

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.

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.

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.

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."

The TIP Office is an extraordinary advocacy mechanism and has had a huge impact worldwide. In addition to 'best practices' advocacy, the office monitors labor and sex trafficking in every country of the world pursuant to minimum standards prescribed in the TVPA and makes recommendations for whether or not countries should be ranked Tier I, Tier II Watch List or Tier III. Countries with bad records and who fail to make 'serious and sustained' efforts to improve are designated Tier 3—the worst ranking—which may result in sanctions.

For over a decade the TIP Office has been the flagship in our struggle to combat the violence of human trafficking, and demoting our anti-trafficking efforts, as PL 113-4 did, was wrong and must be addressed. On behalf of the women and children who fall victim to the soulless traffickers every year, we need to ensure these efforts remain a top priority.

Accordingly, I authored, and the House passed the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act (H.R. 2283) to raise the profile and influence of the TIP Office by making it a bureau within the State Department. My bill is pending in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the House has also passed my first of its kind anti-sex tourism bill this year, my International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Sex Trafficking (H.R. 4573)—as part of a phenomenal package of legislation that builds on our efforts to end the exploitation of and violence against women and children.

H.R. 4573 will combat child sex tourism by alerting countries of destination concerning the travel plans of convicted U.S. pedophiles. And to protect American children, the bill encourages the President to use bilateral agreements and assistance to establish reciprocal notification so that we will know when convicted child-sex offenders are planning to come to the U.S.

The legislation is named for Megan Kanka, a 7-year-old from Hamilton, NJ, who was kidnapped, raped, and brutally murdered in 1994. Megan's assailant was a convicted, repeat sex offender living across the street, unbeknownst to residents in the neighborhood. Due to public outcry in response to the tragedy and to the hard work by Megan's loving parents, Richard and Maureen Kanka, the New Jersey State Legislature passed the original Megan's Law to require public notification of convicted sex offenders living in the community. Today, all 50 States and all the territories have a "Megan's Law", an important tool in preventing more children from becoming victims.

My International Megan's Law takes the lessons we have learned on how to protect our children from known child sex predators within our borders and expands those protections globally.

The Senate, thus far, has yet to act on these important bills—as well as the many other anti-trafficking measures we've passed.

The Majority Leader has an opportunity right now to send a strong message. On the anniversary of VAWA and as we approach Domestic Violence Awareness month, I call on Majority Leader REID to bring these bills to the floor.

As the nation is focused on the NFL's response to the horrific abuse perpetrated by a few of its players, HARRY REID can set an example of how organizations can act, deliberately and aggressively, to end the culture of violence that harms women and children.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERRYDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN JAY, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department in Jay, Florida, and recognize the dedication and selfless service of its members in protecting the citizens of the Northwest Florida community.

The Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department has been protecting the citizens of Northwest Florida since it was officially chartered in October 1974. The fire department started as a small operation, acquiring their first fire truck for \$300, with Holley Phillips appointed as their first Fire Chief. Since its charter, the department has served as an unrivaled knowledge base of fire safety and a safeguard for the residents of Jay.

In the 40 years that the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department has been serving the community, it has grown considerably. Today, 12 honorable and distinguished volunteers selflessly serve their community as volunteer firefighters. This courageous group put their lives on the line daily to ensure the safety of their fellow Northwest Floridians by responding to thousands of calls within the community, over the years.

With community support, the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department has added to their fleet three new trucks. A tanker, a pumper, and a rescue truck have been integrated into their arsenal to combat fires in Jay and keep its citizens out of harm's way. Current Fire Chief, Jim Cagle, has been leading the department for the past 24 years. What has remained true over the 40 years is the commitment to protect Northwest Florida and ensure its residents know they are safe under the watchful eye of the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department. My wife Vicki joins me in thanking all of the volunteers for their faithful service and wishing them and the department continued success.

HONORING BURNS & McDONNELL

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Burns & McDonnell, an employee-owned consulting firm with locations in Downers Grove and Chicago. Burns & McDonnell, which serves my constituents in the Sixth District, has been recognized as being not only one of the best places to work in the state of Illinois, but also in the nation.

Since opening in 1994, the professionals at Burns & McDonnell have offered a full range of engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting services. Their clients include government, industry, utility and

institutional organizations. Burns & McDonnell have been involved with many major projects around the Chicagoland area such as the Illinois Tollway, O'Hare International Airport, and countless others.

With over 160 employees in their local offices, Burns & McDonnell ranked 14th in Fortune 100's "Best Companies to Work For" in 2014 and was named to the 2014's "Best Places to Work in Illinois" list by the Daily Herald Business Ledger, one of only sixty Illinois companies to receive this honor.

Mr. Speaker and my distinguished colleagues in the House, please join me in honoring Burns & McDonnell for their legacy of excellence. Burns & McDonnell is a company that truly cares not only for their clients, but also for their employees.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE KENNETH WILLIAM "KEN" HECHLER FOR HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, September 20th, a former Member of the House from my State of West Virginia, Dr. Ken Hechler, will celebrate his 100th birthday.

First elected to the House in 1958 and re-elected to eight consecutive terms, Ken Hechler is now the longest living former Member of Congress, and remains a champion for black lung benefits for which he successfully fought during his tenure. Subsequent to his service in this body, he would continue his dedicated public service to the people of West Virginia by being elected Secretary of State for four terms.

Before serving in the House, Dr. Hechler served as a military historian, writing about major European battles, and he retired from the U.S. Army as a Major.

Dr. Hechler then worked as a speech writer in the Truman Administration. Entrusted with a Ph.D. from Columbia University, he devoted a considerable amount of his career to teaching; that included teaching in the Political Science Department at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.

Dr. Hechler has authored nine books, including *The Bridge at Remagen*, *West Virginia Memories of President Kennedy*, and *Working with Truman: A Personal Memoir of the White House Years*.

In an era when this Nation seems so divided on the issues of the day, Dr. Hechler's perspective on the job of a Member of Congress is pertinent for political observers, pundits, students of government, our fellow citizens, and, particularly, Members of Congress.

In speaking about taking unpopular positions, yet being elected time and again, Dr. Hechler has said, "Well, if you do your job on other things; to most people that's more important. If you answer your mail directly and they believe you're honest in your beliefs, why, this is usually accepted even if they disagree with you."

Ken Hechler and I have been occasionally at odds, but upon one thing we have consistently agreed: Tending to the needs and interests of those we have the high honor of representing in the Congress—one call, one letter at a time—is our highest obligation.