

the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2013.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2166, the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act of 2013. As you know, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported the bill on June 12, 2013. I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Agriculture will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Natural Resources concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2166 at this time, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

CONGRATULATING SUSAN ELKINGTON

HON. LARRY BUCSHON
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susan Elkington on her selection to receive a STEP Award from The Manufacturing Institute. As she is a fellow Hoosier and an inspiration to young women interested in technical careers, I am pleased to stand before this body of Congress to recognize her contributions to Toyota, the automotive industry, Indiana, and her community.

Manufacturing is revitalizing our economy and making America strong. Investments in manufacturing, particularly in automotive manufacturing, multiply across the economy, creating jobs and growth in other sectors. Manufacturing is the backbone of our Nation's middle class. Today's manufacturing offers competitive wages, is high tech, safe, and offers great growth opportunities for women. Yet, over 80 percent of manufacturers still cannot find the skilled workers they need.

Part of this skills gap is due to the lack of women in the industry. While women make up 50 percent of the U.S. workforce, they make up only 24 percent of the manufacturing workforce.

STEP Award Honorees, such as Ms. Elkington, are attracting more women to manufacturing careers by educating young workers. By telling the real stories of these women, we can inspire and encourage the next generation of women to join the manufacturing industry and pursue exciting and meaningful careers.

Ms. Elkington has provided leadership and expertise at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana in a variety of influential roles as she progressed to become Toyota's first female vice president of manufacturing for a vehicle assembly plant. She has been a key player in Toyota's success in Indiana from the beginning.

She joined Toyota as a manufacturing engineering specialist in 1998, serving on a team preparing for the start of production of Toyota Indiana's first vehicle, the Tundra full-size pickup truck. She rose through the ranks into the role of General Manager of Assembly and Stamping/Body Weld, where she oversaw numerous operations of Production, Conveyance, Engineering, Maintenance and new model preparation. She helped to plan and manage production of Toyota's Sequoia, Sienna, Highlander and the Highlander Hybrid models.

Ms. Elkington is committed to diversity and inclusion within manufacturing both at Toyota and in the State of Indiana. She recognized the absence of women in manufacturing early in her career. Consequently, she led Toyota Indiana's diversity and inclusion initiatives as diversity champion, and as Toyota's champion for the Society of Women Engineers.

I am thankful for the years of dedication and hard work by Susan Elkington, and I congratulate her for setting an example of professional excellence and advocacy of women in manufacturing, as well as her commitment to the greater community.

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, most Americans would agree on the essential importance of education to a successful and meaningful life. But knowledge in and of itself is insufficient without a moral and ethical context for its appropriate application. Thus, the importance of Catholic schools, which we celebrate this week.

In the Northern Mariana Islands the Catholic schools of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota, St. Joseph Catholic School on Tinian, and Mount Carmel School on the Saipan, have been the vanguard not only in educational excellence, but also in the inculcation of spiritual values. Graduates of these schools, who now fill every nook and cranny of leadership in our communities, carry both intellectual skills and a moral compass to their work in our society. We are all better off as a result. And, at least in part, we have Catholic schools to thank.

We have also to thank the parents of every Catholic school student. For, over the years, these parents have chosen to sacrifice, to de-

ploy their limited resources, to send their sons and daughters to parochial schools. Even as the quality of free, public education in the Northern Marianas has continued to improve—and I am sure that faculty and students in our fine public institutions would even proudly argue to surpass our Catholic schools—still have parents found something of extra value in those Catholic schools and continued to pay for their children to receive a Catholic education.

And we have to thank the religious and lay teachers in our Catholic schools. These women and men have chosen to forego material rewards of life in order to serve as the conduit for the moral system that underlies the academic content of their classrooms. Often among the best educated members of our community, rather than using their knowledge to advance their own interests these teachers disseminate what they know, so that many lives may be enriched. Their service and sacrifice, too, we celebrate and recognize during Catholic Schools Week.

Lastly, we congratulate the students in our Catholic schools. You are part of a heritage in the Northern Mariana Islands that we trace back directly to the founding of Mount Carmel School in 1952, but which certainly has its roots with the original Catholic missionaries of the 16th century. That is a remarkable tradition. One to be proud of, as you mark Catholic Schools Week, and to carry on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, on January 27, 2014, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 24 and 25. My flight to Washington was delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall No: 24 "aye."
Rollcall No: 25 "aye."

IN TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE
ZLOTNICK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize George Zlotnick as he reaches his 90th birthday. A member of our "greatest generation," George is a respected Connecticut veteran who participated in the last airborne deployment of World War II in Operation Varsity before embarking on a successful career in the construction industry.

As a young 19-year-old from Willimantic, Connecticut, George enlisted in the Army in 1943. Beginning as an infantryman before joining the Army Air Corps, George's dream of flying a plane became a reality when he was sent to the Pre-Flight Training at Teacher's College in Pennsylvania. After completing his training, George was sent to Germany on March 24, 1945, to participate in one of the largest airborne military assaults in America's history.

Praised as a key tactical success for the Allies in the fight against Nazi Germany, Operation Varsity dropped Allied troops behind enemy lines to secure the Rhine River in Wesel, Germany. As a paratrooper with the 464th Field Artillery Battalion of the 17th Airborne Division, George was tasked with carrying the barrel of a cannon weighing more than 200 pounds through enemy fire to deliver ammunition to Allied troops. Completing his mission with courage, George was honorably discharged from service in February 1946.

After serving his country, George started his own construction company in Ashford, Connecticut in 1948. Like many great American success stories, George began his business from humble beginnings; assembling small buildings, chicken coops and barns for local farmers. Sixty-five years later, Zlotnick Construction Incorporated remains a respected organization in Mansfield, Connecticut and has won contracts with key multinational firms. George and his wife Zenia have also remained an unwavering part of the business and Orthodox Church communities of Connecticut.

As George prepares to celebrate his 90th birthday on March 9, 2014, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this great American veteran and businessman and thanking him for his contribution to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY AND
JEANNE PRITZKER

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay tribute to two philanthropists of exceptional dedication and character—Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker. The Pritzkers have been committed to improving the lives of foster youth through the Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.

For more than a decade the Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation has been making investments to strengthen important institutions that help the residents of Los Angeles. The foundation's grants have helped improve medical care, higher education, the environment, the arts and the foster care system in our city. These investments enrich our communities now, and for future generations.

In 2012, Jeanne Pritzker started the non-profit Foster Care Counts after being inspired by two teenagers they took into their own home, while raising her own children. Foster Care Counts has brought thousands of foster kids and families to their own home to celebrate family with their successful, Foster Mother's Day event.

The Pritzkers recently gave a \$3 million gift to UCLA to create an endowment that covers tutoring, mental health services, summer housing, unforeseen school expenses and other costs for UCLA students who were or are in foster care. They have long been contributors to UCLA's Guardian Scholars program, which provides support to former and current foster-care youth who are students at UCLA. This generous donation is helping ensure the continued success of this vulnerable population.

Today we honor the Pritzkers, for fighting for those who sometimes do not have a voice, and making their lives a little better

CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to address the issue of climate change.

Global warming means that the planet on average is getting warmer. The evidence here is indisputable.

Global warming is also causing freak weather events that just aren't normal. These include hurricanes, typhoons and droughts. They also include the brutal cold fronts that are sweeping the country.

Some climate deniers have used this as an opportunity to assert that the overwhelming science behind global warming is wrong. The irony in this assertion is that while the U.S. has extreme unusually cold temperatures, current temperatures in the Arctic are above average.

NOAA recently confirmed that 2013 was the fourth warmest year on record. All 13 years of the 21st century rank among the 15 warmest since records began 134 years ago. On average, spring weather arrives ten days earlier than it used to in the Northern Hemisphere. While many states in the Midwest and Northeast have exceptionally cold temperatures, Alaska is experiencing unusually warm weather and California is going through a record-breaking drought. Average daily highs in Alaska are 11 degrees greater than the historical average for January.

These unusual weather events are doing real economic harm and are hurting American families. Congress needs to tackle this problem of man-made climate change head on and not just bury our heads in the snow.

HONORING MONICA DOMINGUEZ

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Monica Dominguez, the lead counselor at Dr. Sue Shook Elementary School in Horizon City, Texas. Ms. Dominguez is in Washington D.C. to be honored as an American School Counselor Association (ASCA) 2014 School Counselor of the Year finalist.

Ms. Dominguez has led Shook Elementary's efforts to close the gap in services for low-income students through a counseling program that supports students' academic, social and emotional development. By reaching out to students beyond the confines of the school day, Ms. Dominguez has earned respect from fellow educators, parents, and most importantly, her students. In addition, Ms. Dominguez has developed effective relationships with local agencies to support the overall well-being of diverse students and families in El Paso County.

Before joining the staff at Shook Elementary, Ms. Dominguez served as the grants counselor for Project HOPE (Heightened Opportunities for Promoting Excellence) at H. D. Hilley Elementary School, which serves many

students and families who experienced the negative impacts of violence in Mexico. Many of these families moved to El Paso to escape violence and the new students were in need of emotional and academic support. Ms. Dominguez set up Hilley's first data-driven, comprehensive school counseling program, where she maintained a low student-to-counselor ratio; decreased disciplinary referrals; increased attendance rates; and helped students and teachers succeed on state assessments.

Horizon City and the entire El Paso community continue to benefit from the positive impacts that Ms. Dominguez has on her students in her third year as a counselor at Shook Elementary. Her leadership skills and comprehensive vision shape the lives of her students and their families. I join the ASCA and the El Paso community in honoring Ms. Dominguez for her dedication to serving students and for the inspiring example she has set for school counselors across the country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,263,279,883,739.66. We've added \$6,636,402,834,826.58 to our debt in 5 years. This is \$6.6 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING JUDGE FRANK CREEDE,
JR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, Alongside my colleague DAVID VALADAO, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Frank Creede, Jr., who recently passed away.

Frank Creede distinguished himself at an early age. During World War II, he joined the army at the age of eighteen and served in a heavy machine-gun squad in Europe, where he was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge. Surviving a forced march and a railroad ride in a boxcar from Belgium to Germany, he was liberated from his POW camp in April 1945 and was later awarded the Purple Heart.

Upon his return to the United States, Frank began his long, eminent legal career. After practicing law for more than two decades and becoming a founding partner of the law firm now called Creede, Dawson, Gillaspay and Ninnis, he was appointed as a Fresno County judge by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1973. He heard more than 200 jury trials and adjudicated many high-profile cases during his outstanding tenure on the bench, which included service as presiding judge of the Superior Court and several other courts. Judge Creede retired in 1998 after being re-elected to the