

The emoluments clause of the Constitution expressly forbids the President from accepting payments from foreign governments which, in my opinion, happens whenever an agent of a foreign government stays in any president's hotel. While this constitutional protection may have been enough in the past, we are now in uncharted waters. Hardly a week goes by without reports of taxpayer-funded trips by the President or his family to one of his family-owned properties throughout the world. These excesses have surpassed anything that this nation has seen before, and this unprecedented abuse of taxpayer dollars demands an additional ethical check on the office of the presidency.

That's why I'm introducing the No TRUMP Act, the No Taxpayer Revenue Used to Monetize the Presidency Act. This legislation would prohibit the use of taxpayer funds to pay for food, lodging, or other expenses at hotels owned or operated by a president or his or her relatives, ensuring that there is no personal financial incentive for the current or any future president and family to stay or hold official meetings or events at certain properties across the United States or abroad. In the interest of safety, the bill would allow the Secret Service to continue guarding First Family residences—Trump Tower in New York and Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, FL.

With so many unresolved concerns about White House business conflicts, this is a responsible step to make sure that the public doesn't subsidize the President's private interests.

APPRECIATING PERRY KIMBALL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, 2017, Lexington County, South Carolina lost a favorite son with the death of Perry Kimball. He was one of the community's most dynamic civic leaders.

I was grateful to serve as a pallbearer at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on March 4th with Solicitor Donnie Myers, Paul Scott, H.D. Carter, Councilman Jerry Howard, Danny Kimball, Wayne Kimball, Jim Walsh, Walter Hudson, and Scott Adams. Honorary Pallbearers were John Bozard, William "Bill" Jordan, David Scott Kimball, Pete Oswald, James Shealy, Charles Sinclair, and Jerry Wilkie.

The Officiants were Presiding Pastor Glenn Boland, Organist Sandra Lindler, and Lector Peter Reinhart.

The following thoughtful obituary was included in the service program.

James Perry Kimball, 78, of Lexington, entered the Church Triumphant on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Born in Norfolk, Virginia, on May 29, 1938, he was the son and only child of the late James Rackley Kimball and Dorothy Perry Kimball. Last year he celebrated his 50th Wedding Anniversary with the love of his life, Sheri Rene Snyder Kimball. A lifelong Gamecock fan, Perry was a Gamecock Club Lifetime Donor with a particular passion for USC football, baseball, and men's and women's basketball. Whether he was in the stands or in his lounge chair, he was a loyal Gamecock fan through and through from the 1950s to the present.

After a move to Lake Murray in the early 1970s, he embraced life as a Lexingtonian, dedicated to serving the community with his unmistakable charm and humor. Perry was a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, where he was an usher, taught Sunday School and Bible Study, and faithfully served on many committees. He is a Paul Harris Fellow with the Rotary Club of Lexington where he served as past president and had perfect attendance for over 40 consecutive years. Perry remained active in the community by serving on the boards of the Lexington Gamecock Club, the Lexington Chamber of Commerce, the Lexington County Republican Party, and the Country Club of Lexington. He shared his talents on the stage, as well as set design, with the Lexington County Arts Association.

Perry's fondest memories of his childhood were playing on Burney Drive in the Shandon area of Columbia. He was a graduate of Dreher High School, Class of 1956, where he played varsity basketball and was a member of the 1956 Dreher Championship Team. After high school, he attended the University of South Carolina and joined the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. Following USC, he served his country in the Army and thereafter, as a first lieutenant in the South Carolina National Guard for ten years.

Mr. Kimball worked in his father's business at Home Heating and Air Conditioning in Columbia and then ventured out on his own to establish Kimball's Commercial Mechanical Contracting in Lexington. As a self-employed businessman he embodied an incredible work ethic which could be seen by many. He worked above and beyond what was expected of him as he served people in his chosen field.

He retired in 2002 intent on having endless tee times and spoiling their five grandchildren. He always had a friendly smile and happy lifestyle even though he had health challenges. The Kimball family is grateful for three physicians, Dr. Horace (Butch) Bledsoe, Dr. C.W. Hendricks, and Dr. Scott Petit, whose medical expertise granted him additional time to impart his faith and humor and to be a great example to others with physical challenges.

He is survived by his wife, Sheri Snyder Kimball, three daughters, Teri Lee Kimball Callen of Columbia, Heather Kimball Ramsey (Jason) of Davidson, NC, Lexanne Kimball Graves (Scott) of Blythewood, and five grandchildren, Jacob Kimball Ramsey, Ava Perry Callen, Jordan Kennedy Ramsey, Anna Leigh Graves, and Wesley Scott Graves, Jr.; and an aunt, uncle, and many cousins and nieces. He was predeceased by a grandchild, Doren Rackley Ramsey.

IN RECOGNITION OF REBEKAH FRIEND

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community leader, a fighter for working families, and a tireless advocate for women. Rebekah Friend served as the Executive Director and Secretary/Treasurer of the Arizona AFL-CIO since 2002, representing 180,000 union members through over 200 local union affiliates in Arizona. She is retiring this year and I want to personally thank her for her work and dedication to Arizona's labor community.

She was the first woman to be elected president of the Arizona AFL-CIO in 2002 and

the state federation's first female Secretary/Treasurer in 2005.

I consider Rebekah a friend and a trusted advisor on any and all issues affecting Arizona workers. Since being elected to the State Legislature in 2004 I have counted on Rebekah to always tell me how policies will impact her members without pulling punches. Her integrity and honesty are just some of the reasons she has been a respected labor leader for so many years.

For over 37 years, Rebekah has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and a committed advocate for working families. Throughout her career, she has played an integral role in developing legislation to improve the lives of working people in Arizona. She served as the first President of the Coalition for Labor Union Women in Maricopa County, lobbying state legislators on pay equity bills affecting female workers. Rebekah successfully chaired the Minimum Wage Coalition, which brought Proposition 202 to the ballot in 2006 and raised the minimum wage along with a cost-of-living adjustment every year.

Rebekah has received numerous awards of distinction for her public service. In 2004, Rebekah was awarded the YWCA's Woman of the Year, their highest award for a civic leader. In 2016, Rebekah was awarded the Pima Area Labor Federation (PALE) Community Partnership Award. She has also received the Arizona Capitol Times Leader of the Year in Public Policy Award (2007). Recently Rebekah received the AFL-CIO 2017 MLK Unsung Hero Award for the work done on the BASTA Arpaio campaign.

Rebekah has also served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy, the Arizona Skill Standards Commission and the Governor's Prisoner Re-Entry Task Force. Rebekah is also a co-founder and board member of Emerge Arizona, which helps to identify and train Democratic women to run for elected office. Rebekah has also volunteered her time to assist local food banks and has done extensive mentoring with young women.

I congratulate Rebekah on an incredible career in the service of working families and communities across Arizona. I wish her a well-deserved retirement filled with friends, family and relaxation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAISE IT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, America is literally falling apart and falling behind. Every day, we see new stories of deficient bridges, ballooning maintenance backlogs for aging transit systems, urban areas choking on congestion, or rising roadway fatalities. Earlier today, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave America's infrastructure an overall grade of D+, unchanged from 2013. Roads received a D, while transit came in at a D-.

There is universal agreement that we must address these growing infrastructure challenges. The only question is how to pay for it. That's why I'm introducing the Raise And

Index to Sustainably and Efficiently Invest In Transportation (RAISE IT) Act.

The federal gas tax, unchanged since 1993, has lost more than 40 percent of its purchasing power due to inflation and rising fuel efficiency. Stuck at 18.4 cents a gallon for 24 years, the gas tax has led to more than a decade of uncertainty in the federal transportation program, a perennially insolvent Highway Trust Fund, and more than \$140 billion borrowed from the general Treasury fund to maintain current, inadequate surface transportation funding levels. The Highway Trust Fund will run a \$15 billion deficit this year and will be bankrupt by 2021.

Raising the gas tax, supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders from the AFL-CIO to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, AAA, truckers, and transit, would fix the Highway Trust Fund and provide certainty to commuters, businesses, and local governments that count on a strong, continuing federal partnership. The RAISE IT Act would index the federal gas and diesel taxes to inflation and phase in a 15 cent a gallon increase over three years, generating \$210 billion over the next ten years.

Congress should follow the lead of the eight Republican-led states that raised gas taxes in the last two years. Countless editorial boards, transportation and economic policy experts, and blue ribbon panels like Simpson-Bowles Commission, all call for an increase in the federal gas tax. In the words of President Reagan, who more than doubled the gas tax in 1983, "the cost to average motorist will be small, but the benefit to our transportation system will be immense."

ADVANCED CONCEPTS AND SIMULATION PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I want to make a statement regarding the passage of H.R. 1301, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2017. In the 114th Congress, an amendment was offered and accepted by voice vote to H.R. 5293, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2017, that moved \$5 million from the Operation and Maintenance, Defense—Wide account to the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army account's Advanced Concepts and Simulation program. H.R. 1301, maintained a \$3 million increase to the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army account's Advanced Concepts and Simulation program.

These funds allow universities to focus on advancing component technologies required for real time modeling and simulation training. A promising use of this program is the development of a more effective protocol for treating combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder for active duty, retired, and discharged personnel and their families. The use of modeling and simulation technology has enabled new innovative and immersive therapies to be developed, which can extend trauma management therapy protocol.

I support the use of modeling and simulation and thank my colleagues for their shared support.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN MICHAEL DEN DEKKER

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to a colleague and dear friend, New York State Assemblyman Michael Den Dekker. I have long admired his devotion to improving the lives of others. I know I am not alone in this admiration. Everyone who has worked with Mike has boundless respect for him, and truly enjoys knowing him. He is cheerful, he is kind, and he is a friend to all he meets.

Mike and I go back decades. On September 12, 2001, I went down to Ground Zero for the first time. The past twenty four hours had been some of the most harrowing of my life. As I stepped out of the car, the first thing I laid my eyes on was Mike Den Dekker. He was there, broom in hand, cleaning up. No other story more clearly shows what kind of man Mike is. He does not shy away from hard work, he does not waver in his devotion to others. I have nothing but the deepest respect for my longtime friend and colleague.

Of course, Mike is no stranger to tough work. He worked his way up in the sanitation department, eventually becoming supervisor, and going on to serve the city as a public information officer at the Office of Emergency Management and a facilities manager for the New York City Council, until he ran for State Assembly in 2008. Since then, he has fought tirelessly to improve the lives of New Yorkers and to create a state where everyone has the chance to work hard and succeed.

His work is being recognized on March 13, 2017, as he receives the Charles Stewart Parnell award from the American Irish Legislators. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate him and declare my joy in his receiving of this award. The award is given each year to an Irish legislator in commemoration of Charles Stewart Parnell, the uncrowned king of Ireland, a brave soul who fought for the people. Mike is unwavering in his devotion to others, and has spent his whole life making his community safer, cleaner, healthier, and happier. It is only natural he should receive such an award to commemorate a lifetime of work. As we Irish say, luck may rise with you, Maith thú, and Go n-eirí an t-ádh leat, Michael.

RECOGNIZING JOHN CREIGHTON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize John Creighton on the occasion of his retirement after 33 years of dedicated public service as a Deputy District Attorney for Alameda County.

John's life of service began in 1971, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served in the Intelligence Corps, operating out of the U.S. Army headquarters in Vietnam providing counterintelligence work. In 1973, he worked in

Psychological Operations at JFK Special Forces Center at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, eventually being honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant in 1974.

In 1979, he enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. John would go on to receive his Juris Doctorate from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1984. During his time in college, John worked as a union laborer, truck driver, auto mechanic and paralegal.

In 1984, John was hired by the Alameda County District Attorney's (DA) Office in Oakland. John's distinguished career spanned over three decades, and he prosecuted hundreds of cases, including murder, domestic violence, sexual assault and major narcotics trafficking.

In the DA's office, John was tasked as a Gang Violence Prosecutor, handling complex gang-related felonies at all stages of prosecution, as well as serving as a DA representative to the nationally recognized Gang Intervention Program. John received the Neighborhood Champion Award in 2014 for his work.

John not only served his community in the courtroom, but also devotes his time as a soccer referee with the Jack London Youth Soccer League. Additionally, John previously served as a member on the Board of Directors for both Planned Parenthood Golden Gate and Golden Gate Community Health.

John has fostered lasting, productive partnerships in the East Bay and laid the foundation for others to succeed. His legacy is one of selfless service and tireless justice and compassion, leaving our community and nation safer for all of us. I wish to congratulate John on a long and distinguished career, and I wish him health and happiness in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. I had intended to vote No on Roll Call vote 129, No on vote 130, No on vote 131, Yes on vote 132, No on vote 133, Yes on vote 134, Yes on vote 135, Yes on vote 136, Yes on vote 137.

RECOGNIZING LYNN BROWN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Veteran Services Officer Lynn P. Brown for being selected as Employee of the Quarter for the entire State of Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Agency. VSO Brown has been with the agency for nearly 26 years.

VSO Lynn Brown grew up in a family of eight boys in Effingham, Illinois. He graduated from Effingham High School in 1962 and joined the Army in 1966. After training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Lynn was stationed overseas at