

for-hire fishing industry, and balance for our strong interest in stock rehabilitation, species preservation and protecting our critical natural resources.

Mr. Chair, the Florida Institute of Oceanography estimates that Florida's ocean economy generates almost \$30 billion dollars per year in economic activity, more than that generated by citrus, cattle, ranching and the space industry of Florida combined. It is critical that we get this right.

I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman CULBERSON through the appropriations process, and with NOAA and NMFS Southeast Regional Office during implementation of this funding, to stand up this critical, innovative stock assessment initiative and make it a success for Florida and for all five of our Gulf States, including the Chairman's home state of Texas.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER-4 MICHAEL A. HUDSON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I am very grateful for the opportunity to recognize Chief Warrant Officer-4 Michael A. Hudson, his wife Karin, and their two sons Zachary and Joshua, for their hard work and commitment to our great country, the United States of America. After honorably serving as an active duty U.S. Marine for the past 20 years, CW4 Hudson retired on Friday, May 15, 2015.

CW4 Hudson is an Ohio native from Sandusky who joined the Marine Corps in 1994. He has received numerous personnel awards such as: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. CW4 Hudson also excelled in his studies having earned a Master's Degree from Webster University in Management and Leadership. CW4 Hudson not only served his country while residing in the United States but also while living abroad in Japan for six years with his family. While on duty in Okinawa, Japan CW4 Hudson worked with General Support Maintenance Company during 1999. In 2006, CW4 Hudson and his family later transferred to Iwakuni, Japan where he served as the Station Motor Transport Officer and Garrison Mobile Equipment Fleet Manager.

It is with sincere gratitude I honor Mr. Hudson's family for their dedication to our country throughout his years of active service. Mrs. Karin Hudson has been happily married to Mr. Hudson for nineteen years. Not only has she held an important position with Valley Counseling in Warren, Ohio as a Program Manager, but she has also fulfilled the role of both parents her husband was deployed. Mrs. Hudson selflessly moved with her family whenever her husband's duty called for them to do so, and I laud her for her commitment to her husband, her family, and her country.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Hudson's two sons, Zachary and Joshua, for their patience and spirit as they traveled with their parents around Japan and the

United States. It may at times be difficult to have a parent in active service, but they have shown true patriotism in their support of their father. Zachary at thirteen attends Lakeview Middle School, all the while enjoying the responsibilities of being a Boy Scout. His younger brother Joshua is nine years old and currently attends Lakeview Elementary where he enjoys playing baseball.

Mr. Speaker I ask all of my colleagues to join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to Chief Warrant Officer-4 Hudson and his family for their commitment to our country. We will never forget the years you have honorably served and will forever be thankful for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Rollcall vote No. 292, the amendment offered by Mr. SANFORD of South Carolina. Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

TRIBUTE TO CARL ST. CLAIR

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor and celebrate Carl St. Clair's 25th Anniversary as the Music Director at Orange County's Pacific Symphony.

Under Carl St. Clair's brilliant leadership, Pacific Symphony has become the largest professional symphony orchestra formed in the past fifty years. Through St. Clair's outstanding vision, sensitivity, and dynamic leadership, Pacific Symphony has developed programming that has bridged different cultures, engaged creative voices, and opened the door of great music for all.

St. Clair's artistic vision and standards have generated enthusiastic audiences locally and internationally. In 2006, he led the Symphony on its first European tour—nine cities in three countries playing before capacity houses and receiving extraordinary reviews. His commitment to new music has been demonstrated locally and admired nationally. The Pacific Symphony's American Composers' Festival has celebrated leading composers annually for fifteen years; the Symphony has won two ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming, and has released eleven recordings—primarily the music of American composers. St. Clair has produced numerous thematic festivals and fostered the return of professional opera to Orange County. He has also developed continuing programmatic relationships with a number of local universities, including USC, Chapman University, and UC-Irvine.

St. Clair is actively involved in both the conception and implementation of Pacific Symphony's education and outreach programs. The orchestra produces more than twenty distinct education and outreach programs—several garnered national attention and are widely replicated.

Maestro St. Clair has proclaimed that "Music is a birthright," and has supported that vision with complementary activities that are accessible to the entire community.

Through HEARTSTRINGS, the Symphony provides music to more than twenty different agencies that range from homeless shelters and after school youth-mentoring clubs to the Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Age Well Senior Services. This is accomplished through individual and small group visits to agency sites as well as providing available tickets for major performances. In total, forty-four percent of the Pacific Symphony's annual audiences heard the orchestra at no cost last season. Finally, in perhaps the greatest salute to Maestro St. Clair's musical leadership, fully one-third of Pacific Symphony musicians (37 in number) have tenures with the orchestra that equal or exceed his twenty-five years.

From the highest artistic standards to the breadth of community outreach and service, Carl St. Clair is a vital part of the distinctive quality of life we enjoy in Orange County and Southern California. I thank him for his leadership and for enriching the lives of children and adults throughout the Southern California region, the nation, and the world.

HONORING MARVIN GIBSON ON THE OCCASION OF EARNING HIS SEVENTY YEAR PIN

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Marvin Gibson of Marquette, Michigan on the occasion of earning his Seventy Year Pin in service of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Gibson was awarded this honor at a ceremony in Northern Michigan on May 31, 2015.

As Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 305 in Marquette, Mr. Gibson has shown his devotion to the scouting way of life. In his long career with the BSA, he has earned several other distinctions such as the rank of Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, National Jamboree Leadership, and the Order of the Arrow National Conferences. Mr. Gibson is additionally the father of an Eagle Scout and a long time summer camp staffer at Camp Hiawatha.

As a former Boy Scout myself, I have first-hand experience in the positive work that Scouting provides, especially in helping young men become self-reliant and learn important skills. On behalf of all residents of the First Congressional District, I wish to convey my congratulations to Mr. Gibson, his family, his fellow scouts, and the many that he has helped to positively influence in his seventy years in service of scouting.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF LEON WILMOT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a patriot, a public servant and a

great Sheriff, Sheriff Leon Wilmot from Yuma, Arizona.

Sheriff Wilmot has been an effective law enforcement officer and a staunch advocate in opposing illegal immigration and for supporting the rule of law. His leadership has recently been recognized by the National Sheriff's Association which has named him Chairman of its Immigration and Border Security Committee.

Much deserved Sheriff Wilmot, congratulations. Know that we support your efforts here in Washington, D.C.

HONORING SERGEANT ERIC LUND

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sergeant Eric Lund, a true American hero, as well as the community that banded together to help serve one of their neighbors who sacrificed so much in defense of our freedom.

Sergeant Eric Lund joined the U.S. Army National Guard in 2003 after graduating from Ludington High School. He served with the 126th C Company as a gunner atop a Military All-Terrain Vehicle, and was in Afghanistan when he was injured in May 2012 as a result of a roadside IED. The explosion resulted in serious injuries including the loss of both arms.

Eric spent over two years enduring numerous surgeries during his rehabilitation in San Antonio, Texas. However, he knew his goal was to be back home in Ludington—near friends, family, and the water. Returning home for Eric also meant living an active lifestyle that include biking, being outdoors, and most importantly, being able to live independently and tackle everyday tasks on his own.

That dream became a reality as a result of an outpouring of support from the Ludington community and the “Helping a Hero” organization.

As part of the their first Michigan project, “Helping a Hero,” working with Malliet Construction, built Eric a new home featuring adaptive technology to allow for independent living tools like voice activation and a shower with scrubbers. Donations from the Ludington community came in various forms—from money to materials and labor. There are so many people to thank for making this project a reality for Eric, and I will be proud to join them all on June 8, 2015 for the neighborhood “Welcome Home” ceremony.

As our nation's heroes return home, we must welcome them back and recognize the sacrifices they made protecting our freedoms and way of life. As the Ludington community has proven, we can and must help serve these brave men and women. So long as there are soldiers like Sergeant Eric Lund fighting for us, we can never forget that the cost of freedom is high.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in opposition of the proposed cuts to the Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery Program (TIGER) under the Fiscal Year 2016 Transportation Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill.

Since 2009, the Department of Transportation has provided state and local governments with grants to complete infrastructure projects. Many communities have profited from these investments, providing neighborhoods with safer pedestrian pathways, revitalizing economically distressed areas, and reducing congestion from traffic.

TIGER grants are meant to provide eligibility to infrastructure projects that do not qualify for restrictive formula based federal funding. Freight, port, and bridge projects across the country have benefited from financial support from TIGER. Reducing accessibility to TIGER grants will prolong infrastructure projects and increase traffic in our communities.

The House FY16 THUD appropriations bill includes \$100 million for TIGER grants. This is a \$400 million reduction from the 2015 enacted level, cutting the Department of Transportation's budget by 80%.

Severe cuts to TIGER are troubling, and substantial funding for the program is crucial to my District. For example, the Durfee Avenue grade separation proposal in Pico Rivera would reduce an estimated 15.3 hours of vehicle delays on a daily basis. Rosemead Boulevard/Lakewood Boulevard in my District carries tens of thousands of cars every day, providing goods movement to the Gateway cities. The Del Amo Boulevard bridge is structurally deficient, outdated, and in need of maintenance to improve lane capacity problems.

I ask that my colleagues join me in opposing the 80% cuts to TIGER grants and language restricting TIGER eligibility in the HOUSE FY16 THUD bill. Providing funding for these and other TIGER projects are about providing services that communities deserve.

THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MS. CORA CIOTTI FROM THE WELDON CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate my constituent,

Ms. Cora Ciotti, as she retires after working nearly 40 years in the education field. Ms. Ciotti began her career in education in New York where she worked as a Youth School Officer for the New Hyde Park School system. Later, she moved to Weldon, North Carolina, in my congressional district, where she worked for the Weldon City Public School system in a number of capacities.

Before embarking on a career in education, Ms. Ciotti attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York where she was trained and certified as a Youth School Officer. Ms. Ciotti's training helped her to navigate some of the unique challenges that were presented by students and empowered her to have a dynamic and positive influence on their lives. Many of the youth who were influenced by Ms. Ciotti decades ago have grown into productive citizens who are making positive contributions to their communities.

After relocating to Weldon, North Carolina, Ms. Ciotti began working with the Weldon City Public Schools, where she served as a Teacher's Assistant and Attendance Counselor, among other important roles. She demonstrated care, compassion, and dedication to the students with whom she worked. If any student was hungry, Ms. Ciotti fed them. If any student lacked clothing, Ms. Ciotti clothed them. At times, Ms. Ciotti even provided shelter for some of our troubled youth by opening up her own home.

Ms. Ciotti was indeed special in her own way to the youth; she possessed a talent for reaching the youth right where they were; she deserved judgement; she changed the lives of many and pushed them in a positive direction, and for that we should all be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Cora Ciotti has positively influenced the lives of countless young people over her nearly 40-year career in education. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Ciotti for her dedication to generations of young people and in offering her best wishes as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM LOUIS “BILL” HORTSMAN

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of William Louis “Bill” Hortsman, a devoted family man, respected Hoosier leader, and a selfless contributor to the Jennings County community. Bill leaves behind his wife of 52 years, Ruth Ann Hortsman, and his two children, Duane and Denise.

Mr. Hortsman graduated from North Vernon High School in 1951 and, in addition to attending First United Methodist Church in North Vernon, was also a member of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Charles-ton.

Bill is a true patriot who served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 after graduating from high school. In his early career, Bill worked for Hortsman Standard Service Station and Hortsman's Standard Oil Delivery.

Bill was also well-known for his commitment to his community. He was a life-long volunteer