

Though we have lost a champion and advocate for Santa Monica, I hope that her family and friends take comfort in the way Louise lived her life as an accomplished and astounding woman. May her memory be a blessing to us all.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MICHELE Y. EVANS FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. CONNOLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Michele Y. Evans, for her recent retirement from the Government Publishing Office after 29 years of service. Ms. Evans began her career at GPO in October 1987 as a Supply Clerk in the Springbelt Warehouse in Springfield, Virginia. In 1991, she became a Micrographics Tech and in 1993 she was promoted to Supervisory Micrographics Tech before eventually assuming the position of Publications Manager Specialist.

In 2004, Michele joined the Apprenticeship Program, which trained her as Printer, Proofer, and Journey Person. In 2006, after graduating from the Apprenticeship program, Michele went to work in the proof room, where she worked in copy/mark-up and night side/bill end. In 2010, Michele was selected for the GPO detailee program, and was attached to the Office of the Clerk, Office of Legislative Operations, House Enrolling section. Her dedication and disposition made her a perfect fit for the section, and her attention to detail and years of experience made Michele an invaluable member of the enrolling team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Evans on her retirement and in thanking her for her years of service to this chamber as she returns to her hometown of Jacksonville, North Carolina to start the next chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to attend session on Friday, February 3, due to personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted no on H.J. Res. 36, roll call No. 78, which provided for congressional disapproval of President Obama's Methane Waste Prevention Rule.

I am outraged by House Republican efforts to overturn substantial environmental policies of the Obama Administration, including and especially the Methane Waste Prevention Rule. This rule caps, for the first time, the amount of methane that oil and gas producers operating under federal leases are allowed to "flare," or burn as waste. It also prohibits operators from releasing or "venting" natural gas into the atmosphere, and requires them to replace equipment that allows large amounts of methane to "bleed" into the air. This rule would result in 175,000 to 180,000 fewer tons

of methane emissions each year, which is equivalent to removing nearly 1 million vehicles from our roads.

As a leading member on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have long been a champion for a cleaner, healthier environment for all New Yorkers and the American people. I have relentlessly fought to close Indian Point, oppose the Spectra Algonquin Pipeline, and resist the plan to anchor barges carrying crude oil along the Hudson River.

I will continue fighting to stop Republicans in Congress from undermining our environmental regulations and turning back the clock to a time when corporations could pollute unchecked.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 582, KARI'S LAW ACT OF 2017

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 582, the Kari's Law Act of 2017, which amends the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix.

As a senior member of the House Committees on Homeland Security and Judiciary, I am well aware of the importance of 9-1-1 services and some of the challenges of E-9-1-1 to ensure that those seeking emergency assistance receive the help they need.

H.R. 582 would create parity for landline 9-1-1 services and smartphone E9-1-1 services so that emergency assistance request from either is treated the same.

The bill requires that those engaged in the manufacturing, importation, sale, and lease of telecommunication service or devices pre-configure technology to dial 9-1-1.

The goal of H.R. 582 is to ensure that all emergency calls regardless of the source are routed properly to emergency services.

Kari's Law is not intended to alter the authority of State commissions or other State or local agencies with jurisdiction over emergency communications.

The establishment of the Kari's Law Act acknowledges the importance of the configuration of multi-line telephones systems for direct dialing for 9-1-1.

Over the past two decades, the personal communications of Americans have changed.

The Wireless Association reported that the penetration of cellular devices surpassed 100 percent in 2012, and as of the latest 2014 report, penetration is now at 110 percent.

According to the Pew Research Center, 68 percent of U.S. adults have a smartphone, up from 35 percent in 2011, and tablet computer ownership has edged up to 45 percent among adults, according to newly released survey data from the Pew Research Center.

Smartphone ownership is nearing the saturation point with some groups: 86 percent of those ages 18-29 have a smartphone, as do 83 percent of those ages 30-49 and 87 percent of those living in households earning \$75,000 and up annually.

With so many mobile devices deployed the majority of calls to 9-1-1 emergency public

safety answering points (PSAP) originate from them.

U.S. emergency dispatch agencies report that wireless callers are responsible for at least 80 percent of their emergency call volume.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 582, Kari's Law Act of 2017.

WELCOME ANYA CHIRAG SHAH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Chirag Shah and his wife, Sejal, on the birth of their daughter. Anya Chirag Shah was born at 6:18 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, 2017, at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Anya weighed eight pounds and eleven ounces and measured 21 inches long. She is the first child for the happy couple and I look forward to watching her grow as she is raised by talented parents who will be dedicated to her well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Anya's grandparents, Kamal and Jagruti Shah of Mequon, Wisconsin, and Vikram and Kalpana Bavishi of Secaucus, New Jersey. Congratulations to the entire Shah and Bavishi families as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE MANOS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Lake Elsinore in Riverside County, California are exceptional. On Saturday, February 11, 2017 Steve Manos will be honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Santa Monica and raised in Lake Elsinore, Steve is a 29-year Lake Elsinore resident. In 2012, Steve was elected to serve as a Council Member for the City of Lake Elsinore, for which he served as Mayor in 2015. As an elected official Steve serves on several regional organizations. He has served as Chair of the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency, Commissioner on the Airport Land Use Commission, and represents all of the cities in the County of Riverside as the State Director for the League of California Cities. During his term Steve was proud to improve public safety by voting to staff and reopen the Rosetta Canyon Fire Station and add peace officers to the City's police force.

Steve has a great passion for economic development and during his term he has actively recruited new businesses—hundreds of new businesses have opened in Lake Elsinore since 2012, bringing over one thousand new jobs. He has been a relentless, unapologetic ambassador for the City. Steve is a devoted volunteer and charitable contributor having served at the local school district, his church,

and community. He is a founding member of Lake Elsinore's major disaster Citizen Emergency Response Team.

In light of all that Steve has done for the community of Riverside County and the city of Lake Elsinore, it is only fitting to honor him as Citizen of the Year. Steve has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and a constituent of the 42nd Congressional District of California. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Steve Manos on being named Citizen of the Year by the Lake Elsinore Chamber of Commerce.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATER PROJECT STREAMLINING ACT OF 2017

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Bureau of Reclamation Water Project Streamlining Act. This legislation will help many communities in the west that have been severely impacted by the recent droughts affecting the western United States. The legislation requires the Bureau of Reclamation to accelerate studies and provide more accountability in the agency's process to study the feasibility of new and/or expanded surface water storage, rural and Title XVI water projects, as well as water recycling projects. By streamlining Reclamation's environmental planning and study process for these water projects, the bill will ensure that communities in the arid West can address the critical need for water supplies that grow with demand. This is accomplished by applying the same streamlined water project development process used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which were established under the Water Resources Reform Development Act of 2014, to the Bureau of Reclamation for surface water, storage, infrastructure, and recycling projects.

Water is an indispensable resource in Central Washington and is the foundation on which our future will be built. However, water has become increasingly limited and the current supply and infrastructure is unable to meet existing human and environmental needs. The droughts and water shortages that have impacted much of the western U.S. highlight the critical need for new water supplies that are able to meet this growing demand. A streamlined process for new water storage projects is vital to prepare effectively for droughts and provide adequate water resources for future development. This bill improves the Bureau of Reclamation's permitting process to create new opportunities for water storage, recycling, and rural water projects. Put simply, my bill reforms the current cumbersome and lengthy process so that there is a mechanism to build new water and infrastructure projects in Central Washington and across the west.

I welcome all members to join me in supporting this legislation and I urge its swift passage through the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 460, IMPROVING RURAL CALL QUALITY AND RELIABILITY ACT OF 2017

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 460, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017, which amends the Communications Act of 1934 to require voice communications that charge users to register with the FCC and comply with service quality standards to be established by the FCC.

The bill, should it become law, prohibits long-distance providers from using an internet provider to transmit voice communications and signals unless the intermediate provider is registered.

H.R. 460 would require the FCC to:

1. Ensure the integrity of voice communications to all customers in the United States
2. Prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination across areas of the United States in the delivery of voice communications; and
3. Make a registry of intermediate providers publicly available on the FCC website.

H.R. 460, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2016, would seek to ensure that calls to Americans living in the rural areas of our country actually make it through to the intended receiver.

Making sure a call goes through, regardless of where it is being made, is fundamental to our communications system.

H.R. 460 that would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish basic quality standards for providers that transmit voice calls to consumers, among other things.

The Senate Commerce Committee adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute (AINS) that made the following changes:

1. Extends deadlines for service quality standards for intermediate providers from 180 days to one year,
2. Exempts intermediate providers that have been certified as a safe harbor provider; and
3. Amends the definition of intermediate provider.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 460, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, due to a conflict, I unavoidably missed the following vote on February 2. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: On roll call No. 77, I would have voted "nay" on H.J. Res. 40, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Social Security Administration relating to Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE BELOZ

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to Riverside County, California, are exceptional. After ten years of exemplary service, Dr. George Beloz is stepping down as President of the Greater Corona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Beloz was born in Chicago and grew up in an ethnically diverse neighborhood, where he was interested in fine arts and fishing. At an early age he sold daily newspapers on South Lakeshore Drive in Chicago, worked for Fannie Mae as a teenager and played the piano at church. After a couple of years in college, George was drafted into the Army and was assigned to Heidelberg, Germany where his wife joined him and they lived off-post and traveled throughout Europe while stationed there. After his military service he returned to college and completed his Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees, the latter two with the assistance of the GI Bill. He received his PhD from Southern Illinois University. After college, Dr. Beloz was recruited into the Foreign Service and worked for the U.S. Department of State for seven years learning the ropes in the Asian, the Middle Eastern and Latin American regional areas.

Dr. Beloz left the Foreign Service and held several administrative and educational assignments in the Orange County College District. He and his wife, Ruth, moved to Corona in 1983. Since moving to Corona, he was a candidate for the School Board in 1989 and served on the Board of Trustees for the Corona Public Library from 1993 to 1997. Dr. Beloz was appointed to the Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure C, the \$169 million bond issue affecting Riverside City College, Moreno Valley and Norco campuses. In 2016, Dr. Beloz was appointed to the Corona Regional Medical Center Board of Governors. For the last ten years he has headed up the Greater Corona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GCHCOC) by planning engaging evening meetings at Miguel's restaurant with a wide variety of speakers on topics of community interest that have contributed to increasing GCHCOC membership.

Dr. Beloz has contributed immensely to the betterment of our community and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and my friend. To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Dr. Beloz for his service to Corona—his dedication, insight and passion will be greatly missed.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 511, POWER AND SECURITY SYSTEMS (PASS) ACT OF 2017

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 511, the Power and Security Systems Act of 2017, which will revise energy conservation standards for devices operating in standby mode.