

In other words, the conveners at COP 21 seek to protect our precious earth, address the nexus between our protection of precious earth to some of the natural disasters we are suffering and reach a consensus on how we leave our children their inheritance of the earth better than we found it.

Every day, hundreds of thousands of first responders heed the call during natural disasters to protect and serve the people of planet earth who find themselves at the mercy of mother-nature during natural disasters.

I hold in high regard the service of our first responders: firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency response technicians, nurses, emergency room doctors, and the dozens of other professionals and volunteers who are the ultimate public servants.

From Katrina to earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal, time and time again, first responders have put their lives and comfort on the line in order to rescue survivors, care for those in need, and prevent the further loss of life.

H.R. 3750 is very critical because it aims to reduce personal costs borne by first responders—people who help others in their time of need.

According to the Global Increase in Climate-Related Disasters, we face more frequent floods, storms, heat waves, and droughts which are connected to greater extremes in temperatures and rainfall.

Moreover, recent warnings by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, inform us that the global temperature is already halfway to the “two degree warming” threshold for limiting catastrophic climatic impacts.

As the evidence shows, unequivocally, the dedication of first responders is an integral part of bringing relief to parts of the world where natural disasters have struck.

I support this legislation and hope that as we move forward, we continue to engage in dialogue about the fact that:

Climate impacts are not just concerns for the distant future, but are already being felt by us and our children;

All countries, rich and poor are casualties of natural disaster, but the death toll is higher among the poor who are more likely to live in harm's way, such as in flood-prone areas; and

It is important to create structures that facilitate the swift deployment of first responders to people in dire need of disaster relief.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER SOLDATI ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM GREATER SOMERSWORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AFTER NINE AND A HALF YEARS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Ms. Jennifer Soldati on her retirement after more than nine years as Executive Director of the Greater Somersworth Chamber of Commerce, and thank her for the outstanding work she did during her career.

Throughout her time at the Chamber, Ms. Soldati fought for the interests of both large

and small businesses, and focused on promoting growth throughout the region. During her tenure with the City Council, she played a critical role in completing multiple renovation projects in downtown Somersworth, and it's clear that her knowledge, compassion and leadership will be greatly missed.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Jennifer Soldati on her retirement, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

HONORING FALLEN CHICAGO FIREFIGHTER DANIEL CAPUANO

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chicago Firefighter Daniel Capuano, who tragically lost his life while battling a blaze on Chicago's South Side on December 14.

Daniel Capuano began his career as a firefighter and paramedic in Lemont, Illinois, in 1997. During his time in Lemont he helped save the life of a caddy who had a heart attack while working at the Cog Hill Golf Course. In 2001, Capuano joined the Chicago Fire Department where he served for 15 years. Throughout his career, he was known for going above and beyond the call of duty. He was always working on making himself a better firefighter, including constantly taking outside classes to learn the latest and most effective firefighting techniques. Capuano was known for his commitment to safety and skill as a firefighter as he served as a training supervisor, ensuring that trainees navigated controlled burns safely.

A member of Tower Ladder 34, Daniel Capuano leaves behind his wife Julie—a Chicago Public Schools teacher—and three children, Amanda, Andrew, and Nick. Capuano was known for being a loving father who enjoyed watching his children play hockey. He was a constant presence at their games, only missing when he was at work. Capuano also assisted his children's team by helping out as the club manager and maintained a training building.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chicago Firefighter Daniel Capuano. A dedicated father, husband and firefighter, he was an example of the finest that Chicago has to offer. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the life of Daniel Capuano and extending condolences to his family.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644, TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act. This bill is an improvement on the previous version that I opposed in June.

For the past several years I have had many conversations with the people of Northwest Oregon about growing jobs and increasing exports. I've heard from workers, business owners, environmentalists, and others about the importance of enforcing and strengthening our existing trade laws and agreements. Strong trade facilitation and enforcement will keep other nations accountable for the labor and environmental standards we set and give the United States the ability to take swift action against those who seek to engage in unscrupulous trade practices.

The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act earned my support because it includes provisions that are important for my constituents and for employers in Oregon, and because it provides resources and tools to take action against trade cheats.

This bill incorporates the ENFORCE Act to require quick action on allegations of evasion of duties, dumping, and improper subsidies. A special enforcement fund would provide up to \$30 million each year dedicated to enforcing trade agreements and making sure trading partners meet their commitments.

It permanently establishes the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center to pursue across-agency enforcement of domestic trade rights and trade laws. There are also strong provisions to put an end to importation of products made by child and forced labor.

Oregon receives funding through the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant program to help small businesses find new markets for their products and boost job growth. This legislation reauthorizes STEP through 2020 and increases its funding to expand small business exports.

The Pacific Northwest is known for its great outdoors and recreational opportunities in the mountains, forests, beaches, rivers, and on the coast. Recreational outerwear businesses thrive in our region, marketing outerwear and active wear to sporting enthusiasts around the world. This legislation includes provisions that will make these products more competitive and reverse a scheduled increase in tariffs for small and medium-sized outdoor industry businesses.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, this is not a perfect bill, but it is a bipartisan compromise. On the heels of the historic Paris Climate Agreement, our nation will continue to lead the world in addressing climate change; the language in this legislation will not change that.

The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act is a step forward and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure that our nation has strong enforcement mechanisms to ensure our employers and workers can compete on a level playing field in the global economy.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE ROST

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Christine Rost of Hamburg, Iowa, for being selected to serve on the 2015–16 Region 17 4-H Youth Leadership Council. Region 17 includes Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, and

Pottawattamie counties. Christine is a student at Farragut High School and is an active member of the Washington PEP 4-H and the Fremont County 4-H Council.

The purpose of the Region 17 4-H Youth leadership Council is to provide leadership development experience to 4-H and council members. The council works to identify needs, share ideas, and develop a plan of action to help assist the area within Region 17. It is because of leaders like Christine that the 4-H program is so successful in teaching its members valuable life skills that will prepare them for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Christine for being selected to represent 4-H youth throughout southwest Iowa. It is Iowans like Christine that make me proud to represent our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Christine for this outstanding achievement and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today, December 17, 2015, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 703.

If I had been present, I would have supported H.R. 2029, the tax extenders portion of the fiscal year 2016 omnibus spending legislation.

I would have voted in favor of this legislation because it includes the extension of critical tax provisions that would help millions of American workers, students, families, and businesses. Critically, the bill makes permanent three key refundable tax credits: the child tax credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit. Combined, these tax credits will help 24 million working families. Additionally, it includes an extension of the research and development tax credit, a vital component of Massachusetts's innovation economy.

However this bill is far from perfect, and I am disappointed that Congress has shunned its obligation to ensure these cuts are offset. I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues in the months ahead to enact comprehensive reform that focuses on job creation and the growth of our middle class.

TRIBUTE TO EZRA SCHWARTZ

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to take a moment to remember Ezra Schwartz who, at only eighteen, was taken from us all too soon when he was killed just before the Thanksgiving holiday while volunteering in the West Bank. Ezra's grandparents, Mark and Heni Schwartz, have long been involved in New Haven's Jewish community and I am heartbroken for their loss.

Ezra was an extraordinary young man who had his whole life still ahead of him. Memories shared from those from every walk of his life shared a common theme—Ezra's kind heart, generous nature, and passion for making a difference. His vivacious character was contagious. He was dedicated to his family and his community, always striving to enrich the lives of others.

Ezra was an accomplished young man who loved teaching others. His father, Ari, recently recounted the many ways in which he helped his younger siblings as well as his time at New Hampshire's Camp Yavneh last summer, where he won an award for leading campers in the annual sing-off. Ezra's choice to join a yeshiva program, combining service with learning, did not surprise anyone who knew him.

Spending a "gap year" between high school and college studying at an Israeli yeshiva, Ezra was building a deeper connection to his ethnic and religious roots as well as volunteering his time to make a difference in the lives of others. His was a mission of compassion and humanitarianism and he was killed simply because he was Jewish.

Though we may never fully understand why Ezra was taken so soon, his family and friends can take comfort in the full life that he led while he was here. It is an honor and privilege for me to stand today to pay tribute to Ezra Schwartz and his extraordinary young life. I extend my deepest sympathies to his parents, Ari and Ruth; his siblings, Mollie, Hillel, Elon, and Avi; his grandparents, Mark and Heni; as well as his many family and friends at this most difficult time. Well known for his generosity and kind spirit, Ezra will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known him and will serve as an inspiration to others to make a difference in this world.

TRIBUTE TO LORI STONE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, California are exceptional. Lori Stone will be retiring from the March Joint Powers Authority after a distinguished career that spanned over 20 years.

Lori began working with the March Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in 1994 after stepping forward to utilize her local knowledge of military base reuse. She has served as the Executive Director of the JPA since being promoted in 2006. In addition to the 365-acre airport, the JPA oversaw the development of the 1,200-acre Meridian Business Park and over 600 acres of land for future development. Lori described her early days with JPA as a "learn as you go" process because of the lack of precedent with local, state, and federal agencies. Over the years, Lori has forged relationships with the Air Force, Army, Federal Aviation Administration, Navy, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist in furthering the goals of the JPA, March Air Reserve Base, and the Inland Empire region.

Lori has amassed a large and impressive list of accomplishments while working as Ex-

ecutive Director of the JPA. She successfully advocated for the passage of federal legislation to authorize a land swap between the Army, Navy and JPA allowing for the redevelopment of an area of March Air Reserve Base to be more comprehensive. Lori helped expand the local foreign trade zone outside of the JPA boundaries to help enhance the region's economic tools. Additionally, Lori spearheaded the US Vets project, securing investments of over \$10 million and locating 7.5 acres for the project. The undertaking will serve more than 100 homeless veterans and their families.

In light of all that Lori has done for the Riverside County community and the March Joint Powers Authority, it is only fitting that she be honored for her many years of dedicated service. Lori's tireless passion for our military and public service has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community. I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Lori on the celebration of her retirement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,798,211,680,628.12. We've added \$8,171,334,631,715.04 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG SACKETT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Craig Sackett, of Menlo, Iowa, for earning the American FFA Degree. Craig was recently awarded the degree at the National FFA Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky on October 31st. Craig was a member of the Nodaway Valley FFA Organization and is the son of Jeff and Laurie Sackett.

The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experience. Craig had to meet certain requirements, such as studying agriculture for three years in high school, earning money in an agriculture field, investing that money into business, participating in community service, and displaying a record of outstanding leadership ability and community involvement. Craig spent four years in high school working towards this ultimate goal, and through his hard work and determination he was able to achieve it.