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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, April 8, 2005, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rev. David G. Thabet, of Huntington WV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, the Source and Giver of all wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth, we pray that You so guide and bless the Congress of this Nation, and especially the United States Senate, that they enact such laws as shall be according to Your will.

Grant them the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice, so that with clear minds and steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices. And we pray that the people of this Nation support their elected officials with understanding and encouragement.

May those assembled here always be conscious of the needs of those persons under their care, and may they always have the courage to do what is right.

Finally, we ask that You instill Your Spirit in the body of those here that they may have the strength to accomplish the tasks before them this day and throughout the session.

This we ask in Your Name.
Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, today we will be in for a period of morning business. Last night, we were unable to complete work on the State Department authorization bill. Therefore, on Monday, we will turn to the

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief. We did make progress, however, on the State Department bill, and it is still hoped that we can reach an agreement to limit amendments on that bill, and therefore make it possible for us to complete it.

That would allow the chairman and ranking member to work together to determine how much work remains on the bill prior to reaching final passage. In the meantime, and under the consent agreement, we will begin consideration of the appropriations bill at 3 p.m. on Monday. As announced last night, there will be a vote on Monday evening at approximately 5:15. That vote will likely be on a district judge, although it is possible that additional votes will occur on amendments to the supplemental at that time.

I will have further announcements on the Monday schedule at the close of business today. Let me say, for all of our colleagues, turning to the supplemental appropriations bill next week means we will have a very busy week, with lots of votes and potentially one or more evening sessions.

With that, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I see my friend from Oregon here. I ask unanimous consent to speak a little bit longer than 10 minutes if that would not inconvenience him, or would he like to go?

Mr. WYDEN. That is fine with me. I am waiting for Senator SMITH. Madam President, if I could, I ask unanimous consent that after Senator ALEXANDER completes his remarks, Senator SMITH, my colleague from Oregon, and I may speak for up to 30 minutes. We may not consume all of that time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE NEW IRAQI LEADERSHIP

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I have three or four comments I want to make this morning. Most importantly, I want to say a word about the new leadership in Iraq.

In a delegation led by the Democratic leader, Senator REID of Nevada, seven of us were in Iraq, in Baghdad, about 10 days ago. We met with two of the three new leaders who have been chosen. Mr. al-Hasani, the new speaker, a Sunni, spent some time with us. We spent an hour with Dr. al-Jaafari who, just an hour ago, was named the new Prime Minister of Iraq, and who will be the most important leader we will be dealing with.

I believe our delegation was one of the first from the Senate to spend that much time with the new leader of Iraq. I want to report that I was most impressed with what we saw there. We met a man in his late fifties, who had been in exile from Iraq for a number of years because of the brutality of Saddam Hussein. He is a physician. It seems as though physicians are ascending in all sorts of different places, including in the U.S. Senate and in Iraq. He is a well-educated man and conducted our discussion in English. He showed in his presence a great deal of calm. He is not a quiet man, but he is a calm man who seems to know exactly what he believes and what he thinks.

I was taken with the fact that he began his discussion with us with about a 5-minute monolog about the brutality of Saddam Hussein. He said he was "worse than Hitler, worse than Stalin." Those were his words. He said Hussein had murdered a million people in 35 years. In his words, al-Jaafari said

"he had buried 300,000 people alive." He said that quietly, but he obviously feels that very deeply.

Second, I was most impressed with his understanding of U.S. history. We talked about the difficulty of creating a democracy and how we are expecting them to create a constitution by August. In our situation, years ago, it took us 12 years from the time of the Declaration of Independence to the time of our Constitution. Our Founders locked the news media out for 6 months while they did that. Today, we are expecting the Iraqis to come together—people of different backgrounds—and have a constitution by August, while we watch and criticize on 24/7 television everything they do.

He has a good understanding of U.S. history and, I thought, a great appreciation for democracy and freedom. He showed not only no resentment about the American presence in Iraq, he showed great gratitude for the American presence in Iraq. He wants us to stay there for a while, so that there is enough security for their constitutional government to form. He seemed very comfortable with that.

Finally, he is a brave man—brave during exile, brave today. There may be only a few thousand people in Iraq—a country the size of California with 25 million people—who are causing all the trouble, but they are making it a dangerous place to be. Even the Green Zone and the areas around it are not entirely safe.

So we have a sophisticated, English-speaking, well-educated, U.S.-history-knowing, brave man, who is the new leader of Iraq, a man who is grateful for the American presence and who is determined to help create a democracy. I congratulate the Iraqi people on the substantial achievement.

Also, Mr. al-Hasani, the new speaker, a Sunni—the new Prime Minister is a Shiite—was very impressive to us in the Senate delegation. He, as well as the Prime Minister, wore western clothing in these meetings. I say this as a fact, not as a judgment.

Mr. al-Hasani was educated in the U.S. at two major universities. He lived in Los Angeles during his exile. He created a business in Los Angeles. He went back to Iraq to help create a new democracy. He is also a sophisticated person with a strong knowledge of freedom and democracy, a strong appreciation of the United States, and he is also a brave man to be undertaking this. I congratulate the Iraqis for that.

CONSENT DECREES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I will ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article I wrote, which appeared in the Legal Times for the week of April 4, entitled "Free the People's Choice." This involves a piece of legislation that Senators PRYOR and NELSON on the other side of the aisle and Senators CORNYN and KYL on this side of the aisle and I

have introduced, which would make it possible for newly elected Governors and mayors and legislatures to do what they were elected to do and be free from outdated consent decrees their predecessors may have agreed to, and which exist with the approval of the Federal courts.

We have hundreds of outdated Federal court-approved consent decrees across America, which are running our education systems, foster care systems, Medicaid systems, and they make it impossible for democracy to flourish in the U.S., at a time when people are fighting and dying to give other people democracy in another part of the world. We have strong Democratic and Republican support in the Senate for this. In the House, I finished a meeting with the Republican whip, Roy Blunt, who with Congressman COOPER from Nashville, and all of the Democratic Congressmen from Tennessee, have introduced the same bill in the House.

This piece of legislation would put term limits on Federal court consent decrees and cause them to be more narrowly drawn and do as the Supreme Court said they should do—get these issues back into the hands of the elected officials as soon as possible.

This legislation has strong support, and I hope it will be moving through the Judiciary Committee in proper fashion. It is the No. 1 priority of the National Governors Association and National Association of Counties, and many others. We cannot expect States to control the growth of Medicaid spending if we do not allow them to make their own decisions. We need to get flexibility from our laws, and we need to get the courts to step aside and let elected officials make policy decisions.

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the LegalTimes, Apr. 4, 2005]

FREE THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

(By Lamar Alexander)

Imagine yourself the governor of a state grappling with a broken public health care system. Your goal is to cover the greatest number of people—particularly children—with the best medicine available. But costs are spiraling out of control, so you and your staff craft a reform package that balances the health care needs of low-income citizens with the fiscal realities of the state budget. The task is tough, but this is why you ran for public office.

The story should end there, or, at least, you've reached the point when you would present your plan to your fellow elected officials in the state legislature, and they take a vote—representative democracy at work. Only that's not what's happening in states around the country, whether the issue is health care or transportation or education.

Instead, the hands of governors, mayors, even school boards have been tied by costly and restrictive consent decrees handed down by federal courts, sometimes decades before. These judicial orders result from agreements brokered between public officials and plaintiffs engaged in civil court actions. Once

these decrees are set, they are very difficult to change, making reform and common-sense adjustments over time virtually impossible.

The result is what New York Law School professors Ross Sandler and David Schoenbrod call “democracy by decree”—public institutions being taken out of public control and placed in the hands of an unelected federal judiciary.

There are times when this is absolutely necessary, when state and local governments defy federal law and congressional intent. Desegregation is the best example. In the civil rights era, the judiciary had no choice but to exercise control over public institutions in order to guarantee African-Americans their constitutional rights.

While ensuring that states follow the rule of law, consent decrees can also preserve the separation of powers and uphold the ideals of federalism. Unfortunately, in many cases, they have done just the opposite.

ROADBLOCKS TO REFORM

The hypothetical I offer above mirrors what is currently happening in my home state of Tennessee. Three specific consent decrees blocked the implementation of Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen's initial Medicaid reform package, which would have preserved coverage for all 1.3 million enrollees of TennCare, the state's Medicaid program. His plan was passed overwhelmingly by the state's General Assembly and endorsed by major stakeholders in the program, from patients to providers.

But mandates set forth in these consent decrees—which far exceed federal requirements—limited the governor's policy choices and continue to drive up program costs. As a result, Bredesen was recently forced to devise a new reform strategy, which would cut 323,000 adults from the program and reduce the benefits of the remaining 396,000 adults. Citing the consent decrees, the courts are now blocking this proposal as well.

The consent decrees cover a range of health care issues. One signed by U.S. District Judge John Nixon in 1979, known as the Grier consent decree, prevents the state from placing reasonable limits or controls on prescription drugs, including the use of cheaper generics in lieu of expensive brand-name pharmaceuticals. As a result, Tennessee now spends more on TennCare's pharmacy benefit than it does on higher education.

The John B. consent decree, signed by Judge Nixon in 1998 and revised in 2001 and 2004, imposes a host of special requirements for children. From one line of federal code, the court entered a consent decree that established a requirement that Tennessee offer medical screenings to 80 percent of the state's children—a laudable public policy goal but one that should be set by the elected officials whose job it is to manage the program.

Finally, the Rosen consent decree, signed by U.S. District Judge William Haynes in 1998, prevents TennCare from limiting enrollment when a person is part of an optional Medicaid population or when a person's eligibility for the program cannot be determined. To make matters worse, on Jan. 29, 2005, Judge Haynes took his authority under that consent decree a step further: He declared that he must approve any changes to the TennCare system that would reduce enrollment. With the budget clock ticking, Tennessee's state legislators are now waiting for a U.S. district judge to give them permission to do their job.

And Tennessee isn't alone. There are consent decrees in all 50 states on issues ranging from prisons to child care. In Los Angeles, a consent decree entered in 1996 by U.S. District Judge Terry Hatter Jr. has forced the Metropolitan Transit Authority to spend 47

percent of its budget on city buses, leaving just over half of the budget to pay for the rest of the transportation needs of the nation's second-largest city.

In New York, a 1974 consent decree entered by U.S. District Judge Marvin Frankel has been mandating bilingual education for more than 30 years. The result is that public schools, which should be vibrant, learning, changing institutions, have no choice but to force students into outdated bilingual programs, even over the objections of their parents.

A BETTER SOLUTION

The solution to the problem of democracy by decree is a balanced system that protects the rights of individuals to hold state and local governments accountable in court, while preserving our democratic process through narrowly drawn agreements that respect elected officials' public policy choices. These goals are not incompatible. Last month, I introduced the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act, bipartisan legislation that does both by establishing new principles and procedures for establishing, managing, and, ultimately, terminating court supervision.

The bill takes a three-pronged approach: First, it lays out a series of findings to guide the federal courts in approving future consent decrees. These findings give congressional endorsement to the Supreme Court's call for limiting decrees, as it did in *Frew v. Hawkins* in 2004. The findings also advocate the entry of consent decrees that take into account the interests of state and local governments and give due deference to their policy choices. And they make it clear that consent decrees should contain explicit and realistic strategies for ending court supervision.

Second, the bill places “term limits” on decrees, giving states and localities the opportunity to revisit them after the earlier of four years or the expiration of the term of the highest elected official who consents to the agreement. These time frames give consent decrees an opportunity to succeed, while not tying the hands of newly elected officials. They also prevent outgoing officials from agreeing to consent decrees as a way to lock in their successors to policies those successors would not normally support.

Finally, this legislation shifts the burden of proof from state and local governments to the plaintiffs in the case for purposes of the motion to vacate or modify the decree. Currently, a consent decree can be vacated or modified only following a showing by the defendant state or local government that circumstances have so significantly changed as to render the decree unworkable. The practical effect is that they must prove a negative—that the decree is no longer necessary. Yet if the purpose of the original agreement was to protect the plaintiff, it's logical that the plaintiff should demonstrate whether continued protection is justified.

RESPECTING DEMOCRACY

The goal of the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act is to ensure that when a federal right is no longer threatened, a consent decree meant to protect that right can be expeditiously ended. When the purpose of the decree has been met, or circumstances have significantly changed, or later officials propose new and improved solutions to a problem, there needs to be a better way to remove the strictures of a consent decree.

The Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act would not impact the court's jurisdiction. It wouldn't eliminate consent decrees or even nullify existing ones. And it exempts desegregation cases. The bill merely creates a new judicial procedure that allows state and local governments to request a review of the consent decree under a shifted burden of proof.

The intent here is not to diminish the role of the federal courts. Consent decrees are important tools of federalism because they ensure that no government is above the law. From a practical perspective, they save enormous court costs and prevent damaging legal battles.

Rather, the goal is to level the playing field for state and local governments. There is no democracy when federal courts run police departments, school districts, foster care programs, and state insurance programs. Judges are not public policy experts, and they are not accountable to the electorate for the choices they make.

While the Supreme Court upheld the consent decree in *Frew*, its opinion captured the problem: “If not limited to reasonable and necessary implementations of federal law, remedies outlined in consent decrees involving state officeholders may improperly deprive future officials of their designated and executive powers. They may also lead to federal court oversight of state programs for long periods of time even absent an ongoing violation of federal law.”

The *Frew* Court rightly focused on the encroachment of federal power over state and local governments. Our nation's founders envisioned a dynamic but separate relationship between the federal government and the states, and among the three branches of government. The 10th Amendment is clear in its delineation of responsibility: “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”

And while The Federalist No. 48 sets forth the idea that some connection between the two levels of government is necessary, its writer, James Madison, issues a clear warning: “It is equally evident that neither of them ought to possess directly or indirectly, an overruling influence over the others in the administration of their respective powers.”

Consent decrees have, unfortunately, evolved into a mechanism for the federal judiciary to exercise “an overruling influence” on many state and local governments. Reform is desperately needed to fix this broken system. Democracy by decree is no democracy at all.

PRaising THE HOUSE PAGE SCHOOL

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I would like to now praise the pages. I could say good words about the Senate pages and I will. I wanted to especially praise the House page school—and I hope the Senate pages will excuse me for doing that.

Madam President, my good friend, Alex Haley, the author of “*Roots*,” used to say, “Find the good and praise it.” Those words are engraved on his tombstone. When he wrote the story of Kunta Kinte, he minced no words in describing the terrible injustices his ancestors overcame, but he also acknowledged their courage and perseverance.

Since I joined this body, I have made improving the teaching of American history one of my top priorities. I have noted some deeply disturbing statistics about students' knowledge of our past. For example, of all the subjects tested by the National Assessment for Education Progress, also known as our Nation's report card, American history is our children's worst subject.

But today I am here to follow Alex Haley's advice to find the good and praise it. When it comes to teaching American history, some of the best news can be found right here on Capitol Hill.

On January 25, the College Board announced that the House page school ranked first in the Nation among institutions with fewer than 500 pupils for the percentage of the student body who achieve college-level mastery on the advanced placement exam in U.S. history. Twenty-one students, or about one-third of the school's student body, took the exam, and 18 received the required score of 3 or above to demonstrate mastery of the subject.

A number of Senate pages also take the AP U.S. history exam. Madam President, 12 students in the current class of 29 in the Senate page school will take 22 different AP exams this year. Eleven will take the U.S. history exam. But results for the Senate pages are not collectively known in the same way we know them in the House, and that is because the Senate Page School is only half the size of the House school. Senate pages register for the exam under their home high school name, rather than as a student at the page school. But based on what she hears from students, Principal Kathryn Weeden believes Senate pages score very well, but no complete tabulation of scores is available, as is with the House.

House pages attend classes in the attic of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. They are perched atop one of the largest collections of historical documents about our country. But location alone cannot account for their great success. The House Page School puts a strong emphasis on social studies and American history.

Students take American history with Sebastian Hobson and Ron Weitzel, a House Page School teacher of 21 years who will retire this year. Surely, much of the credit belongs to Mr. Hobson and Mr. Weitzel. But students also find a focus on American history in their work with other teachers. On Saturdays, students participate in the Washington Seminar, a program that explores American Government and history here in the District of Columbia.

Math teacher Barbara Bowen, who is something of an expert on Presidents Jefferson and Washington, takes students to Monticello and Mount Vernon.

Computer and technology teacher Darryl Gonzalez takes students to Fort McHenry and the American History Museum.

Science teacher Walt Cuirle includes the history of U.S. energy policy when he teaches his class on energy. Mr. Cuirle also takes students to Philadelphia for the Benjamin Franklin portion of the school's Washington seminar.

Most students take English teacher Lona Klein's course on American literature, which has to include history as they read literature from the Puritans, the Enlightenment, and the slave

rebellions. She also leads a field trip to Annapolis to see the State house and the Naval Academy.

Principal Linda Miranda has made the teaching of American history a priority at the House Page School, and it shows. It is no wonder the school has received this recognition from the College Board, which administers the advanced placement exams across the country. Ms. Miranda credits the outstanding quality of the students who are selected as House pages and her faculty, whom she calls "Renaissance men and women."

There is no question this has been a team effort at the House Page School, but I know good leadership starts at the top. So I salute Linda Miranda, her faculty, and the students at the House Page School. I hope their success may be an example to schools across the country as to how we can restore the teaching of American history to its rightful place in our schools so our children grow up learning what it means to be an American.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

BIPARTISAN AGENDA FOR OREGON

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, there has been a tumultuous start to this session of Congress with often acrimonious debate about judges, budget, and the tragic situation involving Terri Schiavo and her family. But I rise this morning with my friend and colleague, Senator GORDON SMITH, to speak not of division but of bipartisanship and of the hopes we share for our home State of Oregon and for our country.

This morning marks the fifth time Senator SMITH and I have unveiled what we call our bipartisan agenda for our home State. It has been our privilege and our pleasure at the beginning of each Congress to travel together around Oregon to listen to our fellow Oregonians and to find common ground on issues that matter to our citizens around their dining room tables and in their kitchens.

We suspect that what we hear in our joint townhall meetings is what other Members of the Senate hear as well. Oregonians, and all Americans, now struggle with health care—families and farmers and business owners and health care providers. Oregonians and all Americans are struggling to make ends meet in this economy, and this means workers and employers. Oregonians and all Americans want opportunities—educational opportunities, job opportunities, opportunities so their children have better lives.

Oregon has two U.S. Senators—a Democrat and a Republican—but we realize that for the most part, our citizens are not interested first in Republican solutions or Democratic solutions; they want solutions that work for Oregon and for our country. They want ideas, and they get frustrated

when they see political figures letting petty and partisan differences get in the way of their interests.

In the bipartisan agenda for Oregon in the 109th Congress, we are seeking to expand a number of our shared legislative goals to seek good for our fellow Americans. I was especially pleased to join Senator SMITH as a member of the Senate Finance Committee this year. The committee oversees vital areas of policy, including health care, technology tax, trade policy, and many of the items on our agenda fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee.

We are also, in this agenda, working to expand our reach not only for Oregonians but for all Americans by working to tackle one of the most important and difficult issues in American health care, and that is providing catastrophic health care coverage so that our citizens do not have to go to bed at night fearing they are going to get wiped out by medical costs. This is a matter about which Democrats and Republicans have been talking for years, and there have been good Democratic and Republican ideas about catastrophic coverage for years. The fact is that if you own a hardware store in Alaska, Oregon, Iowa, or Florida, and you have five or six people and one of them gets sick, everybody gets wiped out in terms of their medical bills.

Senator SMITH and I believe we can develop a plan that will bring this Congress together, give us the opportunity to pass catastrophic health care legislation to be enacted and the President can sign into law.

So ours is a bipartisan agenda for Oregon, but it is also an invitation on the part of the two of us to contribute ideas and good will on issues where we have struck common bipartisan ground.

Our intention for a few minutes this morning is to speak on a number of these items—in effect, one of us speaking for both of us. I am very pleased to yield to my good friend and colleague, Senator SMITH, and to thank him for all of the opportunities to work with him, particularly for his willingness to consistently meet me more than half way in our efforts to try to work for our State. I thank Senator SMITH.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I thank my colleague.

It seems only yesterday but it was over 8 years ago that Senator WYDEN and I engaged in a very hotly contested race for the seat of Bob Packwood, formerly the seat of Wayne Morse. I believe he was called "the tiger of the Senate," a man for whom Senator WYDEN had worked earlier in his college years.

Ours was a campaign that Oregonians will not soon forget because it was so hard fought. It was a special election. RON WYDEN won that race, and I narrowly lost that race. Yet, through a matter of circumstances, it was possible for me to continue running for

the seat of Mark Hatfield with his announced retirement. So a few months later, I was elected to the U.S. Senate to the Hatfield seat, the McNary seat, the Baker seat. I think it was a question on every Oregonian's mind and certainly in the press whether RON WYDEN and I could work together in any fashion because of the difficulty of the race we had run.

What I did the morning after my victory was to call RON WYDEN and invite him to breakfast. No sooner had the orange juice been poured than it was very apparent to both of us that we were similar in nature in terms of our desire to do right by the State of Oregon. And while we would come at two issues from different political perspectives, we quickly recognized that on the matter of one's State, there was a community of interest, indeed, an incredible resource, and if we could find a way to put partisanship aside when it came to the borders of Oregon, we could find many areas where together, as a Republican and a Democrat, we could serve the interests of our Nation but particularly the interests of Oregon.

Senator WYDEN is the most senior elected Democrat, and I am the most senior elected Republican in our State. We understand that to our parties, we owe loyalty on nearly all procedural votes, we owe to our parties support of our nominees, but to each other we owe respect, and we have found that easy to come by. So after once being competitors, we found ourselves colleagues.

In the course of 9 years, we have found a very rich friendship. We do not editorialize on one another's votes. We try to support in every way we can the initiatives of the other. And we have found that the winner is not just our friendship but, much more importantly, the people we serve in the great State of Oregon.

What we do today is announce yet another bipartisan agenda, this one for the 109th Congress, a list of items that are specific, some general, but embark us on an agenda which we think will leave our State better when this Congress goes to sine die.

The common ground we have found in some cases is not on difficult issues, but it includes supporting communities, families, and children. Much work needs to be done to confront Oregon's methamphetamine agenda, including passing the Combating Meth Act and pursuing full funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program.

We will help improve access to higher education by keeping 529 higher education savings tax free.

We will find new ways to alleviate hunger and the causes of hunger for Oregon's economically vulnerable citizens.

A major part of our agenda is aimed at ensuring economic stability and growth. This includes defending Oregon timber producers from unfair trade practices and pressing the administration to work diligently for a new soft

wood agreement with our neighbor, the nation of Canada.

We will support our ports so they can remain vibrant. We need to maintain funding for Oregon's smaller ports and work to ensure that the port of Portland's competitiveness in the future is ensured by dredging the Columbia River channel.

Our agenda includes promoting renewable energy and furthering Oregon's status as the premier State for the development of renewable resources through tax and energy legislation.

We will work with our colleagues in the House and the Senate to protect the county payments legislation that brings over \$200 million to Oregon counties annually. This is a program that was started with our effort to help vulnerable rural places that have lost timber receipts to have sufficient resources so that their schools can remain open, their streets can remain paved, and their neighborhoods can remain safe.

We will also work with the understanding that a strong economy depends upon affordable power rates. We will stand up against any attempts to force BPA to sell its power at market-based rates or restrict its access to capital for infrastructure investments.

Before I yield to Senator WYDEN, I note for our friends in the media that one of the most significant issues Senator WYDEN has already highlighted on our agenda is our effort to provide for catastrophic insurance. On the issue of health care, our Nation faces a crisis. Certainly the people of Oregon do. I have always believed that in America, and certainly in Oregon, the loss of one's health should not mean the loss of one's home. So what we are going to do together on the Finance Committee is pursue an agenda whereby people in America will have the ability to have in emergency situations health care for catastrophic illnesses so their families are not left destitute and their heirs are not left bankrupted.

I yield now to my colleague, Senator WYDEN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the Senator has summed it up very well. I pick up on his comments with respect to health care. As my friend knows, this has always been my first love, going back to my days with the Gray Panthers. I have been especially proud that Oregon has been a leader in this area, first essentially in home health care, using dollars that could have gone for institutional care for home care, or the Oregon health plan, which began the debate about tough choices.

I particularly want to note with Senator SMITH on the floor this morning that Oregon again is in a position of leading on health care, and that is because my friend and colleague, through an extraordinary effort, has been able to send a message across this country that those on Medicaid, the most vul-

nerable people in our society, people who always walk an economic tight-rope, balancing their food costs against their fuel costs and their fuel costs against their medical bills—because of Senator SMITH's efforts during the budget, there is an opportunity now to renew the protections those vulnerable people have.

He and I agree completely that there are opportunities to promote reforms in Medicaid and we are committed to that, but because of Senator SMITH's effort we are not going to put budget cuts ahead of reforms. So as we go to this discussion about health care, I particularly want to commend my colleague because his leadership on Medicaid is part of the long tradition of Oregon being first in terms of making judgments about health care. I am proud to be able to assist in his efforts.

My colleagues will see that the Medicaid reform commission Senator SMITH envisions and other reforms we have worked on are a big part of our effort.

With respect to catastrophic care, what is so striking about this debate is that experts have known what to do about this issue for years. One can get an awful lot of protection for a relatively small amount of dollars. For example, on any given day in our country, if somebody gets sick in a small business, it essentially blows the whole premium structure for everybody. If just one of the employees, where there is a little store of five or six people, gets sick, then rates skyrocket for everyone.

What Senator SMITH and I are going to do in our catastrophic care bill is spread the risk, look to a way, for example, where Government might pick up a bit of that risk. Democrats have proposed it. Republicans have proposed it. Once there is that kind of risk spreading, instead of what happens now when one person gets sick and everybody pays higher bills, Government picks up a bit of that risk and the costs go down for everybody.

The two of us are on the Senate Finance Committee and we are going to do everything we can to try to bring the committee and the Senate together around these ideas.

Members of both political parties have had good ideas on this for literally a couple of decades. I remember talking about catastrophic care when I had a full head of hair, and we should have done it then. Senator SMITH and I are going to try to tackle it. We will also look at some other issues that have great implications for our State but also for our country overall. One of them involves equity for health care providers.

Today, at a time when we have this demographic revolution, and we are going to have so many more older people, one would think the Federal Government would try to reward providers for doing the right thing, offering good quality care and holding costs down. Instead, the Federal Government sends

the opposite message. The Federal Government basically says to Oregon and to other States that are doing a good job, well, tough luck, folks. Instead of rewarding you, we are going to actually stick it to you. We are going to penalize you and limit your reimbursement in spite of the fact that you provide higher quality, more efficient health care.

We are going to try to change that reimbursement system. It will obviously help our State, but I would submit, if one looks at the challenges for Medicare, the head of the General Accounting Office, David Walker, has said Medicare is seven times as great a challenge as is Social Security. And we cannot afford not to have the Smith-Wyden reforms with respect to reimbursement for health care providers. I am very hopeful we will be able to win support in the Finance Committee and in the Senate for those reimbursement changes as well. They make sense for our State, but they are absolutely critical for our country as well.

In addition to health care, which will be a prime focus of our work, Senator SMITH and I want to make sure we promote the use of innovative technologies, making sure that they are accessible and affordable so as to capture the opportunity to use technology to grow incomes and strengthen our economy. Depreciation will be a topic we will focus on because right now businesses that need new technologies to keep up in tough global markets take a big tax hit if they change their equipment as frequently as they need to in order to keep up with the competition.

We intend to work together on the Finance Committee to change tax laws and be able to accelerate the depreciation of equipment and end the penalties our businesses pay for staying on the cutting edge of our economy.

We also intend to promote nanotechnology to continue to work to make Oregon a national leader in the new small science. Americans are not completely sure what this field is all about. A woman came up to me in a small store in Oregon recently and said: RON, I do not know what this nanology is, but I am glad you are working on it.

The science of small stuff is going to be the wave of the future, and unprecedented collaboration between the public and private sectors has made Oregon one of America's leading microtechnology and nanotechnology centers.

Senator SMITH and I joined to be part of an effort in the Senate to provide billions of dollars for nanotechnology that would create regional centers in this exciting field, and we intend to work to make certain that those efforts receive the Federal attention and credit they deserve.

We will also work to build out broadband and the telecommunications technologies. We intend to work again in the Finance Committee to create appropriate tax incentives that will en-

sure broadband gets to the four corners of our State, and, of course, to pick up on our theme that what we are doing makes sense for Oregon and for our country.

I submit that the Smith-Wyden effort, as it relates to broadband, technology, and the Web, will be of great benefit to Alaska as well. We are fortunate to have had a good relationship with Senator STEVENS as well who chairs the Senate Commerce Committee.

The last point I make with respect to technology is as we try to bring all of those folks on to the Web and to be part of our Web-based economy, we should not hit them with a variety of new taxes. The bipartisan Internet tax Freedom Act makes it illegal to level double taxes or discriminatory taxes when one surfs the Web or makes Internet purchases. The two of us will be working on our committees, both the Commerce Committee and the Finance Committee, to make the Internet tax moratorium permanent to preserve Web access and Web commerce for the future.

We want to work together with our colleagues, and we have come today to say we want to promote smart solutions, the kind Oregonians and Americans should expect from the Senate.

I will yield back to Senator SMITH so he can close out our joint presentation, and in yielding tell him that in addition to what we are trying to do for our State and the impact I think our ideas will have for the country in a variety of these areas, technology and health care and the issues we have mentioned, I hope what we are doing in the Senate today will be infectious and will cause other Senators to join in these kinds of efforts.

Very often colleagues have come up to Senator SMITH and me and sort of said, what is in the water out there? What are you guys doing? I have never heard of this. We always respond, try it, you will like it. It is not going to be painful.

I see our friend from Oklahoma, Senator INHOFE, who has always been very kind to me in working on infrastructure and other issues, and I will say that in an acrimonious time, when there are certainly divisions, let us try to find every possible way to come together. We realize it is not always possible to do it, but what is exciting about America is we debate issues in a vigorous way. Certainly Senator SMITH and I do not agree on everything under the Sun, but we certainly agree on a lot of critical matters. Even if we do not, we talk about them in a way that we think is respectful and promotes to our citizens the reality that debate can be thoughtful, it can be contemplative, and it does not always have to be about scorched earth kind of politics. I am very pleased that Senator SMITH will conclude for both of us in our joint presentation. I thank him again for all of his efforts to work with me.

When I had a chance to come to the Congress, and Senator JIM INHOFE and I

were then Members of the House, I dreamed of having this kind of opportunity to work in a bipartisan way in representing our State, and I thank my colleague for doing so much to make that possible.

I yield to him to wrap up not just on behalf of himself but to wrap up on behalf of both of us.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I thank the Senator.

I think he said it well. So much can be accomplished if colleagues will focus on the possible instead of the polemic. When we do that, we find that the people's business is moved forward in a positive way and our Nation makes progress.

I conclude with these words: I do not know how long Oregonians will grant me the honor of representing them in the Senate, but I do know for as long as I am in this Chamber and for as long as Senator WYDEN is my colleague, we will continue to look for ways to move beyond partisanship and to continue our partnership for Oregon.

We yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Let me inquire as to what is the regular order?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senators are permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes in morning business.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak for up to 20 minutes as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOUR PILLARS OF CLIMATE ALARMISM

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I am returning to the floor, as I have many times in the last few years, to further address what I have considered to be probably the greatest single hoax ever perpetrated on the American people, and that is this thing called global warming. As I noted in my last speech, there is a perception, especially among the media and the environmental elitists, that the scientific community has reached a consensus on global warming. As Sir David King, the chief science adviser to the British Government, recently said:

There is a very clear consensus from the scientific community on the problems of global warming and our use of fossil fuels.

Those problems amount to rising sea levels, floods, tsunamis, droughts, hurricanes, disease, and mass extinction of species—all caused by the ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions. The alarmists confidently assert that most scientists agree with this, and they vehemently dispute claims of uncertainty about whether catastrophes will occur.

It is interesting that most of the people who are talking about gloom and

doom on global warming are the same ones, just a few years ago, in the 1970s, who were talking about global cooling, saying that a little ice age is coming and we are all going to die. But today, to question the science of catastrophic global warming is considered illegitimate. Consider Dr. Daomi Oreskes, who wrote in the Washington Post last December:

We need to stop repeating nonsense about the uncertainty of global warming and start talking seriously about the right approach to address it.

Global warming, then, is no longer an issue for scientific debate. It appears to have soared into the realm of metaphysics, reaching the status of revealed truth.

Madam President, this is absurd. Since 1999, almost all scientific data has shown that this whole thing is, in fact, a hoax. More than 17,000 scientists have signed the Oregon Petition—ironically, after listening to the two Senators from Oregon who had excellent presentations—stating that fears of catastrophic global warming are groundless. These and other scientists who do not subscribe to the so-called consensus are condemned as skeptics and tools of industry. Now, in order to avoid professional excommunication, one must subscribe to the four principal beliefs underlying the alarmist consensus. I am going to call these the four pillars of climate alarmism, all of which, it is said, provide unequivocal support for that consensus view.

What I am going to do is talk about all four pillars, but mainly only one today, and then wait a week and let that soak in and then maybe come back and talk about the other three. The four pillars are as follows: The 2001 National Academy of Sciences report summarizing the latest science of climate change, requested by the Bush administration. Pillar No. 2, which we will be talking about later, is the scientific work of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the IPCC—we have heard a lot about that, most especially its Third Assessment Report, released in 2001. The third pillar is the recent report of the international Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. No. 4 is the data produced by climate models.

I will show over the next several weeks that none of these pillars support the consensus view. Today I will begin my four pillars series with the NAS.

Before I delve into the NAS report, some historical CBO context is in order.

Back in 2001 the Kyoto Treaty was on the verge of collapse. President Bush announced his rejection of the Kyoto Treaty, calling it “fatally flawed in fundamental ways.” Our friends in Europe expressed outrage, even shock, though it was never in doubt where the United States stood. We have not changed our position.

In 1997, here on the floor of the Senate, we passed by a vote of 95 to noth-

ing the Byrd-Hagel resolution. Primarily, the Byrd-Hagel resolution said if you come back from Kyoto with something that treats developing nations differently from developed nations, then we will reject it, we will not ratify it. Of course, that is exactly what happened. So we are supposed to do all these things, but not China and not Mexico, not the other countries—yet that passed 95 to nothing. There was not one dissenting vote.

On June 11, 2001, President Bush delivered a speech detailing Kyoto's flaws. He also provided an overview of the current state of climate science as described in a report, which he requested, by the National Academy of Science. Although the report offered very modest conclusions about the state of climate science, as described in a report, which he requested, by the National Academy of Sciences. Though the report offered very modest conclusions about the state of climate science, alarmists repeatedly invoke it as ironclad proof of their consensus. So let's take a closer look at what the NAS had to say.

The 2001 NAS report was wide-ranging and generally informative about the state of climate science. It stated that, “Because there is considerable uncertainty in current understanding of how the climate system varies naturally and reacts to emissions of greenhouse gases and aerosols, current estimates of the magnitude of future warming should be regarded as tentative and subject to future adjustments (either upward or downward).”

Let me repeat that: “Considerable uncertainty in current understanding.” “Estimates should be regarded as tentative and subject to future adjustments.” Does this sound like solid support for the consensus view? Surely there must be more. Well, in fact there is.

Under the headline “The Effect of Human Activities,” the NAS addressed the potential impact of anthropogenic emissions on the climate system. Here's what it said:

Because of the large and still uncertain level of natural variability inherent in the climate record and the uncertainties in the time histories of various forcing agents (and particularly aerosols), a causal linkage between the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the observed climate changes in the 20th century cannot be unequivocally established.

Again, that's worth repeating:

Because of the large and still uncertain level of natural variability . . . [u]ncertainties in the time histories of various forcing agents . . . cannot be unequivocally established.

I read numerous press accounts of the NAS report, yet I failed to come across reporting of this quote. Is this what the consensus peddlers have in mind when they assert that everything is “settled”?

The NAS also addressed the relationship between climate change and aerosols, which are particles from processes such as dust storms, forest fires,

the use of fossil fuels, and volcanic eruptions. To be sure, there is limited knowledge of how aerosols influence the climate system. This, said the NAS, represents “a large source of uncertainty about future climate change.”

By any conceivable standard, this and other statements made by NAS cannot possibly be considered unequivocal affirmations that man-made global warming is a threat, or that man-made emissions are the sole or most important factor driving climate change. It certainly cannot provide the basis for the United States Congress to adopt economically harmful reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

It would be a grand folly to do that, especially considering what the NAS had to say about global climate models. The NAS believes much of the uncertainty about climate change stems from those models, which researchers rely on to make projections about future climate changes. These models, as the NAS wrote, contain serious technological limitations that cast doubt on their ability to simulate the climate system:

[the models] simulation skill is limited by uncertainties in their formulation, the limited size of their calculations, and the difficulty of interpreting their answers that exhibit as much complexity as in nature.”

Model projections, as the NAS pointed out, rest on a raft of uncertain assumptions.

Projecting future climate change first requires projecting the fossil-fuel and land-use sources of CO₂ and other gases and aerosols, the NAS found. “However, there are large uncertainties”—please note the phrasing again, “large uncertainties”—in underlying assumption about population growth, economic development, life style choices, technological change and energy alternatives, so that it is useful to examine scenarios developed from multiple perspectives in considering strategies for dealing with climate change.

For this reason, simulations produced by climate models provide insufficient proof of an absolute link between anthropogenic emissions and global warming.

The fact that the magnitude of the observed warming is large in comparison to natural variability as simulated in climate models is suggestive of such a linkage, [according to NAS] but it does not constitute proof of one because the model simulations could be deficient in natural variability on the decadal to century time scale.

That last point demands further elaboration and emphasis. The NAS thinks climate models could be off by as much as a decade, or perhaps 100 years. Why is this important? Global climate models constitute one of the Four Pillars. Alarmists frequently point to computer-generated simulations showing dramatic, even scary, pictures of what might happen decades from now: more floods, more hurricanes, more droughts, the Gulf Stream shutting down. In many cases, the media eagerly report what these models produce as pure fact, with little or

no explanation of their considerable limitations.

The NAS also addressed the work of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, another of the Four Pillars. The IPCC's 2001 Third Assessment Report, particularly its Summary for Policymakers, is frequently cited as proof of the consensus view. But the NAS disagrees. "The IPCC Summary for Policymakers," the NAS wrote,

could give an impression that the science of global warming is settled, even though many uncertainties still remain.

Here again, the NAS is saying the science is not settled.

The NAS also addressed the IPCC's future climate scenarios. These scenarios are the basis for the IPCC's projection that temperatures could increase to between 2.7 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100. The NAS said:

The IPCC scenarios cover a broad range of assumptions about future economic and technological development, including some that allow greenhouse gas emission reductions. However, there are large uncertainties in underlying assumptions about population growth, life style choices, technological change, and energy alternatives.

Once again, the NAS says "there are large uncertainties in underlying assumptions."

The same is true, the NAS said, about future projections of CO₂ emissions. As the NAS stated:

Scenarios for future greenhouse gas amounts, especially for CO₂ and CO₄, are a major source of uncertainty for projections of future climate.

To bolster the point, the NAS found that actual CO₂ emissions contradicted the IPCC, stating that:

The increase of global fossil fuel CO₂ emissions in the past decade, averaging 0.6% per year, has fallen below the IPCC scenarios.

There are those troublesome words again: "Large uncertainties in underlying assumptions." "Major source of uncertainty."

The NAS also expressed clear reservations about the relationship between carbon dioxide emissions and how they interact with land and the atmosphere:

How much of the carbon from future use of fossil fuels will be seen as increases in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will depend on what fractions are taken up by land and by the oceans. The exchanges with land occur on various time scales, out to centuries for soil decomposition in high latitudes, and they are sensitive to climate change. Their projection into the future is highly problematic.

Let me offer one final quote from the study before I turn to the media. Taking stock of the many scientific uncertainties highlighted in the report, the NAS issued explicit advice to guide climate research—advice, by the way, that alarmists reject:

The most valuable contribution U.S. scientists can make is to continually question basic assumptions and conclusions, promote clear and careful appraisal and presentation of the uncertainties about climate change as well as those areas in which science is lead-

ing to robust conclusions, and work toward a significant improvement in the ability to project the future.

I am concerned about the media. I will talk about that in a minute.

People are trying to say that the release of CO₂ is the cause of climate change. These people have to understand that historically it doesn't work out that way. We went into a time right after World War II when we had an 85-percent increase in CO₂ emissions. What happened there was that precipitated not a warming period but a cooling period. Again, that is too logical for some of the alarmists to understand. They want so badly to feel a crisis is upon us.

It is kind of interesting. There is a well-known author, Michael Crichton, who wrote a book, "State of Fear." I recommend that everyone read that. He is a scientist and a medical doctor who wrote this about how horrible things could happen with global warming. After he researched it, he came to the conclusion that it is a hoax. I recommend everyone read that book. It is very revealing. It is very accurate in the way the media and Hollywood are treating things.

It's not surprising that the media distorted and exaggerated the NAS report. The public was told that the NAS categorically accepted that carbon dioxide emissions were the overwhelming factor causing global warming, and that urgent action was needed. One factually challenged CNN reporter said the NAS study represented "a unanimous decision that global warming is real, is getting worse, and is due to man. There is no wiggle room." The New York Times opined that the report reaffirmed "the threat of global warming, declaring fearlessly that human activity is largely responsible for it." Of course, as the preceding quotes from the report show, this is not true.

This is the report we are talking about with all of the qualifications they have. Of course, the proceedings from this report show it is not true. It is an outrageous lie.

Unfortunately, the media wasn't burdened with any actual knowledge of the report. Rather, it seized on a sentence fragment from the report's summary, and then jumped to conclusions that, to be charitable, cannot be squared with the full report. That fragment from the summary reads as follows: "Temperatures are, in fact, rising. The changes observed over the last several decades are likely mostly due to human activities. . ." There's the smoking gun, we were told then and even now, proving a global warming consensus.

However, the second part of the sentence, along with much else in the report, was simply ignored. The second part of the sentence reads: "We cannot rule out that some significant part of these changes is also a reflection of natural variability."

And as we have seen, it is amazing how one could conclude that the NAS

"left no wiggle room" that "global warming is due to man." Dr. Richard Lindzen, a professor of meteorology at MIT, and a member of the NAS panel that produced the report, expressed his astonishment in an editorial in the Wall Street Journal on June 11, 2001. Dr. Lindzen wrote that the NAS report showed "there is no consensus, unanimous or otherwise, about long-term climate trends and what causes them." Yet to this day, the media continues to report exactly the opposite.

As I noted earlier, raising uncertainties or questioning basic assertions about global warming is considered "nonsense." I wonder if the same applies to the NAS. For on just about every page of the 2001 report, the NAS did exactly that.

But for the alarmists, global warming has nothing to do with science or scientific inquiry. Science is not about the inquiry to discover truth, but a mask to achieve an ideological agenda. For some, this issue has become a secular religion, pure and simple.

Dr. Richard Lindzen has written eloquently and powerfully on this point, so I will end with his words: "Science, in the public arena, is commonly used as a source of authority with which to bludgeon political opponents and propagandize uninformed citizens. This is what has been done with both the reports of the IPCC and the NAS. It is a reprehensible practice that corrodes our ability to make rational decisions. A fairer view of the science will show that there is still a vast amount of uncertainty—far more than advocates of Kyoto would like to acknowledge—and that the NAS report has hardly ended the debate. Nor was it meant to."

This is Dr. Lindzen. No one will question his credibility and his background.

We know the economic damage that will be done to America. We have all talked about the report on the economics survey. That survey showed how much energy would increase, should we have to comply with the Kyoto Treaty. It shows it would cost the average American family of four \$2,175 a year. So we know how expensive that is. That is all documented.

You might say, Wait a minute. If this is true, if the science is not established and there is that much economic damage to the United States, why are we doing this? I think the answer to that could be given from quoting two individuals. One is not exactly an American hero, Jacques Chirac from France, who said:

Kyoto represents the first component of an authentic governance.

Then some of you may have heard of Margo Wallstrom, the Environmental Minister of the European Union. She said:

Global warming is not about climate. It is about leveling the economic playing field worldwide.

I hope the first pillar has been discredited, and next week we will start with pillar No. 2 in hopes that we can have a wake-up call for the American

people—that these same alarmists who were concerned about global cooling two decades ago will quit worrying so much about their own agenda and start looking at the science.

I feel an obligation as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee to look at the science. Certainly the Presiding Officer is a valued member of that committee. We have a commitment to look at sound science, as unpopular as it may be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEMINT). The Senator from Missouri.

MR. BOND. Mr. President, I was pleased to hear the thought-provoking comments of the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. I thank him much for the work he has done there. Some of the things he said reminded me of an analogy to a totally different situation. When somebody was misusing some scientific facts, the comment was, They used the facts like a drunk uses a light post—for support rather than for illumination.

But I look forward to reading the book “State of Fear” by Dr. Crichton.

We appreciate the ongoing discussions that we will have.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced, along with Senators INHOFE, VITTER, WARNER, VOINOVICH, ISAKSON, THUNE, MURKOWSKI, OBAMA, LANDRIEU, GRASSLEY, HARKIN, TALENT, CORNYN, COCHRAN, DOMENICI and COLEMAN, the 2005 Water Resources Development Act, S. 728.

The programs administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are invaluable to this Nation. They provide drinking water, electric power production, river transportation, environmental protection and restoration, protection from floods, emergency response, and recreation.

Few agencies in the Federal Government touch so many citizens, and with such little recognition by many, I might add, and they do it on a relatively small budget. They provide one-quarter of our Nation's total hydropower output, operate 456 lakes in 43 States, hosting 33 percent of all freshwater lake fishing. They facilitate the movement of 630 million tons of cargo valued at over \$73 billion annually through our inland system. They manage over 12 million acres of land and water; provide 3 trillion gallons of water for use by local communities and businesses; and they have provided an estimated \$706 billion in flood damage within the past 25 years with an investment one-seventh of that value.

During the 1993 flood alone, an experience which I witnessed firsthand, an estimated \$19.1 billion in flood damage was prevented by flood control facilities in place at that time.

Our ports move over 95 percent of U.S. overseas trade by weight and 75 percent by value.

Between 1970 and 2003, the value of U.S. trade increased 24-fold, and 70 percent since 1994. That was an average annual growth rate of 10.2 percent, nearly double the pace of the gross domestic product growth during the same period.

Unfortunately, the American Society of Civil Engineers has issued a grade on our navigable waterways infrastructure. They gave it a D— with over 50 percent of the locks “functionally obsolete” despite increased demand.

Recently, a story in the Wall Street Journal warned of the current condition. It begins:

The nation's freight-bearing waterway system, plagued by age and breakdowns, is saddling the many companies that rely on the network with a growing number of supply disruptions and added costs.

While some consider it an anachronism in the age of e-commerce, the system remains vital to a broad swath of the economy, carrying everything from jet fuel and coal to salt and the wax for coating milk cartons. The network stretches 12,000 miles, mostly through the nation's vast web of rivers, and relies on a series of dams and locks, which are enormous chambers that act as elevators for moving barges from one elevation of water to another.

Much of the infrastructure was built early in the last century. It's showing the effects of time and, according to some, of neglect. Old equipment takes longer to repair, and it's more vulnerable to nature's extremes.

The bipartisan bill is one that traditionally is produced by the Congress every 2 years. However, we have not passed a WRDA bill since 2000. The longer we wait, the more unmet needs pile up, the more complicated the demands upon the bill become, making it harder and harder to win approval. For some, the bill is small; for others, it is too big; for some, the new regulations are too onerous; and for others, the new regulations are not onerous enough.

Nevertheless, I believe we have struck a balance here, largely on a bipartisan basis, that disciplines the new projects to criteria fairly applied while addressing a great number of water resource priorities.

With the new regulations, we have embraced a commonsense, bipartisan proposal by Senators LANDRIEU and COCHRAN, similar to the bipartisan House agreement that requires major projects to be subject to independent peer review, and requires, if necessary, mitigation for projects be completed at the same time the project is completed, or, in special cases, no longer than 1 year after project completion. This compromise will impose a cost on communities, particularly smaller communities, but it is not as onerous as the new regulations proposed last year which ultimately prevented a final agreement from being reached between the House and the Senate.

The commanding features of this bill are its landmark environmental and ecosystem restoration authorities. Nearly 60 percent of the bill authorizes such efforts, including environmental restoration of the Everglades, coastal

Louisiana, Chesapeake Bay, Missouri River, Long Island Sound, Salton Sea, Connecticut, the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, and others.

Additionally, we have included the previously introduced bipartisan proposal to modernize the aging locks on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, designed 70 years ago for paddlewheel boats.

We should do simply for the future what our predecessors did for the present and build the systems designed to improve our competitiveness, our standard of living, and environmental protection. It does not happen overnight and we have experienced far too much delay already. We spent 12 years and \$70 million to complete what was supposed to be a 6-year, \$25 million study.

Without a competitive transportation system, the promise of expanded trade and commercial growth is empty, job opportunities are lost, and we will be unprepared for the challenges of this new century.

A lot of people don't appreciate the fact that one medium-sized river barge tow carries the same freight as 870 trucks. That should speak pretty significantly for the efficiency and environmental protection of water transportation.

Eighty years ago, leaders in this Nation wanting to build a better tomorrow made investments in our productive capacity to help our producers ship goods and hire workers. At that time, investments were expensive and controversial. Some even said the investments were not justified. The Corps said they were not satisfied.

But Congress decided otherwise, that it was a better idea to shape the future rather than to try to make unsound predictions of the future.

Eighty million tons of annual cargo later, it is clear Congress was right in that judgment. In the last 35 years, waterborne commerce on the upper Mississippi River has tripled, but the system is not suited to this century. It is a one-lane highway in a four-lane world economy. If we fail to act, we lose and our foreign competitors win, outsourcing jobs by Government paralysis.

Last year, the United States Department of Agriculture chief economist Keith Collins predicted corn exports through the Gulf would grow 45 percent in 10 years. We asked him why he wasn't making a 50-year prediction, which was asked of that ridiculous 12-year, \$70 million study. He said nobody in their right mind could make a prediction 50 years in the future and it was taking a lot of assumptions to make a 10-year prediction. But we cannot see the exports grow, we cannot get revenue for our farmers, we cannot strengthen our rural communities and improve our balance of trade if trade is constrained by the transportation straitjacket we currently have.

A good friend of mine from Alma, MO, Neal Bredehoeft, is a soybean producer from Alma, MO, and president of the American Soybean Association. He said yesterday in St. Louis:

While U.S. farmers are fighting to maintain market share in a fiercely competitive global marketplace, our international competitors are investing in transportation infrastructure. Argentina has invested over \$650 million in their transportation systems to make their exports more competitive. Brazil is restructuring its water transportation network to reduce the cost of shipping soybeans by at least 75 percent. Due in large part to these efforts, the two countries have captured 50 percent of the total growth in world soybean sales during the past three years.

Making the necessary upgrades to improve the Mississippi and Illinois waterways would also protect jobs. Navigation on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers supports over 400,000 jobs, including 90,000 high-paying manufacturing jobs.

I appreciate the strong bipartisan support for this proposal and the support from labor, the Farm Bureau, the corn growers, soybean producers, Nature Conservancy, the diverse members of MARC 2000, and other shippers and carriers fighting to protect and build markets in an increasingly competitive marketplace while improving protection for this vital resource.

It is important that we understand the budget implications of this legislation in the real world. We are contending with difficult budget realities currently. It is critical we be mindful of these realities as we make investments in the infrastructure that supports the people in our Nation who make and grow and buy and sell things so we can make our economy grow, create jobs, and secure our future.

This is an authorization bill. It does not spend \$1. I repeat, regrettably, it does not spend \$1. It merely authorizes the spending. With the allocation provided through the budget, the Appropriations Committee and the Congress and the President will fund such projects deemed to be of the highest priority and those remaining will not be funded because the budget will not permit. Strictly speaking, this bill provides options, not commitments. I wish it were otherwise.

I thank my colleagues on the committee and their staff for the very hard work devoted to this difficult matter. I particularly thank Chairman INHOFE for his forbearance. I believe if Members work cooperatively and aim for the center and not the fringe, we can get a bill completed this year. If demands exist that the bill be away from the center, going to the fringe, imposing unreasonable restrictions, we will go another year with Congress unable to complete our work as we did last year, unable to move forward on the 60 percent of economic and environmental restoration and the 40 percent of building the infrastructure we need to strengthen our economy and make sure we remain competitive in the 21st century.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GAS PRICES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I understand the State Department bill has currently been laid aside. When it returns, I intend to offer an amendment, and I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity today to talk about it.

My amendment—we are calling it the OPEC Accountability Act—is cosponsored by Senators Durbin and Dorgan. It will bring some sanity and fairness to the world oil markets. It will help provide some relief to our citizens from soaring gas prices that punish American families, businesses, and the entire community.

My amendment will direct the U.S. Trade Representative to initiate World Trade Organization proceedings against OPEC nations. Under the rules of the WTO, countries are not permitted to set or maintain export quotas. It is illegal. But that is exactly what OPEC does. OPEC is a cartel. Everybody knows that. The whole point of the organization is to set quotas. Why set quotas? To control prices. The mission is often to have countries beholden to them outside their little orbit, and they then are able to outrageously set prices for commodities that are essential. They collude to set quotas for the export of oil, which cause gas prices to rise.

I say to people across America, if you are wondering why gas is so expensive these days, a major part of that answer is OPEC. It is an illegal cartel, plain and simple. And we have allowed this cartel to operate for too long. Now it is time to put a stop to it. Every day American families feel the effects of the OPEC cartel at the gas pump. Look at the spike in the price of gas since 2001. Gas prices have nearly doubled since 2001.

I am going to show another chart that more particularly shows the precise prices for gasoline during those periods. In December of 2001, a gallon of gas averaged in price at \$1.15. That was 2001. Today a gallon of gas averages \$2.30. That is a doubling of the price in just over 4 years. This spike in gasoline prices hurts American families.

We hear a lot of talk about tax relief for middle-income families. But whatever tax cuts they received in that middle-income family in the last 4 years are being eaten up by increased gas prices. When you look at the gas price in that period of time and compare it to the Bush tax cut, the tax cut would have been \$659. But the cost for gasoline the average family used in that year is \$780, far more than the tax cut brought home to families.

A middle-income family who uses one tank of gas a week is going to pay an extra \$780 a year because of rising gas prices eating up every penny and more that they received from the tax cut of the last 4 years.

When Americans drove up to the gas station on December 2001, this is what they saw: Regular gas \$1.06 a gallon; the supreme, the high-test gas, \$1.25 a gallon. Now after years of administration inaction, what we are looking at is regular is \$2.22 compared to \$1.06; \$2.31 compared to \$1.15 for plus gas; and \$2.40 for supreme compared to \$1.25 just over 4 years ago. It is an outrage.

One of the things that always bothers me is when I look at the forecast for inflation and I see what we are paying. I can't think of anything that is cheaper than it used to be, whether it is food, energy, or gasoline, no matter what it is. Here is the pressure. Frankly, I believe it has been administered poorly. I don't think we have tried to figure out a way to keep these costs down.

Some of these countries that are members of OPEC are totally dependent on America for their security. Yet they are willing to impair our security, our economic well-being, our job creation, our business function. They don't mind that when they have the weapon that they conveniently use against us.

Most people live on a fixed income. They can't stop driving to their job or taking the kids to school or going to the doctor's office or the grocery store. They have to pay the increased price for gas. That means they have to cut back on other things, perhaps air-conditioning or heat or a visit to the doctor or perhaps foregoing a therapy session for an injury. All of these are taken away by this outrageous increase in the cost of gasoline.

The soaring price of gas is already taking a toll on American families. If something is not done soon, it could get a lot worse. This also is rattling the prices of stocks on the stock exchange, investments, causing all kinds of dislocation there. It is led by the increasing demand for oil.

Goldman Sachs, a very well known financial firm, one of the biggest in the world, predicts that oil could reach \$105 a barrel by the end of this year. It is now in the fifties, almost double the current price. While American families suffer, I don't hear anything coming from the President, the administration, to say anything about it. As a matter of fact, during the last campaign, it was frequently suggested that if John Kerry were President, he would be raising taxes on gasoline.

What are we looking at here? However we got here, it is on the watch of the Bush administration. Here are the prices again. Now it is \$2.22 for a gallon of gas. It used to be \$1.06. That is a lot of money, particularly since the type of vehicle that is frequently driven today is a gas-consuming vehicle. It costs a lot of money now to have that car running and to take care of your family's needs.

President Bush has repeatedly said that he would talk to his Saudi friends in the oil business. Talk is cheap, but oil and gasoline isn't. The American people want action. This amendment is a call to action. We have to find a way to escape the grasp of these countries around our economic well-being and our functioning as a society.

I have released a report explaining exactly how OPEC nations are violating the rules of the WTO. This report is on my Web site. I invite my colleagues and the public to read it. The report reaches a simple and straightforward conclusion. OPEC manipulates world oil markets by imposing export quotas on oil. You hear them brag about it. These quotas keep the price of oil artificially high. Just think about it. Who is the leader? Which is the country that called on us in 1990, come help us; the Iraqis are headed our way; They want to overtake our country. And we sent 540,000 people in uniform to fight off Iraq's attempt to overtake Saudi Arabia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I didn't know there was any time limit, but I ask unanimous consent to continue for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, OPEC manipulates world oil markets with their export quotas on oil, which keeps the price artificially high.

Without OPEC, market analysts have estimated that the free market price of oil would be around \$10 to \$15 lower than today's price. So the expectation is that oil would be lower in cost by \$10 to \$15 than it is today if it wasn't for this conspiracy out there by some so-called friends and avowed enemies. That includes Iraq and former antagonist of the United States, Libya; and it includes other countries. There is no reason to continue to tolerate OPEC's anticompetitive behavior.

The administration has been lax in dealing with OPEC. In my view, President Bush's close ties to the Saudis and big oil companies have prevented him from sticking up for the American consumers.

Worse yet, high oil prices mean massive profits for countries such as Saudi Arabia and Iran—countries that frequently fund terrorism.

The administration's inaction is allowing tens of billions of dollars to flow into the hands of the mullahs in Iran—money that finds its way to Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic jihad, and other terrorist organizations that kill innocent Americans.

So while Iran, Saudi Arabia, and terrorists reap profits from OPEC's quotas, American families pay a terribly high price. It is time for us in this body to act. When the Senate returns to the State Department bill, I want to be able to see a vote taken on this

issue so that we can see whether my colleagues agree with me that the cost of gasoline is too high, the cost of heating a house is too high, the cost of running a vehicle is too high, and it robs us of revenues that could otherwise go into more useful purposes.

With that, I hope my colleagues will support the Lautenberg-Durbin-Dorgan amendment when this amendment is presented.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business for no more than 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, one of my first responsibilities when I arrived in the Senate was to recommend to the first President Bush a nominee for a district court seat. But while I was a relatively new Senator, this was in some respects a fairly easy task.

My predecessor in the Senate, Bob Stafford, had established a sound and fair process with Senator LEAHY for choosing candidates for the judiciary, which we have continued to this day with the participation of Governor Douglas, a Republican.

Vermont is a small State, but it is one with an outsized capacity for public service. Our best lawyers have been willing to accept the financial sacrifice that accompanies serving on the bench. And as a small State, I think it is fairly easy to agree on who the best candidates might be, even though you invariably pass over many very qualified individuals.

Finally, I guess I should say that I was born to it. My father, Olin Jeffords, was a judge the entire time I was growing up. In fact, he was chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court. He was widely respected, not just by his son, but by our community locally and by the legal community throughout the State. That respect was entirely unremarkable. It reflected the appreciation of the importance of an independent judiciary stocked with able and committed individuals.

My first job following the Navy and law school was as a clerk for Judge Ernest Gibson, Jr., of Vermont. Judge Gibson, a Republican, had resigned as Governor of the State of Vermont in order to accept Harry Truman's offer of nomination to the Federal bench. Judge Gibson could have followed any path in life he wanted. He returned from service in the South Pacific during World War II a hero, and with some fame stemming from having played a role in the rescue of Lieutenant John F. Kennedy and the other survivors of PT-109.

As a young boy, I idolized him and the other heroes returning from the

Pacific. To work for him years later was an incredible honor.

So having been around the judiciary all of my life, it was not especially daunting when it came time early in my Senate career to nominate an individual to the Federal district court. The late Fred I. Parker was not only the best candidate for the job, he was also a man I had hired to work with me when I served as attorney general and who had become a close friend over the years. To know Fred was to love him. Years later, when a vacancy on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals opened up, President Clinton nominated Fred to the position to which he was confirmed and served with distinction until his passing.

These three men—a father, a mentor, and a friend—would probably be the first to admit that they were more typical than exceptional of the caliber of individuals that comprise the judiciary. Fred worked hard to pay his way through school, often in the plumbing trade with his father. He was forever mindful of his father's advice that whenever he started becoming convinced of his own importance, he should stick his fist in a bucket of water to see the kind of impression he would leave.

So I take it very personally when politicians seek to score points by attacking the judiciary. These men had and have families, just like today's judges in Florida and Georgia and Illinois. The only thing we should be doing is condemning violence directed against the judiciary, not rationalizing it or implicitly encouraging it.

Of course, my colleagues will not agree with every decision made by the judiciary. My good friend Fred Parker struck down part of the Brady law that I had supported. I might have disagreed with him, but I never would have questioned his motives or integrity.

The first lesson we teach children when they enter competitive sports is to respect the referee, even if we think he might have made the wrong call. If our children can understand this, why can't our political leaders? We shouldn't be throwing rhetorical hand grenades.

Vermonters are proud of their long history of smart, independent, forward-thinking judges. These men and women have shown the true spirit of the judiciary and upheld the law and Constitution, even if it was against what was the popular will at the time. This is what the judiciary was designed to be, a check and balance against the executive and legislative branches.

Our Founding Fathers were concerned that the legislative and executive branches of our Government could be too swayed by public opinion and not uphold the rights of Americans because of political pressure. The judiciary was designed to be independent and make sure that the law and the Constitution were followed even if it went against public opinion.

I am also concerned with the threat of the majority to take what is the so-

called nuclear option. Our form of government is founded on a system of checks and balances, which serves to protect the rights of all individuals. The right in the Senate to unlimited debate is an important part of our system of checks and balances and ensures that on important, critical issues a bipartisan consensus is reached of more than a bare minimum majority of Senators.

I sincerely hope that cooler heads will begin to prevail and my colleagues will tone down the rhetoric they have been using to smear the integrity of the judiciary, and the Republican leadership will reject the divisive and unprecedented so-called nuclear option.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to express my deep concern about the negative impact the President's proposals that carve out private accounts will have on our Social Security system and also on our mounting Federal debt and the solvency of our Social Security Program in general and, ultimately, the economic prosperity of the Nation over many years.

President Bush's plan to create private accounts within Social Security would lead to the following, I believe, very unfortunate effects:

It would require a massive increase in Federal debt.

It would weaken the Social Security solvency.

It would not increase national savings and could lower it. National savings is a key function of our economy. Without national savings, we do not have the pool of capital we need for investment, innovation, and economic progress.

Finally, it would sharply cut the guaranteed Social Security benefits under the President's preferred full plan.

Let me go into some detail on these issues, drawing upon the excellent work of the Democratic staff of the Joint Economic Committee. I am very privileged to be the ranking member of the Joint Economic Committee. We have assembled a staff of professionals who have looked at all of these issues in great detail. They have concluded, as I suggested, that there are serious problems, not only in terms of solvency of the fund, not only in terms of the increase in Federal debt, but also large cuts in the guaranteed benefits of all of the beneficiaries. That will be a very unfortunate and, indeed, unnecessary consequence of any proposed reform of Social Security.

Let's take a look at this first chart. It lays out the debt issue with respect

to Social Security. First, the President has proposed that his plan for private accounts and Social Security reform would begin in the year 2009. He has put no money into his budget or his long-term budget. Typically, when we budget, we at least look ahead 10 years.

In that first 10-year increment, which would be precisely from 2006 to 2015, there would be an increase of \$754 billion as a result of these private accounts. Again, beginning in 2009 and essentially stretching to 2015, you would accumulate almost \$1 trillion, \$754 billion of debt.

But the real staggering number is the first 20 years of these programs if the private accounts are made law. That increased debt would be \$4.9 trillion, an extraordinary amount of money. Again, I believe it is appropriate to look at least 20 years. We are talking about solvency for the fund for 75 years. Just in the 20 years, we would have almost \$5 trillion in additional Federal debt.

The other issue that is important to point out is that this debt is on top of existing debt. This chart just describes the rapid increase of Federal debt as a result of private accounts from the year 2010 to the year 2060. By 2060, 35 percent of GDP will be equal to the debt we have accumulated for private accounts. I think we will stop for a moment: 35 percent of GDP; the debt will equal 35 percent of gross domestic product in the year 2060, but add that to current debt, the debt we are funding to operate our Government, and by 2060, the staggering total of debt relative to GDP is 70 percent.

We have not run those debt levels since the end of World War II in which we all know we dedicated every resource we had to defeat the Axis. This is a much different world than 1945 and 1946. In 1945 and 1946, we were at the sanctuary, if you will, of economic productivity for the world. Our infrastructure had not been destroyed. We had tooled up to create the most technologically advanced military force in the world. We quickly transitioned our tanks to Oldsmobiles and Chrysler automobiles and washing machines. Now we are in a world of intense competition, global competition, and if we believe we can live with debt equal to 70 percent of our gross domestic product, I think that is a fanciful notion, but that is the consequence of the President's proposal for private accounts.

The other point we should note, too, is that this proposal for private accounts actually accelerates the insolvency of the Social Security fund. Again, the President's proposal is premised on saving Social Security, of making it more solvent. His private accounts would accelerate the insolvency date. This chart shows current law. Again, it is a function of GDP, but it shows where the fund's assets cross the zero line, and that is about 2042. The President's proposal of private accounts would drive the funds into in-

solvency much earlier—about 2030. It makes no sense to me, if your goal is to increase the solvency of the fund, to have a proposal that actually weakens solvency. In a sense, searching for an analogy, if the boat is leaking, don't break a big hole in the bottom and have more water come in. That is not the way you save a leaking ship.

Turning away from the charts, let's go to the mathematics of how this all works.

The current Social Security shortfall, an estimate by the trustees, the actuaries of the Social Security Administration, is minus \$4 trillion. That is how much money we would have to have today to cover the shortfall for the next 75 years.

Here is what the President's plan for private accounts does: First, it costs \$4.7 trillion, so that is an additional \$4.7 trillion. But what the President proposes is that there is essentially a privatization tax, that those private account holders will have to pay back some money at the time they exercise their retirement benefits. That is \$3.1 trillion. Still we have a gap of \$1.6 trillion, the net cost of the private accounts.

Add that to \$4 trillion and now we have a shortfall of \$5.6 trillion. We have created a bigger problem; we have not solved the problem.

The next table also suggests the possible consequences on national savings. Again, national savings is a key macroeconomic construct when it comes to progress in terms of our economy because it is from those national savings which we draw the investment capital and resources to train people, to innovate new equipment, to invest in new plant and equipment.

This is what happens, and national savings is a simple function of private savings, what you and I, our households are saving, together with public savings, what the Government is saving. We have stopped saving. We were saving, which means we had a surplus, until 2000, 2001, and now we are in a huge deficit, about \$450 billion a year.

Let us see what would happen with these private accounts. First, the public borrows more money. Public savings go down. Private savings go up because we give that money back to people and say now put it into the stock market. The net effect is zero at best, but it could even be worse than that because something could happen in terms of public behavior.

First, they could reduce their current savings saying, well, I do not have to save anymore for contingencies because now I have this private savings plan. It is a possibility. To what extent it happens in reality, it is a projection, but that is a possibility.

The second is early retirements for these funds. My sense is, every time we have constructed some type of retirement benefit we have found ways to allow people to borrow from it for emergencies. We will probably do the same here. But even if those factors do

not take place, zero national savings at best. We need to develop policies that encourage national savings. We should not be devoting huge tax cuts for wealthy Americans. We should be devoting tax cuts to encourage average Americans to save more, and we cannot do both if we have a deficit. My preference obviously would be to encourage average Americans to save more.

Now, chart No. 5 walks through the effect on individuals. The President has not offered a plan yet. He has been talking about it around the country, but the suggestions, the intimations are that in order to help address the solvency problem he is going at benefit payments. Essentially, the Commission to Strengthen Social Security put out the blueprint, and this blueprint would suggest cuts in benefits. One proposal was moving away from wage replacement to simple cost-of-living increases in benefits. That would effectively be a cut over time.

If we look at the combination of guaranteed benefits and the best estimates of the yield on private accounts, here is what happens over time. This is from the Congressional Budget Office. The average earner retiring in the year 2005 is protected. I think we recognize that because we have not made a change yet. By 2015, however, if one is participating in private accounts, they are doing worse than this 2005 beneficiary, and it goes down all the way. We can see as the guaranteed benefits decrease, the private accounts do not make up the difference, and this is some of the work of CBO.

So we have a situation that, frankly, is not a good deal for the retirees and not a good deal for the country when the debt is increased so precipitously. More national savings are not encouraged. A situation is created in which the problem is not getting fixed but is being made worse in so many different dimensions.

When we look at this issue of benefit payments, many people fail to recognize that this is not just about retirees. I have a retiree here. There are a significant number of Americans who collect Social Security because they are disabled. They will not have the benefit of private accounts because by definition they cannot work. They are disabled. So they are not going to be taking their paycheck each month and putting it into their private account. All the most vulnerable Americans are going to see is a benefit reduction, and that is not fair. It is not smart either.

Moreover, there is a suggestion that this is just an issue for seniors and that is all. The Social Security Administration has an interesting statistic, at least I found it very interesting. Their estimate is, of the cohort of 20-year-olds who are out there today just joining the workforce, who are healthy and running around, who have no immediate cares for retirement like middle-aged people, that 3 out of 10 will become disabled before they reach 65 years old. So I ask, where are they

going to get the disability insurance to cover the benefits that today Social Security pays to people who become disabled? They cannot afford it. They will not buy it. There will be some disability program, but it will not be the kind of program that today provides at least some modicum of support for individuals who have been disabled through no fault of their own.

This is a topic that will be discussed again and again, but it is important to look at these issues and to make a practical and pragmatic assessment. That is what the American people are doing today. They are looking at the proposal of private accounts. They are seeing it jeopardize our economic future and seeing it eventually cut their prospects for retirement or for protection if they become disabled, and they are rejecting it out of hand. I think they should.

We have to continue to keep the focus on this particular proposal.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business. The Senator is recognized.

SETTING PRIORITIES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I know we have a lot of things on our minds with some distractions, of course, but I will talk just a moment about some of the things I believe we ought to have as priorities. We need to establish our priorities so that we can work on the things we collectively believe have the most impact and should really be acted upon. Obviously, there are all kinds of ideas among us, and as we talk to people who come to see us and our people at home, why, there are a million things, but there are some that seem to be in need of consideration more quickly.

One of them is energy. We have talked about having an energy policy now for several years. The evidence now is even stronger that we need an energy policy which gives us some kind of insight as to where we need to be in 10 or 15 years so that as we approach the problems, we can discover the things it takes to attain those goals.

Our energy policy has always been a broad policy, as it should be. It has been a policy that talks about conservation, efficiency, alternative sources, renewables, as well as domestic production. Certainly, one of the things that is most important, that the

administration and the President has pushed, is to do some work to make sure coal fits into the environment satisfactorily. Coal is our largest fossil fuel, and we ought to be using coal for electric generation rather than some things other than coal, such as gas. Almost all of the generation plants over the last 20 years have been gas, largely because it is more economical to build a smaller plant closer to the market with gas than coal. So not only do we need to do something about the carbon and the exhaust from coal, but we also have to do something about transmission so that we can economically create electricity at the mine mouth and get it through our transmission system to the market.

We passed a highway bill a number of years ago, and we have never been able to get it completely passed, so we have just passed on the old one. It is certainly more than past time to get a highway bill. There is probably nothing that has more impact on our economy, creates more jobs, and allows for other things to happen in the economy than highways. We certainly need to do that.

Additionally, one of the things that becomes clear, and even more clear as we spend time on Social Security, which we should, is personal savings accounts that people can have for themselves. As I have gone about talking about Social Security, I have always tried to remind folks that Social Security was never intended to be a retirement program. It is a supplement. It is a supplement to the retirement programs that we put together.

There are a number of ways, of course, where there are incentives for savings, whether they be retirement programs or 401(k)s in which the employers participate. Now we have a potential for savings that can be spent earlier than retirement, that could be used for almost anything. One of the real issues is to have medical savings accounts so that we can buy cheaper insurance policies with a higher deductible and, therefore, have some money to pay for that.

There is nothing, perhaps, more important than to get ourselves into a position of people preparing for their own retirement. This Social Security discussion has shown basically what young people could do by putting aside a relatively small amount of money every month and having it earn interest for them.

One of the things I recognize is a little bit regional is the Endangered Species Act. It has been in place for a very long time. In my judgment, it has not been as effective as it could be. I am not for doing away with the Endangered Species Act, but we have roughly 1,300 species listed as endangered and have only recovered about a dozen. So the emphasis has been in the wrong place. We are going to have an opportunity to be able to do that, and it has great impact in many cases. It is kind of used as a land management tool so

that we lose the multiple-use aspect of public and even private lands because of endangered species.

There are a lot of things I think we ought to be doing.

Finally, it seems to me that we ought to have a system that takes a look at programs after they have been in place 10 years, or whatever—after they have been there for a while. We should restudy those programs, reanalyze those programs to see if, indeed, the need for them is still what it was when they started; to see if they could be made more efficient after 10 years or, indeed, if they don't need to be there anymore. I know it is very difficult. There gets to be a support group that forms around all the programs that are funded, of course. It becomes difficult to change.

But it is too bad, when we think about it, to pass programs that are spending Federal money and have them out there when there is no longer any need for them or when the time has come where something different needs to be done.

I am hopeful we can get something done. I am thinking about putting something in bill form that will provide a review or oversight of programs that are in place to see if they are still important, to see if they are still being done efficiently, and to see if they could be done a better way or, indeed, need to be done at all.

These are some of the things I think are very important. I hope we try to set some priorities. I understand out of 100 people there are going to be many different ideas, but that is part of our challenge, to put 100 people together and decide what are the five most important issues that impact this country and impact our States.

I hope we can do that and I look forward to that opportunity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The Senator from Missouri.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today just for a few moments to offer a few words in honor of the life of Pope John Paul II. Much has been said this week, and will be said this week, about his life. I want to pay tribute to him on behalf of all the Missourians who are mourning his passing this week.

The Pope left an indelible mark on the history of mankind and, indeed, of the world. I think the title of George Weigel's biography captured the Pope's work the best. He called him "A Witness To Hope." The moral clarity his leadership provided helped spread democracy and justice around a world that desperately needed it. But even more than that, he brought faith and hope to the empty, to the hopeless, to the last and the least among us.

He was a faithful servant of God, an inspiration to Missourians, to countries and cultures around the world. Certainly he was an inspiration to me. One of the greatest honors I have had

in all my years in public life was the opportunity to meet him when he visited Missouri 6 years ago.

As we mourn the Pope's passing, we celebrate his spiritual leadership. I want to say, also, we should celebrate his qualities which most impressed me in the brief moment I had to meet him at that time—I mean his humanness, his courage, his works. Those works for years to come will continue giving people hope for the next world and better lives in this one.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today, to join my colleagues and the rest of the world in the remembrance of Pope John Paul II.

Since the passing of the Pope, it has often been noted that this Pope was by far the most traveled of any in history—quite possibly the one person seen live by the most people of all time.

We were fortunate in my State to receive the Pope twice, once in Anchorage in 1981 and then again in Fairbanks in 1984. During his Anchorage visit, the Pope celebrated Mass with more than 40,000 Alaskans in a downtown Anchorage park. It was the largest gathering of Alaskans up until that time, and beginning in the cold, wet, early February morning, until his departure, crowds lined the streets and Alaskans strained to get a glimpse of the Pontiff. Always known for his compassion and generosity, the Pope extended his visit in Anchorage more than an hour to meet in private with 150 disabled Alaskans at Holy Family Cathedral.

The Pope's visit to the Fairbanks International Airport was even more momentous, and was transformed into the site of major diplomacy. It was an opportunity for the Pope to meet with President Ronald Reagan, who was returning from overseas and, like the Pope, stopped in Alaska to refuel his aircraft. The President, who had arrived the previous night, was the first to greet the Pope. They visited briefly and then the Pope surprised many by making an unexpected tour through the crowd that waited outside the airport in the drizzling rain.

While in Alaska, the Pope spoke about the unity of faith that binds Alaska's diverse Catholic community—from Native Alaskans to people from all over the world. During his Anchorage stopover, John Paul II even enjoyed a brief ride on a dogsled.

Like many Americans and individuals all over the world, I grieve for the loss of the Holy Father. From his humble beginnings to the principal voice for human rights for over two decades, Pope John Paul II will always be remembered. He was an extraordinary, inspirational and spiritual person and the world is a better place thanks to his service and spiritual leadership.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to submit for the RECORD today a statement joining my colleagues and my countrymen and women in paying tribute to the departed and beloved Pope John Paul II. I join them in

mourning his loss, and I extend my condolences to Roman Catholics in Connecticut and all over the world.

It is impossible to overstate the great sense of loss that is being felt by the 1 billion Catholics worldwide, but a telling sign of the Holy Father's lasting legacy is that his life and death have touched billions of non-Catholics as well. The Pontiff built bridges to non-Catholics and transformed forever the Church's perception of Jews in particular from a separated people to "older" brothers and sisters in faith.

Pope John Paul II's outreach to people of all faiths began when he was a young man. Known to his friends and family as "Lolek," the future Pontiff grew up in Wadowice, Poland, in the 1920s and 1930s. Wadowice was a town of about 7,000, more than 20 percent of whom were Jewish, including young Lolek's best friend, Jurek Kluger.

One of Lolek and Jurek's favorite pastimes was soccer. One day, Jurek went to the Parish church to meet up with Lolek before heading to a soccer match together. A woman in the church expressed her amazement at the sight of a Jewish boy standing next to the altar. To the future Pope, however, it was a natural and effortless interfaith communion. As the young Lolek remarked to the amazed onlooker, "Aren't we all God's children?"

Pope John Paul II worked to protect all of God's children as a courageous champion of religious freedom and human rights and a tireless advocate for the poor and sick throughout the world. His fervent opposition to the brutal scourge of Nazism was matched by his tireless work to break Eastern Europe free from the oppressive grip of communism.

In June of 1979, 8 months after being elected to take the throne of St. Peter, Pope John Paul II made a triumphant return to Poland. His beloved nation was struggling to survive under the iron fist of Soviet rule. An adoring crowd of 1 million supporters gave him a hero's welcome.

For his fellow Poles, who for decades were deprived of their freedom to worship, the Pontiff had a strong, clear and inspirational message. "You are men. You have dignity. Don't crawl on your bellies," he said. This visit was a crucial turning point in America's Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Working together with the people of Poland and the United States, the Pontiff transformed his homeland into the spiritual battlefield of the Cold War. Forging an allegiance with Lech Walesa, the Pope provided religious support for the anti-communist Solidarity movement. Over the next decade, a tidal wave of the spirit overcame communism in Poland. One by one, the dominoes of Communist oppression fell across Eastern Europe as faith and freedom triumphed. Stalin once mocked the power of the papacy by asking, rhetorically, "The Pope? How many divisions has he got?" In one of history's sweet ironies, it was indeed a

Pope none other than Pope John Paul II who helped dismantle Stalin's empire, not with divisions of armed soldiers, but legions of faithful followers who yearned to be free.

In another historic trip 22 years later, the Pontiff made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial, where he prayed and met with survivors. On his last day in Jerusalem, he went to the Western Wall of the Temple. There, the Holy Father prayed silently before leaving a small written prayer stuffed into a crack in the wall, surrounded by the thousands of notes and prayers people leave there every day.

During his Papacy, while much of the world could not resist the temptation of moral compromise and material excess, Pope John Paul II remained steadfast in his morality and spirituality. He was a tower of integrity, a role model for everyone who sought to defend their values from the growing culture of moral relativism. In an age of materialism and genocide, he was the world's most consistent advocate of spiritual and humanitarian values.

While the Pope's values remained traditional, his ability to communicate was progressive and modern. He forever revolutionized how the church could spread its teachings. He masterfully used modern technology to bring the church to the world.

In each of the seven languages he spoke, he had a unique ability to touch each one in his presence as if they were the only one to whom he was speaking. The Pope was able to inspire those who came to hear his message to go forth and make the world a better place. On January 4, 2001, he called upon a group of hundreds of believers gathered in St. Peter's Square—including a Roman Catholic member of my own staff, Kenneth Dagliere—to make the most of their God-given potential. "If you are to be what you are meant to be, you will set the world ablaze," he told them. Those words are as autobiographical as they are inspirational.

Much as he did in life, Pope John Paul II provided a life-affirming example of dignity in his death. While we are saddened by his death, we take solace in knowing that he left us peacefully and surrounded by those closest to him in his Papal residence. Outside, in St. Peter's Square, hundreds of thousands of adorers held constant vigil, praying for a man who had touched their lives in a way few ever could. It was a spontaneous outpouring of love for a man who seemed to possess an eternal capacity to spread strength and love wherever he went.

Mr. President, Pope John Paul II leaves behind a lasting legacy of faith and leadership. He will be truly missed by hundreds of millions of God's children throughout the world. I thank the Almighty for giving us the gift of Pope John Paul II. And I thank Lolek, who became Pope John Paul II, for using those gifts to bringing us all closer to God.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FIRST LIEUTENANT DAN THOMAS MALCOM, JR.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor U.S. Army 1LT Dan Thomas Malcom, Jr., who was killed proudly fighting for his country in Fallujah, Iraq, on November 10, 2004. A marine and Citadel graduate from McDuffie and Miller County, GA, Dan was 24 years old.

First Lieutenant Dan Thomas Malcom, Jr., the son of Dan and Cherrie Malcom, was born April 4, 1979, in Augusta, GA. His father, Dan Senior, was a Marine Corps veteran of combat in Vietnam who tragically was killed in a construction accident just prior to Dan junior's birth. From the earliest age, Dan junior wanted to "be a Marine like my Daddy". Raised in McDuffie, then later Miller County, GA, Dan attended Miller County High School where he was a star student.

Dan graduated from the Citadel in Charleston, SC, in 2001 where he was Lima Company executive officer. Dan was well respected by his classmates and known for his attention to his academic and military duties.

Dan was commissioned into the Marine Corps upon graduation. Dan was serving his second tour in Iraq when, on November 10, 2004, he was killed by a sniper in Fallujah, a town infested with insurgents. The details of his death include the following: As the marines of 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry were clearing Fallujah of the insurgents, Dan's platoon was sent to a rooftop to provide supporting fire to marines maneuvering on the enemy. Dan's marines quickly found themselves under sniper attack from a nearby mosque. Dan left his safe position and led his entire platoon down a stair case to safety. As the last one to clear the rooftop, Dan was hit by a deflected bullet which bounced off his helmet. As Dan jumped down the stairwell, he was hit in the lower back by a second shot which killed him instantly.

Dan was buried at Arlington Cemetery on 23 November 2004, where he rested with our Nation's honored dead. Dan Thomas Malcom, Jr., was all that America stands for. By his short life and through his bravery at the end we are enriched. Dan is survived by his mother, Mrs. Cherrie Malcom, and sister, Mrs. Dana Killebrew. It is our hope that the memory of his life will serve as a beacon for others to honor and remember.

Dan Thomas Malcom, Jr., was a great American, a great marine, a

great leader, and an outstanding young man. He and his comrades in Iraq deserve our deepest gratitude and respect as they go about the extraordinarily challenging but extraordinarily important job of rebuilding a country which will result in freedom and prosperity for millions of Iraqis. I join with Dan's family, friends, and fellow soldiers in mourning his loss and want them to know that Dan's sacrifice will not be lost or forgotten, but will truly make a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people.

A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to bring an editorial from Monday's edition of the New York Times to the attention of my colleagues. The editorial, titled "Guns for Terrorists," is a logical commentary on several potentially dangerous shortfalls in our Nation's gun safety laws that not only potentially allow individuals on terrorist watch lists to buy guns but also require that records related to the sale be destroyed within 24 hours of the purchase.

Under current law, individuals included on Federal terrorist watch lists are not automatically prohibited from purchasing firearms. A report released by the General Accountability Office on March 8, 2005, found that from February 3, 2004, through June 30, 2004, a total of 44 attempts to purchase firearms were made by individuals designated by the Federal Government as known or suspected terrorists. In 35 cases, the transactions were authorized to proceed because federal authorities were unable to find any information in the national instant criminal background check system, NICS, that would prohibit the individual from lawfully receiving or possessing firearms. Current law also requires that records, even in these cases, where known or suspected terrorists successfully purchase firearms, be destroyed within 24 hours.

Learning about a suspected terrorist's purchase of a firearm could potentially be critical to counterterrorism investigators working to prevent a terrorist attack. Common sense tells us that the automatic destruction of documents related to the successful purchase of firearms by individuals on terrorist watch lists would significantly hamper these investigations. I have cosponsored the Terrorist Apprehension RECORD Retention Act. The legislation would require that in cases where a known or suspected terrorist successfully purchased a firearm, records pertaining to the transaction be retained for 10 years. The bill also requires that all NICS information be shared with appropriate Federal and State counterterrorism officials anytime an individual on a terrorist watch list attempts to buy a firearm.

We should be working to pass legislation to close loopholes that allow potential terrorists to buy dangerous weapons like the AK-47 assault rifle, the .50 caliber sniper rifle, and the

Five-Seven armor-piercing handgun. We should be working to provide our law enforcement officials with the tools they need to protect our families and communities.

I ask unanimous consent that the April 4, 2005 New York Times editorial titled "Guns for Terrorists" be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 4, 2005]

GUNS FOR TERRORISTS

If a background check shows that you are an undocumented immigrant, federal law bars you from buying a gun. If the same check shows that you have ties to Al Qaeda, you are free to buy an AK-47. That is the absurd state of the nation's gun laws, and a recent government report revealed that terrorist suspects are taking advantage of it. There are a few promising signs, however, that the federal government is considering injecting some sanity into policies on terror suspects and guns.

The Government Accountability Office examined F.B.I. and state background checks for gun sales during a five-month period last year. It found 44 checks in which the prospective buyer turned up on a government terrorist watch list. A few of these prospective buyers were denied guns for other disqualifying factors, like a felony conviction or illegal immigration status. But 35 of the 44 people on the watch lists were able to buy guns.

The encouraging news is that the G.A.O. report may be prodding Washington to act. The F.B.I. director, Robert Mueller III, has announced that he is forming a study group to review gun sales to terror suspects. In a letter to Senator Frank Lautenberg, the New Jersey Democrat, Mr. Mueller said that the new working group would review the national background check system in light of the report. We hope this group will take a strong stand in favor of changes in the law to deny guns to terror suspects.

In the meantime, Senator Lautenberg is pushing for important reforms. He has asked the Justice Department to consider making presence on a terrorist watch list a disqualifying factor for gun purchases. And he wants to force gun sellers to keep better records. Under a recent law, records of gun purchases must be destroyed after 24 hours, eliminating important information for law enforcement. Senator LAUTENBERG wants to require that these records be kept for at least 10 years for buyers on terrorist watch lists.

Keeping terror suspects from buying guns seems like an issue the entire nation can rally around. But the National Rifle Association is, as usual, fighting even the most reasonable regulation of gun purchases. After the G.A.O. report came out, Wayne LaPierre, the N.R.A.'s executive vice president, took to the airwaves to reiterate his group's commitment to ensuring that every citizen has access to guns, and to cast doubt on the reliability of terrorist watch lists.

Unfortunately, the N.R.A.—rather than the national interest—is too often the driving force on gun policy in Congress, particularly since last November's election. Even after the G.A.O.'s disturbing revelations, the Senate has continued its work on a dangerous bill to insulate manufacturers and sellers from liability when guns harm people. If it passes, as seems increasingly likely, it will remove any fear a seller might have of being held legally responsible if he provides a gun used in a terrorist attack.

OMNIBUS EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 730, the Omnibus

Emissions Reduction Act of 2005, that has been introduced by Senator LEAHY of Vermont and myself. Our legislation is the only comprehensive legislation that aims to control mercury emissions for all major sources of mercury pollution and stop releases of this toxic pollutant into the environment.

Mercury is a liquid metal that damages the nervous system through ingestion or inhalation, and is a particularly damaging toxic pollutant in the case of pregnant women and children. This is an alarming problem and I am pleased to note that our bill offers much greater protections for the public's health than the recently released Environmental Protection Agency's mercury emissions rule that simply will not get the job done.

Our bill addresses the problem of how mercury pollution gets into our environment. Mercury, which is contained in coal and emitted up through smokestacks into the atmosphere as the coal is burned, is then transported through the air and carried downwind for hundreds and hundreds of miles where, unfortunately for Maine and every State along the way, it falls to Earth in snow and rain. The mercury ends up in our lakes, rivers, and streams where it is then ingested by fish, and in turn by humans when they eat the fish from these freshwater sources.

The legislation directs the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate mercury emissions standards for unregulated sources on a much more aggressive timetable to reduce mercury emissions as soon as possible. Our bill stops pollution at its source by requiring a ninety percent reduction of mercury emissions from coal-fired powered plants by 2010, rather than by 22 percent by 2010 as the administration's recent rule calls for.

The Leahy-Snowe bill also addresses mercury releases from other sources as well, all the way from commercial and industrial boilers and chlor-alkali plants, to requiring labeling products containing mercury as simple as a mercury thermometer.

Mercury, as we have historically thought of it, brings to mind the ancient Roman messenger of the gods, or the symbol that made us all proud, that of a small Mercury capsule carrying a lone astronaut into space.

Mercury, as we are now coming to know it, is one of the most toxic substances in our environment, causing great neurologic damage if ingested by humans. There is growing concern around the country about mercury contamination, especially in the freshwater lakes in the northeast, and the risk it poses to those most vulnerable: young children, infants, and the unborn.

Mercury emissions are affecting our wildlife as well. In Maine, the beautiful common loon with its haunting call has been known as a symbol of conservation—and even appears on license plates, the cost of which funds conservation efforts. The haunting call is

now coming from biologists whose studies show that, besides the threats to humans, the loons and other birds, such as the bald eagle, may now be having trouble reproducing or fighting diseases because of mercury ingestion.

The Leahy-Snowe Act also aims to reduce transboundary atmospheric and surface mercury pollution by directing the EPA to work with Canada and Mexico to inventory the sources and pathways of mercury air and water pollution within North America. The bill dovetails nicely with the actions the State of Maine has taken and also the goals of the Mercury Action Plan of the Conference of Northeast Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.

This bill will go a long way towards developing a much needed solution to the problem of mercury emissions in the environment, and I look forward to the day when the fish advisories are lifted on all of our lakes in Maine so that its citizens can enjoy fuller use of their environment, and also reap greater economic benefits from its natural resources. This goal will not be easy to reach as our environment is already impacted with past and current mercury pollution.

However, the Maine Legislature has already taken a significant step toward this goal by establishing a state program to help Maine cities and towns keep mercury products out of the trash. Trash disposal, especially incineration, is one of the primary ways we introduce mercury to the Northeast's environment.

Under Maine law, some mercury products such as thermometers and thermostats had to be labeled beginning in 2002. Also by 2002, businesses were required to recycle the mercury in these products. Starting this year, a similar requirement applies to homeowners.

Maine has taken an excellent step forward to decrease regional mercury pollution, but realistically no one State or region can solve its mercury pollution problems. What is needed is a nationwide information system and controls for mercury releases starting with the largest polluters. We know that polluted air does not stop at State borders or even international boundaries. And, on the horizon is the fact that the burning coal continues to rapidly increase in developing nations around the globe.

I want to thank Senator LEAHY for his hard work in highlighting the problem of mercury emissions through the introduction of this legislation. This introduction will bring the problem before Congress and the public, to spark debate, and to begin a dialogue, especially with those industries that will be affected by any curbs in emissions and from those people most directly affected by the mercury emissions.

I look forward to working with Senator LEAHY and my Senate colleagues to come up with a fair solution and one that will truly protect the public's health from this pervasive toxic mercury pollution problem.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ENSIGN JAMES
RANDOLPH MOTLEY MCMURTRY

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, today I would like to reflect on the recent passing of Ensign James Randolph Motley McMurtry, a member of the U.S. Navy and a beloved son and friend. Ensign McMurtry tragically died while on vacation in February 2005. The McMurtry family has suffered a tremendous loss, and I offer them my condolences and deepest sympathy during this difficult time.

Ensign McMurtry grew up in Harrisburg, PA, attending the Harrisburg Academy in Wormleysburg. He was an exemplary student and excelled in athletics. As he continued his education at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, he served as platoon commander, drill sergeant, and drill officer.

After graduating from the Naval Academy in 2003, Ensign McMurtry was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon. For all those who worked with Ensign McMurtry at the Pentagon, they knew him as quiet, purposeful, and respectful.

Ensign McMurtry had dedicated his life to protecting the freedom and liberties we hold dear as Americans. I value Ensign McMurtry's courage and patriotism. I am also inspired by this young man's conviction and desire to spend his life serving our Nation. I am deeply saddened that his life ended so tragically.

Ensign McMurtry leaves behind wonderful family, friends, and coworkers. My thoughts and prayers are with those that were blessed to know Ensign McMurtry.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIETNAM
VETERANS OF AMERICA'S FIRST
CHAPTER, RUTLAND, VERMONT

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President. I rise before you in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the very first chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America, which was founded and nurtured in my home town of Rutland, VT.

A quarter-century ago, Vietnam veterans, their families and loved ones were suffering the slings and arrows of anti-Vietnam war sentiment that gripped our Nation. Scant recognition was given to the personal and professional sacrifices of these valiant American young men and women during their service to our country. Officially there was a great deal of denial of the unwarranted price, both physical and emotional, that had been paid by these veterans. It would be decades before post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, would be a recognized condition. Many years would also pass before the Federal Government would admit that use of Agent Orange had left a terrible legacy of extreme suffering for our veterans and their families.

The founders of the Vietnam Veterans of America recognized an honor-bound duty as an organization to speak directly to these grave needs. The outpouring of enthusiasm from the veterans themselves demonstrated to all Americans the depth of these convictions.

In 1979, during a trip to Vermont, Vietnam Veterans of America founder Bobby Mueller met the late Don Bodelte. Don supported the notion of an organization of and for Vietnam-era veterans, but felt that it would only be truly successful if they mobilized locally and established chapters. The power of Don's logic and commitment persuaded Bobby Mueller to adopt this model. On April 13, 1980, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One was established in Rutland, VT. Taking up the challenge, Don was joined by Jake Jacobsen, Albert and Mary Trombley, Mike Dodge, Dennis Ross, Clark Howland and Mark Truhan, to name a few.

Over the years, Vietnam Veterans of America has won huge victories in the fight for fair treatment for Vietnam veterans, and has helped ensure that no other class of veteran will ever get that same treatment. The Vietnam Veterans of America's legacy includes recognition of the effects of Agent Orange and other chemical agents of war, the growing body of science around PTSD diagnosis, and aggressive programs to aid the veteran in the struggle to reintegrate after hostilities. All subsequent veterans benefit from the expertise that has been developed by the staff of the Vietnam Veterans of America and their continuing effectiveness in pushing for better funding for VA health care, higher quality service delivery and respect in the community.

In closing, I would like to add my thanks for the tremendous work done by the Vietnam Veterans of America national and local organizations. As a Vietnam-era veteran myself, we all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter One's visionary founders and the steadfast members who have followed their lead. Thank you for your outstanding service to your fellow veterans and our country. Happy 25th birthday, Chapter One. May you have many more.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:44 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 436. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment, and for other purposes.

H.R. 797. An act to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and other Acts to improve housing programs for Indians.

H.R. 1025. An act to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Act with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1077. An act to improve the access of investors to regulatory records with respect to securities brokers, dealers, and investment advisers.

H.R. 1460. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 436. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 797. An act to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and other Acts to improve housing programs for Indians; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 1025. An act to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Act with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1077. An act to improve the access of investors to regulatory records with respect to securities brokers, dealers, and investment advisers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1460. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following concurrent resolution was ordered held at the desk by unanimous consent:

S. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the application of Airbus for launch aid.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1526. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness,

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on entitlement transfers of basic educational assistance to eligible dependents under the Montgomery GI Bill; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1527. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Controls Over the Export Licensing Process for Chemical and Biological Items"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1528. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Evaluation of the Voting Assistance Program"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1529. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation that would amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and in one instance the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1530. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation that would amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1531. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans: State of Iowa" (FRL No. 7892-1) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1532. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans: State of Maryland; Revised Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds" (FRL No. 7891-3) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1533. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program: State of Nebraska" (FRL No. 7894-1) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1534. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans: District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania; Revised Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plans for Washington Metropolitan, Baltimore and Philadelphia Areas" (FRL No. 7894-4) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1535. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Revisions and Notice of Resolution of Deficiency for Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program in Texas" (FRL No. 7892-6) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1536. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Implementation Plans under the Clean Air Act for Indian Reservations in Idaho, Oregon and Washington" (FRL No. 7893-8) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1537. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Limited Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Excess Emissions During Startup, Shutdown and Malfunction Activities" (FRL No. 7892-7) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1538. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Heritage Assets and Stewardship Land"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1539. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Fiscal Year 2004 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1540. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's annual report for fiscal year 2004; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1541. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's report regarding compliance in the calendar year 2004 with the Government in Sunshine Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1542. A communication from the Deputy Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report for 2004; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1543. A communication from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Presidential Records Act Procedures" received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1544. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-01" (FAC 2005-1) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 739. A bill to require imported explosives to be marked in the same manner as domestically manufactured explosives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY,

Mr. KERRY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 740. A bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to expand or add coverage of pregnant women under the Medicaid and State children's health insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 741. A bill to provide for the disposal of certain Forest Service administrative sites in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. REED):

S. 742. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of human and animal diseases; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. TALENT, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. Con. Res. 25. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the application of Airbus for launch aid; ordered held at the desk.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 185

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for the reduction of certain Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation and to modify the effective date for paid-up coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

S. 267

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 267, a bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 304

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain interstate conduct relating to exotic animals.

S. 337

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 337, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service, to expand certain authorities to

provide health care benefits for Reservists and their families, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety, in coordination with non-Federal entities, and for other purposes.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to impose sanctions against perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 537

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to increase the number of well-trained mental health service professionals (including those based in schools) providing clinical mental health care to children and adolescents, and for other purposes.

S. 619

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 619, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 737

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 737, a bill to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to place reasonable limitations on the use of surveillance and the issuance of search warrants, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 17, a concurrent resolution calling on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to assess the potential effectiveness of and require-

ments for a NATO-enforced no-fly zone in the Darfur region of Sudan.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 739. A bill to require imported explosives to be marked in the same manner as domestically manufactured explosives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today with Senator HATCH to introduce the Imported Explosives Identification Act of 2005. This legislation would require imported explosives include unique identifying markings, just like explosives made here at home.

Domestic manufacturers are required to place identification markings on all explosive materials they produce, enabling law enforcement officers to determine the source of explosives found at a crime scene—an important crime solving tool. Yet, these same identifying markings are not required of those explosives manufactured overseas and imported into our country. Our legislation would simply treat imported explosives just like those manufactured in the United States by requiring all imported explosives to carry the same identifying markings currently placed on domestic explosives.

This is not a radical idea. We already have similar requirements for firearms. For years, importers and manufacturers have been required to place a unique serial number and other identifying information on each firearm. This is a common sense security measure that we have imposed on manufacturers and importers of firearms. There is no reason not to do the same with respect to dangerous explosives.

These markings can be a tremendously useful tool for law enforcement officials, enabling investigators to quickly follow the trail of the explosives after they entered the country. According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, marked explosives can be tracked through records kept by those who manufacture and sell them, often leading them to the criminal who has stolen or misused them. At a Senate hearing last year, even FBI Director Mueller recognized the usefulness of markings, saying they “are helpful to the investigator . . . who is trying to identify the source of that explosive.” Failing to close this loophole unnecessarily impedes law enforcement efforts and poses a significant security risk, and closing it is simple. This bill fixes this problem by requiring the name of the manufacturer, along with the time and date of manufacture, to be placed on all explosives materials, imported and domestic.

ATF first sought to fill this gap in the regulation of explosives when it published a notice of a proposed rulemaking in November 2000. Now, more

than 4 years later, this rulemaking still has not been completed. Just last week, ATF again missed its self-imposed deadline for finalizing the rule.

Each year, thousands of pounds of stolen, lost, or abandoned explosives are recovered by law enforcement. When explosives are not marked, they cannot be quickly and effectively traced for criminal enforcement purposes. Each day we delay closing this loophole, we let more untraceable explosive materials cross our borders, jeopardizing our security. Failure to address this very straightforward issue unnecessarily hinders law enforcement’s efforts to keep us safe. Because ATF and the Department of Justice have not closed this loophole in a timely manner, it is now incumbent upon us to act.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 740. A bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to expand or add coverage of pregnant women under the medicaid and State children’s health insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation with Senators LUGAR, LINCOLN, MURRAY, KERRY, CANTWELL, KOHL, LAUTENBERG, BOXER and CORZINE. This legislation, entitled the “Start Healthy, Stay Healthy Act of 2005,” would significantly reduce the number of uninsured pregnant women and newborns by expanding coverage to pregnant women through Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, and to newborns through the first full year of life.

Today is World Health Day 2005 and the message this year is “Make Every Mother and Child Count”. I can think of no better way to honor our Nation’s mothers and children than to increase their access to health care services and improve their overall health.

According to a recent report by Save the Children entitled “The State of the World’s Mothers,” the United States fares no better than 11th in the world. Why is this? According to the report, “The United States earned its 11th place rank this year based on several factors: One of the key indicators used to calculate the well-being for mothers is lifetime risk of maternal mortality. . . . Canada, Australia, and all the Western and Northern European countries in the study performed better than the United States in this indicator.”

The study adds, “Similarly, the United States did not do as well as the top 10 countries with regard to infant mortality rates.”

In fact, the United States ranks 21st in maternal mortality and 28th in infant mortality, the worst among developed nations. We should and must do

better by our Nation's mothers and infants.

There has been long-standing policy in this country linking programs for pregnant women to programs for infants, including Medicaid, WIC, and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. Yet the CHIP program, unfortunately, fails to provide coverage to pregnant women beyond the age of 18. As a result, it is more likely that newborns eligible for CHIP are not covered from the moment of birth, and therefore, often miss having comprehensive prenatal care and care during those first critical months of life until their CHIP application is processed.

By expanding coverage to pregnant women through CHIP, the "Start Healthy, Stay Healthy Act" recognizes the importance of prenatal care to the health and development of a child. As Dr. Alan Waxman of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine has written, "Prenatal care is an important factor in the prevention of birth defects and the prevention of prematurity, the most common causes of infant death and disability. Babies born to women with no prenatal care or late prenatal care are nearly twice as likely to [be] low birthweight or very low birthweight as infants born to women who received early prenatal care."

Unfortunately, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New Mexico ranked worst in the nation in the percentage of mothers receiving late or no prenatal care in 2003. The result is often quite costly—both in terms of the health of the mother and newborn but also in terms of the long-term expenses for society since the result can be chronic, lifelong health problems.

In fact, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, "four of the top 10 most expensive conditions in the hospital are related to care of infants with complications (respiratory distress, prematurity, heart defects, and lack of oxygen)." In addition to reduced infant mortality and morbidity, the provision to expand coverage to pregnant women is cost effective.

The "Start Healthy, Stay Healthy Act" also eliminates the unintended federal policy through CHIP that covers pregnant women only through the age of 18 and cuts off that coverage once the women turn 19 years of age. Certainly, everybody can agree that the government should not be telling women that they are more likely to receive prenatal care coverage only if they become pregnant as a teenager.

This bipartisan legislation has been supported in the past by: the March of Dimes, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the What to Expect Foundation, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Academy of Child

and Adolescent Psychiatry, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the American Hospital Association, the National Association of Children's Hospitals, the Federation of American Health Systems, the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, Premier, Catholic Health Association, Catholic Charities USA, Family Voices, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, the National Health Law Program, the National Association of Social Workers, Every Child By Two, the United Cerebral Palsy Associations, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Families USA.

This legislation is a reintroduction of a bill that was introduced in 2001 and 2003. Throughout 2001, the Administration made numerous statements in support of the passage of this type of legislation, but unfortunately, reversed course in October 2002 after publishing a regulation allowing states to redefine a "child" as an "unborn child" only and to provide prenatal care, but not postnatal care through CHIP in that manner. In a letter to Senator Nickles dated October 8, 2002, Secretary Thompson argued, "I believe the regulation is a more effective and comprehensive solution to this issue."

While a number of senators strongly disagreed with Secretary Thompson's assertion and sent him letters to that effect on October 10, 2002, and on October 23, 2002, we felt it was important to get the testimony of our nation's medical experts on the health and well-being of both pregnant women and newborns. We called for a hearing in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on October 24, 2002. Witnesses included representatives from the March of Dimes, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the What to Expect Foundation. They were asked to compare the regulation to the legislation and I will let their testimony speak for itself.

Dr. Nancy Green testified on behalf of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. She said:

We support giving states the flexibility they need to cover income-eligible pregnant women age 19 and older, and to automatically enroll infants born to SCHIP-eligible mothers. By establishing a uniform eligibility threshold for coverage for pregnant women and infants, states will be able to improve maternal health, eliminate waiting periods for infants and streamline administration of publicly supported health programs. Currently, according to the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the National Governors' Association, 36 states and the District of Columbia have income eligibility thresholds that are more restrictive for women than for their newborns. Encouraging states to eliminate this disparity by allowing them to establish a uniform eligibility threshold for pregnant women and their infants should be a national policy priority.

Dr. Green adds:

Specifically, we are deeply concerned that final regulation fails to provide to the moth-

er the standard scope of maternity care services recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Of particular concern, the regulation explicitly states that postpartum care is not covered and, therefore, federal reimbursement will not be available for these services. In addition, because of the contentious collateral issues raised by this regulation groups like the March of Dimes will find it even more difficult to work in the states to generate support for legislation to extend coverage to uninsured pregnant women.

Dr. Laura Riley testified on behalf of ACOG. In her testimony, she stated:

ACOG is very concerned that mothers will not have access to postpartum services under the regulation. The rule clearly states that "... care after delivery, such as postpartum services could not be covered as part of the Title XXI State Plan ... because they are not services for an eligible child.

On the importance of postpartum care, Dr. Riley adds:

When new mothers develop postpartum complications, quick access to their physicians is absolutely critical. Postpartum care is especially important for women who have preexisting medical conditions, and for those whose medical conditions were induced by their pregnancies, such as gestational diabetes or hypertension, and for whom it is necessary to ensure that their conditions are stabilized and treated.

As a result, Dr. Riley concludes:

Limiting coverage to the fetus instead of the mother omits a critical component of postpartum care that physicians regard as essential for the health of the mother and the child. Covering the fetus as opposed to the mother also raises questions of whether certain services will be available during pregnancy and labor if the condition is one that directly affects the woman. The best way to address this coverage issue is to pass S. 724, supported by Senators BOND, BINGAMAN and LINCOLN and many others, and which provides a full range of medical services during and after pregnancy directly to the pregnant woman.

Dr. Richard Bucciarelli testified on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He said:

Recently, the Administration published a final rule expanding SCHIP to cover unborn children. The Academy is concerned that, as written, this regulation falls dangerously short of the clinical standards of care outlined in our guidelines, which describe the importance of covering all stages of a birth—pregnancy, delivery, and postpartum care.

It is important to note that the regulation subtracts the time that an "unborn child" is covered from the period of continuously eligibility after birth. Consequently, children would be denied insurance coverage at very critical points during the first full year of life. As such, Dr. Bucciarelli expressed support for the legislation over the regulation because it, in his words:

... takes an important step to decrease the number of uninsured children by providing 12 months of continuous eligibility for those children born ... This legislation ensures that children born to women enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP are immediately enrolled in the program for which they are eligible. Additionally, this provision prevents newborns eligible for SCHIP from being subject to enrollment waiting periods, ensuring that infants receive appropriate health care in their first year of life.

And finally, Lisa Bernstein testified as Executive Director of The What to Expect Foundation, which takes its name from the bestselling What to Expect pregnancy and parenting series that has helped over 20 million families from pregnancy through their child's toddler years. Ms. Bernstein also supported the legislation as a far superior option over the regulation and make this simple but eloquent point:

... only a healthy parent can provide a healthy future for a healthy child.

The testimony of these experts speaks for itself and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 740

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Start Healthy, Stay Healthy Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. STATE OPTION TO EXPAND OR ADD COVERAGE OF CERTAIN PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER MEDICAID AND SCHIP.

(a) MEDICAID.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO EXPAND COVERAGE.—Section 1902(l)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(l)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting "(or such higher percent as the State may elect for purposes of expenditures for medical assistance for pregnant women described in section 1905(u)(4)(A))" after "185 percent".

(2) ENHANCED MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE IF CERTAIN CONDITIONS MET.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(A) in the fourth sentence of subsection (b), by striking "or subsection (u)(3)" and inserting ", (u)(3), or (u)(4)"; and

(B) in subsection (u)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

"(4) For purposes of the fourth sentence of subsection (b) and section 2105(a), the expenditures described in this paragraph are the following:

"(A) CERTAIN PREGNANT WOMEN.—If the conditions described in subparagraph (B) are met, expenditures for medical assistance for pregnant women described in subsection (n) or under section 1902(l)(1)(A) in a family the income of which exceeds the effective income level (expressed as a percent of the poverty line and considering applicable income disregards) that has been specified under subsection (a)(10)(A)(i)(III) or (1)(2)(A) of section 1902, as of January 1, 2005, but does not exceed the income eligibility level established under title XXI for a targeted low-income child.

"(B) CONDITIONS.—The conditions described in this subparagraph are the following:

"(i) The State plans under this title and title XXI do not provide coverage for pregnant women described in subparagraph (A) with higher family income without covering such pregnant women with a lower family income.

"(ii) The State does not apply an effective income level for pregnant women that is lower than the effective income level (expressed as a percent of the poverty line and

considering applicable income disregards) that has been specified under the State plan under subsection (a)(10)(A)(i)(III) or (1)(2)(A) of section 1902, as of January 1, 2005, to be eligible for medical assistance as a pregnant woman.

"(C) DEFINITION OF POVERTY LINE.—In this subsection, the term 'poverty line' has the meaning given such term in section 2110(c)(5)."

(3) PAYMENT FROM TITLE XXI ALLOTMENT FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION COSTS; ELIMINATION OF COUNTING MEDICAID CHILD PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY COSTS AGAINST TITLE XXI ALLOTMENT.—Section 2105(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "(or, in the case of expenditures described in subparagraph (B), the Federal medical assistance percentage (as defined in the first sentence of section 1905(b)))"; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

"(B) for the provision of medical assistance that is attributable to expenditures described in section 1905(u)(4)(A)";.

(4) ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO MEDICAID.—

(A) ELIGIBILITY OF A NEWBORN.—Section 1902(e)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "so long as the child is a member of the woman's household and the woman remains (or would remain if pregnant) eligible for such assistance".

(B) APPLICATION OF QUALIFIED ENTITIES TO PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY FOR PREGNANT WOMEN UNDER MEDICAID.—Section 1920(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-1(b)) is amended by adding at the end after and below paragraph (2) the following flush sentence:

"The term 'qualified provider' includes a qualified entity as defined in section 1920A(b)(3)."

(b) SCHIP.—

(1) COVERAGE.—Title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 2111. OPTIONAL COVERAGE OF TARGETED LOW-INCOME PREGNANT WOMEN.

"(a) OPTIONAL COVERAGE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a State may provide for coverage, through an amendment to its State child health plan under section 2102, of pregnancy-related assistance for targeted low-income pregnant women in accordance with this section, but only if the State meets the conditions described in section 1905(u)(4)(B).

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this title:

"(1) PREGNANCY-RELATED ASSISTANCE.—The term 'pregnancy-related assistance' has the meaning given the term child health assistance in section 2110(a) as if any reference to targeted low-income children were a reference to targeted low-income pregnant women, except that the assistance shall be limited to services related to pregnancy (which include prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services and services described in section 1905(a)(4)(C)) and to other conditions that may complicate pregnancy.

"(2) TARGETED LOW-INCOME PREGNANT WOMAN.—The term 'targeted low-income pregnant woman' means a woman—

"(A) during pregnancy and through the end of the month in which the 60-day period (beginning on the last day of her pregnancy) ends;

"(B) whose family income exceeds the effective income level (expressed as a percent of the poverty line and considering applicable income disregards) that has been specified under subsection (a)(10)(A)(i)(III) or (1)(2)(A) of section 1902, as of January 1, 2005, to be eligible for medical assistance as a pregnant woman under title XIX but does

not exceed the income eligibility level established under the State child health plan under this title for a targeted low-income child; and

"(C) who satisfies the requirements of paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(C), (2), and (3) of section 2110(b).

"(c) REFERENCES TO TERMS AND SPECIAL RULES.—In the case of, and with respect to, a State providing for coverage of pregnancy-related assistance to targeted low-income pregnant women under subsection (a), the following special rules apply:

"(1) Any reference in this title (other than in subsection (b)) to a targeted low-income child is deemed to include a reference to a targeted low-income pregnant woman.

"(2) Any such reference to child health assistance with respect to such women is deemed a reference to pregnancy-related assistance.

"(3) Any such reference to a child is deemed a reference to a woman during pregnancy and the period described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

"(4) In applying section 2102(b)(3)(B), any reference to children found through screening to be eligible for medical assistance under the State medicaid plan under title XIX is deemed a reference to pregnant women.

"(5) There shall be no exclusion of benefits for services described in subsection (b)(1) based on any preexisting condition and no waiting period (including any waiting period imposed to carry out section 2102(b)(3)(C)) shall apply.

"(6) Subsection (a) of section 2103 (relating to required scope of health insurance coverage) shall not apply insofar as a State limits coverage to services described in subsection (b)(1) and the reference to such section in section 2105(a)(1)(C) is deemed not to require, in such case, compliance with the requirements of section 2103(a).

"(7) In applying section 2103(e)(3)(B) in the case of a pregnant woman provided coverage under this section, the limitation on total annual aggregate cost-sharing shall be applied to the entire family of such pregnant woman.

"(d) AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT FOR CHILDREN BORN TO WOMEN RECEIVING PREGNANCY-RELATED ASSISTANCE.—If a child is born to a targeted low-income pregnant woman who was receiving pregnancy-related assistance under this section on the date of the child's birth, the child shall be deemed to have applied for child health assistance under the State child health plan and to have been found eligible for such assistance under such plan or to have applied for medical assistance under title XIX and to have been found eligible for such assistance under such title, as appropriate, on the date of such birth and to remain eligible for such assistance until the child attains 1 year of age. During the period in which a child is deemed under the preceding sentence to be eligible for child health or medical assistance, the child health or medical assistance eligibility identification number of the mother shall also serve as the identification number of the child, and all claims shall be submitted and paid under such number (unless the State issues a separate identification number for the child before such period expires)."

(2) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS FOR PROVIDING COVERAGE OF PREGNANT WOMEN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

"(d) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS FOR PROVIDING COVERAGE OF PREGNANT WOMEN.—

"(1) APPROPRIATION; TOTAL ALLOTMENT.—For the purpose of providing additional allotments to States under this title, there is

appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007, \$200,000,000.

“(2) STATE AND TERRITORIAL ALLOTMENTS.—In addition to the allotments provided under subsections (b) and (c), subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), of the amount available for the additional allotments under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each State with a State child health plan approved under this title—

“(A) in the case of such a State other than a commonwealth or territory described in subparagraph (B), the same proportion as the proportion of the State’s allotment under subsection (b) (determined without regard to subsection (f)) to the total amount of the allotments under subsection (b) for such States eligible for an allotment under this paragraph for such fiscal year; and

“(B) in the case of a commonwealth or territory described in subsection (c)(3), the same proportion as the proportion of the commonwealth’s or territory’s allotment under subsection (c) (determined without regard to subsection (f)) to the total amount of the allotments under subsection (c) for commonwealths and territories eligible for an allotment under this paragraph for such fiscal year.

“(3) USE OF ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT.—Additional allotments provided under this subsection are not available for amounts expended before October 1, 2005. Such amounts are available for amounts expended on or after such date for child health assistance for targeted low-income children, as well as for pregnancy-related assistance for targeted low-income pregnant women.

“(4) NO PAYMENTS UNLESS ELECTION TO EXPAND COVERAGE OF PREGNANT WOMEN.—No payments may be made to a State under this title from an allotment provided under this subsection unless the State provides pregnancy-related assistance for targeted low-income pregnant women under this title, or provides medical assistance for pregnant women under title XIX, whose family income exceeds the effective income level applicable under subsection (a)(10)(A)(i)(III) or (1)(2)(A) of section 1902 to a family of the size involved as of January 1, 2005.”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended—

(i) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “subject to subsection (d),” after “under this section.”;

(ii) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “and subsection (d)” after “Subject to paragraph (4).”; and

(iii) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “subject to subsection (d),” after “for a fiscal year.”.

(3) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY UNDER TITLE XXI.—

(A) APPLICATION TO PREGNANT WOMEN.—Section 2107(e)(1)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(e)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(D) Sections 1920 and 1920A (relating to presumptive eligibility).”.

(B) EXCEPTION FROM LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 2105(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY EXPENDITURES.—The limitation under subparagraph (A) on expenditures shall not apply to expenditures attributable to the application of section 1920 or 1920A (pursuant to section 2107(e)(1)(D)), regardless of whether the child or pregnant woman is determined to be ineligible for the program under this title or title XIX.”.

(4) ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO TITLE XXI.—

(A) NO COST-SHARING FOR PREGNANCY-RELATED SERVICES.—Section 2103(e)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(e)(2)) is amended—

(i) in the heading, by inserting “OR PREGNANCY-RELATED SERVICES” after “PREVENTIVE SERVICES”; and

(ii) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “or for pregnancy-related services”.

(B) NO WAITING PERIOD.—Section 2102(b)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(i) by striking “, and” at the end of clause (i) and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) may not apply a waiting period (including a waiting period to carry out paragraph (3)(C)) in the case of a targeted low-income pregnant woman.”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply to items and services furnished on or after October 1, 2005, without regard to whether regulations implementing such amendments have been promulgated.

SEC. 3. COORDINATION WITH THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) that operations and activities under this title are developed and implemented in consultation and coordination with the program operated by the State under title V in areas including outreach and enrollment, benefits and services, service delivery standards, public health and social service agency relationships, and quality assurance and data reporting.”.

(b) CONFORMING MEDICAID AMENDMENT.—Section 1902(a)(11) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(11)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” before “(C).”; and

(2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, and (D) provide that operations and activities under this title are developed and implemented in consultation and coordination with the program operated by the State under title V in areas including outreach and enrollment, benefits and services, service delivery standards, public health and social service agency relationships, and quality assurance and data reporting.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on January 1, 2006.

SEC. 4. INCREASE IN SCHIP INCOME ELIGIBILITY.

(a) DEFINITION OF LOW-INCOME CHILD.—Section 2110(c)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 42 U.S.C. 1397jj(c)(4)) is amended by striking “200” and inserting “250”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies to child health assistance provided, and allotments determined under section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) for fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2006.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF AIRBUS FOR LAUNCH AID

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. TALENT, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. OBAMA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was ordered held at the desk:

S. CON. RES. 25

Whereas Airbus is currently the leading manufacturer of large civil aircraft, with a full fleet of aircraft and more than 50 percent global market share;

Whereas Airbus has received approximately \$30,000,000,000 in market distorting subsidies from European governments, including launch aid, infrastructure support, debt forgiveness, equity infusions, and research and development funding;

Whereas these subsidies, in particular launch aid, have lowered Airbus’ development costs and shifted the risk of aircraft development to European governments, and thereby enabled Airbus to develop aircraft at an accelerated pace and sell these aircraft at prices and on terms that would otherwise be unsustainable;

Whereas the benefit of these subsidies to Airbus is enormous, including, at a minimum, the avoidance of \$35,000,000,000 in debt as a result of launch aid’s noncommercial interest rate;

Whereas over the past 5 years, Airbus has gained 20 points of world market share and 45 points of market share in the United States, all at the expense of Boeing, its only competitor;

Whereas this dramatic shift in market share has had a tremendous impact, resulting in the loss of over 60,000 high-paying United States aerospace jobs;

Whereas on October 6, 2004, the United States Trade Representative filed a complaint at the World Trade Organization on the basis that all of the subsidies that the European Union and its Member States have provided to Airbus violate World Trade Organization rules;

Whereas on January 11, 2005, the European Union agreed to freeze the provision of launch aid and other government support and negotiate with a view to reaching a comprehensive, bilateral agreement covering all government supports in the large civil aircraft sector;

Whereas the Bush administration has shown strong leadership and dedication to bring about a fair resolution during the negotiations;

Whereas Airbus received \$6,200,000,000 in government subsidies to build the A380;

Whereas Airbus has now committed to develop and produce yet another new model, the A350, even before the A380 is out of the development phase;

Whereas Airbus has stated that it does not need launch aid to build the A350, but has nevertheless applied for and European governments are prepared to provide \$1,700,000,000 in new launch aid; and

Whereas European governments are apparently determined to target the United States aerospace sector and Boeing’s position in the large civil aircraft market by providing Airbus with continuing support to lower its costs and reduce its risk: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) European governments should reject Airbus' pending application for launch aid for the A350 and any future applications for launch aid;

(2) the European Union, acting for itself and on behalf of its Member States, should renew its commitment to the terms agreed to on January 11, 2005;

(3) the United States Trade Representative should request the formation of a World Trade Organization dispute resolution panel at the earliest possible opportunity if there is no immediate agreement to eliminate launch aid for the A350 and all future models and no concrete progress toward a comprehensive bilateral agreement covering all government supports in the large aircraft sector; and

(4) the President should take any additional action the President considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States in fair competition in the large commercial aircraft market.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 7, 2005, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Regulatory Reform of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, April 7, 2005 at 9:30 a.m., in Senate Dirksen Office Building Room 226.

Agenda

I. Nominations: Thomas B. Griffith, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; Terrence W. Boyle II, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit; Priscella R. Owen, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit; Robert J. Conrad, Jr., to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina; and James C. Dever III, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

II. Bills: Asbestos; S. 378, Reducing Crime and Terrorism at America's Seaports Act of 2005, Biden, Specter, Feinstein, Kyl, Cornyn; S. 119, Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2005, Feinstein, Schumer, Durbin, DeWine, Feingold, Kennedy, Brownback, Specter; and S. 629, Railroad Carriers and Mass Transportation Act of 2005, Sessions, Kyl.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 7, 2005, for a hearing to consider the nomination of Mr. Jonathan B. Perlin to be Under

Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans' Affairs. The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 7, 2005 at 2:30 p.m., to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 7, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on ballistic missile defense programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2006.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE HELD AT DESK—S. CON. RES. 25

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a resolution to the desk and ask unanimous consent it be held at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 11, the Senate proceed to executive session for consideration of Calendar 38, the nomination of Paul A. Crotty, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York; provided further that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member or designees, and that at the expiration or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate; provided further that following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 295

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, shall, no later than July 27, call up S. 295; that if the bill has not been reported by then by the Finance Committee, it be discharged at that time and that the Senate shall consider it under the following time limitation: that there be 2 hours for debate equally divided between the chairman of the Finance Committee and the

Democratic leader or his designee; that no amendments or motions be in order, including committee amendments; that after the use or yielding back of time the bill be read the third time and the Senate proceed to vote on the passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate; provided further that the bill become the pending business when the Senate resumes legislative session after July 26 under the terms and conditions if it has not been considered prior to that time.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I will say that one of the things we are also working on, and I am willing to go forward without this stage, we were moving along with the colloquy of Senator STABENOW and Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM—I am quite certain that was the cosponsor of the amendment—an amendment dealing with international trade. I spoke to Senator GRASSLEY. Senator GRASSLEY indicated he would be willing to enter into a colloquy with her. That was being prepared when the problem arose with the New York Senators and Senator DODD. As a result of that, the colloquy was never finalized—at least brought to the floor.

I hope when we return to that bill, whenever that might be, we can complete that colloquy because, in fact, what Senator GRASSLEY said is that if the amendment were not filed at this time he would be happy to take a look at it. He has another amendment coming and he basically said he agreed with the content of her amendment, but he didn't agree it should be brought up on this bill. He felt his Finance Committee has jurisdiction.

I want that spread on the record. This does not call for anyone agreeing or disagreeing with what I said, just in the future I hope we can work that out.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, prior to the ruling, the proponents of the legislation have also agreed they would withhold offering amendments in committee or on the floor on the subject matter for the duration of this session of Congress as part of this understanding, as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2005

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, the Senate stand in adjournment until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 11. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; provided that at 3 p.m. the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1268, the Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental appropriations bill, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on Monday, the Senate will begin consideration of the Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental. The chairman and ranking member will be here, and we will begin the amending process Monday afternoon. As I announced earlier today, the next rollcall vote will occur at 5:30 Monday afternoon on a district judge, the one we announced a few moments ago. Other votes are possible around

that 5:30 time in relation to the supplemental bill.

I say to all of our colleagues, this will be a busy week. This is a big, important piece of legislation. We hope to finish it next week. But in any event, whether we finish it then or not, we are going to have a busy week, with lots of votes throughout the entire week, including the likelihood of night sessions.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
APRIL 11, 2005, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:16 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 11, 2005, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate April 7, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GORDON ENGLAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE PAUL D. WOLFOWITZ.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANDREW MESSENGER, A TRUE FRIEND OF LIBERTY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a friend and patriot, Dr. Andrew L. Messenger, of Riverdale, Michigan.

As a physician, I know Dr. Messenger is the type of doctor all of us would want to have to take care of us. He is capable, loves his work, genuinely cares about his patients, and is always available if someone needs him. In fact, he loves being a doctor so much that he did not retire until this past year at age 83.

Every day he would wake up early to be at the office by 6:45 a.m. He knew that many of his working patients preferred to come in early so he made himself available. Dr. Messenger felt that if he as a doctor was unavailable, he was worthless.

Dr. Messenger also applied this principle to being a father. Leaving the house early in the morning allowed him to spend time with his family in the evenings. Most nights and weekends were spent hunting, fishing, playing at the local playground, and attending athletic events with his six children.

When Dr. Messenger returned home from work, the whole family would sit around the dinner table and discuss personal and newsworthy events of the day. After dinner was done and homework finished, Dr. Messenger would take the kids out to play. Baseball and going to the park were two of the Messenger family's favorite after dinner activities.

His personal involvement in the lives of his children paid off. He has six successful children, three of whom are doctors.

Dr. Messenger lives by the principals of honesty, hard work, and caring for his fellow man, and took great care to instill these same principles into his children.

After raising a family and running a respected practice, Dr. Messenger continues to make a difference not only in his local community and across the United States through his generous support of the Leadership Institute.

When most men embrace the rewards retirement offers, Dr. Messenger pushes on to make a difference in the lives of his countrymen. Dr. Messenger's support of the Leadership Institute gives young people and working professionals the practical tools necessary to advance liberty and protect freedom. Too often freedom has few friends on our college campuses, in our state houses, and in our capitol. Dr. Messenger is providing everyday citizens with the resources necessary to defend the dream of limited government George Washington and the rest of our founding fathers created when they wrote our constitution.

Clearly, Dr. Messenger has not only contributed to society by raising six successful children, he has made provisions for future gen-

erations through investing in the long-term mission of the Leadership Institute.

Thank you, Dr. Messenger, for investing in the lives of the future leaders of this country through your faithful and generous support of the Leadership Institute.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House on Tuesday, April 5th due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

H. Res. 108: Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of Georgia, "yea."

H. Res. 120: Commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004, "yea."

H. Con. Res. 34: Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhaajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing, "yea."

COMMENTING ON THE ONGOING DISPUTE BETWEEN THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC OF GREECE AND THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, in 1991, the former nation of Yugoslavia dissolved into a number of independent nation-states, including the Republic of Macedonia. However, international recognition of Macedonia's independence from Yugoslavia was significantly delayed in large part by Greece's objection to the new state's use of what it considered to be a Hellenic name and symbols.

Greece even went so far as to impose a trade blockade against Macedonia, citing unfounded concerns of potential border destabilization within the region and fears of Macedonian territorial expansion. The Greek government even persuaded the United Nations Security Council to pass United Nations Security Council Resolution 845 in 1993, which proclaimed that for all intents and purposes the Republic of Macedonia would be referred to as the "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia," pending the outcome of negotiations between Greece and Macedonia on a permanent name.

Greece finally lifted its trade blockade against Macedonia in 1995, and the two coun-

tries have since agreed to normalize relations. Although inexplicable, even after 12 long years of discussion and debate between the representatives of Greece and Macedonia, and a host of international mediators, differences over Macedonia's official name remain.

Recently, last November, the United States joined 108 other nations in officially recognizing the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia. America's official recognition of the Republic of Macedonia should be seen as a clear message to both sides that this dispute over the name has simply gone on too long.

A new, accelerated round of discussions between officials from Greece and Macedonia—mediated by United States diplomat and United Nations mediator Matthew Nimitz—is scheduled to start before the end of April. For the good of bilateral relations, as well as broader regional stability, I urge both sides, Greek and Macedonian, to work together in a spirit of friendship and open-mindedness with UN envoy Matthew Nimitz, and ultimately conclude this emotionally-embroiled dispute in a mutually acceptable, desirable, and expedient way.

Mr. Speaker, Greece and Macedonia have more to gain by settling this dispute and working together to bring the people and governments of the region into the larger community of nations than they do by continuing this destabilizing dispute. I hope that both sides will seize this opportunity to do the right thing at the April talks and work together to bring this matter to a peaceful conclusion.

RECOGNIZING BAY CITY UNIFICATION ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise before you today, and to ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the unification of Bay City, Michigan. This momentous occasion will be marked by a series of events to take place on Sunday, April 10, 2005.

In 1857, a village, made up of land once used as a campground for the Chippewa Indians, was formed east of the Saginaw River. In 1865, this village, known as Bay City, was formally incorporated as a city. The years that followed saw other villages established in the area, including several to the west of the river. In 1877, three of these communities—Banks, Salzburg, and Wenona, consolidated and formed West Bay City. The two communities coexisted and thrived with separate mayors, city councils, police and fire departments, schools, public utilities, and city services, until a campaign to unite the two began, with the hopes that a larger city would increase revenue and promote expansion.

After several consolidation referenda, as well as actions on the part of the Michigan

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Legislature, the concept of a united Bay City became reality on April 10, 1905, when a common council, consisting of 34 aldermen from 17 wards in the combined city convened and made history.

Mr. Speaker, in the 100 years since the unification of Bay City and West Bay City, we have seen a town rise from a collection of small lumber villages to one of Michigan's largest and most vibrant cities. The shipyards and sawmills of the past have given way to worldwide corporations that create opportunities each day. Bay City's rich heritage is seen in its renowned architecture and diverse history. For generations, the kind hearts and friendly manner of the residents have made Bay City a warm welcoming community. They are the true nucleus of the city.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Mr. Robert Belleman, City Manager, for his vision in recognizing the need to acknowledge this milestone in Bay City's history. I am proud to call him my colleague, my constituent, and my friend.

Mr. Speaker, once again I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bay City, Michigan on the 100th anniversary of its unification.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE KEITH BAKER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge Keith Baker for his long standing career of service to his country and community.

A Vietnam veteran who had served at Cam Ranh Bay and Chu Lai, Mr. Baker is no stranger to dedicated commitment and sacrifice for his country. During his stay at Chu Lai, Keith Baker worked at the Adjutant 27th Surgical Hospital. He helped to serve our troops where his assistance was greatly needed.

Having started a distinguished law career in the field of law in 1973, Keith Baker has over 30 years experience serving the needs of our citizens. He has also authored numerous articles for the American Bankruptcy Institute Journal. Mr. Baker additionally serves as Trustee to numerous community organizations, including the Texas Military Institute, the Texas Bar Foundation, the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and the San Antonio Manufacturers Association.

Judge Baker was first elected in Bexar County as Justice of the Peace in 1982. A dedicated civil servant, Judge Baker works hard for our communities. He specializes in misdemeanor criminal cases, civil cases involving our businesses, consumer cases, and tort.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Keith Baker is an exemplary public servant. I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him here today for all he has done for his fellow Texans.

VISA DENIAL TO INDIAN OFFICIAL LEADS TO BURNING OF PEPSI PLANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the United States government denied a visa to Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat, due to the state government's complicity in the massacre of Muslims there and his insensitive statements about minorities. His visa was revoked under the law that prohibits those responsible for violations of religious freedom from getting visas. This was the right thing to do, and I salute those who made this decision.

According to the March 25 issue of India-West, the denial of a visa to Mr. Modi was met with attacks from the Indian government. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who, as a Sikh, is a member of a religious minority himself, complained in Parliament that "we do not believe it is appropriate . . . to make a subjective judgment question a constitutional authority in India." The Foreign Ministry said that the denial of Mr. Modi's visa "is uncalled for and displays lack of courtesy and sensitivity toward a constitutionally elected chief minister of a state of India." Of course, they completely neglected to mention Mr. Modi's lack of courtesy and sensitivity towards the 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims killed in the riots that his government helped organize. India's Human Rights Commission held Mt. Modi and his government responsible for the massacre.

The Indian government officially stated that the decision showed "a lack of courtesy and sensitivity" and that their "sovereignty" was violated by the decision. This is the standard argument of tyrants. It is the argument countries like Red China make when they are criticized.

On March 19 in New Delhi, India-West reported, fanatical Hindu nationalist fundamentalists affiliated with the militant organization Bajrang Dal rioted against the United States because Mr. Modi was denied his visa. They barged into a Pepsi-Cola warehouse, smashed bottles of Pepsi, and set fire to the building. The warehouse was partially burned. About a dozen workers fled. The rioters also ransacked a nearby Pepsi office. Another group protested the U.S. consulate in Bombay. They carried signs reading "Down With the United States." Some Bajrang Dal members tried to enter the visa application center in Ahmedabad. Modi himself said, "Let us pledge to work for such a day that an American would have to stand in line for entry into Gujarat." He accused the United States of trying to "impose its laws on other countries." He urged India to deny visas to American officials.

Mr. Speaker, this is just the latest chapter in India's ongoing repression of its minorities, which has been well documented in this House over the years, and its virulent hatred of America. Why do we spend our time, energy, and money supporting such a country?

The time has come to hold India's feet to the fire. Denying Mr. Modi a visa was simply a small first step, and a good one. We must do more. The time has come to stop our aid and trade with India until all people enjoy the full flower of human rights and to support self-determination for all the peoples and nations

seeking their freedom through a free and fair plebiscite. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. As the world's oldest and strongest democracy, it is up to the United States to take these measures in support of freedom for all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the India-West article of March 25 into the RECORD at this time.

[From the India-West, Mar. 25, 2005]

PEPSI WAREHOUSE BURNED IN VISA DENIAL UPROAR—Continued from page A1

The riots were sparked by the burning of a train coach by Muslims in Godhra, killing 59 Hindu kar sevaks.

Modi was denied a diplomatic visa to travel to the United States and his existing tourist/business visa was revoked under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act that bars people responsible for violations of religious freedom from getting a visa.

Modi had been scheduled to address a gathering of Indian American groups and motel owners in New York, Florida and in New Jersey.

India slammed the decision, saying it showed a "lack of courtesy and sensitivity," and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh criticized the American decision in Parliament.

"The American government has been clearly informed . . . we do not believe that it is appropriate to use allegations or anything less than due legal process to make a subjective judgment to question a constitutional authority in India," Singh told the Rajya Sabha.

Responding to opposition leader Jaswant Singh's submission that the decision was unacceptable, Manmohan Singh said, "We agree that this is not a matter of partisan politics, but rather a matter of concern over a point of principle. Our prompt and firm response clearly shows our principled stand in this matter."

Earlier, Indian officials summoned Ambassador Mulford's deputy Robert Blake "to lodge a strong protest."

"This action . . . is uncalled for and displays lack of courtesy and sensitivity toward a constitutionally elected chief minister of a state of India," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, expressing the government's "deep concern and regret."

The U.S. stood by its decision after a review sought by India. Mulford, who was out of town when the news broke March 18, said the U.S. decision was aimed at Modi alone, and not Gujaratis. He also denied it would affect ties with India.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Adam Erel said the U.S. response was based on a finding by India's National Human Rights Commission that held Modi's government responsible for the 2002 Hindu-Muslim violence in the state, India's worst in a decade.

The decision led to widespread uproar in parts of Gujarat. A day after the decision, nearly 150 Bajrang Dal activists barged into the warehouse of U.S.-based PepsiCo in the Surat, smashed bottles and set fire to the place, said Dharmesh Joshi, a witness. The warehouse was partially burned.

A witness said about a dozen workers at the warehouse fled during the attack and firefighters doused the flames.

The protesters also ransacked a nearby PepsiCo office and demonstrated outside the American consulate in Mumbai. Some carried placards reading: "Down with the United States," "Boycott the U.S. goods and the Americans."

Up to 150 Bajrang Dal activists also tried to enter the U.S. visa application center in Ahmedabad but were turned back by police.

Modi called the U.S. decision "an insult to India and its Constitution." In a public address in Ahmedabad, he lashed out at the United States.

"A man from Gujarat was thrown out of a train in South Africa. This led to a movement that overthrew the British Empire," Modi thundered, in a reference to Mahatma Gandhi. "Let us pledge to work for such a day that an American would have to stand in line for entry into Gujarat," he added.

"The United States can't impose its laws on other countries. In the same way, India should deny visas to U.S. officials as a protest against Washington's policies in Iraq," Modi said.

"On what basis has the U.S. decided this?" Modi asked. "Where has the U.S. got its information from? The American government should know that every state in India is ruled by the Constitution and no one can violate that. No court has indicted the Gujarat government or the CM of complicity in the incidents that took place in the state."

If the Pakistani president and the Bangladesh prime minister could visit the U.S., two countries in which minorities have suffered, Modi said he could be admitted too.

TRIBUTE TO SHERMAN W. DREISESZUN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sherman W. Dreiseszun, of Leawood, Kansas, who on May 14, 2005, at Kehilath Israel Synagogue of Overland Park, Kansas, will celebrate his Second Bar Mitzvah.

On May 25, 1935, at Voliner Synagogue of Overland Park, Sherman W. Dreiseszun, the son of Sam and Bertha Dreiseszun, was called to the Torah to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah and take his place as an adult in the Jewish Community.

The Old Testament defines a person's life as three score and ten (seventy years). Since the age of Bar Mitzvah is thirteen, when a man has the good fortune to reach his eighty-third birthday, he has earned the right to celebrate his Second Bar Mitzvah.

Sherman's commitment to Judaism and to Kehilath Israel Synagogue was deeply rooted in the promise he made during his service in World War II. Sherman was a waist gunner in the Air Force, and the plane to which he was assigned was forced to ditch in the Atlantic. While in the ocean, hoping to be rescued, Sherman pledged that if he was saved from that peril, he would commit himself to Judaism, his Synagogue, and to the Jewish community.

Sherman made good on that promise, first by becoming the youngest President of Kehilath Israel to ever hold that position in 1959 and 1960, and then being re-elected President in 1978 for an additional term. He has worked for and led numerous organizations, reaching out to improve individual lives in the Jewish community. Sherman's dynamic work on behalf of Kehilath Israel, the Jewish community and the overall Kansas City community has created a new face for the entire metropolitan landscape.

Sherman has been the backbone and the lifeline for Kehilath Israel Synagogue. To show

the respect that the congregation has for Sherman, he has been designated as Honorary President for Life.

On July 7, 1946, Sherman married Irene Friedman. Irene and Sherman will be celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary this summer. Irene also will be celebrating her 80th birthday on August 25, 2005.

Irene and Sherman are the parents of the late Barbara Dreiseszun, the late Richard Dreiseszun; daughter-in-law Gail Dreiseszun of Shawnee Mission, Kansas; and of daughter and son-in-law Helone and Marshall Abrams of Denver, Colorado. Their grandchildren Brooke and James Levy and Erica and Evan Fisher all reside in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to pay public tribute to Sherman W. Dreiseszun, who has been the backbone and the lifeline of both his Synagogue and his community at large. I congratulate him on his upcoming Second Bar Mitzvah and congratulate him and Irene on their upcoming 59th anniversary.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF ZURAB ZHVANIA, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 108, commemorating the life of the late Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania. I commend my colleagues, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. WEXLER, for introducing this resolution and I am proud to be a cosponsor. I want to thank them for providing us an opportunity to recognize the life and contributions of Prime Minister Zhvania to the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on February 3 of this year, the Republic of Georgia suffered a tremendous loss with the untimely passing of their Prime Minister, Zurab Zhvania. An academic and unlikely political hero, Zhvania was elected to the Georgian national parliament in 1992, after the collapse of the Soviet Union. His passion and his eloquence brought him to the attention of Eduard Shevardnadze, and eventually to the office of Speaker of the Georgian Parliament. A champion of democracy and freedom of the press, Zhvania distanced himself from Shevardnadze and joined a party of young reformers who brought about the Rose Revolution in 2003. As the Prime Minister, Zhvania led the economic and social reform efforts that have transformed the lives of the Georgian people.

His visionary leadership in guiding the Republic of Georgia as it reached independence, his commitment to the development of core democratic values, and his tremendous courage in the face of adversity, will make the late Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania a towering figure in the history of the independent Republic of Georgia.

IN HONOR OF SIBLINGS DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Siblings Day, a day to honor our brothers and sisters for the many ways in which they enhance our lives. This celebration gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for our siblings, much like Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated. Siblings Day was founded by my constituent, Claudia Evart. Ms. Evart has worked tirelessly to promote the observance of Sibling's Day on April 10th.

Siblings make important contributions to our lives, and often, when our parents have passed away, siblings are our only remaining family. Siblings Day helps us remember the integral role brothers and sisters play in our lives, and it also provides an opportunity to remember siblings who we have lost at an early age.

April 10th marks the birthday of Claudia's sister, Lisette, who died tragically in 1972 at age 19 in a car accident that also killed their father. An additional tragedy struck in 1987, when Ms. Evart's older brother, Alan, died in an accident at his home. He was 36 years old.

According to the Siblings Day Foundation, Siblings Day was recently marked in 22 states (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin); the governor of each of these states proclaimed the 10th of April to be Siblings Day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of family by saluting the contributions of siblings. I applaud the work of Claudia Evart, who has created a loving tribute to her deceased siblings through her work to establish Siblings Day. Her dedication should serve as an inspiration to us all.

IN CELEBRATION OF NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, Representative ERIC CANTOR, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Virginia Union University Panthers men's basketball team had a remarkable season and we believe the Panthers deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 26, 2005, the Virginia Union University Panthers won the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship. The Panthers completed their 2005 season with an impressive 30-4 record.

To quote from Virginia Union's hometown newspaper, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, "Those [Virginia Union's] starters, none over

6–6 or heavier than 223 pounds, carried the Panthers all year past bigger, stronger opponents. . . . It is perhaps the most belabored sports cliché, but when the Panthers looked at each other, they saw a whole greater than the sum of its parts.”

En route to their championship victory in Grand Forks, North Dakota, the Panthers won their second straight CIAA Championship on Saturday, March 5, 2005. Their remarkable season carries on the tradition of championship basketball at Virginia Union, which now has 15 CIAA Championships and three National Championships.

Founded in 1865, Virginia Union University is an Historically Black University dedicated to providing educational equity to African-Americans. Virginia Union welcomes diversity among its faculty and staff as well as its student body. In its founding days, Virginia Union's academic missions and social visions were ahead of their time. Now, more than a century later, Virginia Union University is still an innovating and inspiring place for college students and scholar athletes.

My colleague ERIC CANTOR and I would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to the Virginia Union University players and their families, Coach Robbins and the rest of his coaching staff, Virginia Union alumni, and the entire Virginia Union community for their remarkable accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 91, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAYS COUNTY SHERIFF DON MONTAGUE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important achievements of Hays County Sheriff Don Montague, of my Congressional District.

Don Montague was elected Hays County Sheriff in 1996, and was re-elected in 2000. As a fourth generation Hays County resident, he began his law enforcement career in 1967 when he joined the Highway Patrol and he rose quickly through the ranks of Hays Counties finest. He has served prior posts as a Patrol Officer, Field Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. Sheriff Montague was instrumental in forming and commanding the Hays County Drug Task Force.

Under Sheriff Montague's administration, the sheriff's department has evolved into a thriving, highly successful, and professional organization with unprecedented personnel and equipment growth. He currently holds a Master Proficiency Certificate and Instructors License with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education.

Sheriff Montague is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. He is a past director of the Sheriffs Association of Texas, a past President of the Texas Capital Area Law Enforcement Association, a past President Hays County Criminal Justice Association, a member of the Texas Crime Prevention Association, and member of the Texas Narcotics Officers Association. Don Montague is an example of proactive law enforcement in our communities.

Along with his many contributions to the people of Hays County, Sheriff Don Montague has been married to his lovely wife, Harpie, for 36 years and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Montague has enriched the community with his vision and I am proud to have this opportunity to thank him.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RODRIGUEZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert Rodriguez who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as “Mortgage Broker of the Year.”

Robert is a successful mortgage broker who was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. His father, Higinio Rodriguez, was working for the Brooklyn Navy Yard many years ago when he sent for his wife, Rafaela Santos-Rodriguez and family, including a very young Robert who was three years old.

Robert attended Brooklyn College, majored in psychology and later obtained his real estate mortgage and insurance broker's licenses. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps and received an Honorable Discharge.

Among many enterprises, he opened up Sunset Park Real Estate in 1980. It became a very successful and inspirational real estate firm in an up and coming neighborhood. In 1987, he became a founding member and President of the Fifth Avenue Merchants Association in 1987. Later, he was instrumental in converting that association to The Business Improvement District of Sunset Park. During this period, he became (and continues to be) a member of The Bay Ridge Board of Realtor and a member of the New York Association of Mortgage Brokers. Presently, he is President and sole owner of Dinero Mortgage & Funding Corp. located in Sunset Park. By helping people obtain a mortgage, Robert has personally helped many minorities in accomplishing their dreams of obtaining a home for themselves and their loved ones.

Robert is married to Julie Cardinale Rodriguez, a Loan Officer for Countrywide Mortgage. He has three children, Lisa, Robert Jr. and Shelly along with seven grandchildren. Robert is a wonderful example of how hard work and perseverance can lead to success. May this award inspire and encourage him to continue the important work he has already begun.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Rodriguez has been a leader in his community by building a successful business and helping his fellow community members realize their dream of homeownership. As such, he is more than worthy of re-

ceiving our recognition today and the award of Mortgage Broker of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, DR. RAY DANIELS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ray Daniels, superintendent of the Kansas City, Kansas, school system, who is retiring after a distinguished career as an educator and administrator.

As superintendent of the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools for the last eight years, Dr. Ray Daniels has been called “the model for what superintendents could and should be.” He has devoted his entire professional career to the Kansas City school district.

This distinguished career began at Northwest Junior High School in 1965 where he worked as an English teacher and head boys' basketball coach. He later joined the faculty at Wyandotte High School and served as head track coach. Dr. Daniels worked his way up as an assistant principal at Wyandotte in 1973 and became Director of Personnel for the school district in 1976. He was named Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services in 1980.

When appointed superintendent in March 1998, Dr. Daniels immediately worked to close the achievement gap for minority students and students living in poverty, and to correct low student achievement, high dropout rates, unsafe schools, and poor attendance. He is recognized as being ahead of the curve, implementing reforms in his district long before the trend of stronger accountability became popular across the country. Dr. Daniels' efforts have paid dividends for Kansas City schools and our community. His district continues to see significant progress in reading and math achievement.

He has provided leadership and served on numerous community organizations including the KCK Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Wyandotte County, Heart of America Family Services, Cancer Action, the Wyandotte Health Foundation, Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, and the Downtown KCK Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Daniels has earned the respect and trust of the community as he has led his district in becoming one of the most successful examples of urban school reform in America. The Kansas Association of School Administrators named Dr. Daniels the 2005 Kansas Superintendent of the Year and he was a candidate for the National Superintendent of the Year honor. Dr. Daniels was also named “Educator of the Year” by Young Audiences.

There is probably not a tougher job than serving as a superintendent of an urban school district and not a better person for the job these last eight years than Dr. Ray Daniels.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens and parents of Kansas City, Kansas, I say to Dr. Ray Daniels: thank you for your service to our community and our children. You will be missed!

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOGI BHAJAN

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 34, honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhanjan. Yogi Bhanjan was an extraordinary man of compassion, wisdom and kindness whose teachings have provided immeasurable benefits spiritually, culturally and politically to millions here in the United States and around the world. A master of Kundalini yoga, his love of humanity was so strong that he violated the tradition of secrecy surrounding this practice to bring the healing power of yoga to the troubled American youth of the 1960's by providing a healthy alternative to the drug culture.

Yogi Bhanjan worked tirelessly throughout his life to spread the message that "it is our birthright to be happy, healthy, and holy." He established a Sikh Ministry in the West and motivated thousands to embrace the Sikh way of life. He founded 3HO Superhealth, a drug rehabilitation program based on yogic wisdom and modern technology, a program that has now expanded worldwide. His books, the organizations he founded, and the thousands of teachers he trained will serve as his legacy.

One overriding message of Yogi Bhanjan's teaching is that we are all one people—Sikhs, Christians, Jews, Buddhists—and in my opinion his life stands as a shining example of how an unconditional love of humanity can contribute greatly to the health and well-being of us all.

Mr. Speaker, Yogi Bhanjan requested before his death that his passing be a time of celebration of his going home. I am proud to join my colleagues here in celebrating the life and contributions of Yogi Bhanjan, and celebrate his going home.

RECOGNIZING JULIA HOLT AS WINNER OF THE 2005 SAFETY EDUCATION HERO AWARD

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Julia Holt on being awarded the 2005 Safety Education Hero Award. The public safety education she provides to children has proven to be life-saving. She is a true hero in our community and is helping train our young people to be heroes, too.

As Public Education Officer with the Dickson Fire Department, Ms. Holt teaches fire safety lessons at six elementary schools to kids ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade. Although she has only served in that capacity for three years, Ms. Holt was named Tennessee's Fire Educator of the Year in 2004.

In February, 2004, Ms. Holt's Fire safety lessons were put to the test when seven-year-old Dustin Stephens got too close to a living room wall heater and his clothes ignited. Fortunately, Dustin's brothers Ryan and Justin were able to use what Ryan had learned the

week before in Ms. Holt's class. The firefighters responding to their call said Justin's life was saved because of the boys' quick action and their exceptional training.

Ms. Holt is an extraordinary public servant, and she has proven her commitment to ensuring that all children have proper training to respond to emergencies like the one Dustin and his brothers faced. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in thanking Ms. Holt for all she does in our community and congratulating her on receiving this distinguished award.

ENDING TAX BREAKS FOR DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2005

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today we are introducing a bill to end government subsidies for private clubs that discriminate against Americans based on sex, race, or color. The Ending Tax Breaks for Discrimination Act of 2005 makes it illegal to deduct expenses at clubs with discriminatory membership policies. We think it's wrong for corporations to write off big expenditures for entertainment, meetings and advertising at clubs that keep women out on America's dollar. Men play and women pay.

I am joined by my distinguished colleague, Representative BRAD SHERMAN from California. In the early '90s Mr. SHERMAN, as a member of the California tax board, implemented legislation similar to this Act. Since then, other states have followed. The time for the federal government to take a stand and end government-subsidized discrimination is long overdue.

Right now, conventions and meetings are considered legitimate business deductions for corporate income tax purposes, including those held at private clubs that discriminate. Half the price of a business lunch is deductible. But if you're a woman, you subsidize one half of a man's lunch with your taxes, even though you can't join the club.

Augusta and other clubs on par with it are already way out of bounds by discriminating. For taxpayers to have to foot the bill for business conducted under these discriminatory conditions is obscene. This is something that comes into focus every Masters Week, but people need to know they are subsidizing discrimination every day of the year.

Members of these clubs profit—either indirectly through career opportunities and board appointments, or directly through tax deductions. Women can't get these same financial gains—just because they're women. Men get the membership, the deal, the deduction, and women get the bill. Ending Tax Breaks for Discrimination Act of 2005 would put a stop to that. It ends deductions for advertising, travel, accommodation and meals associated with these clubs, and it requires discriminatory clubs to print right on their receipts, "not tax deductible".

This bill is not an attack on deductions for big business. Legitimate tax deductions should continue, but when these deductions support clubs that bar Americans from becoming equal partners, equal players, and equal earners—just because of their sex or race—they are

NOT legitimate. The time for discrimination is over.

TRIBUTE TO WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL WOLVERINES

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague, Representative JO ANN DAVIS, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Woodside High School Wolverines boy's basketball team had a remarkable season and we believe the Wolverines deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 12, 2005, Woodside won its second consecutive Group AAA Boy's Basketball State Championship at the Virginia Commonwealth University Siegel Center in Richmond. The Wolverines completed the 2005 season with a truly impressive record of 30–2.

Established in 1996, Woodside High School is a magnet school specializing in the performing arts. Students must meet rigorous academic requirements, take responsibility for academic progress, behavior and attendance, and they are expected to participate in school and community activities. The Woodside drive for excellence has now been extended into the field of athletics.

With their 2004 and 2005 championship seasons, Woodside has established a new tradition of championship basketball in Newport News. This year the Wolverines were Peninsula District Season and Tournament Champions, and the Eastern Region Champion. Two-time Coach of the Year, John Richardson, has compiled a 59–5 record over the last two years. The Virginia High School Coaches Association also awarded Player of the Year honors to Woodside senior guard, Calvin Baker.

My colleague JO ANN DAVIS and I would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to the Woodside High School players and their families, Coach Richardson and the rest of his coaching staff, Woodside High alumni, and the entire Woodside High community for their remarkable accomplishment.

HONORING JIN LEE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jin Lee for his recent appointment to the Northeastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees. Jin Lee has been an outstanding citizen of the Fifth Congressional District, and he will be a tremendous asset to Northeastern Illinois University as a member of its Board of Trustees.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Lee's distinguished career included management positions with Ace Young Company, Daewoo International America Corporation, and Lorenzo Import-Export Company. He was also

the Executive Director of the Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce and remains a prominent member of the City of Chicago's Human Relations Task Force. In addition, he served on the Asian American Advisory Councils for both the Illinois Secretary of State and the Illinois State Treasurer. Since 1997, Jin Lee has also served as the director of business planning and development for the Albany Park Community Center.

Hard work and determination were the hallmarks of Mr. Lee's early life. When he was 14 years old and without a working knowledge of English, he moved with his family to the United States from South Korea. He quickly mastered the language and subsequently earned a Bachelors degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mr. Lee's reputation for hard work and determination are widely recognized and respected. He has received numerous honors and awards including Loyola University Chicago's Leadership Certificate, the Illinois Secretary of State's Certificate of Application, and membership in the Asian American Hall of Fame.

As he begins his 4-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees for Northeastern Illinois University, I am confident that Jin Lee will continue to serve the people of the Chicago area with steadfast dedication, just as he has proven in years past.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed the entire city of Chicago, I thank Jin Lee for his many outstanding contributions to our community. I wish him continued success as he begins a new challenge and extend my heartfelt congratulations on his appointment to the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees. I am proud to represent Mr. Lee and Northeastern Illinois University in the Fifth Congressional district and am confident both he and the university will find their partnership to be mutually productive and rewarding over the next four years and beyond.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BISHOP SAMUEL EDWARD IGLEHART

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop Samuel Edward Iglehart for his unparalleled dedication to his community, church, and family.

It is rare to find many people who have gone through life so humbly helping others. However Bishop Samuel Edward Iglehart is one of them. Ordained at the age of 31, Bishop Iglehart has gained a great familiarity with the people of his church and community. Whether it is a fellow officer of the church or a small child in need of assistance, serving humanity is always a top priority for Bishop Iglehart. This priority can be seen in the everyday mission of his church, the Childless Memorial Church of God in Christ. Future goals and milestones Bishop Iglehart plans to implement for the Memorial Church consist of providing a daycare and Christian Academy for children, a learning center for adults, and a Christian book store.

Memorial Church has not been the only medium for Bishop Iglehart to serve the community. He is a life-time member of the NAACP and a strong supporter of the United Negro College Fund. For his active community involvement, Bishop Iglehart was inducted into the "Who's Who Society of Outstanding Church Leaders" in May of 1989.

Besides his commitment to the community Bishop Iglehart dearly loves and is dedicated to his family. His wife Glorious Cosey Iglehart and their six children have a very special bond that can stand the test of time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be given the time to pay reverence to the lifetime of service of Bishop Samuel Edward Iglehart and his lifetime of service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ESPINAL FAMILY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the Espinal Family who are being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as "Outstanding Family of the Year."

Jose and Agueda Espinal are the parents of this family, and together, they have raised thirteen children in the community of Sunset Park, Brooklyn, New York. Jose and Agueda immigrated from the Dominican Republic in 1977. They hoped to provide a better life and education for their family. Their children are Carmen, Pablo, Pedro, Maria, Julio, Esteban, Andres, Ceferino, Carlos, Bienvenido, Rafael, Mary Carmen and Juan Martin.

All the members of the Espinal Family have established very successful community based businesses. The majority of the children and grandchildren are professionals with degrees in business administration. They are also well known for their generosity to churches, civic and community organizations, which serve the less fortunate and infirm. This distinguished family is an inspiration and a role model to everyone in the community.

May this award inspire and encourage them to continue the important work that they have already begun. The wonderful example of dedication to their fellow community members and commitment to the important value of family has surely made them worthy of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, by raising thirteen successful children and still finding time and money to assist others, the Espinal Family has been a shining example to the community. As such, they are more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Outstanding Family of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

FIFTH ANNUAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARDS OF THE VOL- UNTEER CENTER OF JOHNSON COUNTY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. On April 18, 2005, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, Kansas, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Seventy-one young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 71 youths exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community. It is my honor to recognize each student volunteer, their school, their age, number of hours volunteered, and their hometown by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Molly Allison-Gallimore, Home School, 15, 500+, Spring Hill, KS.

Kirsten Amble, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, 17, 150, Shawnee, KS.

Brett Beyer, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, 18, 350, Lake Quivira, KS.

Cheryl Bornheimer, Shawnee Mission West High School, 18, 100, Shawnee Mission, KS.

Brea Buchanan, Olathe East High School, 16, 217, Olathe, KS.

Jessie Bullock, Notre Dame de Sion, 16, 130, Stilwell, KS.

Meghan Burrow, Shawnee Mission South High School, 18, Gold, Overland Park, KS.

Clayton Calder, Olathe South High School, 18, 284, Olathe, KS.

Jenna Christensen, Shawnee Mission North High School, 16, 70, Overland Park, KS.

Jill Christensen, Shawnee Mission North High School, 14, Bronze, Overland Park, KS.

Brittany Clark, Mill Valley High School, 17, 200, Shawnee, KS.

Michael Cobb, Blue Valley High School, 18, 240, Stilwell, KS.

Michelle Cook, Shawnee Mission West High School, 17, 120, Lenexa, KS.

Christopher Connell, Shawnee Mission West High School, 15, Silver, Lenexa, KS.

David Dolginow, Pembroke Hill, 18, 100, Shawnee Mission, KS.

Marissa Dorau, Shawnee Mission West High School, 18, 90, Shawnee Mission, KS.

Morgan Fasbinder, Blue Valley Northwest High School, 17, 50, Overland Park, KS.

Kate Garrett, Shawnee Mission West High School, 16, Gold, Lenexa, KS.

Kevin Garrett, Westridge Middle School, 13, Bronze, Lenexa, KS.

James Geary, Blue Valley Middle School, 12, 63, Overland Park, KS.

Lindsey Gerber, Oregon Trail Junior High, 14, 250, Olathe, KS.

Josh Gordon, Blue Valley North High School, 17, 110, Leawood, KS.

Maggie Gremminger, Mill Valley High School, 17, 165, Shawnee, KS.

Luke Hays, Oxford Middle School, 12, 81, Overland Park, KS.

Kristen Heath, Mill Valley High School, 17, 110, Shawnee, KS.

Samantha Hewitt, Shawnee Mission West High School, 17, 350, Lenexa, KS.

Bethany Hileman, Oxford Middle School, 12, 68, Overland Park, KS.

Mallory Howlett, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, 18, 300, Shawnee, KS.

Ellen Jorgenson, Shawnee Mission North High School, 17, 150, Shawnee, KS.

Adam Kenne, Gardner-Edgerton High School, 16, 110, Gardner, KS.

Becky Kenton, Mill Valley High School, 18, 225, Shawnee, KS.

Hunter Kiely, Blue Valley West High School, 16, 150, Overland Park, KS.

Jenny Kim, Shawnee Mission South High School, 17, 120, Overland Park, KS.

Danielle Kopp, St. Thomas Aquinas, 15, 92, Leawood, KS.

Kelly Kutchko, Shawnee Mission North High School, 16, 75, Merriam, KS.

Andrew Lacy, Blue Valley Northwest High School, 18, 200, Overland Park, KS.

Max Lehman, Blue Valley High School, 16, 250, Leawood, KS.

Ethan Levine, Pleasant Ridge Middle School, 14, 250, Overland Park, KS.

Emily Limpic, Shawnee Mission East High School, 17, 75, Shawnee Mission, KS.

Blake Lindsay, Olathe South High School, 18, 100, Olathe, KS.

John Liu, Blue Valley High School, 16, 262, Overland Park, KS.

Magdalena May, Olathe North High School, 15, 300, Olathe, KS.

Greg May, Olathe North High School, 17, 300, Olathe, KS.

Emily Minion, Blue Valley West High School, 18, 155, Overland Park, KS.

Jennifer Moore, Shawnee Mission North High School, 17, 150, Overland Park, KS.

Josh Morgan, Gardner-Edgerton High School, 16, 135, Olathe, KS.

Kate Motter, Shawnee Mission West High School, 17, 300, Shawnee Mission, KS.

Rhea Muchalla, Shawnee Mission North High School, 17, 50, Shawnee, KS.

Caroline Mueller, St. Thomas Aquinas, 15, 75, Leawood, KS.

Katheryn Mueller, St. Thomas Aquinas, 17, 100, Leawood, KS.

Lindsay Murphy, Olathe South High School, 18, 265, Olathe, KS.

Katie Murray, Blue Valley North High School, 17, 325, Leawood, KS.

Kasey Nelson, St. Thomas Aquinas, 18, 100, Overland Park, KS.

Hannah Oberkrom, Shawnee Mission West High School, 18, 90, Shawnee, KS.

Miranda Oley, Pioneer Trail Junior High, 14, 10, Olathe, KS.

Jessica Pohl, Blue Valley Northwest High School, 100, 100, Overland Park, KS.

Justin Pohl, Blue Valley Northwest High School, 75, 75, Overland Park, KS.

Ashley Racca, Olathe North High School, 18, 100+, Olathe, KS.

Justice Randolph, Shawnee Mission South High School, 16, 100, Overland Park, KS.

Jennifer Ray, Spring Hill High School, 17, 80, Olathe, KS.

Kelly Regan, Blue Valley West High School, 15, 100, Overland Park, KS.

Brendan Reilly, St. Thomas Aquinas, 18, 200, Overland Park, KS.

Chris Rhodes, Spring Hill High School, 17, 300, Spring Hill, KS.

Cassie Rhodes, Spring Hill Middle School, 14, 200, Spring Hill, KS.

Amber Lynn Roan, Shawnee Mission North High School, 17, 158, Shawnee, KS.

Amy Schneider, Olathe South High School, 18, 165, Olathe, KS.

Amanda Sherraden, Olathe South High School, 18, 159, Olathe, KS.

Stephen Stahl, Home School, 16, 110, Overland Park, KS.

Jonathan Stahl, Home School, 16, 110, Overland Park, KS.

Nate White, Home School, 16, 175, Leawood, KS.

Mary Zima, Notre Dame de Sion, 17, 60, Leawood, KS.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND TSUNAMI RELIEF, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1268) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Chairman, while I will support the bill before the House today, I will do so with deep and serious reservations.

In October of 2002, I cast an important vote to deny the President authorization to send American troops into Iraq to strike unilaterally. I thought then, and I know now, that his actions were not the best course for our nation.

One year later in October of 2003, I made yet another testing decision to oppose legislation, which on the one hand allocated \$87 billion to support American operations in Iraq but on the other hand lacked accountability for these taxpayer dollars and placed the mounting cost of rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan squarely on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren.

The apprehensions I had then about sending America's sons and daughters into harm's way in Iraq and about signing a blank check for this military adventure, have now materialized. Congress is now attempting to address the glaring consequences of an ill-advised, preemptive and unilateral military action through this third emergency supplemental appropriation of \$81.4 billion. To date—and I say “to date” because there is no end in sight—President Bush has directed over \$275 billion of taxpayers' monies away from schools, healthcare, Social Security, and the like to pay for his decision to go to war in Iraq.

Today we know that President Bush's premise for commencing a war against Iraq—the alleged weapons of mass destruction possessed by Saddam Hussein—was not true.

The Bush Administration's confident prediction of a quick and easy victory followed by a quick return home for our troops has become a nightmare. And now the Administration refuses to commit to a time-table for the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq.

The Bush Administration's estimate that reconstruction in Iraq would cost between \$1 and \$2 billion and could be financed by Iraqi oil revenues has now turned into a reconstruction quagmire. We hear more about military contractor Halliburton's billing excesses and contract abuses than about any re-built school or hospital.

In terms of accountability, the Inspector General has reported that almost \$9 billion in funds designated for reconstruction efforts have been mishandled and remain unaccounted for. The FY 2005 Defense Appropriations Act passed in July of 2004 instructed the Department of Defense to submit two accountability reports to Congress, one by October 31, 2004 and the other by January 1, 2005. In these reports, the Pentagon must provide a comprehensive review of all military oper-

ations, including reconstruction and military readiness, and provide detailed cost estimates for these operations. Congress has yet to receive either report or any concrete information about the future costs of this war.

I still do not believe that our troops should have been in Iraq under these conditions, facing these obstacles virtually alone, fighting battles for which the Pentagon did not properly plan or prepare. But with over 150,000 of America's brave men and women still in Iraq, it would be difficult to cast a vote against providing the much-needed funds that this supplemental provides to them. Far too many of our soldiers have died and remain in harm's way because of their superiors' miscalculations. As long as our troops remain in harm's way, it is our duty to provide them all of the equipment, tools, vehicles, weapons, and benefits that they need and deserve to protect themselves and give democracy a chance in Iraq.

Democrats have fought hard to include accountability measures in this legislation, to extract from it extraneous and unnecessary projects, and to focus America's precious taxpayer dollars on resources for our nation's veterans and troops. This bill, unlike previous Bush Administration requests, allocates the dollars for armor and equipment that our troops on the ground need if they must patrol the streets and roads of Iraq. Democrats also fought hard to cure deficiencies in the bill which put at risk increased death benefits and life insurance for the families of our fallen soldiers.

Unfortunately, despite \$9 billion of unaccounted funds, an amendment by Mr. TIERNEY of Massachusetts that would have provided \$5 million to establish a select committee to investigate reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan was defeated by my Republican colleagues. The Bush Administration, it seems, will continue to spend money without adequate oversight and accountability.

Additionally, the bill includes funding for extraneous non-emergency projects that would more properly be addressed through the regular appropriations process. While some of these projects were removed on the House floor through the amendment process, funding for unrelated military construction and \$4.6 billion for an Army “transformation” plan remain.

Most blatant of all the extraneous provisions are those of H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act, which the Republican procedural rule has allowed to be attached to this supplemental following its passage. The immigration policies of our nation deserve a proper and thorough debate, and legislation that provides emergency funding for our troops, for humanitarian aid, and for foreign assistance is not the appropriate vehicle to enact the sweeping, controversial immigration policy embodied in HR 418.

I will support H.R. 1268 because of the critical funds and resources that it provides to our troops and their families. However, as this bill moves forward I will work with my colleagues to ensure that my concerns are addressed in the final version of the bill that comes back for final approval after joint House and Senate consideration. I do not foreclose the possibility of voting against the final version of this legislation should it come back in a form departing further from its core purpose of focusing on our men and women in uniform. These are the tough decisions, and they must be made in the best interest of the American people.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF HAYS COUNTY COMMIS-
SIONER WILL CONLEY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hays County Commissioner Will Conley for his contributions to the community.

Will Conley was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana and then went on to attend high school in Houston, Texas. After graduating from high school, Conley spent one year ranching and outfitting in Uvalde, Texas before attending Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. During his college tenure, Conley was involved in the Student Body Council, South West Texas Ducks Unlimited and Pi Sigma Alpha. Conley graduated in 2000 with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Business.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Will demonstrated his entrepreneurship abilities when he founded Conley Enterprise Incorporated and the environmentally conscious business of Conley Carwash and Detail. It was working with Conley Carwash and Detail that Will's concern for the environment shown through with the company's policy of recycling 85 percent of the water used for operations. Over the years, Conley's companies have received numerous awards for environmental-soundness such as the Water Efficiency Achievement Award.

After producing great results as an entrepreneur, Conley became the youngest elected County Commissioner of Hays County in 2004. As County Commissioner, Conley has promised to work for the improvement of Hays County by focusing on economic development and instilling a more fiscally responsible policy when it comes to the appropriating of tax payer's dollars. During his short time in office, he has already shown the results he has been known for; he has improved road conditions, extended park development and done so much for the better of Hays County.

Mr. Speaker, Will Conley has a rare youthful spirit that is dedicated to improving Hays County's quality of life for its citizens and I feel greatly privileged to recognize his accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOCTOR
WILLIAM RAYMOND WHITAKER,
JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Doctor William Raymond Whitaker, Jr., in recognition of his dedication to his church and community.

Reverend Doctor William Raymond Whitaker, Jr., was born in Newport News, Virginia on November 12, 1959. The Whitaker family moved shortly thereafter to Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Whitaker is a product of the Bedford Stuyvesant Tompkins Project community. He attended Carter G. Woodson Public School 23, Mark Hopkins Junior High School

33, Fort Hamilton High School and graduated from the former Eastern District High School. Furthering his education, he attended Adelphi Academy, majoring in Business. Pastor Whitaker obtained his Bachelor of Theology degree from Community Bible Institute in Brooklyn in May 1999 and his Master of Theology from Chelsea University in London, England, where he graduated with the highest academic distinction, *summa cum laude*, in May 2004. On October 4, 2004, the Hope for All Bible College bestowed upon Reverend Whitaker the Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree.

Dr. Whitaker was called to the Ministry at the young age of 16 and preached his initial sermon in October 1976 under the leadership of Reverend Joseph Stiff, Jr., of Bethel Church of God in Christ. He served faithfully as an usher, choir member and Sunday school student. In June 1985, he was licensed by Greater Free Gift and ordained in November 1986. On December 13, 1994, Rev. Whitaker was called by the Lord to serve as Pastor of the Greater Free Gift Baptist Church and since then, the ministry has and continues to multiply. He preaches the Word of God in a manner that can be applied to everyday life.

Dr. Whitaker answered yet another call on his life, which was to establish the Greater Free Gift Bible Institute where he diligently shares his knowledge and wisdom as president and teacher. Under the leadership of this great visionary, hundreds have been blessed, encouraged, inspired and delivered. He continues to lead the Greater Free Gift Baptist Church to make even greater strides in its growth and development, including the formation of the Drama and Dance Ministry and "Serenity on Stockton Street." Rev. Whitaker's sole desire is to help people reach their ultimate potential spirituality by developing a personal relationship with God.

In addition to being dynamic preacher and teacher, Pastor Whitaker is a world-renowned vocalist. He has recorded songs with legendary gospel artists such as "The Godfather of Gospel" Elder Timothy Wright and performed throughout the world including in Paris, France. His commitment to the community is evident by his service as the Former Chair of Evangelism for the Eastern Region of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and his involvement in the National Baptist Convention Housing Staff USA, Inc. He is the former Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, former Director of the Music Department of the New York Missionary Baptist Association as well as the former Ecumenical Director to Congressman ED TOWNS. Additional community affiliations include Central Brooklyn Churches, Police Benevolent Association, 303 Vernon Board of Managers and AIDS Awareness seminar (graduate of ARRIVE where he received his license as counselor). He also serves as a mentor to the students at IS 33.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Doctor William Raymond Whitaker, Jr., has dedicated his life to his church and community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

PASSING OF FRED T. KOREMATSU

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my fellow California Representatives MIKE HONDA, BARBARA LEE, DORIS MATSUI, and PETE STARK, I rise today to pay tribute to a true champion of the civil rights movement, Fred Korematsu. Mr. Korematsu passed away on March 30, 2005 at the age of 86.

As a Japanese American facing internment during World War II, Fred Korematsu challenged government authorities by standing up for his rights as an American citizen and refusing to back down. He has earned a place in American history among our most determined fighters for justice. We will miss him greatly.

Born in Oakland, California in 1919 to Japanese immigrants, Fred Korematsu's early life was similar to many other hard-working Americans. He held a job as a welder in the San Francisco shipyards and had dreams of getting married and starting a family. Two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, however, his dreams were suddenly taken away.

Under baseless fears of Japanese American disloyalty, Executive Order 9066 was signed, authorizing the removal of more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent from their homes along the West Coast to guarded camps in the interior of the United States. It displaced families and uprooted entire communities.

On May 30, 1942, Fred Korematsu was jailed for evading authorities. He was sent to Topaz Internment Camp in Utah for 2 years. He bravely filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, and took his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, however, unjustly declared that the internment of Japanese Americans was necessary in a time of war and that allegations of racism by the government were unfounded. Mr. Korematsu, though, did not give up, and, 40 years later, he was vindicated in a ruling by the Federal District Court in San Francisco.

Mr. Korematsu's dedication to protect civil rights did not end with his own exoneration. His courage prompted lawmakers to right the wrongs committed against Japanese Americans during World War II, and in 1988, an official apology and reparations were issued by the government. His work was recognized in 1998 when President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Mr. Korematsu continued to fight the backlash against Arab, Muslim, and Middle Eastern communities, recounting his own struggle against discrimination.

Today, we honor Fred Korematsu for his courage and recognize him as a symbol of justice, determination, and the true American spirit. His passing leaves the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities with a profound sense of loss.

I hope it is a comfort to his family and friends that so many people share their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

COMMEMORATING THE GREEK
REVOLUTION OF 1821

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Greek Revolution of 1821, which marked the beginning of a protracted struggle fought and eventually won by a people firmly committed to achieving freedom for themselves and liberation for their country.

It is a day that bears personal significance to—and instills pride in—generations of Greek Americans, who still feel a strong sense of nationalism toward Greece even though they or their ancestors may have moved away long ago.

Furthermore, irrespective of ethnicity, I believe it is a day of particular importance to all Americans, as we share a special kinship with the people of Greece. Whenever we promote democracy, civil liberties, and the principles of self-determination, we pay testament to our countries' shared values.

Mr. Speaker, on this occasion, I also rise to welcome the honorable Mayor of Messina, Messina, Greece, Christos Christopoulos, to the City of Peabody. On March 23, 2005, in a gesture of solidarity, Mayor Christopoulos and Peabody's Mayor Michael Bonfanti signed a sister-city pact. I extend my congratulations to the mayors, the Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church community, and all Greek Americans of Peabody, many of whom descend from Messina, on this important event.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ALDERWOMAN HILDA
CALVILLO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderwoman Hilda Calvillo for her public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Hilda Calvillo was born, raised, and educated in the city of Charlotte. As an active participant in local events, she understands the specific needs of her community.

As the first woman to ever be elected, Mrs. Calvillo has served in her city as Alderwoman since 1999. She spends much of her time working in school functions and focusing on local community projects. Having graduated from local schools, she works passionately to ensure that quality education is kept a priority.

Also working to keep our communities beautiful, Hilda Calvillo has recently been instrumental in the recent building of a Charlotte city park.

Hilda Calvillo lives in Charlotte with her husband. She has three children and two grandchildren. Mrs. Calvillo and her family enjoy sports and spending time with the rest of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have this opportunity to recognize Alderwoman Hilda Calvillo of Charlotte for her dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF ALDERMAN BUDDY LEE
DAUGHTRY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize alderman Buddy Lee Daughtry for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Buddy Lee Daughtry is a hard working alderman in the City of Charlotte. Raised on a small farm, Mr. Daughtry is a family man who continues to help his parents whenever the need arises. While in high school he won numerous awards in science, and later graduated from Charlotte ISD.

Working for the prison system, Buddy Lee Daughtry works tirelessly to keep our streets safe. He has served the city of Charlotte as Alderman for the past eight years and has been involved in numerous local programs. It is important to recognize the contributions of citizens like Buddy Lee Daughtry. Their hard work has vastly improved our local communities.

Buddy Lee Daughtry lives with his wife Karen in Charlotte and enjoys spending time with his family. Their daughter studies at A&M Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have this opportunity to recognize Alderman Buddy Lee Daughtry of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

SIKHS ABOUT TO CELEBRATE
VAISAKHI DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, April 13, which is the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, is Vaisakhi Day for the Sikhs. I wish all the Sikhs around the world a happy Vaisakhi Day.

Vaisakhi Day is the anniversary of the day in 1699 when Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the ten Sikh Gurus, created the Khalsa Panth. At that time, he said, "I give sovereignty to the humble Sikhs." Yet over 300 years later, they still struggle for that sovereignty while they suffer under severe repression from "the world's largest democracy."

More than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy. The Movement Against State Repression reports that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners under the repressive TADA law. How can this happen in a democracy?

Sikhs have an opportunity this Vaisakhi Day to reclaim their sovereignty. In January, 35 Sikhs were arrested for simply raising the Sikh flag and making speeches in support of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987. Political leaders are coming out for Khalistan. All of India's efforts to suppress the Sikhs sovereignty movement have just given it new life.

What can we do to support this worthy cause? We should stop our aid and trade with

India as long as it continues to kill ethnic minorities, hold political prisoners, and engage in other wholesale violations of the most basic human rights. We should go on record in support of self-determination in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on independence in Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and wherever the people are seeking freedom. These measures will help bring a new glow of freedom to all people in the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's Vaisakhi Day message into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

VAISAKHI DAY SHOULD BE CELEBRATED IN
FREEDOM

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family and friends and all Sikhs a Happy Vaisakhi Day. As you know, Vaisakhi Day is the anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa. On Vaisakhi Day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh baptized the Sikhs and required them to keep the five Ks. He made the Sikhs into saints and soldiers, giving the blessing "In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi" ("I give sovereignty to the humble Sikhs.") Just two years after his departure from this earthly plane in 1708, the Sikhs established our own independent state in Punjab.

Today we struggle to regain the sovereignty that Guru Gobind Singh bestowed upon us over 300 years ago. Yet the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Joginder Singh Vedanti, was quoted as saying that "We don't want a separate territory." Does Jathedar Vedanti, like every other Sikh, pray "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa" ("the Khalsa shall rule") every morning and evening? Has he forgotten our heritage of freedom? How can the spiritual leader of the Sikh religion deny the Sikh Nation's legitimate aspiration for freedom and sovereignty? Is he not stung by the words of one of his predecessors, former AkalTakht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh, who said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh"? Is Akal Takht occupied by a person who does not believe in Sikh values and Sikh aspirations?

The flame of freedom continues to burn brightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. On Republic Day, Sikh leaders raised the Sikh flag in Amritsar and made speeches in support of Khalistan. 35 Sikhs were arrested for raising the Kesri Nishan. Eleven of them continue to be held and they have been denied bail. Is this the freedom that Guru Gobind Singh bestowed upon us? Is this the "glow of freedom" that Nehru promised us when Master Tara Singh and the Sikh leaders of the time chose to take our share with India?

Punjab's Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, was declared a hero of the Sikh Nation for asserting Punjab's sovereignty and preserving Punjab's natural resource, its river water, for the use of Punjab farmers by cancelling Punjab's water agreements. In so doing, Amarinder Singh and the Legislative Assembly explicitly declared the sovereignty of the state of Punjab. In December former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann again reverted to public support of Khalistan. He pledged that his party will lead a peaceful movement to liberate Khalistan. Obviously, Mr. Mann is aware of the rising support of our cause. Mann joins Sardar Atinder Pal Singh, Sardar D.S. Gill of the International Human Rights Organization, and other Sikh leaders in Punjab in supporting freedom for Khalistan openly. Jagjit Singh, President of Dal Khalsa, was quoted in the Deccan Herald as saying that "the Indian government can never suppress the movement. Sikh aspirations can only be met when they have a separate state." There is no other choice for the

Sikh nation but a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Every Sikh leader must come out openly for Khalistan. We salute those Sikh leaders in Punjab who have done so.

Any organization that sincerely supports Khalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedicated to the cause of Sikh freedom. Leaders like Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, Harchand Singh Longowal, Didar Bains, Ganga Singh Dhillon, the Akali Dal leadership, and others who were complicit in the attack on the Golden Temple cannot be trusted by the Sikh Nation. The evidence against them is clear in Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism. The Sikh Nation cannot believe that these leaders will not betray the cause of Khalistan, just as they betrayed the Sikh Nation in 1984. We must be careful if we are to continue to move the cause of freedom for Khalistan forward in 2005 as we did in 2004.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikh during June 1984 in Punjab. Even the Pope spoke out strongly against this invasion and desecration of our most sacred shrine. How can these so-called Sikh leaders connive with the people who carried it out? If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation?

The Akali Dal has lost all its credibility. The Badal government was so corrupt openly and no Akali leader would come forward and tell Badal and his wife to stop this unparalleled corruption.

If Jathedar Vedanti opposes freedom and sovereignty for the Sikh Nation, then he is not fit to sit in Akal Takht, in the seat of the Khalsa Panth. The Sikh Nation should have a Jathedar who is committed to sovereignty.

The Council of Khalistan has stood strongly and consistently for liberating our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. For over 18 years we have led this fight while others were trying to divert the resources and the attention of the Sikh Nation away from the issue of freedom in a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation.

The Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered more than a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht and the head granthi of Darbar Sahib toe the line that the Indian government tells them. They are not appointed by the Khalsa Panth. Otherwise they would behave like a real Jathedar, Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, rather than like Indian government puppet Jathedar Aroor Singh, who gave a Siropa to General Dyer for the massacre of Sikhs and others at Jallianwala Bagh. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 25 years. Over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! Another 52,268 are being held as political prisoners. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Even now, the capital of Punjab, Chandigarh, has not been handed

over to Punjab, but remains a Union Territory. How can Sikhs have any freedom living under a government that would do these things?

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. The leaders in Delhi are only interested in imposing Hindu sovereignty over all the minorities to advance their own careers and their own power. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo labelling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India.

How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Let us make Viasakhi Day a day of freedom. Let us dedicate ourselves this Vaisakhi Day to living up to the blessing of Guru Gobind Singh. Let us take the occasion of Vaisakhi Day to begin to shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. BETH FREEMAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished public servant of Alabama's Third Congressional District.

Mrs. Beth Freeman, hired just two months after she turned 18, has worked for the people of Alabama for more than 30 years. Over her career she has progressed from answering phones and clipping newspaper articles to handling nearly every issue addressed by the Federal government, from military affairs to Social Security.

She has been a faithful and non-partisan public servant, having served with the four most recent officials representing this office, including the late Congressman Bill Nichols; Congressman Glenn Browder; and then-Congressman Riley.

While I have only known 'Ms. Beth' since taking office in 2002, in that short time I have developed a deep appreciation for her hard work and dedication to the people of Alabama. Families and seniors across this district have called upon her expertise for years, and relied upon her persistence to get their problems solved. She will be missed here in this office, and across East Alabama.

Beth, on behalf of the citizens of Alabama's Third Congressional District, thank you for your service to our state. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HON. HOWELL HEFLIN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I

rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Senator Howell Heflin was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his entire life, someone who devoted nearly a quarter-century in public service to the residents of Alabama.

Born on June 19, 1921, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Marvin Heflin, Senator Heflin was a native of Poulan, Georgia, and spent his childhood moving from one Alabama community to another before his family settled in Colbert County. He was a 1942 graduate of Birmingham-Southern College. Within a short time following his graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps and served during World War II in the Pacific Theater of Operations. He was wounded twice during his service and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action before being discharged in 1946. Following the completion of his military obligations, he enrolled in the law school at the University of Alabama and graduated from that institution in 1948.

From 1948 until 1970, Senator Heflin worked as a prosecuting attorney in the City of Tusculumbia before winning election as Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. For the next six years, he served with distinction on the court and is known for many accomplishments during that time, including implementing large reforms of the state court system that eliminated years of backlogged cases. He earned so much respect for his work as Chief Justice that, even after having been elected to the United States Senate, friends, colleagues, and admirers continued to refer to him as "The Judge."

First elected to the Senate in 1978, Senator Heflin served with distinction for 18 years and ably represented the interests of all Alabamians. During his three terms, he served most notably as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and as both chairman and vice chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, a position he held for 12 years. Additionally, he served as a member of that body's Agriculture Committee and was a strong and able advocate for the interests of Alabama's agricultural community.

During his three terms in Congress, Senator Heflin developed a reputation of working with his colleagues to find common ground on numerous issues, and always with the best interests of his constituents at heart. Many times, he put partisanship aside to support issues for which he saw great benefit, but which others were actively working to oppose. And while his personal views tended towards the conservative end of the spectrum on defense and financial matters, he was more progressive on social issues. In fact, two African-American federal judges from Alabama, U.W. Clemon of Birmingham and Myron Thompson of Montgomery, were both championed by Senator Heflin.

In an article appearing in the Mobile Register following the senator's death, former Alabama Congressman Sonny Callahan was quoted as saying, "He was always there for us when we needed him. We had common goals for Alabama and worked towards those goals." Perhaps these words more than many others spoken in the days following his passing are an accurate summation of the tremendous work completed during his long career and of the faith and trust he in turn earned from his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for the state of Alabama, a man whose significant impact and dedication to the needs and interests of his constituents will be felt for many years to come. Senator Heflin will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Elizabeth Ann Heflin, his son, Tom Heflin, and his two grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

FALL RIVER HERALD NEWS
SALUTES CDBG

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 23 years ago, when Congressional Districts in Massachusetts were changed, one of the first issues I worked on involving the newer parts of my district concerned the Community Development Block Grant Program for the City of Fall River. Working with then Mayor Carlton Viveiros, I was successful in preserving parts of the CDBG Program in Fall River that were being threatened by legislative changes. And in the years since then, Fall River has continued to be a national exemplar of how this program works for the benefit of our constituents.

On Friday, April 1, the newspaper of Fall River, the Herald News, ran an excellent editorial, which testifies both to the value of the CDBG Program nationally, and to the good work that people have done administering it in Fall River. As the editorial eloquently pointed out, "Allowing a community's water mains to decay does nothing to foster self-reliance. An 80-year-old widow on a small pension, living alone, will probably not be lured from the paths of righteousness if she receives some help paying her heating bills." As the Herald News notes, CDBG funds in Fall River "are a good example of tax money being put to a variety of concrete uses that directly benefit people." Given that we are now in a national debate on this program in response to the President's proposal substantially to reduce it and reorganize it, I ask that the very thoughtful editorial by the Fall River Herald News be printed here.

The most common (and often misguided) gripe about government is that you pay your taxes and you never see your money at work.

In fact, it is popular to believe that government spends its entire budget on "pork barrel" projects of the "how do butterflies fly" variety.

This kind of thinking is so enshrined in the American consciousness that no one really believes government ever does anything useful with taxpayer dollars.

That's not true.

Witness the Community Development Block Grant Program. That program brings about \$5 million to Fall River every year. That \$5 million is not spent on pork.

Money from CDBG funding puts police officers on foot beats, helps poor elderly people pay their utilities and has helped reline miles of city water pipes.

Does that sound like pork to you?

At a recent press conference, Fall River Mayor Edward M. Lambert Jr. spoke strongly about the need to preserve the CDBG program.

Lambert said the program is threatened by an initiative aimed at rolling a number of similar programs together, cutting funding and handing control over to the Department of Commerce. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has always administered CDBG programs.

Frankly, any threat to CDBG money is a threat to Fall River.

Of course, numerous people will say that the cutting of another "entitlement" program is a good thing, that "self-reliance" needs to be encouraged.

It's difficult to see what these people mean. Allowing a community's water mains to decay does nothing to foster self-reliance. An 80-year-old widow on a small pension, living alone, will probably not be lured from the paths of righteousness if she receives some help paying her heating bills.

In Fall River, Community Development Block Grants are a good example of tax money being put to a variety of concrete uses that directly benefit people.

That kind of government program deserves to continue on a steady course.

HUMANITARIAN FOOD AND
MEDICINE EXPORT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will remove current, and prohibit future, embargoes on the export of food, medicine, or medical devices. Embargoes on these items, as we have seen time and time again, do not have the desired policy effect on the targeted country. In fact, they only punish the innocent and most vulnerable people in these countries. Does anyone believe that denying the people of a foreign country food or medicine because of our quarrel with their leader will make them more sympathetic toward the United States? We are fond of talking about "humanitarian" treatment in foreign countries. But it is our policy of embargoing the export of food and medicine to certain countries that is most un-humanitarian. We need to practice what we preach.

Also, it is very important to remember the harm we do to our own citizens when we deny them the right to sell their products to whoever they like. It is not very humanitarian to deny our own citizens the right to their livelihood because our political leadership does not get along with the political leadership of another country.

Mr. Speaker, we do ourselves no favors in denying our citizens the right to export the essentials for life to citizens abroad. And we do no real harm to leaders abroad, who actually benefit by our sanction policies, as they provide a convenient scapegoat for their own economic failures. The fact is that trade promotes peace. Forcibly cutting off trade relations with another country promotes militarism and conflict.

I hope my colleagues will join me by co-sponsoring this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR PRESIDENT,
VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Ukrainian people and their President, Viktor Yushchenko. President Yushchenko's election last fall marked a powerful triumph of popular will over the forces of fraud and repression. Mr. Yushchenko's vision of the Ukraine, shared in his address to Congress this week, is an inspiration to freedom loving men and women in Eastern Europe and across the globe.

Through the power of peaceful protest, the government of the Ukraine embraced the forces of freedom last fall, conducting free elections for the first time in over eight decades. The world watched as nearly 80 percent of eligible Ukrainian voters turned out to cast ballots on December 26, 2004. This remarkable participation is a measure of the collective courage of the Ukraine people, many of whom voted despite threats to their personal safety and employment.

President Yushchenko himself carries visual scars, a tangible badge of his own strength and resolute determination in the struggle for freedom. He has demonstrated enormous grace and selflessness in his perseverance. He is well known as a man of high integrity who surely, with the cooperation of global allies, will work hard to reject the corrupt political forces that sought to block him from public office.

We in this Chamber have pledged our support for the Ukraine through resolutions, words, and deeds. It is an honor to welcome President Yushchenko to the United States. I look forward to working with him and the good people of the Ukraine during this exciting moment in their nation's history.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Greek-Americans on the occasion of Greek Independence Day, and wish all people of Greek descent across the globe, peace, happiness and prosperity. In the same spirit of friendship and brotherhood, I ask all of my Greek friends to use this joyous occasion to renew their commitment to peace by doing all that they can to facilitate and promote the end of the long-standing stalemate on the beautiful Mediterranean island, Cyprus.

Recent remarks made by Greek Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis with regards to Greece's support for the resumption of negotiations on the Cyprus question along the lines of the United Nations' Plan for a settlement (the "Annan Plan") are deeply encouraging, and should be supported by the international community and the United States. Greece's role in facilitating negotiations under U.N. auspices and convincing the Greek Cypriot side,

under the leadership of President Tassos Papadopoulos, to return to the negotiating table cannot be understated.

Now, the time is right for peace and reconciliation on the island. The Turkish Cypriots have already declared that they are ready and willing to sit down and discuss the "Annan Plan"—a plan they overwhelmingly supported in the referendum held on April 24, 2004—with their Greek Cypriot counterparts. I fervently hope, Mr. Speaker, that all sides will seize the opportunity of Greek Independence Day to come together in a spirit of friendship and cooperation to achieve the final and lasting peace that has so long eluded the people of Cyprus.

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH
AWARDEES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Flint Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., who on Saturday, April 9, will hold their 44th annual Sojourner Truth Founder's Day Awards Luncheon. During this ceremony, awards will be presented to nine deserving recipients.

The Sojourner Truth Awards are given each year by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., as a reminder of the endless effort which freedom demands of those who would be free and to recall the fact that slavery comes in many forms: enveloping the spirit as well as the body. In this regard, the Club annually acknowledges those members of the community who have shown to represent these ideals with dignity and distinction.

One such award is the Club's Frederick Douglass Award, which this year will be given to the Honorable Archie L. Hayman, Chief Judge of the 7th District Circuit Court in Genesee County. A lifelong resident of Flint, Judge Hayman received degrees from C.S. Mott Community College and the University of Michigan-Flint, before receiving his Juris Doctorate in 1985 from Detroit College of Law. After stints at General Motors and his own private practice, Judge Hayman was elected to the bench of the 68th District Court in 1995, and was appointed to the Circuit Court one year later by former Governor John Engler. Judge Hayman has consistently shown a willingness to improve the community, as evidenced by his involvement with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, NAACP, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Flint, and many others.

The next award is the Positive Image Award, and its recipient is Mrs. Mancine Broome. Mrs. Broome is known throughout the City of Flint as one of its most ardent community activists. In the political arena, she was an integral part in successful campaigns to elect her late husband, Sylvester, to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners. Other campaigns followed, as did several citywide activities designed to enhance community spirit. Mrs. Broome has often been found as an active member or leader of groups including the Greater Flint Afro-American Hall of Fame, Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Zeta Phi Beta Soror-

ity, Bishop Airport Authority, and the National Association of Media Women. In addition to her long history of activism, Mrs. Broome has worked with Flint Community Schools as Supervisor of Graphic Arts and Printing Services for 38 years.

The Club Appreciation Award goes to Ms. Gloria J. Coles. In 1984, Ms. Coles moved to Flint to become Director of the Flint Public Library, a position she held for 20 years, until her recent retirement. As Director, Ms. Coles led her staff in establishing the Library as a community focal point, a central location for enriching lectures and programs, and a hub for technological advances. During her tenure, Ms. Coles was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the State Library of Michigan, and in 1991, served as Board President. She also chaired Michigan's White House Conference Committees in hopes of setting a federal agenda for our nation's libraries. Ms. Coles has also been active with the Fairwinds Girl Scout Council, the United Way, and the Michigan Humanities Council.

Alexandria Poole, a senior at Grand Blanc High School, and Otis Wiley, a senior at Carman-Ainsworth High School, have been selected to receive this year's Youth Achievement and Academic Award. Miss Poole is a multi-talented young woman who balances a 3.902 grade point average with activities such as singing, playing and tutoring piano and viola, and studying Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. Mr. Wiley has excelled in the classroom, where he earned a 3.423 grade point average, and also on the athletic front. During his high school career, Mr. Wiley made it to the State Finals in three sports: football, basketball, and track and field, and has been honored for his efforts on local, state, and national levels. Despite his hectic schedule, Mr. Wiley still finds time to volunteer for various church and community projects.

Also being honored during the ceremony are the winners of the Flint Club's Essay Contest: Miss Diamond Nelson (1st Place), Miss Breeanna Walker (2nd Place), and Miss Michelle A. Cochran (3rd Place).

Last, but certainly not least, the Sojourner Truth Award itself this year will go to Ms. Pamela Loving, President and CEO of Career Alliance, Inc. Serving in this position since 1997, Ms. Loving oversees a multi-service organization that provides workforce development strategies and assistance for residents of Genesee and Shiawassee Counties from all walks of life. Each day, 800–1,000 people utilize Career Alliance's services in hopes of learning and/or developing skills that will enable them to increase their effectiveness in the workforce. Ms. Loving draws on extensive experience in the private, public, and corporate sectors to achieve her goals. She is a tireless advocate for promoting civic and community awareness, and improving the quality of life for all those she comes into contact with. Currently Ms. Loving serves as Co-Chair for Governor Jennifer Granholm's Community Challenge, as well as the Board of Directors for the Focus Council, Mission of Peace Housing Development Agency, Flint District Public Library, and Hamilton Community Health Network. She has received numerous awards for her work, including the YWCA Nina Mills Award, and the Jewish Federation Senator Donald Rieggle Award, among many others. Ms. Loving is a true role model and is deserving of the highest respect.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club's longstanding commitment to community service, and their mission to seek answers toward critical issues in the areas of health, education, employment, and economic development. These awardees have exemplified the highest of qualities, and I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating them all.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP BILLY
BASKIN—PASTOR, TEACHER AND
COMMUNITY LEADER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute to Bishop Billy Baskin, one of the preeminent religious leaders of our community. On Sunday, April 10, 2005 beginning at 7 p.m., he will be honored at Miami's New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith International during a special appreciation service defined by the theme: "Adding Years to Your Life—Adding Life to Your Years." Bishop Victor T. Curry, the Pastor of New Birth Church Cathedral, will lead other members of Miami's clergy and countless admirers throughout Miami-Dade County, in lauding this honoree portrayed as The Man, The Mandate and the Ministry.

Having founded Miami's New Way Fellowship Praise & Worship Center in 1975, Bishop Baskin truly evokes the genuine leadership of a Good Shepherd who attends to his flock in many ways, and the whole week long. As pastor and teacher, he exudes the knowledge and caring of a religious visionary who goes about empowering his congregation with his sermons. He has been a source of inspiration and a mentor to a host of other religious leaders who are now leading other congregations throughout South Florida and beyond.

Throughout the longevity of his pastorate, he has truly persevered in showing us the Way, the Truth and the Life that only his knowledge and experience could expound. As he continues to be involved with our faith-community, Bishop Baskin is never oblivious of the needs and concerns of others, particularly the less fortunate among us. It is his tireless consecration to his ministry that defines the measure of his consummate commitment to serve "... the least of these."

His timely and resilient leadership at the New Way Fellowship Praise & Worship Center for some thirty years is genuinely commendable. As a respected community leader, he has indeed earned our deepest respects and utmost admiration.

This is the legacy of Bishop Billy Baskin. I am truly privileged in thanking him for his many years of service. My honor in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by my gratitude for everything that has sacrificed on our community's behalf as he continues to teach us to live by the noble ethic of serving the community.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAY CITY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a city. Sunday, the residents of Bay City, Michigan celebrate their history that 100 years ago was the result of a true tale of two cities. Much of this history is documented in two excellent articles in the Bay City Times by local reporter Tim Younkman.

Like many of the towns in my district, it was the lumber industry that brought people, commerce, growth and prosperity to the Saginaw Bay area to found the village of Bay City at the mouth of the Saginaw River in 1857. It later became a city in 1865 but was known as the "East Side" because on the opposite side of the river, the "West Side" was comprised of three small communities.

In the late 1800's, the Bay City area was nationally known for being a boom town. The success of the lumber mills attracted pioneers and early entrepreneurs from the far reaches, including New York City. One pioneer in particular, Henry Sage, teamed with local businessman, John McGraw, to build the world's largest sawmill, which is now known as Veterans Memorial Park.

Sage was also credited with creating one of the three West Side communities known as Wenona. In 1877, Wenona consolidated with the community of Banks, named after the Civil War General Nathaniel Banks, and the community of Salzberg, the region of Germany where local settlers came from in the old country, to form West Bay City.

At the turn of the 20th century, lumber tycoon Spencer Fisher and shipbuilder James Davidson worked with local West Bay City families to campaign for the consolidation of the east and west communities into one community to promote more business growth. However, West Bay City Mayor C.J. Barnett, who feared an East side political take-over, opposed the idea. While East Bay City politicians supported the move, East Side business owners feared a rise in property taxes due to the poor financial health of the communities across the river.

A dual city vote in 1903 on the proposal lead to a stale mate when East Side voted in favor and West Side voted against. The measure was then taken to the Michigan Legislature to create a combined city charter to incorporate these municipalities into a unified Bay City. Governor Aaron Bliss signed the single city charter into law in June of 1903. However, in a surprise move by the West Side City Council voted to pass costly community improvement projects onto the united Bay City so the East Side voters retracted the deal and ended the consolidation effort.

To make the retraction effective, the State Legislature passed a law rescinding the consolidation charter and awaited then Governor Fred Warner's signature for completion.

Businessmen still in favor of consolidation lobbied for a veto and those opposed to the consolidation urged the Governor to sign. Governor Warner met with both sides for one hour on February 16, 1905 before departing Lansing for a meeting. Four hours later, he

wired back to Lansing saying, "I have decided to veto bill. You can make this known." While some were unhappy with the decision, both sides greeted the Governor's veto, which unified Bay City, with marching bands, banners and a celebration upon their return to Bay City. The newly elected Mayor Gustav Hine held the first meeting of the Bay City Council on April 10, 2005.

In a recent letter from current Mayor Robert Katt and Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Dana Muscott to local clergy on upcoming centennial events, they stated, "it took an act of the State Legislature to force the merger of the two Bay City's. But unified we were. And unified we remain. And that is worth celebrating."

While other cities have struggled after the early lumber boom, Bay City has persevered through innovation and maintained their prosperity. In a city of over 36,000 people and resting at the junction of I-75 and US 10, Bay City now benefits from large auto, chemical and sugar manufacturers. As a leading recreational port, a city that loves to celebrate its famous waterways is particularly proud of two Tall Ships events that bring historic sailing ships to their shores. I can personally attest to the broadly shared opinion that Bay City is a warm and welcoming community which is proud of their history and how far they have prospered together.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Bay City and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century.

HONORING DON MORRIS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable individual from my home district. Don Morris, a legendary High School basketball coach in Breckinridge and Hardin County, KY, was recently inducted into the Dawahares/Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. His induction honors his 21 years of coaching success; winning an impressive 353 games and leading two teams to the state championship game.

Most people know about Kentucky's love of basketball and the commitment many make every season to win. Coach Morris' athletic achievements epitomize a work ethic and commitment to succeed worthy of the Hall of Fame. But it was the lessons Don Morris instilled in his players about life's priorities, impressions countless young men took far off the court and applied many years after High School, that remain the true measure of his legacy.

A master of the sport, he always conducted himself in the highest standard, expecting both athletic and personal excellence from those he led. Each year, Morris shared with his team a simple message; "Church, home, school and ball and in that order." It was a priority list that has endured in the hearts and minds of hundreds of former players.

I would like to recognize Don Morris today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his many achievements as a coach.

His unique dedication to the development and well-being of student-athletes and the communities they now serve make him an outstanding citizen, worthy of our collective honor and respect.

IN HONOR OF CALICO ROCK, AR'S
100TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today on behalf of Congress to honor the town of Calico Rock, AR on its 100th Anniversary.

Located in a strikingly beautiful section deep in the Ozarks and directly on the banks of the famous White River, Calico Rock affects all who visit it.

Calico Rock has grown from its roots as an important river port on the Upper White River as early as the first half of the 1800s. Legend says the town was named when an early explorer of the White River Valley saw the limestone bluff and called it "The Calico Rocks" because it resembled the calico fabric used to make women's dresses.

Today, Calico Rock is a picture of rural American community with good schools, a hospital, an historic downtown area and world-renown fishing. More importantly, Calico Rock is a place where "community" is not merely a term tossed around on the political stump, but a living, breathing entity acting as an umbrella of protection in the turbulent storm of these times.

Calico Rock lives up to a moral standard based on helping those in need and celebrating life's victories as a neighborhood, a congregation and a society.

On behalf of the Congress, I congratulate Calico Rock on their 100th Anniversary. The community that has been built during that time is a model society should take note of. Calico Rock has shown Arkansas and the entire country that a growing Rural America does not mean abandoning the ideals and values that make a group of people a community.

NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Tartan Day, which is celebrated every year on April 6.

National Tartan Day was created with the passage of Senate Resolution 155 on March 20, 1998. April 6th was chosen as the date because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320.

On March 9, 2005, the House of Representatives approved House Resolution 41, which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that April 6 be established as National Tartan Day to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish-Americans.

National Tartan Day is a time to remember the major role that Scottish Americans have

played in this country throughout the course of history. Almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent, as were Governors in nine of the original 13 states.

Scottish Americans have made invaluable contributions to America in the fields of science, medicine, government, literature, media, and architecture. Today in America more than 200 organizations honor Scottish heritage in the United States.

On this day, let us remember the contributions Scottish-Americans have made to our country and the loyalty and commitment they have shown to the United States throughout the history of our nation.

IN MEMORY OF JOHNNIE COCHRAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with much sadness, to mourn the passing of a great American, and one of my dear friends, Johnnie Cochran. At a time like this, I find myself very conflicted. On one hand I am deeply saddened by the loss of my dear friend and confidant, a man who I admired and respected before I came to know him well, and over the most recent years of our friendship as we worked together on the redevelopment of Harlem through the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, which Johnnie chaired, he is a man I would come to love.

On the other hand, I feel great pride and gratefulness in the fact that I had the opportunity to experience his friendship. Johnnie was one of the greatest legal crusaders of our generation, and hands down, one of the best lawyers I have ever known. Johnnie had a personality that could light up a room. Even his opponents had to acknowledge his charm.

He argued a case with a style and flare that many had never seen in a courtroom. Indeed, most may never see a persona quite like his again. However, Johnnie always remained true to himself. In the legal profession, lawyers often wear a mask. They adopt a sort of legal alter ego. Johnnie won cases being himself, and that is why he was able to connect with jurors, and the public at large, time and time again.

As we all know, Johnnie became recognized the world over through his participation in the OJ Simpson case. But anyone who knows the work of Johnnie Cochran knows that the case was simply a feather in his cap, just one more achievement in a remarkable career.

Anyone who looks beyond the surface would see that Johnnie was not about celebrity clients, he was about seeking justice for those who had been denied it. In his portfolio of clients, one does find the OJ's and P. Diddy's of the world, but much more than them you find the little guy: the accused person with no money, no voice, and no hope, and then you find Johnnie right there fighting for them. That was the Johnnie that I knew, and that is the Johnnie that everyone should know.

Johnnie Cochran was born in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1937, the grandson of a sharecropper. His family would move west to California in the late 1940's, where his determined father would work his way up from a shipyard

pipe fitter, to an insurance broker for California's leading Black-owned insurance company. The family would eventually settle in Los Angeles where Johnnie would spend the rest of his adolescence.

Although his family's migration to California removed him from the Jim Crow South, the repressive form of segregation and discrimination that Johnnie witnessed as a young child in Louisiana never left him. Instead it instilled in him a deep seated commitment to seek justice for all people.

Johnnie grew up wanting to be a lawyer, and he would see his dream through to fulfillment. After graduating from UCLA, he earned a degree from Loyola Law School in 1962. In the fall of 1961, during his last year in law school, he became the first Black law clerk in the Office of the City Attorney. In early 1963, he became a Deputy City Attorney.

Though he enjoyed his work, he came to realize that most of the people he was prosecuting were Black men who had been severely beaten by police authorities during their arrests. He soon came to believe that something was gravely wrong with the way the justice system related to African American citizens, and he set out to do something about it.

He would leave the City Attorney's office in the late 60's to set up his own practice. He would there begin his crusade of defending those who had been the victims of police brutality and misconduct, who in most cases happened to be minorities.

Along the way he obtained justice for dozens of every day people, who had nowhere else to turn. He would also be the first attorney to get the city of Los Angeles to financially compensate victims of police misconduct. Without question, Johnnie's personal crusade against police violence brought about changes in the law enforcement systems of both Los Angeles and the entire United States.

Johnnie's preoccupation with justice was not confined to situations where the victimization was based on race; he wanted to see justice done in every case. In 1992 he represented Reginald O. Denny, the white truck driver who was brutally beaten by a mob during the Los Angeles Riots. Johnnie argued that the LAPD's reluctance to enter the riot zone cost many people their lives, and put citizens like Denny in harm's way. Indeed, many argued that the riots would never have escalated to the level they did if police had responded sooner.

Though everyone speaks of OJ, as far as Johnnie was concerned, it was the case of Geronimo Pratt that was most meaningful and important to him. He defended Pratt in 1972, but lost the case due to police and prosecutorial misconduct. However, he never gave up on Pratt.

Though he had been elevated to celebrity status, representing rich and famous clients, he never wavered in his quest to get Pratt's conviction overturned. He would ultimately prevail. Pratt's murder conviction was overturned in May 1997. Johnnie also got the state to compensate Pratt \$4.5 million, for the 27 years he wrongly spent behind bars.

Many people were opposed to the legal arguments that Johnnie used in the OJ case, regarding police corruption and misconduct. However, Johnnie was ultimately proven right in the late 1990's when the LAPD was rocked by a department wide corruption scandal.

So systemic were the problems in the LA Police Department that the U.S. Department of

Justice would have to take over the department for some time. This exemplifies why Johnnie was so important. In his quest for justice, he revealed to society serious problems that they were unable or unwilling to address on their own. This is why we will miss him so. We in the Harlem community will especially miss the leadership and contributor he gave to us in his final years.

In this time of loss however, I am heartened by two things. First is the fact that Johnnie's family is still here with us. His wife Dale has been Johnnie's loving and dedicated partner through all the highs and lows. Indeed, her love may have been the only thing that could render Johnnie defenseless, which was no easy task. He loved his children Jonathan, Tiffany, and Melodie dearly, and seeing them grow and become successful adults made him prouder than any victory he ever achieved in court.

The other thing that heartens me at this time is the knowledge that Johnnie's legacy grows every day. In Los Angeles and in cities around the country, Johnnie has become something of a mythic hero, a sort of legal Robin Hood, and a real role model. Kids across America now not only dream of being like Michael Jordan, or Puff Daddy, they dream of becoming successful lawyers, and being like Johnnie.

There are several young people working in my office right now. One is a lawyer already, and many others aspire to become one. There is no question in my mind that Johnnie in some way has something to do with that. In the end, the unseen influence Johnnie has had on the next generation of passionate advocates may be his greatest legacy.

Johnnie, we will never forget you, and I know we will all meet again. In the meantime, we will continue the fight, for as long as justice reigns, so too, will your spirit live.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOGI BHAJAN

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yogi Bhaajan, a leader, and friend to me, the State of New Mexico and many others ranging from America to his native country of India. Yogi died peacefully in his sleep at age 75 surrounded by his family in Espanola, New Mexico.

Upon his arrival to America in the 1960's, Yogi immigrated to northern New Mexico and founded the Sikh Dharma in Espanola.

By 1971 Sikh Dharma was officially recognized as a religion in America due to Yogi's determined efforts. Through Yogi Bhaajan's non-profit 3H, Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization, he touched the lives of millions throughout the world.

Yogi's name has been a staple throughout New Mexico for decades through his many business endeavors throughout the State. Among his many businesses, Akal Security, founded in 1980 by the Sikh Dharma, now thrives in multiple States and throughout the country by providing security to numerous military installations as well as private corporations throughout the world.

Over 200 books have been written based on his teachings, as well as CD's, videos, paintings, and sculptures. Yogi wrote over 30 books including *The Teachings of Yogi Bhaian*, *Furmaan Khalsa*, *Masters Touch*, and *Mind and Its 81 Facets*.

Yogi Bhajan believed "It is a birthright to be healthy, happy, and holy" and lived his life accordingly. He will be missed but Yogi Bhajan left a legacy in New Mexico, America, and the world that will not be forgotten.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greek people and their successful struggle for independence from Ottoman occupation that began nearly 184 years ago.

The Greek intellectual exploration into the meaning of civics and citizenship sparked questions about government that are still being asked throughout the world. Greek curiosity nurtured great thinkers such as Plato and Socrates who spent their lives examining the role between the individual and the state. They posed questions like "what is the meaning of justice?" and "what is the ideal republic?" These timeless questions are still being asked in nations that are searching for a more just government and are being tested in democracies around the world.

When establishing our democratic nation, our founding fathers drew a great deal from the ancient Greeks. Our Democratic system, that is founded on the principals of popular representation, was introduced by the ancient Athenians who were the first to create a civilization based on the rule of the people. Our founding fathers continued the Greek tradition of debating how best to govern and pursued a government that would provide liberty and justice for all. Our dual experiments in democratic government will forever link the United States and Greece.

While our founding fathers relied heavily on the teachings of ancient Greeks, the Greeks based their independence movement beginning in 1821 on our fight for freedom from the British. The Greeks used our struggle for independence as inspiration during their fight from Ottoman rule. Through perseverance and determination the Greeks were able to break from tyranny and bring democracy back to its origins.

Not only can we trace our democratic government to Greece, but also the foundation of science. As some of the first philosophers, the Greeks explored the fields of mathematics, logic, astronomy, physics and biology. The Greeks focused on thinking and understanding, rather than the practical use of their findings in science. Through Aristotle's concept of a posteriori we base the foundations for the modern scientific method. The Greeks taught us that only through experimentation can one truly understand the surrounding world. Our basic understanding of the Earth came from the studies of Ancient Greeks as they questioned the sun, the moons and the stars.

Without the early studies of the Greeks, our current world would be much different. On this

184th anniversary of Greek independence and as a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise to honor the Greeks on their everlasting input in our society.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 184th anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

On March 25, 1821, the people of Greece launched a long, but successful revolt against 400 years of oppressive rule by the Ottoman Turks. Greece's eight year struggle for independence is a testament to the strength of the human spirit in its pursuit of freedom.

As Americans, we share with the Greeks their longstanding commitment to democracy and the rule of law. Our Nation's founding principles of freedom and democracy were influenced by ancient Greek philosophers just as the Greek revolution of 1821 was inspired by the American fight for freedom in 1776.

Our common struggles against totalitarianism and fascism have forged a bond between our nations. Greece has stood by the United States throughout modern history's major world conflicts, including World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and now, the war on terror.

Last summer, the Olympic Games returned to their ancient birthplace. Greece accommodated more than 10,000 athletes from 202 countries. Greece proudly displayed its culture and civilization, and hosted people of all nationalities to participate in noble athletic competition.

I am proud to represent a large and active Greek-American community in my congressional district. I have worked with my constituents to support the return of the Elgin marbles, U.S. participation in negotiations over Cyprus, the inclusion of Greece in the Visa Waiver Pilot Program, and the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew.

I congratulate the people of Greece on their Nation's 184th anniversary of independence and freedom.

HONORING DELEGATE JAMES H. DILLARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delegate James H. Dillard for over 21 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Delegate Dillard has served as Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from 1972–1977 and then again from 1980–2005. Delegate Dillard represents the 41st District in central Fairfax County. He served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1957 and received a B.A. from The College of William and Mary and a M.A. in Political Science from The American University.

Delegate Dillard previously served as a Fairfax County teacher and principal and began his political career as a member of the Fairfax Education Association by working to establish a living wage for teachers in the 1960's. His strong interest in education led him to be one of the original architects of the Virginia Standards of Learning. Additionally, he was chief sponsor of legislation placing a guidance counselor in every elementary school, and has been recognized as National Legislator of the Year by the Guidance Counselors Association.

As Chairman of the Natural Resources subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Delegate Dillard initiated the largest growth in parks and conservation activities in Virginia's history. Delegate Dillard was the author and chief sponsor of the Virginia Soil and Siltation Act which protects streams and waterways from pollutants. He has also worked behind the scenes to ensure the development of the Leesylvania State Park sailing marina, one of the finest facilities of its kind on the Potomac River and has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Delegate Dillard on his retirement from the General Assembly. Through his long and distinguished career Delegate Dillard has touched the lives of countless Virginians. While I know that he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Delegate Dillard and his wife Joyce. I wish them the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING MR. MAX FISHER

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I join the people of my Congressional District, as well as thousands around the country and the world, in honoring the passing of a truly great individual Mr. Max Fisher. On March 3, 2005, Max Fisher passed away at the age of 96.

Max Fisher, a resident of Franklin, Michigan, was an internationally known philanthropist, businessman, advisor, and diplomat, and universally recognized as a driving force for positive change in the United States and the world.

The son of Jewish Russian immigrants Velvil and Malka Fisch, Max was born in Pittsburgh in 1908. He attended Ohio State University on a football scholarship and graduated in 1930 with a degree in business administration. After graduating from college Max Fisher moved to the Detroit area where he became an extremely successful businessman and real estate land developer.

Max Fisher played a unique role in U.S.-Israel relations. This role has been described by many, including in the 1992 biography, *Quiet Diplomat*, by Peter Golden. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger wrote in his memoirs that Max Fisher provided an important service as an informal liaison between the White House and the American Jewish leadership under Presidents Nixon and Ford.

Max Fisher also served as the head of a variety of nonprofit and charitable Jewish organizations including United Jewish Appeal, the

Republican Jewish Coalition, the Jewish Welfare Federation, the Jewish Agency, Council of Jewish Federations, United Israel Appeal, the American Jewish Committee, and the National Jewish Coalition.

Max was a self-made man who spent much of his life raising money for philanthropic and political endeavors and remained an active supporter of charitable and civic organizations. He was a major benefactor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, gave generously to Ohio State's College of Business, and helped found Detroit Renaissance, a nonprofit business roundtable aimed at improving conditions in the city and region.

Max also held 13 honorary degrees from educational institutions.

Max Fisher is survived by his wife, Marjorie Fisher; daughters and sons-in-law, Jane and D. Larry Sherman, Mary Fisher, Julie and Peter Cummings, Marjorie Fisher; son and daughter-in-law, Phillip and Lauren Fisher; 2 sisters; 19 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Max was a humble man of strong principle, who consistently focused on doing what was right, without seeking fame or prestige. His optimism and positive mental attitude continually motivated those around him to overcome the challenges before them.

Therefore, I express my deepest condolences to his family, friends and admirers. And I also join in honoring Max Fisher for his diplomatic contributions, exceptional philanthropic achievements, boundless generosity, unwavering principle and integrity, and achieving great financial success while maintaining admirable humility.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF THE 106TH AIR RESCUE WING

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the heroic actions of the members of the 106th Air Rescue Wing. Over the past few days, the Northeast experienced torrential downpours causing massive flooding throughout Sussex County, New Jersey. The rain became so terrible that it washed out the only road connecting tiny Mashapacong Island to the mainland, stranding five residents. In response, Langley Air Force Base scrambled two Pave Hawk helicopters from the Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, which is based at Gabreski Air Force Base in Westhampton, New York. Fortunately, the 106th was able to respond in time; not only did they rescue the five residents, they also rescued one nearby individual on his roof, along with a dog and a cat.

This is the most recent heroic rescue in the storied history of the 106th, and I am proud to commend the men and women of this unit for their selfless dedication to duty and the protection of those in need. The exploits of the members of the 106th were made famous following their actions depicted in the book "The Perfect Storm". More recently, during our ongoing conflict in Iraq, the pararescue specialists of the 106th played an integral role in rescuing two downed soldiers flying on the CH-47 Chinook helicopter that was shot down west of Baghdad in November of 2003.

As the only rescue unit of its kind in the Northeast, the 106th has once again proven its unique value to the safety and security of our region and our nation. Mr. Speaker, the 106th has proven its worth time and time again. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women of the 106th Air Rescue Wing. I hope we can show that gratitude by letting them continue to serve and protect our nation.

HONORING BRAD PARKHURST

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Brad Parkhurst upon his retirement from Public Service of New Hampshire after 32 years of service.

Brad Parkhurst has had a long, distinguished career in public service. Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) is the Granite State's largest electric utility company and has over 1,200 employees. Brad stands out among them as a recipient of the PSNH Volunteer of the Year Award in 2001 and the PSNH Humanitarian Award in 2004. He received these and numerous other awards for his many contributions to PSNH.

Brad Parkhurst's commitment to the betterment of his community extends far beyond his work at PSNH. He has held many appointed and volunteer positions throughout his hometown of Merrimack, NH. Brad presently serves on the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and served as President of the Chamber from 2001 to 2003.

For the past 25 years, Brad has been an active member of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire. Brad was the first-ever inductee into the Association's "Hall of Fame" in 2003 in recognition of his lifetime achievement in providing significant and lasting contributions to the New Hampshire housing industry.

Brad Parkhurst's service has transcended the borders of New Hampshire and the United States. Brad serves as Chair of the Riverside Christian Church Missionary Efforts program. Brad has led several teams to West Africa in efforts to provide medical, educational and nutritional aid to impoverished people. On his missions, Brad and his teams have also rehabilitated a children's orphanage, constructed a new home, and renovated a local church, school and library.

Brad has left a truly lasting impression on those he has touched with his work. I am honored to represent concerned and conscientious citizens like Brad in the U.S. House of Representatives. I wish Brad the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

VERMONT STUDENTS' WORK TO END SWEATSHOP LABOR

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to celebrate the remarkable work done by the young

Vermonters who participate in the Child Labor Education and Action group at Brattleboro Union High School. CLEA is a student-run group dedicated to community education around issues of sweatshop labor in the developing world. It examines the dark and inhumane side of globalization, doing extensive research and traveling to amass the real story on what globalization means for low-income workers who toil in third-world sweatshops. The students then take what they learn and share it with their community in a variety of ways. They have also organized student groups throughout Vermont to address the problems with global sweatshops.

Four years ago, over 20 CLEA members traveled to Guatemala to build a school. Last year, 13 CLEA members went to Nicaragua to learn about the effect of international trade policies on labor conditions in that country. Let me cite a brief report from one of those travelers, Sarah Maceda-Maciel:

When our plane touched down in Managua, our bags might have been stuffed with light cotton shirts and water bottles, but our heads were filled with numbers like 90,000—the number of Nicaraguan children who are not in school. Or 70 percent, the amount of Nicaraguans who live on less than two dollars a day. Or 6 billion dollars, the sum that Nicaragua has accumulated in foreign debt.

We found the harsh realities of life in the third world. There is something profoundly different between knowing that children are hungry and learning that eight year old children sniff glue to dull the knife of starvation. There is something profoundly different between knowing that maternity leave is not offered in sweatshops and learning that pregnant women are forced to work so hard that they end up having miscarriages in factory bathrooms.

The students returned from their trip determined to make a difference in how Americans view the harsh realities occasioned by free trade. In the words of Katherine Nopper, another CLEA member, "Within our school we hope to engage and inform our classmates on the issues of child labor, free trade, fair trade, and what it means to be part of a sweat-free campaign. And we will continue to present our message to other area schools."

This past year CLEA students have helped with the publication of a remarkable book, *Challenging Child Labor: Education and Youth Action to Stop the Exploitation of Children*. Several of the contributors are present and former CLEA members; other contributors include Senator TOM HARKIN, Charles Kernaghan of the National Labor Committee, Kailash Satyarthi of the Global March Against Child Labor, and Upala Devi Banerjee of the U.N. Development Fund for Women.

I admire the work CLEA does, and am continually impressed, year in and year out, by the dedication of these young people to making the world a better place. They see the whole world as their province; they also realize that speaking to their peers in school, speaking to the larger community in southern Vermont, is part of the struggle to create a world in which justice has a higher value than profit. These students represent what is best about American youth, just as their advisor, Tim Kipp, represents what is best about American teachers.

Combining learning with service, the international with the local, passion for justice with the willingness to work hard to achieve justice, the members of CLEA serve as a model, a

shining beacon, for what high school students can accomplish.

TURKEY AND THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as reported by Reuters recently, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is ready for a "political settling of accounts with history" provided that historians would prepare an unbiased study of claims that millions of Armenians were the victims of genocide under Ottoman rule during the First World War.

That accounting has already been done. A March 7, 2000 public declaration by 126 Holocaust Scholars affirmed the incontestable fact of the Armenian Genocide and urged Western democracies to officially recognize it.

This declaration by foremost scholars from around the world was adopted at the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust convening at St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 3-7, 2000. The petitioners, among whom is Nobel Laureate for Peace Elie Wiesel, also called upon Western democracies to urge the government and parliament of Turkey to finally come to terms with this dark chapter of Ottoman-Turkish history and to recognize the Armenian Genocide. According to this renowned gathering, Turkish acknowledgment would provide an invaluable impetus to that nation's democratization.

As part of the groundbreaking conference held in September 2000 by the Library of Congress and the Armenian National Institute in cooperation with the U.S. Holocaust Museum, the prestigious Cambridge University Press, early in 2004, released a vital new publication—"America and the Armenian Genocide of 1915." This edition covers all facets of the leading U.S. response to the Armenian Genocide, which encompassed the first international human rights movement in American history. Oxford University's Sir Martin Gilbert, Cambridge University's Jay Winter and more than a dozen American academics were among the participants in that landmark conference. In a keynote address, Sir Martin recalled that Rafael Lemkin, who developed the concept of genocide, derived the word itself from the atrocities inflicted on the Armenians.

Prime Minister Erdogan's apparent willingness for a political settling of accounts with history should be treated as an important opportunity for those who have been urging Turkey to come to terms with its Ottoman past. If Turkey is prepared to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, then its leaders can proceed immediately to direct dialogue with its counterparts in Armenia to define a common vision for the future.

I also urge the government of Turkey to: decriminalize speech within Turkey, destroy all monuments, museums and public references to the specious notion that the Armenian minority committed genocide against the majority Turks, end denial within Turkey, specifically within textbooks and reference books, officially condemn any attacks against all Turks that acknowledge the facts of history, and end the

global campaign of threats against any nation that is in the process of affirming the Armenian Genocide.

By so doing, Turkey will begin the vital process of preparing its citizens for a more complete and honest assessment of the final acts of the Ottoman Turkish state. Facing history squarely will liberate Turkey.

THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE TO STAND WITH UKRAINE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today in this chamber we heard a compelling voice for the power of freedom and democracy in President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine. Just a few months ago, the Ukrainian people stood up for genuine liberty in their country by peacefully demanding free and fair elections in what has become known as the Orange Revolution.

I am proud that the United States stood with the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians that demonstrated for democracy in the streets of Kiev. I will never forget last November 24th, when I joined nearly 1,500 Ukrainian-Americans from around the country at a demonstration in support of fair elections outside Ukraine's Embassy in Washington.

The Orange Revolution marked an important milestone in the history of Ukraine. President Yushchenko today addressed forcefully both the lessons of the past and fervent hopes for the future. Now that this peaceful revolution has been dramatically launched, we must stand with the people of Ukraine as they work to strengthen their democratic institutions and to make their country more prosperous. The U.S. should do more, not less, to help build a democratic and prosperous society in Ukraine.

In particular, we must end trade restrictions that were enacted for a different Ukraine at a different time. To achieve this result, I introduced H.R. 1170, a bill to extend permanent normal trade relations to Ukraine. The U.S. must work promptly for the admission of Ukraine to the WTO.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate President Yushchenko on his election and the Ukrainian people for their determination to decide the future of their country. I urge the House of Representatives to make sure that the United States continues to stand with Ukraine as a friend and ally.

IN HONOR OF DR. JAMES POOLE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James A. Poole, a longtime contributor to the Pacific Grove community. Dr. Poole served as a Navy Dentist at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA and established a general dentistry practice in Pacific Grove. He was voted "Best Dentist" by Monterey Peninsula residents.

Born in Portland, Oregon, Dr. Poole attended Oregon State University as a member

of Phi Theta Delta. He obtained his degree in dentistry from the University of Oregon School of Dentistry.

Dr. Poole served in Vietnam as both a medical and dental officer for the United States Navy where he received the Rear Admiral's Citation for outstanding care and emergency service for the ship and field personnel. Dr. Poole also bravely established Military Outreach Programs in the form of dental clinics on nearby islands where he attended to the needs of local nationals.

"Painless Poole," as he was known by the Monterey Peninsula clients of his general practice office, also enjoyed hiking, camping, whitewater rafting, skiing and mountain climbing.

Dr. Poole died on March 19th after an admirable and courageous fight following an emergency surgery to correct a dissecting aortic aneurysm. He was an inspiration to family, physicians and hospital staff.

A TRIBUTE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to bring before this Congress the following outstanding young people who have voluntarily served orphans, public school children, college students, juvenile delinquents, and needy families under the official invitation and authority of government agencies in Russia, Mongolia, Romania, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and China. The excellent character demonstrated by these young people, as well as their commitment to the principles upon which our Nation was founded, have not only attracted the attention of leaders, parents, the media, and students, but it has also brought honor to the United States of America and to the Lord Jesus Christ whom they serve.

Adams, Grant (OK); Aguilar, Nikki (CA); Allen, Jessica (TX); Allen, Rebekah (KS); Alspaugh, Alissa (OK); Alspaugh, Julie (OK); Altman, Rachel (OH); Alvarez, Humberto (MEX); Anders, Erin (MI); Atherton, Tiffany (KS); Backus, Pamela (AR); Baggott, Jessica (NY); Bair, Aileen (IL); Bair, Robert (IL); Baker, Rachel (OK); Ballmann, Christie Ruth (TX); Ballmann, Karyn (TX); Bartlow, Jeremy (TX); Bartlow, Joshua (TX).

Bavido, Bonnie Jean (OK); Bean, Amy (CA); Beaulieu, Anna (MN); Becker, Jeremy (MS); Becker, Johanna (MS); Behrens, Katherine (MI); Bell, Elaine (TX); Bell, Lauren (TX); Bell, Mike (TX); Bender, Anthony (CA); Bender, Patty M (CA); Bender, Steven (CA); Bohlen, Daniel (MI); Bollinger, Chiree (MO); Bourne, Clifford (PA); Bourne, Daniel (PA); Bourne, William (PA); Boyd, Hannah (TX); Boyd, Rachel (MI).

Brook, Nolan (VA); Brown, Kathryn (CA); Brubaker, David (PA); Brubaker, Emily (PA); Brubaker, Jeni (PA); Brubaker, Leon (PA); Brubaker, Luke (PA); Brubaker, Mary (PA); Brubaker, Nathan (PA); Burge, Everett (AR); Burnett, Lydia (CAN); Bushatz, Luke (OH); Busse, Jenece (MO); Canterbury, Debra (FL); Carlisle, Jeshua (MO); Cato, Cheryl (LA); Cato, David (LA); Cato, Timothy (LA); Cavanaugh, Daniel (IL).

Cavanaugh, Micah (KY); Chen, Anna (NY); Chen, Faith (NY); Chen, Grace (NY); Chen,

Karen (NY); Chen, Stephen (NY); Chen, Timothy (NY); Cheney, Bailey (GA); Cheney, Erin (GA); Cheney, Linda L (GA); Cheney, Ted E (GA); Cheng, Shiopei (MD); Cheng, Shiowei (MD); Childers, Michelle (GA); Childers, Zachary (GA); Christiansen, Chad (MN); Christiansen, Marlys (MN); Christiansen, Norm (MN); Christiansen, Nate (MN).

Cook, Bethany (SC); Cook, Joshua (SC); Cook, Kristi (SC); Cooper, Jennifer (TX); Coppersmith, Nathan (MI); Copu, Beny (IL); Copu, Carmen (IL); Copu, Joy (IL); Copu, Paul (IL); Copu, Stefana (IL); Copu, Peter (IL); Copu, Rebecca (IL); Copu, Robert (IL); Copu, Valen (IL); Copu, William (IL).

Cox, Daniel (NC); Craig, Micah (TX); Crawford, Amy (SC); Daniel, Susan (GA); Davis, Elizabeth (VA); Davis, Kelsey (VA); DeBoer, Stephen (IL); DeLuca, Lydia (TX); DeLuca, Sarah (TX); DeMasie, Laura (IL); Dick, Argyl (OK); Dick, Janel (OK); Dicus, Melinda (CA); Diedrich, Abigail (MI); Doolittle, Amy (CA).

Drescher, Jennifer (AZ); Dudley, Wesley (OH); Dumitru, Roxy (OR); DuMont, Brenda (WA); Eby, Benjamin (CAN); Eddy, Jonathan (FL); Elam, Timothy (TX); Engle, Gracia (IN); Erickson, Janice (MN); Erickson, Jennifer (MN); Estes, Autumn (FL); Fagala, Adam (OK); Fagala, Jessica (OK); Fahrenbruck, Corrie (OK); Fahrenbruck, Kathleen (OK).

Fahrenbruck, Kenton (OK); Fahrenbruck, Michelle (OK); Feig, Joel (WI); Feig, Nathaniel (WI); Felber, Britton (IL); Ferguson, Sarah (TX); Fernandez, David (CA); Fisher, Sarah (RI); Fite, Joshua (AR); Florance, James (CA); Ford, Jeremy (CO); Ford, Nathan (CO); Fox, Elizabeth (CA); Fox, Ruth (CA); Francis, Joshua (GA).

Freidel, Marie (IL); Furrow, Christina (WA); Garabedian, Krikor (CAN); Garner, Lisa (IL); Garner, Mary (IL); Garske, Emily (FL); Gay, Carissa (OR); Gay, Charles (OR); Gay, Daniel (OR); Gay, Julie (OR); Gay, Patrick (OR); Gilley, Rebekah (NC); Gillson, Kennan (MN); Gillson, Rowan (IL); Glasgow, Anneliese (OH).

Glick, Amos Lee (PA); Glick, Elizabeth (PA); Goodwin, Joshua (CT); Gothard, Bill (IL); Greer, Sean (IN); Grindall, Rachel (WA); Gunther, Margaret (MD); Hargrove, Sarah (OH); Hartstrom, Melissa (CA); Havlik, Grace (MN); Hawkins, Anna (WI); Hawkins, Jonathan (OR); Hawkins, Susan (OR); Haynes, Esther (TX); Henderson, Johanna (FL).

Hendon, John Caleb (AL); Hesterberg, Beau (TX); Hiebsch, Chase (KS); Hollingshead, Jerin (CA); Hordyk, Jaclyn (CAN); Houser, Galen (CA); Hulling, Jennifer (IL); Hulsey, Sarah (TX); Hutanu, Aniela (OR); Hutanu, Simona (OR); Hutson, Kristin (MO); Hynes, Jonathan (VA); Isitt, Gabriel (OR); Jacob, Benjamin (VA); Jacobsen, Elizabeth (CA).

Jefferies, Megan (MI); Jenkins, Christopher (MO); Jernigan, Ginger (FL); Jessup, Jeremiah (MI); Johnson, Alanna (MI); Johnson, Juliana (PA); Jones, Landon (MO); Jones, Priscilla (VA); Jones, Tara (TN); Jordan, Azzan (NZ); Jordan, Grace (NZ); Jordan, Barry (NZ); Jordan, Lois (NZ); Jorgensen, Andrew (PA); Joyner, Sara (NC).

Kaessner, Jennifer (CO); Kallberg, Luke (IL); Kallberg, Naomi (IL); Karram, Rachel (FL); Keller, Daniel (FL); Keller, Joseph (CA); Keller, Kristen (CA); Keller, Priscilla (FL); Kilby, Alison (IL); Kilby, Elisa (IL); Klassen, Jonathan (TX); Klick, Sarah (KS); Klopfenstein, Carissa (IL); Klueber, Stephen (OH); Konen, Lindsey (WI).

Ladd, Vern (WI); Lang, Ryan (IL); Larum, Elizabeth (VA); Lavoie, Jeremi (CAN); Lehman, Regina (PA); Leigh, Daniel (MS); Leigh, Sarah Catherine (MS); Lewis, Mai (WI); Liljenberg, Zachary (WA); Llewellyn, Margaret (MD); Long, Elizabeth (TX); Loverde, Derek (NY); Maduzia, James (CA);

Mancillas, Gonzalo (MEX); Mancillas, Yolanda (MEX).

Marble, Emily (VA); Marble, Harrison (VA); Martens, Brooke (MI); Martin, Joseph (PA); Martin, Rebekah (PA); Matchak, Caleb (CA); Matchak, Jacob (CA); Matchak, Joel (CA); Matchak, Nathan (CA); Matchak, Sarah (CA); Mathison, Jodi (MN); Mattix, George (IL); Mazur, Isaac (ID); McAtee, Jo Ann (OK); McAtee, Lawrence (OK).

McCloy, Jenny (TX); McCloy, Mike (TX); McCray, Dr. Kevin (AR); McCray, Elizabeth (AR); McCray, Ellianna (AR); McCray, Emily (AR); McCray, James (AR); McCray, Jason (AR); McCray, Jo (AR); McCray, Melissa (AR); McCray, Mitch (AR); McCray, Virginia (AR); McCurdy, Terry (GA); McDonald, Caleb (TX); McDonald, Jessica (WI).

McEndarfer, Benjamin (OK); McGregor, Benjamin (OK); McGregor, Megan (MO); McNab, Mathieu (CO); McOlin, Erin (TX); Means, Laura (MI); Means, Mary Ann (MI); Mecklin, Leslie (TN); Medina, Jonathan (CA); Melvin, Bryce (FL); Mendenhall, Breanna (MN); Meng, Stephen (NC); Messick, Rebekah (TX); Meyer, Jennifer (IL); Michell, Matt (OR).

Millard, Hannah (OR); Millard, Sarah (OR); Miller, Amber (TX); Miller, Heidi (IL); Miller, Katie (IL); Miller, Rachel (MT); Moody, Christina (IL); Moore, Claire (PA); Mosher, Dale (IL); Muir, Caitlin (OR); Myrick, Rebekah (AL); Nance, Dana (AR); Navar, Francisco (MEX); Neu, Daniel (KS); Neu, Nicole (WI).

Newhook, Trevor (PA); Nisly, Katrina (CAN); Norvell, Clemencia (AR); Norvell, Joseph (AR); Norvell, Robert (AR); Novotny, Amanda (FL); Pallock, Melissa (IL); Pallock, Vanessa (IL); Papp, Josephine (CAN); Payne, Nikolai (IA); Payne, Tara (IA); Pell, Elizabeth (NC); Pell, Katy (NC); Perkins, Catherine (LA); Perkins, Sarah (LA).

Pettman, Evelyn (VA); Pettman, Timothy (VA); Pharris, Erik (TX); Pharris, Kenneth (TX); Pharris, Sacha (TX); Pharris, Susana (TX); Pintilie, David (CO); Pittman, Shepherd (FL); Plattner, Tessa (AUS); Pleus, Gene (FL); Pleus, Ruthann (FL); Ploski, Philip (MI); Policastro, Lauren (WI); Polson, Holly (TX); Popescu, Benjamin (OR).

Popescu, Timothy (OR); Rayla, Lindsey (IN); Reimer, Beth (CAN); Reimer, Brian (TX); Reimer, Joshua (CAN); Reimer, Kate (CAN); Reimer, Randall (CAN); Reinagel, Silas (CA); Richmond, Kezia (OR); Richmond, Priscilla (OR); Risma, Jordan (CO); Roberts, Nicholas (NM); Robertson, Aaron (AL); Robertson, Adam (AL); Robertson, Alan (AL).

Robertson, Amy (AL); Robertson, Andrew (AL); Robertson, Anthony (AL); Robertson, Ashley (AL); Robertson, Autumn (AL); Robertson, Avery (AL); Robertson, Linda (AL); Robertson, Michael (AL); Rogers, Christopher (WA); Roseberry, David (CA); Roseberry, John (CA); Ross, Charles (GA); Ross, Jedidiah (GA); Ross, Mary (GA); Ross, Rebecca (GA).

Roth, Philip (IL); Rupp, Phillip Michael (OH); Salazar, Carla (MEX); Sanborn, Diane (FL); Scheiman, Rebekah (WI); Searle, Daniel (CA); Searle, Shawn (CA); Searle, Shawn (CA); Sellin, Dexter (KS); Sellin, Tammy (KS); Senn, Amanda (LA); Shafer, Laura (AR); Shank, Alisha (CA); Shank, Jennifer (CA); Shepherd, Amanda (TN).

Shepherd, Courtney (TN); Sherrer, Katherine (NC); Sherwin, Todd (CO); Shrock, Leisel (OR); Sias, Marlon David (MN); Silverman, Nathaniel (FL); Smillie, Brian (CO); Smillie, David (CO); Smillie, John (CO); Smith, Amy (ME); Smith, Joshua (CAN); Snyder, Joel (AL); Sondergaard, Ron (CA); Spiker, Kristin (MO); Spillers, Daniel (LA).

St. Clair, Elizabeth (LA); Staddon III, Don (WV); Stallings, Grayson (CO); Stedje, Lauree Beth (TX); Steed, Bethany L (CO); Steinbach, Jeff (CA); Stewart, Andrew (OH);

Stewart, Lucas (OH); Stewart, Timothy (OH); Storm, Emily (IL); Stutzman, Julie (OH); Sullivan, Andrei (NC); Sullivan, John (NC); Sullivan, Roslyn (NC); Sullivan, Sarah (NC).

Sullivan, Tom (NC); Swicegood, Rebekah (AR); Talbott, Claire (NC); Tanner, Justin (TX); Thomas, Whitney (AL); Thompson, Troy (CA); Thompson, William Edward (FL); Thornton, Will (GA); Tillotson, Vanessa (NE); Toader, Adrian (WA); Trimble, Sean (AK); Trutza, Ruth (IL); Tucker, Charlotte (LA); Tucker, David (LA).

Tucker, Rebecca (LA); Tucker, Robert (LA); Tucker, Stephen (LA); Tudorica, Crina (RO); Uecke, Laura (IL); Van Ry, Sheralee (WA); Van Til, Hilko (FL); Vanderhorst, Daniel (KS); Vaughan, Rachel (CA); Visser, Ronald (IN); Wagler, Maria (KS); Wagler, Vanya (KS); Wagley, Christine (LA); Wagley, Elizabeth (LA); Wagley, Lisa (LA).

Waller, David (WI); Waller, Derrick (WI); Waller, Rachelle (WI); Warfield, Albion (CA); Wassenaar, Katie (TN); Wenstrom, Angela (IL); Wenstrom, Brittany (IL); Wenstrom, Chris (IL); Wenstrom, Heather (IL); Wenstrom, Jim (IL); Wenstrom, Kimberly (IL); Wenstrom, Matthew (IL); Wenstrom, Michelle (IL); Werner, Lauren (OK); Westfal, Stephanie (WY).

Weston, Jennifer (CA); Weston, Kevin (CA); White, Tiffany Brook (MS); Whitten, Jon (IN); Whitten, Josiah (IN); Wilkes, Joshua (VA); Williams, Arnah (VA); Williams, Cheri (CA); Williams, Elizabeth (AUS); Williams, Holly (CA); Williams, Jamie (IL); Williams, Richard (AUS); Winkler, Matthew (TX); Winsted, Rachel (GA); Wishart, Christy (CO); Witt, Jesse (MO); Wolfley, Audra (OK); Woodfield, Julia (MD); Yamane, Jamie (WA); Yoder, Byron (TX).

RECOGNIZING GREEK CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, our Western Civilization reflects the contributions of many peoples, cultures, and nations. One vital source that gave much toward the depth and richness of our culture is ancient Greece.

One of the great legacies of the city-states of Greece is the practice of self determination or democracy, the rule of the people. Many of the functions of our government are drawn from the Greek political system. Similarly, Greece greatly influenced the development of one of our major religions demonstrated through the word *christos*, or Jesus Christ. The Letters to the Corinthians and Thessalonians are essential parts of the New Testament.

In countless high schools and colleges throughout the nation, students study the Iliad, a poem originating nearly 3,000 years ago. Modern philosophy still revolves around the thoughts and discussions of Plato and Aristotle. Also, early Greeks developed many of the mathematical disciplines that make our world add up. And, just this past summer the world met in the glory of athletic competition, the modern Olympics, another gift of the Greeks.

I cannot imagine what our society would look like without the rich contributions of the Hellenistic age—architecture, literature, science, and art—but I am sure that it would be more drab and impoverished. In fact, the

early roots of Western Civilization trace back to Greece, from where it grew out across the European continent and later across the Atlantic Ocean to the Western Hemisphere.

Unfortunately, modern shortcuts such as the English language and 21st century culture are undermining the Greek language and traditions. As the incubators of so many wonders, the Greek language and the Greek culture deserve to be preserved and celebrated. This is essential for the benefit of the current generation and the enrichment of future generations.

I have had the honor of meeting an individual dedicated to preserving the Hellenic spirit, Captain Panayotis Tsakos. He undertook this mission of love by creating the Maria Tsakos Foundation, which is devoted to honoring the various aspects of ancient, modern, and contemporary Greek culture. The Foundation provides multifaceted activities that teach the Greek language, dances, and literature. So far, more than 3,000 students have learned the language and culture. In addition, the Foundation provides scholarships for study in Greece and supports charities that uphold Greek traditions.

I appreciate this opportunity to share this information with my colleagues, and to commend Captain Tsakos for his dedication to preserving the richness of the Hellenic world.

RECOGNIZING THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a small Federal program that is often overlooked as a way to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Javits-Wagner-O'Day program, often referred to as JWOD, provides more than 36,000 Americans, who are blind or who have other disabilities, with the job skills and training necessary to earn good wages and benefits as well as greater independence and quality of life. The JWOD program empowers people with disabilities who traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent and rely heavily on social support programs, such as welfare and SSI.

By employing people with disabilities, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day program is able to increase independence and self esteem by helping these individuals enjoy full participation in their community and market their JWOD skills into other public/private sector jobs.

Everyday, the National Industries for the Blind and NISH are creating new employment opportunities for people with disabilities, along with local nonprofit organizations in my home district of central Illinois. Demonstrating an excellent federal-private sector partnership, NISH National Industries for the Blind and local nonprofits, such as the Community Workshop & Training Center, Inc., in my state, enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence of people with disabilities by creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

This year, the Community Workshop & Training Center Inc. will be celebrating 45 years of proudly providing employment opportunities and residential support for individuals

with disabilities, enriching their quality of life, promoting social change and optimizing their potential for independence. They have been proudly participating in the JWOD program since 1991 by providing the janitorial services to the U.S. Federal Courthouse, including my office in Peoria, Illinois. In that time, 49 individuals have been involved, and David Rinaldi, William Wolf, Tom Sledge, Mary Kuebler and Tom Sieks are currently benefiting from the program.

On behalf of people with disabilities, I rise to salute the important contributions of JWOD and Community Workshop & Training Center, Inc. to central Illinois and its citizens. I hereby commend all persons who are committed to enhancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

SERVICES FOR ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to join my colleague Representative DEBORAH PRYCE in introducing the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act (SELHA). This legislation establishes a grant program that would be administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for services related to housing for people who have experienced chronic homelessness and who also have disabling health conditions such as mental illness.

The Department of Health and Human Services currently operates grant programs for homeless individuals but none of them are specifically focused on services such as mental health services, substance abuse treatment, health education, money management, parental skills training, and general health care, coordinated with permanent supportive housing.

Chronically homeless individuals need more than housing. In order to truly help, the federal government needs to provide grants that will enable communities to coordinate and deliver health care-related services to these individuals. Without these services, it will continue to be very hard to end the root causes of chronic homelessness.

SELHA specifically: Establishes a grant program for services in supportive housing within the Department of Health and Human Services (RRS) and administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA);

Defines "chronically homeless" as an individual or family who is currently homeless, has been homeless continuously for at least one year or has been homeless on at least four separate occasions in the last three years, and has a head of household with a disabling condition.

Make states, cities, public, or nonprofit entities eligible to apply for the grants.

Gives priority to applicants that target funds to individuals or families that are homeless for longer than one year, frequently use the ER, or interact regularly with law enforcement.

Funds services including mental health services, substance abuse treatment, referrals for primary health care and dental services,

health education, money management, and parental skills training.

Requires initial grant awardees to provide \$1 for every \$3 of federal money.

Requires renewal grant awardees to provide \$1 for every \$1 of federal money.

Permits 20 percent of the grant awardees' matching funds to come from other federal grants such as the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. This provision will encourage collaboration with existing programs and access for homeless people to existing mainstream health and human services systems, while assisting the grant awardees in achieving their match.

Establishes initial grant terms of 3–5 years and renewal grant terms of up to 5 years. (To encourage long-term program success and stability for permanent supportive housing projects and formerly homeless tenants, renewal grant awardees only compete against each other and have priority status for additional funding.)

Chronic homelessness is a dreadful but solvable problem. In my District, the most recent one-day survey (February 27, 2004) in Santa Clara County identified over 7,000 homeless individuals, with over 1,000 defined as chronic. In San Mateo County, over 1,730 individuals are homeless, with approximately 650 defined as chronic.

Chronic homelessness is very costly to emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, VA hospitals and the criminal justice system. This legislation will provide more resources to reduce these costly expenditures, while simultaneously permitting individuals with complex health needs to be housed and begin their journey to a productive life.

I urge all my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST KEITH "MATT" MAUPIN

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, April 9, 2005 marks a tragic one-year anniversary for Army Specialist Keith "Matt" Maupin and America. Spc. Maupin, better known as Matt to his friends, went missing one year ago and is the only American soldier to be unaccounted for. His courage and valor are unquestioned and our prayers are with his family and friends as they wait daily for word on his whereabouts. The community of Batavia, OH has not forgotten their brave soldier, but we must all remember Matt and pray for his safe return.

Our brave men and women fighting on the front lines in Afghanistan, Iraq and throughout the world sacrifice so much. Beyond their own personal safety, they also sacrifice seeing their wives, husbands, parents and friends. They miss their children's first steps, soccer games and special moments. There is no way to repay the debt we owe them. But we can do the next best thing and honor them through actions. Tell them and their families how grateful we are for their sacrifice and most importantly, bring all of our troops home.

On Saturday, April 9, 2005 let's take a moment to remember Spc. Maupin and all of our American heroes.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE 2006
BUSH BUDGET

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Bush Administration's 2006 budget which will in essence short-change the American people. It fails to include the cost of the war in Iraq, increases the cost of health care for our veterans, and cuts billions in education, health care, housing, and environmental programs, while adding more than \$4 trillion to the deficit in the next 10 years.

What is more amazing is that while the President has made the privatization of Social Security his top priority, he has failed to provide any details for his proposed program. Most notably, the budget omits the cost of the proposed privatization which according to independent experts will cost more than \$4 trillion in the first 20 years. Additionally, his budget continues the raid on the Social Security Trust Fund, borrowing and spending all of the money from the Social Security Trust Fund over the next five years.

The President's failure to provide a clear and honest accounting of the difficult trade-offs between increases in the debt, benefit cuts, and tax increases necessary to fund the White House's privatization proposal is another attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of the Americans. But, Mr. President, I want you to know that the American public is not fooled by this false rhetoric.

So today I want to speak on behalf of the over 160,000 people in my district and the more than 48 million people across this country who currently rely on Social Security benefits. These are not just retired Americans, but also people with disabilities and those who have lost a parent. Many of them are seniors who without their Social Security benefits, nearly half would be living in poverty. Instead of privatizing and enacting a plan that will gamble benefits in the stock market we should be working on a plan to make Social Security solvent for the long term. We owe it to the American people who have worked all their lives and paid into this program to strengthen, not weaken Social Security. And we deserve better than this reckless and irresponsible budget.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD 180TH FIGHTER WING ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BASE

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to the men and women, both past and present, who serve the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio.

In 1955, the 112th Bombardment Squadron moved from the Akron-Canton Airport to To-

ledo and became a Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Soon after, the base became a Tactical Fighter Squadron and was activated for the Berlin Crisis. Then in 1962, the squadron became part of the newly formed 180th Tactical Fighter Group. After earning the Air Force Outstanding Unit distinction in both 1985 and 1990, members of the base were deployed to Panama during Operation Just Cause and Iraq for both Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

Today, the 180th Fighter Wing is equipped with F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft and continues to be a tactical asset to the National Guard. Members have served in Operations Provide Comfort and Operation Northern Watch over Iraq in 1996, 1998, and 1999. Additionally, the brave men and women of the 180th were some of the first to scramble jets in defense of our Nation on September 11th.

Because its central location places the 180th Fighter Wing within a 30 minute flight time to nearly 50 million Americans, the base has been a vital force in American airpower for the past 50 years. The men and women who have served our area have benefited from the excellent quality of life in Northwest Ohio, and we in Northwest Ohio have benefited from their service. Many of my constituents have served honorably as members of the 180th Fighter Wing and earned numerous distinctions. In addition, the airmen of the 180th have contributed to our community through programs such as the "Homeless Awareness" project, the "Adopt-A-School" program and the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the men and women of the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio. Their dedication to duty and contribution to air power has proven the airmen of the 180th Fighter Wing to be American heroes. Today, we pay respect to 50 years of dedicated service to Northwest Ohio and look forward to a future in which our children and grandchildren grow up under the protections provided by these great patriots.

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL HERNANDEZ

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative JIM COSTA, to pay tribute today to Manuel Hernandez, a long-time community activist in Visalia, California, who died February 25th at the age of 91.

Mr. Hernandez was affectionately known as the "Godfather of North Visalia," where he mentored many up and coming leaders in the large Latino community.

He was born in 1913 in Torreón, in the Coahuila state of northern Mexico. His family moved to the United States in the 1920s. He worked in the fields earning a living by picking cotton, oranges, peaches and other crops for as little as 15 cents an hour.

Later, he worked cleaning up after construction crews. He became a carpenter and took certification courses at College of the Sequoias to become a construction supervisor.

In the 1960s, he was involved in the formation of Self-Help Enterprises, helping low-in-

come families build and own homes. As a longtime member of the Self-Help board and during his service with a long list of organizations and citizens advisory committees, including the Tulare County Grand Jury, he was an advocate for Visalia's less fortunate.

Hundreds gathered at his funeral in March, and as his hearse drove to the cemetery, children stood on the sidewalk and saluted him.

Once again, we urge our colleagues to join us in applauding his many years of selfless dedication to the community he loved. His legacy of hard work, compassion, and cooperation stands as an example for us all.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDED IN-HOME CARE OF THE ELDERLY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of Federal and State funded in-home care for the elderly. This legislation highlights the inadequacies seniors face with electing in-home care. By increasing financial assistance for in-home care, establishing fee payment guidelines, implementing better schooling for in-home aides, and assembling a supervisory board of care givers, we can help ensure the quality of care elderly receive in-home is as adequate as hospitalized attention.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important resolution for three crucial reasons. First, it endorses the efforts of the elderly to remain independent and sustain their viability during the last years of their life. Supporting studies show that seniors who receive in-home care have greater life expectancies than seniors who are moved from everything that is familiar to them and placed in nursing homes. Second, this resolution promotes the expansion of employment opportunities in the nursing and in-home care industries. By implementing government funded in-home care to equal that of nursing home care, more seniors will elect to be nursed at home, which in turn increases job opportunities. Finally, this resolution encourages the establishment of better treatment and guidelines for students and schools who train certified nurse assistants and home health aides. Through adoption of uniformly high standards, we can ensure our seniors have access to qualified professionals when selecting in-home care. Each of these important ambitions are achievable through raising the quality of in-home care.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. As Members of Congress, we have a great opportunity to make a positive impact on this issue, an issue that is of concern to many of our grandparents, parents, and will be of concern to us. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this resolution forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington from my congressional district due to illness on April 5, 2005, and missed Rollcall vote numbers 91–93. Had I been present I would have voted “aye” on all three votes:

Rollcall Vote Number 91: H. Res. 108—Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania;

Rollcall Vote Number 92: H. Res. 120—Commending the efforts of the Armed Forces and civilian employees in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004; and

Rollcall Vote Number 93: H. Con. Res. 34—Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bajan.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL ACCESS TO BROADBAND SERVICES ACT OF 2005

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to expand broadband access into rural areas so that millions of Americans in this country are not left behind in our increasingly information-dependent society. I am introducing this bill with my colleague from Colorado, Rep. JOHN SALAZAR, and I greatly appreciate his support.

History has shown us that improvements in information-sharing have resulted in increased productivity, a better-educated society, and the growth of technology. The development and mainstream use of the Internet has changed how we conduct business and how we provide community services, and has revolutionized information sharing throughout the world.

The benefits the Internet has provided are invaluable. However, access to this technology has created a divide between haves and have-nots in our country. High speed broadband Internet is commonplace in most urban and suburban areas. Yet although nearly a quarter of the nation's population lives in rural America, rural access to broadband is either nonexistent or extremely costly.

Many rurally based industries are dependent on the rapid transfers of information. Being able to utilize broadband technologies would increase their productivity, efficiency, and in turn, profits. For example, accurate and timely weather predictions allow farmers to better gauge the necessary rate of fertilizer application necessary or use of irrigation to maximize their crop yield. Broadband technologies make in-depth predictions of temperature and rainfall accessible by any farmer throughout the world.

Hospitals are dependent on being able to send and receive information in order to save lives. However, many rural hospitals can barely afford to provide basic health services to their patients, let alone pay for access to broadband technology if it is even available.

Schools in rural areas are also at a disadvantage without access to the Internet. As students leave these schools to study at universities or to compete in the workforce, they start at a disadvantage to other students who have been educated from kindergarten with constant access to the information available online.

Comparisons have been drawn between broadband and the rural electrification. It took assistance from government and industry to bring electricity to rural areas in the 1930s. That kind of assistance is what is needed today to bridge the digital divide. Congress passed legislation in 2002 establishing a grant and loan program within the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to help fund broadband deployment in rural areas. But the broadband program is oversubscribed and underfunded. The president's FY06 request is down 34% from FY05 levels of \$545 million.

We need to push for funding for the RUS broadband program, but that isn't enough. Providing access to broadband technologies in rural America is an expensive endeavor for telecommunication companies. The cost of establishing a network to rural areas is hard to recover simply through subscriber fees. Most companies require an incentive before making such an investment. My bill, similar to the bill my colleague from Colorado, Senator SALAZAR, recently introduced, provides that necessary incentive.

First, my bill provides a tax incentive for companies that invest in broadband access in rural regions of our country. Specifically, broadband providers can expense the cost of equipment for, installation of, or connection to broadband services in the first year of service. It also encourages the development of “next generation” technology, typically more expensive, through the same type of incentive.

My bill also supports research in technologies that enhance broadband service and provide more effective and less expensive service to rural areas. It directs the National Science Foundation to conduct research into both the availability and access of broadband technologies. Research into advanced technologies that can provide telephone, cable television, and Internet service will enable the same equipment to provide these services and hopefully reduce costs in the process, allowing increased access.

Finally, my bill creates an office in the Department of Commerce to coordinate federal resources relating to rural broadband access. In the past, several agencies have been involved with the development and deployment of broadband. This office will provide a central point within the government to monitor this effort and reduce overlap within other agencies.

I believe this is important legislation that will provide rural regions the tools they need to increase economic opportunity and improve their quality of life. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE McLAUGHLIN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeannine McLaughlin for her unyielding

patriotism and support of our great country. Our Nation is fortunate to have people like Jeannine who support our country in unique, but very important ways.

During the summer on 2004, while building a new home in LaGrange, Illinois, Jeannine committed an extraordinary patriotic act: she asked for her house to be built only with products made from American companies.

Throughout the design and building process, Jeannine put forth an extreme amount of time and energy in researching even the minutest details of her home; all in hopes of realizing her American dream home. From the locks on her doors, to the tiles on her bathroom floors, Jeannine assured that all that could be made by American companies in America was used in her home.

Jeannine sacrificed time and money for her American-made home. She endured a ten percent increase in the building costs of her home. Even the smallest fixtures in the house were at times double the cost of those from international competitors. As the labor of her dreams are realized, Jeannine McLaughlin now looks at her home with pride as she knows her home is as American made as any home can be.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jeannine McLaughlin for her unparalleled dedication to our country. We wish her well in her new, truly American home.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, with profound sadness, I rise today to honor the life of former U.S. Senator Howell Heflin. Senator Heflin served in the U.S. Senate on behalf of the State of Alabama for 18 years. He was a nationally known and popular Senator, who fought tirelessly for the people of Alabama. He passed away on March 31, 2005 at the age of 83.

Before his election to the Senate, Senator Heflin was Chief Justice of the Alabama State Supreme Court. As Chief Justice, he was the lead author of the Alabama Judicial Code, which reformed Alabama's outdated legal system. His grass roots efforts established a model for future constitutional reform not only in Alabama but across the nation.

During his time in the Senate he was known for his sharp wit and deep understanding of the issues being addressed by Congress. He had an innate ability to describe difficult and complex subjects in such a way that most anyone could understand and form an opinion on them.

Senator Heflin was a strong advocate for civil rights, the Marshall Space Flight Center, Redstone Arsenal, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and southern agriculture along with many others. His work helped lay the foundation for the new technological economy of North Alabama.

Senator Heflin was respectfully referred to by his colleagues as “The Judge,” because of his position as Chief Justice and his long tenure as Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee. It was said that he ruled over the

Chamber with an iron fist and demanded his fellow Senators live up to higher standards.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Heflin commanded respect from his colleagues, and made the least among us feel as important as anyone else. He was a friend to me during and after his time in Washington. He will be missed by all who knew him.

On behalf of everyone in North Alabama, I respectfully rise to honor and pay tribute to a great American leader.

FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF TIBET

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with indignation over the situation in Tibet. In 1949, Tibet was invaded and occupied by The People's Republic of China. In the course of the invasion and occupation, an estimated 87,000 Tibetans were arrested, deported to labor camps, or killed.

The situation has not much improved over the past sixty years. Tibetan freedom of choice is still not tolerated by the People's Republic of China and harsh punishments await any who diverge from Chinese mandates.

Each year thousands of innocent people are thrown in prison or killed under a corrupt and cruel system. Even peaceful opposition is met with exacting penalties. In fact, Buddhist monks and nuns are regularly shipped to detention for exercising their religion.

The people of Tibet live in constant fear they will be imprisoned, tortured, or killed for peacefully expressing their political and religious beliefs, or in the best case scenario, they will simply disappear in the dark of the night.

We must help the Dali Lama and the people of Tibet in their quest to live free from oppression. We must all work towards a peaceful resolution to this situation so not one more Tibetan is carried off by the night.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY ELLEN SHEETS OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mary Ellen Sheets of Lansing, Michigan, who recently was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the International Franchise Association.

Mary Ellen Sheets, founder/CEO of Two Men And A Truck, is the first businesswoman to be honored with this prestigious award which has an illustrious honor roll of recipients, including Tom Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza Inc., and J. Willard Marriott of the Marriott Corp., as well as leaders in other franchise organizations such as Subway, Jiffy Lube International, Pizza Hut Inc., and Holiday Inn Inc.

Mary Ellen's teenaged sons started a moving business with a pickup truck in the early 1980s. After the boys left for college, cus-

tomers kept calling so in 1985, this creative mother paid \$350 for an old moving truck and officially opened Two Men And A Truck.

When she first sketched the now-famous company logo, a simple graphic of two stick men in a truck cab to catch readers' attention, Mary Ellen never guessed it would lead to such phenomenal entrepreneurial success. From that simple beginning, her business was catapulted into a vibrant, growing franchised company with 152 locations in 26 states.

While becoming a successful entrepreneur, Mary Ellen Sheets never forgets about her community. This very successful businesswoman also makes time to serve on the boards of Lansing Community College, Michigan Freedom Foundation, Michigan Law Abuse Watch, and Edward Sparrow Hospital. She chaired the 2004 United Way Campaign in Lansing, and has been recognized numerous times, including as one of Michigan's Top 25 Women Business Owners, and Lansing Business Person of the Year.

Mary Ellen Sheets epitomizes the American dream. She rose from a small beginning to become a very successful businessperson who believes in giving back to her community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this very special woman and community leader, who is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL ROGERS

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Paul Rogers, who recently passed away following an extended illness. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends, and community. The following is a brief biography of Brother Rogers and some of the accomplishments of his long and fruitful life:

Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. His father, Andy W. Rogers, was a Deacon at the West End Church and Trustee for the purchase of the Central building in 1941. The Rogers family were charter members at Central (McMinnville). It was here Paul received his early training and encouragement to enter the ministry.

Upon receiving his baccalaureate degree from David Lipscomb University in Nashville and master's degree from Harding Graduate School of Religion in Searcy, AR, he embarked on a long and fruitful career in the ministry. Brother Roger's first sermon was delivered at Central Church of Christ in Birmingham. He began preaching in November, 1952 every Sunday at the Old Jefferson Church of Christ in Smyrna, Tennessee and preached there until graduation from Lipscomb in 1956. He worked as Associate Minister at Church Street Church in Lewisburg, Tennessee 8 months in 1956 and moved to Centerville Church of Christ in January 1957.

Brother Rogers was the Minister of the Centerville Church of Christ, Centerville, Tennessee for more than 48 years. No preacher in the fellowship of Churches of Christ has a longer tenure at his congregation and at no rural church quite as large as the Centerville church according to Jim McInteer, president of

21 st Century Publishing, a book publisher affiliated with the Churches of Christ. In these years, worship attendance has grown from 350 to 700; annual contribution from \$19,000 to \$600,000.

The congregation has built a new church building, new church camp valued at \$1,000,000; off-street parking for 300 cars; \$200,000 Outreach Center for benevolence and senior citizens work; a 75-unit, \$2,500,000 apartment complex, Tulipwood for senior citizens, and a new \$1,200,000 Educational and Fellowship Complex recently constructed. He has also conducted over 800 funeral services in Hickman County, Tennessee.

He was the first president of the Centerville Elementary PTA, past Chairman of Hickman County Library Board, served on Bluegrass Regional Library Board, chairman of Centerville Beautiful Commission, former President of Centerville Kiwanis Club, served on City Industrial Board, served on the Board of Trustees at Clover Bottom Developmental Center for the Retarded in Nashville, Tennessee, and served on Board of First Farmers and Merchants Bank, Centerville, Tennessee. Brother Rogers was awarded Honorary Membership in Hickman County Jaycees for service to the community, selected as Alumnus of the Year in 1975 at Harding Graduate School of Religion, voted Centerville Man of the Year for 1978, selected as Alumnus of the Decade at David Lipscomb College in 1982, received the Distinguished Christian Service Award from Harding University 1988, honored by Tennessee State Legislature in 1983 for long ministry and service in Centerville, honored by Tennessee House of Representatives in 1992, honored in 1997 by Tennessee State Senate on 40th Anniversary with the Centerville Church for the longest full-time tenure among churches of Christ in Tennessee history, selected in December 1999 by the Gospel Advocate as one of "100 Trailblazers of the 20th Century" among Churches of Christ, and in 2004 received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Hickman County Chamber of Commerce to name a few.

Brother has given lectures at David Lipscomb University, Faulkner University, Freed-Hardeman University, Abilene Christian University, Oklahoma Christian University, Harding University, Harding Graduate School of Religion, Western Christian College, Blue Ridge Encampment, Training for Service Series in Chattanooga, North Alabama Training for Service Series in Florence, Alabama, Training for Service Series in Memphis, Training Series in Evansville, Indiana. Yosemite Bible Encampment, Yellowstone Bible Encampment. He served on the Board of David Lipscomb University 1986-2003 and was secretary of the Johnson Scholarship Foundation at David Lipscomb University.

His minister includes; touring Israel and studying archaeology there in 1969, working on the London, England Campaign in 1963, and preached in India in 1975. He also traveled and preached behind the Iron Curtain in 1977, made three trips to the Holy Land, and frequent mission trips to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Brother Rogers was the author of the following books and booklets: My God and My Service; My God and My Marriage; Things Surely Believed Among Us (4th printing in 2004); Let the Earth Hear His Voice; When Freedom is Gone; Comments on Revelation;

Building Up The Church In A Small Town; God Give Us Christian Homes. His most recent books are I Have Much People In This City (depicting 125-year history of the Centerville Church); and These Forty Years (a biography of his ministry with the Centerville Church).

He accomplished all these things in life while at the same time being a loving husband to the former Judy Johns and father to four children and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Paul Rogers today. His dedication and selflessness to his community are examples to all who wish to lead. All the honors and awards that Brother Rogers has received in his life still do not do justice to recognize the contribution this man has made to his community and the world. Paul will be missed very much by all who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO MARY RITA TAMAYO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Rita Tamayo for her service to troubled young people in Sonoma County. Ms. Tamayo passed away in July of 2003 at the age of 85. On April 17, 2005, Social Advocates for Youth in Sonoma County will announce the new transitional housing facility in Santa Rosa—the Tamayo House—to commemorate Mary and Jose Tamayo's contributions to the community. The Tamayo House will provide 24 young men and women, who are aging out of the foster care system, with a place to live.

Born in 1918 in Kansas to Mexican immigrant parents, Mary was raised a devout Catholic. She moved with her husband, Jose, from Nebraska to California in 1977 to open a family owned Mexican restaurant. Husband and wife co-founded the restaurant La Tortilla Factory Mexicantessan.

Not only did Mary provide employment opportunities and support youth organizations, but she also encouraged teenagers to complete their education. Her biggest regret in life was never finishing high school, but she made sure her five sons graduated from college.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mary Tamayo, whose kindness and generosity exemplify the best that a person has to offer. Her commitment to Sonoma County's youth population is an inspiration to immigrant families and to all of us who care about our community. She is already missed, but the opening of Tamayo House will keep her memory alive for generations to come.

BROOKLYN CENTER LIONS CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVING MINNESOTANS

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, Lions Club, which has served the great City of

Brooklyn Center and all of Minnesota for 50 years with extraordinary excellence.

The Brooklyn Center Lions Club rose from humble beginnings a half century ago, with early membership in the single digits, scrap drive projects and the purchase of a single pair of eyeglasses for a needy child. The Lions Club has now grown to over 70 members, who organize projects that shape the community and better the lives of thousands of people.

Membership has been strong and growing over the past 50 years, but only Lion Larry Roen remains as an original charter member. Congratulations Lion Roen!

Mr. Speaker, the Brooklyn Center Lions Club also has the distinction of producing five District 5M5 Governors over the last 50 years: Frank Erwin, Bill Legler, Richard Risley, Thomas Shinnick and Orlander "Ole" Nelson, each of whom represented the finest Lions Club tradition of public service to help those in need.

The Lions gave generously 36 years ago when they built beautiful Lions Park in Brooklyn Center. Their generosity didn't stop there, as they later added a fantastic picnic shelter to the park.

Through the Quest Youth Outreach program, which emphasizes drug abuse prevention, community service, education, environment, health, recreation and service-learning, the Brooklyn Center Lions have reached out to three school districts with their important public service.

Mr. Speaker, the Brooklyn Center Lions serve people through many important programs like Campaign Sight First, Hearing Dog and Leader Dog. The Brooklyn Center Lions are also active in the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank and the Children's Eye Clinic and Hearing Foundation. Additionally, the Lions sponsor the Earle Brown Days Parade, one of the largest parades in Minnesota, as well as numerous Halloween parties. The Brooklyn Center Lions are also active in Boy and Girl Scouts.

Deeply involved in diabetes research, the Brooklyn Center Lions, with the help of other 5M5 District Clubs, have raised \$20,000 for this important cause.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the true spirit of the Lions' motto, "We Serve," the Brooklyn Center Lions have served the people of Brooklyn Center very well for 50 years. We thank them for their service, which they have performed with pride and distinction. Congratulations, Brooklyn Center Lions, on your 50 years of service!

IN HONOR OF HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES OF NORTHERN DELAWARE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware, Inc., an organization that has served on the front lines of the battle for fairness in housing. Through their advocacy for equal opportunities in the sale, rental, or leasing of housing, they have made invaluable contributions to my district. On April 4, 2005, Housing Opportunities

of Northern Delaware will enjoy their 22nd Annual Proclamation Ceremony, marking their continued commitment to a housing environment devoid of discrimination.

For 37 years, millions of Americans have achieved the dream of home ownership under the auspices of the Federal Housing Act. With April 2005 designated as Fair Housing Month, I believe this recognition is especially appropriate, and ask that we continue to follow in the footsteps of this landmark legislation.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I applaud the efforts of Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware, Inc. and commend the cause which they hold so dear.

HONORING POLLY ANN GONZALEZ

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 28, 2005, my community of southern Nevada lost one of its most outstanding citizens. Polly Ann Gonzalez was taken from us in a highway accident, a tragic event that shocked the community. Southern Nevadans by the thousands have expressed their sense of loss and their loving memories of Polly through their e-mails of condolence, their attendance at memorial services, and their contributions in support of Polly's daughters, Sabrina and Gabriella.

The passing of Polly Gonzalez is a heart-rending instance of the good dying young, far too young. In her mere 43 years, Polly attained the highest levels of accomplishment, both as a newswoman and as an advocate for people in need.

Polly first earned the reputation as a top-notch television investigative reporter in northern California, exposing the social and economic injustices faced by agricultural workers and by revealing the growing threat of gang violence, among other important stories she brought to light. Honored with an Emmy Award, Polly moved on to Las Vegas, where she quickly established herself as one of the area's most popular, admired, and energetic television news anchors.

Polly's passion for bringing truth to the public through her reporting was matched by her commitment to public service. She established herself as a most effective advocate for the advancement of the Latino community and for the less advantaged. She went beyond the call of duty to be involved in community organizations and events, accepting myriad requests for her time, her talent, and her energy to support the people of the Las Vegas area.

As was stated on KLAS-TV8, where Polly worked for 10 years, she "always was . . . standing up for people whose voices might not have carried as much weight as hers." She was a preeminent role model for young women, whom she showed, "if they put their mind to it they could accomplish anything."

Polly's passing has brought an overwhelming and nearly unprecedented outpouring of emotion from those who knew her personally or knew her only through her newscasts. I join all southern Nevadans in mourning the loss of a great friend, a great newswoman, and a great contributor to the building of a community with opportunity for all. I miss you, Polly, and I thank you, my

friend, for the treasured moments I shared with you, for your soaring spirit, and for the marvelous work you accomplished.

THE CIVIL LIBERTIES
RESTORATION ACT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am joined by my colleague BILL DELAHUNT (D-MA) in introducing the Civil Liberties Restoration Act.

Three and a half years ago, following the attacks of Sept. 11th, the Attorney General asked Congress for a long list of new powers he felt were necessary to protect the United States from future terrorist attacks. Six weeks later, Congress granted those powers in the USA PATRIOT Act.

I voted for the PATRIOT Act in 2001 because I felt that a number of its provisions provided essential tools to fight terrorism. I did so expecting that Congress would undertake diligent oversight of the Attorney General's use of the tools we provided. Unfortunately, that has not been the case.

The Civil Liberties Restoration Act (CLRA) is our effort to return oversight to our legal system and restore the kind of checks and balances that are the foundation of our government.

Since we enacted the PATRIOT Act almost, there has been tremendous public debate about its breadth and implications on due process and privacy. I do believe that there are some misperceptions about the law and its effects, but I also believe that many of the concerns raised are legitimate and worthy of review by Congress.

The CLRA does not repeal any part of the PATRIOT Act, nor does it in any way impede the ability of agencies to share information. Instead, it inserts safeguards in a number of PATRIOT provisions.

The bill addresses two pieces of the PATRIOT Act in particular. First, it ensures that when the Attorney General asks a business or a library for personal records, he must have reason to believe that the person to whom the records pertain is an agent of a foreign power. Second, the bill would make clear that evidence gained in secret searches under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal proceeding without providing, at the very least, a summary of that evidence to the defendant's lawyers. One of my biggest concerns when we passed the PATRIOT Act was that the changes we made in FISA would encourage law enforcement to circumvent the protections of the 4th Amendment by conducting searches for criminal investigations through FISA authority rather than establishing probable cause. This provision in the CLRA does not take away any of the powers we provided in the PATRIOT Act. It simply requires that if the government wants to bring the fruits of a secret search into a criminal courtroom it must share the information with the defendant under existing special procedures for classified information.

The Civil Liberties Restoration Act deals with more than the PATRIOT Act. It also ad-

dresses a number of unilateral policy actions taken by Attorney General Ashcroft both before and after enactment of the PATRIOT Act without consultation with or input from the Congress. For example, the Administration has undertaken the 'mining' of data from public and non-public databases. Left unchecked, the use of these mining technologies threatens the privacy of every American. The CLRA requires that any federal agency that initiates a data-mining program must report to Congress within 90 days so that the privacy implications of that program can be monitored.

The Attorney General unilaterally instituted a number of policies dealing with detention of noncitizens that we address. For example, the AG ordered blanket closure of immigration court hearings and prolonged detention of individuals without charges. The CLRA would permit those court hearings to be closed to protect national security on a case by-case basis and requires that individuals be charged within 48 hours, unless they are certified as a threat to national security by the AG as mandated under the Patriot Act.

The CLRA also addresses the special tracking program (known as NSEERS) created by the Attorney General, which requires men aged 16 and over from certain countries to be fingerprinted, photographed and interrogated for no specific cause. This program creates a culture of fear and suspicion in immigrant communities that discourages cooperation with antiterrorism efforts. The CLRA terminates this program and provides a process by which those individuals unjustly detained could proceed with interrupted immigration petitions. This is the only provision of the CLRA that eliminates a program outright, but this program has already been partially repealed by the Department of Homeland Security and largely replaced by the US VISIT system.

When I voted for the PATRIOT Act, I understood that my vote carried with it a duty to undertake active oversight of the powers granted by the bill and carefully monitor their use. When Congress passed this law, Mr. Speaker, we included a sunset provision that would require us to reconsider and evaluate the policies we adopted. This afternoon, the House Judiciary Committee held its first hearing to consider these sunset provisions, and we heard testimony from Attorney General Alberto Gonzales asking that we make the sunset provisions of the PATRIOT Act permanent.

In light of the many policies implemented unilaterally by this Administration since passage of the PATRIOT Act, our review of this Congress must go beyond just the sunset provisions in order to fulfill our duty of oversight. The review started today by the House Judiciary Committee must encompass the whole of our anti-terrorism policies. Congress should continue to examine whether the policies pursued by the Attorney General are the most effective methods to protect our nation from terrorists, whether they represent an efficient allocation of our homeland security resources, and whether they are consistent with the foundations of our democracy.

Fortunately, the 9/11 Commission laid out a standard by which we can evaluate our current policies. First, Congress should not renew any provision unless the government can show, "(a) that the power actually materially enhances security and (b) that there is adequate supervision of the executive's use of the powers to ensure protection of civil liberties."

Second, the Commission advises that "if the power is granted, there must be adequate guidelines and oversight to properly confine its use." This is the standard that we ought to apply across the board. It is the standard that Mr. Delahunt and I applied in drafting this legislation.

It is my hope Mr. Speaker, that this standard will guide us in our work and that we will enjoy an active debate on these issues and this legislation.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and join the millions of my fellow Americans in commemorating Greek Independence Day which, on March 25th celebrated the 184th anniversary of the rebellion and the struggle of the Greek people against the Ottoman Empire.

What makes Greek Independence Day so special here in America is that it reminds us of the strong principles and bonds that the U.S. and Greece share. In looking into the struggles of our two nations, we realize how much our struggles have in common, and how much each country has been influenced by the other.

Greece and the United States are bound by an absolute commitment to the democratic ideals of justice and freedom and continue to be strong allies. By commemorating Greek Independence Day, we also celebrate the strength and the resolve of the human spirit that has been the inspiration of us all.

I am very pleased to place into the record a statement made on this 184th anniversary of Greek independence written by one of my constituents, Constantinos Nicolaou.

The greatness of the human spirit, regardless of any efforts to suppress it, will always rise against tyranny and oppression and will start revolutions where heroism will pay any price, even the ultimate sacrifice of life, in order to gain freedom and independence.

Every time we commemorate heroism such as the one exhibited by the Greeks on March 25, 1821 and during the ensuing struggle for their freedom, we cannot help but think of our great founding fathers, who were so much influenced by the ancient Greeks in their struggles for freedom and the creation of what had become the freest, most democratic country in history, the United States of America.

Thomas Jefferson looked to the ancient Greek philosophers and their teachings as an inspiration in trying to create a fair, strong, democratic state. And it was not accidental that many of the Greek leaders of the 1821 revolution, turned to America for inspiration as they were embarking in their struggle for freedom.

Both nations were faced with seemingly insurmountable struggles, rising against empires to claim their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Both nations became triumphant at the end, because of their love of freedom. The great American Patriot, Patrick Henry, proclaimed, Give me liberty or give me death." The Greek patriots went to battle proclaiming, "Eleftheria I Thanatos" —liberty or death.

As with the American Revolution, the Greek revolution is filled with stories of heroism and sacrifice. News of such heroism and sacrifice met with strong feelings of support by the American public and by their politicians, including President James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, who expressed their support for the Greek revolution through their annual messages to congress. Henry Clay, our secretary of state in 1825, was very vocal in his support of Greece's fight for independence. Daniel Webster, more often than not, influenced his colleagues in looking into the Greek struggle with sympathetic interests.

It is, of course, no surprise that our Founding Fathers and other prominent Americans were supportive of the Greek struggle for independence. As mentioned, they themselves had been inspired by the ancient Greeks. Thomas Jefferson, of all the Founding Fathers, had a particular affinity for Greece, not only because of its classical republican philosophy but also because of his studies of the origins of languages. He expressed that affinity many times, as in a letter to John Brazier on August 24, 1819. In that letter, Thomas Jefferson address "Mr. Pickering's Memoir of the Modern Greek," and the Memoirs review by Brazier. He tells Brazier, "I had been much pleased with the memoir, and was much also with your review of it. I have little hope indeed of recovery of the ancient pronunciation of the finest of human languages, but still I rejoice to the attention the subject seems to excite with you, because it is evidence that our country begins to have a taste for something more than merely as much Greek as will pass a candidate for clerical ordination . . . Among the values of classical learning, I estimate the luxury of learning the Greek and Roman authors in all the beauties of their originals. And why should not this innocent and elegant luxury take its preeminent stand ahead of all those addressed merely to the senses? I think myself more indebted to my father for this that for all other luxuries his cares and affections have placed within my reach."

Jefferson expressed his empathies with Greece revolting against its Ottoman rulers. In an 1823 letter to Adamantios Coray, the Greek patriot and scholar that he had met in Paris years earlier, he stated:

. . . You have certainly began at the right end towards preparing them [the Greek people] for the great object they are now contending for, by improving their minds and qualifying them for self-government. For this they will owe you lasting honors. Nothing is more likely to forward this object than a study of the fine models of science left by their ancestors; to whom we also are all indebted for the lights which originally led ourselves out of Gothic darkness.

No people sympathize more feelingly than ours with the suffering of your countrymen; none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success. And nothing indeed but the fundamental principle of our government never to entangle us with the broils of Europe could restrain our generous youth from taking some part in this holy cause. Possessing ourselves the combined blessing of liberty and order, we wish the same to other countries, and to none more than yours, which she first of civilized nations presented examples of what man should be.

The ties that bind America and Greece go, of course, far beyond their parallel and noble struggles for freedom. The philosophical and

cultural connections, although little known to the public at large, could not be stronger or better assimilated. Such connections were born almost at the same time with the birth of our nation, if not before. In his excellent study of "Lincoln at Gettysburg," Gary Wills tells us:

America as a second Athens was an idea whose moment had come in the nineteenth century . . . In the early 19th century, an era that became known as America's Greek Revival was taking shape. Archaeological discoveries in Greece at the time brought the ancient democracy to mind just as modern Greece began its struggle for freedom from the Turks.

Edward Everett, President of Harvard, founder of Mount Auburn, congressman, Massachusetts's governor, minister to the Court of St. James's in London, senator, secretary of state and principal speaker at Gettysburg years later, was the leader of the Greek Revival. Harvard established its new chair of ancient Greek studies for him. While studying in Germany, Everett went to Greece, "to walk over the battlefields where the first democracy of the West won its freedom." He returned to America convinced that a new Athens was rising here. His appearances, "prompted rallies for Greek independence"—a favorite cause of Everett.

Everett's prestige influenced others, including historian George Bancroft, whose "main interest was Greek history." . . . Bancroft was ahead of the wave of histories that would glorify Periclean Athens in Victorian England. Direct democracy, a flawed system in republican theory, was rehabilitated, for its usefulness in the parliamentary reform movement, by British historians like George Grote. In America, a similar motion toward government by the people, not just for the republic, was signaled by an enthusiasm for Greek symbols. Bancroft became a Jacksonian Democrat when he began to apply historical skills formed on the Attic democracy to America's development. Walter Savage Landor recognized what was happening in America when he dedicated the second volume of his *Pericles and Aspasia* to President Andrew Jackson."

Greece and the United States, bound by their absolute commitment to freedom and justice, have always been the strongest of the allies. Greece stood by us and fought with us in every single war or conflict since we both gained our freedom. And we always stood by Greece, and although at times we appeared to have forgotten how loyal and valuable the Greeks had been to us, our ultimate commitment to their freedom and wellbeing never wavered.

And as we commemorate and fight to free all people, let us remember that some other friends of ours are still agonizing and asking for our help in fighting forces of evil still occupying their land and their homes. The people of the Republic of Cyprus, Greeks and Turks and all others, should be given more active support by our great nation in their efforts to reunite the island and get rid of the occupying forces. U.S. leadership is essential, and now it is the time that we should remember that the Cypriot people are where we had been, and they are striving for what we have earned long time ago, that is, their right to freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is essential that American leadership urges Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders towards peace. These are the two sides that hold in their hands, to the largest extent, the peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem. A solution that undoubtedly will benefit all the peo-

ple of Cyprus, but it will also benefit the nations of Greece and Turkey, will stabilize the region, and will strengthen the bonds and relationships between the United States and the countries involved in the conflict.

As we commemorate Greek Independence Day, we are celebrating the strength and the resolve of the human spirit as well as man's unbending will in the pursuit of freedom. The people of ancient Greece gave us values and ethics and showed us how to fight for freedom and democracy. Our country, more than any other country, shares those values and ethics, and in days such as this we reaffirm our common democratic heritage with the Greek people. The commemoration and celebration remind us also that we should stay forever vigilant in fighting for and protecting our freedom and our democracy, least we lose the right to determine our lives and our future.

Dionisios Solomos was the great poet who transformed in his poetry the unparalleled struggle and the sacrifices of Hellenism in the pursuit of Freedom. The Revolution so much influenced his poetry that he is considered the national poet of Greece. One of his most inspired poems, *Hymn to Liberty*, has almost become synonymous to that Revolution and it became Greece's National Anthem. The poem was published in 1825, along with translations in Italian, French and English.

The Revolution would have never been the same without Solomos. The enthusiasm of the fighters, as well as the international sympathy among the Philhellenes would have definitely been smaller without the *Hymn to Liberty*.

Probably nowhere has Solomos's vision of Liberty depicted better than here, in the United States. Here, in the Rotunda of our own Capitol Hill, we see a most wonderful painting of Liberty, with the sword in hand chasing her enemies, exactly the way Solomos envisioned her in his *Hymn to Liberty*. This figure was painted by another son of Greece, one who really grasped Solomos's vision of Liberty, Constantino Brumidi.

And as a tribute to the United States, Solomos envisions our country rejoicing in seeing Greece fighting for Freedom. He describes the American feelings this way:

Most heartily was gladdened
George Washington's brave land:
For the iron bonds remembered,
Her old slavery's cruel brand.

We live today in a great, free country. Our country became great, and will always be so, because the spirit and the morals that we share with Greece, as so eloquently expressed by Solomos, will always be with us.

TRIBUTE TO MARY NELL PORTER

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Missourian who has devoted countless hours promoting the arts in my hometown of Columbia, Missouri. She is in every sense a true Renaissance woman. Mr. Speaker, I am referring to Mary Nell Porter.

After graduating from Chillicothe Business College, Mary Nell moved to Washington, D.C. to support her country in the effort that yielded victory in World War II. It was during this time

that Mary Nell began what would become a lifetime commitment to volunteerism. Her unwavering support for fellow Americans is reflected in her activities that included volunteering her time at recruiting stations and at Cardinal Spellman's Foundling Home in New York.

At the end of World War II, she moved to New York City, where she defied the limits that hindered the progress of women in the workforce. By rising to positions of authority and respect in prominent companies such as American Cynamid and Alexander's Department Store, Mary Nell served as an inspiration to countless women who made the decision to pursue a professional career.

Upon her return to Missouri, Mary Nell continued her pursuit of knowledge and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in Business Administration. Since that time, she has focused her efforts on a passion for music and joined the Women's Symphony League, Friends of Music of the University of Missouri, the University of Missouri's Arts & Sciences Alum Association Board and later served on the Missouri Symphony Society Board of Directors.

Mary Nell's time, energy and generous spirit have been invaluable to the Missouri Symphony Society as well as the Missouri Theatre. She has been critical in the creation of a thriving arts community in my hometown of Columbia. I am eternally grateful for her devotion to our community, and it is my pleasure to share Mary Nell Porter's accomplishment and valuable contributions with my colleagues.

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society and Security Act, expressing an idea I began working on when the first signs of the closing of parts of our open society appeared after the Oklahoma City bombing tragedy, well before 9/11. This bill has grown more urgent as increasing varieties of security throughout the country have proliferated without any thought about their effect on common freedoms and ordinary access. The bill I introduce today would begin a systematic investigation that takes full account of the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threats terrorism poses.

To be useful in accomplishing its difficult mission, the commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but for the first time, they would be at the same table with experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology, and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts cannot alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the balance required by our democratic traditions, a cross

cutting group needs to be working together at the same table.

For years now before our eyes, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and fear of terrorism—whether checkpoints at the Capital even when there are no alerts or applications of technology without regard to their effects on privacy. However, particularly following the unprecedented terrorist attack on our country, Americans have a right to expect additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against this new frightening threat. People expect government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These years in our history will long be remembered by the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country. As a result, American society faces new and unprecedented challenges. We must provide ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. As yet, our country has no systematic process or strategy for meeting these challenges.

When we have been faced with unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply and to move to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman Robb Commission) and the Kerner Commission following riotous uprisings that swept American cities in the 1960's and 1970's.

The important difference in the Commission proposed by this bill is that it seeks to act before a crisis in basic freedoms gradually takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we can not afford to allow the proliferation of security that most often requires no advance civilian oversight or analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With only existing tools and thinking, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th century approaches, such as crude blockades and other denials of access, or risking the right to privacy using applications of the latest technology with little attention to privacy. The threat of terrorism to our democratic society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and then come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level presidential commission of wise men and women expert in a broad spectrum of disciplines who can help chart the new course that will be required to protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

THE SAFETY OF SILICONE BREAST IMPLANTS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in addition to my remarks today, I am also submitting a letter written by Dr. Scott Spear to the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. In it, Dr. Spear, who is the President of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, brings to light an important health issue that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently debating: the safety of silicone gel-filled breast implants. The FDA's General and Plastic Surgery Devices Panel has scheduled an upcoming hearing that will focus primarily on the safety of these products for the American consumer. The information that Dr. Spear shares in his letter is important for us to take note of as this panel continues its work to make an informed, science-based decision on the safety of these implants. In addition, I am submitting for the RECORD a pamphlet entitled *Safety of Silicone Breast Implants* that reviews the long term studies that have been performed on silicone gel-filled breast implants. Taken along with Dr. Spear's letter, this brochure makes a compelling argument that in determining the very real and unquestionably important issue of determining the safety of these implants, we must set preconceived notions aside, and ensure that science dictates our actions. I urge my colleagues to review these two documents and I encourage you to join me in supporting the unbiased and open-minded work of the FDA panel as it determines the safety of silicone gel-filled breast implants for American consumers.

MARCH 4, 2005.

U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, (Members and Health Legislative Assistants).

DEAR SENATORS: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is conducting an ongoing regulatory process regarding breast implants, which the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) fully supports. As physicians and patient advocates, we support sound science and have confidence that the FDA will review valid scientific data and make its decisions based on the best interests of patients. Moreover, we believe a strong post-market surveillance process will serve the best interests of our patients.

As part of this process, the FDA's General and Plastic Surgery Devices Panel will be conducting hearings on April 11-13 regarding the pre-market approval (PMA) applications of two manufacturers' silicone gel-filled breast implants. The FDA appointed panel represents areas of expertise and judgment relevant to the product under review including academicians in specific fields, such as from radiology, oncology, biostatistics, ethics, plastic surgery, general surgery and other disciplines. Each panelist is vigorously screened and cleared by the FDA in advance of their participation. Historically, panelists have been permitted to engage in educational activities promoting patient care. These activities have not been deemed conflicts of interest. Anti-breast implant advocates continue to raise this issue to discredit qualified and reputable clinicians.

As a matter of background, the FDA's General and Plastic Surgery Devices Panel conducted a similar hearing in October 2003. The

hearings were conducted in a highly open and transparent process, with more than 20 hours of public testimony and signification deliberation. Ultimately, the 2003 Advisory Panel recommended approval of the device with a number of conditions. The conditions outlined by the panel include development of a model informed consent form, patient education, surgeon education, patient follow-up and exams, annual reports to FDA, implant retrieval testing, a breast implant registry, and recommendation for removal of ruptured implants. In January 2004, the FDA decided to postpone action pending submission of additional manufacturer data outlined in a revised draft guidance to be addressed at this subsequent panel hearing.

Given the level of interest in the FDA's review of silicone breast implants, it is important that Members of Congress are provided accurate and science-based information concerning these medical devices.

PATIENT SAFETY

The ASPS believes that the FDA's scrutiny of this product is appropriate to ensure patient safety. We are not interested in supporting any device that is not proven safe. In 2000, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued an exhaustive report that reviewed and analyzed the scientific literature on silicone breast implants. The IOM concluded that there is no link between silicone breast implants and systemic disease. The primary safety issues for women who choose breast implants are local in nature and include the following complications: (1) Capsular contracture or tightening of natural scar tissue around the implant (contracture is unpredictable and, when severe, may require corrective surgery); (2) Implant rupture, which carries risk of additional surgery for replacement; and (3) Infections associated with breast implants, which are generally not common. The IOM report noted that while breast implants have improved over time, patient safety issues associated with local complications require additional research. The ASPS has supported and is supporting continued research in these and other areas.

Our clinical experience over 35 years with breast augmentation surgery shows an excellent track record and the demand for breast augmentation surgery has grown steadily with nearly 250,000 procedures performed in 2003. The ASPS believes that an important component of patient safety and satisfaction with breast augmentation depends on patients being fully informed about both the benefits and risks of the surgical procedure. Consequently, ASPS has developed a comprehensive document that covers all of the risks and potential complications in breast implant surgery for plastic surgeons to use when discussing the procedure with their patients.

CHOICE

Currently saline-filled breast implants, approved by the FDA in 2000, are the only implants available for general use in breast augmentation. Silicone gel-filled implants may only be used in clinical trials for reconstructive breast surgery and limited clinical trials for breast augmentation. The FDA's device approval process will determine whether requirements for safety and efficacy have been met and whether women should have additional choices regarding the type of implants they may select for breast surgery. The implant type that provides the best aesthetic outcome depends on a variety of individual patient factors. In all cases, patient safety and informed decision making should be primary considerations in selecting a particular type of implant.

Like other implantable medical devices, breast implants may not last a lifetime. Hundreds of thousands of women understand

this fact and still choose to undergo breast implant surgery. Current research shows that an overwhelming majority are happy with their decision.

HISTORY/SCIENCE

It is important to distinguish between anecdotal and scientific evidence with regard to breast implants. Anecdotal evidence and junk science do not provide valid contributions to the review and analysis of this device. Plastic surgeons actively support valid scientific research on the safety and efficacy of breast implants, as well as the psychological impact of breast augmentation. The following are select areas of scientific research that Congress should be aware of in relation to breast implants.

The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine report, issued in 2000, found no scientific evidence of an association between silicone breast implants and disease; the report represents a comprehensive and unbiased review of breast implant safety by top experts in a variety of medical fields. *Safety of Silicone Breast Implants*, Institute of Medicine, National Academy Press, 2000.

Recent studies about suicide among Scandinavian women who have breast implants warrant further investigation. Suicide is a very complicated problem with many contributing factors; biological, genetic, social and cultural. It is important to note that the recent studies do not show a "cause and effect" relationship between breast implants and suicide. Plastic surgeons and the medical community in the U.S. have studied breast implants, breast augmentation patients, and breast reconstruction patients for more than 30 years with no indication of a relationship between breast implant surgery and suicide. Further investigation of this issue is appropriate. Mortality among augmentation mammoplasty patients. *Epidemiology*. 2001; 12:321-326. Total and cause specific mortality among Swedish women with cosmetic breast implants: prospective study. *Brit Med j*. 326:527-528, 2003.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a report to Congress in May of 2003 on the status of its research on the long-term health effects of breast implants. The report stated that there was not sufficient evidence to support any relationship between breast implants and connective tissue disorders. The NIH report also cited a recent National Cancer Institute (NCI) finding that women with breast implants showed a slight decrease in the risk for breast cancer. *National Institutes of Health. Breast implants: status of research at the National Institutes of Health*, May 2003.

Since the Institute of Medicine report in 2000, numerous studies have been conducted which investigate the purported connection of breast implants to cancer. However, researchers have consistently found no persuasive evidence of causal association between breast implants and any type of cancer. *Breast Implants and Cancer: Causation, Delayed Detection and Survival*, May, 2001 *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*.

In 2000, the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation established the National Breast Implant Registry (NaBIR). It was founded to collect and analyze data regarding breast implant surgery to further understand the risks and benefits of this procedure. To date more than 21,000 women have registered with NaBIR and there are 316 surgical facilities entering data. We believe that NaBIR is quickly becoming a world standard for an electronic breast implant registry, as it is being considered in a number of European and Latin American countries. In December of 2002, the European Union mandated that participating countries implement breast implant registries by 2004; Denmark, Eng-

land, Finland, and Germany have already implemented programs. Australia and Brazil have also implemented registries.

The ASPS and its members support sound science and have been leaders in the research on the safety and efficacy of breast implant surgery. Our primary concern is the safety of our patients and we are strongly interested in the collection of accurate and reliable data pertaining to breast implants. We recently launched the medically-grounded online resource for women and other concerned parties, www.reastimplantsafety.org. We encourage you to visit the site for the latest information on breast implants and patient safety. We believe that the upcoming hearing of the FDA General and Plastic Surgery Devices panel will again be rigorous and the panel deliberations will be largely based on the findings of science, rather than emotion and anecdote.

The ASPS has offered to work with the FDA, public, and manufacturer in order to address many of the conditions attached to the panel's affirmative recommendation. Specifically, the panel recommended that the manufacturer work with professional organizations to create patient and surgeon education materials, a model informed consent form, and establish a breast implant registry and we are responding to that call. We hear stories every day of women whose lives have been dramatically improved with the use of this device. We are hopeful that the FDA's regulatory review process can continue moving toward a conclusion based on science.

Sincerely,

SCOTT L. SPEAR, MD,
ASPS President.

SAFETY OF SILICONE BREAST IMPLANTS

BACKGROUND

In October, 2003, the General and Plastic Surgery Devices Panel convened by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concluded that there was a dearth of long-term safety data related to silicone breast implants. Contrary to this contention, there are in fact almost 100 published papers in the peer-reviewed biomedical literature assessing long-term effects of cosmetic breast implants, virtually all of which are reassuring in their lack of evidence for adverse effects.

Concerns about a link between silicone breast implants and various adverse health outcomes were initially raised in the 1980's and early 1990's by anecdotal case reports. However, as unanimously concluded by several independent expert review committees by the late 1990's,¹⁻⁵ these alleged health risks have not been supported by the numerous analytic epidemiologic studies of cosmetic breast implant recipients. Since publication of these independent reviews from various countries, including the United States, a large number of long-term cohort studies of connective tissue diseases, undefined connective tissue disease, cancer, neurologic disorders, mother-offspring effects and mortality have been published.⁶⁻³⁸

CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE

More than 20 case-control and cohort investigations have been conducted in North America and Europe to evaluate the potential association between cosmetic silicone breast implants and the occurrence of CTDs. Initially, the primary concern was the occurrence of systemic sclerosis, although these epidemiologic studies have examined the occurrence of numerous other CTDs. The published case-control studies,³⁹⁻⁴⁹ and cohort studies,^{6,18,35,37,50-59} many of which have been large, long-term follow-up studies, have been remarkably consistent in finding no evidence

of an association between silicone breast implants and any individual CTD or all established CTDs combined. Moreover, meta-analyses, weight-of-the-evidence, and critical reviews have unanimously concluded that there is no evidence of an association between breast implants and any of the CTDs evaluated individually or combined.^{2-5,60-66}

"ATYPICAL" CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE

An association has also been hypothesized between silicone breast implants and some new "atypical" disease, which does not fulfill established diagnostic criteria for any known CTD and may bear some resemblance to fibromyalgia.⁶⁷ Those studies which did include undefined CTD as an outcome, many of which have been large, long-term follow-up studies, have been strikingly consistent in finding no convincing evidence of an association between silicone breast implants and atypical connective tissue or rheumatic disease.^{2,5,6,8,14,18,24,46,68}

FIBROMYALGIA

In 2001, Brown et al.³⁵ reported an excess of self-reported fibromyalgia among women who had ruptured implants with extracapsular silicone migration (extracapsular rupture) diagnosed by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). However, this elevated risk ratio cannot be meaningfully interpreted, due to the inappropriate use of a combined group of women with intracapsular rupture and women with intact implants as the comparison group.⁶⁸⁻⁷⁰ It is also noteworthy that the rates of fibromyalgia reported among women with intact implants or intracapsular ruptures in the study by Brown et al.³⁶ are remarkably high compared with the estimated prevalence rate of 3.4% for U.S. women⁷¹ and with similar or lower prevalence rates reported in many other countries.^{6,55,72-76} indicating a biased selection of women in that study.

Most recently, Holmich et al.¹⁸ explicitly tested the hypothesis of an increased risk of fibromyalgia by rupture status among 238 unselected women with cosmetic silicone breast implants. There was no excess of undefined CTD or other chronic inflammatory condition, including fibromyalgia. None of the women with extracapsular rupture reported fibromyalgia. Thus, the finding by Brown et al.³⁵ of a greater than two-fold excess of self-reported fibromyalgia among women with extracapsular rupture was not confirmed in the study by Holmich et al.¹⁸ who concluded that implant rupture is not associated with fibromyalgia or other rheumatic conditions.

BREAST AND OTHER CANCERS

More than 10 epidemiologic studies, many of which have been large and able to assess long-term risks, have been conducted in Europe and North America to evaluate the potential association between cosmetic breast implants and the incidence of breast or other cancers, notably lung cancer, cancers of the cervix and vulva, leukemia, and multiple myeloma.^{17,23,24,32-34,77-83} Although the primary concern has been breast cancer risk, epidemiologic studies have been remarkably consistent in finding no evidence of increased risk for breast or other cancers among women with breast implants; in fact; in most studies the risk of breast cancer was below expectation.^{1,2,84,85} The rare reported excesses of lung and cervical cancer are likely due to confounding by lifestyle factors and/or reproductive characteristics. In fact only the cohort study by Brinton et al.³⁴ which reported a significant excess of deaths from brain cancer, has reported an association with a cancer that is not a likely result of lifestyle factors such as smoking or other activities that are unrelated to implants. The extreme risk estimate for brain cancer

reported in this study, which suffers from several methodological shortcomings, is inconsistent with the overwhelming weight of the epidemiologic evidence and is biologically implausible.⁸⁶

BREAST CANCER DETECTION

Concern has been raised that the ability to detect early breast cancer is limited in women with breast implants. The hypothesis that breast implants may interfere with physical breast examination or mammographic visualization of breast tumors, leading to delays in breast cancer diagnosis and worse prognosis among women receiving implants, is based on the findings of a few early clinical studies.^{87,88} many of them originating from the same clinic. However, the interpretation of these clinical case series is hampered by potential referral or ascertainment bias, small sample size and absence of a control group. The results of numerous analytic epidemiologic studies, which used control groups to provide comparison data, consistently show that women with breast implants do not in fact present with more advanced stages of breast cancer or experience shorter survival (the clinically relevant outcomes), thus indicating no delay in breast cancer detection following breast augmentation.^{19,32,71,89-97}

In a recently published large-scale study,⁹⁸ women receiving silicone gel implants for breast reconstruction after breast cancer had significantly lower mortality rates than those women who did not receive breast implants after cancer surgery. Thus, there is no evidence that silicone gel implants adversely affect survival following breast cancer.

NEUROLOGIC DISEASE

With respect to other outcomes, during the past six years, three large, population-based cohort studies have been conducted to evaluate risk for neurologic disease among women with cosmetic breast implants,^{9,28,99} and no association has been found.

OFFSPRING EFFECTS AND BREASTFEEDING

Similarly, three epidemiologic investigations,^{10,15,100} all population-based retrospective cohort studies, have examined health outcomes among children born to mothers with silicone breast implants, and none has found evidence of adverse health outcomes among the children. Concerns about possible contamination of breast milk with silicone compounds and of potential adverse health effects to infants who are breastfed by mothers with silicone breast implants are not supported by the scientific literature. In fact, the American Academy of Pediatrics¹⁰¹ policy statement on the transfer of drugs and other chemicals into human milk concluded that "The Committee on Drugs does not feel that the evidence currently justifies classifying silicone implants as a contraindication to breastfeeding." Similarly, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences² concluded that "convincing evidence is available that silicon concentrations in breast milk are the same in mothers with and without breast implants, and thus there are no data to support transmission of silicone to infants in breast milk of mothers with implants."

RUPTURE INCIDENCE

There has been only one published study to date that directly examined the true incidence rate of breast implant rupture by repeated MRI.²¹ In a follow-up to their rupture prevalence study,¹² in which 271 women study had a baseline MRI in 1999, a repeat MRI was performed two years later and a rupture incidence analysis was performed based on 317 implants (in 186 women). The authors found an overall rupture incidence rate for definite ruptures of 5.3% per year. The rupture rate increased significantly with

implant age. For "third generation" implants (barrier-coated, low bleed implants available since 1988), the percentage of implants that remained intact was estimated as 98% at 5 years and 83%-85% at 10 years.²¹ Only one prospective study to date has been conducted to address the possible health implications of ruptured, in situ silicone breast implants.

In this unique study, Holmich et al.²⁵ examined the possible health implications, including changes over time in MRI findings, serological markers, or self-reported breast symptoms, of untreated silicone breast implant ruptures. Sixty-four women with implant rupture diagnosed by MRI were followed for two years, and a second MRI was performed. A control group of women with no evidence of rupture on either MRI was used for comparison. The majority of women had no visible MRI changes of their ruptured implants. There was no increase in autoantibody levels, and no increase in reported breast hardness. Women did report a significant increase in non-specific breast changes compared with women in the control group. The authors concluded that, for most women, rupture is a harmless condition which does not appear to progress or to produce significant clinical symptoms.

LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP

Over the past six years, the majority of the epidemiologic cohort studies were performed in Scandinavia, where unique nationwide databases and data-linking possibilities exist. Table 1 presents the average years of follow-up and the maximum years of follow-up for these cohort studies, by country:

TABLE 1

Country	Ave. yrs. of follow-up	Max. yrs. of follow-up
Denmark	9	23
Breiting et al. ²⁴	19	35
Finland	10	30
Sweden	11	29

These studies had, on average, a decade of follow-up and almost three decades of follow-up for the longest term implant recipients. In the recent Danish study by Breiting et al.,²⁴ the average years of follow-up was 19, with a maximum of 35 years. Thus, the large body of nationwide investigations originating in these populations belies the assertion that there is a dearth of data on long-term effects of silicone breast implants.

SUICIDE

Four mortality studies have reported elevated risks of suicide among women with cosmetic breast implants compared with the general population.^{20,29,30,34} Recently, however, the suicide excess has been shown to be related to pre-implant psychiatric disorders.³⁰

SUMMARY

In summary, after almost a decade of extensive epidemiologic research, the weight of the epidemiologic evidence is overwhelmingly reassuring that there are no long-term adverse effects associated with silicone breast implants.

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Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3341–S3364

Measures Introduced: Four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 739–742, and S. Con. Res. 25. **Page S3358**

Nomination Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Monday, April 11, 2005, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Paul A. Crotty, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided between the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary, or their designees, and the Senate then vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S3363**

China Currency Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, shall, no later than July 27, 2005, call up S. 295, to authorize appropriate action in the negotiations with the People's Republic of China regarding China's undervalued currency are not successful; that if the bill has not been reported by then by the Committee on Finance, it be discharged at that time, and the Senate begin its consideration; that there be 2 hours for debate equally divided between the Chairman of the Committee on Finance, and the Democratic Leader, or his designee; that no amendments or motions be in order, including Committee amendments; that after the use, or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate vote on final passage of the bill; provided further, that the bill become the pending business when the Senate resumes legislative session after July 26, 2005, under the above terms and conditions if it has not been considered prior to that time. **Page S3363**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Gordon England, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense. **Page S3364**

Messages From the House: **Page S3357**

Measures Referred: **Page S3357**

Measures Held at Desk: **Pages S3357 S3363**

Executive Communications: **Pages S3357–58**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3358–59**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3359–63**

Additional Statements: **Page S3357**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S3363**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m., and adjourned at 2:16 p.m., until 2 p.m., on Monday, April 11, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3364.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Internal Revenue Service, after receiving testimony from Mark W. Everson, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, and J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, both of the Department of the Treasury.

APPROPRIATIONS: CORPS OF ENGINEERS/ BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation, after receiving testimony from John Paul Woodley, Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Lieutenant General Carl A. Strock, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and R. Tomas Weimer, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and John W. Keys, III, Commissioner, both of the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine Ballistic Missile Defense Programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; General James E. Cartwright, USMC, Commander, United States Strategic Command; David W. Duma, Acting Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General Henry A. Obering, III, USAF, Director, Missile Defense Agency.

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine regulatory reform of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises, focusing on the Administration's views on

how best to improve and reform regulatory oversight of the housing government-sponsored enterprises, after receiving testimony from John W. Snow, Secretary of the Treasury; and Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

NOMINATION

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Jonathan Brian Perlin, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Thune, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. It will meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 8 in pro forma session, and at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 for Morning Hour debate.

Committee Meetings**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS**

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Research, Education, and Extension. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Joseph J. Jen, Under Secretary, Research, Education and Economics; Edward B. Knipling, Administrator, Agricultural Research Service; Colien Hefferan, Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension; Susan E. Offutt, Administrator, Economic Research Service; R. Ronald Bosecker, Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service; and Dennis Kaplan, Budget Office.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services,

Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on OSHA, on the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Jonathon Snare, Acting Assistant Secretary, OSHA; David Dye, Acting Assistant Secretary, Mine Safety and Health Administration; and John Howard, M.D., National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HUD, THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the GSA. Testimony was heard by Stephen A. Perry, Administrator, GSA.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on BRAC/Global Posture Review. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

The Subcommittee also continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—Military Resale and Morale Welfare and Recreation Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Charles S. Abell, Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness; MG Kathryn Frost, USA, Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Command; RADM Robert E. Cowley, USN, Supply Corps, U.S. Navy, Commander, Navy Exchange Service Command; Michael P. Downs, Director, Personal and Family Readiness Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Patrick Nixon, CEO and Acting Director, Defense Commissary Agency; BG John A. MacDonald, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center; RADM Christopher Weaver, USN, Commander, Navy Installations Command; Arthur Meyers, Director, Services, USAF; SFC Peter Cawley, Army National Guard; GySgt Alan R. Gilly, USMC; and public witnesses.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SECURITY

Committee on Government Reform,: Held a hearing entitled “No Computer Left Behind: A Review of the Federal Government’s D+Information Security Grade.” Testimony was heard from Greg Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, GAO; Karen S. Evans, Administrator, Office of E-Government and Information Technology, OMB; the following officials of AID, Department of State: Bruce N. Crandlemire, Assistant Inspector General, Audit; and John Streufert, Acting Chief Information Officer; the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Frank Deffer, Assistant Inspector General, Information Technology; and Steve Cooper, Chief Information Officer; and the following officials of the Department of Transportation: Ted Alves, Assistant Inspector General, IT and Financial Management; and Daniel Matthews, Chief Information Officer.

Joint Meetings

KYRGYZSTAN REVOLUTION

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission): Commission concluded a hearing to examine the recent revolution in Kyrgyzstan and the prospects now for consolidating democracy, focusing on the implications for Central Asia, Belarus, Russia and the United States, after receiving testi-

mony from Martha Olcott, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Daniel Kimmage, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, both of Washington, D.C.; and Zamira Sydykova, Res Publica, and Yulia Savchenko, Pyramid TV, both of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 11 through April 16, 2005

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 3 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations. Also, at 5 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Paul A. Crotty, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination to occur at 5:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week Senate will consider any other cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: April 12, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Agriculture, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

April 13, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for intelligence and global intelligence programs, 10 a.m., S-407, Capitol.

April 13, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Office of the Secretary of the Senate and the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, 10:30 a.m., SD-116.

April 13, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Office of the Chief Economist, the Office of Farm and

Foreign Agricultural Services, the Office of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Office of Rural Development, and the Office of Research, Education, and Economics, all of the Department of Agriculture, 12:30 p.m., SD-192.

April 14, Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

April 14, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Office of Marketing and Regulatory Programs, the Office of Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, and the Office of Food Safety and Inspection Service, all of the Department of Agriculture, 2 p.m., SD-192.

April 14, Subcommittee on Energy and Water, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, 2 p.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: April 11, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine the Chemical Demilitarization Program of the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, 2 p.m., SR-222.

April 12, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing regarding assessment of Iraqi Security Forces, 9:30 a.m., SR-222.

April 12, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold closed hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding and industrial base status in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006; to be followed by an open hearing in SR-232A, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

April 13, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine high risk areas in the management of the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, 10 a.m., SR-232A.

April 13, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine active and Reserve military and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, 1:30 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: April 13, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Home Loan Bank System, 10 a.m., SD-538.

April 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: April 11, to hold hearings to examine S. 241, to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act, 2 p.m., SR-253.

April 12, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael D. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Joseph H. Boardman, of New York, to be

Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, Nancy Ann Nord, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and William Cobey, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: April 12, to hold hearings to examine developing a reliable supply of oil from domestic oil shale and oil sands resources, focusing on opportunities to advance technology that will facilitate environmentally friendly development of oil shale and oil sands resources, 10 a.m., SD-366.

April 12, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine management and planning issues for the National Mall, including the history of the development, security projects and other planned construction, and future development plans, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

April 13, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 11:30 a.m., SD-366.

April 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine S. 388, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out activities that promote the adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas intensity and to provide credit-based financial assistance and investment protection for projects that employ advanced climate technologies or systems, to provide for the establishment of a national greenhouse gas registry, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: April 13, business meeting to consider the nominations of Luis Luna, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, John Paul Woodley, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Major General Don T. Riley, United States Army, to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, United States Army, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission, D. Michael Rappoport, of Arizona, and Michael Butler, of Tennessee, each to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, Stephen L. Johnson, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and pending legislation, 9:15 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: April 13, to hold hearings to examine The U.S.-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, 10 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on Foreign Relations: April 11, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be U.S. Representative to United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

April 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Fried, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for European

Affairs, and Robert Joseph, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: April 13, business meeting to consider the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-430.

April 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine lifelong education opportunities, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 13, business meeting to consider S. 21, to provide for homeland security grant coordination and simplification, S. 335, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act, S. 494, to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, S. 501, to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the District of Columbia, and certain committee reports, 11 a.m., SD-562.

April 14, Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold oversight hearings to examine a review of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), focusing on the impact of the UMRA has had on Federal, state, and local governments and explore if changes are necessary to strengthen the law's procedures, definitions, and exclusions, 10 a.m., SD-562.

April 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the ongoing need for comprehensive postal reform, 2 p.m., SD-562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: April 13, to hold oversight hearings to examine Indian Health, 9:30 a.m., SR-485.

Committee on the Judiciary: April 13, to hold hearings to examine securing electronic personal data, focusing on striking a balance between privacy and commercial and governmental use, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

April 13, Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, to hold hearings to examine judicial activism regarding federal and state marriage protection initiatives, 2 p.m., SD-226.

April 14, Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship, with the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security, to hold joint hearings to examine deportation and related issues relating to strengthening interior enforcement, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: April 14, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America, 10 a.m., 345 CHOB.

Select Committee on Intelligence: April 12, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John D. Negroponte, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence, 10 a.m., SH-216.

April 12, Full Committee, to continue hearings in closed session to examine the nomination of John D. Negroponte, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

April 13, Full Committee, to hold a closed briefing on intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: April 12, to hold hearings to examine role of employer-sponsored retirement plans in increasing national savings, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, April 12, Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, on Pandemic Preparedness and Influenza Vaccine Supply, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

April 12, Subcommittee on Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia and Independent Agencies, on the Federal Judiciary, 9:30 a.m., and on the Supreme Court, 1 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and on the Administration on Aging, 10:15 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia and Independent Agencies, on OMB, 2 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, on Millennium Challenge Corporation, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, on National Park Service, 10 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Defense, on Recruiting and Retention, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security, on Science and Technology, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, on Public Witnesses, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies, on Election Assistance Commission, 10 a.m., and on Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Agencies, on Members of Congress and Public Witnesses, 9 a.m., H-144 Capitol.

April 14, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, on Public Witnesses: Native Americans, 10 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies, on FCC, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

April 15, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development,

the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Related Agencies, on the Federal Highway Administration, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on International Relations, April 14, joint hearing regarding U.S. national security and foreign policy implications of arms exports to the People's Republic of China by member states of the European Union, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request on the Department of Defense's major rotorcraft programs, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, April 14, Subcommittee on Education Reform, hearing on The Best of Head Start: Learning from Model Programs, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 12, to continue markup of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled "The ORBIT Act: An Examination of Progress Made in Privatizing the Satellite Communications Marketplace," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, April 12, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled "Reforming Credit Rating Agencies: The SEC's Need for Statutory Authority," 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

April 13, full Committee, hearing entitled "The Administration Perspective on GSE Regulatory Reform," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing on H.R. 1042, Net Worth Amendment for Credit Unions Act, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled "Review and Oversight of the National Flood Insurance Program," 11 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, April 12, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, hearing entitled "NSPS: The New Department of Defense Civilian Personnel System—Reaching Readiness," 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

April 12, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations hearing entitled: Oil-for-Food: The Inevitable Failure of U.N. Sanctions," 11 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

April 12, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled "The Impact of Regulation on U.S. Manufacturing," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, hearing entitled "Yucca Mountain Project: Digging for the Truth," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

April 14, full Committee, hearing entitled "Domestic Source Restrictions Threaten Free Trade: What is the Federal Government Doing to Ensure a Level Playing Field in the Global Economy," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled "The Na-

tional Parks: Will They Survive for Future Generations?" 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, April 12, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology, hearing entitled "The Need for Grant Reform and The Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005," 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

April 13, full Committee, hearing entitled "The Department of Homeland Security: Promoting Risk-Based Prioritization and Management," 1:30 p.m., room to be announced.

April 14, hearing entitled "Grant Reform: The Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005," 10:30 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, April 13, hearing on U.S. Response to Global AIDS Crisis: A Two-Year Review, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia, to mark up H.R. 282, Iran Freedom Support Act, 12 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing on U.S. Trade Agreements with Latin America, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, hearing on Zimbabwe: Prospects for Democracy after the March 2005 Elections, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, hearing on Averting Nuclear Terrorism, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on the United Nations Secretary-General's Reform Plan: Rhetoric vs. Reality, 2 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, April 12, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 1528, Defending America's Most Vulnerable Safe Access to Drug Treatment and Child Protection Act of 2005; followed by a markup of H.R. 1528 and H.R. 1279, Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, oversight hearing on Immigration and the Alien Gang Epidemic: Problems and Solutions, 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, oversight hearing of the Department of Justice the Use of Section 218 of the USA PATRIOT Act, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, April 12, Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing on Snowmobile Use in the National Park System, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 13, Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, oversight hearing on Management Challenges for Grazing and Range Conservation in the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, 3:30 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 13, Subcommittee on Water and Power, oversight hearing entitled "The Role of New Surface and Groundwater Storage in Providing Reliable Water and Power Supplies and Reducing Drought's Impacts," 1 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

April 14, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, oversight hearing on the Relationship between the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

April 14, Subcommittee on National Parks, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 432, Betty Dick Residence Protection Act; H.R. 481, Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Trust Act of 2005; and H.R. 1492, To provide for the preservation of the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, April 13, to mark up H.R. 1215, Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2005, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

April 14, hearing on the 2004 Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, April 13, hearing on the importance of the participating securities program to assist small businesses gain access to much needed capital, 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

April 14, Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports, hearing entitled "The Estate Tax and the Alternative Minimum Tax—Inequity for America's Small Businesses," 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, April 13, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, to mark up H.R. 889, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

April 13, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, oversight hearing on Wastewater Blending, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Aviation, oversight hearing on Transforming the Federal Aviation Administration: a Review of the Air Traffic Organization and the Joint Program Development Office, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

April 14, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, oversight hearing on The National Preparedness System: What are we preparing for? 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, April 14, hearing on United States-China Economic Relations and China's Role in the World Economy, 11 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

April 14, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on 2005 Tax Return Filing Season and the IRS Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, 2 p.m., B-318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, April 12, executive, hearing on Central Intelligence Program (CIAP) Budget, 1:30 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

April 13, executive, hearing on FBI Budget, 10 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

April 14, executive, briefing on Global Updates, 9 a.m., and executive, hearing on General Defense Intelligence Program (GDIP) Budget, 10 a.m., HJ-405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Meetings: April 14, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America, 10 a.m., 345 CHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, April 11

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Friday, April 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 3 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations. Also, at 5 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Paul A. Crotty, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination to occur at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 10 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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