

founding and current Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts where he oversees eight academic divisions: The School of Music, School of Art, School of Dance, School of Theater, Arts Management Master's Program, Film and Video Studies Program, Computer Game Design Program and the Potomac Arts Academy.

Dean Reeder manages two regional art centers: the Center for the Arts in Fairfax as well as the Hylton Performing Arts Center. He also serves as the Co-Director of George Mason's Confucius Institute, a partnership between Mason and the Beijing Language and Cultural University.

In the midst of his demanding schedule, Reeder finds the time to teach an Arts Management course, hold the distinguished honor of the Eminent Scholar's Heritage Chairman in Arts and Cultural Criticism, and serve on two boards: United Way of the National Capital Region and CEO Forum of Prince William.

Reeder spent eight years as the leading operatic tenor engaged by the Zurich, Switzerland Opera Company. From 1993 to 1997, Reeder was President of the Saint Louis Conservatory of Music, followed by six years as the Education Director of the Levine School of Music located in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining George Mason, Reeder served as Vice President and General Manager of the Washington Performing Arts Society and two years with the Sallie Mae Corporation as the Founding Director of the Sallie Mae Trust for Education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Dean Bill Reeder as a prominent figure in Greater Prince William and tireless champion of arts education.

HONORING BLUE SPRINGS SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Blue Springs South High School football team. This is a group of very special young men who have exemplified the finest qualities of teamwork, devotion and sportsmanship by taking an active part in the classroom and on the field. These Jaguars relentlessly pursued their goal and were rewarded with their third state football title, as well as having a perfect 14–0 season.

The Blue Springs South Jaguars defeated the defending champions, Christian Brothers College, 37–28 in the Missouri Class Six state championship. Senior Adam Cofield managed to score an astounding four times. The work and effort these young men have persevered through over the years has not only earned them numerous honors on and off the field, but also the respect of their families, classmates, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the undefeated Blue Springs South High School football team for their accomplishments on the field and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Missouri Class Six state champions.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE- LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA- TIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the PATH Act. While this is not a perfect bill, I join with the President in supporting this legislation as it represents clear progress for the American people. This legislation will permanently continue critical tax breaks to aid children and working families. It will permanently extend key provisions like the R&D tax credit and Section 179 expensing that will help our small businesses and manufacturers grow jobs and strengthen the economy. This bipartisan bill moves us forward as a nation both in terms of the benefits it provides and the signal it sends that it is possible for Congress to break the gridlock that has unfortunately engulfed Washington for too long.

I am particularly proud that the permanent extension of the R&D tax credit that I sponsored along with Chairman KEVIN BRADY was included in this legislation. The R&D tax credit is a driver of innovation and economic growth, and making it permanent will provide the certainty American companies need to make the long-term investments in our nation and in our workers for technologies that will keep our global economic edge. The R&D credit, along with a permanent extension of the Section 179 expensing credit, will give businesses in Connecticut and across the country the stability they need in the tax code to move our economy forward.

For children and working families, this legislation also offers a permanent extension of critical tax credits. The permanent extension of the Recovery Act enhancements of the EITC and CTC credits as well as the AOTC will ensure millions of working families across the country will continue to receive well-deserved tax breaks. Without this extension, by 2018, over 50 million individuals would have lost part or all of their credits. In Connecticut, 141,000 children in 42,000 families would lose access to part or all of their EITC or CTC credits. These provisions are absolutely critical and without them, I would not have been able to support this agreement. I wholeheartedly agree with my colleagues who have argued that the CTC should be indexed for inflation and while it is unfortunate that indexing is not included in this agreement, I will continue to fight for its inclusion on bills moving forward.

In addition, this bill includes other important provisions, including a permanent extension of a deduction for teachers who purchase supplies for their classrooms as well as critical charitable provisions such as a credit for the donation of food inventory and a provision that allows for tax-free distributions from IRAs for charitable purposes. It also incorporates other bills that will help with economic development, like the New Markets Tax credit, the low income housing tax credit, and legislation ensuring tax relief for another year for homeowners who have had part of their mortgage debt forgiven.

Finally, I want to thank the negotiators for including a bill that I co-authored with Rep.

SAM JOHNSON—the Wrongful Convictions Tax Relief Act, which ensures that compensation awards received by those who were wrongfully accused are not subjected to federal taxes on their awards. I first introduced the bill with Mr. JOHNSON in 2007 following the exoneration of James Tillman in Connecticut. I was proud to co-author this bill with Mr. JOHNSON, a true American hero, which rights a tremendous wrong in the tax code. Individuals who have been wrongfully accused have already suffered enough, so the notion that they would be taxed on the awards they receive as a result of their wrongful imprisonment is unconscionable. Once again, I thank the negotiators for including this common-sense bill in this package.

On the whole, this bill will provide tremendous benefits for children, working families, and economic growth in our country. I support this bill and look forward to its passage.

LONG BEACH LOSES LEGEND, MARILYN GREEN

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, it is with considerable sadness and a profound sense of loss that I report that the Long Beach community lost a dear friend and a dedicated public servant on the passing of Marilyn Green on October 29, 2015. Marilyn—with long-time professional partner Dick Cantrell—founded the law firm of Cantrell Green—now Cantrell Green Pekich Cruz & McCort—in 1971.

Marilyn was also the heart and soul of the progressive movement in Long Beach. She was a advocate, mentor, and friend to several generations of progressive leaders in Long Beach. I count myself lucky to have had her friendship and counsel over the years.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Marilyn eventually made her way to Stanford Law School. While attending as one of only two female students in her class, she met and married journalist Terence Green.

Determined to finish what she started, she sat for the California Bar exam in 1951 and was admitted to practice law in January, 1952, just one month before her first son, Alan, was born. She used to recall how odd it felt walking to take her oath while almost 9 months pregnant.

Terry's job brought them to Playa del Rey and, eventually, to the Long Beach area that would become their home for well over 50 years.

Like many women of her generation, Marilyn found herself unwelcome in many law firms due to her gender and was limited to family law practice. Knowing it was a matter of time before she found the right job, she settled into family law. She used to joke that, as a young lawyer, she had no idea how to create a safe exit strategy while interviewing a less-than-savory character. During one such interview, she decided "the case was much too complicated" and referred the person to the FBI. She later told us "From then on, I decided to keep the FBI's number in my top drawer, but think I certainly wore out my welcome."

Marilyn joined the prestigious Levy & Van Bourg firm as an applicant's attorney in Workers' Compensation in the late 1960s early 1970s.

When she and Richard Cantrell first opened Cantrell and Green in 1971, their first office was a public phone booth on the corner of Broadway and Pine Avenue in downtown Long Beach. Later, good friend and union official, Tony Rodriguez from the United Rubber Workers Union, would offer them a small office at his Local.

Marilyn and Richard would go on to build Cantrell and Green into one of the most well-known and respected workers' compensation firms in Southern California. Their practice also included social security, labor law, and personal injury claims.

Not only did Marilyn Green talk the talk, she walked the walk. When asked why she would settle in a practice not as lucrative as other areas of practice, Marilyn said "If I wanted to make money, I would never have chosen a workers' compensation practice. However, I love and believe in what I do and that is why I became a lawyer."

Over the years, Marilyn was honored by many organizations, including being named as Long Beach Bar Association Lawyer of the Year.

She was a true professional in her work, a good friend to many, and a powerful force for good in our community who will be sorely missed.

RECOGNIZING THE TREZEVANT HIGH SCHOOL MIGHTY PURPLE BEARS ON WINNING THE TSSAA BLUECROSS BOWL DIVISION 1 CLASS 2A FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Mighty Purple Bears of Trezevant High School and Coach Teli White and his coaching staff on winning the TSSAA BlueCross Bowl Division 1 Class 2A Football State Championship game against Marion County High School on Saturday, December 5, 2015 in Cookeville, TN.

The Mighty Purple Bears were led by Jr. standout Running Back and Strong Safety Cordarrion Richardson, who carried the ball 41 times for 342 yards scoring 3 touchdowns and throwing for 1 touchdown. Cordarrion's play set a new state record by surpassing Omar Williams of St. George's 322 yards record set in 2011.

Under Coach White's leadership, Trezevant advanced to the championship game by defeating Oakhaven High School (Memphis, TN) 54-0, Douglass High School (Memphis, TN) 54-0, Manassas High School (Memphis, TN) 22-0, Trinity Christian Academy (Jackson, TN) 52-14, and Marion County High School (Jasper, TN) 40-35. The Mighty Purple Bears finished their season 12-3.

This is Trezevant's first state title. I am extremely proud of their academic and athletic success. I know the mighty Purple Bears will keep riding the waves of success and represent their community and the city of Memphis with pride. Go Purple Bears.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the H-2B riders included in the FY2016 Appropriations Omnibus. These provisions, which were included without debate or advanced warning, would more than triple the number of H-2B foreign worker visas available for the coming year, negatively impacting working families in districts like my own in Houston and Harris County, Texas.

The H-2B Program was created by Congress to provide temporary, nonagricultural workers for American companies when there were no qualified American workers available to fill a position. The Program, unfortunately, is not working as intended. Instead, it is being used by some employers to hire cheaper, foreign workers, leaving too many highly-skilled American workers out of a job.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply wrong and a terrible holiday surprise for the thousands of working families in our country who will be left out of a job next year by the expansion of the H-2B Program. These anti-worker provisions in this legislation will degrade wages and conditions for workers in hazardous industries and gut standards that ensure that U.S. workers can fairly compete for jobs.

I call on my colleagues to join me to protect American workers from unfair foreign worker competition and eliminate the expansion of the H-2B Program.

THE FAST ACT (H.R. 22)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, after years of unnecessary delays and short term patches, I am pleased that Congress has finally passed a long term surface transportation bill that addresses the needs of our nation's crumbling infrastructure.

The FAST Act (H.R. 22) provides \$281 billion for highway, transit, and highway safety programs. This is \$26.8 billion above fiscal year 2015 levels and \$12.8 billion above what would have been allocated in the earlier House-passed version of the bill. For Minnesotans, this means a 5% increase in federal highway funding and an 8% increase for transit support.

H.R. 22 establishes two new initiatives that will provide dedicated federal funding specifically targeted at reducing freight bottlenecks around the country. This legislation promotes safety by boosting funding for railway-highway grade crossings, motor carrier safety grants, and includes \$200 million to help commuter railroads implement Positive Train Control. The FAST Act also reauthorizes the Ex-Im Bank, which aids small to medium-sized businesses in attracting new customers and provide critical resources necessary to export goods and services around the globe.

While I am disappointed that some of the funding levels in the conference agreement are not as robust as I would like, I recognize the importance of giving federal, state and local planners and contractors the long-term stability and resources necessary to repair our highways and bridges, prioritize rail, and pipeline safety, and grow our transit infrastructure as a whole. This is a significant accomplishment, and shows that it is possible for this Congress to work together in a bipartisan manner.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and continuing to invest in American infrastructure.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, I can attest that Division F of the bill before us today, which provides funds for the Department of Homeland Security, is the result of careful consideration, intense scrutiny, and bipartisan collaboration. I want to thank Chairman CARTER for his leadership and his partnership in crafting our portion of the bill.

The bill provides significant resources for critical priorities, including funding: to recapitalize the Coast Guard air and marine fleets; to fully fund FEMA's disaster relief activities, including wildfire management assistance grants, and to significantly enhance support for flood mapping and pre-disaster mitigation; to maintain funding for FEMA terrorism preparedness grants, including \$50 million in new funding to help communities counter violent extremism and prepare for complex, coordinated terrorist attacks; to allow the Secret Service to continue implementing the recommendations of the Protective Mission Panel; and to enhance cybersecurity across the federal government, along with significant additional funds to help protect DHS's own cyber systems.

I am pleased that the bill does not include the harmful immigration policy riders that were adopted during committee consideration of the House bill.

I am also pleased that the omnibus incorporates a number of amendments and priorities I fought for during the Appropriations Committee markups. These include my amendment with Congresswoman LEE which creates and funds a comprehensive, non-partisan child poverty study, and my amendment to defund the licensing or relicensing of Class B animal dealers who sell "random source" dogs and cats for use in research. It is also important to note that my colleagues and I were successful in preserving funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

This funding bill is not entirely what I had hoped for. Many of my colleagues feel the same way, and I share many of their concerns.