

Councils of Government in the country. DRCOG serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Denver metropolitan region, skillfully serving nearly three million citizens in three broad-based areas: Regional Growth and Development, Transportation & Personal Mobility, and Aging & Disability Resources.

Currently, local governments are represented in a cooperative and comprehensive multi-modal transportation planning process for the entire region while incorporating state and federal practices and regulations. The Denver Regional Council's Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC) ensures people with mobility challenges have access to the community by increasing, enhancing, sharing, and coordinating regional transportation services and resources with a vision of mobility and access for all.

DRCOG's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) has worked with the Department of Housing and Urban Development while leveraging the multi-billion dollar FasTracks transit system expansion already in place. The SCI just concluded its collaborative partnership of governmental, public and private-sector organizations to support the planning and implementation of its ideas to foster greater access to more economically diverse, multi-modal communities that will put less strain on our natural resources.

Now in its 40th year as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA), DRCOG helps people live independently as long as possible in their own homes and communities. DRCOG contracts with community-based agencies to provide a broad continuum of services addressing the needs of the region's booming population of older adults and those living with disabilities. In coordination with other stakeholders, the AAA helps ensure that community leaders are aware of the needs of older adults, the benefits of community-based services, and the costs to taxpayers of failing to address needs of seniors in the region.

DRCOG has a long list of accomplishments shaping the region in a way that benefits us all. From helping transition the Valley Highway to what we know today as I-25, including the T-Rex project, to the discussion about where to relocate Stapleton Airport—which we know now as Denver International Airport. DRCOG helped establish the Mile High Compact to help shape growth in the metro area in an intelligent manner and designed mechanisms to protect the region's air quality through the oversight of the Regional Air Quality Council. From funding major highway and transit projects in the region to helping with the formation of RTD, DRCOG has been involved with seemingly every major regional issue and project.

Please join me in commending DRCOG. As their motto says, they make life better.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID  
SANES RODRIGUEZ

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, April 19th, marked the anniversary of the death of David Sanes Rodriguez. He was a ci-

vilian security guard, employed by the U.S. Navy, who died 16 years ago when two errant bombs were dropped from a fighter jet near his observation post on Vieques, Puerto Rico.

His tragic death spurred protests throughout Puerto Rico and the United States, and ultimately led to the halting of bombing on the island where countless shells and chemicals were dropped.

It is unconscionable that the American government could wreak such havoc on such pristine lands for so long. It is unimaginable that it would ignore the pleas of its own citizens for decades as they called for an end to the bombing of their land.

We must ensure that Sanes Rodriguez is not forgotten, and neither is the unnecessary destruction of vast parts of Vieques during the more than 60 years of live-fire bombing practice on the island.

As we also celebrate Earth Day this week, we must acknowledge another grim reality: decades of destructive shelling turned Vieques into one of the most toxic places on the planet. In the 16 years since Sanes Rodriguez was killed, lingering environmental and health concerns due to the bombings are still not being fully addressed.

Tens of thousands of bombs and toxic chemicals were dropped on Vieques during U.S. Navy training exercises. Some of those munitions contained depleted uranium and napalm. Contamination concerns led the Environmental Protection Agency to list the former Vieques training area as a Superfund site—basically designating it as a toxic dump.

I have grilled the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) about the alarming rate of cancer and other serious health conditions experienced by Viequesens as a result of the environmental damage caused by decades of military bombing. Amazingly, the agency has reported that it could not find “credible scientific evidence” to support a link between a generation of military pollutants and Vieques residents' poor health trends.

In March of 2013, I visited Vieques to witness for myself the consequences of decades of shelling and the impact it has had on the island. I met with citizens whose health has been harmed by living near the former bombing range. The people of Vieques live everyday with the legacy of the environmental destruction that was wreaked upon their land.

Sanes Rodriguez's death, while tragic and unnecessary, was not meaningless. It opened the eyes of millions of Americans to the harm being inflicted upon Vieques. Our annual remembrance of his tragic death now serves another noble cause: environmental justice for Vieques.

On this important date for the people of Vieques, and as the world celebrates Earth Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in making sure this beautiful island is restored. I urge my colleagues to join me in addressing the health problems that six decades of bombings have imposed upon the residents who still call Vieques home.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD T. “FITZY”  
FITZPATRICK OF BOSTON, MA

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edward T. “Fitzzy” Fitzpatrick, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2222 of Boston, MA, and to commend him for over fifty years of dedicated service to the working men and women of this community.

The son of Joseph and Ann Fitzpatrick of Mattapan, Edward was born in Boston and lived in Mattapan. Edward attended St. Margaret's School in Dorchester, MA and graduated from Hyde Park High School. During high school and after graduation, Ed began his career at New England Telephone. His career at New England Telephone was put on hold while he honorably and bravely served in Vietnam.

Upon completion of his distinguished service to our country, Ed continued working for New England Telephone and began to gain the respect and admiration of his co-workers while fighting for their rights on the job. His leadership skills were evident and he was instrumental in the achievements of the IBTW and helped form the foundation for the move from the independent IBTW to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the charter of Local 2222. Local 2222 became well-known in the local labor movement and in political circles in Boston's working-class neighborhoods.

Ed held many positions in Local 2222 for many years including shop steward, chief steward, vice president and business agent. He became president of the Local in 1991 and held that position for 24 years until his retirement in March of 2015.

He is well-known for fiercely leading Local 2222 and 60,000 workers through a four month strike in 1989 that was one of the largest and most contentious union/management battles in decades. From the back of a pickup truck with a loudspeaker, Ed motivated thousands to stand strong on the picket line and to battle for their rights and their families through one of the most successful strikes in U.S. history with his hallmark saying “Hang Tough.” The striking workers in 1989 successfully resisted management demands and won health care coverage for all telephone workers in Boston.

Aside from being a fierce union leader, Ed is mostly known for his incredible dedication to those afflicted by drug and alcohol addiction. A legendary figure in Local 2222's “Membership Assistance” program, Ed's personal interventions and time has saved the lives, marriages, and phone company careers of countless workers caught in the grip of substance abuse. He has devoted his own personal time, day and night, to families and individuals struggling with addiction. He believes the most valuable thing you can give to another human being is your time and Fitzzy makes the time for anyone in need. He not only works with the members of his union and their families but also spends three nights a week visiting and bringing the message of hope to the incarcerated in three local prisons.

Mr. Speaker, Fitz is known for his diligent service to others from all walks of life. Ed was a recipient of the Caring Hearts Award from The Gavin Foundation in South Boston. He was also recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Correction at the State House for his tireless years of service to incarcerated individuals.

Ed has had the good fortune to be married to his wife, Joanne for 45 years; they are the proud parents of three children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Edward T. "Fitz" Fitzpatrick's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to his country, his community and to the working men and women of the Greater Boston area.

RECOGNIZING BOY SCOUT TROOP 6

**HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Boy Scout Troop 6 as they achieve the distinguished Centennial celebration in the storied history of scouting in America. Formed in 1915, Troop 6 is the oldest continuously operating scout troop in the Dan Beard Council, and now marks its 100th year.

Over those 100 years, scouting values have played an important role in our nation's history, contributing to the character development of millions of youth.

Leading boys from the first steps of Tenderfoot through the rank of Eagle Scout, through merit badges, summer camps, and service projects, Troop 6 has instilled character and moral compass in countless young men over its 100 years.

America and Ohio benefit from skills and values that scouting instills in our young men including self-reliance, a duty to God and country, appreciation of the outdoors, and committed citizenship. Our nation could benefit from more people taking the Scout Law to heart.

Troop 6 has shown a dedicated commitment to our community and nation, leading numerous service projects and supporting our military members.

Southwest Ohio is privileged to have such a distinguished scout troop. I look forward to Troop 6's next 100 years as they continue their legacy of service.

RECOGNIZING BILL AND DOROTHY BIZZINI

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill and Dorothy Bizzini as the recipients of the Merced College Foundation's 2015 President's Medallion Award. Bill and Dorothy Bizzini have served their community with distinction, volunteering their time and donating to a wide range of causes and organi-

zations in and around Merced County, California.

Bill and Dorothy Bizzini will have been married for 60 years in June and are the proud parents of four successful children. Bill and Dorothy graduated from Gustine High School. Dorothy earned a Registered Nursing Diploma from Sacramento Junior College and a B.A. in Nursing Education from CSU Sacramento. Bill majored in Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. Bill and Dorothy were the first in their families to earn college degrees. They have owned and operated the Atwater Veterinary Clinic, providing quality medical care for both large and small animals, thus serving the needs of the area's farmers, ranchers, and community members since 1960.

Bill and Dorothy Bizzini have contributed their volunteer time by serving on many local, state, and national professional organizations and boards. Among these organizations are the Merced College Board of Trustees, the UC Merced Foundation, CSU Stanislaus Foundation, Atwater Chamber of Commerce, Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, California Veterinary Medical Association, Atwater Methodist Church, Soroptimist Club of Atwater, Castle Air Force Base Community Council and Bloss Memorial Hospital Board of Directors.

The Bizzini's have always promoted education throughout their lives. In 2004 the Classroom Building at California State University Stanislaus was renamed Dorothy and Bill Bizzini Hall after a pledge of \$1.35 million. Dorothy is currently on the University of California Merced Foundation's Board of Trustees and Bill served until 2012. Bill and Dorothy went to college on scholarships and they clearly understand how important it is to help others achieve a higher education.

Bill and Dorothy have inspired many others to follow their example of service above self, being active members of Rotary International and have attended 14 Rotary International Conventions. They have made numerous humanitarian trips to foreign countries, providing health services to families and children in Guatemala, Ghana, Venezuela, Mexico, El Salvador, Thailand and many other countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the lifetime of commitment that Bill and Dorothy have given to the Merced County community. They are richly deserving of all honor and praise associated with the Merced College Foundation's President's Medallion.

STRENGTHENING TRADE-RELATED PROTECTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, when foreign countries selectively enforce their environmental rules to advantage their own companies, it undercuts U.S. companies and it harms the environment. Our trade negotiators should have the tools they need to adequately enforce environmental commitments.

The problem is proliferating. A survey conducted this year by the American Chamber of Commerce in China found that 57 percent—a multi-point increase from last year—of U.S.

companies operating in China believed they were being unfairly targeted compared to their local competition. The U.S. should have the tools to correct such disadvantages. The Green 301 Act would be an important tool in this regard.

The Green 301 Act strengthens Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to strengthen the U.S. Trade Representative's ability to ensure that the law is applied equally, that bad actors are held accountable, and that good actors are not penalized for following the rules. By making sure U.S. companies aren't forced to play by a different and more costly set of rules abroad, we can bolster environmental protections and best practices, as well as U.S. exports. The selective enforcement of environmental laws damages both trade and our environment.

Specifically, the Green 301 Act would allow the U.S. to impose penalties on countries that fail to effectively enforce their environmental laws, that waived or otherwise derogated from their environmental laws, that fail to provide for judicial proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of their environmental laws, that fail to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of their environmental laws, or that fail to effectively implement environmental commitments they agreed to with the United States.

Additionally, Section 301 enables outside groups to petition USTR to take action. Any outside organization may file a Section 301 request with USTR, which must then consult with the petitioners, and report back within 45 days on whether they will or won't act on the petition and why or why not. The Green 301 Act would ensure this process is expanded to environmental violations.

U.S. trade agreements attempt to limit these unfair double standards. Dozens of countries, however, fall outside our trade commitments. To level the playing field in these countries, and to stop a race to the bottom, Congress included Section 301 in the Trade Act of 1974. This section authorizes the U.S. to take action to remove "any act, policy, or practice of a foreign government that . . . is unjustified, unreasonable, or discriminatory, and that burdens or restricts U.S. commerce." Congress later expanded Section 301 to deal specifically with IP issues, and later amended it to address labor standards. It is time that Congress expand it again to meet environmental challenges.

IN HONOR OF DR. NORMAN C. FRANCIS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an esteemed educator and outstanding civic leader, Dr. Norman C. Francis. As the nation's longest-serving university president, Dr. Francis will be retiring after 47 remarkable years as president of Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana. A reception hosted by the Honorable Mary Landrieu and the Honorable Alexis Herman will be held in his honor on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Washington, DC.