

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 758 the so-called “Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015” or LARA.

Congress has only seven legislative days left before the government shuts down and vital programs and departments are left unfunded. We should be debating and voting on budgetary measures to make sure that the government can still function and remains open. We are here instead, discussing a bill that has been introduced every Congress since 2011. Instead of voting on ways the government will stay open so we can continue to fund vital national priorities, we are here talking about legislation that does not solve any demonstrated need.

This bill seeks to fix the problem of frivolous lawsuits by enacting a law that used to exist and which judges themselves later rejected. A mandatory sanction of Rule 11 violations was an experiment that was tried in 1983 and was dismissed and abandoned just ten years later in 1993. Almost 100 percent of federal judges surveyed by the Federal Judicial Committee state that Rule 11 should not be altered in the way this Act envisions and 86 percent of judges think the existing rule is fine as is.

This bill will increase the cost and volume of cases and make it exponentially harder to advance civil rights suits. Landmark civil rights cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Griswold v. Connecticut*, and *Lawrence v. Texas* would not have survived if Rule 11 existed as this bill envisions. We should not put up barriers to continuing civil rights progress through the courts.

This bill is opposed by The American Bar Association, The Federal Judicial Center and countless other legal organizations. Their voices are clear: leave Rule 11 and judicial autonomy alone. Congress does not need to “fix” a problem that simply does not exist.

The Judiciary Committee report says that this law would “dispel the culture of fear that has come to permeate American society.” American society does not fear the existing process for Rule 11 sanctions. The American public is concerned about roads not being built, about the government shutting down, and about losing their health care coverage.

The American public does not want the government to shutdown. They have been there and done that. The last government shut down costs the American people \$24 billion dollars in lost economic output. That is why I introduced the Prevent a Government Shutdown Act of 2015. That is what we should be debating and voting on right now, Mr. Speaker. Not a law that was tried and rejected 22 years ago.

HONORING VIETNAM ERA VETERANS OF MAINE'S SECOND DISTRICT

HON. BRUCE POLIQUIN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I’m humbled by the opportunity to honor and welcome home our Vietnam Era Heroes to Northern Maine and take part in Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day.

I thank The County Vietnam Veterans, and their families, for the sacrifices they made to protect our freedoms and special way of life. The memory of their heroics will inspire Maine generations to come.

One of my true joys has been connecting with thousands of our Maine Veterans. I have had the honor to meet our local heroes from the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and in many more settings. Their patriotism, commitment to duty, humility and camaraderie inspire my own public service.

In June, at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, I had the privilege to help properly recognize and welcome home 1,000 of our Vietnam Veterans. It was an emotional gathering for our heroes who did all that was asked of them and served our Country with honor, but did not receive their due gratitude and respect from millions of Americans when they returned home. Our courageous servicemen in The County, Bangor, and throughout the state of Maine deserve our absolute and unwavering gratitude.

I stand with your fellow Mainers in thanks for all that you have given to our Country. We will never forget your bravery.

RECOGNIZING THE ROLIN FAMILY AS THE 2015 ESCAMBIA COUNTY FLORIDA, OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Rolin Family for being selected as the 2015 Escambia County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

SunnySlope Berry Farm, located in Pensacola, Florida, first began as a heifer farm, producing local dairy. However, after five years, Barry and Glenda Rolin decided it was time for a change, and the couple planted their first blueberry field in the winter of 2008. Once the blueberries had become a success, the Rolin family then planted several hundred blackberry canes, selling both berry varieties to local markets in Florida and neighboring Alabama. Finally, after a few years of allowing the crops

to flourish, the family opened up SunnySlope Berry Farm to the public. Now, families from the surrounding areas can build their own memories by coming to SunnySlope Berry Farm and picking their own berries.

The Rolin’s first planted berries to teach their children—Kendra, Amy, Starla, and Shawn—about responsibility; and today SunnySlope Berry Farms is truly a family affair. The children wake up every morning and finish their chores before heading into school. For Barry and Glenda, married for 23 years, a typical day includes picking berries until late morning, packaging and delivering berries midday, picking again until dark, and packaging the remainder at the end of the day. Although many people may be unaware of the amount of work that goes into SunnySlope, the community certainly appreciates everything the Rolin family does to keep the farm running, from producing delicious berries to creating priceless memories.

Mr. Speaker, Northwest Florida and our Nation share a proud agricultural tradition built by the hard work of farmers and their families. The Escambia County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award is a reflection of the Rolin’s tireless work and their dedication to family and farming. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Rolin family for being outstanding in their field. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSTAS CAFE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 65th anniversary of the establishment of Rostas Cafe. The restaurant, located in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, is a city landmark and has continually provided my constituents with a fantastic dining and community experience.

Rostas Cafe was founded by John “Kookie” and Grace Rostas in 1950. The cafe originally opened as a bar, serving only fresh, hot pizza to the public. A true family business, John and Grace’s daughter, Alfreda, became involved with her parent’s enterprise when she was a teenager. Upon John’s retirement, Alfreda and her husband, Tony Calucci, took over the restaurant. Tony’s father, Nick, expanded the menu options to include hoagies, sandwiches, sizeable antipastos, and salads.

Tragedy struck in March of 1994 when a fire devastated this Hazleton landmark, destroying the entire interior of the restaurant. Its patrons, faced with losing one of their favorite community gathering spots, called upon the restaurant to rebuild as soon as possible. In a miraculous feat, the cafe reopened in June of 1994, bigger and better than ever. Such a

● 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.

quick renovation is testament to the commitment and hard work of Alfreda and Tony Calucci, as well as the importance of the restaurant's role within the Hazleton community. Today, Rostas Cafe remains a Hazleton staple, and Melissa Calucci has joined her parents in adding to the restaurant's success and character.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Rostas Cafe as it celebrates its 65th anniversary. I am incredibly grateful for this community landmark that continues to bring generations of the Hazleton community closer together, and I look forward to the cafe's success over the years to come.

HONORING GARRETT NICHOLAS DOWNEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Garrett Nicholas Downey. Garrett is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Garrett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Garrett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Garrett has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Garrett Nicholas Downey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ALBERT "BUTCH" ARENAL

HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert "Butch" Arenal, retiring Chief of Police for the Punta Gorda Police Department in Punta Gorda, Florida.

For the past three decades, Butch has been a pillar in our Florida community. Born and raised in Charlotte County, Butch has dedicated his adult life to the Punta Gorda Police Department. He has been with the Department for almost 30 years, and has served as Chief of Police for eight of those years.

Under his leadership, the Department was awarded the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Small Business award as well as a number of other well-deserved accolades. Additionally, he will be sworn in as the President of the Florida Police Chief's Association, which is but a small testament of his leadership ability. As a member of Congress, it has been my pleasure to work with Butch professionally and get to know him personally.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for the Charlotte County Community as we say farewell to

Butch and wish him the best of luck as he joins Coconut Creek Police Department, they are truly lucky to have him.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY GABRIELE, THE OLDEST ITALIAN-AMERICAN IN THE HAZLETON AREA

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mary Gabriele as she is celebrated as the oldest Italian-American in the Hazleton Area, an honor bestowed upon her by the Hazleton Chapter of UNICO. UNICO is the largest Italian-American service and volunteer organization in the United States, and has a significant, positive impact within my congressional district.

On March 19, 1909, Mary was born to Nicholas and Tomasina Lauro in Medix Run, Pennsylvania. Her family moved to Hazleton Heights in 1916 where she was able to establish strong, communal roots. As one of nine children, Mary began working at the Duplan Silk Mill at the youthful age of 14. The fact that she committed long and arduous hours at the facility did not stop her from obtaining an education, however. She went on to impressively complete her studies at St. Gabriel's High School during the evenings—a feat symbolic of her tireless work ethic.

Mary married Nazario Gabriele in 1935, and the newly married couple moved to Peace Street in Hazleton. It was here where Mary and Nazario raised their four children: Carmel, Nicholas, Mary, and Thomasina. After dedicating years to her family, Mary returned to the workforce at numerous retail stores in the area, including Bon Ton, Leader, Dotte's, and Fashion Bug. Mary and Nazario were married for a wonderful 49 years before Nazario passed away in 1984.

Currently, Mary resides at Providence Place in Drums, where she remains active and enjoys visits from friends and her extended family, including five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mary Gabriele as the oldest Italian-American in the Hazleton Area. My community is extremely fortunate to have now called her a neighbor for close to 100 years. I hope she will be able to celebrate this monumental occasion in the company of her family and friends.

HONORING SEAN CHRISTOPHER McMULLEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Christopher McMullen. Sean is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Sean has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Christopher McMullen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT S. LAUBACH

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Robert Laubach, a pioneer in adult literacy and lifelong advocate of literacy and education. Dr. Robert Laubach, affectionately known as Dr. Bob, was born in the Philippines and lived there through his high school years. Dr. Bob moved to the United States and completed his undergraduate studies in Ohio. He went on to pursue graduate studies at Syracuse University where he earned a master's degree in journalism and a Ph.D. in education.

Dr. Bob developed his love of literacy and journalism at an early age, working the printing press for his dad's early literacy work. Dr. Bob traveled to over 40 countries in 5 years when he was in his twenties with his father and Dr. Bob carried his passion for literacy, both nationally and internationally for the rest of his life.

In 1952, Dr. Bob founded the Syracuse University Literacy Journalism program and taught hundreds of educators from around the world how to prepare literacy materials. Dr. Bob developed literacy primers in local languages and organized literacy programs in more than 60 countries. In 1959, Dr. Bob began publishing *News for You*, a weekly news source for adult new readers, which is still in publication today. Dr. Bob also founded New Readers Press, which develops and publishes instructional materials for adult learners and adult education teachers. Today, New Readers Press continues to provide over 400 educational titles that help adults learn how to read, write, and do basic math.

Dr. Bob was more than an educator, he was an innovator who helped change countless lives by giving the gift of literacy. Dr. Bob's legacy of literacy will live on in the Central New York community, and all over the world through the thousands of literacy organizations, tutors, trainers, volunteers, and students who continue to work toward his dream of a world where everyone can read and write.