

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY CORPORAL (CPL) ROBERT TAYLOR McDAVID, III

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Corporal (CPL) Robert Taylor McDavid, III who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on March 10, 2008, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. CPL McDavid died from wounds he sustained when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device. Also killed were Staff Sergeant Ernesto G. Cimarrusti, Staff Sergeant David D. Julian, Sergeant First Class Shawn M. Suzch and Corporal Scott A. McIntosh. The soldiers were killed while on patrol in central Baghdad. Three other soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter were injured in the explosion.

CPL McDavid was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia. He enlisted in the Army in 2005 and was deployed to Iraq two years later.

CPL McDavid attended Starkville Academy and Starkville High School. He earned his associate's degree in accounting from Northeast Mississippi Community College. He also attended Mississippi State University.

CPL McDavid was described by his wife, Tiffany, as a true American hero. Prior to his funeral, hundreds of residents lined Starkville's Main Street to pay tribute to one of their own. His funeral was on the same day as the fifth anniversary of the U.S. war in Iraq. CPL McDavid's devotion to protecting the freedoms we all enjoy will always be remembered.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2017*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes:

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on this motion; H. Res. 156, Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 1004 and H.R. 1009. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on this motion.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RFS REFORM ACT OF 2017**

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2017*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to provide relief from an onerous mandate that has been placed upon the backs of the American people for over 10 years. The mandate I'm referring to is none other than the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), a mandate requiring that increasingly

larger volumes of corn-based ethanol be blended into our gasoline. The RFS mandates that 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels be part of our nation's fuel supply by 2022.

After 10 years, it is clear that the federal government's ethanol mandate is not working, and Congress must have a serious conversation about continued market-distorting ethanol promotion. One of the big drivers of ethanol prices and supply is an artificial market created by the federal government.

The federal government's creation of an artificial market for the ethanol industry has quite frankly resulted in a domino effect that is hurting consumers. This year over 35 percent of the U.S. corn crop will be used for ethanol production. With increasing food and feed stocks being diverted into fuel, we are seeing volatility in the marketplace which negatively impacts livestock and food producers.

While the RFS is causing instability in food prices, it has not provided its intended relief for consumers at the pump. It is a known fact that ethanol-blended gasoline has a lower energy density than that of traditional gasoline. Therefore, Americans are forced to buy more fuel to make up the difference. In fact, some studies show that drivers in the U.S. pay at least \$10 billion more each year because of the RFS. The RFS is causing unintended and negative consequences for American consumers, energy producers, livestock farmers, and food manufacturers and retailers. It is clear that the RFS needs fundamental reform. That's why I am introducing legislation to accomplish this task, and I am pleased to have the support of Reps. COSTA, WELCH, and WOMACK in introducing this bipartisan bill.

The RFS Reform Act will eliminate the corn-based ethanol requirements, cap the amount of ethanol that can be blended into conventional gasoline at 10 percent, require the EPA to set cellulosic biofuel levels that reflect industry production levels, and decrease the total volume of renewable fuel that must be contained in gasoline sold or introduced into commerce for years 2017 through 2022.

The RFS Reform Act has the support of a broad range of agriculture producers, consumer groups, energy manufacturing, retailers, environmental, and taxpayer organizations. I am a proponent of renewable fuels when they compete fairly in the marketplace, but the current policy needs fundamental reform. I ask my colleagues to support meaningful reform of the current status quo and advance this bipartisan legislation.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) WILLIAM S. RICKETTS**

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2017*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) William "Seth" Ricketts who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on February 27, 2010, during Operation Enduring Freedom III. SSG Ricketts was killed by a sniper when his unit was ambushed by insurgents at Bala Murghab, Afghanistan. Before SSG Ricketts was fatally injured, he was

assisting a fellow soldier who was wounded during the attack.

Bill Ricketts, SSG Ricketts's father, says his son followed in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, grandfather, and uncles who all served in the military. When terrorists attacked our country on September 11, 2001, SSG Ricketts joined the Army the next day. At the time of his death, SSG Ricketts was assigned to Company B, Battalion, 508th Parachute Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC.

More than 3,000 people attended his funeral held in Corinth. Bill Ricketts says people lined the streets to pay their respects all along the two-and-a-half mile procession. It was led by members of the Patriot Guard Riders.

SSG Ricketts is survived by his wife, Rosie Jones Ricketts and his sons, Aiden, Cullen, and Seth Wesson. He is also survived by his parents, Bill and Sandi Ricketts and his siblings, Benjamin Ricketts and Tiffany Ricketts Sneed.

**IN HONOR OF THE PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE CENTER NORTH**

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2017*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Pregnancy Assistance Center North (PACN) for more than three decades of dedicated work to empower women and men to choose life-affirming healthcare options, address health issues for medically underserved women, and build healthy families in the northern Houston suburbs.

In January of 1986, a small group banded together with the common goal of helping families struggling with unplanned pregnancies. Members of this group poured out their compassion on those families, and demonstrated their willingness to serve by donating tools for education, support, and resources to the new ministry.

PACN served its first clients in February of 1987. These families were welcomed into donated office space and later, Sunday school classrooms of partnering churches. From that early network of eight churches, support has now grown to include over seventy-five church partners and nearly one-thousand financial supporters.

The organization, which started with just \$100, now operates two full-service medical clinics totaling almost 15,000 square feet and provides top-notch well-woman care on an annual budget of just over \$1.25 million, all without a single tax-payer dollar.

In its early years, PACN served just 360 clients each year. Today, an average of 7,000 clients visit the clinics annually, receiving pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, STI testing and treatment, women's health exams, post-abortion support, and material assistance for those who choose to give birth and raise their children.

By placing their focus on empowerment through education, PACN's education and counseling programs provide clients with the tools they need to break free from past decisions, chart a new path for their lives, and begin building strong family legacies.

Each week, over 130 volunteers give their time to PACN. They are the backbone of this

organization, each one possessing their own story of why they choose to invest in The Cause for Life. Their assistance to this organization's mission cannot be overstated.

I am proud to recognize PACN's mission to bring about positive change in northern Houston by providing a community of support, which allows women and men to confidently choose life.

IN RECOGNITION OF CRONIG'S  
MARKET

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2017*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Cronig's Market on Martha's Vineyard, which on March 10th will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

The Cronig Brothers grocery store was opened in 1917 by the four Cronig Brothers, Sam, Ed, Theodore or "Tebby", and Henry Cronig, first generation immigrants from Lithuania. Sam Cronig, the oldest son of ten siblings, came to the United States in 1904 and arrived on Martha's Vineyard in 1905 to work on a farm in Eastville. He soon moved on to work for several established grocery stores up until 1917, when he and his three brothers opened the Cronig Brothers grocery store.

Though the store experienced the trials and tribulations of a small retail business of that era, by 1923, the Cronigs had 51 employees on their payroll. Through the early years of business, it has been referred to as Cronig Bros. Public Market, The Public Market and Vineyard Haven Public Market. It continued its rapid expansion from a store front to occupying an entire building by 1940.

1957 marked the end of an era. Sam Cronig retired and handed over operational control to his sons, Robert and David Cronig. A decade later, Jeffrey and Donald Cronig had also

joined the store. Robert and David then went on to add a second supermarket to the growing business, eventually handing over management to Steve Bernier in 1986.

Today, Cronig's has expanded to three locations, the larger Down-Island Cronig's, the cozy Up-Island Cronig's, and Healthy Additions, a two floor health food and supplement store. A pillar in the Martha's Vineyard community, Cronig's has remained committed to its customers by providing fresh, local ingredients and has led the way with several eco-friendly initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Cronig's Market on this joyous occasion. I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the Market's centennial year and look forward to a future of continued prosperity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD ELIMINATION ACT

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 2, 2017*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to eliminate a well-intentioned, but deeply flawed, policy that has negatively impacted every family and business in the country. The policy I'm referring to is none other than the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), a mandate requiring that increasingly larger volumes of corn-based ethanol be blended into our gasoline. The RFS mandates that 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels be part of our nation's fuel supply by 2022.

Since the implementation of the RFS, Americans have seen increased costs at the grocery store, larger bills on their restaurant receipts, and higher prices at the gas pump. Corn is used in 75 percent of the food we buy, yet a great deal of corn is now being diverted from food products and into the gasoline tank.

It's no surprise that ethanol has caused instability in the corn market. As for fuel, ethanol-blended gasoline has a lower energy density than that of traditional gasoline; therefore, Americans are forced to buy more fuel to make up the difference. In fact, some studies show that drivers in the U.S. pay at least \$10 billion more each year because of the RFS.

Unfortunately, the high cost of the RFS is not limited to food and gasoline. Ethanol is known to be harmful to the small engines found in lawn mowers and leaf blowers and even motorcycles and all-terrain-vehicles. As a result, owners of these devices are forced to spend more to repair the damage caused by the ethanol-infused gasoline that they were forced to buy.

So, what benefits do Americans in your district and mine receive for all of these extra costs? There are certainly few benefits of an environmental nature. Environmental groups have expressed concerns about the impact of the RFS on the air we breathe and have stated that the conversion of high volumes of land into corn fields is detrimental to the environment. In fact, I can find no benefit to the hard working Americans who are paying the cost of the RFS.

It is time for Congress to recognize that this policy has failed and remove this mandate from the backs of the American people. That is why I am introducing the Renewable Fuel Standard Elimination Act, which will totally eliminate the RFS. Washington has created this artificial demand for ethanol that is distorting the market, and it is our responsibility to provide relief from its unintended consequences. This legislation is a common sense solution to ensure that renewable fuels compete fairly in the marketplace and avoid causing unintended and negative consequences for American consumers, livestock farmers, and food manufacturers. I hope my colleagues will join me in working to reverse this policy by supporting this legislation in the 115th Congress.