

Mall, a priceless space, I am reintroducing the National Mall Revitalization and Designation Act. Until the Trust for the National Mall was established in 2007, the National Mall was Washington's most neglected and underutilized federal property, despite being well-known and treasured. The Trust for the National Mall is already making a noteworthy and important difference, and its plan will give the Mall the majesty it deserves. In the meantime, there is much that can be done, from defining the Mall's official identity for the first time to adding low-cost basic amenities. My bill authorizes the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPCC) to expand the boundaries of the Mall where commemorative works may be located, requires NCPCC to study the commemorative works process, and requires the Secretary of the Interior to submit a plan within 180 days of passage to Congress to enhance visitor enjoyment, amenities and cultural experiences on the Mall.

I worked closely with NCPCC and other agencies in drafting the bill. The bill would give NCPCC the responsibility and necessary flexibility to designate Mall areas for commemorative works and, for the first time, to expand the official Mall area when appropriate to accommodate future commemorative works and cultural institutions.

In addition, tourists and workers downtown should be able to walk to the Mall and find attractive tables and chairs in the shade where good—not fast—food is available. Residents of the city and region should be able to find space for fun and games on the Mall, beyond the space between Third Street and the Lincoln Memorial.

Bordered by world-class cultural institutions, the Mall need not continue to be reduced to a mere lawn with a few—too few—old, ordinary benches and a couple of fast food stands until the expansive work of the Trust for the National Mall is completed. The plan by the Secretary of the Interior required by the bill would ensure chairs and tables for people who bring lunch to the Mall and the presence of cultural amenities. The NPS has my thanks for implementing and indeed sponsoring the part of the bill that calls for cultural amenities with Lunchtime Music on the Mall, which begins today. Lunchtime Music on the Mall is a good start to bringing the Mall alive during the workday. With the necessary imagination, making the Mall an inviting place with cultural and other amenities is achievable now.

The NCPCC is well on its way to meeting the bill's requirement for an expansive, 21st-century definition of the Mall, particularly now that the Trust for the National Mall is doing such important work. Frustrated by continually fighting off proposals for new monuments, museums, and memorials on the already-crowded Mall space, I asked the NCPCC to devise a Mall presentation plan. In 2003, Congress amended the Commemorative Works Act to create a reserve area—a no-build zone where new memorials may not be built. This action was helpful in quelling some but by no means all of the demand from groups for placement of commemorative works on what they view as the Mall.

However, recognizing the need for more commemorative work sites, NCPCC and the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) released a National Capital Framework Plan in 2009, which identifies sites near the Mall that are suitable for new commemorative works, in-

cluding East Potomac Park, the Kennedy Center Plaza, and the new South Capitol gateway. Five new prestigious memorials are scheduled for such sites, including the Eisenhower Memorial and the U.S. Air Force Memorial. I appreciate that NCPCC and the CFA work closely with the District of Columbia in designating off-Mall sites for new commemorative works. The District welcomes the expanded Mall into our local neighborhoods to increase the number of tourists who visit them, enhancing the work of the District of Columbia government and local organizations such as Cultural Tourism that offer tours of historic District neighborhoods. The off-Mall sites for commemorative works also complement development of entirely new neighborhoods near the Mall, particularly with the passage of my bills that are redeveloping both the Southwest and Southeast waterfronts.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2015*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I want to first thank the Chairman, the Ranking Member, and the committee staff for their hard work and effort that the bill before us represents. I particularly want to express my sincere thanks to Chairman WILSON and the members of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities subcommittee for what I believe are very fine contributions to the final bill. These initiatives span a variety of important areas, including cyberspace programs and authorities; technology transition and reauthorization of the Rapid Innovation Program; and research, development, and integration of advanced technologies such as railgun and directed energy. Also included in this legislation are critical provisions that address Special Operations, Counter-Terrorism, and Unconventional Warfare, including increasing Congressional oversight of sensitive operations, and the threats posed at home and abroad by weapons of mass destruction.

I also applaud the bill's investment in critically important undersea capabilities such as the peerless Virginia-class submarines, the Virginia Payload Module, the recapitalization of our national deterrent through the Ohio Replacement Program, and cutting-edge autonomous and unmanned systems.

These provisions demonstrate a shared, bipartisan commitment to the defense of our nation and support for our troops.

However, as we move forward with this bill, I note with great concern that it reflects a budget approach that locks in sequestration and severs that critical link between our national and economic security. I'm sure that

dedicated public servants fighting organized crime at the Department of Justice, combatting terrorist financing mechanisms at the Treasury, or securing our borders and defending our critical infrastructure in cyberspace at Homeland Security would be shocked indeed to find out that what they did wasn't a matter of national security. One could just as soon tell the brilliant scientists and engineers at our national labs, or the teachers educating future generations that what they do isn't important to the future competitiveness of our nation. National security is not just tanks, ships, and airplanes.

The one-year nature of the approach in the bill is a flagrant abuse of a system designed to fund incremental and unpredictable costs of overseas operations, not to get around politically difficult votes for Members of Congress. It's bad management and worse policy; it doesn't live up to our commitment to the troops; it undermines our capability to conduct long-term strategy; and worst of all, it sets us up to have yet another round of budgeting by brinkmanship in a matter of months. Ducking debates is not why our constituents sent us here.

While I support the important policy measures contained in the bill, and I ultimately support its passage, it is so unfortunate that the one piece of legislation that has historically been the pinnacle of bipartisanship and one of the last vestiges of regular order has been taken hostage by a refusal to address the Budget Control Act. I applaud the bill's recognition that the President's budget accurately reflects the level of investment needed, but that is true across all departments and all of the elements of national power that together make the United States great. Let's take that realization to its logical conclusion and use the seeds of bipartisanship that the Armed Services Committee has worked so hard to preserve to build a long-term agreement that can finally unshackle us from the tyranny of budgetary uncertainty.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE WICONISCO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 65TH CONSECUTIVE ANNUAL REUNION

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Wiconisco High School Alumni Association for exceptional civic activism—past and present—as reflected by the fact that the Association is hosting a 65th annual reunion. The Association has met every year since its first meeting in 1951 and has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to its members and the larger community. While the Wiconisco district designation no longer exists, the Alumni Association has remained dedicated to serving the redrawn district and the needs of its students.

When Wiconisco merged into the Williams Valley School District in 1965, the alumni did not lose their focus or commitment. Over the decades, the Wiconisco High School Alumni Association has supported the Williams Valley

Athletic Department, sponsored the local minstrel project, and actively provided scholarships to ensure the future success of area students. Since the scholarship program began in 1992, the Alumni Association has awarded over \$200,000 to local graduates, and now awards a total of five scholarships annually.

I extend my gratitude to the members of the Wiconisco High School Alumni Association for their dedication to each other, to education, and to the improvement of their community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 12, Wednesday, May 13, Thursday, May 14, Friday, May 15, and Monday, May 18, 2015, I was out on medical leave on account of a successful procedure to clear a blocked artery and was unable to be present for recorded votes.

Had I been present, on May 12, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 216, the Don't Tax Our Fallen First Responders Act (H.R. 606), "no" on roll call no. 217, the Edwards amendment to H.R. 1732, "no" on roll call no. 218, the Democratic Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 1732, "yes" on roll call no. 219, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act (H.R. 1732), and "yes" on roll call no. 220, the Defending Public Safety Employee's Retirement Act (H.R. 2146).

On May 13, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 221, the rule allowing floor debate on H.R. 1735, H.R. 36, and H.R. 2048 (H. Res. 255). On roll call no. 222, I would have voted "no" on the Democratic Motion to Recommit with Instructions, and I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 223, passage of the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 36.) I also would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 224, passage of H.R. 2048, the Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ensuring Effective Discipline Over Monitoring Act of 2015.

On May 14, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 225, the rule allowing further debate on H.R. 1735 (H. Res. 260). I would also have voted "yes" on roll call no. 226, the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (H.R. 1191) and "yes" on roll call no. 227, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (H.R. 2297).

Additionally, on amendments to H.R. 1735, I would have voted "no" on roll call no. 228, Polis amendment no. 2; "yes" on roll call no. 229, Brooks of Alabama amendment no. 5; "yes" on roll call no. 230, Walorski amendment no. 15; "no" on roll call no. 231, Smith of Washington amendment no. 16; and "yes" on roll call no. 232, McCaul amendment no. 17.

Had I been present on May 15, on amendments to H.R. 1735, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 233, Rohrabacher amendment no. 23; "yes" on roll call no. 234, Lamborn amendment no. 27; "no" on roll call no. 235, Blumenauer amendment no. 32; "yes" on roll call no. 236, Lucas amendment no. 38; "no"

on roll call no. 237, Nadler amendment no. 41; and "no" on roll call no. 238, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 1735 with instruction. I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 239, final passage of H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016.

On May 18, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on roll call no. 240, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act (H.R. 91), "yes" on roll call no. 241, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act (H.R. 1313), and "yes" on roll call no. 242, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act (H.R. 1382).

IN HONOR OF MARY COLLINS,  
STATE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW  
HAMPSHIRE SMALL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

### HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Collins as she retires after 18 years as the State Director of the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center. In this position, Mary oversaw the Center's state-wide, regional, and satellite offices, educational programs, and economic development initiatives. Mary was a dedicated leader and instrumental in ensuring the success of small businesses in the Granite State. Her commitment to New Hampshire small businesses has had a deep impact on our state.

The New Hampshire Small Business Development Center (NH SBDC) assists approximately 3,000 small businesses across the state each year through advising and education programs. New Hampshire's economy depends on a strong commitment to providing support for these small businesses. As State Director, Mary had a deep understanding of this and made sure the NH SBDC was a widely available resource for Granite State small businesses. With years of dedicated service as State Director, Mary has positioned the NH SBDC well for a future of continuing to assist small businesses in our state.

In addition to her position at the NH SBDC, Mary has also served on many boards and as a member of many organizations across the state and in her hometown community. She was on the board of directors of the New Hampshire High Technology Council, New Hampshire Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and New Hampshire International Trade Advisory Board. In addition, she served as a member of the Nashua Chamber of Commerce's Advocacy Committee, the Legislative Committee for the National Association of Small Business Development Centers, and the New Hampshire Legislature's Business Regulation Commission.

Mary has received recognition on several occasions for her great service to our state and community. She received the Business Excellence Hall of Fame Award from the NH Business Review in 2007, the NH Business & Industry Award in 2009, and the Citizens Bank Good Citizens Award in 2010. This year, Mary received the Mary Dumais Memorial Fund

Award, in honor of her dedication to working with women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses.

I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to work alongside Mary over the past few years. I look forward to continuing to work with the NH SBDC and on behalf of small businesses in the Granite State.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Mary for everything she has done for small businesses in our state making it a better place to live, work, and raise a family. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Mary on her retirement and wish her the best of luck on her next steps.

CONGRATULATING ALL ABOUT  
TREES, LLC, FOR EARNING THE  
2015 SPRINGFIELD AREA CHAM-  
BER OF COMMERCE SMALL BUSI-  
NESS AWARD

### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noel Boyer and his team at All About Trees, LLC, in Springfield, Missouri, for being awarded the 2015 Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award.

Noel, who is a board certified master arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture, took over the now 22-year-old business in 2005 and has grown it into the accomplished business it is today. For more than a decade, he and his well-seasoned team have been caring for Springfield's trees, further glorifying the Queen City's "Tree City USA" designation.

All About Trees is a fine example of how careful, strategic planning and customer care leads to success. The business has not only improved the looks of Springfield area lawns, but has rooted itself as a mainstay in our local economy and community.

I congratulate Noel Boyer and All About Trees for being awarded this prestigious honor. I look forward to seeing this small business continue its great work and quality service in Springfield for many, many years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 2015*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following Roll Call votes on May 18, 2015 and would like to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call #240: YES

Roll Call #241: YES

Roll Call #242: YES