

sense, public-private partnerships and performance contracts that save taxpayer funds. Each and every time the energy efficiency of a federal building is improved, the taxpayer wins. When the private sector is engaged and deploys its resources to make those improvements, the taxpayer wins many times over. For this reason, I am proud of my work to support Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) and Utility Energy Service Contracts (UESCs), including legislation I introduced along with my friend PETER WELCH of Vermont that would lead to more investments, better leverage of public funds, and greater savings. The Alliance endorses my bipartisan legislation and I am thankful for their support.

Again, congratulations to the Alliance on reaching its 40th Anniversary. It is truly an honor to serve on this organization's Honorary Board, along with my colleagues PETER WELCH of Vermont, MICHAEL BURGESS of Texas, DAVID MCKINLEY of West Virginia, DAVE REICHERT of Washington, and PAUL TONKO of New York, as well as several Senate colleagues. As a group, I believe we truly represent the diversity of opinions on energy issues in Congress, but we also represent the Alliance's strong commitment to bipartisan-ship. We've come a long way on federal energy efficiency policy, and I look forward to what can be accomplished over the next 40 years.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. "BILL"
HOWELL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William J. "Bill" Howell for 30 years of distinguished public service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Howell served in the Virginia General Assembly since 1988, and presided over the chamber as Speaker of the House of Delegates since 2003. During his tenure, Speaker Howell championed the issues important to his constituents of Stafford and Fredericksburg and on behalf of all Virginians. As the second longest serving Speaker in the House of Delegates, Mr. Howell embodied the characteristics of a true Virginia Statesman.

Among other issues, Mr. Howell will be remembered for reforming the Virginia Retirement System and leading the first transportation funding overhaul in 27 years. Speaker Howell recognized the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and was a strong advocate for historical preservation and conservation efforts. Under Speaker Howell, Virginia's Rainy Day Fund is on track to exceed \$1 billion by the end of the next budget cycle. In 2013, Speaker Howell was named "Legislator of the Year" by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and one of Governing Magazine's 2013 Public Officials of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Speaker Bill Howell on his dedication to serving the Commonwealth of Virginia and wishing him best wishes in his future endeavors.

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND
GOVERNANCE IN LIBERIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I held a hearing on the future of democracy and governance in Liberia. Of the more than 50 nations of Africa, the United States has the closest connection with the Republic of Liberia. This is not only because Liberia was founded in 1847 by freedmen and former slaves from this country, but also because of the estimated 500,000 Liberians and Liberian descendants who live here. Many Liberians consider the United States the "mother country" even though it was never a U.S. colony. Liberian cities such as Monrovia and Buchanan were named for American presidents.

However, most Americans are largely unaware of the long link between the United States and Liberia and likely see Liberia as just another African country. Most Americans are unaware that Liberia has been a major U.S. ally since World War II and into the Cold War, hosting U.S. communications facilities in the 1960s and 1970s and receiving extensive U.S. development assistance, including post-war aid and post-Ebola aid to Liberia. The United States also helped Liberia build its criminal justice sector and supported transitional justice efforts.

The United States has funded just over a quarter of the cost of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), at a cost of \$106 million annually as of FY 2016. Liberia is also implementing a \$256.7 million, five-year MCC compact, signed in 2015, designed to increase access to reliable, affordable electricity and enhance the country's poor road infrastructure. Bilateral State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) assistance totaled \$91 million in FY2016.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made some advancement in democracy and governance during her two terms, following the despotic rule of Charles Taylor. During his term of office, Taylor was accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity as a result of his involvement in the Sierra Leone civil war from 1991 to 2002, but he also was responsible for serious human rights violations in Liberia. Taylor was formally indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2003. He resigned and went into exile in Nigeria. In 2006, then-newly elected President Sirleaf formally requested his extradition. He was detained by UN authorities in Sierra Leone and then at the Penitentiary Institution Haaglanden in The Hague, awaiting trial by the Special Court. He was found guilty in April 2012 of all eleven charges levied by the Special Court, including terror, murder and rape, and in May 2012, Taylor was sentenced to 50 years in prison.

The United States occasionally arrested alleged perpetrators of civil war human rights abuses, often using immigration perjury charges as a vehicle for prosecution. One of them was Charles McArthur Emmanuel, also known as Chuckie Taylor, the son of Charles Taylor. Raised in Florida, Emmanuel became the commander of the infamously violent Anti-Terrorist Unit, commonly known in Liberia as the "Demon Forces." He is currently serving a

97-year sentence back in Florida for his role in human rights violations carried out by the ATU.

President Sirleaf was unable under the constitution to run for a third term but unlike other African leaders, she did not push to change the constitution to allow a third term. We don't yet know whether her successors can or will continue an upward trend. Most candidates for President have highlighted corruption, but these candidates have platforms that are light on policy specifics. Consequently, my subcommittee's hearing this week was intended to examine the prospects for democracy and governance in Liberia following the October elections.

The United States is a key provider of technical assistance to Liberia's National Election Commission, including an International Foundation for Electoral Systems program, funded by USAID, and the U.N. Development Program, backed by nearly \$12 million in mostly European Union funding under a multifaceted project from 2015 to 2018. The Election Commission also receives broader institutional capacity building support under a second \$4 million USAID-funded program, the Liberian Administrative and System Strengthening.

Our government has a significant investment in Liberia on several fronts. The future direction of this country is important to the United States. Therefore, we have a stake in the next Liberian government building on advances made in democracy and governance under the current government and must continue to provide assistance to that end and insist on no backsliding as we see in far too many countries in Africa today.

Most of all, there must be much more done to minimize the impact of corruption in Liberia, which not only robs the people of the benefits of their country's resources and labor, but also discourages foreign investment that could provide a needed boost to development.

October's election will tell a lot about where Liberia is going, and we need to keep a close watch on developments in this important African ally.

HONORING TOM DRAPER

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the remarkable life of Delaware icon, Thomas H. Draper. Tom grew up in Milton, Delaware and spent his summers at the Delaware beaches. Tom went on to college at Brown University where he excelled, not only by earning his spot as captain of the 1964 Brown Bears lacrosse team, but also by being named an All-American before eventually earning admission to the Brown University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Tom returned to his home state of Delaware after college, moving back to Sussex County. He quickly purchased radio station WTHD and began his career in broadcasting. Tom would go on to purchase WBOC-TV in 1980 and helped build it into a broadcasting mainstay in "The First State."

To know Tom, however, was to know that he was so much more than his career, impressive as it was. Tom loved being outdoors and

spending time with his family. His four children and nine grandchildren were the light of his life, and what a life he led. Thomas Henry Draper passed away earlier this week at the age of 76, just a few weeks after he celebrated 50 years in broadcasting. We know that our little state had a place in Tom's big heart and we know that the legacy that Tom leaves behind will make a mark on Delaware for generations to come.

HONORING ELIZABETH "LIBBY"
HERLAND

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, each year half a million people visit the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex, eight individual wildlife refuges that are home to 30 miles of beautiful walking trails, canoe launches, treasured fishing spots, and peaceful scenic overlooks. Since 2003, Project Leader Elizabeth "Libby" Herland has been the steward of this 17,000-acre environmental jewel; a guardian of its remarkable landscape and a visionary who has helped protect six Federally-listed endangered and threatened species on eight refuges, which include many rivers and a portion of the ocean shore of Cape Cod.

Upon Libby's retirement on September 30, 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Service will lose one of its most dedicated and passionate officials. However, Libby's influence will remain visible and tangible for many years to come. Under Libby's supervision, the eight refuges that make up the Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex expanded outreach to urban areas, building on successful urban education programs in Lowell, Massachusetts, and expanded visitor facilities. Libby oversaw the construction of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center which hosts hundreds of school children year after year to learn about the natural wonders that surround them.

Libby dedicated herself to a lifetime of public service. During her 29-year career with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Libby served in a myriad of positions across the organization, from managing the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge in Sussex County, New Jersey to the Regional Partners for Wildlife Coordinator in Newton, Massachusetts.

After working closely with Libby for many years, I am profoundly appreciative of her commitment to wildlife, education, and her many years of effective leadership. Libby's visionary leadership will be missed across the East Coast of America.

I extend my sincerest thanks and congratulations to Libby on behalf of a grateful nation, and I am confident that even in retirement she will remain a steward of our environment.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
FINNISH INDEPENDENCE

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Co-Chair of the Congressional Friends of Finland Caucus to extend a warm welcome to Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, who is visiting Minnesota to celebrate Finland's upcoming 100th Independence Day, and attending FinnFest, an annual festival celebrating Finnish heritage and culture. FinnFest is held in cities across the U.S. and Canada, and this year Minnesota is especially honored to welcome the Finnish delegation in preparation for the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence later this year.

Minnesota is home to more than 60,000 Finnish-Americans, and our state's culture is enriched with many proud Finnish traditions and customs. Finnish Americans have established many Minnesota cities including Hibbing, Mountain Iron, Tower, Eveleth, and Virginia. Today, Finnish Americans continue to contribute to our state as leaders of industry, education, and local government.

It is truly an honor to represent so many proud Finnish-Americans in Congress, and to support our Nation's warm diplomatic relationship with Finland. Trade and tourism between our Nations continues to be mutually beneficial, with thousands of American's visiting Finland every year to experience Finnish culture firsthand, and explore Finland's many historic and beautiful sights.

Thank you President Niinistö for visiting our state and helping us celebrate Finnish heritage and culture during this very special year for your great Nation.

CELEBRATING THE ALLIANCE TO
SAVE ENERGY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Alliance to Save Energy on reaching its 40th anniversary and recognize their tireless efforts to improve the energy efficiency and increase the energy productivity of the United States. For four decades, the Alliance has worked with members of the House and Senate, of both parties, and every President and administration to find common ground around the idea of "using less and doing more". The Alliance has contributed to every major and minor piece of legislation dealing with energy efficiency passed by Congress and enacted into law since 1977. Simply put, without the Alliance, our economy would use more energy and do so less efficiently and productively.

The Alliance is a national, not-for-profit, public-policy organization that works on a bipartisan basis with policymakers and with prominent leaders in the fields of business, education, the environment and sustainability, and consumer affairs. The Alliance focuses its efforts on policies that promote the efficient use

of energy throughout the world to benefit the economy, environment, and security of the United States. And to do so, it leverages its own network to cultivate coalitions that endure for years.

Over the past 40 years, energy efficiency policies pursued and conservation measures taken by the United States have caused annual energy consumption to decrease by more than 60 quads (quadrillion British thermal units) and saved American consumers and businesses \$800 billion annually. And since the Alliance's establishment by Senators Charles Percy of Illinois and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota in 1977, the United States has doubled its energy productivity, which means that today our economy produces twice as much gross domestic product per each unit of energy consumed. That is staggering, especially when considering the myriad ways the energy sector has evolved and our own lives, behaviors, and habits have changed.

Energy efficiency has enjoyed bipartisan support since the first policies were enacted in the wake of the oil crises of the 1970s. And much of that support hinges on the fact that energy efficiency is a reliable engine of job creation. Today, according to the United States Department of Energy, the energy efficiency sector now employs 2.2 million Americans. In Vermont, about 9,000 men and women are employed in the energy efficiency sector. Over half of this workforce is employed by small businesses. And in most cases, these are local jobs that are not readily exported or handled by workers overseas.

For the past four years, I have been a member of the Alliance's Honorary Board. My involvement in the Alliance's work reflects my belief in the importance of federal energy efficiency policy. It also lends me a platform to work with my colleagues to find bipartisan solutions to many challenges facing our modern—and modernizing—energy sector. I am honored to serve on the Alliance's Honorary Board along with colleagues Representatives MICHAEL BURGESS of Texas, ADAM KINZINGER of Illinois, DAVID MCKINLEY of West Virginia, DAVE REICHERT of Washington, and PAUL TONKO of New York.

The Alliance should be proud of its first 40 years. But the next 40 years will be even more important as we advance the energy efficiency policies we need to address the unprecedented challenge of global climate change. The Alliance and its diverse and committed coalition will be on the leading edge of what comes next in energy efficiency. It is my privilege to be part of the Alliance's efforts. Congratulations to Alliance on its 40 years of achievements, and good luck for its future endeavors.

COMMENDING LAKE COUNTY VETERANS AND FAMILY SERVICES
FOUNDATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to commend the Lake County Veterans and Family Services Foundation (LCVFSF) and the important work they do throughout the Tenth District to support veterans and their families.