

installing signs throughout the Installation, establishing and rewiring a welcome center, assisting in the construction and installation of tent frames and even the installation of bed frames and mattresses in the dormitories. His overall work plan execution was magnificent and he guided his personnel through 18 hour work days, 7 days a week to get the work done, while still maintaining tremendous morale throughout his work force.

Another monumental mission for which Mr. Whitmore's expertise and ingenuity ensured a successful outcome was the role he played in establishing the security of Fort Dix immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. This was a daunting task since the Installation had never been closed to through traffic in its 84-year history. He assembled a crew and equipment and worked with the police to close the Installation in a matter of hours. His expertise and unmatched knowledge of the Installation ensured that the dozens of means of access other than the main entry/exit points were identified and blocked. He has continued those efforts over the past 4 years to identify, develop and execute major projects to convert the temporary measures to permanent security barriers to include the installation of a 3½-mile-long security fence.

Mr. Whitmore's most recent accomplishment pertains to the exceptional work he has done on the development and execution of projects to establish a Forward Operating Base, FOB, to provide vital, realistic training to our soldiers being mobilized in support of the Global War on Terror. Steve planned and supervised the construction of the FOB, which is the largest, most complex FOB in the continental United States. Based on his actions, the FOB was built and maintained to a standard that allows the FOB to house, service, and provide realistic field training to approximately 2000 mobilizing soldiers at one time. Whether it was the electrical system, which he designed and had executed, the water and drain systems so that the Soldiers could take showers, the heating of the tents and even the clearing of the roads when it snowed, he was the one who made it all happen. Mr. Whitmore had the ideas, the ability to bring the ideas to resolution and ambition, energy and interest to accomplish whatever was necessary to make the FOB a success.

To this day he continues to provide the oversight for all utility services. His knowledge of the systems is legendary as is his ability to trouble shoot and quickly correct all system problems. He is a shining example of someone who adheres to the Army values in both his professional and personnel life. A man of strong resolve and unmatched abilities, Steve is a true patriot worthy of our Nation's thanks and praise.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM LAWRENCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William "Bill" Lawrence, retired letter carrier and member of the National Association of Letter Carriers, San Francisco Branch 214, who is being honored by the Letter Car-

riers at their Biannual Congressional Breakfast.

Bill Lawrence began his service to our country when he enlisted in the Navy at the age of 16. After serving in China, he was honorably discharged and settled in San Francisco in 1927. He worked for several years as a cable car conductor, one of the few union jobs in San Francisco at the time. In July 1938, he began his career as a Letter Carrier, immediately joining Branch 214 of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Bill served as Secretary of Branch 214 for 6 years, and delivered mail on the streets of San Francisco for 35 years, until he retired at age 65.

In 1970, Bill Lawrence was elected to the non-partisan City Council of nearby Brisbane, California, and over the next two decades, served twice as Mayor. After his tenure on the City Council, Bill pursued his dedication to public service as the Legislative Liaison for the California State Association of Letter Carriers. Bill has always said that his love of politics stems from the rewarding feeling he gets from helping people. Now at age 97, Bill continues to delight children of all ages when he dresses as Santa Claus during the holidays.

I've always been proud to call Bill Lawrence my friend. He is a kind and generous man, and without his support and that of his wife, Honey Bee, I would not have been elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bill Lawrence's countless contributions to our community and our country. Because of him and his distinguished service, we are unmistakably a better and more decent nation.

RECOGNIZING THE ALL KIDS
HEALTH CARE PROGRAM OF ILLINOIS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich for establishing the All Kids health care program, and the Illinois General Assembly for passing this important initiative. This plan makes Illinois the first State in the country to provide comprehensive health insurance to every child in the State.

The All Kids program will target the estimated 253,000 uninsured children in Illinois; providing coverage for children from working families that earn too much to qualify for existing programs but not enough to purchase private health insurance.

According to a National Health Interview Survey, 39 percent of American children did not visit a doctor in the past year, and 38 percent have no regular facility to utilize for their health care needs. Because their parents cannot afford hospital bills, uninsured children are six times as likely as insured children to have serious health issues go untreated. As a result, they are at higher risk for hospitalizations and missed diagnoses of serious illnesses. Improved health care for children is not the only benefit of this program. Studies show that children with health insurance are more likely to attend school consistently.

Additionally, the grades and test scores for insured children are substantially higher than their uninsured peers.

By moving a majority of Illinois' Medicaid beneficiaries into a primary care case management program where every beneficiary has their own family doctor, the State will save millions of dollars that will be used to pay for the All Kids program and provide more Illinois children with basic health care.

The State of Illinois has taken responsibility for the children and their families who do not have this critical coverage. The program enacted by the State of Illinois is set to begin in July 2006.

With 45.8 million uninsured Americans in 2004, it is time to stop ignoring the problem and to start taking action. I congratulate the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Blagojevich for a job well done, and I urge my colleagues to take a look at what Illinois is doing to help provide health care for children.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE
REFORM ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1461) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes:

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, I first want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) for their leadership in getting this bill, H.R. 1461, to the House floor. Reforming the regulatory structure for the housing GSEs has clearly been a long time in the making.

I am going to vote for this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. I believe that we must act as a body to move this process forward, and work with the Senate to draft a bill that President Bush can sign into law. We are all aware of the economic damage that took place in the wake of other corporate accounting scandals, be it Enron, WorldCom or Tyco. It is important to remember that in terms of assets, Enron was only about one-sixteenth the size that Fannie Mae is today. WorldCom and Tyco were about one-tenth the size of Fannie in terms of assets. These facts cannot be ignored. Legislation is long overdue.

However, I continue to have many concerns about certain provisions in H.R. 1461 that I believe could do more harm than good to our housing markets. Primarily, I am concerned that H.R. 1461 does not go far enough to protect our financial markets from the systemic risk posed by the giant portfolio holdings of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has warned us that without the needed restrictions on the size of Fannie and Freddie's portfolios, our ability to preserve safe and sound financial markets is significantly put at risk. H.R. 1461 would not give the new regulator the necessary tools to appropriately limit the size of the portfolios of these two institutions. The combined retained portfolios of these two

companies now exceed \$1.6 trillion, up from \$136 billion in 1990. Portfolios of this size do nothing to promote liquidity in the secondary market. Unfortunately, H.R. 1461 will do nothing to protect American taxpayers from having to bail these institutions out should they fail.

I am also concerned about what is commonly referred to as “mission creep” of these two entities. Congress has given Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac very special charters, unique government-granted benefits that we do not grant their competitors. These benefits exist so that they can create liquidity in the secondary mortgage market and help create the American Dream for middle and low income families. In recent years, these entities have been clearly engaging in areas outside of this charter, including airplane leasing, purchasing tobacco bonds, and providing international consulting. H.R. 1461 does not provide the necessary bright line between the activities in which Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac can and cannot engage. While Congress prohibits Fannie and Freddie from originating loans, we clearly need a better definition of loan origination and what separates the primary market from the secondary market. Not only would a bright line provide clarity, it would enhance competition in the primary market and prevent these taxpayer-backed institutions from engaging in activities outside of the scope of their charters.

Further, I have concerns about raising the conforming loan limits for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as H.R. 1461 does. Raising these limits will do nothing to help Fannie and Freddie meet their affordable housing goals. The conforming loan limits were originally established to ensure that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are focused on increasing the availability of housing for middle and low income Americans. These limits are necessary to prevent Fannie and Freddie from competing with private sector lenders, who already meet the demand for larger home loans. Raising the conforming loan limits is a clear extension of Fannie and Freddie's charters. That is not the purpose of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee worked diligently and in good faith with myself and many of my colleagues who had serious concerns about the creation of an affordable housing fund for both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in H.R. 1461. I applaud him for his willingness to include language in this bill that seeks to prevent affordable housing fund monies from being abused for political purposes. However, it is my hope that as this bill moves toward conference with the Senate, we take a serious look at the need to create another housing fund of this nature, especially one that has the potential to be abused for political purposes.

Our housing finance system is driven by the creation of jobs, supported by sound economic policy. Under the policies of this administration and this Republican Congress, this system has never worked better, and we now have achieved the highest rate of homeownership in the entire history of the United States of America. Mr. Chairman, the truth is there is no greater housing program than the American free enterprise system.

IN HONOR OF JASON KAMRAS,
NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Jason Kamras, the 2005 National Teacher of the Year. A native of Sacramento, Jason teaches mathematics at John Philip Sousa Middle School, here in our Nation's capital. Since being named Teacher of the Year in April, Jason has traveled across the country as an educational spokesman and will continue to do so through next June. As his friends, family and colleagues celebrate Jason's outstanding achievement, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this truly remarkable American.

The son of Linda and Marvin Kamras of Sacramento, Jason attended Shalom School, Sacramento's only Jewish day school, where he was a member of their inaugural class of 1978. In 1991, he graduated from Rio Americano High School at the top of his class. Later that fall Jason began his freshman year at Princeton University, where he graduated with a degree in public policy in 1995.

After graduating from Princeton, Jason promptly applied for a position with Teach for America, a wonderful program that allows for recent college graduates to work in needy public schools. It was Teach for America that first brought Jason to John Philip Sousa Middle School in the fall of 1996 where he taught mathematics to sixth graders. At Sousa he immediately poured his energy and passion into the school's students.

Three years of teaching math at Sousa convinced Jason that he could do much more to have a positive impact on students' lives. In 1999 he left the classroom and earned a Master's Degree in Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. When he returned to Sousa, Jason taught a combined class of seventh and eighth graders for 2 years in social studies. This “looped” class allowed him the opportunity to truly connect with his students and push them to achieve everything within their grasp. In the 2002–2003 school year, Jason has returned to teaching math, this time at the seventh and eighth grade levels.

Outside of the classroom, Jason has successfully worked with school administrators to double the instructional time devoted to math and has incorporated technology and real world situations into the math curriculum, in order to meet today's students' needs. His love for photography led him to establish the EXPOSE Program, in which students create photo-essays with digital cameras that depict their lives and neighborhoods. Those photos are often shown to the public at the Capital Children's Museum and other places around Washington. In 2001, Jason was awarded the Mayor's Art Award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education for his work with the EXPOSE Program, just one of the many honors he has earned for his dedication to our Nation's youth.

What makes Jason an excellent teacher and role model is that he works tirelessly to give his students the tools they will need to make their dreams come true. Whether it is with complex math problems or artistic self expres-

sion, Jason has an ability to connect with students, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds, and give them the attention and support they need to help them meet their goals.

Mr. Speaker, as Jason Kamras continues to speak on behalf of school teachers across our country, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most honorable citizens. His love for teaching is fortunately shared by countless other teachers in classrooms throughout the Nation. At 31 years of age, Jason has accomplished so much in the classroom; accomplishments that allow him to serve as a model for others to follow. On behalf of the students at Sousa that have benefited from his compassion, dedication and creativity, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Jason continued success in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RACHAEL SCDORIS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bend, Oregon resident Rachael Scdoris. Rachael is a legally blind, competitive dog sled racer and cross-country runner who today was awarded the prestigious Casey Martin Award—an annual award that Nike bestows to any disabled person in the world who has overcome their adversity and pursued their sport of choice with the same passion and competitive spirit that renowned golfer Casey Martin has demonstrated in his career. Rachael was born with congenital achromatopsia, a genetic disorder that severely limits her vision. Nonetheless, she was the youngest musher to complete a 500-mile sled dog race, and the first disabled athlete to race the 1,161-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 2005.

Introduced to the sport of dog sledding by her father, Jerry, at age 3, Rachael's lifelong dream was to compete in the Iditarod. In 2003, because of her disability, Rachael was refused entry by the Iditarod Trail Committee, but after her determined appeals, the committee finally voted to allow her the aid of a visual interpreter on another sled in the 2005 Iditarod.

Though Rachael's dogs became ill and she was forced to drop out after 750 miles, she has already entered the 2006 Iditarod. She is the spokesperson for her vision foundation and the annual “Race for Vision” sled dog race in Oregon, which raises money for Healthy Beginnings, an organization that provides free vision screening, eye exams, and glasses to low-income individuals. She has twice been named one of the 100 Most Outstanding Female Athletes in the Nation, an ABC “Person of the Week” and a 2004 Olympic Torch carrier.

Rachael was selected from over 44 applicants to the Casey Martin Award because her story mirrors that of Casey Martin who in 1998 sued the PGA Tour for the right to be able to use a golf cart in competition. Casey, another Oregonian, has Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome, a rare, incurable and degenerative condition that causes chronic leg pain and makes it physically impossible for him to walk