

Home on the range. Minnesota's Iron Range and Minnesota's Eighth District.

Jim loved our great northland—our lakes—our timberlands—our great mining industry—the port of Duluth—Superior National Forest and the beautiful Boundary Waters.

His heart was always back there—as well as here in this Chamber and in this House he loved so well.

We loved him dearly. We will miss him terribly. And we will do our best to carry on in his great work in a spirit of bipartisan respect and decency.

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HONORING PENNSYLVANIA STATE TROOPER JOSEPH J. SEPP, JR.

**HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exemplary service of Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Joseph J. Sepp, Jr. Trooper Sepp gave his life while defending his community on November 10, 2002.

Trooper Sepp was born on August 23, 1968 in Wilkinsburg and raised in Windber. He graduated from Windber Area High School in 1986 and the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 1991. He joined the Pennsylvania State Police on February 24, 1992, fulfilling his lifelong dream of serving as a State trooper.

Trooper Sepp was shot while chasing a suspect at high speed in Ebensburg. He died thirty-eight hours later on November 10, 2002. More than 1,200 law enforcement officers from across the nation attended his funeral at St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church in Windber.

Trooper Sepp is survived by his wife Jenny and their children Joey, Andy, and Amanda Jo. He is also survived by his sister Tina and parents Joseph and Lana Gay Sepp.

Mr. Speaker, we name our buildings, bridges, and monuments after those who have served and sacrificed for our community in extraordinary ways. It is fitting that the bridge carrying 17th Street over State Route 56 will now be named the Joseph Sepp Memorial Bridge.

I join all Western Pennsylvanians in honoring Joseph J. Sepp, Jr., a State trooper who gave his life to protect and serve his community.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE 10-20-30 ACT OF 2014

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce the 10-20-30 Act of 2014.

It is no secret that there are major disagreements among the two political parties over the role that the federal government should play in fighting poverty and confronting many other national challenges. These disagreements, put simply, come down to a question of federal resources: I believe that we should target more resources to impoverished communities than

the proposed Republican budgets allocate, and I believe we can do so efficiently and effectively.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to work through some of these disagreements last year as a member of the Budget Conference Committee, and the deal that resulted, while not 100 percent of what either side wanted, was a reasonable compromise on federal spending through the end of the next fiscal year that I was proud to support.

Now that we have determined how much the federal government will spend, we must determine how to spend it most effectively. It is on this latter question—how to allocate finite federal resources to get the most “bang for the buck”—that I believe we may be able to find more common ground to make real strides in combating persistent poverty in America. The 10-20-30 Act is a bill that members of both parties should support.

Mr. Speaker, there are currently 488 persistent poverty counties in America—so defined because 20 percent of the population has lived below the poverty line for the past 30 years or more. They are diverse, including Appalachian communities in states like Kentucky and West Virginia, Native American communities in states like Alaska and South Dakota, Latino communities in states like Arizona and Texas, African American communities in states like South Carolina, Mississippi, and Alabama. They are urban communities in the Northeast, and rural in America's heartland. 139 of these counties are represented in this august body by Democrats, 331 by Republicans, and 18 are split between the two parties. Combating persistent poverty should matter to all of us, regardless of party, geography, or race.

In early 2009, when we were putting together the Recovery Act, I proposed language to require at least 10 percent of funds in the rural development account to be directed to projects in these persistent poverty counties. This requirement was enacted into law. In light of the definition of persistent poverty counties as having at least 20 percent poverty rates over 30 years, this provision became known as the 10-20-30 initiative.

This provision bore dividends, as economic development projects proliferated in persistent poverty counties across the country. The Recovery Act funded a total of 4,655 projects in persistent poverty counties, totaling nearly \$1.7 billion. I saw firsthand the positive effects of these projects in South Carolina. Projects were undertaken and jobs created that would have otherwise gone lacking. Among these investments was a \$5.8 million grant and \$2 million loan to construct 51 miles of water lines in the Britton's Neck community in Marion County. In Lowndes County, Mississippi, \$17.5 million was spent to install a water line, elevated tank, and two wastewater pump stations, providing potable water to Mississippians and creating badly needed construction jobs. The Wellborn Special Utility District in Brazos County, Texas, received a \$538,000 loan to construct more than 9 miles of new water distribution lines and connect over 60 households to a new water source.

The legislation I am introducing today would expand 10-20-30 to other federal agencies. In 2011, I joined with our former Republican colleague, then-Representative Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri, to introduce an amendment to the Continuing Resolution that would have contin-

ued 10-20-30 for rural development and expanded it to 11 additional accounts throughout the federal government affecting economic development, education, job training, health, justice, the environment, and more. This bill would apply 10-20-30 to these accounts for the next 10 years.

I want to make two things clear about the 10-20-30 Act. First: It would not—I repeat, would not—add one dime to the deficit. It would simply allocate resources from funds already authorized or appropriated. Second: it would be no remedy for an inadequate budget. If we cut spending on economic development programs as much as some advocate, allocating 10 percent of this reduced amount to persistent poverty counties would be wholly insufficient to addressing the great need in these areas.

Over the past 30 years, the national economy has risen and fallen multiple times. During each economic downturn, while we have been rightly focused on getting economy as a whole back on track, we have not given adequate attention to these communities that are suffering from chronic distress and Depression-era levels of joblessness. As a result, they have suffered even in good economic times. The 10-20-30 Act of 2014 would create a mechanism to address this deprivation in times of want and in times of plenty, in times of federal investment and in times of fiscal austerity.

I published an article on 10-20-30 in the most recent issue of the Harvard Journal on Legislation. I discuss the history of our nation's efforts to address chronic poverty and more fully lay out the case for broadly implementing 10-20-30 in a bipartisan fashion. I look forward to working together to pass the 10-20-30 Act to lessen the scourge of persistent poverty in these distressed communities.

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CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to commemorate the National Day of the Republic of China, commonly known as Taiwan. National Day is on October 10, when the people of Taiwan will celebrate the birth of their country. I am proud to memorialize this significant milestone here in Congress in tribute to the great spirit and pride of the people of Taiwan, our close friend and ally. The alliance between Taiwan and the United States is strong but I believe it is time to take even bolder steps to improve and enrich our cooperation on a range of important issues that confront both of our nations.

Already our 12th-largest trading partner, we should be acting aggressively to enhance our economic relationship with Taiwan in ways that will benefit both our nations. A Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan is long overdue and I urge the Administration to conclude negotiations in an expeditious manner so that our two nations can sign an agreement as soon as possible. In addition to bolstering Taiwan's economic strength, there is much

more the United States can do to support our democratic ally politically and militarily. We must support Taiwan's democracy and the human rights of the Taiwanese people by providing the tools and assistance necessary to resist Chinese coercion. The United States should help to modernize Taiwan's defense capabilities by building its capacity to partner with other friendly foreign militaries and through the sale of necessary defense articles. We can also support Taiwan by encouraging visits by high-level officials between our nations and supporting the meaningful participation of Taiwan in international organizations.

Along with my colleagues Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, ALBIO SIRES, GERRY CONNOLLY, and JOHN CARTER, the co-Chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I have introduced legislation called the Taiwan Policy Act that would accomplish these objectives, strengthening the U.S.-Taiwan relationship politically, economically, and militarily. As Taiwan's National Day approaches, let us use this auspicious occasion to find ways to improve our relations even further. Taiwan is a beacon of freedom in the Pacific and we cannot afford to support Taiwan any less than to the best of our ability. Happy Double Ten Day, Taiwan.

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HONORING MS. AI-JEN POO

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ai-jen Poo to congratulate her on the 2014 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. MacArthur "Genius" Fellows show extraordinary dedication and originality in their field, as well as exceptional promise for continuing their creative pursuits in the future. Ms. Poo demonstrated these qualities through her successful organization of domestic workers on a national and international level. She has created better working conditions for women who are often exploited, by establishing fair labor standards which were originally nonexistent.

Ms. Poo started organizing immigrant women workers in 1996. In 2000, she co-founded Domestic Workers United, the organization that has successfully advocated for passage of the state of New York's Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights in 2010. Currently, Ms. Poo is the Executive Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA), which arose from the first national domestic workers convention in 2007 that she helped plan. NDWA is a leading organization in building fair labor standards for the 2.5 million domestic workers in the U.S. Recently, Poo was instrumental in the Department of Labor's decision to include caregivers for the elderly and disabled in federal minimum wage and overtime protections.

Ms. Poo is also Co-Director of Caring Across Generations, a campaign that brings together caregivers and the employers into an alliance that supports immigration reform, health care, and labor policies. This confluence of interest results in better labor conditions, and greater quality care for America's aging population.

Aside from being a 2014 MacArthur Foundation fellow, Ms. Poo was previously recog-

nized with numerous other accolades including the World Economic Forum Young Global Leader award in 2013, and the Ms. Foundation Woman of Vision Award. In 2012, she was named one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Ms. Poo has exhibited outstanding devotion to a cause that continues to improve countless lives. I appreciate all that she has done to serve our nation, and I congratulate her for her achievement. She is more than deserving of this honor.

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HONORING NICOLE MONTNA VAN VLECK

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Nicole Montna Van Vleck (Rice grower and industry leader; Sutter and Sacramento Counties): Nicole Montna Van Vleck is the managing partner of family owned and operated Montna Farms in Yuba City, a major grower of Japanese short grain specialty rice. Nicole is actively involved in all aspects of the operations from growing to drying and milling and her involvement with California agriculture is long-standing. She is a third generation Sutter County rice farmer who has been a leader in numerous associations as an advocate for the state's farmers.

For more than a decade she has served on the California Rice Commission where she currently sits on the Board of Directors and on numerous committees. She is a member of the California Rice Industry Association Board and in 2011 joined the Board of Directors for American Commodity Company. From February of 2011 to July 2013, Nicole served as co-chair for the USA Rice Federation Rice Quality Task Force and remains active. She also is active in the USA Rice Producers Group.

In the area of water, Nicole has leadership roles in the Northern California Water Association. She is Vice President of the Sutter Bypass Butte Slough Water Users Association, having been president for more than a decade. She is Treasurer of Garden Highway Mutual Water District. Outside of agriculture, Nicole is a member of the Board of Directors for River Valley Community Bank. Nicole is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program, and of the USA Rice Leadership Program. Early in her career she worked as a legislative analyst for the law firm of Morrison & Foerster before returning to the family farm in 1994. As Vice Chair of the California State Fair Agricultural Advisory Board, Nicole advocates for agricultural education programs for youth. She raised money for State Fair Scholarships and school tours of the State Fair Farm. Nicole is a respected leader and champion for women in agriculture statewide and for economic development in Sutter County.

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VAWA; HISTORIC LAW CONTINUES TO HELP WOMEN AND GIRLS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this week we mark the 20th anniversary of enact-

ment of the Violence Against Women Act, which was signed on September 20, 1994. I supported and continue to strongly support this law. I voted to create the programs in 1994 and helped ensure enactment of the first reauthorization in 2000 by attaching it to my anti-trafficking law—the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (PL 106-386/TVPA). I also cosponsored the 2005 reauthorization, fought to ensure these programs are fully funded to assist the maximum number of victims and voted for seven of the first seven VAWA reauthorization bills offered through 2012.

All of these efforts have helped draw national attention to the epidemic of domestic violence and invested significant resources to prevent domestic violence, assist the women and children who fall victim to it, and improve our justice system's response.

Millions of victims have been helped by VAWA, but more remains to be done.

The release of a video last week of then-Baltimore Ravens runningback Ray Rice assaulting his now wife in an elevator in Atlantic City horrified us all. I, like most Americans, was shocked and disgusted by the unacceptable brutality and violence captured on the video. But regrettably, the violence exposed does not represent a rare, isolated incident but rather an exploitation that remains all too prevalent in our modern day society.

VAWA is one component of a solution, but we must work harder and have a more robust national conversation on the culture of violence in America and how we can better protect vulnerable women and children.

Of course, acts of violence against women and children are not a uniquely American problem. Around the world, women and children are abused and assaulted, and in many places, unable to receive any form of assistance or hold perpetrators to account. In conflict zones rape is used as a weapon of war and intimidation. Modern day slavery continues as traffickers sell women as commodities. Gendercide, where babies are aborted based exclusively on their sex, is commonplace in many cultures, particularly in China.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we can, and must, do better.

In 2000, when VAWA was up for renewal and there was a concern that it may not pass, I helped secure its enactment by attaching the reauthorization bill in its entirety to my landmark TVPA. The TVPA was a significant breakthrough—for the first time we put significant U.S. resources and the real force of law towards the prosecution of those who sexually exploit and traffic women and children and significant resources towards shelters and treatment for women abused both here in the U.S. and around the world. Simultaneously we reauthorized the VAWA programs; enacted "Aimee's Law" under which any state that prematurely releases violent criminals will be forced to reimburse another state if the criminal repeats the crime; and expanded the scope of Megan's Law so that it covered college campuses.

The version of VAWA that was signed into law last year reauthorized some of these antihuman trafficking programs but unfortunately gutted the State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Office. As I stated at the time, these provisions: "represents a significant retreat in the struggle to end human trafficking."