

Security Agency, and until just recently, his mission remained confidential.

As his new Congressman, Mr. Henderson recently contacted my office to request his military records. During the process, the U.S. Army notified us that he was entitled to six awards earned during his time overseas nearly 50 years ago.

It's shocking to think veterans, like Edward Henderson, can go so long without recognition for their service. We must right this wrong.

Selfless veterans like Edward Henderson don't "win" medals. They earn them. They put their lives on the line to protect us and our freedom. And our Vietnam veterans went through hell and back to defend America and our allies.

That's why when they return, it's our responsibility to honor and fight for them here at home.

Leaving the battlefield does not mean their battles are done. So as a nation, we must do more to support and reach out to our veterans.

We have a duty to do whatever we can to serve and honor our American heroes. Not just today, but every day.

So thank you—to Ed, his wife Martha, and his family and friends. We owe him more than just medals, but a lifetime of gratitude.

CONGRATULATING ILLINOIS AUDITOR GENERAL WILLIAM G. HOLLAND ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate William G. Holland on his retirement from serving as Illinois Auditor General. Mr. Holland's almost 25 years of service have illustrated his persistent dedication to the State of Illinois.

The Illinois General Assembly has appointed Mr. Holland as Auditor General for an unprecedented three 10-year terms. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently maintained stability during some of our state's most turbulent times. His career embodies true public service, and he has been a role model for many other public servants, including myself.

I have known Mr. Holland for more than 30 years and had the privilege to serve as an intern when he was the Chief of Staff to the Illinois Senate President. I have seen first-hand that regardless of who or what party is in power, he has always upheld the important values of fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Holland for his longstanding commitment to good government in the State of Illinois, and I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement.

TSCA MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, our country's federal toxic chemicals regulation has been

broken for decades. Since Congress first passed the Toxic Substances Control Act in 1976, the EPA has placed restrictions on only five of the estimated 60,000 chemicals in commerce, and since the EPA's ban on asbestos was overturned in 1991, zero chemicals have been regulated. This law is in dire need of reform.

While toxic chemicals regulations have floundered for decades at the federal level, California and several other states have passed important laws to protect communities and notify consumers. These state laws, including California's landmark Proposition 65, have motivated many companies to reduce or eliminate toxic chemicals from their products.

It was with these state laws in mind that I offered an amendment at the Energy & Commerce Committee markup of this legislation to clarify its impact on state laws. My amendment was based on the recommendations of 12 State Attorneys General who wrote to the Committee: California, New York, Massachusetts, Washington, Iowa, Oregon, Maryland, Vermont, Hawaii, Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.

I'm pleased that the final version of the bill before us today, as well as the Committee Report on the bill and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, addresses several of the issues I raised along with the 12 Attorneys General who wrote to the Committee with their concerns.

First, the final text of the bill includes my amendment's clarification to ensure states can continue to enforce existing laws unless specifically preempted. Without this change, the bill could have been interpreted to only grandfather ongoing enforcement actions, rather than all existing state laws and regulations.

Second, the sponsor of the bill, my good friend Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois, clarified in a colloquy with me that no existing state laws or requirements will be preempted by this bill unless they actually conflict with federal requirements. Mr. SHIMKUS also confirmed on the Record that the bill is not intended to interfere with the operation of Proposition 65 or the ability of the State of California or private citizens to enforce that landmark law.

Third, the multi-state Attorney General letter called for further clarification that the bill is not intended to preempt state monitoring, information reporting, and disclosure laws. These important laws help keep regulators and communities informed about the presence of toxic chemicals. I'm pleased that the Committee Report states that "the Committee expects that these type of requirements would generally fall outside the scope of preemption."

With these important changes and clarifications, the preemption and savings provisions in the TSCA Modernization Act are substantially improved and I appreciate the willingness of Chairmen UPTON and SHIMKUS to make these improvements to the bill.

The TSCA law is long overdue for reform and with the above changes included in the TSCA Modernization Act, I support it and urge my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING DAVID L. DIEDRICH FOR 40 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING MILITARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David L. Diedrich, a resident of Altoona, for his heroic efforts and selfless service to his country and community over the past 40 years.

Mr. Diedrich served in the United States Army for 20 years after attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in the top ten percent of the class of 1976. For his subsequent exemplary military service in Hawaii, Detroit, and Germany, Mr. Diedrich was awarded the Army Meritorious Service Medal three times and the Army Commendation Medal twice.

After attaining a Master's degree in Civil Engineering and returning to West Point as a career counselor and instructor, Mr. Diedrich became the City Engineer and the Director of Public Works for the City of Altoona, where he oversaw the public works of the entire city. In addition to this role, Mr. Diedrich has served the local community as a member of the Improved Dwellings of Altoona Board of Directors, through his church, and as a mentor to area students interested in the United States Military Academy.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Diedrich, one of our nation's many heroes, and congratulate him for his decades of dedicated service to our country and his local community.

CARE ACT OF 2015

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on June 12, we observed International Day Against Child Labor. This is the day set aside to remind us of the plight of hundreds of millions of children throughout the world who are engaged in dangerous work that often deprives them of obtaining adequate education, health and decent living conditions.

Unconscionably, hundreds of thousands of these children live right here in the United States. These children work long hours and under dangerous conditions in our nation's agricultural industry.

This industry has a fatality rate nearly 8 times the national average, yet our labor laws do not protect children in agriculture in the same way they protect children in every other industry.

The impact of our permissive child labor laws is most evident in our tobacco fields. Human Rights Watch recently issued a study that found children as young as twelve suffering from nausea, vomiting, headaches and dizziness, all symptoms of acute nicotine poisoning, likely contracted by absorbing nicotine through their skin while harvesting tobacco plants.

Many of these children say they work long hours without overtime pay, often in extreme

heat, without sufficient breaks, or adequate protective gear.

These hazards have led countries like Russia and Kazakhstan to restrict tobacco harvesting to adults, but no such protections exist for children in the United States.

The time has come for the United States of America to bring child labor laws in line with our American values and give all of our children the fundamental protections they need and rightfully deserve.

That is why I am once again re-introducing the Children's Act for Responsible Employment, better known as the CARE Act.

While retaining current exemptions for family farms and agricultural education programs like 4-H and Future Farmers of America, the CARE Act raises labor standards and protections for farm worker children to the same level set for children in all other occupations.

Specifically the CARE ACT ends our country's double standard that allows children in agriculture to work at younger ages and for longer hours than those working in all other industries.

It raises the minimum age for agricultural work to 14 and restricts children under 16 from work that interferes with their education or endangers their health and well-being.

The CARE Act also prohibits children under the age of 18 from working in agricultural jobs which the Department of Labor has declared as particularly hazardous. This is consistent with current law governing every industry outside of agriculture.

No child should be discriminated against based on the work they do. All of America's children deserve to be protected equally under our laws.

Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to do everything in our power to protect the rights, safety and educational future of our most precious resource—America's children, and I urge my colleagues to support the CARE Act.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES C. HODGES

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel James C. Hodges of the United States Air Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation as the Commander at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey. Colonel Hodges is leaving his position at the Joint Base and transitioning to a new role.

Today, the Joint Base stands as a model, state-of-the-art facility with Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard operations, including airlift and air refueling, soldier training and deployment and aircraft carrier research and development. The Joint Base's officers provide an invaluable service to the military. In particular, the 87th Air Base Wing provides installation management support for 3,933 facilities with an approximate value of \$9.3 billion in physical infrastructure.

Colonel Hodges has been serving as the 87th Air Base Wing Commander and Installation Commander, where he has provided installation support to more than 80 mission partners. Colonel Hodges has also been re-

sponsible for providing mission-ready expeditionary Airmen and Sailors to combatant commanders in support of joint and combined operations. As the Commander of the Nation's only Tri-Service Base, Colonel Hodges has had a very difficult job, which he has performed masterfully.

A career civil engineer, Colonel Hodges obtained his degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1991. Upon receiving such degree, Colonel Hodges has served a variety of staff positions at the base, major command, joint, multinational and Pentagon levels. He has also commanded at the squadron and group level. His contingency experience includes service as a commander of an expeditionary civil engineer squadron in Operation Iraqi Freedom and as a joint-multinational staff officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Along with his lengthy service, Colonel Hodges has devoted countless hours of his time to furthering his education. He holds a Master of Science in engineering and policy from Washington University, a Master of Arts in organizational management from George Washington University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College.

Colonel Hodges' great work has not gone unnoticed. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Joint Achievement Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Colonel James C. Hodges as he transitions into a new role and continues to serve the United States of America. I wish him the best as he proceeds into the next chapter of his career.

HONORING MICHAEL KARLS OF THE FESTUS TIGERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael Karls of the Festus Tigers for his first place win in the 3200 Meter Run at the 2015 Class 4 Track and Field State Championship.

Michael and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. He was also chosen as his school's scholar-athlete of the 2014–2015 year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Michael Karls of the Festus Tigers for a job well done.

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ELSON FLOYD

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today we remember the life of Washington State Univer-

sity President Elson Floyd. Dr. Floyd was one of the leading lights of education in our state. He not only ensured that he personally engaged with the lives of the students on his own campus, but he advocated for higher education across the state to any who would listen. He made educating his top priority and took extra measures to help his school succeed—such as cutting his own salary when he saw the effects of the economic downturn on WSU. I have had the pleasure of personally meeting Dr. Floyd and was moved by his passion and sincerity. We need more men and women like him throughout this country, helping our young people realize the advantages of pursuing a good education and pursue their dreams. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children as well as with his WSU family. As we say in the law enforcement world, he is gone but never forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 77th Anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

As you know, we can thank the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1938, for providing workers with an hourly minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor protections. Since then, the FLSA has been amended numerous times in an attempt to reflect changes in the cost of living. The most recent increase was in 2007, bringing the hourly minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to its current rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Unfortunately, many key components of the FLSA are outdated and have failed to keep pace with the demands of daily life in 2015. This includes the value of the minimum wage, which has decreased sharply over the past few years—a mere \$7.25 per hour equates to \$14,500 per year for a full-time minimum wage employee. This makes it difficult for individuals to support themselves and their families, forcing many people to live below the poverty line. Other present day workers' concerns include the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has remained at \$2.13 per hour for the past two decades. Domestic workers lack access to health care, paid sick days or paid time off—something I believe must be changed. Moreover, "comp time" in lieu of overtime pay, and break time for nursing mothers are workers' rights issues that need to be addressed in order to have a more productive workforce that can compete in a global marketplace, as well as to maintain a thriving society here at home.

We just celebrated the Fair Labor Standards Act's 75th Anniversary two years ago, and there was a lot of positive discussion around the issue at that time. We must keep up this momentum and continue to fight for workers' rights in our increasingly global economy. People deserve a livable wage for a hard day's work, and we urge you to bring up legislation that will lift so many Americans out of poverty.