

firsthand. I was especially privileged to work with the Springboard Home for Youth in Crisis, a place that provides hope and healing for troubled girls in southern Arizona.

Not many organizations can say they have had the impact that Teen Challenge of Arizona has had. It was an honor to be able to contribute to their success. I wish them a happy 50th anniversary and many years of continuing success serving our community. They are literally changing and saving lives every single day.

PATCHWORK EXTENSIONS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, 65 Republicans joined 54 Democrats in voting “no” on the extension of the highway bill to register their disgust with 33 extensions while the Republican Congress then did zero work on a long-term bill.

There are now four long-term Democratic bills and one bipartisan bill. However, today's 34th patchwork extension cannot be applied to even start on the Nation's backlog without assurance of funds to complete construction. Yet House Republicans have now fled for an early vacation.

Eighteen States and the District of Columbia have passed State user gas fee laws without retaliation by the voters, but the federal share is more than half of the funds needed just to get started.

The only way to stop the self-inflicted deterioration of our once magnificent infrastructure is to man up and pass a long-term bill.

H.R. 1994 CONTAINS COMMONSENSE REFORMS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Chairman JEFF MILLER and the members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for their work in helping pass H.R. 1994, which passed the House today. The measure contains commonsense reforms so that any VA employee who engages in misconduct or is performing poorly can be terminated or demoted.

I am also very pleased that H.R. 1994 contains additional important protections for VA whistleblowers. We have worked with several of them over the last couple years out of the Oakland office and other centers that have been retaliated against for speaking out about gross mismanagement and possible violations of law.

This is a very important covenant we would have with our whistleblowers so they could come forward and help us to have better VA performance. It is very

critical we have the ability for them to come forward.

I am glad that we have this measure here. I hope the Senate will take it up and pass it so we have better service for our veterans through the VA.

REMEMBERING GWENDOLYN STRONG

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Gwendolyn DeBard Strong, who passed away this past Saturday after a heroic, inspiring battle with spinal muscular atrophy.

Simply put, she is our hero. Gwendolyn died a few months short of her eighth birthday, far exceeding the odds that were given to her at birth. In her short life, she had more of an impact and brought more joy to others than many ever could in their lifetime.

Gwendolyn's life was spent on the same things many young girls do—playing princesses with friends, going to school, and spending time with her sister.

She and her family also used their voice to improve the lives of all of us. The Strongs worked hard to end lifetime and annual caps on insurance coverage, improve spinal muscular atrophy research, and promote innovations to make the lives of other children with debilitating diseases a little easier.

She and her incredible family taught those of us in Santa Barbara and around the country that we should never give up. Thanks to her bravery and the efforts of Bill and Victoria, we never will.

I am honored to have known her and take solace in knowing that her efforts will continue to help so many others.

We miss you, Gwendolyn, but want you to know we will never give up.

LANCE CORPORAL SQUIRE WELLS

(Mr. LOUDERMILK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, this last Sunday, my family and I attended church at the First Baptist Church of Woodstock in Woodstock, Georgia.

It is not the first time we ever attended that church, as we have worshipped there before; but it is possibly the most memorable time that I will have attended that church because it was at this service that we were having the funeral of Lance Corporal Squire Wells, who is known to his friends and family as Skip. Skip was the youngest of those who were killed in the terrorist attack in Chattanooga.

As we were driving to the church, Mr. Speaker, as we were still miles away from the church, along the sides of the road, we began to see American citi-

zens, citizens of the 11th Congressional District lining the road, holding American flags and Marine Corps flags. As we approached closer to the church, the hundreds of people turned into thousands of people.

As we arrived at the church, nearly 500 members of the Patriot Guard Riders, Marine Corps League, the VFW, and the American Legion were standing, lining the sidewalks of this church, bearing American flags to say good-bye and to say thank you to a patriot.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to also say thank you to Skip Wells—Lance Corporal Wells. Although, to my knowledge, we never met in person, I didn't know him personally, but I do know the type of person he is because he was a marine, which told me that he held to the highest standards of decorum and morale and integrity.

He was a Christian who served faithfully in the First Baptist Church of Woodstock, which tells me he had a heart of charity and love.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you to Skip Wells for laying down his life for my freedom, the freedom of my children, and my granddaughter. I want to say thank you to Ms. Cathy Wells, his mom, for raising such a fine person as a single mom raising her only child, who has given his life in defense of this Nation.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the thousands of people from my district who came out and honored the life of this American patriot.

DON'T LEAVE THE EX-IM BANK IN A ZOMBIELIKE STATE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this Chamber is doing a great disservice to small-business owners and to hundreds of thousands of American workers by going off to recess for the next 6 weeks without renewing the charter of the U.S. Export-Import Bank. It is the wrong thing to do.

Sadly, the minority of ideologues in this Chamber that is blocking the renewal of the Ex-Im's charter is absolutely right about one thing. If the U.S. Ex-Im goes under, all the export business and all the jobs supported by it will be just displaced to other companies.

What they don't mention in their rants against the Bank is that the companies that will get this business will be in other countries and the workers who get those good-paying jobs will be overseas because there are some 85 foreign export credit agencies today happy to help the companies in their countries seal the deal.

We are leaving thousands of American workers at a real competitive disadvantage by leaving the U.S. Export-Import Bank in a zombielike status.

We should renew it. We should keep these jobs in America. We should put more Americans to work.

□ 1815

HONORING NAVY PETTY OFFICER
SECOND CLASS RANDALL SMITH

(Mr. GRAVES of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Navy Petty Officer Second Class Randall Smith, who was killed on July 16 during the terrorist attack in Chattanooga.

Randall, who lived with his wife, Angie, and their three young daughters in Rossville, Georgia, was a model of selfless service. He was a devoted and loving husband and father who prioritized his family above all else.

Besides his military service, he was an active volunteer, giving back through charities like Stuff the Truck, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, and providing rescue assistance during Hurricane Sandy. And less than 2 weeks ago, he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. Randall's selfless sacrifice, sense of duty, and sacrifice serve as an example for all of us.

A sign at the entrance to the neighborhood where the Smith family lives sums up what I think many are feeling right now. It reads: "Thank you for your service. Sorry for your loss. You will be remembered."

I know that our community in northwest Georgia is forever grateful for Randall Smith's service and sacrifice. May God bless Angie and their three wonderful, beautiful daughters.

ADA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my remarks, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

First, let me mention the extraordinary respect I have for the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

I had the honor of sponsoring the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1989 and 1990. We passed it in 1990, and it was signed by then-President George H.W. Bush. It was called the Americans with Disabilities Act, Mr. Speaker, but in many ways it should have been called the Americans with Abilities Act. It should have been called that because its intent was to focus on what people could do, what people would do, what people wanted to do.

Mr. LANGEVIN is a perfect example of an extraordinary person with great ability who has a wheelchair. He has a wheelchair because he has a mobility impairment that others of us don't have. But as we have seen in serving

with our colleague JIM LANGEVIN from Rhode Island, he is extraordinarily able and he represents his constituency with great energy, with great intellect, and with great integrity. So I am pleased to join him in this Special Order.

We had introduced a resolution, but it is not the practice of the House to bring commemorative resolutions to the floor. So we do this Special Order in addition to what we would have hoped would have been the passage of a resolution, but I understand that is the practice.

The Senate did in fact pass a resolution, sponsored by ORRIN HATCH, PATRICIA MURRAY from Washington State, and LAMAR ALEXANDER, commemorating 25 years of progress on the inclusion of those with a challenge that others might not have in our society, all that our society offers and the opportunities that it offers.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on numerous occasions over this last week commemorating the ADA, and I have mentioned a number of names. I would like to do that on the floor of this House, because they were people who were absolutely critical. It is not a comprehensive list. It is, however, a list of people with whom I worked very closely for well over a year on the passage of the ADA.

First, I would like to mention President George H.W. Bush. This issue was not a partisan issue. President Bush was a Republican; I was a Democrat—and still am. I worked with an extraordinary Republican Member of the House. His name was Steve Bartlett. He was from Texas. He left the House and became mayor of Dallas. He is now still in Washington, working, and we are partners. Every time something happens with respect to the ADA, Steve Bartlett and I work together on it.

Dave Capozzi and Tony Coelho. Tony Coelho, a Member of this body, was a person perceived with the disease of epilepsy, but he is one of the most able people that any of us know. Tony Coelho, along with Lowell Weicker, were the original two sponsors of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Justin Dart. In 1983, Justin Dart visited every State in the Union in his wheelchair, calling attention to State legislatures, Governors, and others of the importance of ensuring the accessibility of places of opportunity for those with disabilities. Yoshiko Dart, his wife, was with him every step of the way and was with us as we worked for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

And then we have an extraordinary legislator—one of the best legislators that I have served with, Mr. Speaker—Bob Dole, a Republican from Kansas, majority and minority leader of the United States Senate. Mr. Speaker, when he came to the Senate of the United States, his first speech was about including those with disabilities. He observed that he was an involun-

tary member of those with disabilities as a result of his extraordinary war wounds in Italy in World War II.

We have Chai Feldblum, who is now on the EEOC and a professor at Georgetown Law School. She was counsel to myself and Steve Bartlett as we considered the complex issues and tried to make sure that ADA could be implemented by all in a way that was affordable and reasonable for them.

We then have Lex Frieden, who is the executive director of the National Council on Disabilities, who worked so closely with us. Also, Boyden Gray, counsel to George Bush, who was a critical ally in this effort.

Then we have a giant in this effort, Senator Tom Harkin from Iowa, who, after Lowell Weicker left, was the principal sponsor of the ADA and fought hard and effectively on its behalf.

ORRIN HATCH and Ted Kennedy. Senator Kennedy and Senator HATCH were partners in so many different things, but on this they were aligned and made this bipartisan effort a very successful one.

Also, Arlene Mayerson; Paul Marchand; former Congressman and now Senator ED MARKEY; Senator JOHN McCAIN; Congressman Norman Mineta; Ralph Neas; Katie Neas; Carolyn Osolinik; Becky Ogle; Lee Page; Liz Savage; Bobby Silverstein. Like Melissa Schulman who was my chief staffer as we considered the Americans with Disabilities Act, Bobby Silverstein was Tom Harkin's chief staffer.

JIM SENSENBRENNER, our colleague today. Congressman SENSENBRENNER was so critical, along with his wife, Cheryl Sensenbrenner, who, herself, suffered from a disability and showed such courage in encouraging all of us to support the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I mentioned Lowell Weicker. Lowell Weicker was a Senator from Connecticut and then Governor of Connecticut; Bob Williams, who was an extraordinary individual who worked so hard; John Wodatch; and last, but certainly not least, Patricia Wright.

There were literally, Mr. Speaker, thousands of others, many of whom will not be known but who came here to the Congress of the United States, wrote their Members, called them up, and came to town meetings and forums on behalf of those with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is now used as a sample and has been adopted in some 50 countries throughout the world, perhaps more. There is a disabilities rights convention, which is pending. Only three countries in the world have not signed on to that convention. Unfortunately, we are one. I would hope that the Senate would do that in this Congress. Senator Bob Dole has been an extraordinary proponent of that convention.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my friend, JAMES LANGEVIN, who has been a beneficiary of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the reasonable accommodations that we ask to be