

annually, and to increase CIG funding to \$9 billion.

These grants have helped local communities prioritize their own projects; however they have been chronically underfunded in the past. For instance, since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly \$5.1 billion for eight rounds of TIGER funding, yet the program received \$10.1 billion in applications in FY2015 alone. The process is competitive, and allows the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to reward applicants that exceed eligibility criteria and demonstrate significant non-Federal funding commitments.

By increasing these funding levels and removing the programs from the annual appropriations process, we will take the guesswork and uncertainty out of the programs. This in turn will allow communities around the country to submit funding requests for merit-based awards for projects of national, regional, or metropolitan-area significance. The projects include construction and repair of roads, bridges, and tunnels, the installation of high speed internet, revitalization of drinking water, and the construction and expansion of fixed-guideway public transportation systems, including subways, light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit (BRT).

Mr Speaker, we have talked about prioritizing a large-scale infrastructure package for years. Congressional Democrats recently unveiled a trillion-dollar plan to make these investments and create tens of thousands of jobs. However, like so many other proposals, it was rejected out of hand by the Majority. Despite controlling the House, the Senate, and the White House, the Majority has not yet offered any plan of their own. All the while, the situation continues to grow worse.

Every four years, the American Society of Civil Engineers' issues a "Report Card" for America's Infrastructure. The report depicts the condition and performance of American infrastructure, assigning letter grades based on the physical condition and needed investments for improvement across 16 major infrastructure categories. The most recent report card was issued last year. Among the national rankings, transit systems were rated a D- and roads were rated a D.

Dams: D.

Drinking water: D.

Inland waterways: D.

Levees: D.

We need to move this process forward. I am therefore proud to offer my own legislation today—not for a massive, all-encompassing infrastructure package—but rather, for a common sense expansion of successful programs based on need and merit. I urge my colleagues to consider it without delay, so that our country can begin making the investments it desperately needs.

CONGRATULATING SUPER-
INTENDENT RANDY KING ON HIS
RETIREMENT FROM THE NA-
TIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, as a member who has the honor of representing the heart of

Mount Rainier National Park, the jewel of the 8th Congressional District and Washington State, I rise today to recognize Superintendent Randy King for his outstanding service to our country, the environment, and the National Park Service and to congratulate him on his retirement on January 2, 2018.

Randy was raised in Michigan and attended Michigan State University, where he developed his love of the outdoors through outdoor excursions with family and friends. After college, he began his accomplished 40-year career with the National Park Service, serving in six national parks including Yellowstone, Acadia, the Intermountain Regional Office, and even an assignment in Australia. In 2003, Randy moved to Mount Rainier National Park to serve as the Deputy Superintendent, including a 15-month detail as Acting Superintendent in 2009 through 2010. Since 2011, Randy has served as the Superintendent of the Mount Rainier National Park.

The challenges of managing the diverse landscape and needs of this park are endless. It includes 235,625 acres of forests, meadows, and mountains, and a National Historic Landmark District. Every year, Mount Rainier is graced with millions of day-hikers, climbers, and outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the visitor centers, back-country, and summit of the mountain's 14,410 foot summit. With every visit comes inherent dangers from the wild landscape and it was often up to Randy and his team to plan and engage in rescue and recovery efforts. Randy managed all of these challenges with skill and grace.

During his tenure, Randy worked tirelessly to maintain open, honest relationships with surrounding community leaders, businesses, staff, and visitors. He oversaw upgrades to the permitting process, renovations to historical landmarks, improvements to trail and road access, increased stewardship opportunities within the park, and the opening of a memorial to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their service to this country. I had the honor of working closely with Randy when we passed legislation to name the Eatonville Post Office after Ranger Margaret E. Anderson who gave her life protecting visitors in the park. As Co-Chair of the National Parks Caucus, Randy and I have worked together on many projects over the years in an effort to strengthen and protect our parks.

Randy is a proven leader whose warmth, kindness, and charismatic leadership is a credit to the National Park Service and will be missed at Mount Rainier. Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Superintendent Randy King, for his service and dedication to the community and visitors of the Mount Rainier National Park.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, 2017 and December 14, 2017, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 676 through 684.

Had I been present for rollcall 676, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 658, providing for consideration of H.R. 1638, the

Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 677, on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 658, Providing for consideration of H.R. 1638, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, and providing for consideration of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 678, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 657, providing for consideration of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarifications Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 4015, the Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 679, on agreeing to the resolution on H. Res. 657, providing for consideration of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarifications Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 4015, the Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 680, on passage of H.R. 1638, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 681, on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 682, on passage of H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for rollcall 683, on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 684, on passage of H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act, I would have voted "No."

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE KIND

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bonnie Kind for over 40 years of civil service. Bonnie began her career with the Social Security Administration as a student trainee. This month she will retire from the Social Security Administration, where she served most recently as the Associate Commissioner for Budget and principal advisor to the Social Security Administration's Chief Financial Officer. Bonnie has provided consistent vigilance and stewardship of SSA's approximately \$1 trillion program budget and \$12 billion administrative budget.

As Budget Officer for the Social Security Administration, Bonnie provides executive leadership and direction to SSA in administering a comprehensive program of budget policy, formulation, presentation, and execution. She is responsible for the financial resources needed to provide for one of our nation's most vital public services—social security payments for more than 60 million people.

Bonnie has worked collaboratively with Congressional staff on details of the Social Security Administration's budget and fostered an environment of open communication. She has excelled at developing relationships. Her knowledge of the budget process and the relationships she has established have helped Congress understand and appreciate the unique aspects of the service provided by the Social Security Administration and scope of the agency's impact, serving millions of Americans and employing more than 60,000 men and women across the nation.

As Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees the administrative funding for the Social Security Administration, I want to thank Bonnie for her work providing information for Members and staff. Congress depends on the extensive expertise of dedicated public servants like Bonnie. Information from the agency is critical to making decisions—we could not do our work in Congress without the help of people like her.

I want to congratulate Bonnie on her 40 years of public service. My understanding is Bonnie plans to travel to the Grand Canyon in the coming year and volunteer. I wish her the best of luck in her retirement.

PASTOR UYLESS D. LANDRY, SR.
40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE
COMMUNITY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 40 years of service in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana by Pastor Uyless D. Landry, Sr.

Pastor Uyless D. Landry, Sr. is the senior pastor of First Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, in the uptown section of New Orleans, Louisiana. For the last 40 years he has been much more than a typical pastor, who caters exclusively to the needs of his immediate parishioners. Since 1978, his reach has extended beyond the walls of the local church. In the community he is a humanitarian and philanthropist. Over the years, he has helped thousands of people with sound counsel and financial assistance, without federal aid.

In 1951, Pastor Landry graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. In 1952, he married his high school sweetheart Emily Jackson. Together they raised four children, Uyless D. Landry, Jr., Darrell, Dawn and Annette Landry. In 1969, Pastor Landry was called to the ministry. In 1974, he was ordained and licensed to preach in the state of Louisiana. In 1975, he received a Bachelor of Theology from Union Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1978, he received a Master of Theology from Union Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pastor Landry loves the city and the people of New Orleans. His sense of service is forever a part of the city and his dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate Pastor Uyless D. Landry, Sr. for 40 years of service in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes. Had I been present for roll call vote number 710, S 1552—No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act, I would have voted yea.

THE TRUMP JERUSALEM

HON. SCOTT TAYLOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 8, 2018

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a statement on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) in 1945, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors.

The Trump Jerusalem Declaration is the first recognition by a U.S. President since the 1948 establishment of the Jewish State of Israel, with President Truman's support, that Jerusalem is indeed its rightful, not only de-facto, capital. How ironic and telling that both President Truman and Trump were opposed by their State Department when taking their critical moves. The United States, the world's only superpower and Israel's major ally, reached out to the world's only sovereign Jewish state to assure its questioned authentic narrative at a time of fateful crossroads in the Middle East and beyond.

Israel has the anomaly of being powerful yet vulnerable given its limited geography and sworn enemies. If Israel's Jerusalem narrative were false, it might unravel its bond with the entire Land of Israel. No wonder that both the Israeli government ruling coalition and opposition have applauded President Trump's forthright action. The Trump Declaration is flexible enough concerning actual arrangements yet to be made by the Israelis and Palestinians. In a so far moribund and stagnant Peace Process, Trump's reshuffling of the cards and providing a "reality check," particularly to the Palestinians, will hopefully gather fruitful momentum. Israel knows that its Palestinian problem is not going away, threatening its Jewish and Democratic character. The Palestinians may finally realize that time is not necessarily on their side.

Israel's past Prime-Ministers Barak and Olmert offered generous concessions that were nonetheless rebuffed by the Palestinians whose expectations are always higher. The late Prime-Minister Sharon's painful return of Gaza with a flourishing Israeli community has been rewarded with Hamas and Islamic Jihad rockets and terror tunnels. Arab leaders have historically paid lip-service to their Palestinian brethren, while Israel absorbed close to a million Jewish refugees from Arab lands. The Sunni Arab world is currently preoccupied with a nuclear ambitious and aggressive Shia Iran whose menacing presence is growing close to Israel's borders. Israel, characterized by Iran as "little Satan" and the United States as "big Satan," is a credible partner in counter-acting Iran's worrisome posture.

How is it that the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular "have never

missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity," to quote the late Abba Eban, Israel's eloquent Foreign Minister and statesman. They unwisely rejected United Nations 181 Partition Resolution of November 29, 1947, whose 70th anniversary was just celebrated by the Jewish people and still protested by Palestinians blind to history's opportunities and facts. The Palestinian leaders have been lacking the courage to confront their bitterly divided people with historical truth and reality that the Jewish state is deeply rooted, longer than anyone else, in its ancestral homeland. The Holocaust, unfortunately, is not a figment of Zionist imagination as some Palestinian, Arab and Iranian leaders claim. Jordan lost East Jerusalem and the West Bank in the 1967 Six-Day-War, after King Hussein was warned not to attack Israel.

An active movement to delegitimize Israel, perceiving it as a European colonial invader, is emboldened by the numerical and material influence of the 57 Muslim nation-states, including 22 Arab countries, represented in the United Nations U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley should be hailed as a heroic voice of steadfast support for Israel, with President Trump's indispensable encouragement, in that deaf institution betraying its foundational promise. Coupled with hypocritical Europe's fading guilt for the monumental Holocaust, there is a preposterous charge that the Israeli-Jewish saga has no historical leg to stand on with Jerusalem ever a Muslim entity and the Temple Mount including the Western Wall/Noble Sanctuary void of vital Jewish as well as Christian memories. Totally disregarded are a great Biblical heritage, unbroken Jewish presence, millennial prayers and efforts to fully return to the physical and spiritual birthplace of "Zion and Jerusalem."

It is a non-starter for peaceful coexistence to reject Jewish peoplehood represented in the Jewish state. Israel has turned into a collective target, being demonized and dehumanized with never-dying anti-Semitism, Western civilization's oldest disease that Israel's rebirth sought to cure. Given that Israel is perhaps the only nation whose very existence is being challenged and living in a hostile environment, it is a wonder that Israel created a robust democracy protecting human rights in a region abhorring them, rejecting progressive ideas.

Rather than the Palestinians despairing, a two-state creative solution is within reach with joint arrangements in Jerusalem, however with a de-militarized Palestinian state friendly to both Israel and Jordan. A future confederation involving Israel, Jordan, and Palestine is not farfetched. Surely both sides can find in their separate and even conflicting narratives meeting points and common agendas for an assured bright future, for both peoples are destined to forever be neighbors. Palestinian education sans honoring its terrorists and ceasing hatred for Israel and Jews is urgently needed. Even Egypt and Jordan who signed peace treaties with Israel have neglected to teach their populations basic facts concerning Israel, and to welcome its eager friendship. In this sacred season of the lights of Chanukah and Christmas we remember that both Jews and Christians are at risk in the Middle East. Jerusalem and the hills of Judea and Samaria, once the setting for inspiring prophecies, have ironically and tragically been deprived of Shalom's divine gifts of genuine peace.

The British Foreign Secretary Lord Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917 which empowered the Zionist movement with international clout is significantly reinforced by President Trump Jerusalem Declaration on December 6, 2017. President