

Angola Prison. The couple bought their first home and settled in Slidell, Louisiana, in the summer of 1967, and their daughter Sheryl was born in New Orleans later that fall. Their son David was born in Slidell in the summer of 1970, just a few weeks before Charlie was transferred from New Orleans to Shell's Head Office in New York City.

In 1971, when Shell's Head Office Engineering was moved to Houston, the Wallaces were thrilled to return home to Texas. After 35 years of service to Shell, Charlie "retired" in 1999. However, Charlie immediately started his own full-time chemical engineering consulting business. His career has presented him with opportunities for international travel to Canada, The Netherlands, France, Hungary [when it was still behind the Iron Curtain,] China, England, Scotland, and Italy.

Marilyn has always been a supportive wife and mother and a committed homemaker. She is an "independent agent of good" who dedicates her time, resources, creativity, and advocacy to improve the quality of life for a diverse array of people including the seriously ill, the disadvantaged, the disabled, and the elderly.

Their children describe Charlie and Marilyn as fiercely committed to each other and extremely compatible. They enjoy travel, the outdoors, fitness and nutrition, and music. It is an honor to represent such decent, hardworking, civic-minded Texans. I want to congratulate Charlie and Marilyn on their 50th anniversary and may God bless them with many more years together. They are truly an outstanding couple from the second district of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS AS THE 2013 SWIMMING CLASS 2A FLORIDA IDA CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the First Congressional District of Florida's Booker T. Washington High School Wildcats for winning their first Class 2A State Swimming Championship. This victory marks the swim team's first state title, as well as, the first title for a girls swim team in Escambia or Santa Rosa counties.

Truly an outstanding team effort put forth by the swimmers, under the leadership of their talented coach, Ms. Megan Oberholtzer, there is no question that several performances contributed to the overall title. Jacquie Kinman and Chloe Berens swam the 100-yard breaststroke, which ended up putting the team in first place as they entered the final event. Brooke Ferrara, Miss Kinman, Rachel Martin and Brianna Mount swam the 400-yard freestyle relay in the All-American consideration time of 3:31.98. Miss Ferrara and Miss Kinman also joined Sophia Diagne and Abigail Goram in the 200 medley relay winning with the All-American consideration time of 1:47.16, and Miss Mount, Miss Martin, Miss Goram, and Miss Kinman won the 200 freestyle at 1:36.57, again, an All-American consideration time. Exceptional individual swimming achievements included Miss Mount's second place finish in the 50 freestyle in 23.57 sec-

onds and Miss Kinman's second-place finish in the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.77, both All-American consideration times. Finally, Miss Ferrara finished third in the 50 freestyle and 100-yard backstroke with All-American consideration times, 23.68 and 56.56 respectively.

The Washington Wildcats ended their undefeated season with a final team score of 233, triumphing over the second-placed team by 17 points. I commend the team for challenging themselves and setting an example for their fellow students and youth in our community.

Washington High's victory at the 2013 Florida Swim Team Championships is a testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the team, and it is a great reflection on the entire Washington High and Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the Wildcats for this extraordinary accomplishment and wish them continued success.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan budget agreement represents some modicum of compromise, something that has been sorely lacking in this Congress. It is by no means a perfect deal, but both sides have made concessions so that we may avert a repeat of the disastrous government shutdown and begin to restore some of the draconian cuts caused by sequestration.

For me, and many of my colleagues, this will be a "hold-your-nose and vote yes vote," given our disappointment and concern about yet another cut in benefits for new federal employees. No other group in America has been asked to make the same sacrifices as the dedicated men and women of our federal workforce.

Federal employees already have contributed \$114 billion to deficit reduction as a result of a 3-year pay freeze, a reduction in retirement benefits for new hires, and lost pay as a result of furloughs. Thankfully, we were able to beat back the worst proposals to further encroach on their benefits, and I believe this bipartisan deal will minimize the prospect of additional furloughs by replacing some of the sequestration cuts.

Nonetheless, I will continue fighting for our federal employees until they receive the respect they deserve and have earned. I will continue to push back against those in Congress who unfairly impugn federal workers for partisan political gain. And I will continue to protect the rights and dignity of federal workers and the valuable public service they provide to the nation.

For Northern Virginia, which was disproportionately affected by sequestration, this agreement for the first time will replace a portion of those indiscriminate cuts with a more balanced approach. It will actually increase federal investments in research, innovation, and transportation. That in turn will help unleash business investments, which have lagged due

to a sense of uncertainty fueled by the political brinksmanship in Congress.

No one got everything they wanted out of this deal. Indeed, I along with many of my colleagues would have preferred to see an extension of long-term unemployment benefits, which has a very direct and significant benefit on more than 1 million families and our national and local economies. Every dollar of assistance generates \$1.64 in economic activity in the community. Sadly, it was not addressed here, but we will continue to push the Speaker to bring it up separately to help those still struggling to find work.

Congress faces many more serious challenges in the coming weeks and months, including the need to raise the debt ceiling, renew long-term transportation funding, and reform our broken immigration system. Perhaps this bipartisan breakthrough will provide the model we need to avoid the "my-way-or-the-highway" shutdown brand of politics that has characterized the Republican philosophy of governance for the last three years.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Justin Arsenault served in the United States Army from 2003 to 2006. After enlisting, he served one tour of duty in Iraq from 2005 to 2006. During his tour, Mr. Arsenault was his unit's primary pilot for the Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle where he was to utilize the Raven to clear supply routes. During one particular mission, he used the Raven to maintain an aerial perimeter for troops whose vehicle had been disabled by a roadside explosive device. He continued to monitor the area for enemy combatants until ground support could reach the disabled troops and escort them to safety. For his acts of bravery and courage during this mission, Mr. Arsenault received a second Army Commendation Medal.

Since returning home, Mr. Arsenault has continued to faithfully uphold his calling to defend, protect, and serve his fellow Americans across the community. In 2007, he began his service as a police officer in Allen, Texas where he currently serves as a Field Training Officer. If all of that is not enough, off duty he volunteers his time for the Carry the Load campaign, which is held over Memorial Day weekend every year. To him, Memorial Day ought to be more than cookouts and retail

sales events, but a day to remember and honor the ultimate sacrifice given by members of our Armed Forces. This is a man who truly embodies the spirit of America.

Justin Arsenault, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H. J. Res. 59, the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and Pathway for Sustainable Growth in Medicare Reform Act of 2013."

On the positive side: Republicans—and the bipartisan deal does not cut Medicare, Social Security, or Medicaid benefits by a penny even though our friends across the aisle went into the talks insisting on cuts to programs like Head Start, Housing, Social Security, Medicaid, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs that sustain children, families, and seniors.

The agreement increases discretionary spending caps under the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) for FY 2014 and FY 2015 to partially restore spending cuts that would otherwise be made those two years under the sequester required by the BCA.

Under the measure, the sequester for FY 2014 and FY 2015 would be reduced to restore \$63 billion in spending authority for those two years—while \$85 billion in cuts to mandatory programs and revenue increases would be made to more than offset that increased spending and provide for a net \$23 billion in deficit reduction.

BUDGET CAPS & SEQUESTRATION

The budget proposal increases FY 2014 discretionary spending by \$45 billion and FY 2015 spending by \$18 billion compared with their scheduled sequestration levels, with the increases equally split each year between defense and non-defense spending (a \$22.4 billion increase for each category this year and a \$9 billion increase for each in FY 2015).

Those increases would set a \$1.012 trillion limit on discretionary spending for FY 2014 and a \$1.014 trillion limit for FY 2015. Under the current stopgap funding law, discretionary spending set at the woefully inadequate sequestration level of \$986 billion.

Under the new caps, defense spending for FY 2014 would be set at \$520.5 billion (about \$2 billion more than current funding), while nondefense spending would be increased to \$491.8 billion.

Because of the circumstances that led to the budget impasse during the first session of the 113th Congress, I introduced H. Res. 375, a bill expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should refrain from shutting down the Federal government or conditioning the resolution of fiscal and budgetary disputes on the taking of action relating to non-germane legislative matters.

I invite members from both sides of the aisle to co-sponsor H. Res. 375.

The budget proposal before us is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

A self-manufactured crisis by the Republican majority resulted in a government shutdown that lasted 16 days and cost taxpayers \$24 billion.

The cost to Federal employees and the people they serve cannot be calculated.

As with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I strongly oppose.

The agreement allows Congress to move forward in meeting its obligations to the American people by alleviating some of the damage being caused by sequestration.

It is useful to chronicle the severity of the suffering and pain inflicted by sequestration on the most vulnerable residents of Texas and the Constituents that I serve.

SEQUESTRATION IMPACTS ON TEXAS

Head Start and Early Head Start services were eliminated or severely impacted with approximately 4,800 children being impacted throughout the state of Texas.

Families in my district who rely on Federal Government programs like Head Start are hurting. The pain did not start with the shutdown, but with sequestration which hit Head Start programs for 3 to 4 year olds in the Houston area hard: \$5,341 million cut; 109 Employees cut; 699 Slots for children cut.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs were further stressed by the federal government shutdown.

On October 2, I joined hundreds of Head Start supporters from across the country and many of my colleagues to protest the closing of Head Start programs due to the federal government shutdown.

I picked up one of the tiny blue chairs that represented the thousands of Head Start children from around the nation and said that an empty Head Start chair represents a future doctor, engineer, president, or teacher who is at risk because of the Federal Government shutdown.

My support of Head Start and Early Head Start is based on what I have seen and heard about programs like the AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start program serving parents and children in the 18th Congressional District.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start is a program serving low income families in my Houston Texas District.

I visited with AVANCE-Houston administrators earlier this month because I wanted to get an update on how low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women served by the program were doing.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start's mission is simple: AVANCEHouston works for healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote healthy family functioning.

AVANCE-Houston serves nearly 1,800 children city wide. Each of these families and their children are suffering the effect of the legislative malpractice of the House majority.

Sequestration has cost AVANCE-Houston \$842,518 Head Start and Early Head Start in lost funding for ending the harmful effects of Sequestration on programs like Head Start had to be a priority.

SEQUESTRATION AND HOUSE BUDGET BILL'S NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANT PROGRAM (SNAP)

The House Republicans' Farm Bill proposed cutting our nation's food assistance programs, known as SNAP, by \$20.5 billion to stay within the unrealistic funding limitations set by sequestration even though a cut of this magnitude would deprive millions of children, seniors, disabled persons, and families of the benefits they need to survive in an economy that has not yet fully recovered from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

SNAP FACTS

In the 18th Congressional District an estimated 151,741 families live in poverty.

According to the Census my city of Houston more than 442,881 persons live near the poverty level.

The percentage of Texas households experiencing food insecurity (18%) ranked second only to Mississippi.

WE KNOW THAT THERE IS HUNGER IN AMERICA

For more than 40 years, SNAP has offered nutrition assistance to millions of low income individuals and families. Today, the SNAP program serves over 46 million people each month. Households with children receive about 75 percent of all food stamp benefits. 23 percent of households include a disabled person and 18 percent of households include an elderly person. The FSP increases household food spending, and the increase is greater than what would occur with an equal benefit in cash. Every \$5 in new food stamp benefits generates almost twice as much (\$9.20) in total community spending.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 16.7 million children under 18 in the United States live in households where they are unable to consistently access enough nutritious food for a healthy life.

FOOD INSECURITY

16.7 million Children lived in food insecure households in 2011.

20 percent or more of the child population in 37 states and D.C. lived in food insecure households in 2011.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Nearly 14 million children are estimated to be served by Feeding America, over 3 million of which are ages 5 and under.

54 percent of client households with children under the age of 3 participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

POVERTY

In 2011, 16.1 million or approximately 22 percent of children in the U.S. lived in poverty: Participation in Federal Nutrition Programs.

In fiscal year 2011, 47 percent of all SNAP household contained children.

During the 2011 federal fiscal year, more than 31 million low-income children received free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program.

Unfortunately, just 2.3 million children participated in the Summer Food Service Program that same year.

This proposed budget protects SNAP programs from crippling cuts for 2014–2015.

In addition to providing relief from sequestration there are a number of other good provisions in the Budget Agreement. For example: