

restrictions that result in disparate access to these constitutionally protected rights.

Certainly, if the state has a legitimate interest in requiring a woman to wait several days, undergo a physical examination, receive counseling and education about alternative options before making the decision to terminate a pregnancy, then it has an equally compelling interest in requiring a person seeking to obtain a firearm to demonstrate the mental, physical, and emotional fitness to possess an instrument that is used to kill more than 30,000 Americans annually.

I hope that one day soon in America it will not be harder for a woman to exercise her fundamental right to choose than it is for a person on the terrorist watchlist to lawfully purchase and possess firearms.

At a minimum, I urge the Congress to rededicate itself to the critically important but unfinished task of ensuring equality of opportunity and protection of law for women.

CONGRATULATING JOE RITCHEY
AND PROSPECTIVE, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joe Ritchey and his company, Prospective, Inc. on being named one of the 2015 BCA 10: Best Businesses Partnering with the Arts in America honorees. Presented every year by Americans for the Arts' Business Committee for the Arts (BCA), the BCA 10 awards honor U.S. companies for their exceptional commitment to the arts.

Joe Ritchey and his firm actively support a vibrant local arts scene in Reston and throughout Fairfax County. Mr. Ritchey helped form the Initiative for Public Art—Reston (IPAR), where he still serves as President and Chair. IPAR consists of a group of civic leaders who represent Reston's key community organizations and seek to inspire and expand the community's commitment to public art. In 2008, IPAR launched a process that led to the adoption of the Public Art Master Plan for Reston which strives to incorporate art into public spaces. Anyone strolling through the many parks and public squares in Reston can readily see the impact of the Master Plan.

Mr. Ritchey's contributions and influence extend far beyond Reston and have benefited our larger Fairfax County community. A passionate lover of the arts, he has served on the boards of the Arts Council of Fairfax County (Board Chairman in 2013 and 2014), Children's Museum of Northern Virginia, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts Associates, and the Greater Reston Arts Center.

A successful businessman, Mr. Ritchey also shares his knowledge and expertise with numerous other organizations. He serves or has served on the boards or in other leadership roles of the Reston Hospital Center of HCA Virginia Health System (Board Chairman in 2011 and 2012), the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, and he is an active supporter of Reston Interfaith, Nature House, and the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.

Mr. Ritchey has received numerous awards and accolades in recognition of his service to our community. These awards include the NAOIP 1995 Award of Excellence for Economic Development, 2003 "Best of Reston" designation, the 2004 Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations Citizen of the Year, the 2006 Times Community Newspapers Reston Citizen of the Year, the 2009 inaugural Robert E. Simon Community Service Award, the 2011 Jinx Hazel Arts Citizen of the Year, and in 2013 he was the Grand Marshal of the Reston Holiday Parade.

Northern Virginia is a vibrant region where countless people donate their time, energy, and financial support for the betterment of our neighbors and our community as a whole.

In this region where so many do so much, Mr. Ritchey stands out and is an example of what one person can do. He has created a legacy that will live on for future generations to enjoy and has truly been a force in Reston and Northern Virginia being considered among the best places in the country in which to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Joe Ritchey and Prospective, Inc. on being honored as a BCA 10 recipient, and in thanking him for his unwavering and tireless efforts on behalf of our community.

SUPPORT FOR OMNIBUS AND TAX
EXTENDERS LEGISLATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted for both the omnibus and tax extender bills that came before the House this week. They represented hard work and compromises by many on both sides of the aisle and across the advocacy community. I commend so many of my colleagues for reminding us of what we can accomplish when we work together on behalf of the American people.

These bills don't just do the bare minimum to keep the government open and continue the policy status quo as we have done many times in recent years. Instead, they actually invest in important programs, many that I have supported for years and that are priorities for Oregonians.

I am pleased to see the extenders legislation support research and development, and provide important tools—such as an extension of the New Markets program—to invest in our communities. The tax package increases the benefit for transit riders to the same level as the parking tax benefit, providing much-needed tax fairness, strengthening options for commuters, and eliminating an incentive to drive to work. This provision will ease congestion and road wear and make our transportation system more sustainable.

The omnibus also contains robust funding for public broadcasting, animal welfare enforcement, and health and scientific research. It includes the highest-ever levels of funding for the implementation of the Water for the Poor and Water for the World Acts, for which I have fought for years. I am pleased that the bill contains many provisions that I helped champion, including language to ensure the

Department of Justice stay out of the way of state medical marijuana laws, language that supports industrial hemp research programs, and increased funding for brain research.

There are also many positive provisions for the environment in these bills. I am delighted that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been reauthorized and funded at a significant increase of \$144 million. This program is one of the most important tools we have to protect land and habitat, construct parks and purchase other outdoor spaces that are cherished in communities.

Both bills take important steps to help us transition away from fossil fuels and allow us to meaningfully contribute in the global fight against climate change. In particular, the long-term extension of tax credits for wind and solar energy development will significantly expand the development of clean renewable energy across the country at a critical time in our struggle to reduce carbon emissions. With this support, the solar industry estimates that by 2020, it will deploy more than 20 GW of solar electricity annually.

The provisions supporting wind energy will free that industry from a repeated boom-and-bust cycle caused by inaction in Congress, and will strengthen the build out of low-cost, emission-free renewable energy from coast to coast.

The elimination of many of the damaging environmental riders that were proposed during the appropriations process was a major victory, measures that would have defunded the Clean Power Plan, or reduced protections for endangered species among many others.

There are certainly provisions in both of these bills that I do not support. It is troubling that we are drifting away from discipline in terms of dealing with the deficit. There were many missed opportunities to reduce wasteful spending and redirect those resources to where it is more needed. We will continue to spend billions of dollars every year on a nuclear arsenal we can't afford and will not use. Through tax breaks and direct subsidies, we will also continue to directly support wildly profitable industries that do not need this support—such as agribusiness and the petroleum industry.

The bills also fail to address the need for new and different revenues, such as a carbon tax and a gas tax increase to rebuild crumbling infrastructure, to protect our environment and to properly invest in social safety net programs over the long run.

Both bills include provisions that on their own, I would not support. I remain unpersuaded that we need to lift the crude oil export ban. I have voted against such legislation in the past since it will not help us transition to a cleaner energy future. The inclusion of the Cybersecurity Information and Sharing Act is troubling because it fails to strike the right balance between privacy and security, or between the responsibility of the private sector and the government. The omnibus also continues an irresponsible policy rider that interferes with the District of Columbia's ability to manage the sale of marijuana to ensure safety and appropriate regulations. Finally, the extenders legislation imposes new rules and responsibilities on the overburdened staff at the Internal Revenue Service. We currently have the most efficient tax collection system in the world among developed nations, but we have been systematically destroying its ability to serve taxpayers by doing its job.

I also am disappointed that the omnibus did not include a number of key spending priorities that should command support from everyone. The bill does not include an important change to wildfire spending. We should treat wildfires like other major disasters and eliminate the practice of "fire borrowing," which drains agency non-fire budgets to pay for firefighting. The bill also fails to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund, the main source of federal support for preservation projects that celebrate the heritage and history of communities across America. Finally, the omnibus continues a decades long ban on federal research on the causes and factors behind gun violence. Everyone should allow researchers to study and share information about gun violence in order to promote evidence-based policies to reduce horrific incidents.

Despite these shortcomings, however, I support the overall package. On the whole, it's balanced and includes meaningful provisions that will support priorities important to Oregonians and across the country. I'm hopeful this is an indication that going forward, Congress can work across the aisle and compromise, so that we can do our jobs for the American people.

HONORING SHREWSBURY BOY SCOUT TROOP 114

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114.

January 2016 will mark the 100th anniversary of Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114. The troop, which has been chartered by the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury since 1916, is one of the oldest troops in Mohegan Council as well as one of the oldest troops within the Boy Scouts of America.

For the last hundred years, Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114 has been a vibrant part of our community and helped to teach our young boys the skills that prepare them to lead and the values that strengthen our families in Shrewsbury and the surrounding communities.

Troop 114, which is comprised of 70 Scouts who range in age from 10 to 17, is led by Scoutmaster Rick Spurr as well as 28 registered adult leaders. All of them work to build character and train the Scouts in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and developing personal fitness.

Troop 114 helps our boys stay active and physically fit with 10 campouts per year and a week of summer camp. Since 1916, Troop 114 has spent over 2,500 nights camping throughout New England and members of Troop 114 have represented Shrewsbury proudly at every National Boy Scout Jamboree that has ever been held.

Through the years, 124 members of Troop 114 have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. For the last decade, crews of Scouts have attended national High Adventure camps across the country, including Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Seabase in Florida and the Bahamas, and Maine High Adventure in northern Maine.

Over the past 100 years Scouting, Troop 114 has kept up with the changing world by

offering many new merit badges that focus on cutting-edge technologies and industries that did not exist years ago. And while much has changed, the core values of the Scouting program have remained constant since Troop 114 was founded in 1916.

I am pleased to congratulate Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114 as they celebrate their centennial and a proud history of helping all of our boys reach their full potential. Here's to another great hundred years.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. CHARLIE HALL

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable service of Charlie Hall as he retires as CEO of AM General after five years of remarkable leadership of this world-renowned company, the manufacturer of the Humvee. Few exemplify the American spirit more than Mr. Hall and his contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

For more than 35 years, Hall has worked in domestic and international business. He began his career as a summer intern at Chrysler Defense where he returned full time upon completing his business degree from Western Michigan University.

A driven and natural born leader, Hall then became an employee of General Dynamics in 1984, where he worked at nearly every level of the organization including plant manager, vice president, and president of General Dynamics Land Systems. While serving in the Combat Systems Group at General Dynamics, Hall oversaw nearly 20,000 employees.

Hall joined AM General as CEO in January 2011, and set out to fortify the HMMWV brand, grow international sales, and diversify the commercial vehicle business. Hall will retire from the company accomplishing these goals and much more. He restructured the business from top to bottom, launched critical partnerships with the National Guard and Reserves, secured unprecedented foreign military sales, and diversified the company's commercial portfolio, just to name a few of his most notable achievements.

Best known for his collaborative, deliberative, no-nonsense leadership style, Hall has never lost track of his top priority: delivering the best light tactical vehicles on the planet for our men and women in uniform. Under his leadership, AM General has truly been transformed and stands poised for a very bright future.

I want to take this opportunity to once again thank Charlie Hall for having such an extraordinary impact on this company and for serving as a role model for the next generation of leaders in our community. On behalf of myself and my fellow Hoosiers, I thank him for his commitment to service and exceptional leadership.

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMESTEAD RESORT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the Homestead Resort is a piece of American history nestled in the Allegheny Mountains of Virginia—surrounded by the natural beauty of the landscape, permeated by healing mineral waters, and displaying the quintessential Southern charm for which it has become so well known. For 250 years, The Homestead Resort has served as a respite for weary travelers. From presidents and celebrities to families and visitors from around the globe, The Homestead has been a place where generations have come to rest, relax, and rejuvenate—all while enjoying the hospitality of our region.

Located in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District in the village of Hot Springs, the history of The Homestead begins more than a decade before the founding of our nation. A young George Washington visited the area, and later granted the land on which The Homestead was built to Captain Thomas Bullitt. In 1766, The Homestead saw its start as an 18-room lodge. In 1818, former President Thomas Jefferson spent three weeks soaking in the mineral pools. To date, 23 U.S. presidents have visited the resort, including former President George W. Bush in 2015.

Under the ownership of the Ingalls family for roughly 100 years until 1993, The Homestead saw many additions and improvements to shape the property as we know it today. Now known as The Omni Homestead Resort, over the past 200-plus years it has grown to encompass 2,300 acres with 483 guest rooms, numerous dining outlets, and more than 30 recreational activities. Today, this iconic resort continues to play a critical role in the economy of Bath County as a leading employer. Annually, the resort employs upwards of 1,000 workers, and is a significant source of tourism for surrounding communities and attractions.

The success of The Homestead is a testament to its hardworking and dedicated employees, like Woody Pettus, the long-time maitre d' in the main dining room. Woody is an institution at The Homestead and is one of five generations of his family who have worked there over the years. For many guests, the staff at The Homestead has become an extended family.

If you have not been to The Homestead, you are truly missing out on a little slice of heaven. From the columns flanking the main entrance and the welcoming expanse of the Great Hall to the beautifully designed gardens and miles of trails, a visit to The Homestead is certainly a unique experience. Over the years, this resort has become a special place for my family and many others. The people of Bath County are proud to call this landmark their own, and it is an honor to represent them and America's First Resort in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout 2016, The Homestead will honor the past, present and future of America's First Resort. I congratulate The Homestead on this 250th anniversary, and wish them many more milestone anniversaries to come.