

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 9, 2016*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to The Veterans Employment, Education, and Health Care Improvement Act (H.R. 3016).

H.R. 3016 includes important bipartisan legislation to improve the health and opportunities of veterans. This legislation will include podiatrists within the Department of Veterans Affairs definition of physician, extending the same promotions and leadership positions within the VA as other physicians. H.R. 3016 also includes numerous standalone bills that will improve the quality of health care and economic opportunity for veterans, including establishing the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. I wholeheartedly support these key provisions of H.R. 3016, but the pay is unacceptable for our brave service members and their families.

When our brave women and men signed up to serve, we made them a promise. We assured them clearly defined benefits that were guaranteed to them upon completion of their duties. H.R. 3016 as currently written breaks that promise. Not only does it harm the students who depend on these housing allowances to attend school, it says to our service members that the terms of the deal they made with their government have been changed without their knowledge or consent. It is essential that Americans know exactly what their service to their country entitles them to. Passage of this legislation will severely undermine that agreement.

Title III of this legislation will reduce by fifty percent the housing allowance provided to children who have had Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits transferred to them. This cut will begin one hundred and eighty days after the enactment of H.R. 3016. Furthermore, the legislation provides no grandfather clause that will exempt the families of current service members from this harmful cut.

Again, I support the important provisions of this legislation that will improve the lives of our veterans, and I remain committed to working in a bipartisan fashion to see these enacted. However, I cannot support legislation that is paid for by breaking a promise to our veterans. When Americans sign up to serve, they must be certain that the benefits guaranteed to them will be waiting when they return home. As Members of Congress, upholding this commitment is one of our most important duties.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT IMPROVED COMPLIANCE AWARENESS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4470, the Safe Drinking Water Act Improved Compliance Act. This legislation will help ensure no community in America ever experiences what is happening in Flint by ensuring that federal and state regulators promptly notify a local community if there are elevated levels of lead in their water systems.

Specifically, the bill requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to notify a local water system if EPA receives data indicating high lead levels in the water. The local water system must immediately notify their customers, and if they do not act quickly then EPA must notify local residents themselves.

It is critical that a community is immediately notified when there is a problem with their drinking water. Transparency is essential to ensuring water lead contamination never poisons another community, and this bill helps us achieve this important goal.

The facts about the Flint crisis are being gathered right now through multiple investigations, and every person responsible must be held accountable for the lack of appropriate action. Government at every level failed the people of Flint, but this is a man-made disaster led by the state of Michigan, and we must take action at the federal level to prevent this from ever happening again.

Every Member of the Michigan delegation co-sponsored this bill, and we thank our colleagues Congressman KILDEE and Congressman UPTON for their good work on it. This is an example of what can happen when we work together to solve the problems facing our nation, and we need more of it. Clean water is one of the most fundamental, basic rights we should guarantee anyone living in America.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE  
MICHAEL GARVER "MIKE" OXLEY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 11, 2016*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor and remember former Representative Mike Oxley who we lost last month. Today would have been his 72nd birthday, so our presence here tonight is a wonderful way to commemorate his life of service. I remember Mike most for his big smile, which could be seen from across the Chamber, and his love for his wife Patricia and his son Chadd.

Mr. Oxley grew up understanding the importance of service to his country, which he carried out to the very end. He started his career working as a Federal Bureau of Investigations agent in Boston and New York City. He frequently noted this experience directed his Congressional decisions and that set him apart from other Members.

He returned to his hometown of Findlay—Flag City—in 1972 to begin his career in elected office when he won a seat in the Ohio House. For a decade he sharpened and honed his legislative expertise, serving him well for the next chapter of his life. In 1981, he won a special election to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I remember Mike relished working with his fellow Ohio delegation, especially the late Representative Paul Gillmor. Mr. Oxley dedicated his years of federal service to reforming our banking and financial laws. As the Chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, from 2001 to 2006, Ox demonstrated his leadership of Congress' response during very troublesome financial times following the tech bubble struggles of the early 2000s, Wall Street turmoil that followed the 9/11 attacks and corporate scandals including Enron. While Mr. Oxley and I were often on opposite sides, I will always remember him as jovial, collegial, and someone who had a great passion for public service.

I was proud to work with him on the Base Realignment and Closure Commission as we stopped a Pentagon recommendation to reduce the size of the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima. This effort saved the jobs of 750 people who continue to manufacture tanks and sections of armored vehicles, including the best Army tank in the world, the Abrams.

I was saddened when I learned that Mr. Oxley had been diagnosed with lung cancer. In his fight against cancer, he demonstrated his true spirit, and his eternal dedication to service by joining the Lung Cancer Alliance in 2010. Always fighting for others even amidst his own battle, he became the Board Chairman in January of 2014.

It was an honor and privilege to serve with him and to pay tribute to his life. May his soul rest in peace and may his family be comforted by the memories they share of their times together and the joy he brought to living.

BORDER TO BORDER BROADBAND:  
BETTER TOGETHER

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 12, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my Minnesota colleague Congressman COLLIN PETERSON, to recognize the Blandin Foundation and all they do for rural Minnesota, and particularly for their efforts to provide broadband internet service to all Minnesotans.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I was honored to recently speak at the 'Border to Border Broadband: Better Together' conference, which was sponsored by the Blandin Foundation and the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development. More than 170 participants came together and agreed on a vision statement for the future of broadband of Minnesota. Today, Congressman PETERSON and I rise in strong support of that vision, which states that "All Minnesotans will be able to use convenient, affordable world class broadband networks that enable us to survive and thrive in our communities and across the globe."

The fact is, we need high-speed broadband in our rural communities. It's a necessity required to help grow our small town rural economy and compete, start new businesses, create new jobs, attract new people and modernize the education and health care services so essential to quality of life. Across our expansive and diverse district the Blandin Foundation is working hard to make sure rural communities have access to world-class high-speed broadband internet.

Once again, we would like to thank the Blandin Foundation for all they do to strengthen rural Minnesota through their many important programs, in addition to their work on rural broadband.

#### RECOGNIZING ROBERT C. MORALES

#### HON. WILL HURD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 12, 2016*

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. Robert C. Morales.

Mr. Morales passed away on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. He was well known in Van Horn, Texas for his outstanding leadership in the community. Not only did he provide Van Horn with a timely and reliable news source, but he also mentored unemployed youth, played the organ at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, and was a member of a local band, Los Pecadores. Mr. Morales also served on the Culberson-Allamoore ISD School Board, Culberson County Property Tax Appraisal District Board, and the Town of Van Horn Zoning Board.

Mr. Morales was raised in Van Horn, graduated from Van Horn High School in 1976, and earned a college degree from the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation, he worked for the Laredo Morning News and the City of Laredo, later accepting jobs at Enron and Dr Pepper. His contributions to the town of Van Horn and the 23rd Congressional District of Texas have been integral to the community and will not be forgotten. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, I thank Mr. Morales for his involvement in Van Horn and his dedication to serving others. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING MRS. JUANITA PAYNE-GALBREATH AS THE OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 12, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mrs. Juanita Payne-Galbreath as the Okaloosa County, Florida, Education Support Professional of the Year. Mrs. Payne-Galbreath has proven to be a truly exceptional mentor whose impact extends far beyond her students, and I am proud to recognize her success and outstanding achievements.

Mrs. Payne-Galbreath graduated from Niceville High School before attending Pensacola Junior College. After completing her studies, Mrs. Payne-Galbreath joined the Okaloosa County School District, where she has served thousands of students over the last 18 years and has filled numerous important roles. She began her education career at Combs New Heights as an assistant, lunchroom monitor, and Exceptional Student Education classroom assistant, before continuing her career at Fort Walton Beach High School where she worked for five years in several capacities. She then moved to her current position at Crestview High School, where she is as an ESE paraprofessional.

Outside of school, Mrs. Payne-Galbreath—a loving wife to her husband, Joshua and mother to their ten children—still finds time to serve Okaloosa County students, going far above and beyond the core responsibilities of her job. Her dedication to the students of Okaloosa County and her community is exemplified by the "Showers of Blessings Nook," a service she created that provides high school students and their families basic needs such as—shoes, toiletries, and food gift cards.

Northwest Florida is grateful to have such a compassionate individual working with our youth. Without question, her tangible contributions to her students are appreciated. It is Mrs. Payne-Galbreath's love, faith, and nurturing character, however, for which we are most grateful.

Mr. Speaker, the Okaloosa County Education Support Professional of the Year award is a true reflection of Mrs. Payne-Galbreath's steadfast dedication to the students of Okaloosa County. I am privileged to recognize Juanita for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to excellence. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating her and thanking her for her dedication to serving the students, teachers, and families of the Northwest Florida community. We wish Mrs. Payne-Galbreath all the best for continued success.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND RULE OF LAW IN THE OSCE

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 12, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about human rights crises in Eu-

rope and Eurasia. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and end of the Cold War, many people expected that freedom, democracy, and peace, would spread throughout Europe and Eurasia. And yet now, the religious freedom of Christians, and people of other faiths, is being regularly violated. Russia invaded its neighbor Ukraine, illegally annexed Crimea, and is fueling and funding violent proxies in the eastern Donbas region of that country. Deadly anti-Semitism is again stalking European Jewish communities. The worst refugee and migrants' crisis in Europe since World War II has engulfed the continent. Autocrats are using the law, and acting outside the law, to crush democratic opposition to their despotism.

Violent anti-Semitic attacks increased 100 to 400 percent in some European countries between 2013 and 2014. Anti-Semitism, and the evil goal of killing Jewish people, is hardwired into ISIS and those it inspires. Perhaps no other group in Europe is more at risk from ISIS attacks than the European Jewish community. That is why I authored House Resolution 354 as a blueprint for vital actions that are needed to prevent another Paris, Brussels, or Copenhagen. The House of Representatives passed it unanimously and I intend to hold a hearing over the coming weeks to explore what is necessary to ensure these actions are taken.

In Crimea, the occupying authorities have targeted and retaliated against the Crimean Tatar people for opposing the annexation and the rule that has followed. Crimean Tatars have been arrested, detained, interrogated, and sometimes charged with extremism, illegal assembly, or belonging to an unregistered religious group. Religious minorities, including the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, have likewise been repressed. Crimeans who opposed or oppose the Russian takeover of Crimea, or have been unwilling to seek a Russian passport, have been at risk of a crackdown. Restrictions have proliferated, including even on the teaching of the Ukrainian language or access to Ukrainian culture.

Repression is also rife in Azerbaijan. The Commission recently held a hearing on the terrible plight of political prisoners in Azerbaijan, particularly the imprisonment of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Khadija Ismayilova. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Azerbaijan leads all of the countries in Eurasia in jailing journalists. In 2015, the government imprisoned many well-known activists, including Anar Mammadli, the courageous head of EMDS, the leading election monitoring organization in Azerbaijan. He spoke the truth about the fraudulent 2013 presidential election and is still paying the price. I met with Anar's father—a very gentle man—just a few months after Anar was arrested and saw how Anar's family is suffering from this injustice.

More than 40 years ago, all the countries of Europe, the United States, and Canada, formed the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to prevent and respond to these kinds of crises. This week, I chaired a hearing of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission, where we heard testimony from Ambassador Michael Link, Director of the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Mr. Speaker, his testimony was a reminder of the serious threats to European Jewish