

the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2015.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 21, 2015.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Select Committee on Benghazi will hold hearings certain to drive congressional approval ratings to new lows. The majority leader, the leader of the Republicans, and the New York Republican, Mr. HANNA, and former Republican Committee staffers have all confessed that the purpose of this committee is no governmental purpose, but the political purpose of driving down Secretary Clinton's approval ratings and political prospects. And for that, we have spent 4.5 million taxpayer dollars.

Even before those admissions, it was apparent that that was the purpose of this committee. They have held four hearings in 17 months and developed nothing of significance. They have abandoned plans to have hearings with top intelligence and defense officials. They have done nothing up until now. Yet, tomorrow, they are set to spend 8 hours grilling one woman.

Nothing about the tragedy in Benghazi has been revealed by this committee, and nothing will be revealed tomorrow. All this committee has done is focus on what has been referred to as Secretary Clinton's damn emails.

Look at the rules that bind Congress on emails. We are free to use any server. We are free to keep and delete or to take the emails with us.

We have got an 8 percent approval rating. It is going down tomorrow as a result of what the Benghazi Committee plans to do.

#### TRINIDAD GARZA EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL NAMED NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Trinidad Garza Early College High School at Mountain View for being named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School.

For the last 33 years, the Department of Education has recognized superior schools for their academic achievement, their progress in closing achievement gaps, and for demonstrating that all students can achieve high levels of success.

Nominated by top education officials in Texas, Trini Garza is one of 335 schools across the country being recognized as a 2015 Blue Ribbon School and one of 28 such schools in the great State of Texas.

As a dual-degree school, Trinity Garza has made it a priority to make students college ready, life ready, and career ready.

I am proud to represent a school that has truly excelled since opening in 2006. Trini Garza, along with 334 other schools, will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on November 9 and 10.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trini Garza Early College High School on this important accomplishment.

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#### ADDRESS THE DEBT LIMIT AND REACH A BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are just 9 more legislative days to act fully to protect the full faith and credit of the United States before November 3 in order to prevent the risk of a first ever U.S. default.

We know that a default is not what the American people want. It could shatter retirement savings and send interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards, and car payments soaring. We know that even a threat of default has serious consequences.

We have experienced a downgrading in our credit before because our friends on the other side of the aisle—Republicans—took us to the catastrophic brink. And then, of course, we realized that what we did today, Pay China First Act, does not help the American people.

If we continue on this pathway, we will impact 1.4 million Active-Duty troops by not paying our debt, 4.1 million disabled veterans who served their country with honor by not paying our debt, 2.3 million veterans who receive home purchasing assistance by not paying our debt, American small busi-

nesses that sell goods and services to the government and most doctors and hospitals that treat the 53.8 million Medicare patients around the country by not paying our debt.

We cannot hold the United States hostage or our credit hostage. It is time to address in a fair and reasonable manner the debt of the United States, which is the people of the United States. Get rid of sequester, follow our responsibilities, and pay our bills so that we can help those veterans who need help.

Mr. Speaker, once again House Republicans are putting the narrow partisan interests of their right-wing base ahead of addressing the real challenges and problems facing the American people.

Congress has only 10 legislative days to act to fully protect the full faith and credit of the United States before November 3, in order to prevent the risk of a first-ever U.S. default.

A default would shatter retirement savings and send interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards and car payments soaring.

We know that even the threat of default has serious consequences: plummeting consumer confidence, and drastic slowdowns in job creation and economic growth.

Instead of taking the threat of catastrophic default off the table, this week, Republicans are bringing forward a bill that would give priority to bondholders from China and other foreign nations would be paid first.

This bill, more accurately described as the "Pay China First Act," puts payments to Americans at risk, including those to: 1. 1.4 million active duty troops; 2. 4.1 million disabled veterans who served their country with honor; 3. 2.3 million veterans who receive home purchasing assistance; 4. American small businesses that sell goods and services to the government; 5. Doctors and hospitals that treat the 53.8 million Medicare patients around the country.

The credit rating of the United States is not a hostage to serve Republicans' toxic special interest ideology.

Republicans should bring forward a clean bill to honor the full faith and credit of the United States immediately.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have wasted enormous amount of time on irresponsible, futile, and reckless diversions such as trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, defund Planned Parenthood, and use the Benghazi Select Committee as an adjunct of the Republican National Committee to engage in partisan attacks on the leading candidate for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

Because so much time has been wasted on these frivolous issues, we now have the following critical deadlines staring us in the face:

1. October 29: Highway & Transit Trust Fund expires, endangering good paying jobs and critical construction projects throughout America;

2. November 3: Deadline to raise debt ceiling to protect full faith and credit of the United States.

3. December 11: Deadline to pass a funding bill that keeps the government open.

Americans are already paying a heavy price for House Republicans' legislative mismanagement.

Earlier this summer, Republicans shut down the Export-Import Bank for the first time in its 81-year history.

The Bank provides critical financing assistance—at no cost to taxpayers—to small, medium, and large-sized U.S. businesses that helps them create jobs here at home and sell their products overseas.

Just two months after the Bank shut down, companies across the country are already feeling negative impacts on their ability to compete in the global marketplace.

House Republicans also let the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) expire on September 30.

Created in 1965, it is one of the nation's most successful conservation programs.

The LWCF uses a small percentage of revenue from offshore oil and gas drilling to invest in public lands and local recreation projects, and helps to support more than 6 million U.S. jobs connected with outdoor recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I renew my call that all Members of the House and Senate work together and address the real problems and challenges facing the American people and to work with the President to reach agreement on an appropriate budget framework that ends sequestration but does not harm our economy or require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DON EDWARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the California Democratic congressional delegation to honor the life of Don Edwards, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 100 in his home in Carmel.

Congressman Don Edwards was someone I was proud to know for many years. He was born in San Jose, California, in 1915, growing up on South 13th Street. Living in San Jose at an idyllic time, he took the trolley to play golf as a young man, attended public schools in San Jose, received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University, where he later studied law, and was admitted to the Bar Association of California in 1940.

He became an FBI agent during the Depression. He used to talk about his service as an FBI agent, which he jokingly referred to as "long hours looking for auto thieves in Indianapolis." But, in fact, he served with great distinction in the FBI, and he went on to serve in the United States Navy as an intelligence officer and a gunnery officer in World War II.

He was first elected to represent what was then California's Ninth Con-

gressional District in 1962, and he served for 32 years, until January 3, 1995.

I remember the first time I saw Congressman Don Edwards. It was before he was a Congressman. He was giving a speech in Mitchell Park in Palo Alto, California. I was just out of elementary school, and I remember how impressed I was and inspired I was by his words. He, in turn, had been inspired by President Kennedy to run for Congress, and he was successfully elected that year.

Over the years, he represented such communities as San Jose, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, parts of Milpitas, Fremont, and Union City. He served on the Judiciary Committee and served as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights for 23 years. He also sat on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Now, Congressman Don Edwards was one of the foremost defenders of civil liberties in Congress. In the 1970s, along with Senator Frank Church and his committee, they exposed the pervasive abuses of civil liberties in J. Edgar Hoover's COINTELPRO, which monitored, infiltrated, and disrupted entirely lawful civil rights and antiwar organizations; and his stature as a former FBI agent really allowed him to be effective in this role.

In his first year in the House, he voted to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, and he was involved every year. In fact, I helped him in the early seventies in trying to abolish HUAC. He finally succeeded in 1975. He was involved in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He was a dignified and important member of the House Judiciary Committee during the consideration of the impeachment of Richard Nixon. And he was known throughout the country as somebody who stood up for the Constitution.

Earlier today, former Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman came on the floor, and we were talking about former Members' right to be present on the floor, but they do not have the right to address the Congress as a former Member. She wanted everyone to know that she was so proud that she was able to serve with Congressman Edwards on the Judiciary Committee, and she is not alone where people were able to serve with him.

His contributions will live on for many generations, as demonstrated by the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildfire Refuge, which was the first urban wildfire refuge in the United States. I remember he used to call the chairman of the committee in the seventies every single morning, saying, "Where is my wildfire refuge?" because such endangered species as the California Clapper Rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse were on the verge of extinction, and now they are not because of his work.

As I said, he was a stalwart defender of the Constitution, a tireless advocate for the rights of women, and was

known as the "Father of the Equal Rights Amendment," which he introduced every year.

Congressman Edwards was also known as a champion of civil rights. After becoming chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, then known as Subcommittee Number 4, he managed the Equal Rights Amendment on the House floor in 1971, the extension of the Voting Rights Act in 1982, and all other civil rights bills of the era.

Now, outside of Congress, he took part in civil rights marches in the South. His son Len was a Freedom Rider, and he joined Len Edwards during the Mississippi Summer. He visited Dr. Martin Luther King when Dr. King was imprisoned in the Birmingham, Alabama, jail. And Don Edwards spoke out against apartheid while visiting South Africa.

Congressman Don Edwards had a long, fulfilling life, and part of that fulfillment was his marriage to Edie Wilkie Edwards until her death in April of 2011. She and he were very involved in a group that no longer is active in the House called Members of Congress for Peace Through Law because they were people who believed that we could have a peaceful world, and the route to peace was the rule of law.

Congressman Edwards is survived by four sons, Len Edwards, Samuel, Bruce, and Thomas, as well as four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He died peacefully and with a great deal of grace. According to his son Len Edwards: "He died as he lived, an elegant man."

He leaves a legacy of supporting civil rights, advocating for those less fortunate in our society, and as being a strong defender of our Constitution. In fact, in his district, they used to call him not the Congressman from the Tenth Congressional District, but the Congressman from the Constitution.

I am fortunate that when I graduated from college in 1970 and I came to Washington without a job, I walked into his office and he hired me. I worked for him for nearly 9 years, both here in Washington and in his district in San Jose. He helped me enormously by giving me time off to take exams while I was taking my law school classes. He helped me and mentored me, and I feel a great debt of gratitude to him personally for all he did to help me, but mainly to inspire me and a whole generation of Americans to believe in their country and to believe in their Constitution and to believe in the rule of law and civil rights.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from California, (Mr. FARR), my colleague.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. LOFGREN for yielding, the chair of our wonderful California delegation, the largest Democratic delegation in Congress.

When I arrived in Congress in a special election in 1993, Don Edwards was