

resulting in catastrophic rate increases. The bill places caps on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) ability to increase policy rates on primary homes, now capped at 15 percent annually under the bill, and enact additional caps to ensure affordability, while providing FEMA with the resources to complete a flood insurance affordability study within 18 months of the bill's enactment. This legislation will provide relief to families that have already been hit with substantial premium increases, and to communities that successfully challenge redrawn FEMA flood maps. Finally, these changes will be paid for by enacting a \$25/year surcharge on insured primary residences, and a \$250/year surcharge on all other insured properties.

I expect that the passage of this bill will provide relief and certainty to those in New Jersey and around the country dealing with premium increase, but we must not ignore the need to plan for a changing climate, sea level rise, and an increased risk of extreme weather and flooding. For those living in flood prone areas the risk of flood will only increase, stressing the limited resources available under the NFIP, and continuing to devastate communities and families.

I expect flood insurance is an issue that Congress will need to continue to revisit in coming years, but for now I believe the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act will serve to address many of the concerns I have heard from home and business owners, flood plain managers, insurers, and REALTORS in Central New Jersey.

#### HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 4, 2014*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 3370, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2013, because we need to fix the National Flood Insurance Program, create more transparency in how it is administered and get the program out of debt. This bill is a step forward in that direction. In addition to lowering rates for some policyholders who have seen sharp spikes in their annual premiums, the bill requires FEMA to implement a flood mapping program that results in technically credible flood hazard data; designate a flood insurance advocate to educate policyholders and coordinate with local officials; consult with communities before using new flood maps; and make publicly available any changes to rate tables and underwriting guidelines before instituting any such changes.

I also believe, however, that we could do more. By rushing this bill through the Congress we failed even to debate, let alone address, the Program's impact on non-primary residences—moderately priced second homes, small businesses, houses of worship, schools, non-profits. While H.R. 3370 will stop the spike in premiums for some primary homeowners, it will do nothing to keep premiums affordable for the small businesses that provide vital services to and strengthen the economies of coastal communities; and it will do nothing to ensure that the churches, schools, and non-

profit institutions that anchor these communities will be able to afford their rising premiums. On the contrary, the bill includes a premium surcharge of \$250 per year on second homes and non-residential properties as a way to offset its cost.

Clearly, H.R. 3370 is not perfect, but it is an improvement over the status quo and that's why I will vote for it. On balance, I feel that it is better to accept an imperfect bill than wait for a perfect measure. However, we must continue to seek opportunities to address these defects as we move forward.

#### HONORING THE 10TH ANNUAL VETERANS SNOWMOBILE RIDE

**HON. DAN BENISHEK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 10th annual Veterans Snowmobile Ride, which will occur on Saturday, March 8, 2014.

This event, founded by Don and Diane Reed, veterans and owners of the Fox River Motel and sponsored by the Seney Snowmobile Association, leads riders through approximately one hundred miles of the scenic Upper Peninsula of Michigan in honor of those who have fought to defend the American way of life.

Beginning in 2004 with just 50 riders, it has grown to nearly 300 in the 2013 ride. The Veterans Snowmobile Ride has the distinction of being the largest veterans ride of this type in the United States.

In addition to those who ride their snowmobiles in this event, I wish to commend all those who help to realize the Veterans Snowmobile Ride motto of "be a Vet, bring a Vet, thank a Vet."

This event is a poignant way to thank those who have defended our country and a continuation of the Northern Michigan outdoorsman tradition.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 I was inadvertently detained on rollcall vote 97. Had I been present to vote I would have voted "yes."

#### HONORING DANIEL J. GILBERT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel J. Gilbert. Daniel is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 865, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Daniel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Daniel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Daniel has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, has become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow, and earned the Ad Altari Dei religious award. Daniel has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Daniel dismantled an old playground set, then expanded and mulched the playground area at the Hope House in Lee's Summit, Missouri, in order to prepare the site for a new playground.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel J. Gilbert for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### H.R. 2548, ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT OF 2013

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in support of H.R. 2548, the Electrify Africa Act, which will help enrich the lives of the some 589 million people who live in an electricity depleted part of Africa.

This legislation will bring much needed support to a region that desperately needs it. As you are aware, 68 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa does not have access to electricity. This bill, if enacted, would establish a base of infrastructure from which economies can grow, improve health and education outcomes, and contribute to sustainable poverty reduction.

I have visited Ghana and Liberia and seen firsthand the struggles that people deal with every day as they try to live a normal life. Power outages are a regular occurrence, while families may wait hours, days, or even weeks for electricity to be restored. A reliable electrical grid will help give businesses looking to make investments in Africa a greater degree of confidence in the infrastructure. The investments they make could help pull many out of poverty and hunger as local economies grow and people gain steady employment.

There are not just economic benefits to consider, though. Electricity is also crucial to health outcomes. Certain medicines and vaccines require strict temperature regulation that is impossible to achieve without access to reliable electricity. Lifesaving devices and monitoring devices also require energy to function. An improved electrical infrastructure could also reduce the prevalence of illnesses like respiratory diseases that come from the use of harmful household fuels. On average, there are more than 3 million annual premature deaths from respiratory disease in sub-Saharan Africa. Shockingly, this number is higher than the annual number of deaths from HIV/AIDS and malaria.

One final benefit I want to highlight is the educational improvement achievable as schools with a dependable source of energy can harness technology to educate the rapidly-growing youth population in Africa. In

some countries, more than half of the population is under the age of 25. Quality education for this generation of young people could further contribute to dynamism and innovation in their countries' economies.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2548 will bring many positive opportunities to a continent that is in great need of assistance. I truly appreciate you and the committee giving this bill the attention it deserves. Electrifying Africa will not only create a brighter future for those who live in the region, but will also strengthen Africa's independence, promote continued economic development, and ensure the continent remains a vibrant source of art, culture, and history for generations to come.

#### RECOGNIZING LINDA MARTIN

#### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Linda Martin, a finalist for the 2014 School Counselor of the Year award. This distinguished award, presented by the American School Counselor Association, honors school counselors "who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to students, the school community, and the school counseling profession."

Mrs. Martin has led the Comprehensive Guidance Program at Palm Lake Elementary School for 20 years. As an innovative teacher, she founded the Kids Who Care program to serve Palm Lake Elementary, the Orlando community and Nkomo Primary School, a sister school in South Africa. Her classroom lessons cover a wide range of topics including character development and leadership.

Mrs. Martin's remarkable service has also been recognized on the county and state levels. In 2012, she was named Orange County School Counselor of the Year, and, in 2013, was awarded Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Florida School Counselor Association.

School counselors play an invaluable role in students' academic and personal development, teaching important life skills and compelling them to strive toward their goals. It is my pleasure to recognize Mrs. Martin for her exemplary dedication to the students of Palm Lake Elementary.

#### IN HONOR OF THE ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY

#### HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Arizona State Library. The 150th anniversary of the Arizona Territorial Library, which was established in 1864 and became the State Library in 1915, was celebrated this year. Next year is the State Library's 100th anniversary.

A department of the Secretary of State's office, the State Library provides access to historical records and operates the Arizona Capitol Museum. In the beginning, the State Li-

brary was mainly a law library, recording the laws of the territorial government and conducting legislative research. In recent years, this institution has grown to house historical archives, public records, and special collections such as the Arizona Memory Project, which is a collection of digitized records about the history and geography of Arizona. It also provides consulting services to county and local libraries and other government agencies to help them better manage public records. As part of the Library of Congress's Chronicling America territorial newspaper collection, the State Library also houses the Arizona Digital Newspaper Project. It was recently recognized as the Federal Depository Library of the Year for 2013 and is Arizona's only complete federal documents collection.

Congratulations to the Arizona State Library for its many years of service to the people of Arizona.

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce Committee for their leadership and shared goal of promoting legislation that incentivizes stakeholders to manufacture and implement energy efficient technologies throughout our economy. Congress should always be looking for creative ways to incentivize our great American innovators like A.O. Smith to manufacture energy efficient technologies that consumers clearly want. So I commend you on your dedication to this effort and look forward to supporting H.R. 2126.

Sometimes we don't have to look too hard for ways to unleash American innovation and promote energy efficiency. Sometimes, we just have to use common sense and get the Federal Government out of the way.

One concrete way Congress can force the government to get out of the way of our job creators would be to require the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to recognize independent test results for air conditioning, furnace, boiler, heat pump and water heater products that are already subject to the rigors of an independent voluntary industry compliance program (or "VICP").

Through the VICP, manufacturers of these highly efficient products contract with an independent, third-party laboratory to ensure their products comply with federal efficiency and conservation standards. Manufacturers spend millions to participate and run the VICP, and the program has been a resounding success for years.

But the federal government won't accept VICP data for compliance purposes. Instead, the DOE and EPA (which manages the Energy Star program) force manufacturers that participate in the VICP to subject their products to two additional rounds of tests to satisfy agency standards. But to make matters worse, the DOE and EPA tests aren't any different than the VICP tests. Each test takes place at the same laboratories responsible for the

VICP tests, with the same technicians on the same products.

The end result: manufacturers of highly efficient air conditioning, furnace, boiler, heat pump and water heater products pay for three rounds of tests to effectuate the same result: making federal regulators happy.

That, my colleagues, smacks of inefficient government bureaucracy that serves no purpose other than redirecting operational capital to satisfy the whims of the Obama Administration. We can and should do a better job of incentivizing manufacturers to innovate and invest in job creation—not to waste precious operational capital on complying with nonsensical bureaucratic mandates.

I intend to eliminate this regulatory roadblock through legislation very similar to an amendment introduced last September by Senators SESSIONS and PRYOR during debate for S. 1392. That amendment, in the words of Senator SESSIONS, would have "require[d] the Energy Department, when conducting routine testing to verify product ratings, to rely on data submitted through voluntary, independent certification programs" that satisfy a robust test of independence and transparency.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. PETER'S PARISH OF THE NEW YORK ARCHDIOCESE

#### HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Peter's Parish, the mother parish of Staten Island. The social vitality and spirit of community that the St. Peter's Parish brings to my district cannot possibly be overstated and, as the oldest Roman Catholic parish on Staten Island, this historic occasion is of great significance to our entire community. With the Catholic population of Staten Island consisting of only around 100 people at the founding of the parish in 1839, Father Ildefonso Madrano, the first minister of St. Peter's, was also tasked with serving the Catholic communities of Perth Amboy, New Brunswick, and Princeton, New Jersey. While the congregation met in an abandoned factory for five years, construction on a dedicated church moved slowly yet steadily, made possible by a generous donation of land by the New Brighton Association.

Quickly turning into a staple of life on Staten Island, the pastors of St. Peter's directed the construction of a grammar school as well as additional parishes on the island as the local population continued to grow. At the same time, church ministers showed their dedication to the local community by tending to Staten Islanders' various spiritual and material needs. One of St. Peter's early pastors, Father Patrick Murphy, gave his life in the service of those in need, contracting cholera while tending to the thousands of Irish immigrants quarantined in a hospital in the nearby Tompkinsville neighborhood of the Island.

It is in the same spirit that the parish of St. Peter's has exemplified the communal spirit of caring and service over the past 175 years. Thanks to the resilience of community members and parishioners, St. Peter's has survived