

Retraining Act of 2009, on rollcall No. 833—H. Res. 291, Recognizing the crucial role of assistance dogs in helping wounded veterans live more independent lives, and on rollcall No. 834—S. 509, A bill to authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, November 4, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Rollcall 841—“nay.”  
Rollcall 842—“noe.”  
Rollcall 843—“yea.”  
Rollcall 844—“yea.”  
Rollcall 845—“aye.”  
Rollcall 846—“aye.”  
Rollcall 847—“noe.”  
Rollcall 848—“noe.”  
Rollcall 849—“noe.”  
Rollcall 850—“aye.”  
Rollcall 851—“noe.”  
Rollcall 852—“yea.”  
Rollcall 853—“yea.”  
Rollcall 854—“yea.”  
Rollcall 855—“yea.”

#### RECOGNIZING DR. SHEILA O'SHEA KAHRS

### HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise today to recognize Dr. Sheila O'Shea Kahrs, the Principal of Haymon-Morris Middle School in Winder, Georgia, who has been named the 2010 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals, NASSP, National Principal of the Year.

The MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year program honors distinguished middle level and high school principals who have provided first-rate learning opportunities for students and made significant contributions to the education profession.

Each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity selects one middle level and one high level school principal to represent them. From these individuals, six finalists are chosen as candidates for the National Principal of the Year award. Dr. Kahrs distinguished herself from these outstanding educators and was chosen as the 2010 MetLife/NASSP National Principal of the Year.

The Seventh District of Georgia is privileged to have such an accomplished educator serving our children. Extending my sincerest thanks to Dr. Kahrs for all her hard work and dedication to the profession of teaching, I wish her the best on her future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4027, THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER AND WESTERN AREA POWER ADMIN- ISTRATION FIRM POWER CUS- TOMER PROTECTION ACT

### HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, as Ranking Republican of the House Natural Resources Committee, I am today introducing legislation to protect American taxpayers and existing customers of the Western Area Power Administration, WAPA. It is called the “The American Taxpayer and Western Area Power Administration Firm Power Customer Protection Act.” I'm pleased that TOM MCCLINTOCK, the Ranking Republican on the Water and Power Subcommittee, is joining me in sponsoring this bill.

Earlier this year, the Democrat Majority passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is better known as the stimulus spending bill. Many of the new programs in this law were never debated beforehand and were inserted behind closed doors without transparency or an opportunity for Members of Congress or the American people to review and scrutinize them.

Included among these new programs was WAPA's Transmission Infrastructure Program's borrowing authority. This new \$3.25 billion borrowing authority allows the WAPA Administrator to provide loans to develop new transmission aimed solely at integrating renewable energies. As some envisioned, the loans would be mainly given to private wind and solar developers for transmission investments. This new borrowing authority is quite unlike the Bonneville Power Administration's, BPA, longstanding borrowing authority, which can be used for integrating all generation sources, as well as for fish and wildlife mitigation and conservation efforts.

Madam Speaker, there is another key difference between the two borrowing authorities and it's one that my legislation directly addresses: the risk of a bailout funded by American taxpayers. The actual WAPA statute describes it best: “If, at the end of the useful life of a project, there is a remaining balance owed to the Treasury under this section, the balance shall be forgiven.” This means that American taxpayers will foot the bill for any outstanding balances on a project that cannot be repaid. This would be similar to a homeowner defaulting on a 30 year loan and having the bank pick up the remaining balance, except that the taxpayer would end up paying for the bad investment. BPA, which proudly boasts about repaying its debts with interest and ahead of schedule, does not have a similar taxpayer bailout provision in its borrowing authority. I might also add that the Tennessee Valley Authority repays its debt with interest as well.

To date, WAPA has announced one project under the borrowing authority: a wind transmission project owned by a Canadian company. Under the taxpayer bailout provision, if this project failed, then the American taxpayer would have to bail out a foreign company for up to \$161 million.

It is also important to recognize that some of WAPA's existing customers, who are theo-

retically not impacted by this program, remain concerned that they will now bear some costs even if they do not benefit due to the lack of defined rules and regulations to govern the borrowing authority. It's critical that the principle of “beneficiaries pay” is maintained and not undermined. It is not the responsibility of those who may not benefit from a project, or the federal taxpayers, to fund such projects. Those who build and benefit from a project must bear its full costs.

For these reasons, I am introducing this legislation to amend WAPA's borrowing authority to both add protections for existing customers and to eliminate the taxpayer bailout provisions. I hope for this action on this bill.

#### HONORING SISTER REPARATA FAUBERT, OP

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Sister Reparata Faubert, OP as she celebrates 60 years as a member of the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. An open house will be held in her honor on November 8 in Flint Michigan.

A native of St. Charles, Michigan, Sister Reparata was taught at Holy Family School by the Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids. At the age of 18 she entered the congregation and professed her vows. This was followed by years of teaching high school and working on her education. Sister Reparata obtained a BA from Aquinas College, an MA from the Theological Institute in Saginaw, and a second MA from Cardinal Stritch College.

After completing a CPE program at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Sister Reparata began working as a hospital chaplain for the 3 public hospitals in Flint. Her gentle, serene thoughtfulness to patients, families and hospital staff brings solace and hope to persons facing difficult, heart-wrenching events. With the grace that comes from the Eucharist, the Office and the Rosary, Sister Reparata visits the sick and passes on the spiritual blessings.

St. Dominic's life mission was to Praise, to Bless and to Preach and in 1206 he lead 12 women into religious life. They became the first Dominican Sisters Convent and Sister Reparata is part of the line of women that has taken the same vows and served Our Lord, Jesus Christ, with the same joy, stretching back to that first group. She embodies the part of Dominican Life that calls its adherents to be open to encountering the Holy in all people.

When asked to comment on the past 60 years as a member of the Dominican Order, Sister Reparata recalled John 14:23: “If you do the will of My Father, we will come to you and make our abode with you.” It is this humble submission to God's will that has endeared Sister Reparata to everyone that knows her.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding Sister Reparata as she celebrates this milestone. The Flint area has truly been blessed by God for allowing her to work with us. I pray that He will continue to bless us with Sister Reparata's compassion and kindness for many, many years to come.

LIEUTENANT ADAM W. BRYANT

**HON. THOMAS S. P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Lieutenant Adam W. Bryant of the United States Coast Guard, who went missing in a helicopter collision over the Pacific Ocean on October 29, 2009, along with eight fellow Coast Guard officers. My heart goes out to his parents, Jerry and Nina Bryant, his brother Ben, and all of those who knew and loved Adam. He is sorely missed by his friends, family, community, and fellow servicemembers.

Adam was a graduate of Kenston Forest School in Blackstone, Virginia, and the United States Coast Guard Academy. After completing his mandatory enlistment, he continued his service in the Coast Guard. He had served for 10 years. His family has described him as an intelligent, talented young man who knew from an early age that his calling was service to his country. I know that many will feel his loss deeply, for his accomplishments, his potential, and his role as a loving son, brother, grandson, and nephew. On behalf of Virginia's 5th District, I offer Adam's family my sincerest condolences and thank them for Adam's years of courageous and devoted service.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today I missed rollcall vote No. 841, on a motion ordering the previous question on the rule for H.R. 3639, The Expedited CARD Reform for Consumers Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this rollcall vote.

## THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ISOTOPES PRODUCTION ACT OF 2009

**HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3276, the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009. Currently a vast majority of our nation's critical supply of medical isotopes are imported from Canada and the Netherlands. Yet, unforeseeable and unpreventable disruptions and delays in obtaining the isotopes has severely impacted nuclear medical procedure throughout the country.

The American Medical Isotopes Production Act will enable research institutions, like Washington State University in my district, that already have reactors capable of producing low enriched uranium to supply a significant portion of U.S. demand for molybdenum-99 and other medical isotopes. The domestic production of moly-99 will ensure that facilities such as WSU can store isotopes necessary to continue treatment and early detection pro-

grams for cancer, heart disease, and thyroid disease.

Madam Speaker, this bipartisan bill not only will lower the cost and improve medical treatments here at home but it will be a significant step in reducing the United States reliance on foreign energy. The American Medical Isotopes Production Act is a fiscally responsible measure that makes the United States safer, more independent, and will provide hospitals across the country with the resources they need to continue to provide the best healthcare in the world. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3276, the American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2009.

## HONORING HARRISBURG MASONIC LODGE #325 A.F. &amp; A.M.

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Harrisburg Masonic Lodge #325 A.F. & A.M. in Harrisburg, Illinois upon the dedication of their new facility on November 7, 2009. Additionally, I wish to congratulate them on their 150th anniversary.

The Harrisburg Lodge #325 was granted a charter by the State of Illinois Grand Lodge on October 5, 1859. The charter members were: Green Berry Raum, Worshipful Master; Moses P. McGehee, Senior Warden; Richard N. Warfield, Junior Warden; Benjamin Bruce, Treasurer; John W. Mitchell, Secretary; John S. Eubanks, Senior Deacon; Harvey R. Pearce, Junior Deacon; William G. Sloan, Senior Steward; Charles Nyberg, Junior Steward and Charles A. Towle, Tiler.

Born in Golconda, Illinois, Green Berry Raum led a life of continued service, was a member of the 40th Congress. Mr. Raum practiced law in Harrisburg, Illinois; served in the Union Army during the Civil War as a major in the Fifty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry and served in the 40th Congress.

Richard C. Davenport of Harrisburg Lodge #325 A.F. & A.M. became the Grand Master Mason of Illinois, overseeing all Masons in the state. His tenure in that position lasted from 1925 to 1926 and then served as Grand Secretary from 1928–1960. During his term, The Grand Lodge Secretary's office was in the Harrisburg Masonic Lodge, located on North Main and Walnut Streets.

The 2009 officers include Terry Mott, Worshipful Master; Don Leibenguth, Secretary; Richard D. Harper, Treasurer; Bruce Tolley, Senior Warden; Mark Mathis, Junior Warden; Mack Farmer, Senior Deacon; Raymond Gunning, Junior Deacon; Dave Businaro, Marshall; George Knight, Senior Steward; Kerry Jones, Junior Steward; Cameron Brown, Tiler and Lyndel Alexander, Chaplin.

I am pleased to recognize the Harrisburg Masonic Lodge #325 A.F. & A.M. on this special occasion. I extend my best wishes for an enjoyable rededication and grand opening.

OPPOSING ANY ENDORSEMENT OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE GAZA CONFLICT

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this essential Resolution, unequivocally opposing any endorsement or further consideration of the Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.

The United Nations report on the conflict in Gaza is reflective of the original mandate ordering its creation: biased and one-sided. Like all sovereign nations, Israel has not only a right, but moreover, an obligation, to ensure the safety and security of her citizens. Israel's military operation was in response to 8 years during which Hamas terrorists fired more than 10,000 rockets, mortars and missiles at Israeli towns and villages.

Despite these facts, and due to the original mandate that precluded it from drafting an objective report, the Commission concluded that Israel's defensive operation was a war on Gaza's civilian population. This claim is an outright distortion of the truth.

Throughout the Gaza Conflict, Israel went above and beyond—even putting itself at risk—to protect innocent Palestinian civilians. Specifically, Israel dropped leaflets and made phone calls to targeted Palestinian areas to warn citizens they were in danger, even if that meant losing the element of surprise and putting the lives of its own soldiers at risk.

This report ignores evidence that many civilian casualties were a result of Hamas routinely using Palestinian civilians as human shields. Eyewitness testimonies, video and Israeli intelligence reports show that during the operation, Hamas stored weapons in mosques, used hospitals as headquarters, and intentionally endangered Palestinian civilians.

As a member of the Congressional Taskforce on Israel at the United Nations, it troubles me to see yet another biased, unfair attack against the State of Israel. Not only is this report a disgrace to the mission of the United Nations, but it distracts us from the real issue at hand—achieving lasting peace in the Middle East. Israelis, Palestinians and the international community must not lose the focus of this important goal, and must continue working to fight terrorism and support peace.

## HONORING OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Oakdale Irrigation District upon celebrating its 100th anniversary.

In 1853 miners built a small diversion dam off of the Stanislaus River, upstream from Knight's Ferry, and began digging a canal along the right bank of the river to their gravel