

Forest land give me great concern. While this legislation made important improvements over previous versions, motorized/mechanized corridors including at Germania Creek divide one of the nation's most pristine wilderness areas and reduces the habitat available to vulnerable wildlife.

In order to provide stronger protection for pristine wilderness in Idaho and other parts of the Northern Rockies, I have introduced the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA)—which would designate 23 million acres of roadless lands as permanent wilderness. This bill would protect vulnerable habitats, connect biological corridors, and restore habitats that have been damaged by road construction and clear cutting.

I am pleased to see Congress turn its attention to the Northern Rockies, but hope that Members will recognize the significant shortfalls of H.R. 1138. As it is considered in the Senate, this legislation should be amended to preserve one of the largest roadless wilderness areas in the lower 48 states, as well as grant protection to additional areas in the Northern Rockies identified in NREPA.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, the House voted on H.R. 675, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015, a bipartisan bill that protects veterans' benefits from inflation. I was unavoidably detained; however, if I had been present, I would have voted in favor of this much needed legislation.

Veterans and their families have sacrificed greatly for our country, and it is unacceptable that so many military families are struggling every day to make ends meet. These brave individuals should never be faced with the difficult choice of either paying their bills or feeding their families. As the greatest country in the world, we have a moral obligation to fix this situation and provide veterans with the compensation and support they deserve. I believe this bill is a strong first step in the right direction.

Today, I applaud my colleagues in Congress for voting in favor of struggling veterans, disabled former service members, and their families by supporting the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015. Moreover, I ask my fellow Members of Congress to continue advocating for our veterans by encouraging companies to hire vets while also addressing the systemic problems within the VA healthcare system.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS GRIFFIN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Griffin, a very intelligent,

talented, and motivated member of my staff who transitions this week from my office to begin law school next month at the University of Oregon.

Hailing from Central Oregon, Thomas was born at Mountain View Hospital where his mom was a pharmacist. He was raised on a third generation family farm between Culver and Lake Billy Chinook and became involved in the family grass and vegetable seed company.

Thomas graduated from Culver High School, where he was a state champion in football, student body president, and valedictorian of his class of 54. He was also involved in the FFA, rising to be President of the state organization in March of his senior year in high school.

He spent the next year on the road, visiting more than 50 FFA chapters and facilitating agricultural leadership and awareness workshops for over 5,000 high school students. It was through FFA that Thomas made his first trip to Washington, D.C., and first met me during the state convention in La Grande in 2009.

After his dedicated leadership as FFA state president, Thomas started college at Oregon State in 2009. He followed in the footsteps of his parents, both proud Beaver alums. He graduated in 2012 with a degree in environmental economics, policy and management, and a minor in agricultural business management.

I originally hired Thomas as an intern in my office, and since then he has served in my office as a Legislative Correspondent and currently as a senior Legislative Assistant. When Thomas first applied for an internship, he was recommended to me by several top leaders in the agricultural community. Once he started, I quickly took note of Thomas's dedication, work ethic, and passion for serving constituents in Oregon's Second Congressional District. This led me to hire Thomas to work in my office full time after he graduated from Oregon State. In my office, he quickly acclimated to the multifaceted job he was hired to tackle.

Thomas has been assisting me primarily on issues related to federal agriculture, forestry, natural resources, and water policy. With 53 percent of the land in Oregon being owned and managed by the federal government, these issues are of critical importance to the economy and people in my congressional district. Thomas's good work and assistance helped me pass federal forestry reform legislation through the House of Representatives for the first time in nearly 10 years, in addition to several other pieces of legislation that were Oregon focused.

As Thomas proved that he was capable of handling more responsibility in my office, he has since added other issue areas to his legislative portfolio including education, trade, energy, and financial services. I have been impressed as Thomas has approached these new responsibilities with a can-do attitude, demonstrating a high level of commitment and integrity. Thomas has my complete confidence in his abilities, something I hear echoed from my Chief of Staff and others that he works with.

Now, Thomas is headed to the University of Oregon for law school. He plans to focus on environmental and business law to help ensure that our farmers, ranchers, and foresters can focus on what they do best: producing the best food, fiber, and fuel in the world.

On a personal note, as a dedicated Oregon Duck myself, I am eager to see Thomas—a lifelong Oregon State Beaver—join our proud Duck community.

Thomas will be sorely missed by me and my team, but we plan to stay in close touch and will enjoy seeing his successes down the road. With that, Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Thomas the best of luck as he heads West and "Go Ducks!"

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 467, 468, and 469. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on each.

HONORING CARL JENSEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Carl Jensen, founder of Project Censored, who passed away on April 23, 2015.

Mr. Jensen was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1929, the only child of Danish and Swedish immigrants. His family moved to Northern California at the outbreak of World War II, settling in Arcata in Humboldt County. Throughout his career and life, he lived many places including Europe, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and eventually to Cotati in 1973 where he met his wife Sandra while teaching at Sonoma State University. Prior to his time in academia Jensen served his country as an Air Force intelligence officer in Puerto Rico during the Korean War. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Sherman Jackson of Crescent City and John Jensen of Lucerne, and two daughters, Lisa Jensen of Monterey and Pia Jensen.

Mr. Jensen was a professor emeritus of Sociology and Communications Studies at Sonoma State University in California and author of *Censored—The News That Didn't Make the News and Why* (from 1976 to 1996), *20 Years of Censored News* (1997), and *Stories That Changed America: Muckrakers of the 20th Century* (2000). He founded Project Censored, the internationally recognized media research project, in 1976.

Project Censored has remained a distinguishing aspect of the university's curriculum for 39 years. Jensen's pioneering program of hands-on student training in independent journalism has now been adopted at dozens of college and university campuses across the country and around the world. And today, Project Censored is the longest running research project on news media censorship. A true and lasting achievement to be sure.

His legacy is not fully encompassed by his published work. It also includes the hundreds of undergraduate students, at Sonoma State and in classrooms across the nation, who research news stories from the independent

press to determine if those stories were censored in the corporate media. Mr. Jensen has had a profound and lasting impact on hundreds of students in the 5th District and around the country.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time to acknowledge the life and accomplishments of Carl Jensen, a true leader, patriot, and defender of the first amendment. May he rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT PITTENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Votes #467, 468 and 469, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call #467. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call #468. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call #469. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

COMMENDING MRS. GLENDA PITTMAN FOR HER INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN THE COMPLETION OF "THE HUB," THE NEW SENIOR CENTER IN COLVILLE, WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Glenda Pittman, of Colville, Washington for her tireless commitment to Eastern Washington. Starting in 2000, Mrs. Pittman began raising money for the "Meals on Wheels" program. Due to her widespread success feeding countless seniors, she offered her leadership to raise money for a new senior center. After years of fundraising, Glenda helped raise the funds necessary to purchase the land and on March 7, 2015, "The Hub" opened its doors to the community.

Glenda and her husband, Glen moved to Colville, Washington nearly 50 years ago. As local business owners, the Pittman's life-long dedication to their community began when they opened the first convenient store in Orient, Washington.

In March of 2006, Glenda began raising money for the new senior center. Glenda and her sister, JoAnna began hosting popular wine tasting galas. After an incredibly successful first gala, these events became an October tradition. Eventually, Glenda expanded her fund raising efforts to include an autumn pinochle tournament, bake sales, bingo, and a partnership with Schwan's Food Company.

Thanks to Mrs. Glenda Pittman's leadership, the senior community center broke ground in April of 2014, with an open house and dedication. Today, a brand new building valued at \$1.1 million offers seniors meals, health and wellness activities, and recreational opportuni-

ties, including games and activities. "The Hub" is also used for weddings, parties, and meetings.

This effort took representatives from the entire Colville community, including local foundations, businesses, and a community block grant. The community effort is highlighted by Glenda's motto: We work as a "TEAM"—Together Everyone Accomplishes More.

So today, I rise to acknowledge and thank Mrs. Glenda Pittman for her years of dedication and hard work. I also want to congratulate her—her leadership in Colville encouraged an entire community to band together, supporting Eastern Washington's seniors. Due to Glenda's genuine care and involvement in the community, Colville has a brand new building, "The Hub" that will unite their community together for generations to come.

THE PRICE OF FETAL PARTS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

[From the Washington Post, July 23, 2015]

(By Charles Krauthammer)

Planned Parenthood's reaction to the release of a clandestinely recorded conversation about the sale of fetal body parts was highly revealing. After protesting that it did nothing illegal, it apologized for the "tone" of one of its senior directors.

Her remarks lacked compassion, admitted Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards. As if Dr. Deborah Nucatola's cold and casual discussion over salad and wine of how the fetal body can be crushed with forceps in a way that leaves valuable organs intact for sale is some kind of personal idiosyncrasy. On the contrary, it's precisely the kind of psychic numbing that occurs when dealing daily with industrial scale destruction of the growing, thriving, recognizably human fetus.

This was again demonstrated by the release this week of a second video showing another official sporting that same tone, casual and even jocular, while haggling over the price of an embryonic liver. "If it's still low, then we can bump it up," she joked, "I want a Lamborghini."

Abortion critics have long warned that the problem is not only the obvious—what abortion does to the fetus—but also what it does to us. It's the same kind of desensitization that has occurred in the Netherlands with another mass exercise in life termination: assisted suicide. It began as a way to prevent the suffering of the terminally ill. It has now become so widespread and wanton that one-fifth of all Dutch assisted-suicide patients are euthanized without their explicit consent.

The Planned Parenthood revelations will have an effect. Perhaps not on government funding, given the Democratic Party's unwavering support and the president wishing it divine guidance. Planned Parenthood might escape legal jeopardy as well, given the loophole in the law banning the sale of fetal parts that permits compensation for expenses (shipping and handling, as it were).

But these revelations will have an effect on public perceptions. Just as ultrasound altered feelings about abortion by showing the image, the movement, the vibrant livingness of the developing infant in utero, so too, I suspect, will these Planned Parenthood rev-

elations, by throwing open the door to the backroom of the clinic where that being is destroyed.

It's an ugly scene. The issue is less the sale of body parts than how they are obtained. The nightmare for abortion advocates is a spreading consciousness of how exactly a healthy fetus is turned into a mass of marketable organs, how, in the words of a senior Planned Parenthood official, one might use "a less crunchy technique"—crush the head, spare the organs—"to get more whole specimens."

The effect on the public is a two-step change in sensibilities. First, when ultrasound reveals how human the living fetus appears. Next, when people learn, as in these inadvertent admissions, what killing the fetus involves.

Remember. The advent of ultrasound has coincided with a remarkable phenomenon: Of all the major social issues, abortion is the only one that has not moved toward increasing liberalization. While the legalization of drugs, the redefinition of marriage and other assertions of individual autonomy have advanced, some with astonishing rapidity, abortion attitudes have remained largely static. The country remains evenly split.

What will be the reaction to these Planned Parenthood revelations? Right now, to try to deprive it of taxpayer money. Citizens repelled by its activities should not be made complicit in them. But why not shift the focus from the facilitator to the procedure itself?

The House has already passed a bill banning abortion after 20 weeks. That's far more fruitful than trying to ban it entirely because, apart from the obvious constitutional issue, there is no national consensus about the moral status of the early embryo. There's more agreement on the moral status of the later-term fetus. Indeed, about two-thirds of Americans would ban abortion after the first trimester.

There is more division about the first trimester because one's views of the early embryo are largely a matter of belief, often religious belief. One's view of the later-term fetus, however, is more a matter of what might be called sympathetic identification—seeing the image of a recognizable human infant and, now, hearing from the experts exactly what it takes to "terminate" its existence.

The role of democratic politics is to turn such moral sensibilities into law. This is a moment to press relentlessly for a national ban on late-term abortions.

HONORING ADA'S LEGACY, BUILDING FOR ITS FUTURE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend our nation celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Since its enactment in 1990, this seminal law has not only benefited millions of persons with disabilities; it has benefited every American. Today, we are a stronger, more diverse, fairer, and more accessible society thanks to the ADA.

One part of our daily lives where the law's achievements are particularly visible is in public transportation. Mr. Michael P. Melaniphy, president and CEO of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), captured the hope and promise of the ADA in an essay