

an appointment to the Beeville Municipal Court. This moment in Silva's life arrived after decades of dedicated effort and service to his community. He worked his way through high school as a janitor in the same courthouse where he would later serve as a judge. He lived a life defined by integrity, commitment and dedication.

Silva would continue to be a pillar of the Beeville community during his later years. He found time to help lead community boards as he continued his passion for education. His capacity to perform at a high level was second to none.

Our community suffered a tremendous loss with Judge Silva's passing, but his legacy will be preserved by the positive change he made in his community and through the many students who had the privilege to learn from him in the classroom.

Judge David Silva is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Yolanda Olivares Silva; his daughters, Cassandra Dianne Silva (Casey Hawks), and Cristianna Dawn Silva Meineke (Aaron Meineke); siblings, John Marks Silva, Amado Silva (Zenaída), and Grace Ramirez (Adolfo). He is also survived by a granddaughter, Audria Nouvelle Diem Silva.

On this day, I remember Judge David Silva. May he forever rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BISHOP CURTIS E. MONTGOMERY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Bishop Curtis Montgomery of Tacoma, WA. Curtis epitomized the role that long-standing faith leaders play in their community. He was a tireless advocate for the members of his congregation and the greater Tacoma community.

Bishop Montgomery was a key leader who shepherded Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood through the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and the gang and drug violence of the 1980s. His steadfast leadership and staunch belief in the power of community involvement will be remembered in the revitalization of this historically significant neighborhood.

His contributions to the Hilltop include the establishment of Christ Temple Church in 1959, which later became Greater Christ Temple Church in 1977. Under his leadership, Greater Christ Temple Church has become much more than a place for worship. Parishioners are community leaders, volunteers, and advocates for the work that Curtis has espoused his entire life.

One of his most esteemed accomplishments was the realization of the Oasis of Hope Center. This faith-based community outreach center was the culmination of Bishop Montgomery's efforts and long-standing vision to provide a safe and stable place for the community to serve their neighbors. Opened in 2004, the Oasis of Hope Center has operated feeding programs, a clothing bank, counseling services, youth programs, and donation drives.

Mr. Speaker, last year there were over 500 Hilltop community members served at the Center's annual Share the Harvest Thanks-

giving Meal. I have been told there were more volunteers than they could possibly need for that dinner. This simple fact is just one piece of evidence representing his legacy and his vision. Scripture tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. It's safe to say God loves Curtis Montgomery and his parishioners—who have given so much, to so many, for so long.

Bishop Curtis Montgomery was born in Selma, AL, which was central in the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s. He was raised to stamp out discrimination and racism. He built his church and developed a powerful message of tolerance and peace. Bishop Montgomery served his community in the steps of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who he admired and followed from an early age.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of visiting Selma on the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday and had the privilege to join leaders like Rep. JOHN LEWIS in commemoration of the struggle for equal rights. I am proud to have walked in the hometown of Bishop Curtis Montgomery with the knowledge that his contribution to a safer and more equitable society would not be forgotten—that his legacy was etched with his brothers and sisters in Selma, 50 years later.

On behalf of his congregation and the people of the Hilltop Neighborhood in Tacoma, WA, I stand today, proudly, to honor the lifetime achievements of Bishop Curtis Montgomery of Greater Christ Temple Church in the Congress of the United States.

HONORING MS. ANDREA JENKINS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Andrea Jenkins, who has been chosen to serve as Grand Marshal for the 2015 Twin Cities Pride parade and festival because of her distinguished contributions to the citizens of Minnesota in the form of art and activism.

Ms. Jenkins has been among the Twin Cities' leading advocates for transgender equity, especially at the intersections of race and class. During her 12-year career as a policy aide for the Minneapolis City Council, Ms. Jenkins was central in raising the profile of transgender issues among Minnesota's most influential policymakers. Under her leadership, the City of Minneapolis started the Transgender Issues Work Group, a roundtable dedicated to changing city ordinances to improve the lives of transgender citizens. Local and national media outlets have covered her efforts—raising the profile of an often-overlooked segment of the population. At a time when our nation is seeing an epidemic of violence against transgender individuals—specifically trans women of color—Ms. Jenkins's work is critical.

In addition to her work in the political realm, Ms. Jenkins is an award-winning poet and performance artist. Her work has been honored by the Jerome Foundation, Intermedia Arts, The Playwrights' Center, the Walker Art Center, the Givens Foundation, the Loft Literary Center, and countless other arts organizations. In 2011, she was named a Bush Fellow.

On top of crafting nuanced pieces that reflect her identity as a trans woman of color,

Ms. Jenkins serves on numerous boards and panels, including serving as the board chair of Intermedia Arts. This leadership has allowed Ms. Jenkins to create some of the Twin Cities' most inclusive and boundary-pushing events, frequently centering the voices of those at "the margins of the margins." One such event, the Queer Voices reading series, is the longest-running series of its kind in the country.

Recently, Ms. Jenkins left her position with the City of Minneapolis to begin curating the Transgender Oral History Project, part of the University of Minnesota's Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection. In this role, she will travel throughout the upper Midwest to document the experiences of transgender people. This permanent record will serve as one of the nation's most comprehensive catalogs of contemporary transgender life.

At a time when the T in LGBT is often overlooked, Andrea Jenkins has helped move the spotlight to the trans community. Her work has sparked conversation, propagated knowledge and forged a path for future trans leaders. Her work in our community is inestimable and I congratulate her on being selected Grand Marshal. I am proud to call her a friend and ally.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE HELP HIRE OUR HEROES ACT

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the House to bring to the floor my bill, the Help Hire our Heroes Act.

My bill would renew the Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance Program (VRAP) and permit additional veterans to participate in the program. As you may know, the VRAP program provides up to 12 months of re-training assistance to veterans in need of employment training, but who are unable to participate in other VA programs because of their age and time since active duty service.

Specifically, the program provided training assistance to unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 who are no longer eligible for the GI Bill. Veterans could use these benefits at community colleges and technical schools in occupations that the Department of Labor identified as "high demand."

The VRAP program started in 2012, but funding for this program expired in March 2014 and the VA has not been able to enroll new veterans in VRAP.

In 2014, there were 573,000 unemployed veterans, 55 percent of whom were age 45 and up. I simply do not understand why the Majority has allowed this important veterans' job training program to lapse. It has resulted in thousands of older, qualified veterans being unable to access job training to help them find work.

As we approach Memorial Day, Congress should be doing all it can to help unemployed veterans find work. Please bring my bill to the floor, so that we can renew the Veterans Re-training Assistance Program.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 2250, a bill to fund the operations of the U.S. House of Representatives for 2016 and for other purposes.

In these times of needed fiscal discipline, everyone must do their part. We are bound by funding caps and, though the president has put forward a blueprint to address sequestration, the Republican leadership has chosen to disregard the plan. As a result, appropriators have produced a bill that makes deep cuts to agencies and programs that support the legislative branch when compared to the president's request.

H.R. 2250 provides a total of \$3.341 billion for vital House and House affiliated functions as well as for greater Congressional operations. This is a reduction from the president's request of \$200 million. Within the total available funding, \$492.2 million is provided for the Architect of the Capitol which oversees maintenance and repairs of House and Senate office buildings in addition to many other important buildings in the Congressional complex. Excluding Senate items, this is an \$84 million reduction in funding for maintenance of the Capitol Visitor Center, the Capitol Grounds, the Library of Congress and the U.S. Botanical Garden. \$591.4 million is provided in the bill to fund Library of Congress (LOC) operations. In addition to being the repository of the nation's print and recorded media, the LOC serves as the research arm of Congress, helping to inform the legislative debate on Capitol Hill. This bill cuts its funding by \$33 million below the president's request. The bill also reduces funding for the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The GAO functions as the "congressional watchdog" by investigating how federal agencies spend American taxpayer dollars. This bill funds GAO at \$522 million, which is \$31 million less than the president's request. H.R. 2250 does increase funding for the Capitol Police when compared to enacted funding levels, but the increase is actually a \$10 million cut when compared to the president's request.

I believe spending taxpayer dollars carefully should always be a priority of Congress, and seeking ways to reduce government spending should also be a priority. There are funding reductions in the bill that I support, including the pay freeze for Members of Congress. But the American people expect us to make wise cuts. They don't want us cutting for the sake of cutting—especially when vital services may be impacted. The president's budget contained a strategy to address sequestration that would have made many of these cuts unnecessary. I regret that my Republican colleagues chose to ignore it.

HONORING COAST GUARD CAPTAIN
SAMUEL DUKE WALKER**HON. BRADLEY BYRNE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a great American and my dear friend, Coast Guard Captain Samuel Duke Walker.

Captain Walker has served as Commander of Coast Guard Sector Mobile since July of 2013. Before coming to Southwest Alabama, he served as Chief of Response for the Eighth Coast Guard District, where he also served as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for the Deepwater Horizon Spill of National Significance Response.

Captain Walker graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in 1987. He is a graduate of Rhode Island College with a degree in Electronic Design, and he also holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of South Alabama's South of Business.

During his time with the Coast Guard, Captain Walker has earned many accolades. Captain Walker was promoted to the rank of Captain on July 1, 2008, and he served as President of the Class of 2009 at the National War College. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.

Captain Walker has been a leader in the Coast Guard, but he has also been a leader in the local community. Captain Walker has called Mobile home for much of his life, and he is a 2001 graduate and Class President of Leadership Mobile. During a recent boating tragedy in Mobile Bay, Captain Walker acted as a steady leader and reassuring voice to members of the community. It is safe to say that Captain Walker has truly become a member of the Southwest Alabama community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Captain Walker, his wife, and their three children for their dedicated service to the United States Coast Guard, the Gulf Coast, and the entire nation.

So on behalf of the people of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to wish Captain Walker all the best in his retirement. We will miss his service to the Coast Guard, but I am happy to know Captain Walker will continue to call Mobile home.

RECOGNIZING THE MARIPOSA
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GRIZZLY
BAND FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS
AND COMMITMENT TO VET-
ERANS**HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise in recognition of the Mariposa County High School Grizzly Band, which will be performing in the upcoming National Memorial Day Parade.

The Mariposa Grizzly Band brings much pride to a small rural community in the Sierra

Foothills; it serves this community by supporting American veterans at every possible opportunity. This commitment has led the band to perform patriotic music at every Memorial Day service conducted by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6042.

Its participation in this year's Memorial Day Parade is not the first time the Grizzly Band has travelled across the country to showcase its talent. The band's impressive reputation afforded it the opportunity to perform in New York City for the 92nd Annual Veterans Day Parade.

During this school year alone, the Grizzly Band has received first-place recognition for its performance at four separate events. It is no wonder the Grizzlies are so beloved in the foothills—their talents have won a total of thirty-seven first-place awards in the last decade.

Furthermore, the band was the recipient of the GRAMMY Foundation's Signature Schools Enterprise Award. This growing list of accomplishments is evidence of the hard work and dedication of these young men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to welcome the Mariposa County High School Grizzly Band to Washington, DC, and I look forward to hearing of both their future accomplishments and their support of our local veteran community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2014-15
DUBUQUE FIGHTING SAINTS
SEASON**HON. ROD BLUM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the Dubuque Fighting Saints of the United States Hockey League (USHL) on their successful 2014–2015 season.

The Fighting Saints, led by head coach and general manager Matt Shaw, finished the regular season 36–19–5, resulting in 3rd place in the Eastern Conference and earning them a berth in the playoffs. Goalie Jacob Nehama posted the second lowest GAA in the USHL for the season at 2.31 and forward Brett Boeing completed the season in the top 10 in the league for goals scored with 28 for the year.

The Fighting Saints won the "Cowbell Cup," winning the head to head matchups among the three teams in eastern Iowa, finishing one game ahead of the Waterloo Blackhawks and two games ahead of the Cedar Rapids Roughriders.

The impact of the team extends outside the arena and into the greater Dubuque community. Through the "Live Like a Saint" initiative with Two by Two Character Development, the Saints visit local schools and teach empathy, kindness, respect, responsibility, teamwork, and the importance of physical education to young people.

I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the 2014–15 Dubuque Fighting Saints on their successful season and thank them for their charity work in the Dubuque community.

I look forward to cheering them on next year to a championship.