

INTRODUCTION OF THE
“INNOVATION PROTECTION ACT”

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the “Innovation Protection Act” responds to the single most important problem facing our patent system today—the diversion of patent fees. One of the most effective steps we can take in responding to abusive patent litigation is making sure poor quality patents are not issued to begin with. To do that we need to give our examiners the resources they need to review and analyze the hundreds of thousands of complex and interrelated patent applications they receive every year.

The current finding mechanism has failed the patent system. It did not prevent the diversion of nearly \$150 million in collected user fees in fiscal year 2013 due to the sequester. And this loss is on top of the estimated \$1 billion in fees diverted over the last two decades. In essence, there is a tax on innovation in this country, and this legislation would repeal it.

That is why I along with Representatives COLLINS, NADLER, FRANKS, LOFGREN, SENSENBRENNER, DEUTCH, ROHRBACHER, and JEFFRIES introduced today the “Innovation Protection Act.” This critical bill will ensure that the USPTO retains all of the user fees it collects.

Significant patent stakeholders, including the American Intellectual Property Law Association, BSA—The Software Alliance, the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, the Intellectual Property Owners Association, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers—USA, among others, support the legislation.

This bill would create a permanent, reliable mechanism to protect the USPTO from the unpredictability of the annual appropriations cycle, which severely hinders USPTO’s ability to engage in the kind of multi-year, business-like planning that is needed to manage our patent system. It would eliminate the tax on innovation.

Therefore, a permanent funding mechanism is essential to encourage innovation and to ensure that our patent system remains the envy of the world.

THANKING THE CAPITOL POLICE
FOR SERVICE DURING NEW MEMBER
ORIENTATION

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in November of last year, the newly elected members of the House of Representatives came to Washington, D.C. for New Member Orientation. This weeklong event, organized by the Committee on House Administration, is designed to orient our new colleagues and their staffs to the various responsibilities they assume in the upcoming congress, as well as to educate the members and their staffs on the resources they have here to help them in their new roles. It is a comprehensive under-

taking, but fortunately safety was never a concern during the event due to the hard work and professionalism of the Capitol Police.

The Capitol Police did excellent work protecting our visitors, allowing them safe travel between destinations and providing a sense of security as they visited their new offices on Capitol Hill for the first time. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the Capitol Police for their fine work in keeping our grounds secure and for their essential guidance, information and support.

HONORING DUKE MEN’S
BASKETBALL

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to rise today to congratulate the Duke men’s basketball team on winning the 2015 NCAA Division I National Championship! I say this as a Member who, depending on the vagaries of redistricting, has represented the campus, but also as a proud on-leave faculty member and the father of two Duke alumni.

This Duke team’s combined talent, tenacity, and teamwork helped them to overcome a tough conference schedule and make one of the most memorable runs in recent NCAA tournament history. Both Duke and the University of Wisconsin Badgers deserve recognition for their excellent play in the tournament and throughout the year. But Duke’s thrilling victory over Wisconsin to clinch the national title was a fitting finish to an historic season that also saw its legendary head coach, Mike Krzyzewski, “Coach K”, notch his record 1,000th win.

The Duke Blue Devils have a long history of success in men’s basketball, and I am proud that this year’s team was able to add a fifth national men’s basketball title to its collection. Congratulations to the players, staff, and coaches, who will be remembered as one of the greatest Duke teams of all time. Blue Devil fans everywhere are proud of your remarkable season, the latest chapter in our storied basketball tradition!

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL PRO-
TECTIVE SERVICE PARITY ACT
OF 2015

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to offer law enforcement retirement to Federal Protective Service (FPS) law enforcement officers. This bill provides retirement parity to FPS law enforcement officers with all other law enforcement officers within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The lack of law enforcement retirement for FPS law enforcement officers has hurt morale and has contributed to a high rate of attrition of FPS law enforcement officers when compared to attrition rates of other law enforcement agencies within DHS. By providing these

enhanced retirement provisions to new hires within the Federal Protective Service, and crediting the service of current FPS law enforcement officers after enactment of the bill with the new provisions, we can begin to strengthen the morale and resolve of the Federal Protective Service.

FPS is responsible for delivering security and law enforcement services for the 8,700 assets that the General Services Administration (GSA) owns, controls, or leases across the country. The Federal Protective Service is part of the frontline defense for these Federal buildings, which include Federal courthouses, Social Security Administration buildings, Agency headquarters, and other buildings. FPS law enforcement officers are authorized to carry firearms and empowered to make arrests related to the protection of buildings, grounds, and property owned by the Federal government and persons on the property. Like other law enforcement officers within DHS, FPS officers receive the same training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and often risk their lives in protection of the nearly 1 million Federal employees and visitors to Federal buildings.

As a former law enforcement officer I have a deep appreciation for their service and the sacrifices that FPS law enforcement officers make on a regular basis. By providing this retirement provision I believe it will help the Federal Protective Service thrive in its mission of protecting Federal facilities, their occupants, and visitors with superior law enforcement and protective security services.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to consider this legislation and pass it as soon as possible.

HONORING ERNIE PYLE

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the greatest Hoosiers history has seen, who gave his life 70 years ago.

Ernie Pyle, a Hoosier journalist, became a household name as he told of the everyday lives—the trials and tribulations, the honor and dignity—of our soldiers in WWII.

Through his Pulitzer Prize winning column, Ernie Pyle brought the hard realities of war into the homes of families worldwide.

And he was an advocate for the common soldier—the guys he rightfully argued wars can’t be won without.

Generations of young journalists—especially those who’ve studied in his shadow at the Indiana University School of Journalism—have greatly benefited from his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, we should all be grateful for the sacrifice and service of great men like Ernest Taylor Pyle.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP
VICTOR L. POWELL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God,

Bishop Victor L. Powell, who will celebrate his 25th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Rhema Word Cathedral. An anniversary worship service will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Rhema Word Cathedral in Albany, Georgia.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Bishop Powell was born to be a leader. He served our nation honorably in the United States Marine Corps for nine years. He completed Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership School and Defense Mapping School, and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. Bishop Powell also is a certified trainer with the Georgia Department of Corrections and has trained hundreds of law enforcement officers for the State of Georgia.

Since 1990, Bishop Powell has led Rhema Word Cathedral, formerly known as Williams Spring Baptist Church. His God-given vision has taken the church to greater heights than ever before. Bishop Powell pastors one church in two locations—one in downtown Albany and one in Dawson, Georgia. He also founded Stand Up Again, Inc., a subsidiary of Rhema Word Cathedral and outreach ministry that serves local, regional, and even international communities, including Ghana, Guatemala, and Haiti. The Stand Up Again television broadcast reaches people throughout the region on a weekly basis.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Bishop Powell serves as pastor to other pastors all over the world through Covenant Network Ministries. He is also the President and CEO of VLP, Inc., which provides training and motivational speaking to corporations and agencies.

In October 2002, Bishop Powell was consecrated to the office of Bishop by Archbishop Earl Paulk of the International Charismatic Communion of Churches in Decatur, Georgia. Bishop Powell has served on the College of Bishops for the International Charismatic Communion of Churches; the Foundation Board for Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital; and Stop the Violence Project. He has also served on the Executive Board of Directors for the Albany Chamber of Commerce; Capitol City Bank; Albany-Dougherty Governmental Study Commission; and Lily Pad of Albany.

Using Bishop Powell as a vessel, God has reached into the hearts of many so that Rhema Word Cathedral has welcomed thousands of souls to this prolific ministry. A dynamic and ever faithful pastor, his ministry has stretched across the globe. As one of the premier preachers of our generation, Bishop Powell is well-known and sought after for his anointed, sound and understandable proclamation of God's Word. He is motivated by his love for people, his love for preaching, and his belief that no one is beyond God's reach. On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Bishop Powell's sage counsel and enduring friendship over the many years I have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Bishop Victor L. Powell for twenty-five wonderful years of changing Southwest Georgia for the better, over thirty remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church and to humankind.

IN HONOR OF SAN BERNARDINO
POLICE OFFICER GABRIEL GARCIA

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor San Bernardino Police Officer Gabriel Garcia for his outstanding service to the community and for his dedication to the San Bernardino Police Department.

Officer Garcia joined the police force in March 2008 and has since served as a Patrol Officer. His work throughout the years has been described as exemplary by colleagues on account of his extreme professionalism and compassionate nature. Among Officer Garcia's many accomplishments include his highly commended involvement in the San Bernardino Graffiti Task Force. Throughout his tenure, he has received widespread commendation for his assistance with various crimes such as armed robberies and car theft.

At about 2 a.m. on August 22, 2014, Officer Garcia was shot in the head and critically injured while showing his young officer trainee how to conduct a pedestrian check in San Bernardino. Officer Garcia's injuries were so severe that he spent several months hospitalized in critical condition. Due to his life-threatening brain injuries, Officer Garcia was put in a medically induced coma, which he later emerged from in September.

Now, after a triumphant recovery, Officer Garcia is back at the side of his loving family. His recovery is currently being aided by his father, retired San Bernardino Police Captain Ron Garcia, and his mother, Lydia Garcia. They provide full care and support for their son as he takes part in a day therapy program.

Officer Garcia is a testament to the sacrifices that our public safety officials make in order to protect and serve our communities. He is a reminder to all of us that every day, men and women in law enforcement put themselves in harm's way to maintain order throughout the United States. His perseverance through this traumatic event is inspirational, and I wish him a continued recovery.

For his heroic contributions to the community, and for his many other achievements, I would like to honor Officer Garcia and his family.

HONORING CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Callaway High School that is located at 601 Beasley Road in Jackson, Mississippi. Callaway is one of seven high schools in the Jackson Public School District, the largest school district in the state of Mississippi.

Built in 1966, Callaway was named after the late Robert M. Callaway, a Lafayette County native. He began his career teaching Choctaw Indians in the mountains of McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Before assuming duties as prin-

cipal of Liberty Grove School, later H. V. Watkins Elementary in Jackson, he taught at Darling in Quitman County and Pochontas in Hinds County. He was principal at Watkins from 1936–1956.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Callaway High School.

CONGRATULATING HONDA MANUFACTURING OF INDIANA

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, Honda Manufacturing of Indiana, located in my district in Greensburg, Indiana, reached a significant milestone by celebrating the production of its 1 millionth vehicle on April 8, 2015.

Honda began manufacturing Civic Sedans at the plant in October of 2008 and is the sole U.S. plant producing these vehicles. While most of the production is slated for the U.S. market, the Indiana facility exports to a number of locations around the world. The facility's annual production capacity is currently 250,000 vehicles.

Honda, a Japanese company, exemplifies how strong trade ties can benefit Indiana's economy. Honda purchases parts and materials from 49 suppliers from around the state of Indiana and has spent more than \$16 billion with suppliers in North America since 2008. Additionally, since Honda opened its doors, it has had a strong presence in Greensburg and the surrounding communities, providing thousands of jobs to Hoosiers.

Please join me in congratulating Honda and the more than 2,000 associates at the facility for this major manufacturing achievement.

INSTRUMENTAL LEADERSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of Alvin Community College's (ACC) outstanding faculty members, Dr. Lynda Vern and Ms. Karen Downey, who were recently named recipients of the John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award during the League for Innovation in the Community College Conference in Boston. This award recognizes outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty and staff.

Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey are among more than 60 recipients to be recognized from the great State of Texas. The award recognizes exemplary faculty and staff for their contributions and leadership. Dr. Vern has worked at ACC for almost 40 years and teaches developmental education students while directing ACC's Learning Lab. Ms. Downey has worked with the college for 30 years and teaches in the Court Reporting program. Community colleges play a critical role in shaping and developing the workforce needed to keep our economy strong. The leadership of Dr. Vern and Ms. Downey are instrumental in maintaining excellence in education for our community.