

projects under Section 536, this bill will expand the scope of the work underway to preserve and restore vital fish and wildlife habitat. We must do more to bring back the stability and biodiversity that makes the Columbia River basin one of the lushest fish and wildlife habitats in the world, and this legislation is an important step.

One specific ecosystem restoration program included in the bill is the Willamette Floodplain Restoration Study, which seeks to restore natural floodplain function to the region and improve flood storage along the river. In addition, the bill includes an investment in invasive species monitoring and prevention through provisions that allow the Army Corps to establish watercraft inspection stations and other preventive measures. This is an investment worth making. Invasive species threaten ecosystems as well as infrastructure, including the Pacific Northwest's hydropower system.

One provision in this bill is especially important to a hard-hit community in my district, and I would like to thank the conferees for including it. In Warrenton, Oregon, the Hammond Marina has long been operated by the City of Warrenton, but the land on which it sits is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. House and Senate conferees agreed to include language conveying ownership of this land to the city. This has been a priority for the City of Warrenton, which is prepared to improve the marina at Hammond Basin, a project that will benefit the economy of Oregon's North Coast. It will come at no cost to the federal government, and represents another provision of this bill that will help my constituents and, importantly, support economic growth in coastal Oregon.

Another key provision of this conference report, authored by my Oregon colleague Senator JEFF MERKLEY, is the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA) pilot project. This program will provide low-cost financing to state and local governments—along with tribes, corporations, and others—to undertake low-cost water infrastructure improvement projects. This proposal is widely supported by my constituents and groups across Oregon, from the Building Trades to the utility districts, and I applaud the conference committee for including it in this report.

I still have concerns about environmental review provisions in the conference report, and I will continue to advocate for improvements that my colleagues and I tried to make by amendment when this bill was considered on the House floor. Attributing permitting backlogs to the environmental review process ignores the funding challenges that have beset the Army Corps in recent years, as Congress has repeatedly failed to provide adequate funding for the review of all necessary projects. Though more can be done to improve that section, the conference report includes compromise environmental review language from the bill that is preferable to the House version, and I am glad to see that change.

The conference report before us today is a positive step toward robust, bipartisan investment in infrastructure development. This must be done to keep our country competitive and keep our goods moving efficiently on our waterways, and to protect habitat from the impacts of increased trade and transport. I thank the Committee Chairmen and Ranking Members for their hard work to pass a strong bipar-

tisan bill and urge my colleagues to support final passage.

HONORING 22 TEACHERS FROM
BOCA RATON SELECTED AS
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 22 outstanding teachers from my district who have been selected Teachers of the Year. Through their incredible devotion to their students, these exemplary teachers have displayed a level of commitment to public service that can be admired by all.

The Teacher of the Year Award is presented to teachers who have been recognized by their principals for excellence in teaching. These teachers not only excite their students in the classroom but help them make connections to the real world and prepare them to move forward successfully in their education. As a parent and a public servant, I understand the need for a commitment to a globally competitive education for all of our nation's children.

Congratulations to District 5 Teachers of the Year Agnes Nemeth, Jasmin Deboo, Rachel Bennett, Bethany Garena, Allison Bradley, Fara Krinsky, Sue Mochtak-Heller, Katie Schmidt, Marisa Schweder, Twila Saupe, Renee Frias, Nora Buck, Evelyn Temple, Nirmala Arunachalam, Sue White, Michelle Gunning, Charles (Kevin Turner), Allison Lazarus, Judith Schachleiter, Bonnie Sonenson, Maria Aparicio, and Lisa Finn. I am proud to honor them as a sign of my appreciation for these outstanding teachers and the countless other dedicated teachers across the country. I hope that they can continue to inspire South Floridians to live by their example.

HONORING EDWARD C. KIERNAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Edward C. Kiernan on the occasion of his retirement after more than 45 years in the radio business, including more than two decades as the longtime head of WBAL Radio and 98 Rock in Baltimore.

Under his leadership, WBAL has become one of the most honored stations in the country. During his tenure, it has become the market's longtime talk news leader as well as the recipient of numerous Associated Press and Edward R. Murrow Awards. Mr. Kiernan has helped expand the station's web and mobile presence and secured media rights to Baltimore Orioles, Ravens and Navy football games. In fact, he won back Orioles rights in 2011 after a 4-year run on a competing station.

An active industry leader, Mr. Kiernan has served as president of the Advertising Association of Baltimore, as a board member of the Baltimore Radio Association and as chair of

the Federal Emergency Broadcast System for the State of Maryland.

Mr. Kiernan also has a passion for his community, and his civic and charitable efforts are too numerous to list in their entirety. He has served on the boards of the Baltimore Bicentennial Committee and the Partnership for a Drug Free Maryland. He is on the Visitors Board of the University of Maryland Children's Hospital, is a member of the Life Board of the American Red Cross, the Leadership Council of Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital, the Board of Directors for the Hampden Family Center and a supporter of Our Daily Bread.

He oversaw the WBAL Radio Kids Campaign, of which every dollar benefits underprivileged children in the listening area. The effort has earned WBAL the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation "Service to Children Radio Award."

Prior to his time in Baltimore, Mr. Kiernan spent 17 years as Vice President and General Manager of WCBS Newsradio 88 in New York, where he worked to acquire rights to New York Jets football games and launched two new political programs. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and holds an honorary doctorate from St. John's University.

I have considered Mr. Kiernan a friend and colleague for many years. I know him to be a hard worker with a great sense of humor and commitment to our city. It is with great pride that I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him continued success and happiness in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN ON THE 96TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF REPUBLIC DAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th.

Azerbaijan and the United States have developed a robust and growing relationship over the last two decades. Today we remain indispensable friends, which is an asset as we face many common challenges.

Although located in a geopolitically tough location between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has consistently looked to the United States as an ally despite these difficult neighbors. A secular country with a predominantly Muslim population, Azerbaijan has also been home to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities representing a role model for peaceful coexistence and harmony of different religions and ethnic groups. It is remarkable that Azerbaijan provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption. Azerbaijan's relations with Israel can serve as a model for many countries.

Azerbaijan was also the first country to open Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. and European companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by successive U.S. Administrations, is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region. Currently Azerbaijan plays a leading role in opening up the Southern Gas

Corridor, which will provide additional natural gas to Europe.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. The transit route through Azerbaijan accounts for some 40 percent of the Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 96th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 60 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

RECOGNIZING THE TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Trinity Catholic High School Baseball Team's State Championship Title.

It is with great pride that I stand to honor this momentous accomplishment. On Wednesday, May 14, with great determination and skill, the Trinity Catholic Celtics rose to win Marion County's first baseball state championship. These young men, after dedicating countless hours, were rewarded with a well deserved victory. Moreover, this honor was received with true sportsmanship and class.

This distinguished accomplishment is indicative of the power of our nation's youth. The drive, as well as the athleticism displayed by Trinity Catholic High's Baseball Team should serve as a model for all those who dream of great feats. The people of Florida's 11th Congressional District are extremely proud and I invite you all to join me in extending our most sincere congratulations.

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh District of Florida, do hereby recognize the Trinity Catholic High School Baseball Team's State Championship Title.

USA FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3361, the USA FREEDOM Act,

as amended. Although I was a cosponsor of the USA Freedom Act as originally written, the bill we voted on today was changed substantially before being brought to the floor. I am very concerned with the short time frame members had to consider this sweeping legislation, which was negotiated behind closed doors and would not do enough to protect Americans from government surveillance.

I support ending the bulk collection of Americans' communications, secret interpretations of law by the FISA Court, and "reverse targeting" of Americans by the intelligence agencies. Although H.R. 3361 is an improvement over current law, the House should negotiate a stronger bill in a transparent process through regular order that will do more to protect Americans' privacy.

I encourage the Senate to make much needed changes to this bill and send back a real reform package that does a better job of protecting privacy and is consistent with the expectations of our constituents.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 AND ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 120

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, for their ongoing friendship with American Legion Post 40 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The camaraderie between these two posts began in 1978 when four members of the Canadian Legion in Georgetown, Ottawa, headed to Plymouth for a fishing trip. Before long, they found themselves chatting with members of the local American Legion Post. The following year, the Georgetown vets were invited to attend the annual Memorial Day parade in Plymouth—and so began 35 years of exchange. Each year, American Legion members attend the Warriors' Day parade in Ottawa and Canadian Legion members march with our Plymouth veterans on Memorial Day.

The relationship between these two veteran associations is emblematic of the affinity between our nations. Not only are we neighbors, allies, and friends, but we also share a border, a continent, and core democratic values. As such, I was touched when American Legion Post 40 Commander Phil Ryan told our office, "There's nothing we wouldn't do for them." This, Mr. Speaker, is true friendship.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, and American Legion, Post 40, for 35 years of friendship, respect, and understanding between their posts. I look forward to watching this alliance continue to thrive.

RECOGNIZING SOUVENISE JEANNE BAZILE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I use today to recognize Ms. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile, who passed away on May 11, 2014.

Ms. Bazile, who lived in Spring Valley, New York, was 107 at the time of her passing. Originally from Haiti, she moved to United States in 1978 to join her husband. Ms. Bazile was a loving mother who dedicated herself to her six children, fifteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Just a few months ago, Ms. Bazile fulfilled one of her dreams: becoming an American citizen. After living here for three decades, working hard and contributing to society, Ms. Bazile became one of the oldest immigrants ever to gain citizenship. She is truly an inspiration for all those who hope to one day achieve the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, Ms. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous life.

RECOGNIZING BUNKERS IN BAGHDAD

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to speak about an outstanding organization headquartered in Buffalo, New York: Bunkers in Baghdad.

The organization was started by Joe Hanna in 2008 after learning that golf had become a favorite form of stress relief for soldiers serving in combat zones overseas. The purpose of Bunkers in Baghdad is simple—they collect new and used golf balls and golf clubs and then ship them overseas to soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The program also includes injured veterans who are currently recovering in Wounded Warriors programs and other military installations and VA hospitals across the United States.

The first official shipment of golf balls went out in November 2008 to reach Iraq in time for the holidays. The inaugural shipment was made even more special by the fact that it was coordinated and packaged by students from the Williamsville Central School District. In addition to raising money to ship each box directly through the United States Postal Service, the students packed each box with balls, holiday cards, and letters they wrote to the soldiers.

I would like to recognize and congratulate the organization on their accomplishments. In just 5 short years, Bunkers in Baghdad has collected and shipped 5 million golf balls and 150,000 golf clubs to our military service men and women and wounded warriors in all 50 states and 30 countries around the world. This initiative, focused on those who have given so much, is an example to us all as we continue to honor those who serve.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the