

Whereas, Illegal fishing accounts for economic losses of billions of dollars per year globally, and millions of those lost dollars result from poaching in the Gulf of Mexico; such activity is largely conducted by foreign fleets at the expense of United States fishermen, coastal communities, and the sustainability of global fish stocks; and

Whereas, Illegal fishing is of particular consequence in Texas, where the Gulf Coast waters supply seafood for the American public and support the hospitality industry, tourism-related businesses, and the vibrant recreational and commercial fishing industry; not only does illegal fishing result in economic losses to the Texas fishing industry and other coastal businesses, but it also is a threat to the sustainability of our fisheries and to the Texas Gulf Coast ecosystem; and

Whereas, The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the United States Coast Guard are to be commended for their partnership in investigating and apprehending foreign vessels engaged in illegal activity along the Texas-Mexico border; and

Whereas, Foreign nationals fishing illegally in U.S. waters compete for local stock, and they disregard state and federal laws on catch limits; when they sell their fish in the United States, they can flood the market with a cheaper product; moreover, they often use banned longline netting that imperils marine mammals and sea turtles; and

Whereas, Vessels involved with illegal fishing are also associated with, other crimes, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal immigration, and the incursion by these foreign fishing vessels into U.S. waters constitutes a violation of our sovereignty; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas Legislature hereby express its commitment to the elimination of illegal fishing, to the long-term conservation of Texas marine resources, and to the protection of the Texas Gulf Coast fishing and coastal communities; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas House of Representatives hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to take action to protect our coastal borders and to end illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in our sovereign waters; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

**RECOGNIZING HARKLESS H.
HUTCHINGS**

HON. STEVE STIVERS
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harkless H. Hutchings, who passed away on August 1, 2015 at the age of 98. As a Colonel in the Ohio National Guard, I appreciate his dedicated service to his country during World War II.

Harkless was born in Rhodell, West Virginia on July 31, 1917. He attended Byrd-Prillerman High School in Amigo, West Virginia. Throughout his life, he attended many high school reunions to reacquaint with old friends.

Harkless began his service in World War II in the Army and later went into the Air Force. He fought bravely in the Pacific Islands throughout World War II. Harkless tragically stepped on a landmine causing him to lose 80 percent of his hearing and sustain severe injuries to his feet. Harkless was sent to a special hospital in Arizona to treat his injuries. During his time in Arizona, he met many famous film stars of his era, including Clark Gable, Bette Davis and Joan Crawford.

Harkless lived an extraordinary life of service to his community and country.

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill and the underlying Iran nuclear agreement.

Despite entering these negotiations from a position of strength, the deal before us fails to achieve the goal of preventing Iran's capacity to develop a nuclear weapon. It simply contains or manages Iran's nuclear program.

By agreeing to a lax enforcement and inspection regime and fanciful, unrealistic "snap back" sanctions, the Administration has accepted that Iran should remain one year away from a nuclear bomb. I am not prepared to accept that.

The sanctions relief will provide Iran with billions of dollars—funds that will bolster the Revolutionary Guard and non-state militant groups.

This deal ends the conventional arms embargo and the prohibition on ballistic missile technology. Not only will this result in conventional arms flowing to groups like Hezbollah, it concedes the delivery system for a nuclear bomb.

This agreement will provide Iran with a nuclear infrastructure, a missile delivery system, and the funds to pay for it all.

By the way, the "I" in "ICBM" means "intercontinental." I don't believe that New Zealand and Mexico are the intended targets. The target would be us.

This deal cripples and shatters our current notion of nuclear non-proliferation. If Iran can enrich uranium, which they can do under this agreement, their Gulf Arab neighbors will likely do the same.

I do not want a nuclear arms race in the Middle East—a region of state instability and irrational non-state actors. And how will deterrence work under this scenario? I don't want to find out.

We should not reward the Ayatollahs with billions of dollars and sophisticated weapons in exchange for temporary and unenforceable nuclear restrictions.

Mr. Speaker, I have always supported a diplomatic solution to the Iran nuclear issue, but this is a dangerously weak agreement, and I urge my colleagues to reject it.

**TEXAS ADOPTED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1835**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make it known that the Texas House of Representatives through Robert Haney, the Chief Clerk of the House, has adopted House Resolution No. 1835 by Capriglione. This resolution expresses support for the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System.

And that's just the way it is.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, Many airports, especially those in congested urban areas, are near or over their capacities, and such inadequate infrastructure causes long delays, reduced customer service, negative impacts on the economy, and bottlenecks throughout our entire national air transportation system; and

Whereas, Implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) would help make air travel even safer and more convenient and environmentally friendly by enhancing the efficiency of airports and airspace procedures; and

Whereas, The long list of airport improvements encompassed in NextGen includes performance-based navigation flight procedures, improved surface management systems, reduced aircraft exhaust emissions, and technology upgrades that bolster all-weather access to airports; and

Whereas, Airport operators must be involved in the development of NextGen capabilities in and around their airports from inception to execution to ensure noise and other environmental factors that affect their communities are appropriately considered; and

Whereas, The latest Future Airport Capacity Task study prepared by the FAA indicates that many of the nation's busiest airports, including George Bush International Airport in Houston, will require new runways to meet projected capacity needs in the coming years even with NextGen, and these findings highlight the critical importance of taking all reasonable steps to reduce airport congestion; and

Whereas, Airports across the nation are ready to work with the FAA, industry partners, the communities they serve, and the U.S. Congress to implement NextGen in order to equip our air transportation system to meet the demands of the 21st century: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas Legislature hereby express its support for the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the administrator of

the Federal Aviation Administration, to the president of the Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS' VOICES
AWARD RECIPIENT MEGAN ALLEN

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Megan Allen of Ramsey for receiving a Veterans' Voices "On the Rise" Award.

At the age of seventeen, Megan enlisted in the Army National Guard and went on to serve two tours of duty in Iraq. Her twelve years of service in the National Guard has had a huge impact on Megan and inspired her to work to better her community. Megan currently spends an enormous amount of time volunteering for multiple organizations throughout the Twin Cities and metro areas striving to better the lives of the homeless communities and children in the area.

Among many non-profits Megan works with, she is most passionate about Girls on the Run, a program that promotes self-confidence and healthy choices for young girls. But this isn't the only program she helps. Megan also supports the Beyond the Line Yellow Ribbon Network, which lends a helping hand to veterans and members of our military before, during and after deployments.

I thank Megan for everything that she has done and continues to do for her community. Minnesota is a better place because of Megan, and she is truly deserving of this award.

RECOGNIZING ISAIAH CASINTAHAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate Isaiah Casintahan on his essay, "The Day that Launched a Better Future," published in the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II program for recognition of the Japanese surrender documents signing on the deck of the USS Missouri, I was honored to be a member of the Bipartisan Congressional Delegation led by Congressman RANDY FORBES and Congressman JOE COURTNEY of Connecticut to Pearl Harbor.

September 2, 2015, commemorates the 70th Anniversary to the end of hostilities between the United States and Japan. Over the past decades, Japan and America have built a strong relationship of trust and continue to work together to ensure a more peaceful world. Congratulations to Isaiah for discussing the history of this important relationship between our two nations.

BATTLESHIP MISSOURI MEMORIAL'S SEPTEMBER 2ND ESSAY CONTEST WINNER: ISAIAH CASINTAHAN, JAMES CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL "THE DAY THAT LAUNCHED A BETTER FUTURE"

On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was taken by surprise as hundreds of Japanese planes attacked the area. "A date which will live in infamy," as said by President Franklin Roosevelt in the wake of the attack. Following the tragedies of Pearl Harbor, the war continued where in August, 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; the first and last instances of nuclear weapons in war. About a month later, the war was brought to an official end when "Japanese officials (had) signed the act of unconditional surrender," aboard the USS Missouri, anchored at Tokyo Bay. The ship now sits moored in Pearl Harbor, facing the USS Arizona, as one of the bookends of that war. This year commemorates the 70th Anniversary to the end of hostilities, and though 70 years have passed, it is still of great relevance today. As peace was made on September 2, 1945, it is indeed "the day that launched a better future" between our nations.

But what exactly does an 'better future' entail for us? What has it meant for our nations? In past times, friction and distrust were present as our countries were at war, or dealing with the traumas thereafter. Both of our nations suffered from a great deal of losses as we endured the consequences of war. The attack on Pearl Harbor took the lives of over 2,500 people and wounded as many as 1,000 others. The bombing of Hiroshima "wiped out 90 percent of the city and immediately killed 80,000 people," thousands later dying of radiation exposure. The 'better future' that we live in today is a world no longer at war, but one enduring the peace between us.

Since the end of World War II, the United States and Japan have relied on each other as allies to recover from the repercussions of war. Over the past decades, we have worked together in order to mend the once frayed relationship between our nations and have built a stronger foundation for peace. For example, after Japan's defeat the United States "led the Allies in the occupation and rehabilitation of the Japanese state. Between 1945 and 1952, the U.S. occupying forces, led by General Douglas A. MacArthur, enacted widespread military, political, economic, and social reforms." These reforms improved economy by setting democratic standards to help those in poverty and implemented a new constitution that would improve the social and political systems by the same standards. Though some changes were reverted back after the Americans left, most are still in effect and support the peace between our nations today.

In addition our nations trust has been heavily reinforced since peace was rooted between us 70 years ago. Our trust for one another continues to evidently grow, as in recent news, the United States and Japan have proposed a new military agreement, in which Japan's military will have a more active role in global defense, bringing our nations closer. The proposal would allow Japan, "To defend regional allies that come under attack, a change that means Japanese missile defense systems could be used to intercept any weapons launched toward the United States." In other words, Japan could be taking part in aiding our defense. This is a big jump in Japan's military relations, as their military powers were limited under the new constitution implemented after World War II. It is found in Article 9 of their constitution that, "renounces war and prohibits Japan from maintaining the war potential."

Though changes were already made so that Japan could maintain their defense, the new proposal demonstrates the ample amount of trust that our nations now share and how our nations are moving forward through mutual respect.

In conclusion, since the end of World War II, our nations today have secured a strong relationship that has brought us into better days. The day that has launched us into our future, September 2, 1945, has allowed our nations to endure peace, no longer a World at War. The site of Pearl Harbor where we faced sorrowful losses, and the site of the USS Missouri, where we established peace, remind us why we must safeguard our peace, free from the tragedies of war.

COMMEMORATING THE SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 11, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year.

Since 1965, SERC has been the nation's leading research center for understanding coastal zones and the environmental issues they face. With coastal zones home to more than 70% of the world's people, SERC has been at the forefront of monitoring and studying these zones' unique ecosystems and the different factors that affect their health.

While their main research focuses on the areas of climate change, invasive species, biodiversity, land use, and pollution, SERC personnel are also involved in preparing the next generation of environmental scientists. Over the years, SERC has provided learning opportunities for students from kindergarten all the way through the post-doctoral level, partnering with over 150 colleges and universities to conduct professional training and a variety of hands-on experiences in the field.

Headquartered on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland's Fifth District, SERC encompasses more than 2,650 acres of land and twelve miles of protected shoreline. The scientists at SERC use this shoreline as a natural laboratory and model for long-term ecological research to study the way terrestrial, aquatic, and atmospheric components interact in complex ecosystems.

In 2009, I was a proud cosponsor of legislation that authorized a \$41 million expansion and renovation of SERC's Mathias Laboratory, the Smithsonian's first LEED-Platinum building. This sustainable research lab provides a larger space and more flexibility for scientists to explore cutting edge research in an environmentally responsible way. I had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the lab's reopening last year.

I am proud to celebrate this anniversary and ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for its contributions to our understanding of coastal environments and climate change—and saluting those who continue to carry out its important mission.