

it promoted him to the rank of major on February 1.

Born in my hometown of Miami, Florida, and raised in Mineral Wells, Texas, Trent graduated from Texas Christian University, where he earned a degree in business administration and an Army commission. During his congressional assignment, he earned a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army's Field Artillery Branch, Trent has served at Fort Drum, Fort Hood, and in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his career in our proud military, Trent has earned many accolades, including the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

It is my distinct pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to join with Major Colestock's family, friends, and peers as they honor his promotion and the many accomplishments of his outstanding service to our Nation.

□ 1215

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL RADIO AND REINTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL RADIO FREEDOM ACT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the significant benefits and services that our local radio stations provide to our communities.

I cannot say enough about the benefits local radio provides constituents in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas. Local radio provides AMBER Alerts, local news, weather, and critical emergency alerts, which we all know too well along the gulf coast we need. In addition to the public service, radio provides entertainment and music free to the public.

For nearly 90 years, Congress has recognized this fact and has not imposed performance fees on local radio stations. That is why I am pleased to reintroduce, along with my fellow Texan, Congressman MIKE CONAWAY, the Local Radio Freedom Act, H. Con. Res. 17.

Our simple resolution simply states that Congress should not impose any performance taxes or fees for playing over-the-air music and keep local radio free. Last week's introduction with 93 cosponsors, over 20 percent of the full House, shows the strong commitment Congress has to protect local radio and all the benefits it provides our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the original cosponsors of this resolution and thank local radio for serving our communities.

#### THE BUCK STOPS HERE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Truman had a plaque on his desk that said, "The buck stops here." Many veterans are probably wondering why this old poker expression doesn't apply to the VA. However, on Monday the House passed H.R. 280, which gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to make sure the bucks do stop on back bonuses given to management of the VA, which is very, very backlogged.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad the House has acted, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the President to join this effort. It is clear that it is time to send a message to the VA that the days of rewarding subpar work and service for hidden and lost files or long waiting periods are over.

We need to continue to fight for commonsense reforms that will provide this type of system that our veterans deserve. At many regional offices of the VA around the country, including my own of Oakland, veterans have waited far too long to have their benefit claims processed and are struggling to access the care they need and deserve. There are countless examples of dysfunction, and the VA is falling short of its mission.

Does anyone actually think the VA deserves bonuses for failing our veterans when we have these long lists of people waiting for medical care, having their claims serviced? No, I think not. Mr. Speaker, the VA bonus bucks stop here.

#### REMEMBERING REVEREND THEODORE M. HESBURGH, CSC

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is the funeral for one of the most influential figures in higher education, the Catholic Church, and domestic and international affairs: Father Theodore Hesburgh. He served as president of the University of Notre Dame for 35 years, in that time taking a small Catholic college and transforming it into a world renowned institution.

During his career he was granted 150 honorary degrees, more than any other person. This Congress awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal in the year 2000, becoming the first figure from higher education to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. He was also appointed by both Democratic and Republican Presidents to 16 Presidential commissions, ranging from atomic weapons policy to immigration, to civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be a graduate of the Hesburgh Program in Public Service and hope to be able to live up to that awesome example he set.

#### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of four high-tech fields that are dominating the digital age. The fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, commonly referred to as STEM, are driving our Nation's innovation and competition, generating new ideas, industries, and companies.

Just last week, I had the opportunity to tour the University of New Hampshire's InterOperability Laboratory to see just how important the STEM field is to the Granite State. The InterOperability Lab is the only full-service, nonprofit test lab in the world that provides both industry expertise and real-world training for our Nation's future STEM workers.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress continues to advocate on behalf of the STEM fields because the demand for individuals with these backgrounds and education only continue to grow. In fact, the Office of Science and Technology Policy estimates that STEM jobs will grow almost two times faster than non-STEM jobs from 2008 to 2018. We must ensure R&D continues in these fields.

#### FUNDING DHS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express relief that Congress has funded the Department of Homeland Security. We averted an unnecessary and harmful crisis. We should not have reached a point where the Department was on the brink of a shutdown.

The Department of Homeland Security was created after the devastating September 11 terrorist attacks and performs vital functions to protect Americans against ongoing terrorist threats. We are talking about FEMA, which responds to emergencies and disasters; TSA, which makes flying safer; the Secret Service; Customs and Border Protection; and other important services.

The Coast Guard, which patrols our waters and helps protect communities like mine near the Port of Los Angeles, is also a part of the Department of Homeland Security. We must do even more to improve port security, and shutting down the Department would have been a step backwards.

We must stop the crisis-to-crisis governing around here. The American people deserve better than this sort of political brinksmanship.

#### CONGRATULATING MIDLAND MARKETING COOPERATIVE

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House