

I also wish to express my thanks and appreciation to Chelsea Ukoha and Gregory Berry of my staff for their exceptional efforts and work on this wonderful tribute to a program that has contributed so much to the richness and vitality of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1191 (Roll Call Vote 118), the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 on May 15, 2015. I would like to reflect that if I had the opportunity to vote on H.R. 1191, I would have voted Aye.

I strongly support the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 and I believe we are at a critical point where Congress must be afforded the opportunity to review any deal with Iran. Although I support the ongoing negotiations of the Iran Nuclear Framework, I strongly believe the United States must ensure Iran is denied any opportunities to further pursue its nuclear ambitions. It is critical that the final deal require a comprehensive inspection and verification vehicle, including the right to “anytime, anywhere” inspections. Iran must also remove all its enriched uranium and comply with six United Nations Security Council resolutions to reveal the extent of its prior nuclear work. Most importantly, I believe we must exercise extreme caution before lifting any existing sanctions. Iran must demonstrate compliance with the deal before any sanctions are lifted. Furthermore, the United States must have a structure in place to immediately reimpose these sanctions if Iran is found violating any terms of the agreement.

Iran’s nuclear program remains a threat to the international community. A nuclear-armed Iran would pose enormous challenges to the national security of the United States and our allies including Israel. Signing a final deal will only be the first step—the United States and the international community must continue to work together to provide the necessary oversight in order to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

INTRODUCTION OF FIREARM RISK PROTECTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Firearm Risk Protection Act, innovative legislation to promote safe gun ownership.

Too often, our communities are left looking for answers after horrific tragedies inflicted with dangerous firearms. A requirement to carry liability insurance is a market-based solution that would hold gun owners responsible for the risk their firearms present, and create incentives for responsible gun safety practices.

The Firearm Risk Protection Act would harness the power of insurance markets to allow

professional actuaries to determine the risk presented by each gun and gun owner. Just as with car insurance, higher-risk owners of firearms would face higher premiums, while responsible owners could qualify for reduced rates.

As gun violence continues to inflict scars on American families and our communities, Congress should look for new ways to promote gun safety and prevent future tragedies. I hope my colleagues will join me to support this forward-thinking legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL R. MARTIN UMBARGER

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Hoosier and American, Major General R. Martin Umbarger, the Adjutant General of Indiana. Major General Umbarger is retiring after eleven years as the leader of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard, the Indiana Guard Reserve and support staff totaling more than 15,800 personnel.

Major General Umbarger began his career as an enlisted soldier for the Indiana Army National Guard in 1969. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant after graduating from the Indiana Military Academy as a distinguished military graduate. He has served as the Deputy Commanding General for the Reserve Component in the U.S. Army Forces Command, Assistant Division Commander for Training for the 38th Infantry Division, and as Commanding General of the 76th Infantry Brigade.

Major General Umbarger earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in business from the University of Evansville and attended the United States Command and General Staff College and United States Army War College. Major General Umbarger has directed the pre-mobilized training, deployment and redeployment of most of the Indiana Army and Air National Guard in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He has served as a member of the Secretary of the Army’s Reserve Forces Policy Committee and currently serves on the Secretary of Defense’s Reserve Forces Policy Board.

As Secretary of State, I had the privilege of working with Major General Umbarger to protect Hoosiers serving in the military, both out-of-state and overseas, by promoting and improving absentee voting processes. Major General Umbarger recognized the importance of ensuring that those fighting for our freedom had the opportunity to vote for those sending them into harm’s way. He truly values the rights of the men and women under his command, and they know it.

As Indiana’s Fourth District Representative, I have also worked with Major General Umbarger on legislation which would study the structure of our military and how reserve components can be best utilized.

Major General Umbarger is one of the most accomplished adjutant generals in the country and a valuable leader in Indiana. He has led the Indiana National Guard and served our state and nation with integrity and distinction over his 45 year career in the Armed Forces.

I wish him and his family the best of luck as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives.

THANKING MS. SHARON ANN PORTER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to thank Ms. Sharon Ann Porter for her more than fifteen years of outstanding service to the House of Representatives, in a number of administrative and support roles.

Ms. Porter began her career in the House in February 2000 as the Data Entry Specialist under the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Eager to learn and help carry out other duties, Ms. Porter was promoted to Financial Counselor in February 2001. As Financial Counselor she was responsible for the processing of payments as well as reimbursements requested by House offices, including Member, Committee, and Leadership offices. Ms. Porter worked diligently in all her roles, processing a large volume of payments on a daily basis, as well as forming long-lasting friendships with her customers and co-workers.

Additionally, Ms. Porter has offered her expertise during each House Service Fair, by volunteering extra time to assist with disseminating valuable information to House employees and customers. She was also instrumental in the transition to the new digital document management and electronic voucher submission known as E-Voucher, which streamlines services to House offices.

Ms. Porter’s work ethic, diligence, and dedication have made her an invaluable asset to the CAO organization. She has consistently provided excellent customer service to Members and staff. Her outgoing personality, positive attitude, and sense of humor have endeared her to many colleagues and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Sharon Ann Porter and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her distinguished service to the House of Representatives as well as the nation it serves. I wish Ms. Porter and her family all the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I

SPEECH OF

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to be held on June 7, 2015, to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

This annual celebration honors King Kamehameha I who established a unified Kingdom

of Hawai'i in 1810. King Kamehameha Day was celebrated first on June 11, 1872, and has been a Hawai'i State holiday since 1959. In 1970, the celebration of King Kamehameha's birthday in our nation's capital opened the rich history and culture of Hawai'i to more Americans.

In 1758, with the birth of Kamehameha, a prophecy foretelling that a great leader would be born and unite the islands of Hawai'i was fulfilled. Born into royal families from the islands of Hawai'i and Maui, Kamehameha's mentoring started at a young age. He learned religion, oral history, culture, economics, governance, navigation, warfare, and other fields of knowledge necessary to build a nation.

Kamehameha rose to power through political astuteness and superior forces. He was a visionary leader with a strategic mind, dominating presence, and persuasive personality. Kamehameha developed relationships with other royal families, built coalitions and sought the counsel of those steeped in modern warfare. By 1790, Kamehameha's modernized armed forces equipped with cannons and firearms and use of psychological warfare to undermine the spirits of opposing forces led to one successful military campaign after another.

While uniting the islands of Hawai'i, Kamehameha contemplated on the future of the Kingdom of Hawai'i and reasoned that for a nation to be vibrant, its citizens must feel safe and secure. Kamehameha reflected on a military encounter with fishermen gathering food from the ocean for their families. As Kamehameha gave chase to the fishermen, his leg got caught among the shoreline rocks. One of the fishermen hit him on the head with a paddle that broke into splinters. The fisherman spared Kamehameha's life.

Later, the fisherman was brought before Kamehameha. In his wisdom, Kamehameha ruled that the fisherman was innocent. The fisherman was protecting his family and land from an aggressor who could have done them harm. From that experience, Kamehameha embraced the inalienable rights of all men and women by proclaiming the Law of the Splintered Paddle (Kānāwai Māmalā Hoē), the law of the land. The law stated, "Let every elderly person, woman, and child lie by the roadside in safety." The Law of the Splintered Paddle sets the moral tone to do no harm to fellow human beings, take personal responsibility and think before committing an act of violence. It is fitting that the words of the Law of the Splintered Paddle are enshrined in the Hawai'i State Constitution. Its values have become a model for human rights law regarding the treatment of civilians and other non-combatants.

Kamehameha knew that in order to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of his people, it was imperative to create economic opportunities. Kamehameha invested resources to maintain viable fishponds and taro patches; protect fresh water streams, fertile soils, and forest lands; build schools and train a new generation of leaders. Kamehameha also bore witness to rapid unfolding events occurring since the arrival of Captain James Cook in 1778. Kamehameha knew that it was the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Native Hawai'ian people, and he made wise decisions to prepare his people for the future.

In closing, I would like to extend my appreciation to the staff of the Committee on House

Administration, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the Office of Sergeant at Arms who have helped make this annual birthday celebration for King Kamehameha I a success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCAN CONTAINERS ABSOLUTELY NOW (SCAN) ACT

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, after the tragic attacks on 9/11, Congress strengthened aviation security, which was the nature of the attacks against our country. While our aviation system is more secure—13 years later—we have not secured our nation's ports. Our ports are vulnerable to attacks.

I represent the Port of Los Angeles and the communities that surround the port; I have the personal responsibility of keeping the people of my district safe.

Top security experts recommend that shipping containers entering our nation's ports be scanned for radiological and nuclear materials and other potentially dangerous cargo. In addition, Congress passed laws requiring that 100 percent of all cargo be scanned by 2012. Today, three years after the deadline, we are scanning only 3 percent of incoming cargo.

I firmly believe that responding to ongoing terrorist threats and the risk of nuclear proliferation should remain top national security priorities.

The detonation of a nuclear device or "dirty bomb" at a port such as the Port of Los Angeles could cause a staggering loss of life. In addition, it could result in a West Coast or nationwide shutdown of all ports, which would cost the United States economy billions of dollars each day. The economic impact of port closure on supply chains was clearly demonstrated in 2002 when port workers were locked out for 8 days at the West Coast Ports. That cost \$1 billion per day.

For these reasons, I am re-introducing the Scan Containers Absolutely Now (SCAN) Act. This bill would create a one-year pilot program at two United States ports to evaluate the process of 100 percent scanning of cargo containers and its potential use at all domestic ports.

I previously introduced this in the 113th Congress. This reintroduction includes several improvements to give ports who wish to apply, more flexibility on the management of the security systems.

We must take our responsibility to protect the nation seriously. We cannot allow inconvenience or shortsighted economic expediency to get in the way of keeping our nation's ports and citizens safe.

RESTORING EDUCATION AND LEARNING (REAL) ACT

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Restoring Education and Learn-

ing (REAL) Act, legislation that will curb our nation's high incarceration rate through the avenue of education.

Joined by Reps. DAVIS, LEE, SCOTT, DELAURO and RICHMOND, our legislation will reinstate Pell Grant eligibility to federal and state prisoners, which was allowed from 1972–1995. A provision in the 1994 omnibus crime bill amended the 1965 Higher Education Act and reversed this rehabilitating and well invested policy.

Back then, 350 postsecondary prison programs in 37 states existed across the nation for incarcerated individuals. That ability to gain post-secondary education has been drastically reduced to about a dozen today. Subsequently, our state and federal population has increased by nearly 50 percent from 1 million to 1.5 million today.

According to a recent Vera Institute study, it costs American taxpayers roughly \$31,000 a year to house an inmate. In my home state of Maryland, it costs taxpayers more than \$38,000 a year to house an inmate. Overall, our nation spends roughly \$40 billion a year on correctional facilities.

This comes despite a recent report by the RAND Corporation, which found that for every \$1 investment in prison education programs there is a \$4–5 dollar reduction in incarceration costs during the first three years post-release of a prisoner.

Earlier this month, I visited the Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup as an observer of Goucher College's Prison Education Partnership. I was inspired as I sat down with incarcerated men and women taking college courses and asking for the opportunity to better serve society once they are released.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this important and much needed piece of legislation.

SAVANNAH STAFFORD

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Savannah Stafford as a member of the United States Naval Academy Class of 2015.

Savannah graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a degree in Oceanography, and her service assignment is Surface Warfare. She received a commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 22, 2015.

Her career in the service has just begun, but it is a testament to Savannah's unselfish devotion to the people of this great nation. The challenges will be many and the time, although it may seem like an eternity, will fly by almost unnoticed.

The challenge for this young woman will be to retain as much as possible, pass on what she learns to others, and live life for every moment.

South Mississippi is proud of Savannah and her accomplishments, and we look forward to her continuing to represent not only Mississippi, but the entire nation, as a United States Navy officer.

As Savannah embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that she may always recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment graduating from a program as prestigious as the Naval Academy.