

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

Pleiku, South Vietnam, with the 1st Signal Battalion as a personnel specialist and rose to the rank of Spec/5. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1969. Spec/5 Brown was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Campaign Stars, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation.

During his career as a VSO, Lynn Brown has served a large section of South Central Illinois veterans. His professional career has been described as defining what a Veteran Services Officer should be, and his private life has become an extension with the same devotion. He continues to serve veterans and their families long after the workday is over, on holidays, and on weekends. He has even built over a hundred shadow boxes for medals and awards for fellow veterans and their families, at no cost to the recipients.

I offer my congratulations to VSO Brown for his outstanding accomplishments while serving veterans. We need more men and women like him.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HOLT FAMILY

##### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2017*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, family is the greatest gift life can offer to us. There is no relationship more special or more enduring than the bonds that are found within family. Family is truly the tie that binds us together. Both the friendship that is shared and struggles overcome are a testament of what is possible when a family is united and dedicated to loving God and one another. Because of their friendship, work, endurance, and giving spirit, it is an honor to recognize the Holt family for their efforts in the pioneering of Williamson County. Their story is a story of faith and family and it is an honor for those of us gathered this evening to share this story.

The presence of the Holt family in this area can be traced back to the 1840's, beginning with Lucretia and Henry Holt. With each trial that came along; with slavery and segregation, each member of the Holt family chose kindness and compassion and in the midst of injustice, they chose forgiveness. Their heritage will forever be memorialized by the naming of Holt Road off of Nolensville Pike and Stanfield Road in Brentwood, Tennessee.

There is much wisdom we can all glean from the example set by the Holt family, who created a generational legacy of love that will be remembered for decades to come. Their story is a story of a life well lived. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this family for their influence and impact on Williamson County, Tennessee.

#### HONORING U.S. NAVY SEABEE'S ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2017*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the U.S. Navy Construction Battalion,

also known as the Seabees, and congratulate them on their 75th Anniversary. In the opening weeks of World War II, the U.S. Navy began to organize unique and specialized construction battalions to support the building and maintaining of infrastructure in remote island locations throughout the Pacific. On March 5, 1942, these construction battalions were named Seabees by the Department of the Navy and served a vital role in meeting the logistical and strategic challenges the United States faced in the war effort.

Over the past 75 years, the Seabees have met continued challenges in strengthening our national security in times of war and peace. They have been responsible for building and maintaining numerous military support facilities throughout the world, such as military bases, as well as hundreds of miles of airstrips, roadways and bridges. From the beginning of the Second World War to our present day military operations, the Seabees have performed up to the highest standard and have done so while demonstrating outstanding courage, bravery and determination. They have even been immortalized on the silver screen in the 1944 film, *The Fighting Seabees* starring John Wayne.

In honoring the Seabees, let us remember the tremendous sacrifices that these brave men and women, as well as their families, have made in dedicated service to their country for the past 75 years. As a U.S. Marine and current member of the Mississippi National Guard, I can personally attest to how important their service and sacrifice is to the success of our military.

I am proud to represent Mississippi's 4th district, home to the Naval Construction Battalion Center, where in just the past year, thousands of Seabees, sailors, airmen and soldiers have received training. We congratulate the U.S. Navy Seabees on their 75th Anniversary and reaffirm our commitment to their service.

#### NATIONAL LOOK UP DAY FOR ADAM DAVID NUSZEN

##### HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2017*

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Adam David Nuszen, who tragically lost his life after struggling with mental illness and addiction.

Adam, who grew up in my congressional district, had a bright future ahead of him and was taken too soon from his family and community. According to his mother, Linda, "Adam was the protector of our family. The oldest of three, his arms were always around his siblings and his loyalty was surpassed by his quiet quest for justice. He marveled at the night sky and couldn't resist sharing his enthusiasm with his friends and family. He taught us about the wonder and grandeur of the planets, galaxies and beyond. He was a gifted musician, a poet, a writer, a philosopher and an inventor."

At 22, Adam was suddenly stricken with psychosis and diagnosed with schizophrenia. For ten years, he was in and out of hospitals attempting to balance his disease with normalcy. His illness slowly evolved into the dan-

gerous and devastating world of addiction. Tragically, in November of 2015, Adam lost his life to an overdose while in rehab.

While in rehab, Linda explained to me that despite his dark times, Adam always managed to remind his loved ones to "look ups" or you will miss all that there is in the world. Sadly, their last conversation before he passed, carried this same sentiment and tone. The words look up remain with her today as an important reminder of Adam's character and spirit.

In honor of Adam David Nuszen, I would like to support Linda's request in declaring Adam's Birthday, March 12, National Look Up Day. This is the perfect opportunity to raise awareness and show support for those struggling with addiction and those we have lost to this disease. As members of Congress, we must all continue to support legislation that addresses the rise in drug and alcohol addiction to stop the tragic loss of life that is devastating our communities and loved ones across the country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2017*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, regarding the question considered yesterday, Wednesday, March 8, on passage of H.R. 1301, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2017, Roll Call Number 136, I am recorded as voting Yes. I intended to vote No.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF WENDELL YOUNG'S SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

##### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2017*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Wendell Young for his service as a noncommissioned officer in the United States Army during World War II. Mr. Young fought across Europe as part of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment's reconnaissance squadron, earning a host of awards and commendations including two Silver Stars.

A native of Rutherford County, North Carolina, Mr. Young was drafted into the Army in 1943. A year later he was deployed to the European Theatre where he served under the legendary General Patton. As the war raged on, Mr. Young saw action throughout France, Germany, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia. He played a part in the Allied victory at the Battle of the Bulge and led an effort to liberate a prisoner of war camp that was housing a large number of both American and Russian troops. During this mission, he earned both of his Silver Stars by exemplifying tremendous personal courage and selflessness to accomplish his objective. In the citation for one of those awards, he was acknowledged for his daring and heroism as an outstanding noncommissioned officer. Furthermore, he was presented the Russian Medal of Courage, making him one of the only Americans to ever receive this honor.