

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL
HICKENLOOPER, TYLER JOHN-
SON, AND ALEXANDER MAURITS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Samuel Hickenlooper, Tyler Johnson, and Alexander Maurits for designing the 8th District of Ohio's winning application for the 2014 Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Competition, "The House App Contest." The three Ross High School students developed a mobile app called, "The Cryptographer," which allows users to teach themselves various types of digital encryption and decryption. Their entry was selected from many submitted throughout the 8th District of Ohio. Entries were reviewed by an independent panel of judges and evaluated based on innovation, appeal, production quality, and presentation.

This year marked the first year of the Congressional STEM Competition. Established by this House in 2013, the competition is a nationwide event that engages students' creativity and encourages their participation in STEM education fields. Our first competition in the 8th District could not have been a success without this year's judges: Dr. James Kiper; Dr. Cathy Bishop-Clark; Mike Stahr; and Kurt Johnson. I would like to thank them for their service throughout this year's competition, and for their continued dedication to STEM education.

Education in the STEM fields is critical to preparing America's students to enter a competitive global economy. STEM fields are the future of job creation in this country, and I appreciate how competitions and opportunities, such as the Congressional STEM Competition, encourage our young people to take on technical challenges that will help them develop proficiency in these areas. As I've said before, we can't have a strong economy without preparing the next generation to fill the jobs and drive the innovations that will keep America competitive.

Again, congratulations to this year's winners and thank you to all who participated in this year's competition. I look forward to seeing what innovations next year's Congressional STEM Competition will bring.

RECOGNIZING MS. ALIA EL-ASSAR

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Alia El-Assar, for her reception of an English Teaching Assistantship through the Fulbright Program. A student at Rollins Col-

lege, Ms. El-Assar traveled to Mexico in September 2013 where she will be teaching until May 2015.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is supported by the United States, participating foreign governments and the private sector. Established by Congress in 1946, the Program's purpose is to "build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world." Fulbright awardees are selected for academic excellence, professional achievements or demonstrated leadership in their fields.

I commend Ms. El-Assar for her commitment to education, and I thank her for representing the United States through the Fulbright Program in Mexico.

H.R. 4031

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 4031, a bill named the "Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014", because I don't throw babies out with the bathwater.

Let me explain. When our fellow Americans put on our country's uniform in service to our nation, we owe it to them to repay that service. When these Americans retire the uniform, as veterans they deserve everything a grateful nation can offer—our love, respect, gratitude and, just as importantly, the care and attention they may now need upon coming home.

Reports that the Department of Veterans Affairs failed to provide many of our veterans the care and service they have earned are more than disturbing, and if true, warrant decisive action. With facts in hand, our government must be prepared to move swiftly to right the wrong and hold people accountable.

H.R. 4031 is a bill which is being portrayed as a fix to the troubling reports of mismanagement and mistreatment at VA facilities. It is hardly that. H.R. 4031 would go well beyond giving the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to fire personnel in this particular case of potential mismanagement. This bill makes permanent and reactionary changes to longstanding rules governing the hiring and firing of people holding positions of public responsibility. It would paint responsible, hard-working public servants with the same brush as those who may have recklessly mismanaged VA services.

If H.R. 4031 became law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs could hire or fire someone based on a whim. It would forever and irreparably damage our ability to hire and retain the best and brightest based on merit and experience. This bill would bring back the dark days when hiring and firing decisions within our federal workforce were driven by political influence and patronage.

The vast majority of veterans will tell you that they have received the quality of care that they have earned and deserve at VA health centers. But anything less than 100 percent satisfaction for our veterans is not good enough. That's why we must swiftly and decisively investigate these alarming reports of mismanagement at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I will do anything and everything I can to live up to that standard. But I will not lump truly dedicated, hard-working public servants together with those who have failed in their fundamental obligation to serve and care for our veterans. I will not throw the baby out with the bathwater—and I do not believe America's veterans want us to do that either.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas.

As a longtime supporter of the Census Bureau's work and the American Community Survey, I urge the Committee to keep this survey as current law provides.

The ACS is a vital resource for all of us in Congress, the federal agencies, and private businesses.

The accurate, timely data collected through this survey is the basis for over \$415 billion allocated by the federal government to states and localities—over two-thirds of all federal grant funding.

Accurate data ensures that these federal dollars go where they are needed—and where Congress intended. This amendment would undermine the accuracy of the ACS and deprive our agencies of this vital information.

But it's not just government. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its members know the value of census data. The Chamber stated that "ACS data points are critical for business decision-making and long range planning."

Businesses from restaurants, to retailers, to developers know that accurate information about our population is critical for their marketing and expansion activity. This amendment would remove a crucial recourse that helps businesses expand and create jobs.

What's more, we know what would happen if this amendment passes.

In 2003, the Census Bureau tested a voluntary ACS to disastrous results. Response rates plummeted by at least 20 percent, and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

in 2012, the Bureau estimated that a voluntary survey maintaining the current reliability would cost taxpayers an additional \$120 million each year.

A voluntary response survey would especially undermine our information about rural areas and low-income households. The Census Project estimates that with the change proposed by this amendment, the Bureau could not publish data for up to 40 percent of all counties in the country.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to look beyond the quick headline or talking point, and truly understand the importance of the American Community Survey.

For policymakers, for researchers, for businesses—this data set helps answer our most pressing questions.

This misguided amendment will undermine the ACS and deprive all Americans of this critically important information.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JAMES WARREN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it brings me sadness and honor to pay final tribute to Lieutenant Colonel James Warren, USAF (Retired). He died Saturday, May 17, 2014, of cancer in Vacaville, California. He was 90.

James served 35 years in the United States Air Force during World War II, Korea and Vietnam as a Tuskegee Airman, the first African American aviators in the United States Armed Forces. During his distinguished career, James flew over 12,000 hours and 173 combat missions. He was the first navigator to bring home a group of American POWs from North Vietnam aboard "Homecoming One," and flew the Apollo 14 crew from splashdown near American Samoa back to the Manned Space Center in Houston, Texas. Throughout this extensive career James was awarded numerous medals for his exceptional service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Medal with eleven Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

James Warren was a man of humble beginnings, born on August 16, 1923, into the racially segregated world of Gurley, Alabama. His mother worked hard to save enough money to buy him a bus ticket to Highland Park, Illinois, when he was 15 years old.

After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the aviation cadet program, arriving at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama in November of 1942. Soon after in March of 1943, James was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Force, later graduating from Hondo Navigation School in August of 1944 and assigned to the 477th Bombardment Group, Medium.

Unfortunately despite his extensive military accomplishments, James' biggest battles were to break down the barriers of segregation. In 1945, James and his fellow African American members of the 477th attempted to integrate an all-white Officers' Club at Freeman Army Air Field. The incident led to the arrest of 102 officers, including one of its instrumental lead-

ers, Lt Col Warren. This incidence is generally regarded by Civil Rights historians as a seminal moment in the drive toward full integration of the Armed Forces and later as a model for civil disobedience of the Civil Rights Movement.

For seven decades, Lt Col Warren was a living legend as a proud American, a decorated veteran, and as both a member and representative of the valiant Tuskegee Airmen. Even in retirement James continued his selfless service, tirelessly promoting the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen and all African American participation in armed conflicts across the globe and sharing his infectious passion for flight with the next generation of Vacaville youth.

The challenges he faced, fought for, and overcame are a true inspiration.

I invite my colleagues to join me as I offer my condolences to his loving family, Xanthia, his wife of 61 years, and sons, James, Stewart and Dwayne and daughter, Sharron. He will be greatly missed. His legacy will live on as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

I wish Lieutenant Colonel James Warren "high flight."

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF ANNANDALE-SPRINGFIELD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Shepherd's Center of Annandale-Springfield (SCAS) and to thank its volunteers for their many contributions to the Northern Virginia community. Established in 2004 by a coalition of religious institutions, foundations and non-profits, SCAS is a non-profit interfaith organization that provides services to help older adults continue living independently. SCAS also offers programs that supply opportunities for enrichment, learning, and socialization. Services are available free of charge to anyone age 50 or older who resides in the local community.

The services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration, and availability of resources for older residents to use their experience, training, and skills in significant roles in society. SCAS volunteers provide transportation for seniors who need rides to medical appointments and other essential activities, "Handy Helper" services for seniors who need help with basic household tasks, and "Friendly Calls" to home-bound seniors. Social and enrichment programs include bi-monthly luncheons featuring musical programs or guest speakers, day trips to local areas of interest, and educational seminars.

Last year, SCAS volunteers, board members and staff devoted approximately 2800 hours of their time to serve our seniors. Drivers provided 253 rides for local seniors, taking them mostly to medical appointments. More than 225 lunches were served at six Lunch N' Life programs. 63 seniors enjoyed day trips to

local attractions, and 86 attended seven-week sessions of Adventures in Learning on subjects such as A History of the Early Christian Church, The Civil War, Going Green, The War of 1812 and other Lesser Known Wars, Up In Space and Under the Sea, and other topics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Shepherd Center of Annandale-Springfield for the services which enable older adults in our community to age in place and enjoy their golden years with dignity and independence. I thank the many volunteers and sponsors who generously dedicate their time, efforts and resources to the welfare of our neighbors. The value of their contributions cannot be overstated and are deserving of our highest praise.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN ANGELO "ABE" BARONE FOR RECEIPT OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Angelo "Abe" Barone, a native of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, for his outstanding military service during World War II. Mr. Barone served as a machine gunner with in the U.S. Army's 80th Division in the European theater. He bravely fought in seven battles, including the Battle of Normandy, and helped in liberating France from Nazi occupation. On September 5, 1944, Mr. Barone was injured in combat and captured the following day by German forces. He was held as a prisoner of war for eight months.

In recognition of his heroic service on French soil, Mr. Barone was named a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor by France. Mr. Barone received the medal from Consul General of France Olivier Serot Alm  ras at a ceremony at the French Embassy in Washington, DC on May 8, 2014. He was one of 15 veterans to receive the honor. The Legion of Honor, created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, is the highest military distinction offered by France.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Barone for his courageous service during the Second World War. And I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Barone for his having been designated a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

IN MEMORY OF DR. MAYA
ANGELOU

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of an exceptional individual whom I had the distinct pleasure to meet—a great artist and compassionate intellectual, Dr. Maya Angelou. With extraordinary compassion, Dr. Angelou used her art to portray communities, conditions, and individuals that were often overlooked by mainstream society.