(MINUSTAH); the U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL); the U.N. Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA); the U.N. Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and the U.N. Integrated Peace-building Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

Rwanda, due to donor aid, political stability and favorable investor policies, has grown by an average of 8% annually over the past decade. It is considered one of the recipient countries most able to achieve results from aid programs. Yet donors began reducing or redirecting funds in 2012 because of Rwanda's role in supporting M23. The growing reports of human rights abuses also are leading to greater caution among donor nations about directly supporting the Rwandan Government.

LONG TERM FUNDING FOR HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of a long-term surface transportation bill.

Right now Americans are looking to Congress for REAL bipartisan solutions to fund and upgrade our deteriorating infrastructure system. As hard as it may be, as uncomfortable and contentious as the debates may become, it's time to for us to move past the senseless chatter and to stop kicking the can down the road.

We must get serious about fixing America's infrastructure and establishing long-term funding for the Highway Trust Fund. This is not the time for partisan politics. We need to work together for the benefit of the men and women who sent us here.

Yesterday, the House passed a bill that was nothing more than another ''Band-Aid'' for a much larger problem. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that 1 out of every 9 bridges in the U.S. is structurally deficient, and gave our overall infrastructure a ''D−.''

An alarming 54 percent of all major U.S. roads are in poor or mediocre condition, and these roads account for 1 in 3 fatal traffic accidents. In my home state of Alabama alone, driving on roads in need of repair cost motorists $1.2 billion a year.

Now is the time for a lasting solution to this important issue. Yet, here we are, at the end of May, and we are no closer to crafting a long-term solution to invest in our roads, bridges, and rails than we were this time last year.

The benefits to investing in our highways, bridges, railroads, and other transit systems are clear. By building the infrastructure of tomorrow, we would create thousands of good-paying jobs that help more hard-working Americans earn a living.

A solid transportation system is necessary to quickly move goods, which will help further grow our economy. This is vital if America is to compete in the 21st century global marketplace.

I urge my colleagues to work together to develop a long-term plan that will improve our aging infrastructure, encourage job creation, and strengthen our nation's economic development.

IN HONOR OF SSGT MICHAEL WAYNE SCHAFER

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a real American Hero, SSGT Michael Schafer of the United States Army, 2nd BATTALION, 173 Airborne. Mike served in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Silver Star. Michael was killed in Oruzgan in combat on July 25, 2005 as part of a quick response team while helping fellow soldiers under fire. He is survived by his wife Danielle, son Devin, his mother Karen and step-father Daniel Barr, his father Mark Schafer, retired Navy of Williamsburg, his sister Sarah, and two brothers, Mark Shafer and Timothy Barr. Today and every day let us all remember all of those selfless heroes like Michael and their families who give that last full measure in the name of freedom. Michael wanted to become a Ranger, but due to a loss of hearing in combat, was told he should retire. Instead, he chose to return to his brothers in combat and died on his last tour. Albert Caswell penned the following poem, ''Our America's Son'', in honor of Michael Shafer this Memorial Day.

''Our, America's Son
this chosen one
Of warm heart and steal,
who to us all has so revealed
How it is on earth,
as it is in heaven as they will be done.
Who so gave that full measure.
The greatest of all possible treasures,
as did America's Son
As now we all so weep
As all in our heart's Michael you we keep,
oh so very deep.
As we remember what to all of us what you'd so teach
About life and death,
all in honor's quest . . . for all your brothers in arms you'd seek . . .
As you were a man of actions and deeds
All else supersedes
Could all our hearts as high yours exceed?
But for the greater good,
in all you could.
Now all in our grief.
Now all in our loss we seek.
Of such cost it reaps.
This pain to ease.
As to us now all so speaks.
For your life was Army Strong.
For magnificent men like you Mike,
all live ever after in history like a song.
Whose courage forever rings loud and long.
As but The Best of the Best.
Because moments are all we have.
Just minutes to turn good from bad.
And now we lay your fine body down to sleep.
All in our hearts now so very deep.
And across Williamsburg tonight
There comes a gentle rain
Comes our Lord's tears to so help to ease your families pain
To wash down upon you to remain
Until, once again up in Heaven you will all meet again,
and you won't have to cry no more
And hush little baby don't you cry,
because one day up in heaven you will look into your father's eyes
And remember he is with you this day by your side.
And you too Danielle his lovely wife, must somehow find the strength to start a new life
And all of his family find peace all in his light.
Now rest my son,
your war is over on earth, is done.
And rise up for your new battle begun.
As an Angel in the Army of our Lord
To watch over us ever more.
For Michael you are now so one.
At Ease, America's Son!''