

the First Circuit in Boston, Massachusetts. From 1991 to 1992, he was the Chief of Staff for the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, Jaime Fuster, in Washington, D.C. Bhatia is also the former Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration in Washington D.C. As the Executive Director, he officially represented the Governor of Puerto Rico on important issues affecting the Commonwealth.

Bhatia was elected as an official Senate candidate in the Popular Democratic Party (Partido Popular Democrático or PPD) primary on March 9, 2008. At the 2008 general elections, Bhatia won one of only five Senate seats obtained by his party.

At the 2012 primaries, Bhatia won the most votes, securing his spot for the general elections. He then won the most votes of all the PPD candidates to the Senate. After the win, Bhatia was elected by his colleagues as the fifteenth President of the Senate of Puerto Rico.

In 2013, Bhatia served as Co-Chair of the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments (CSG-ERC). Later that year, he was elected as President of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), becoming the first Senate President to hold the title. Bhatia is also a board member of several organizations, including the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO).

I am honored to recognize Senator Eduardo Bhatia, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his leadership and commitment to serving the Puerto Rican and Hispanic-American communities.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District. Since 1964, the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District has actively developed and implemented specialized projects and educational programs to improve, protect, and preserve Suffolk County's most treasured natural resources.

Suffolk County's thriving agriculture has been assisted by the conservation efforts of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with the local communities and landowners, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Long Island Farm Bureau, the Cornell Cooperative Extension and Research Lab, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York Association of Conservation Districts.

As a result of this collaboration, Suffolk County leads the rest of our great state in market value of crop production, including sod, grapes, nursery stock, aquaculture, and specialty crops. The County can also be proud of flourishing agricultural tourism, known for at-

tracting thousands of visitors to wineries, greenhouses, and seasonal pumpkin picking.

Consisting of over 600 farms spanning 35,000 acres, Suffolk County farms form the pillar of the East End economy and contribute millions of dollars to the Long Island and New York state economies, supporting local jobs and igniting economic growth across the region. This success is sustainable with the help of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District and can help further propel Long Island's continuing economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, helping local farmers secure federal aid and educating them about building green infrastructure are just some of the many critically important functions of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, which remains dedicated to the success of Long Island farmers and small businesses, and why it is an honor to offer my congratulations on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2258, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, it is an undeniable truth that our military veterans deserve our deepest gratitude for the courage and valor they demonstrated while defending the United States of America.

One way the nation can express its deepest appreciation for our service men and women is by assisting disabled veterans with compensation and financial support.

The VA estimated that it will provide compensation to over 4 million beneficiaries in FY 2014.

Among the veterans estimated to receive such compensation are:

136,897 World War II veterans
140,169 Korean War veterans
1,327,348 Vietnam-era veterans
1,546,030 Gulf War-era veterans
695,574 veterans who served during peacetime

Close to half of the nearly 2 million veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have or will seek compensation for service-related injuries, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

We must be certain that disability compensation provides adequate assistance to veterans, and this bill does so by increasing the amounts paid by the same cost-of-living adjustment that will be payable to Social Security recipients.

Mr. Speaker, not only does S. 2258 benefit our injured veterans, it also helps the families of these injured service members by providing increased compensation for dependents and surviving spouses.

By passing S. 2258, countless veterans and their families would have financial stress alleviated thanks to increased rates of veterans' disability compensation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all members to support the passage of S. 2258 to ensure that

all of our courageous veterans receive adequate disability compensation.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BRENDAN
BERNARD FRANCIS MCKAY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a very heavy heart that I share this obituary of an outstanding young American, Mr. Brendan Bernard Francis McKay.

Brendan, 30, passed away Monday, September 8, 2014, in Rome, Italy, following a tragic accident.

An AmeriCorps volunteer, artist, multi-instrumentalist, snowboarder, world traveler, counselor, historian, Ph.D. candidate, and Seanchai in the Irish storytelling tradition, Brendan was born June 30, 1984 in Summit, New Jersey, the second of Bernard and Mazy McKay's four children. He grew up in Alexandria and McLean, Virginia, where he graduated from McLean High School in 2002.

Brendan began undergraduate studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, later attended Western Connecticut State University and John Cabot University in Rome, and in 2012 graduated magna cum laude from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor's in History. Most recently, Brendan completed his Master's degree in International Relations at St. John's University in Rome, Italy in June 2014.

Throughout his teens and early twenties, Brendan struggled with addiction issues. With the support of loved ones, he participated in therapeutic and rehabilitation programs in Utah, New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Kansas. In 2008, Brendan emerged from this period secure in his recovery, and with a renewed passion for education, adventure, and experience which would come to define the rest of his life.

From 2008–2010, Brendan served with AmeriCorps as a volunteer with Big Brothers, Big Sisters in Worland, Wyoming. Within a matter of months he was promoted to Vice President of Development, going on to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars on behalf of at-risk youth, before leaving to accept a position as an AmeriCorps Program Manager in Rhode Island. Before leaving Wyoming he was urged by locals in Worland to stay and run for mayor. He was flattered and seriously considered it.

Brendan is remembered fondly by his loved ones in the U.S. and around the world for his legendary sense of humor, a classic Irish storyteller vividly sharing his many adventures. He ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain. He rode a hot air balloon through the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. He skied across the Swiss-French border in the Alps, not entirely on purpose. Completing an Asian journey that included Malaysia, Cambodia and Nepal, he returned to Rome over the Himalayas and Mt. Everest. He crisscrossed the United States by car, camped in the badlands of North Dakota, and lived on a mountain in Southern California. During academic travel to North Korea he became one of only a small number of Americans to have seen the demilitarized zone from the north side.

Brendan was also intellectually brilliant. He was an enthusiastic reader, with particular interest in philosophy, history, physics, and comparative religion. His collection of unusual tattoos included the Fibonacci sequence on his arm. His creativity and humor led to unique inventions; on one occasion, Brendan created what he called a "Scrabbanjelo," a playable banjo which he constructed from the wooden box of a Scrabble set—a game at which he was renowned as unbeatable.

At the time of his passing, he was looking forward to his doctoral work at King's College in London. His studies were to focus on the little-told story of the town of Fiumi on the Italy-Croatia border, which formed its own independent state in World War I in defiance of the warring countries around it.

Brendan's 6' 6" physical presence was the outer manifestation of an unusually humble, sensitive, self-deprecating person, whose generosity, kindness, and compassion for friends and family alike will never be forgotten. His beloved dog, Anastasia, is the physical embodiment of that kindness. Brendan had encountered a group of drug dealers about to shoot a young puppy for which they had no use. He persuaded them to let him adopt her in exchange for what little money he had in his pocket, a meager five dollars. For more than a decade, Anastasia has been a cherished member of the McKay family, displaying a level of emotional intelligence that is extraordinary to find in an animal.

Brendan was not immune to accidents, and indeed had scars going back to toddlerhood. But he always stood up, brushed himself off, and went at life again, charging boldly at every experience the world could offer. His enthusiasm for adventure inspired all who knew him.

Brendan is survived by his parents, Bernard and Mary, his two brothers, Patrick and Conor, his sister, Rosemary, sister-in-law Nora, and his beloved, Camilla Valeriano. He will be sorely missed.

HONORING WORLD WAR II
VETERAN ARTHUR NAGLER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a decorated World War II veteran, Mr. Arthur Nagler, who lives in my Congressional district, and to point out a serious flaw in the ability of veterans to obtain medals they deserve for the service they gave to our country.

Arthur served our country in some of the fiercest battles of World War II. After his arrival in France following the Normandy invasion, he was a medic with the 170th General Hospital where he saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. In recognition of his service, he was awarded several medals, including the Legion of Honor by the Republic of France.

I am so very proud of Arthur, as we all should be. I want to highlight a point of supreme irony in his case, however. During one battle, as Mr. Nagler worked in his hospital tent saving the lives of wounded soldiers, an enemy bomb landed nearby, seriously wound-

ing him from shrapnel and knocking him unconscious.

Because of the critical need for doctors, Mr. Nagler was revived, his wounds were "stitched up," as he puts it, and he was sent on with his fellow medics to continue saving other soldiers' lives. Unfortunately, any records of his wounds apparently do not exist. He concedes that, in the confusion, the records of his injuries may not have been recorded or the records may have been lost as the hospital was hurriedly moved to the next battlefield. However, there is a distinct possibility that a record was made of his injury and it was destroyed in the great fire that swept through a section of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis in 1973. The fire destroyed nearly 50 years worth of records of those who served our nation in uniform from 1912–1959.

That is why I rise today, Mr. Speaker. In my 21 years in Congress, I have been contacted many times by veterans seeking not just medals, but the records they need to prove their eligibility for disability benefits and pensions. I do not fault the army, as they must work with what records they have to give veterans everything they deserve. Still, after sacrificing so much for our nation and its freedoms, I feel there must be some way to correct this situation. After 60 years of trying, Arthur Nagler has given up hope of ever getting the Purple Heart that he rightly deserves. Everyone should consider the supreme irony of a man who spent World War II saving the lives of other wounded American soldiers, is then wounded himself, and has not been awarded a Purple Heart.

I respectfully ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle work together to fix this absurd situation, not just for Arthur Nagler, but for all veterans in similar situations. Let us give these brave men and women the respect they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 HONOREES
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2014 Honorees of the Fairfax County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Fairfax Branch is recognized as the NAACP's first rural chapter. In 1915, a few brave African American citizens in Falls Church, Virginia, fought a proposed ordinance that would have segregated housing. They called themselves the Colored Citizens Protective League (CCPL) and the group evolved to become the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP.

Each year, the Fairfax County NAACP honors several deserving individuals and organizations that have shown extraordinary support of the Branch or the community. I am honored to submit the names of the following 2014 Community Service Award winners:

Fairfax County Democratic Committee Election Law and Voter Protection Committee. The Election Law and Voter Protection (ELVP) Committee strives to make sure every vote is counted and that proposed legislation and pro-

cedures affecting voting rights are fair and appropriate. Every election, ELVP members monitor voting precincts and help make sure each citizen can fully and fairly exercise his or her right to vote, regardless of political preferences.

Jill Turner—Program Manager, Intel Computer Clubhouse, Gum Springs Community Center. Ms. Turner works to change the mindset of young people who come from economically disadvantaged families. She teaches creative writing, computer skills, etiquette, poetry writing, and has formed a book club. Through her leadership, some teens have become leaders and have formed additional clubs, specializing in their own interests. Ms. Turner recently established a mentoring program. Participants discuss issues such as domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, drugs, and other issues facing our youth.

Danielle Blunt—Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead, Inc. (GIRL). Founded by Ms. Blunt in 2010, GIRL is a nonprofit organization dedicated to mentoring and empowering today's girls for future success through academic excellence, leadership skills, community service, a healthy lifestyle, and self-esteem. In 2014, Ms. Blunt partnered with George Mason University's College of Science STEM Accelerator Program to create a STEM summer camp for middle school girls of color and one for elementary school boys and girls. It also gives me great pleasure to recognize the following recipients of this year's President's Awards: Supervisor John Cook, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (Braddock District); Captain Everett A. Lewis, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), Executive Committee, Alexandria NAACP; Colonel Ed Roessler, Chief, Fairfax County Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2014 honorees of the Fairfax County NAACP and thanking them for their tremendous contributions to our youth and our community.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
RESOLUTION, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution (H.J. Res. 124) ensures that there will be no government shutdown and that the men and women of America's armed forces and diplomatic service will have the resources they need in Afghanistan and beyond to protect the nation from the dangers of terrorism. This resolution continues funding on a temporary basis at fiscal year 2014 levels, but it does not provide the final, full-year spending levels for the government. For war-related spending, the resolution provides for an interim rate of spending that is over \$26 billion more than the President's June 26, 2014 amended request for these purposes for fiscal year 2015. At this stage, there is a great deal of uncertainty about the precise needs for these activities.

The Budget Committee has jurisdiction over the use of the statutory authority that permits for spending in excess of the discretionary caps for funding designated for Overseas