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In Honor of Admiral James D. Watkins ; The
Hon. Sam Farr of California in the House of Representative

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his service, he was awarded his second Defense Commendation Medal.

In December of 2009, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund became the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the 38 sailors of the Military Sealift Command Cargo Afloat Rigging Team III, Detachment C based out of Lemoore, California. While serving as OIC, he was deployed twice onboard the USNS *Guadalupe* (T-AO-200).

Lieutenant Commander Westerlund is married to Dora Rivera of Mazatlan, Mexico. While deployed overseas in Operation Enduring Freedom, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund was reelected to the Fresno City Council, and his first child, Zoe, was born. Lieutenant Commander Westerlund and his wife recently welcomed their second child—a son named William.

On August 11, 2012, Lieutenant Commander Westerlund will retire from the United States Navy after 20 years of honorable military service. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Lieutenant Commander Lawrence E. Westerlund for his outstanding career. He is a true public servant. I congratulate him on his retirement, and wish him the best of success in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF ADMIRAL JAMES D.
WATKINS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and exemplary service of the late Admiral James D. Watkins. Chief of Naval Operations, Chairman of the Commission on AIDS, Secretary of Energy, and Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, he was called out of retirement on multiple occasions but left the service of our Nation and our world last Thursday night. He passed on from his home in Alexandria, VA at the age of 85. His presence will certainly be missed not just in Washington, but across the country and particularly in the ocean science community.

A native of California and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Admiral Watkins served in the Navy for 37 years where he rose to become the Chief of Naval Operations. An esteemed feat by itself, this position was just the starting point for what would become his most venerable legacy. After retirement from the Navy, Admiral Watkins was appointed Secretary of Energy during the Reagan administration.

Accomplished through his ability to bring disparate groups together to understand and solve complex problems, he led two of the most important federal commissions to occur in the past 25 years—one on the AIDS pandemic and the other on the Congressionally directed Commission on Ocean Policy. Both commissions sought to improve the health and well-being of all through improved understanding of our least understood systems—the human immune system and the planetary ocean system. As a public servant and as a citizen, Admiral Watkins acted deliberately and thoughtfully to digest massive quantities of information and actors into specific challenges with clearly articulated steps to achieve agreed-upon outcomes.

His 16-member Commission on Ocean Policy developed “An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century” which offered comprehensive recommendations for a national ocean policy. When those recommendations were finalized and presented in 2004, he said, “With a clear mandate from the President, and strong, bipartisan support among Members of Congress, we can begin the difficult, but critical process of implementing a comprehensive national ocean policy.” He spent the last eight years of his life acting on implementing those recommendations. In his wake it will take many of us here in Congress, along with other nongovernmental actors to continue to steer and direct these efforts and contribute to the heavy lift of moving this important work forward.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in recognizing the contributions that Admiral Watkins made to make this world a better place. We offer our condolences to his family and friends, and particularly his six children and his wife, Janet. Those of us who had the good fortune to have known him are better people for the experience.

HONORING MONSIGNOR FELIX S.
DIOMARTICH

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Monsignor Felix S. Diomartich, the oldest priest in the City of Los Angeles and the Sibenik region of Croatia, who is celebrating 75 years of service in the priesthood. Monsignor Diomartich was born on November 2, 1914, in Zlarin, Croatia. He began his life's journey at the parish of Vodice as the Associate Pastor. Soon after, he was named Secretary to Bishop Mileta. He later earned two doctorate degrees in theology and church law at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Before leaving for the United States, he obtained the title of the lawyer of the Sacra Romana Rota.

After arriving in the United States, Monsignor Diomartich served at three parishes in the Archdiocese of New York before he was invited to serve at St. Anthony Croatian Church in Los Angeles. Monsignor Diomartich served for 36 years as an administrator and as a pastor. He supported such organizations as the St. Ann's Altar Society for women and the Holy Name Society for men. He founded two new societies for American-born young adults called the Anthonians and the St. Anthony's Women's Guild. His other accomplishments at the parish include the St. Anthony's Annual Picnic Festival, building of a new rectory, and remodeling and expanding the original parish hall.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI awarded him the title of Monsignor. The Croatian National Association and Foundation awarded him with its Lifetime Achievement award in 2008. Though he has retired from its administration, Monsignor Diomartich continues to reside at the St. Anthony Croatian Church, helping with masses and confessions. Through his passion of spreading the word of God, he has inspired and guided the residents of Los Angeles and has brought unity and pride to the Croatian community.

He has truly made a difference in the lives of so many people. It has been a privilege to call him a friend and to celebrate this significant milestone.

RED TAPE REDUCTION AND
SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4078) to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, last week the House considered H.R. 4078, the Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act. Like the REINS Act and other similar legislation this chamber has considered—and I have opposed—the Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act (H.R. 4078) would prevent federal agencies from developing and implementing regulations that protect public health, consumers, and our environment.

One of the majority's primary arguments for this bill is that regulations kill jobs by making it hard for businesses to do what they need to do to succeed. In the current economy, this sounds plausible. Unfortunately, the facts and data do not support this claim.

Since 2007 the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has asked businesses that have laid off large numbers of workers what caused them to make such layoffs. According to the BLS's survey data government regulations contributed to only 0.2 percent of layoffs in 2009, 2010 and through the first half of 2011.

Instead, the BLS found that the number one reason companies made mass layoffs was because of reduced demand for their products or services from consumers.

Surveys conducted by the American Sustainable Business Council, the Main Street Alliance, and the Small Business Majority also found that lack of demand is the primary challenge facing businesses today—not regulations.

One of the other arguments the majority has advanced to support their claim that regulations hurt the economy is that there will be “unintended consequences.” Again, this sounds plausible given the state of our economy. But again, this assertion does not hold up against the facts.

Take, for example, the Clean Air Act and the regulations that resulted from the law. In 1990, Congress passed the Clean Air Act Amendments on a strong bipartisan basis. Despite concerns raised by industry over the cost of the rules mandated by the law, the decade following its enactment was a great time U.S. businesses. The economy created 21 million jobs, and we had the longest period of sustained economic growth in national history.

In fact, since passage of the initial Clean Air Act over 40 years ago, our economy has grown by over 200 percent. At the same time, we have improved the nation's air quality and the health of the American people by reducing toxic and health threatening air pollutants by 60 percent. The estimated economic benefits

from lower health care costs, less illness and premature death, and increased worker productivity of the Clean Air Act are expected to reach the \$2 trillion mark in 2020. This exceeds the projected costs of implementing the regulations by more than 30 to 1.

We can also look at the recent financial crisis as a cautionary tale of the “unintended consequences” of not having appropriate safeguards put in place.

In 1994 Congress gave the Federal Reserve authority to regulate subprime and other high risk mortgages. It took them until 2008 to do anything with that authority. Unfortunately, 2008 was too late to prevent the housing bubble that popped and set off a financial crisis that cost American families \$6.5 trillion in household wealth, millions of jobs, and required significant resources from the federal government to address.

Even former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan admitted to the House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee in 2008 that he’d been wrong about the housing bubble and should have done more.

These stories illustrate the importance of responsible environmental and consumer protections to a strong economy, strong communities, and healthy families. Yet none of this information or experience seems to have had any impact on the majority.

In fact, the bill today would likely delay regulations like the mercury and air toxics rule. According to estimates, each year that we delay implementing this rule means 17,000 premature deaths, 120,000 cases of asthma, 12,200 hospital and emergency room visits for respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and 850,000 days of missed work and school due to illness.

In addition, every year approximately 1.2 million people get sick, 7,125 people are hospitalized, and 134 people die from foodborne illnesses attributed to contaminated produce. Enacting this bill would halt progress on implementing the Food Safety Modernization Act to reduce these contaminations and protect our families.

The Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act would arbitrarily freeze all regulations until unemployment is below 6 percent, prevent regulations from being developed and implemented during presidential transitions, expose regulations to court challenges that will increase uncertainty, and make other changes to procedures for developing and implementing regulations.

These changes would primarily accomplish one thing—undermining the government’s ability to do its job efficiently and cost effectively.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found that these changes would freeze routine updates to programs like payment rates for services to Medicare patients. This would have a negative impact on doctors and seniors.

CBO also estimates that the legislation “would have a significant effect on direct spending” because laws could not be implemented properly—unnecessarily increasing the deficit.

H.R. 4078 would also give regulated industries the ability to influence rules behind closed doors by requiring that agencies consult with private industry stakeholders before proposed rules are made available for public comment. The changes made under this bill would also allow regulations to be challenged and delayed, increasing uncertainty for businesses and the economy—which seems to run counter to the majority’s primary argument for the bill in the first place.

This bill also ignores the work that the Obama Administration has been engaged in to review current regulations in order to eliminate outdated, obsolete, and ineffective rules. The President placed a premium on getting feedback on this effort from the public—including the business community. As a result paperwork burdens, unnecessary or outdated rules, and barriers to exporting and other job creating activities have been or will be eliminated. These changes are projected to save taxpayers billions in the coming years.

Now is not the time to put the brakes on this effort, which has been open, transparent and appropriately balances the need for responsible safeguards for consumers, the environment, and public health with the need for a strong and growing economy.

TRIBUTE TO DON DILLENBECK

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute Hood River County Sheriff’s Deputy Don Dillenbeck. Deputy Dillenbeck is retiring from

the Sheriff’s Office on July 29, capping more than 37 years of duty, honor and service to the citizens and visitors of Hood River County, Oregon.

Don Dillenbeck was born and raised in my home town of Hood River, Oregon where he graduated from Hood River Valley High School in 1972. Don began his career in public safety as a Dispatcher and Corrections Deputy with the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office on January 23, 1975.

Deputy Dillenbeck was promoted to Road Deputy in 1978, taking on more responsibility with his new position. Patrolling the county for the next 34 years and serving under three different Sheriffs, Deputy Dillenbeck logged over 1 million miles on six different patrol cars. His duties included not only the protection of the public, but also the training and mentoring of new Deputies. His extensive knowledge of procedure, law and tactics has been invaluable to the county over the course of his career.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Dillenbeck is also somewhat of a celebrity due to a dangerous highspeed pursuit that was featured on the television program “World’s Wildest Police Chases.” In 1997, a fleeing suspect rammed his patrol car three times. Thankfully, the suspect was apprehended and did not seriously injure Deputy Dillenbeck. This incident is a prime example of the high level of commitment Deputy Dillenbeck holds for public service. When he is called upon to put his own life in danger—whether it’s apprehending a fleeing felon or volunteering as a firefighter with Westside Fire Department—Deputy Dillenbeck can be counted on to answer.

Although he will officially retire from his full-time position, Deputy Dillenbeck has requested to remain with the Sheriff’s Office in a volunteer capacity as a Reserve Deputy so he can continue to serve and protect the public in Hood River County. Even in retirement, Deputy Don Dillenbeck will continue to answer the call to service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing Don Dillenbeck. He has earned the thanks of a grateful nation not only for his dedication to service, but for his unwavering commitment to his community. Please join me in wishing Deputy Don Dillenbeck a very long and happy retirement.