

such as *Jaws*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *ET*, *Poltergeist*, *Goonies*, the *Color Purple*, *Schindler's List*, *Amistad*, *Lincoln*, *Saving Private Ryan* and *Jurassic Park* as well as the *Indiana Jones* movies, it is not surprising that Mr. Spielberg is the recipient of three Oscars, three Golden Globes, four Emmy Awards, and countless other awards and a myriad of prestigious nominations. He is the recipient of the AFI Lifetime Achievement Award and has been awarded the Federal Cross of Merit by the Federal Republic of Germany and as well as an honorary Knight Commanders of the Order of the British Empire for this work, amongst many other international honors. He is co-founder of Dreamworks Studios and Amblin Entertainment.

I believe in no uncertain terms, that Mr. Spielberg is our generations' most significant creator in the field of film. He understands the importance cinematography has on our society—especially on our children. That is why I commend his efforts in helping the National Boy Scouts of America develop a merit badge in cinematography. Mr. Spielberg has also taken his art and turned it into a passion for service, establishing the Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History at the University of Southern California to record testimonies of Holocaust survivors so that their stories may never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, for his timeless cinematic accomplishments transforming modern film, our culture, and our history, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Steven A. Spielberg.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 697, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 696, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 695, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

On Roll Call 694, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

HONORING THE LATE CHARLES NEWTON "NEWT" SCHENCK FOR HIS INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, community leaders and arts advocates from across the City of New Haven gathered to pay tribute to the late Charles Newton "Newt" Schenck and honor his legacy with the dedication of a plaque at the Audubon Arts Center in the heart of the City's Arts District. I am proud to take a moment today to stand and join the City and its arts community in honoring Newt for his outstanding contributions.

Today, the City of New Haven enjoys a thriving, vibrant arts community with local the-

aters, symphonies, and music education organizations as well as art studios and performance spaces providing learning and entertainment opportunities for all ages. At the epicenter of it all is the Audubon Arts District—the culmination of Newt Schenck's visionary leadership to breathe new life into a once-beleaguered area of downtown New Haven.

An attorney at Wiggin & Dana, Newt served on the City's Development Commission and was a dedicated patron of the arts. He helped found the Long Wharf Theater and led the City's Arts Council for many years. Newt understood the importance of balancing revitalization with preservation and it was through this paradigm that he worked to formulate and implement a master plan for what would become the Audubon Arts District.

For the better part of two decades, Newt worked to bring together the elements of his vision. He wanted the arts center to be a group of arts institutions that work together, where the whole is greater than its parts. He knew it should be mixed use with arts organizations, businesses, and residential housing. Older buildings would be preserved and repurposed and commercial development would return money to the arts.

Slowly but surely that vision became a reality. Today, Audubon is not only home to the Arts Council, but to Educational Center for the Arts, the Neighborhood Music School, the New Haven Ballet, and Creative Arts Workshop, as well as local businesses like Audubon Strings, the Foundry Music Company, the Silk Road Art Gallery, and Connecticut Public Radio. The plaza, which features beautiful sculptures designed by local artists, also has its own "walk of fame" with stars honoring New Haven arts leaders.

The plaque, designed and installed by Westville sculptor Gar Waterman, is a special tribute to Newt's legacy. Below a beautiful relief of a tree, it reads: "In honor of Charles Newton Schenck III, Attorney at Wiggin & Dana who, in collaboration with the City of New Haven, with vision and persistence led the Arts Council in its development of the Audubon Arts Center 1965 to 1990."

Charles Newton "Newt" Schenck, through his work with the Arts Council and the development of the Audubon Arts District, changed the face of our community and planted the seeds for the New Haven arts community that flourishes as a whole today. I am honored to join the City of New Haven and the New Haven Arts Council in paying tribute to his invaluable contributions to our community and in extending my heartfelt thanks to his wife, Ann, for sharing him with us for so many years. The Audubon Arts District is a haven for artists of all mediums, of all ages, and of all talents—a legacy that will inspire the beauty and magic of the arts for generations to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LYNDAL SCRANTON, SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER SPORTS JOURNALIST, AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable 36-year career of

Springfield News-Leader sports journalist Lyndal Scranton, and congratulate him on his retirement.

Scranton got his start as the Sports Editor of Central High School's student paper, which transitioned to a position at the Springfield News-Leader when he was teenager in the fall of 1979. Ever since, he has written on area sporting events at every level, including the 1985 Bass Pro Tournament of Champions and Jack Nicklaus' hitting golf balls at the 'Top of the Rock' golf course.

Namely though, he has been a staple of Missouri State University (MSU) Sports since the late 1980s and has cemented himself in MSU sports history. Scranton has written about MSU basketball since the team first joined the Missouri Valley Conference, through the 1999 Bears' run to the Sweet 16, and up to present day with Coach Paul Lusk. His coverage of MSU football has now followed five head coaches' tenures, spanning from Jesse Branch to Dave Steckel. In his reporting on the MSU baseball team, he covered their mid-1990s NCAA tournament appearances, their College World Series contention in 2003, and their impressive 2015 season when the team fell just short of another trip to Omaha.

Throughout his career, Scranton built a reputation as being an honest and to-the-point writer. Those who worked with him often remark that his genuine care for people and unwillingness to take cheap shots make him a rare gem from a bygone era of impartial journalism. He has even been a huge help to Legendary Sportscaster Art Hains. If Art ever needs to call for an expert opinion on horse racing, auto racing dating back to Larry Phillips at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds Track, or the NBA, Lyndal is Art's go-to man.

All of his peers know—Hains included—that despite his making his living as a sports journalist, Scranton was first and foremost a sports fan. He is an avid supporter of the St. Louis Cardinals, the L.A. Lakers, loves to bowl, and also enjoys watching horse races at Oaklawn—that's not to mention that he makes some of the best bar-b-que in the Ozarks.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I extend my appreciation to him for his dedication to sports journalism in our community and wish him the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CATHIE ALFF

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 Cathie Alff of Anita, Iowa, for being selected as a 2015 Hospital Hero by the Iowa Hospital Association. Cathie was one of 10 Iowans recognized with this honor.

As a certified nurse's aide in the Cass County Health System, Cathie is known for her compassionate and caring treatment for each and every one of her patients. She understands that the relationships she builds with them is the most important aspect of her job. Her number one priority is ensuring their quality care and treatment throughout their entire stay.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Cathie for receiving this prestigious 2015 Hospital Hero award.

It is Iowans like Cathie 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 Cathie for receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PIKEVILLE
PANTHERS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coach Chris McNamee and the Pikeville Panthers High School Football team for winning the 2015 Kentucky High School Athletic Association 1A Class State Championship title for the first time since winning three straight from 1987 to 1989.

On December 3, 2015 at Western Kentucky University in the Houchens Stadium, the Pikeville Panthers put their skill and heart to the test against the Beechwood Tigers, a high school team from Northern Kentucky with a legacy steeped in state titles. The two teams battled hard for each inch on the field with a tied score of 21-all leading into the final quarter, proving they both deserved to compete for state bragging rights. With victory in sight, the Panthers battled back for three remarkable touchdowns in the last nine minutes of the game. The final score was 42 to 28, giving Coach McNamee his first Championship as the Panthers' coach.

The Panthers' win brought some much-needed celebration back to the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky, where we've lost more than 9,000 coal mining jobs since 2009. These young men have undoubtedly seen the impact first hand, as many of them have fathers or other family members who have recently been laid off from the coal mines. Through sheer determination and hard work, they proved that we can rise above our challenges and daunting circumstances to bring hope and victory back to the mountains.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach McNamee and the Pikeville Panthers for bringing the highly coveted state title back home to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. I wish them all the best of luck in the years to come.

COMMENDING NORTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY ON THE OPENING
OF ITS CENTER FOR THE AD-
VANCEMENT OF VETERANS AND
SERVICE MEMBERS (CAVS)

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when employment rates for many student veterans continue to lag behind those of their civilian peers, I rise today to commend Northeastern University for launching a new center aimed at tackling this urgent challenge head on. Northeastern's new Center for the Advancement of Veterans and Service Mem-

bers—or "CAVS" for short—offers a wealth of services and benefits to returned service members, including mentorship opportunities and assistance with the transition from military to civilian life.

Student veterans at Northeastern benefit from the university's renowned experiential learning infrastructure through specialized cooperative education placements within a global network of 3,000 employers. And with CAVS now coming online, these students can also access tailored experiential learning programs and career resources that leverage their unique individual competencies and prior military experience.

Mr. Speaker, despite a slowly improving unemployment rate, veterans nationwide consistently face greater barriers to employment than non-veterans. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, half of all veterans in the United States will face a period of unemployment after transitioning from military service—particularly younger veterans, with those aged 18–24 facing an unemployment rate double that of civilian peers. In a report by Prudential prepared in conjunction with the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, 69 percent of veterans list finding a job as a civilian as their greatest challenge after service.

That's why I am so pleased to see that Northeastern's new center expands the university's focus on student veteran employability by focusing on the education and career advancement of returning service members. It's clear that Northeastern recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of service members and is committed to providing student veterans with an experiential education that allows them to leverage their unique leadership skills for their future careers.

Mr. Speaker, this work is not new for Northeastern. In fact, the university has a proud, 100-year legacy of educating veterans and service members. Today, Northeastern ranks among the top 10 private, non-profit, research universities for attracting post-9/11 G.I. Bill recipients. And the university also signed a first-of-its-kind agreement earlier this year to offer accelerated master's degrees in homeland security to members of the National Guard.

Northeastern is building on its strong track record of educating and preparing student veterans for the future: Northeastern's student veteran graduation rate is 82.6 percent, well above the national average of 51 percent. Through its Institute for Military Leadership in the Workforce, Northeastern's new veterans center will serve all aspects of veterans' integration into academia and will link students to strategic partners in the private sector. Based in Boston, the center's reach and impact will extend worldwide to veterans within Northeastern's Global Network.

Mr. Speaker, today there are some 600 student veterans and active duty personnel currently receiving benefits and support at Northeastern, a population that is expected to continue to grow in the wake of the opening of the center. The university's commitment to veterans now totals some \$4 million, including its assistance through the federal Yellow Ribbon Program, the support and operation of the new center, and the establishment of a new scholarship program to aid veterans with costs not otherwise provided for through the government's benefits.

Additionally, Northeastern has more than 90 ongoing research projects funded by the De-

partment of Defense, two Centers of Excellence funded by the Department of Homeland Security, and a \$15 million state-of-the-art research institute that focuses on sensitive problems of national security. This past September, the university signed a \$20 million cooperation agreement with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory to continue conducting critical defense research.

Mr. Speaker, Northeastern's unique military-aligned ecosystem provides veterans with more opportunities to explore different career paths, to learn how to better translate skills for the civilian job market, and to build relationships among the community. I commend Northeastern, under the visionary leadership of President Joseph Aoun, for undertaking this important work.

Northeastern's attention to veteran education and transitional needs is deeply appreciated. I urge all of my colleagues to take the time to review this important effort.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM
TAX HIKES ACT OF 2015

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong concerns for the "Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015." I want to commend Ranking Member LEVIN and the Democratic leadership for their strong, unwavering support for hard-working families across our country during these difficult negotiations for a comprehensive tax extenders package. While I support a strong tax policy that provides certainty to individuals and American businesses, I have a number of concerns with respect to the final provisions of the package and the ultimate cost of the bill.

Our nation's tax code should continue to evolve in order to reflect and meet the challenges facing modern businesses. It should also create opportunities for growth, without undermining critical social programs that benefit all Americans.

This package includes several provisions I strongly support, including permanent expansions of the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and the American opportunity tax credit. The package also provides a two-year moratorium on the medical device tax and extends the work opportunity tax credit to help employers that hire Americans who have faced significant barriers to employment. This bill also provides incentives to individuals for charitable contributions and for businesses to continue to invest in critical research and development.

However as with most legislation, these tax cuts and extenders have a huge price tag. The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that the provisions would reduce net revenues, and thereby increase deficits, by a total of \$622 billion over 10 years. I am deeply concerned that passing this tax extenders package without offsetting its cost would greatly undermine our ability to make key discretionary investments in the future that would hinder job creation, and lessen opportunities that make the American dream possible for millions of families across our great nation.