

Transportation of goods and services across America's waterways has never been more crucial to the economic wellbeing of our nation than it is today. Leaders like Peter Stephaich help expand this important industry, and in doing so help speed the flow of materials and commodities that are the fuel our nation needs to grow and prosper. His receipt of the River Bell Award is certainly well deserved, and I invite my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations for his many years of service as a transportation leader.

TAX INCREASE PREVENTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, as the 113th Congress draws to a close, American businesses and families are looking to us with hopes for a new spirit of bipartisanship and decisive action. We should take this opportunity to find common ground and give certainty to our constituents instead of continuing to postpone difficult choices and leaving the tough decisions for next year.

The bill before us today, H.R. 5771, extends several important tax provisions, many of which I have actively supported over the last two years. But by failing to extend these provisions beyond 2014, we have missed the chance to provide much-needed certainty to our constituents. For this reason I am reluctantly supporting H.R. 5771, but also calling on my colleagues to embrace long-term solutions as we consider these important issues going forward.

The production tax credit for renewable energy has been key to the growth of an important industry in my home state of Oregon and in this country, and ending it in 2014 jeopardizes new investments in our communities and job creation opportunities. H.R. 5771 extends the production tax credit, but the short-term nature of the extension makes it difficult for the wind industry and others to meaningfully plan future projects. This does nothing to end our dependence on fossil fuels from other nations, and it doesn't create any incentives for innovative clean energy companies to hire additional employees.

H.R. 5771 does provide some relief to underwater homeowners who have had a portion of their mortgage debt forgiven, and that is a provision that comes as a great relief to many of our constituents. But still others will wonder what to expect in tax year 2015 and beyond, thus adding to the financial instability that prevents families from feeling the benefits of the slowly developing economic recovery.

Making businesses and families in our districts wait until the end of the year to find out whether we will grant a retroactive extension of many tax provisions that affect their returns and their finances is unacceptable. Governing by crisis must end now. Americans and Oregonians expect more from us, and they deserve more from us. H.R. 5771 is a small step in the right direction, but Congress needs to do more and give our constituents the certainty they need to lead us to a robust economic recovery.

SUPPORT ROBUST FUNDING FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease to help raise awareness about the impact of Alzheimer's and the importance of increasing federal resources to assist individuals, families and caregivers.

In the United States, Alzheimer's has reached epidemic proportions. Today, the disease—a degenerative condition for which there is no cure or any effective treatment—is the 6th leading cause of death in our country, with a 68 percent increase in deaths caused by Alzheimer's within the last 10 years. Over 5.2 million Americans currently have this form of dementia and the number of family members and caregivers affected reaches more than 15 million. In my home state of New Jersey, an estimated 170,000 Garden State residents suffer from Alzheimer's, and 443,000 caregivers provided unpaid care. As our elderly population grows, the number of Americans affected by this disease is expected to triple by 2050.

The economic consequences of Alzheimer's are immense, and resources and assistance must be allocated appropriately to change the trajectory of the disease. Alzheimer's currently costs Americans \$150 billion annually in Medicare and Medicaid programs alone. By 2050, care of Alzheimer's patients could reach \$850 billion in Medicare and Medicaid costs. Including out of pocket and other expenses, the number totals one trillion.

Sharing the impact of the disease are the 15 million family members and others who act as caregivers and provide an estimated 17 billion hours of unpaid care—often relinquishing their jobs and other obligations to do so. These caregivers also endure significantly high rates of physical and emotional stress while attending to their loved ones. While their sacrifices are born of love and remain personally priceless, the economic costs of unpaid care are estimated to exceed \$200 billion annually.

Research and preventative services are important tools that not only raise the quality of life for patients and families but serve as an investment that will reduce future costs. Accordingly, I worked with former Congressman, now Senator, ED MARKEY (D-MA)—then Co-Chair of the Task Force—in 2010 to write the House-version of the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) which became Public Law 111–375. Our legislation established the ambitious goal of preventing and successfully treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025 in the United States, and required an annual National Plan to achieve this goal.

It is vital that we commit ourselves fully to this objective and time is of the essence.

We must make a robust investment in research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institutes on Aging (NIA). The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education recently approved their FY 2015 bill, which calls for an additional \$100 million in funding at the NIA. This funding will go a long way toward meeting the goals laid out in NAPA.

But we can do better—not only with funding but with better information and planning.

On that note, the Subcommittee also included language directing NIH to submit a professional judgment budget for Alzheimer's disease research. As a cosponsor of the Alzheimer's Accountability Act (H.R. 4351), I firmly believe that unfiltered information specifying the resources necessary to meet the goals and objectives laid out in the National Plan would provide Congress with a valuable tool for setting research and service priorities.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday Rep. MAXINE WATERS—the current Co-chair of the Task Force—and I sent a letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House Appropriations Committee requesting that they include the Senate Subcommittee's funding level and the language requiring a professional judgment budget in the coming spending package.

I urge my colleagues to accept this request and work with the Task Force to continue to boost funding for Alzheimer's research and services in the coming years.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF WENDY J. MEDINA

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Wendy J. Medina served as my Senior District Representative for California's 35th Congressional District, which includes the communities of Bloomington, Chino, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Rialto in San Bernardino County, and the city of Pomona in Los Angeles County.

With over fourteen years' experience working in California state and federal politics, Mrs. Wendy J. Medina consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and a deep commitment to the community.

Mrs. Wendy J. Medina worked tirelessly to coordinate well-attended district events that met the needs of our district; her work as a liaison between our office, other state agencies, and our constituents validated her commitment to public service.

As a result of her outstanding service as a Senior District Representative for my congressional office, Mrs. Wendy J. Medina is better prepared to provide valuable leadership and contributions to educational institutions; local, regional, state and federal governments; and professional, business, and community endeavors in the State of California and the entire nation.

Mrs. Wendy J. Medina attended local grade schools and graduated from Ontario High School. Mrs. Wendy J. Medina and her husband, Javier Garcia, are the proud parents of four wonderful children; Alexia, Diego, Natalia and Kayla.

Let it be known Mr. Speaker, that Mrs. Wendy J. Medina be commended for her exemplary service on behalf of the Members of Congress of the United States, and extended sincere best wishes for every success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO FARGO MAYOR
DENNIS WALAKER

HON. KEVIN CRAMER

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, the good people of Fargo, North Dakota have broken hearts today. Their mayor, Dennis Walaker, died suddenly this week, sending a wave of emotion across my entire state.

Mayor Walaker epitomized what it means to be the people's servant, not because he was perfect—he certainly was not—but because he was as common as an uncommon politician can be.

Denny earned the top job in the city by virtue of his service as a city employee famous for fighting floods. The legend was solidified as he defied the feds and the odds by applying his uncommon common sense to the 2009 record flood fight, keeping his city safe and his people in their homes.

While Denny's famous flood fights put him on a big stage, it was the character of the man that was really under the spotlight more than his competence as a civil engineer.

Denny was always where he needed to be. He wore a suit and tie when he had to, but was more comfortable wearing, well, more comfortable clothes. It's hard to describe without cliché, but Denny was loved because he was one of the people he represented, whoever they were.

He was one of "them."

He was always available and accountable, and expected the same of other public officials at every level. Denny's communication style was more blunt than eloquent, but always memorable and effective. While he didn't shy away from criticizing legislators at the state and federal levels—in fact he seemed to relish it—he wasn't offensive. Perhaps because he expected the same clarity from us as he provided to us.

He was a good example to all of us. Not every politician could or even should match his personality or style; we should strive to match his character.

I pray for Denny's family and our city as we mourn, but am confident the memories we carry will keep him close to us for a very long time.

IN HONOR OF STEVE PRICE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my dear friend and colleague Representative LOIS CAPPs to honor the career of a remarkable public servant whose work and character should serve as a model for us all. Mr. Steve Price is retiring from CalTrans after nearly 35 years in various engineering positions. In that time Steve carved out a reputation for integrity and unfailing honesty. If it could be done, Steve would make it happen. If an idea was impractical, Steve let you know. Simply put, Steve made government—at least the portion that he controlled—work for the people of California.

We had the great pleasure to getting to know Steve in his capacity as the maintenance supervisor for CalTrans District 5, which encompasses both of our congressional districts. California's Highway 1 connects our districts from Moro Bay and Hearst Castle in the south up through Carmel and Monterey in the north. Along the way the road passes through Big Sur and offers one of the most spectacular views of land and sea anywhere in the world. But as Steve likes to remind us all, that land has been falling into the sea for eons and the highway's construction 80 years ago did nothing to slow that. So every time a slide, wildfire, or washed out bridge closes the highway, we find ourselves sitting at the table with Steve and the local community working out solutions to keep the coast highway open. And it has been in those community settings that Steve's particular brand of diplomacy made its greatest impact. Where some work to sooth community anxieties with gentle words and reassuring platitudes, Steve offers unvarnished honesty. Steve's presence in the room always helped bring the conversation back to the practical.

But above all, Steve was a tremendously skilled and innovative engineer. He has been a strong advocate for worker safety and sought out opportunities to include maintenance staff in the project design process. Steve has received a Tranny Award in 1995 for leading the Caltrans effort on the Hearst Scenic Conservation purchase; acted as the Interim State Traffic engineer; participated in Transportation Research Board study on Design of In-Vehicle Driving Behavior and Crash Risk Study; received the Karl Moskowitz award for Outstanding Engineering in Transportation in 2014; and served as the State Pavement Engineer in 2014, just to name a few accomplishments. He has also applied his engineering skills to aid in Haiti's recovery from the devastating 2010 earthquake.

Mr. Speaker, we know we speak for the whole House in offering this body's gratitude for a job well done. Steve's leadership will be missed by us, his colleagues, and numerous communities up and down the Central Coast. We wish Steve and his family every success in retirement and can rest assured that his voice will continue to be heard.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF MARY J. ARMSTRONG

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, Mary J. Armstrong served as my District Representative for California's 35th Congressional District, which includes the communities of Bloomington, Chino, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Rialto in San Bernardino County, and the city of Pomona in Los Angeles County.

Mary J. Armstrong capacity of responsibilities included preparing and presenting certificates of recognition, assisting with the planning of community events and attending committee hearings and meetings.

Mary J. Armstrong managed and researched constituents' casework, not limited to staffing me at various events and meetings as needed and represented me on occasion,

worked as a liaison with federal agencies and addressed a variety of issues and concerns of the constituents of the 35th Congressional District.

Having served the State of California for eleven years, Mary J. Armstrong began her legislative career in 2003, with Assembly Member Mervyn M. Dymally, representing the 52nd Assembly District and transitioned to the 32nd Senatorial District, and two years with the 35th Congressional District with me.

Mary and her husband, Jesse Armstrong, are the proud parents of four Children, Stephanie, Calvin, Anthony and Angela, and grandparents of six grandchildren and one great grand child.

Mary J. Armstrong is dependable, adaptable and a resourceful team player, she possesses the persistence and personality to excel in competitive markets and dynamic fast-paced environments and she rendered outstanding service to me in providing quality service to the people of the 32nd Senatorial District and the 35th Congressional District and throughout the State of California.

Mr. Speaker, I fully extend all due recognition to Mary J. Armstrong for her many exceptional achievements and personal loyalty for exemplifying the character and proficiency that mark the best of California's legislative staff.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply dismayed and concerned by the decision of the grand jury not to indict Ferguson, Missouri Police Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting of Michael Brown. Based on my interaction with constituents I expect that many thousands of others share that response and will express their concerns in peaceful public protests. I call upon law enforcement in Missouri, and all across our nation, to show all possible restraint and sensitivity and allow the American people to exercise their First Amendment right and responsibility in expressing their opinions over this event and similar recent events.

The events leading to the shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed African American teenager, mirror a horrifying string of similar deaths and shootings of African American men at the hands of law enforcement all across the country which seem to have escalated in recent weeks: Eric Garner (43), Staten Island, New York—July 17; John Crawford (22), Beavercreek, Ohio—August 5; Ezell Ford (25), Los Angeles, California—August 11; Dante Parker, Victorville, California—August 12; Levar Jones (35), Columbia, South Carolina—September 4 and most recently Tamir E. Rice (12) in Cleveland, Ohio—November 23. According to the Chicago Tribune (8/26/2014) "Chicago police shot 36 people last year, 26 of them African American males, and have shot 34 people so far this year." The circumstances surrounding many of those shootings remain unclear or unknown. The emerging pattern of these events raise significant, troubling questions about the protection of the civil rights of Americans, especially young African American males, in encounters with law enforcement.