

passion and commitment are evident in his ability to listen and relate to his constituents. His deep understanding of local issues and his strong relationships with the community will serve him well on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Oscar Villegas for his many years of service to the City of West Sacramento, and wish him the best in his new appointment to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

**BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
INNOVATIVE FINANCING ACT OF  
2014**

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the "Brownfield Redevelopment and Economic Development Innovative Financing Act of 2014," legislation that will help redevelop large brownfield redevelopment projects that have the potential to create jobs, provide affordable housing opportunities and transform regional economies.

Across the country, from Baltimore to Los Angeles, there are large redevelopment sites that communities have identified as the economic development futures of their regions. Older manufacturing sites, retired steel mills, automotive legacy sites and landfills within communities are in need of transformation.

These sites, known as brownfields, are untapped resources that, when environmentally remediated and redeveloped, will address tax base shortfalls, provide affordable housing, create jobs, attract new businesses as well as unify communities with planned sustainable development that will meet the needs of a changing economy and a growing population.

For instance, in my district, the city of Carson provides a shining example of how large brownfield properties can be redeveloped and transformed into successful redevelopment projects.

In 2003, using \$90 million of redevelopment funding, Carson invested in the cleanup of an 160 acre site along the 405. Immediately, the private sector matched the city's funding and the project moved forward with the cleanup of the site.

The project, called The Boulevards, is set to finish construction in 2016, and will have two hotels, retail space, affordable housing, office buildings, restaurants and movie theatres that will raise an estimated \$107 million in property tax revenues over the next 30 years.

The Boulevards is a great investment for Carson and for the region and will ultimately end up paying for itself. What's changed for Carson, like most communities, is that they do not have another \$90 million dollars to quickly redevelop their other large brownfield projects.

Unfortunately, there is no current federal funding or financing mechanism to support and leverage local and private sector resources to move large brownfield redevelopment sites forward.

While Title I of the 1949 Housing Authority Act used to provide a line of federal credit to local communities to undertake major redevelopment projects during the 1970's, this was

later replaced with the current Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by HUD. And CDBG funds are currently stretched too thin to be able to adequately address the needs of large scale redevelopment projects.

Additionally, private lenders are hesitant to loan money for these projects since the extensive remediation and clean up of these sites means investors aren't going to begin seeing returns for possibly a decade or longer.

That's why I have introduced the The Brownfield Redevelopment and Economic Development Innovative Financing Act of 2014. This bill creates a pilot program that re-establishes a partnership with communities by providing the HUD Secretary the authority to guarantee the repayment of principal and interest on loans made by lenders to local governments for large brownfield redevelopment projects.

By providing a federally backed loan guarantee for brownfield redevelopment, this will eliminate traditional lending risk and thus attract private resources for projects that otherwise wouldn't have received funding. At the same time, this bill grants local governments enough time to remediate and develop their properties so they won't need to begin making loan repayments until they start receiving revenue.

These tools will provide communities with the ability to make an immediate and long term economic impact on their region and will be the drivers that help move our national economy forward.

That is why this bill is supported by public and private stakeholders alike, including, Weston Solutions, CH2M Hill, Parsons Brinckerhoff, the American Council of Engineering Companies, Smart Growth America, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Brownfield Association, the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the city of Carson, California.

By providing a platform for partnerships and innovative financing tools, we will finally arm communities with the necessary tools to fully plan, invest and develop their futures.

**RECOGNIZING DEPUTY POLICE  
CHIEF MIKE BORGES**

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Deputy Police Chief Mike Borges of the Ceres Police Department for his 34 years of outstanding service and commitment to public safety in the community.

Deputy Chief Mike Borges grew up in the Modesto area and worked at a dairy. He graduated from Modesto High School in June of 1974 and joined the Army in March of 1976, where he served in the Military Police until November of 1979. Mr. Borges left the Army at the rank of Sergeant, and returned home to begin his career as a police officer.

In April of 1980, Mr. Mike Borges was hired by the City of Ceres as a police officer. The Ceres Police Department sponsored him while he attended the police academy, and he ultimately chose to remain in Ceres. During his

tenure, Borges worked in many different positions within the agency. From 1984 to 1987, he served as a Detective and in 1987, became a Field Training Officer and Corporal. In 1988, he was promoted to the position of Sergeant.

As a Sergeant, Mr. Borges served as a patrol Watch Commander and Supervisor, and served as the agency's Police Explorer Advisor for over 10 years. In addition to this, he served as the SWAT team leader for eight years, and spent over four years supervising the Detective Bureau for the Ceres Police Department. In August of 2005, he was appointed as the Police Division Commander, and in December 2007, Mr. Borges became Deputy Chief.

Deputy Chief Borges earned an Associate of Arts degree in Administration of Justice from Modesto Junior College, and a Bachelors of Science degree in Business Management, with a focus in Human Resources from California State University, Stanislaus. He graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisor Leadership Institute, Class 11; a program designed to stimulate personal growth, leadership, and ethical decision-making in California law enforcement's front line supervisors.

Mr. Borges has been a longtime board member and has previously served as the president of Ceres Youth Baseball. He is also one of the founding members of the Ceres Police Officers Association. He has been an active member in the Ceres Lions Club since 2004, where he has also served as a board member. Mr. Borges enjoys sports, staying active, being involved with community youth, and spending time with his family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mike Borges for his 34 years of service and outstanding contributions of the Ceres community as well as our country.

**BIANCA NUNEZ-MARTINEZ**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Bianca Nunez-Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Bianca Nunez-Martinez is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Bianca Nunez-Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Bianca Nunez-Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF CRISP COUNTY  
SHERIFF DONNIE R. HARALSON

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and outstanding public servant, Crisp County Sheriff Donnie R. Haralson. Sadly, Sheriff Haralson passed away on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 7, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at Cordele First Baptist Church.

Following in his father's footsteps, Sheriff Haralson began his law enforcement career with the Cordele Police Department in 1977. After years of hard work and determination, he became Cordele's Chief of Police. A well-respected member of his community, Sheriff Haralson was reelected to a seventh term as Crisp County Sheriff in 2012, a capacity in which he served dutifully for twenty-seven years.

During his tenure, Sheriff Haralson established local programs that benefitted both the community he served and the inmates in his care, including personal safety classes and an inmate GED program. Sheriff Haralson was influential in obtaining a regional youth detention center in Cordele and also helped to secure inmate labor in the building of a recreation facility, a significant cost-saving initiative.

Sheriff Haralson was actively engaged in his community and served on numerous committees both locally and statewide. As the longest sitting sheriff in Crisp County history, Sheriff Haralson embodied the definition of a public servant through strong leadership, steadfast dedication and unwavering compassion. His years of distinguished service in law enforcement earned him the Governor's Public Safety Award in 2000 and Georgia's 2010 Sheriff of the Year distinction.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Sheriff Haralson is undoubtedly great because of his dedication and service to the community that he loved so dearly. As a lifelong resident of Crisp County, Sheriff Haralson's legacy will live on for years to come in the minds and hearts of all those whose lives he touched in Southwest Georgia.

Sheriff Haralson is survived by his wife, Peggy; daughters, Amanda and Crystal; grandsons, Thomas and Eli; sisters, Sharon and Kadron; and his nephew, Cory. He was a longtime member and a Deacon of Cordele First Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Sheriff Donnie Haralson and his legacy of service to Crisp County, Georgia. He loved the people of Crisp County and dedicated his life and career to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens. He will truly be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 5, 2014 I joined President Obama on a trip to

Connecticut to discuss the importance of raising the federal minimum wage and missed several recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"no" on rollcall No. 93, on ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 497;

"no" on rollcall No. 94, on passage of H. Res. 97;

"yes" on rollcall No. 95, on passage of H.R. 938, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013;

"yes" on rollcall No. 96, on motion to recommit H.R. 4118 with instructions;

"no" on rollcall No. 97, on passage of H.R. 4118, the SIMPLE Fairness Act;

"yes" on rollcall No. 98, on passage of H.R. 2126, the Better Buildings Act of 2014.

THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4110  
"HELPING TO ENCOURAGE REAL  
OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS  
TRANSITIONING FROM  
BATTLESPACE TO WORKPLACE  
ACT OF 2014"

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, study after study has documented the difficulties experienced by a majority of men and women transitioning from the Armed Services to the civilian sector.

Veterans regard one of their greatest challenges to be finding a meaningful job even though nearly 90% of them believe they have the general skills needed to land their ideal job such as problem solving, leadership, ethics, and time management and most believe they possess specific marketable skills, such as information technology, health care, mechanical, and aviation.

Some of the major challenges faced by veterans are:

1. Overcoming the difficulty in translating to employers the value of the skills they learned in the military;

2. Competing with candidates who have been in the workforce longer;

3. The perceived reluctance of employers to hire due to concerns about multiple deployments or military training and time commitments of the Reserve Component, and fears of dealing with veterans' disabilities.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 4110, the "Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitions from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2014" or "Transitioning HERO Act."

The Transitioning HERO Act addresses these problems by providing strong incentives for employers to hire, retain, and employ veterans in positions that take maximum advantage of their skills and experience.

It does this by providing tax credits for those employers who employ Military Relations Managers (MRM), who will be experts in understanding how military-acquired training translates into useful skills in the civilian labor market.

Military Relations Managers (MRMs) will:

1. work with hiring agencies and within their companies to promote the hiring of transitioning military leaders; and

2. advocate and represent the interests of veterans thoroughly by focusing on placement

of veterans within companies in positions that reflect the breadth of leadership and technical skills obtained and utilized during military service.

My bill also directs the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish, maintain, publicize, and make available to employers a Military Skills Translator Database. This database will assist private sector employers in understanding, applying, and valuing military skills and experiences to the civilian economy.

The tax credit provided under the bill is \$1000 per hired veteran. To be eligible to claim the credit, an employer must employ and utilize a Military Relations Manager.

This important legislation will benefit both veterans and hiring companies, by giving our transitioning veterans the jobs and positions that are appropriate to their invaluable experience and by encouraging companies to examine the application of veterans' acquired skills with quality representation.

Mr. Speaker, Americans want Congress to focus on jobs and economic growth, not more political posturing.

Instead of trying to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act for the 50th time, we should be focusing on the real problems of the American people, like extending unemployment insurance and providing training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and helping our veterans transition from the battlespace to the workplace by passing H.R. 4110, the "Transitioning HERO Act."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, I missed several recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted the following ways: "yea" on rollcall 93; "yea" rollcall 94; "yea" on rollcall 95; "nay" on rollcall 96; "yea" on rollcall 97; "yea" on rollcall 98.

BRITTANY CHICOINE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Chicoine for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brittany Chicoine is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Chicoine is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brittany Chicoine for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.