

several terms on the town council and as mayor of Metaline Falls. He has served on the boards of numerous community organizations and was instrumental in the construction and expansion of a medical clinic in Lone, Washington. Herb sadly passed away in 2005. George, now 84, continues to run the store their father founded. The massive contributions of these three men cannot be overstated—the scale and duration of their positive influence on the communities of Pend Oreille County goes beyond that of ordinary citizens.

So today, I rise to recognize George Kubota and his sons Herb and George for their dedication to family, community, and country. They have continuously gone above and beyond as citizens and public servants, and for all their accomplishments and service, we are grateful for their positive impact on Eastern Washington.

STOP DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING FOR WOMEN'S SERVICES ACT STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing, along with my colleague Representative SUZANNE BONAMICI, the Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Services Act. This important bill protects the rights of women seeking family planning services.

Women deserve to receive comprehensive, impartial, and medically accurate information when making personal health decisions. Unfortunately, there are so-called Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) that deliberately misinform or mislead women seeking information on family planning services. They pose as sources of unbiased pregnancy counseling, using deceptive propaganda to dissuade women from considering comprehensive birth-control options or legal abortion. These fake reproductive health clinics entice women through their doors under the pretense of providing the full range of reproductive options and services, and this bill would expose their deceptive tactics.

The Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Services Act directs the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate rules under the Federal Trade Commission Act, declaring it an unfair or deceptive act for an entity, such as a crisis pregnancy center, to advertise as a provider of abortion services if the entity does not provide abortion services.

Clearly, deception and intimidation have no place when a woman is seeking information about her pregnancy. Working together we can help stop the fraud and confusion these Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) are perpetrating on the women of America.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation—because women deserve access to the best, most comprehensive healthcare information. Women need and deserve accurate and comprehensive information when making personal decisions about family planning, and so-called Crisis Pregnancy Centers provide neither. Our legislation would expose and stop deceptive and false advertising from CPCs.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD ALFRED THOMAS, LONGEST SERVING AND GREATEST PATROL OFFI- CER IN THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to retired Senior Police Officer Edward Alfred Thomas of Houston, Texas, one of the first African American police officers to integrate the Houston Police Department and the longest serving in the Department's history.

So well, so ably, and so honorably did Officer Thomas serve the citizens of Houston that last month the Houston City Council voted unanimously to rename the Houston Police Department headquarters building as the "Edward A. Thomas Houston Police Department Headquarters Building."

This honor is well deserved because, as Houston Police Chief Charles McClelland has said, Officer Edward Alfred Thomas "is the epitome of what every police officer should be" and that it is both fitting and proper that "a man of his stature, character and outstanding ethics and morals be given this honor."

Mr. Speaker, Edward Alfred Thomas was born near Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1920 and went on to attend Southern University in Baton Rouge, where he played football before being drafted to the military during World War II, where he saw action with the U.S. Army at Normandy, in northern Africa, and during the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war and his honorable discharge from the Army, Edward Thomas became one of the first African American police officers in the city of Houston when he joined the Houston Police Department on January 12, 1948 and where he remained for the next 63 years until his retirement on July 23, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Thomas' more than six decades of hard work and courage paved the way for the hundreds of additional African American and officers of color who followed, including the current Houston Police Chief, Charles McClelland.

Although Officer Thomas enjoyed a long and distinguished career, this is not to say it was easy or without challenges, especially given the fact that Officer Thomas joined the Houston Police Department in 1948, more than 15 years before the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

When he began his career Officer Thomas was assigned to foot patrol at night patrolling the African American neighborhoods of Houston, the Third, Fourth and Fifth Wards.

Because of his race, Officer Thomas was not allowed to drive a squad car or to arrest White suspects without obtaining permission from his supervisor and at one point in his career, he was disciplined for speaking to a White meter maid who asked him to walk with her in order to avoid the unwanted attention and advances of nearby construction workers.

In those early years, Officer Thomas was not allowed to congregate with his white counterparts, he could not attend roll calls with white officers, and he could not eat in the cafeteria.

But Officer Thomas persevered and helped pave the way for many other African American police officers, like Chief McClelland and the more than 1,000 African American police officers who today comprise about 20 percent of the Houston Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, naming the 26-story headquarters building of the Houston Police Department after Officer Edward Alfred Thomas is a fitting tribute to a man who is, unarguably, one of the greatest police officers in the history of the Houston Police Department and remains one of the most revered and respected.

During his years of service to the city of Houston, Officer Thomas was named The 100 Club's "Officer of the Year," awarded a Chief of Police Commendation by former Chief of Police Lee P. Brown; and recognized twice by The 100 Club with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998 and 2011, respectively; and has received many letters of appreciation from citizens and supervisors.

Mr. Speaker, the renaming of the Houston Police Department headquarters building in honor of Officer Thomas was supported by the Houston Police Officer's Union (HPOU), the African American Police Officer League (AAPOL), Houston Police Organization of Spanish Speaking Officers (OSSO), and the Houston Organization of Public Employees (HOPE).

Chief McClelland is absolutely correct in noting that there could be no finer tribute to any patrol officer than to name the headquarters building in honor of "a patrol officer for 65 years who underwent intense, systemic discrimination," and to have his name on the building as an inspiration and example for others to follow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POSTAL INNOVATION ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the United States Postal Service (USPS) provides universal connectivity all across the country and a low cost delivery service that not just individual families rely on, but businesses of all sizes.

However, the Postal Service faces growing financial problems attributable to burdensome mandates in existing law and the continued decline in mail service volumes. As a result, the Postal Service is hard-pressed to identify cost-saving initiatives that can alleviate their financial woes while at the same time maintaining their high quality of service.

That is why I have introduced the Postal Innovation Act of 2015, which will authorize the Postal Service to take simple, common-sense steps towards modernization such as updating its fleet of vehicles to align with updated environmental and safety standards, and broadening its services to reflect the evolving demands of today's consumers.

The Postal Service must be given the flexibility to innovate and provide its customers modern services. By offering basic financial services, internet connectivity, and the ability to ship beer, wine, and spirits, this Act will allow the Postal Service to not only raise revenue, but remain a cornerstone of American communities.

In addition to raising revenue and increasing services to meet consumer demands, upgrading to energy efficient technology can reduce the postal fleet's carbon emissions while simultaneously cutting costs. This is critical because the federal government ought to lead by example, not lag decades behind. Further, implementing cutting-edge active safety and crash avoidance technology across the postal fleet will make streets safer for all users in every community in America.

The Postal Service is a vast and sprawling enterprise that touches almost every household six days a week. We will all benefit from preserving and improving this vital piece of America's infrastructure and fabric of life.

SUPPORT AN END TO CORRUPTION IN GUATEMALA

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, a surge of unaccompanied child migrants from Central America was front-page news. Although that humanitarian crisis at our borders appears to have abated, the difficulties and life-threatening challenges faced by many citizens in Central America continue. The region urgently needs support in order to address the root causes of outmigration—economic and social inequality, insecurity and injustice.

It is encouraging that the Obama Administration has worked with the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to present a request for \$1 billion to tackle the structural and multidimensional causes of migration through investments and programs to create jobs, expand education and social protection, strengthen public security and the judicial system, and improve transparency and efficiency in public administration. Congress is now considering this aid package in the House and Senate versions of the FY 2016 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bills. While I support the overall amount of the request, I do have concerns about how best to target funds so that they reach vulnerable and poor communities, and especially youth and families in those communities, who are most in need of support, while at the same time strengthening human rights and judicial systems in each of these countries.

In this context, I believe it is important to focus attention on the situation in Guatemala, which today is facing a critical juncture. Recent revelations of cases of widespread and deep-seated corruption in Guatemala raise serious concerns about the capacity of that government to be an effective partner in reducing poverty and inequality in the region. Evidence of massive and shameless looting of the state by high level Guatemalan officials in the Perez Molina government, the legislature and political parties has sparked a remarkable citizen mobilization. What started as urban, middle-class protests organized through social media networks has morphed into nationwide demonstrations demanding the resignation of President Perez Molina, and the immediate passage and implementation of fundamental reforms to electoral, judicial, civil service, and procurement systems. Some are calling for a 'government of national renovation' as a tran-

sition to begin to renew the political leadership and help restore citizen confidence in government.

I want to honor this unprecedented, continuing, and fearless rise of the Guatemalan people—students, people of all ethnic and religious groups, civil society organizations, and ordinary citizens of all ages are coming together with a common agenda against corruption and in favor of reform. That said, I note that frustration is growing as proposed reforms supported by the National Platform for Reform of the State—a coalition of over 100 civil society and academic organizations—are not progressing as demanded. And there are legitimate concerns expressed by civil society organizations that national elections scheduled for September 6th will take place in an environment that will enable fraud through illicit financing and in which threats will be used to intimidate voters. In this crucial moment, every citizen who is speaking out peacefully needs to be protected, defended and encouraged.

I also want to recognize the brave and excellent work of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala, CICIG, whose technical capacity has supported the bold investigative initiatives undertaken by the Guatemalan Attorney General's office to uproot corruption. When CICIG was established in 2007, it was described as a choice between the past and future. Guatemala recognized that it needed help controlling illegal, clandestine and corrupt power structures in the post-conflict years. CICIG is now at the heart of this challenging but potentially promising moment in Guatemala's history. Together with civil society and some dedicated leaders in Guatemala's justice system, the good women and men of CICIG are playing a critical role in helping move Guatemala towards justice and a better future. They, too, need protection and encouragement to keep up the good work.

Clearly, the next few weeks and months are critically important as the Guatemalan people work to figure out how to best address the challenges they face. At this important juncture, I urge the Obama Administration, including our U.S. diplomats and other agency representatives in Guatemala, to do their utmost to support Guatemalan civil society efforts to hold their own government accountable. Over the next weeks and months we will see whether Guatemala is capable of carrying out real change and moving closer to establishing a just, accountable and increasingly secure, equitable and prosperous country for all its citizens.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. CASSIE WELCH

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Cassie Welch for her service to my office and the 21 Congressional District of California over the past year.

Ms. Welch was born in Savannah, Tennessee to Donnie and Marilyn Welch. After spending her youth in Savannah and completing her high school education, Ms. Welch attended the University of North Alabama, where she received a Bachelor's of Science in

Biology, Mississippi State University, where she received a Master's of Science in Animal Nutrition, and the University of Idaho, where she received a Doctorate of Philosophy in Animal Physiology.

After completing her education, Ms. Welch accepted a Fellowship in my Washington, D.C. office through the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Federation of Animal Science Societies. During her time in my office, she handled several legislative portfolios, including agriculture, animal rights, budget, housing, labor, natural resources, and social security.

On August 21, 2015, Ms. Welch's time in my office will come to an end. Ms. Welch will be moving to Iowa to begin the next chapter of her life. While I know she is very excited about her upcoming journey, she will be greatly missed as a member of my team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Cassie Welch for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her well in this next chapter of her life.

RECOGNIZING THE BRANSON FFA TRAP TEAM'S NATIONAL CHAM- PIONSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Branson High School Future Farmers of America Trap Team on their senior division championship win and overall third place victory at the 2015 Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship.

The Senior Division team, made up of Kennedy Mattox, Kory Gray, Jacob Anderson, Gage Dixon and Colten Calvert, hit 974 of 1,000 clay pigeons to take first place in their division. During the competition, Kennedy missed only one target, placing him above 697 other shooters to earn third place in the individual standings.

The Pirates' trap team earned a third place victory overall. It is the culmination of the Open Division team's fifth place victory, the Intermediate Advanced team's fourth place victory, the Intermediate Entry's third place victory and many other individual medals in sporting clays, handicap trap and regular trap.

The 2015 Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship had a record breaking number of entries, further showing the team's sharp skill and national achievement. The program is designed to use shooting sports to teach valuable skills such as sportsmanship, responsibility and teamwork to young individuals.

The Branson team, led by Coach Joe Henderson, has seen ample success in recent years and will compete at The American Trap Association's AIM Grand Nationals in August.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Branson High School FFA Trap Team for their accomplishments and hard work and in wishing them luck in their future endeavors.