

young people to follow their example. Over the past 20 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Welch should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Ms. Welch for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. Congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF GLORIA
BLANDINA FOR A LIFETIME OF
SERVICE TO OTHERS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria Blandina. Ms. Blandina is to receive the 2014 Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award, presented by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch for her lifelong dedication to the development of young children.

Born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, she received a degree in early childhood education from West Virginia University in 1971. Ms. Blandina went on to receive her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Marywood University in Scranton. She spent several years working at a day care center and teaching early childhood education at Penn State University before her appointment to the Children's Trust Fund by Governor Tom Ridge in 1998. In addition to her numerous professional accomplishments, Ms. Blandina is an active member of her community. She volunteers with the Social Justice Committee to deliver food to individuals in need. She has served on the board of directors of Luzerne County Head Start, the Pittston YMCA, the Family Enhancement Center, and as the President of the St. Mary's Assumption Home School Association for the Education of Young Children.

Ms. Blandina is currently the director of the Pittston Care and Concern Free Health Clinic, which offers a range of medical services to individuals without health insurance. The clinic has served over 3,500 patients under Ms. Blandina's leadership. She, like the doctors, nurses, social workers, and others who keep the clinic running, volunteers her time to this worthy cause that has helped so many in northeastern Pennsylvania.

I congratulate Ms. Blandina on receiving the Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award, and I commend her for all the selfless work she has done for the Greater Pittston Area.

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO ENSURE "THE BORINQUENEERS" RECEIVE THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2014, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, an all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit known as "the Borinqueneers." Today, I rise to urge the President to expedite the designing and delivery of this medal, before more of these brave Borinqueneers pass away.

More than 100,000 brave Borinqueneers served honorably in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Puerto Ricans have fought for the United States as far back as the American Revolution, and continue to do so honorably to this day. Thousands have given their lives defending our values of freedom, justice, and equality, despite enduring decades of segregation and second-class treatment.

The Borinqueneers have been recognized with 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, more than 250 Silver Stars, over 600 Bronze Stars, and nearly 3,000 Purple Hearts. However, it was not until last year that the first member of the Borinqueneers, Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, following a congressionally ordered review of cases involving veterans deserving of recognition who had been overlooked due to prejudice.

Today, hundreds of Borinqueneers have made Central Florida their home. On March 7, I will host an event to honor their legacy, and thank them for their service.

It is my goal and my honor, as their representative, to ensure that they receive this long overdue recognition. Puerto Rican veterans should not have to wait any longer to receive the equal treatment they deserve. Today I ask the President to ensure that the Borinqueneers receive their Congressional Gold Medal as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATING CATHERINE
ZINN ON RECEIVING WOMAN OF
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Catherine Zinn, who tomorrow will be honored by Legal Momentum as a Woman of Achievement at its 10th Annual Women of Achievement Awards Dinner.

Born in Berkeley, California, Catherine graduated from Hamilton College with a bachelor of arts degree in economics and public policy. She also was a terrific athlete there, receiving varsity letters in three sports. Since then she has established herself as a skilled business leader.

For many years she has worked in client development and relations at DLA Piper, the world's largest law firm. In her role as Senior

National Relationships Executive, she has had great success in bringing in new clients and ensuring current clients remain satisfied with the firm. Before DLA Piper, Catherine worked as National Director of Business Development and National Director of Class Action Settlement at JAMS, which provides arbitration and mediation services.

Catherine has given back to her community as well, helping many organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. For example, she serves on the boards of Bay Area Cancer Connections, helping women with ovarian and breast cancer, and Tomorrow Youth Repertory, which provides youth theater education.

Catherine also looks for ways to support women in business. She gives of herself to empower women and help them succeed.

In fact, she participated in an event I held last year, Women's Business Empowerment Day, which was organized to help women succeed in the workforce. She gave insightful and tangible advice to attendees about how to negotiate for higher wages and career advancement. I want to thank her for her contributions.

Catherine is well deserving of her recognition from Legal Momentum. I want to offer her my most heartfelt congratulations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES AND INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act. The bill would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act)—the premier law governing commercial and recreational fishing in U.S. federal waters. The Magnuson-Stevens Act was first enacted in 1976 and was last reauthorized in 2006.

I worked on the 2006 reauthorization with my friend and Senator, Ted Stevens. Ted Stevens was a champion for Alaska and the law bears his name as recognition of his dedication to supporting and protecting Alaska fishermen and the importance of fishery resources to coastal communities. I will miss working with my friend during this next reauthorization, but will remember him fondly as the legislation moves through Congress.

Over the last two Congresses, I worked with the former Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, Doc Hastings, to develop the text of the bill. The Committee on Natural Resources held 10 hearings, receiving comments and suggestions from over 100 witnesses representing Members of Congress, the administration, state governments, regional fishery management councils, marine fisheries commissions, commercial and recreational (including for-hire charter) fishing groups, processors, academics, and environmental groups. Due to this in-depth review of the Act and the need to keep the process going forward to reform the law, I am introducing the bill the Committee reported to the House floor in the 113th Congress.

The bill we developed in the 113th Congress would not have been possible without the knowledge and dedicated work of Mr. David Whaley, who retired from the Committee after twenty years of working on fisheries issues. I would like to acknowledge and thank Dave for his hard work and dedication over the years. I hired Dave in 1994 as my fisheries staffer for the Committee on Resources and he continued to handle Alaskan, national and international fishery issues, as well as marine mammal and ocean issues over his career on the Committee. Dave has been an invaluable resource to me and other members of the Committee during his twenty years of service on the Committee and we will miss his expertise and experience as we move this bill forward.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act allows for regional management of fisheries. The law gives guidance through its National Standards and specifies the process through which the Councils develop their fishery management plans. While the Secretary of Commerce has final approval of fishery management plans, the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides for a regional approach where the Councils, hearing from its local constituency groups, can develop fishery management plans that best suit their fisheries and fishermen. This is critical for the protection of coastal economies and for allowing the stakeholders to be a part of the management of their fisheries.

The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act would update the Magnuson-Stevens Act to implement common sense reforms. The 2006 amendments were said to apply the 'Alaska Model' of fisheries management to other regions of the country. The premise of this reform was good. The 'Alaska Model' worked in Alaska due to stock assessments providing up-to-date fisheries data to allow the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to use adaptive management, providing optimal use of fishery resources to fishermen. The problem with trying to implement the 'Alaska Model' in other regions was that these regions did not have adequate science—due to infrequent or out dated stock assessments—to support that type of management system. Instead of providing optimal use of the resource for fishermen, the implementation of the 'Alaska Model' resulted in fisheries being restricted in regions that were considered 'data poor' due to multiple levels of precautionary measures being applied because of inadequate scientific data.

I believe the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act will allow for increased fisheries management flexibility and transparency, provide for improved data collection, create jobs, and—what I believe is very important—create predictability and certainty for the coastal communities that depend on stable fishing activities.

The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act would reauthorize and strengthen the Magnuson-Stevens Act to ensure a proper balance between the biological needs of fish stocks and the economic needs of fishermen and coastal communities. The bill would make a number of improvements to the Act: provide flexibility for fishery managers when rebuilding depleted fisheries; provide flexibility for fishery managers when setting annual catch levels;

provide more transparency for fishermen and others in both science and management; provide a schedule for obtaining better fishery dependent and fishery independent data especially for data poor fisheries; provide greater protection for confidential information submitted to regulatory agencies; encourage and promote cooperative research projects where scientists work with fishermen to develop sound scientific information; allow fishery managers to take the economic impact of their decisions into account when setting harvest levels; allow fishery managers to take environmental conditions into account when establishing harvest levels; allow fishermen in regions where catch share programs have been controversial to have a vote to determine whether a new catch share program will be implemented and to be provided better information when considering such a program; require NOAA to provide better accountability on how fees are collected and used; clarify the role of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in relationship to other federal statutes; and authorize appropriations for an additional five fiscal years at current authorized funding levels.

As I've learned over the years as a legislator, laws are not written in stone. Congress's job is to review them, listen to constituents and modify the laws as needed. Laws that are stagnant do not help anyone. Times change and laws need to reflect new information and the needs of Americans.

Constituency groups were influential in developing the 2006 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Key aspects of the 2006 amendments were the goal to end overfishing through the requirement that annual catch limits not exceed scientific recommendations and accountability measures were instituted. Changes in the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act were also developed by listening to constituency groups at committee hearings, fishery managers at fishery council meetings and at national conferences, and reviewing recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences. Even the National Marine Fisheries Service recognizes the need for reforms and has proposed revisions to its advisory guidelines for National Standards 1, 3 and 7 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These proposed revisions recommend changes that would allow for increased flexibility in rebuilding programs, clarify guidance on which stocks require conservation and management and defines depleted stocks, among other items. These changes are similar to changes included in the bill I am introducing today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the new Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, ROB BISHOP, as a cosponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him as the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act moves through Committee and the House. I also am pleased to have Representatives BRADLEY BYRNE and AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN as original cosponsors on the bill. I look forward to working with any Member of the House that is interested in reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This is an important piece of legislation and I urge Members to support its movement through the House of Representatives and 114th Congress.

REINTRODUCING THE SERVICES FOR ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act. Homelessness continues to be a troubling issue facing our nation. In 2014, studies show that anywhere from 700,000 to 2 million children, families, and veterans found themselves homeless.

Nationally, on any given night, there are approximately 84,291 people who are experiencing chronic homelessness. Chronically homeless people often live in shelters or on the streets for years at a time, experience repeated episodes of homelessness without achieving housing stability, or cycle between homelessness, jails, mental health facilities, and hospitals. These individuals are all too often confronted with, or a combination of, mental illness, substance addiction, life-threatening illness or other serious health problems that make it impossible to maintain or access shelter. Fortunately, this bill presents us with the opportunity to address this national issue by ending long-term homelessness in America.

Studies have demonstrated that supportive services are a practical and a guaranteed investment of public and private resources to end long-term homelessness. These programs result in a 39% reduction in total cost of services from pre- to post-supportive housing with an overall savings of \$854,477. Furthermore, residents were significantly less likely to return to hospitals, nursing homes or prisons and there was an overall positive shift in mental and physical well-being.

The Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act does three key things:

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Administrator of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to design a national strategy for providing services in supportive housing that will assist in ending chronic homelessness and to implement programs that address chronic homelessness.

It calls for the HHS Secretary to make multi-year, renewable grants based on performance criteria, including the outcome of ending long-term homelessness matching the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants to eligible entities in order to provide services promoting recovery and self-sufficiency. Furthermore, it addresses barriers to housing stability for chronically homeless individuals and families in, or who are scheduled to become residents of, permanent supportive housing. This will also apply to other individuals and families who have voluntarily chosen to seek other housing opportunities after a period of tenancy in supportive housing.

It directs the HHS Secretary to require grantees to report data regarding the performance outcomes of projects carried out under this Act, which shall include measuring and reporting specific performance outcomes related to the long-term goals of: (1) increasing stability within the community for individuals and families who have been chronically homeless; and (2) decreasing recurrence of periods of homelessness.