as “Mr. Paul.”

In addition to helping build the world’s largest supplemental insurance company, Amos established a quiet history of philanthropy and community service. Through anonymous donations and the endowment of educational funds and scholarship programs, he and Jean touched thousands of lives with major financial commitments. Their efforts included the Paul and Jean Amos Educational Fund at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky.; the Paul S. Amos Family Foundation at Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga.; the Scholarship Fund at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.; and many unheralded contributions to those in need. Amos received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Cumberland College in May 2001. Columbus State University honored him with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree in May 2002. In 2004, Amos received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Amos is survived by his wife, Jean; their son Daniel P. Amos and his wife Kathelen; two grandchildren, Lauren Amos and her husband Tyler Clayton, and Paul S. Amos II and his wife, Courtney; and four great-grandchildren, Dan Amos, Mansell Amos, Knox Amos and Eden Amos.

In lieu of flowers, however, the family asks that contributions in his memory be made to the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorder Center in Atlanta or St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO SSG  
SCOTT R. STUDENMUND

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Green Beret Staff Sergeant Scott R. Studenmund of Pasadena, California, who died on June 9, 2014 in Gaza Valley, Zabul Province, Afghanistan during a combat mission.

Born on June 26, 1989, Scott Richard Studenmund was fearless from birth and embraced life fully. Scott was known for his rambunctious spirit, good sense of humor, intelligence and humility. He attended Clarendon School from nursery school until 6th grade, Flintridge Preparatory School for middle and high school, Occidental College and Pitzer College. In high school, Scott was an avid scholar, football star and a history aficionado. He was a National Merit Finalist, an All-Area and All-League Football player and an excellent sprinter. Interested in the military since a young child, Scott spent many days practicing his tactical maneuvers with family and friends while on vacation at Lake Arrowhead or the beach. He traveled to Thailand and Cambodia and performed community service as a part of the Rustic Pathways program with his fellow schoolmates. During his time at Flintridge Preparatory School, he made a tight-knit group of friends with whom he stayed in close contact after graduation. An intense competitor, Scott was also a true gentleman who would not participate in or abide hurtful comments against others. He was extremely close to his family and was protective and proud of his sister Connell; indeed his parents never recall the two siblings ever arguing.

In 2009, Scott left college to join the U.S. Army with the goal of becoming a Green Beret. Twenty-five months later, Scott earned his Green Beret, having completed 11 different rigorous training programs, passing each one on the first try. At his Green Beret ceremony, Scott won the Leadership Award in the Special Forces Weapons Sergeant Course. He also received an Army Achievement Medal for performing “with distinction” in a training exercise, and earned an Expert Infantryman Badge, also known as “The Mark of a Man,” by completing a rigorous 40-part competition with over 100 Green Berets. In 2013, Scott completed the infamous Combat Dive School, which is considered to be the hardest school in the U.S. Army. He and his teammate won a top team award in the rigorous Special Forces Level II Sniper Course. Scott rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant while working in the 1st battalion of the 5th Special Forces Group, Bravo Company, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Scott received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Valor Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Scott is survived by his parents, Arnold H. and Jaynie Studenmund, sister, Connell, and half brother, Brent. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, next to his friend and

fellow Green Beret. Scott will be near his grandfather, Jack R. Miller, who was a U.S. Senator and Brigadier General in the Air Force Reserve and his grandmother, Jerry Miller.

Staff Sergeant Studenmund was an athlete, scholar and soldier, who loved his family, his job and his country. I ask all Members to join with me in remembering Staff Sergeant Scott Richard Studenmund, a Green Beret in the U.S. Army, a hero who died while achieving the highest honor of serving our country.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 INTELLIGENCE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 1681)

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) (S. 1681).

The FY2014 IAA includes provisions to ensure that men and women of our Intelligence Community (IC) have the resources, capabilities, and authorities necessary to protect our nation and its citizens, while ensuring critical and continuous Congressional oversight of the IC.

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) passed H.R. 3381, its companion bill to S. 1681, last November. Unfortunately, the House never acted on it, and the HPSCI passed a combined FY2014/FY2015 IAA (H.R. 4681) containing many of the same provisions as the HPSCI-passed FY14 IAA and S. 1681, with some important additional provisions. The FY2014/FY2015 IAA recently passed our body with overwhelming support.

The FY2014 IAA contains a provision I authored and was originally included in the HPSCI-passed bill, requiring a report, within 90 days of enactment, on the extent to which the IC has implemented the Inspector General of the IC's recommendations contained in the May 2013 report, entitled “Study of Intelligence Community Electronic Waste Disposal Practices.”

This provision is also included in FY2014/FY2015 IAA requiring a report in unclassified form, with a classified annex as necessary. Because H.R. 4681 is unlikely to be enacted before this report is due, I encourage the Director of National Intelligence to submit this report in unclassified form, with a classified annex as necessary.

Of great importance to the citizens of my district is another provision I authored for H.R. 4681, which directs the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) to conduct an assessment of the security of our nation's oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure. It directs I&A to make recommendations on how to improve intelligence collection and sharing of information to better protect those facilities and the surrounding communities from any harm.

My district is home to several oil refineries, which employ thousands of people and provide well-paying middle class jobs. They are a key part of the regional economy. As domestic oil production continues to increase in the region, I have heard from several of my constituents about their growing concerns regarding

the security of the shipment and storage of crude oil and subsequent refined products.

Constituents have reported tanker cars parked in their communities covered in elaborate graffiti. If a vandal has the opportunity to deface a tanker car, imagine what could be done by someone with more sinister motives?

I take all concerns my constituents share with me seriously, and I believe we have the responsibility to protect our workers, our domestic refineries and our communities from potential threats.

While I support the passage of the FY2014 IAA, I will continue to work with my colleagues on the HPSCI and in the Senate to ensure that the FY2015 IAA continues my refinery and rail infrastructure security provision.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as the congregation joins together in celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. The parishioners, along with Parish Priest, Reverend Father Marko Matic, and Parish President, Mr. Mike Ajder, will be commemorating this momentous occasion with a special 3-day celebration taking place from November 21 through November 23, 2014. The event will honor all who have contributed to the success of Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.

Founded in Gary, Indiana, Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church is now located in Merrillville and is one of the oldest churches in the Midwest. In 1914, the church's founders declared their mission before the Secretary of the State in Indianapolis: “The purpose of this parish is to preach the Word of God (the Lord Jesus) and take spiritual care of its members; to spread goodness, justice, brotherly love and respect among its members.”

In 1914, Saint Sava's first church-school congregation was organized. It was named after Saint Sava, the first Archbishop of the Serbian Church. The church was built on 20th Avenue and Connecticut Street in Gary. After a devastating fire in 1978, Saint Sava relocated to their previously built chapel and parish hall located in Hobart, where the congregation held services until 1991. Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich led committed efforts in the construction of their current place of worship in Merrillville, which was completed in May of 1991. Today, the parishioners and church leaders gather together in this magnificent building to worship, celebrate, and continue the mission of the founding fathers.

Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church continues to touch the lives of countless individuals through its compassionate service and charitable work. Most recently, parishioners and church leaders participated in a relief effort to raise funds and collect needed supplies to help the victims in Serbia and surrounding communities recover from devastating floods. In addition, the members of this parish continue to preserve the traditions of the Serbian culture and the Orthodox faith through the church's historical society.