

Veterans Affairs. Testimony in support of its passage was received from the American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

DISABLED VETERANS

IT Accessibility for Visually Impaired Veterans—In February, 2015, I pushed the VA Secretary to ensure the agency is compliant with laws requiring VA website accessibility for disabled veterans, particularly for visually impaired veterans, and received the George “Buck” Gillispie Award from the Blinded American Veterans Foundation in June, 2016.

Caregivers—In 2010, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (P.L. 111-163) was enacted to provide comprehensive caregiver support to caregivers of veterans severely injured or disabled after September 11, 2001. I strongly advocated for the enactment of the original program. In the six years since, I have spoken with many caregivers in my district who have benefited from the program, but also heard from caregivers who have given up careers to provide unpaid care for veterans suffering from illness rather than injuries, or who were injured or became ill before 9/11. I strongly favor expanding this highly successful program to provide support for them by cosponsoring H.R. 1969, the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act. The bill has been referred to the Veterans Committee and several other committees continues to push for hearings and has advocated about the need to find the necessary funding by closing tax loopholes and not cutting other VA programs.

HONORING AND MEMORIALIZING VETERANS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES

I sponsored H.R. 3715, the Final Farewell Act of 2016. It provides for Saturday burials for any eligible veteran or spouse at any of the nation's 134 National Veterans' Cemeteries in light of the preference in certain communities and cultures in the US who, by tradition, hold burial services on Saturdays. This makes it possible for family members to be comforted when they need it most. H.R. 3715 passed the House by voice vote on May 23, 2016.

Introduced H.R. 5059 the Love Lives On Act of 2016, April 26, 2016, which allows spouses to continue to receive survival benefits should they remarry, which has been, referred to Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. I am working with Veteran Service Organizations such as the Gold Star Wives of America and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) to garner the support and find the funding offsets needed to make this bill a priority and move it forward.

I took the lead in the effort by Members of Congress on the House side for the inclusion in H.R. 4909, the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and H.R. 4974, the 2017 Military Construction Appropriations and Veterans Affairs Act of \$5 Million (through the Department of Defense) to support the Women in Military Service to America Memorial (WIMSA) at Arlington Cemetery. WIMSA recognizes and honors the service of women in the military throughout the country's history. The 2017 funding is primarily for maintenance and renovation of the Memorial's building, which is in serious disrepair. Funding for the WIMSA's educational programs and exhibitions come from private fundraising. These efforts were successful. H.R. 4909 passed the House on May 26 and is awaiting action in the Senate. H.R. 4974, passed the House on May 19 and the House-Senate Conference Report passed the House June 22.

COMMENDING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM AND THE KICKOFF OF SOBERRIDE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards for Excellence.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1993, 65,385 free cab rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

In 1982, the year that WRAP was founded, 26,173 people in the United States lost their lives in alcohol-related car accidents, and 60 percent of all traffic fatalities involved drunk driving. Due to the tireless efforts of WRAP, other organizations such as MADD and SADD, local and state police, and enforcement of more stringent anti-drunk driving laws, considerable progress has been made in decreasing the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities, yet more still must be done. In 2015, 10,265 people died in the United States in alcohol-related crashes which represents 29 percent of all traffic fatalities. Sadly, this is a 3.2 percent increase over the 2014 fatalities which totaled 9,967.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include the following names of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

Officer Wesley Vitale, City of Alexandria Police Department;
Officer John Clark, Arlington County Police Department;
PFC Kevin Hedden, City of Falls Church Police Department;
Second Lieutenant Jason Long, Fairfax County Police Department;
Private First Class Eliezer Calo, Herndon Police Department;
Deputy Jason Totaro, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office;
Trooper First Class Anthony Wallace, Maryland State Police;
Officer David Naples, Metropolitan Police Department;
Police Officer III John P. Romack, Montgomery County Department of Police;
Police Officer III Alex Latifov, Montgomery County Department of Police;
Corporal Sage Saliba, Prince George's County Police Department;

Officer Jeremy A. Schenck, Prince William County Police Department;
Officer Benjamin Tomasiello, United States Park Police;

Trooper Zachary Koon, Virginia State Police.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 34 years of public service. I commend the staff of WRAP under the leadership of President Kurt Erickson for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk or drugged driving. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have truly saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S 68TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Israel's 68th Independence Day commemorating the day before the expiration of the British Mandate in 1948, when Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of Israel as the sovereign state of the Jewish people. I am pleased to celebrate that defining moment, as well as Israel's remarkable growth and success.

When the United Nations issued Resolution 181 on November 29, 1947, approving the Special Committee on Palestine's partition plan establishing a Jewish and an Arab state, it seemed to be the culmination of decades of hard work and bold dreams. On May 14, 1948 (5 Iyar), as the British Mandate was coming to an end, David Ben-Gurion held a special ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum and read the Declaration of Independence (Megilat HaAtzma'ut), announcing the establishment of a Jewish nation to be known as Israel. The members of the Provisional State Council joined him in signing the document. America recognized Israel just after midnight on May 15, moments after the new nation was proclaimed.

Since that day the relationship between the United States and Israel has strengthened and flourished. Israel remains a beacon of hope and justice in an otherwise tumultuous region. Democracy, freedom of expression, an independent judiciary and government by the rule of law are among the ideals shared by our two nations. As a result of our common outlook, the bonds of friendship between our two nations are strong and unbreakable.

Like the United States, Israel is a nation of immigrants and draws its strength from the diversity and tenacity of its people. Israel has been a haven for Jews from every part of the globe, particularly those fleeing discrimination and expulsion. Israel has succeeded in integrating diverse populations and making them part of Israeli culture.

By investing in its citizens, Israel has proven that a creative and resourceful population can overcome a lack of natural resources. Lacking potable water, Israel is at the forefront of desalination efforts. Lacking arable land, it has

developed innovative ways to grow produce in the desert. Lacking energy, it has pioneered advances in solar and wind energy. Lacking security, it has built some of the most effective defensive systems to ensure the safety and welfare of its people.

Given its record of innovation, it makes sense that Israel has more high tech start ups than any other country in the world other than the United States and is a global leader in medicine. Israeli inventions have revolutionized communication, agriculture, imaging and other industries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 68th Israeli Independence Day. Today we rejoice in Israel's success, embrace its people, and renew our nation's commitment to standing alongside Israel in defense of its right to safety and prosperity.

TRIBUTE FOR CAL AND SANDY
RUNYON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th wedding anniversary of a beloved couple in Eastern Kentucky, my dear friends, Cal and Sandy Runyon of Pikeville.

Cal and Sandy's commitment and love for one another is equally as strong as their devotion and loyal service to the people of Eastern Kentucky. I say that with confidence due to their combined decades of service in multiple capacities to our nation, our commonwealth and our region.

Sandy faithfully served as my Field Representative for nearly a decade. In fact, she still tries to keep me in line, advising and providing guidance about projects and politics in the Big Sandy region. She is a friend to many and has mentored countless young people and rising leaders by taking them under her wing. Sandy started in public service at a young age, landing her first job with former Pike County Commonwealth's Attorney Thomas Ratliff, and continuing on with the State Highway Department in Pikeville, serving as a former representative for the Southern Labor Union, and finally earning a gubernatorial appointment as former Pike County Circuit Court Clerk. Today, her heart of service reaches Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin and Pike Counties as Executive Director of the Big Sandy Area Development District. She has diligently sought out economic development opportunities and infrastructure enhancements to expand clean water and sewer service to people living in some of our most rural communities. She's known for getting things done in a no-nonsense approach and doesn't accept excuses. Sandy is tenacious and fights for projects that will improve the lives of Eastern Kentuckians. For those reasons, former Governor Louie B. Nunn designated Sandy as a bonafide Kentucky Colonel.

While Sandy has worked tirelessly for project funding, Cal has spent a lifetime serving and protecting our way of life. As a Corporal in the U.S. Marines, Cal served in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and a number of other posts around the world. He later served as a member of the United States Army Security

Agency (USASA) in Kushiro, Japan, working in cryptography communications. When Cal returned to U.S. soil, he continued to serve through the Pike County Sheriff's Department, Pikeville City Police Department, and as a Deputy U.S. Marshal Court Security Officer. He is also a Shriner and 32nd Degree Mason in Pikeville.

As individuals, they have helped transform Kentucky's Appalachian region. As a couple, they have conquered the obstacles of life, upheld their wedding vows for 50 years and shared a love that so many people spend a lifetime searching for. As a result, they have one son, Eddie, a daughter-in-law, Yvette, and two wonderful grandchildren, Triniti Shae and Jonah Brock Runyon.

My wife, Cynthia, and I wish Cal and Sandy a happy 50th Anniversary and many more years of marital bliss.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF SACRAMENTO
CHILDREN'S HOME

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Sacramento Children's Home. As the staff, volunteers, and community supporters gather to celebrate this momentous occasion and the beautiful renovations on their historic home, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding organization.

I know firsthand the incredible impact the Children's home has on our community. I have long been a supporter of the Sacramento Children's Home and I formerly served as a member of their board. I will continue to offer my support in any way that I can because I believe in their mission to serve our community's most vulnerable families. By supporting both children and parents, to create happier, more stable families, the Sacramento Children's Home is making an invaluable investment in our community.

Founded on February 14th, 1867, the Sacramento Children's home began as an orphanage for abandoned children during the time of the Gold Rush. Since then, the Sacramento Children's home has continued to serve the most urgent needs of children with unwavering dedication. Today, the Sacramento Children's Home provides a variety of services to children and families, including counseling, emergency childcare, and programs promoting healthy parenting. These wraparound programs and resources, many of which are provided at no cost to the family, fight and protect against child abuse and neglect in our community.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento Children's Home gathers to celebrate their renovated home on their 150th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring 150 years of service to Sacramento's children and families.

ASSAULTING PROPERTY RIGHTS
TO ONE'S INVENTIONS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2016

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues an analysis of our recent government actions toward intellectual property rights titled "Assaulting Property Rights to One's Inventions," which shows how we are undermining our position as the world leader in innovation and preventing the creation of new wealth.

For a country with a momentous beginning, whose intellectual-property-rights approach produced the most iconic inventors and inventions in the world, recent changes to America's patent system should be alarming.

Mark Twain wrote, "[A] country without a patent office and good patent laws was just a crab and couldn't travel any way but sideways or backwards."

America made writing "good patent laws" that secure intellectual property rights a high priority. The Founders enumerated the Patent Clause in Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution—the only individual right named in the Constitution itself.

The Founders moved quickly to implement this property right. The Patent Act of 1790 was the third law enacted by the first Congress.

What did the Founders regard as "good patent law?" Deeding newly created property to its creator. One that democratized the property right to one's inventions. The 1790 law achieved this by awarding a patent to the "first and true inventor."

But lately, Congress, the courts and the administrative branch have diverted America toward the way of the crab. Our own government has whittled away at our patent system, degraded patent rights, devalued patents and IP and diminished inherent property rights.

What would inventors like Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers and Alexander Graham Bell think about this new direction? Or Founders such as James Madison?

In recent years, Congress has shifted patent terms to 20 years from when a patent is applied for, though the average patent application pendency is 36 months—far longer for sophisticated inventions.

Congress changed the law to require virtually all patent applications to be published 18 months after filing, even if no patent has issued. That's a problem because it gives IP thieves a head start by providing them an invention's blueprints early. If a patent doesn't issue, disclosure makes the invention "prior art" and unpatentable.

Congress enacted the antiproperty-rights "America Invents Act." AIA denies inventors de novo judicial review if the patent office invalidates a patent. AIA also lets patent infringers off the hook if they used someone's patented invention for a year before a patent was filed. It seriously disrupts the one-year grace period, when inventors could discuss their ideas with investors and partners, improve their details and make a stronger patent application.

The AIA allows third parties to anonymously submit "prior art" while a patent application is being considered. Use of an invention anywhere in the world now makes an invention subject to being invalidated here.