

hundreds of Dutch Resistance citizens thirty miles away.

With the intentions of murdering the resistance fighters, the Nazis put them in five different buildings and subsequently blew up the buildings, including city hall. Miraculously, his family was at the end of the line going into the building and unbeknownst to the Nazi's they hadn't entered before it was demolished. Unlike so many others, they survived.

Soon after, the Netherlands was liberated. At this point however, they thought Tony was dead. Imagine the Geldens reunion when they learned they all had survived.

During World War II, the Nazis deported 107,000 Dutch Jews to concentration camps. Only 5,200 survived. The Dutch Underground helped hide 25,000 to 30,000 Jews. Two-thirds of Dutch Jews in hiding survived the war. Less than 25 percent of Dutch Jews survived the Holocaust.

Tony and thousands like him put his life on the line for freedom. He saw the concentration camps and the victims of the Nazis. He saw friends murdered.

He saw incredible numbers of new graves throughout Holland. But like so many of his generation, he never discusses the details. He does not see himself as a hero; oftentimes the greatest acts of heroism and courage are the ones that go most unnoticed.

After the liberation of the Netherlands, Tony became a successful architect. He stayed and helped rebuild his hometown and his country. Eventually, in 1967 he found his way to Texas, and became a United States citizen in 2000. He and his wife, Anna, raised five children in their home in Kingwood. He now loves this adopted country; and he loves Texas. Tony is a true patriot. He fought the good fight up until his death, July 29th, 2014. He was 90 years old.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize and honor my friend, Tony Geldens, for his part in saving Dutch Jews in World War Two. He was a person of great courage, dignity and compassion and his actions were truly heroic.

The city of Kingwood lost a tremendous man. Tony's selfless service truly made the world a better place. He leaves behind an amazing story, wonderful legacy and a grateful local and national community. I am proud to say I knew Mr. Gelden. He was one of Texas's best.

And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 4315, THE 21ST CENTURY ENDANGERED SPECIES TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 4315, a package of bills that would weaken the process by which the Administration makes Endangered Species Act (ESA) determinations.

While H.R. 4315 is nothing more than a partisan talking point, it does raise an important debate about the need to reform our regulations to make them more performance-based. Instead of establishing specific rules that tell stakeholders how to achieve specific outcomes, our regulations should instead identify

exactly what we want and allow for multiple paths and discretion for achieving set outcomes. By holding local governments, states, and the private sector accountable, while allowing for flexibility, we can reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and make our regulations more efficient and effective without undercutting public and environmental protections.

The ESA has a clear intention of protecting threatened wildlife species and from 1973 to 2013, it has prevented extinction for 99% of species under its protection. H.R. 4315 does not improve the process, and only moves us away from achieving further wildlife protection and recovery goals.

While framed as a way to roll back red tape, this bill instead creates additional layers of bureaucracy through burdensome and unnecessary reporting requirements on the details of all ESA lawsuit expenditures made by the Department of Interior, the Forest Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Bonneville, Western Area, Southwestern and Southeastern Power Administrations. Given that our federal agencies are already resource-constrained, these requirements will only distract from the charge to protect threatened and endangered species.

The bill also downgrades the quality of science used in the ESA determination process, by defining all data provided by a State, Tribal or county government as the "best available" data without any review of whether or not it actually is the best data.

This legislation does not further the important goals of species recovery efforts. Congress should work to reform regulation in a way that helps agencies, Tribes, local government and private industry increase performance measures, not create additional bureaucracies and waste limited public resources. I oppose this legislation, yet another in a long series of bills passed this Congress to undermine important environmental protections. I was disappointed to see it pass.

SUNSCREEN INNOVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4250, the Sunscreen Innovation Act. This legislation will support the important work of the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation of Palm Beach County, Florida.

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, killing one American every fifty minutes. Residents of Florida are especially vulnerable to the cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation from the sun. The Sunscreen Innovation Act will help Floridians protect themselves with the latest radiation-blocking sunscreen ingredients.

I would like to thank the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation for their tireless work in preventing and detecting skin cancer, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I yield back my time.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
VINCE AND PAT FOGLIA

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, Abraham Lincoln once said, "Commitment is what transforms a promise into a reality."

It's with these words in mind that I rise today to recognize Vince and Pat Foglia for their extraordinary spirit of generosity and commitment to people with disabilities in their community as manifested by their years of service and support of the work done by the Pioneer Center for Human Services in McHenry, Illinois.

On June 20, 2014, I was honored to salute them when they received the inaugural "Make Change" Award presented by the Center.

For years, Pioneer Center has lived out its mission of "empowering individuals to achieve their full potential." It engages people of all abilities throughout the community through innovative, effective, and compassionate services. This includes employing and finding meaningful job opportunities for exceptional people to achieve individual and organizational excellence.

When Pioneer Center was in search of client work opportunities, it approached Vince and Pat, and in typical fashion their response went beyond expectations.

As chairman of the board of Sage Products, a global leader in the innovation and manufacture of disposable health care products, Vince understands the meaning of work to people with disabilities. He immediately agreed to partner with Pioneer Center and provide work for the clients.

Vince further "transformed a promise into a reality" by hiring Pioneer clients as employees of Sage. Vince and Pat take pride in knowing their employees personally—a reflection of their heartfelt compassion for helping others.

Vince and Pat also funded the client computer lab at Pioneer Center that included specialized equipment for people with disabilities.

But their benevolence isn't limited to providing opportunities and monetary support. In keeping with their passion and commitment to give back, Vince and Pat have made it a point to stay engaged with Pioneer Center seeking opportunities where they can meet whatever challenges confront Pioneer Center so that they can continue to make a difference in others' lives.

Vince and Pat, how fitting it is for you to be honored with the "Make Change" Award, for your acts of compassion and dedication to helping others have surely made an impactful change for those whose lives and circumstances you touch.

It is with great privilege and heartfelt appreciation that I take this opportunity to recognize you both for your work and charitable spirit.

Your commitment has indeed transformed the promise of hope into the reality of a better future for so many people. For that I wholeheartedly thank you and congratulate you on your well-deserved award.

HONORING LATONYA DENISE
COTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined young lady, LaTonya Denise Cotton. Ms. Cotton has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in her community.

LaTonya Denise Cotton, a resident of Anguilla, Mississippi, was born on January 29, 1976 to Diane Cotton and Tom Davis in Hollandale Mississippi. She is a graduate of Anguilla High School.

LaTonya is the author of a historical novel called "A Small Payton Place in a Town Called Anguilla". She has plans to make a movie based on the novel. LaTonya has served as a volunteer through the AmeriCorps program as a career trainer in Sharkey County.

LaTonya has been a devout member of Union Chapel Baptist Church in Anguilla, MS for thirty one years. She is the proud parent of two girls, Dominique and Sumonia Cotton. She enjoys time with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. LaTonya Denise Cotton for her dedication to serving her community.

TRIBUTE TO GARY JOB CORPS
CENTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gary Job Corps Center for 50 years of providing successful service to the people of San Marcos, Texas.

Located on a campus of 1,000 acres at the former Gary Army Air Field, Gary Job Corps is the largest of 125 Job Corps campuses nationwide, enrolling a growing number of nearly 2,000 young men and women. The increasing number of enrollment at Gary Job Corps represents the fulfillment of President Johnson's 1964 promise he made while visiting the former Southwest Texas State University. President Johnson's promise was to develop a Job Corps camp to train young men and women in the skills that would allow them to contribute to their community and become leaders.

For 50 years, Gary Job Corps has continuously helped young men and women achieve their academic and professional dreams. In addition to providing vocational training for careers in health occupations, business, computers, cooking, driver's education, and numerous other industries, their alumni have continued their education to the student bodies of Texas State University, Alamo Community College, and other institutions of higher education.

Gary Job Corps has helped countless young Texans achieve their life goals, has helped bring economic growth, educational achievement, and the promise of a better future to Central Texas. I am happy to have this oppor-

tunity to congratulate Gary Job Corps on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, and I wish all of its staff and students many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 699

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H. Res. 699, Welcoming African leaders to the first United States-Africa Leaders' Summit and African trade ministers to the 13th Forum of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

At the start of the new millennium, the United States Congress enacted the African Growth and Opportunity Act—AGOA—with broad, bipartisan support and with a view to expanding growth and opportunity in Africa like never before. In this legislation, Congress called for the establishment of high-level dialogues, including regular meetings by the President with his African counterparts. Now, fourteen years later, that vision is coming true.

Next week, the largest delegation of African heads-of-state in United States history will make its way to the White House. This will truly be a great day for America and a great day for our friends and partners from across the African continent, and I take immense pleasure in welcoming this historic delegation to our nation's capital.

Africa has six of the ten fastest growing economies in the world, over one billion people, sixty percent of the world's uncultivated agricultural land, and is likely to replace China as the biggest contributor to the global workforce by 2050. The people of Africa share the hopes and aspirations of all Americans for peace and prosperity across both our lands, and they are committed to strengthening economic relations through mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities which promote economic growth, development, poverty reduction, democracy, stability, and the rule of law.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act is one of those opportunities, and I would like to use this chance to emphasize the importance of renewing AGOA well before its expiration in September 2015. Since the passage of AGOA, U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa have increased from \$6.9 billion to \$23.9 billion, per capita income in sub-Saharan Africa has more than tripled, and U.S. investment in sub-Saharan Africa has increased six-fold.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution, which already has broad, bipartisan support, recognizes the significant progress and hope that modern Africa represents today in global affairs and economic advancement with its booming demographics, increasing modernization, dynamic youth, and vast resources; and it acknowledges the many paths available for boosting cultural, trade, and economic relations and partnerships between the United States and Africa.

It is in the economic and national security interests of the United States to engage and compete in emerging African markets, to foster U.S.-Africa trade and investment, to support greater capacity building for Africa, and to invest in Africa's youth and emerging leaders.

It is also in our national interest to advocate good governance, a respect for human rights and constitutional term limits, and support for civil society organizations which contribute to enduring economic and social development.

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution demonstrates that the United States Congress stands beside Africa in promoting peace and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. I look forward to your timely support of H. Res. 699 on the eve of the United States-Africa Leaders' Summit, as we prepare to welcome our African friends and partners to this nation's great capital for a truly historic occasion. Thank you very much.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP
ACT OF 2014

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Mr. VALADAO of California, introduced the bipartisan Startup Act of 2014. The Startup Act provides immigrant entrepreneurs and foreign graduates of U.S. universities with the opportunity to appeal and extend their visa by two years on the condition that they secure financing from a U.S. investor and demonstrate the ability to create jobs and bolster the U.S. economy.

If they are able to demonstrate success, by securing additional funding, generating revenue and creating jobs, they would be eligible for legal permanent residency, enabling them to continue to create more American jobs, expand and improve their business, and reinvigorate the United States as the land of opportunity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Our history as a nation has been defined by immigrant innovators, pioneers, and entrepreneurs. Many of the world's best and brightest minds come to this country seeking the freedom and resources necessary to turn their ideas into successful businesses. Transformative U.S. companies including Google, Yahoo, Pfizer, Intel and eBay all began as startups founded by immigrants.

Today, foreign born entrepreneurs come to the United States, graduate from our universities and start businesses on our soil, only to find that our country's archaic, complex visa restrictions make it difficult for them to stay in this country and continue to develop their business, contribute to our economy, and create American jobs.

This places us at a competitive disadvantage at a time when our foreign competitors are catching up. For example, in 2009 foreign innovators were awarded more patents than U.S. inventors for the first time; whereas a decade ago the U.S. held 57 percent of all patents worldwide.

With two Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, it's easy to see the benefits of immigrant innovators in my home state. Freeport-McMoRan is a leading natural resource company which employs thousands of Arizonans. Avnet Inc. is another innovative Phoenix based company and one of the largest distributors of electronic components, computer products, and embedded technology.

We also have a multitude of smaller startups founded by foreign entrepreneurs.