WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

**Senate**

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2005, at 2 p.m.

**House of Representatives**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN).

**DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, December 6, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado 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.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC, November 22, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 22, 2005, at 1:47 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 308.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 308.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report H.R. 3058.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report H.R. 3058.

That the Senate passed S. 1042.

That the Senate passed S. 1043.

That the Senate passed S. 1044.

That the Senate passed S. 1045.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.
Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes;
H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes;
H.R. 3853, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the Willie Vaughn Post Office;
H.R. 4145, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:
WASHINGTON, DC, December 1, 2005.
Hon. J. Dennis Hastert,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Speaker: It is with a heavy heart that I submit to you my resignation as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, effective close of business on Thursday, December 1, 2005. I am forwarding to you a copy of my letter of resignation to the House of Representatives, effective close of business on Thursday, December 1, 2005. I am forwarding to you a copy of my letter of resignation to the President for. Under his leadership, our economy is flourishing and getting stronger. In a report issued last week by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, our economy created 250,000 new jobs during the month of November. Over 4.4 million jobs have been created since May 2003. Unemployment is down to 5 percent, which is lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. This is due to the hard work of the American people, lower taxes, legal reform, and less government interference into the lives of entrepreneurs and small business owners.

I am proud of President Bush’s leadership and agenda for a strong economy. I will continue to work with him and the rest of my colleagues in the Congress to make tax relief permanent and exercise spending restraint.

Sincerely,
David Thomas,
Chief of Staff.

ECONOMIC NUMBERS
(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)
Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the third-quarter economic numbers released last week are worth noting. When you consider the total devastation inflicted on our gulf coast region combined with the temporary spike in petroleum prices, the fact that our economy remains robust is a strong testament to our free-market policies and commitment to reducing the tax burden on all Americans.

The overall growth of the economy, measured in total gross domestic product, was even better than expected, growing at a rate of 4.3 percent, the 10th consecutive quarter of GDP growth above 3 percent. The job numbers since May. These numbers, along with the other positive indicators, should provide strong incentive to us this week as we take up legislation to extend expiring tax cuts.

PROGRESS IN IRAQ
(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)
Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, since the defeat of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, we have seen political, security, and economic progress in a country that has suffered under tyranny for decades. In January, 8.5 million Iraqis voted in Iraq’s first democratically elected government. In October, the constitutional referendum, the turnout neared nearly 10 million; and since April 2003, Iraq has registered more than 30,000 new businesses.

Mr. Speaker, no war is without challenges, and the war on terror is no different. But to cut and run, as many of our colleagues are suggesting, would not only encourage our enemies; it will disillusion our Iraq allies, and the brave men and women in uniform risking their lives for this country every day.
The security of our Nation should be bigger than inside-the-Beltway partisan politics. We need to learn from the mistake of the past, stop talking about exit strategies, and keep talking about freedom, democracy, and victory.

DEMOCRATIC STRATEGY FOR IRAQ
(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Democrats’ plan for Iraq. Last week, following the Thanksgiving holiday, I spent a considerable amount of my time with constituents listening to their concerns and discussing a whole array of issues from gas prices, to the new prescription drug benefit, to the war in Iraq.

However, Mr. Speaker, some on the other side of the aisle used their time parading on comedy shows decrying the current operation in Iraq and scoring big laughs at the expense of our troops. I believe this further undermines the argument of those who would claim that an immediate withdrawal from Iraq is a noble course of action.

During her big debut on “Comedy Central,” the minority leader bragged that “60 percent of the House Democrats voted against the war to begin with,” and compared to other Democrats, were “way ahead of the issue.” I imagine that statement probably does not sit well with our troops in the field. And, Mr. Speaker, for the other 40 percent of my Democratic colleagues who might also take exception to this statement, I recommend that they discuss their concern with the minority leader.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, during August of 2003, I was with a bipartisan CODEL in Iraq. We were in one of Saddam Hussein’s old bunkers and had a briefing from members of the Coalition Provisional Authority. United States State Department, General Sanchez, was there. He outlined their plan for reconstituting the Government of Iraq and civil society in Iraq.

This plan involved selecting Iraqi citizens to form an interim constitution leading to the institution of a provisional government, which would then set the stage for selecting representatives to the Transitional National Assembly, who would write the final Iraqi constitution which, after ratification, would culminate with the election of the new Iraqi government. All of these accomplishments, basically adhering to the time line set up by the administration, the only deviation being a somewhat condensing of the timeline at the request of cleric al-Sistani.

There is no question that there are those in the country of Iraq who feel they would be better served by continued chaos in the region. This is not the position of most of the people who live in the country of Iraq. The insurgency, the terrorists, hold no tactical advantage. They hold no territory. This is a fight that they know they cannot win on tactical grounds.

The only way for us to lose this fight is to lose our political will at home. Our soldiers have done everything which we have asked. Congress should not desert them now.

PRESIDENT SETS TONE ON WAR IN IRAQ
(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, some say the U.S. will not win in Iraq, but in the American political debate, we can do better than that.

Last week at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, the President of the United States did just that. President Bush delivered a forceful and effective defense of our strategy and the stakes facing our Nation in Iraq.

Along with thousands of other midshipmen, I had the privilege of joining the President that day, and I have to tell you, from inside the arena, it appeared that the President was both at ease and determined. He pounded the facts about enemy, their aims and our progress in Iraq into the American debate.

From the outset, the President set the tone defining the first war of the 21st Century with the declaration that the enemy must be defeated. He cited their war against humanity, while he released a recently declassified national strategy for victory, which Americans can read at WhiteHouse.gov.

For me, the central message came when the President said, “We will stay as long as necessary to complete the mission.” This clarion call and the continued determination of the American people was timely and meaningful, and an important challenge to a Nation that believes in freedom and has always demonstrated throughout our history that when the mission is just and the mission is clear, Americans complete the mission.

SECURE BORDERS NOW
(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE. Mr. Speaker, while President Bush clearly outlined his strategy for victory in Iraq last week, soldiers of the Second Iraqi Army Brigade were finishing the last days of independently conducting military activities in Hillah, Iraq. After undergoing extensive training and testing by coalition forces,
these soldiers have proven that they are capable of protecting and securing their country.

Each day, Iraqis are playing a larger role in ensuring that democracy and freedom prevail in their Nation. On December 15, over 225,000 Iraqi soldiers will be responsible for conducting security operations during Iraq’s nationwide election.

The constant progress in Iraq could not be possible without the tremendous dedication of the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States military. Our troops understand the necessity of victory in the war on terrorism to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

COOPERATION ACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 585) to require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 585

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 “Gateway Communities Cooperation Act”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEDERAL LAND MANAGERS AND GATEWAY COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT COMPATIBLE LAND MANAGEMENT OF BOTH FEDERAL AND ADJACENT LANDS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1. Many communities that abut or are near Federal lands, including units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, units of the National Forest System, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, are vitally impacted by the management and public use of these Federal lands.

2. Some of these communities, commonly known as gateway communities, fulfill an integral part in the mission of the Federal lands by providing necessary services, such as schools, roads, search and rescue, emergency service, medical support, logistical support, living quarters, and drinking water and sanitary systems for visitors to the Federal lands and employees of Federal land management agencies.

3. Provision of these vital services by gateway communities is an essential ingredient for a meaningful and enjoyable experience by visitors to the Federal lands because Federal land management agencies are unable to provide, or are prevented from providing, these services.

4. Many gateway communities serve as an entry point for persons who visit the Federal lands and are ideal for establishment of visitor services for such activities as fuel, auto repairs, emergency services, and visitor information.

5. Development in some gateway communities may impact the management and protection of these Federal lands.

6. The planning and management decisions of Federal land managers can have unintended consequences for gateway communities and the Federal lands when the decisions are not adequately communicated to, or coordinated with, the elected officials and residents of gateway communities.

7. Experts in land management planning are available to Federal land managers, but persons with technical planning skills are often not present in gateway communities, particularly small gateway communities.

8. Gateway communities are often affected by the policies and actions of several Federal land management agencies and the communities and the agencies would benefit from greater interagency coordination of those policies and actions.

9. Persuading gateway communities to make decisions and undertake actions in their communities that would also be in the best interest of the Federal lands is most likely to occur when such decision-making and actions are built upon a foundation of cooperation and coordination.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to require Federal land managers to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with gateway communities in order to—

1. improve relationships among Federal land managers, elected officials, and residents of gateway communities;

2. enhance the facilities and services in gateway communities available to visitors to Federal lands when compatible with the management of these lands, including the availability of historical and cultural resources; and

3. result in better local land use planning in gateway communities and decisions by the relevant Secretary.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this section, the following definitions apply:

1. Gateway Community.—The term “gateway community” means a county, city, town, village, or other subdivision, food a tribe, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or Alaska Native village, that—

(a) is incorporated or recognized in a county or regional land use plan or within tribal jurisdictional boundaries; and

(b) the relevant Secretary or the head of the tourism office for the State determines is significantly affected economically, socially, or environmentally by planning and management decisions regarding Federal lands administered by the relevant Secretary.

2. Relevant Secretary.—The term “relevant Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

3. Participation in Federal Planning and Land Use.—

(1) Participation in Planning.—At the earliest possible time, the relevant Secretary shall solicit the involvement of elected and appointed officials of governments of gateway communities in the Federal land use plans, programs, land use regulations, land use decisions, transportation plans, general management plans, and any other plans, decisions, or policies for Federal lands under the jurisdiction of these Federal agencies that are likely to have a significant impact on these gateway communities.

(2) Technical Assistance.—At the request of a gateway community, the relevant Secretary shall offer training sessions for elected and appointed officials of gateway communities at which such officials can obtain a better understanding of—

(A) the agency planning processes; and

(B) the methods by which they can participate most meaningfully in the development of the agency plans, decisions, and policies referred to in paragraph (1).

(3) Training Sessions.—At the request of a gateway community, the relevant Secretary shall offer training sessions for elected and appointed officials of gateway communities at which such officials can obtain a better understanding of—

(A) the land use inventory, planning, and management activities for the Federal lands administered by the relevant Secretary; and

(B) the land use planning and management activities of other Federal agencies, agencies of the State in which the Federal lands are located, and local and tribal governments within the vicinity of the Federal lands.

(4) Intergency Cooperation and Coordination.—To the extent practicable, when the plans and activities of 2 or more Federal agencies are anticipated to have a significant impact on a gateway community, the Federal agencies involved shall consolidate and coordinate their plans and planning processes to facilitate the participation of affected gateway communities in the planning processes.

(5) Treatment as Cooperating Agencies.—To the earliest extent practicable, but not later than the scopine process, when a proposed action is determined to require an environmental impact statement, the relevant Secretary shall allow any affected gateway communities the opportunity to be recognized as cooperating agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this title shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.
The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 585, the Gateway Communities Cooperation Act, introduced by me and amended by the Resources Committee, would facilitate better communication between and among the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and those designated communities located adjacent to our Federal lands, which are commonly known as gateway communities.

These gateway communities are impacted by decisions made by managers of our public lands. The people in these communities fulfill an integral part in the mission of Federal lands by providing necessary services, such as schools, roads, search and rescue, emergency and medical support, drinking water and sanitary systems.

H.R. 585, as amended, would improve the relationship among Federal land managers, elected officials and residents of gateway communities, as well as enhance facilities and service available to visitors of our Federal lands. Additionally, the measure will improve the coordination of land use planning and decisions made by Federal land managers.

As the representative of Yosemite National Park here in Congress, I know how important coordination and communication is between Federal managers and the people living in the community. Funding our national parks, forests and other Federal lands. This bill helps achieve a better relationship between these parties.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, through four Congresses now, we have worked with outside groups and the agencies to address the flaws in this legislation as it was originally introduced. As in the previous Congress, we do not intend to impose this legislation.

However, the majority is amending H.R. 585 to remove authorization for funding to assist these local gateway communities. It is unfortunate that as we are making available new information and technical assistance, we are not providing these communities the funding they will need to take advantage of these new opportunities.

As I have said, Mr. Speaker, we do not oppose H.R. 585.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 585, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3812, introduced by the distinguished chairman of the Resources Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), authorizes a Federal feasibility study on creating more water storage.

Rapid population growth and salt intrusion into the underlying aquifer have prompted officials in San Joaquin County, California, to seek a more dependable and reliable water supply for the region. The study in this legislation will examine ways to capture flood flows from an area river in order to develop 65,000 acre feet of potential water supplies.

This water storage study will thoroughly examine all the issues surrounding the development of this new water resource, and expressly protects State water law and current permits and agreements. Above all, this legislation serves as the first step towards the development of much-needed water supplies.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to work with local interests to study possible water storage.
projects to stabilize groundwater levels in San Joaquin County, California. I appreciate the efforts made by Chairman Pombo, the author of this bill, to accommodate the concerns of neighboring water users. Specifically, language in Section 2 of H.R. 3812 was carried forward from the 108th Congress to allow the participation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District and other stakeholders as this project moves forward.

Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to passage of this legislation.

Mr. Pombo. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 3812, a bill authored because in San Joaquin County, California, water supplies are being depleted. The region suffers from highly significant groundwater overdraft and saline intrusion, affecting agricultural, residential and commercial water users. This bill provides a much needed solution to a growing problem. H.R. 3812 authorizes $3.3 million in Federal funding to complete studies that will examine additional surface water supplies, and improve water quality and environmental protection for the Bay-Delta Region. Led by the Bureau of Reclamation, the project’s multi-year evaluation would involve the participation and cooperation of a wide range of regional stakeholders and would provide information important to statewide water resource and environmental protection efforts. Areas aided by this bill include Stockton, Lodi, Lockeford, Clements, Waterloo, Farmington, Linden, Wallace, Camp Seco and Valley Springs. A clean, safe water supply is essential to sustain our growing communities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Udall of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the bill, H.R. 3812, as amended, was passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. Radanovich) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Udall) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

General Leave

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4195, sponsored by my colleague from Oregon (Mr. Walden) allows for the early capital repayment costs of a Federal water project.

Under current law, two of the three irrigation districts receiving water from the Federal Rogue River project cannot repay the capital costs that they owe to the Federal Government. This bill gives the Bureau of Reclamation the ability to accept prepayment from these two water districts. This legislation benefits the American taxpayer because it allows early revenue to flow to the U.S. Treasury and helps the local landholders by reducing their debt and onerous paperwork requirements.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Udall of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. Udall of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Udall of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4195 will allow any landowner within the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or the Medford Irrigation District to repay at any time the construction costs of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation project, from which the landholder receives irrigation water.

By prepaying their share of the remaining repayment obligation, landowners will be exempted from the acreage limitation and reporting requirements of reclamation law.

We on this side of the aisle have no objection to enactment of H.R. 4195.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I have no speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Berman). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Radanovich) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4195.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOUTHERN OREGON BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REPAYMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4195) to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District. The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4195

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 “Southern Oregon Bureau of Reclamation Repayment Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. EARLY REPAYMENT. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District, in Oregon, may repay, at any time, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to that landowner's lands within the district, if the proceeding of that Act, including the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.).

SEC. 3. LIMITATION. Nothing herein modifies contractual rights that may exist between Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Medford Irrigation District and the United States under their respective Reclamation Act of 1902 (39 Stat. 533 et seq.), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act, including the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

SEC. 4. CERTIFICATION. Upon the request of a landowner who has repaid, in full, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to that landowner's lands owned within the district, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide the certification provided for in subsection (b)(1) of section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. Radanovich) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Udall) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

General Leave

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4195, sponsored by my colleague from Oregon (Mr. Walden) allows for the early capital repayment costs of a Federal water project.

Under current law, two of the three irrigation districts receiving water from the Federal Rogue River project cannot repay the capital costs that they owe to the Federal Government. This bill gives the Bureau of Reclamation the ability to accept prepayment from these two water districts. This legislation benefits the American taxpayer because it allows early revenue to flow to the U.S. Treasury and helps the local landholders by reducing their debt and onerous paperwork requirements.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Udall of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. Udall of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Udall of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4195 will allow any landowner within the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or the Medford Irrigation District to repay at any time the construction costs of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation project, from which the landholder receives irrigation water.

By prepaying their share of the remaining repayment obligation, landowners will be exempted from the acreage limitation and reporting requirements of reclamation law.

We on this side of the aisle have no objection to enactment of H.R. 4195.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I have no speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Berman). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Radanovich) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4195.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BEAVER COUNTY, UTAH REAL PROPERTY CONVEYANCE

Mr. Radanovich. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 52) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of real property to Beaver County, Utah.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 52

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE TO BEAVER COUNTY, UTAH.

(a) In-general.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall, without consideration and subject to valid existing rights, convey to Beaver County, Utah (referred to in this Act as the “County”), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 20 acres depicted as “Minersville State Park” on the map entitled “S. 2265, Minersville State Park” and dated April 30, 2004, for use for public recreation.

(b) ReConveyance by Beaver County.—

(1) In general.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), Beaver County may sell, for not less than fair market value, a portion of the property conveyed to the County under this section, if the proceeds of such sale are used by the County solely for maintenance of public recreation facilities located on the remainder of the property conveyed to the County under this section.

(2) Limitation.—If the County does not comply with the requirements of paragraph
Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 52, the Senate companion bill to an identical bill I introduced earlier this year. This legislation is important to my constituents, it would allow Beaver County, Utah to obtain and maintain the former Minersville State Park without restrictions.

This legislation would permit county officials to sell a small portion of this land to offset funding needed to operate and maintain the park.

In 1963, the BLM first granted a patent to Beaver County, Utah for the lands that are now part of Minersville State Park, and in 1964, title was transferred to the State of Utah Division of Parks and Recreation.

However, under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, Utah did not have authority to transfer title. Over the years, the State of Utah has made significant improvements to the Park, including building restrooms, campgrounds, a boat launch ramp, an entrance station, a pavilion, and a maintenance building.

Under S. 52, Beaver County would be authorized to sell, at fair market value, portions of the property solely for maintenance and development of the recreational site.

Allowing the county this authority is vital to provide for adequate park maintenance. Currently, the park estimates that it is losing approximately $90,000 annually.

This legislation gives Beaver County the necessary flexibility to generate revenue for continued use, without which Utah will be forced to close the park.

Minersville State Park is a beautiful recreational site and extremely important to the residents, my constituents, in the surrounding area. Passage of this bill will prevent the park from closing by enabling the county to maintain and operate the park.

S. 52 is important legislation to both Beaver County and to my state of Utah. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously both in the 108th Congress and in late July of this year.

I urge passage of this legislation, it will benefit Utahns and all those who wish to visit this park.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, it will benefit Utahns and all those who wish to visit this park.

Mr. Speaker, the proceeds of the conveyance; and (B) the Secretary of the Interior may re-

Mr. Speaker, we do not oppose Senate bill 52.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
for a fiscal year under subparagraph (B) shall not exceed 25 percent of the annual rate of pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 4. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.
(a) Property Disposal Limitations.—Section 160(k)(3) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v–5(g)(3)) is amended—
(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Trust may not dispose” and inserting the following:
“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Trust may not dispose’’;
(2) in the second sentence, by striking “The Trust may not dispose” and inserting the following:
“(B) MAXIMUM DURATION.—The Trust’’;
(3) in the last sentence, by striking “Any such” and inserting the following:
“(C) TERMINATION.—The’’; and
(4) by adding at the end the following:
“(D) EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of this paragraph, the disposal of real property does not include the sale or other disposal of forest products, or marketable renewable resources.’’;
(b) Law Enforcement and Fire Management.—Section 160(k)(2) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v–5(g)) is amended—
(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary’’ and inserting the following:
“(1) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary’’;
(2) in the second sentence, by striking “The Trust’’ and inserting the following:
“(B) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The Trust’’; and
(3) by striking “At the request of the Trust’’ and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting the following:
“(2) FIRE MANAGEMENT.—
“(A) NON-REIMBURSABLE SERVICES.—
“(i) PLAN.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Trust, develop a plan to carry out fire preparedness, suppression, and emergency rehabilitation services on the Preserve.
“(ii) CONSISTENCY WITH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—The plan shall be consistent with the management program developed pursuant to subsection (d).
“(iii) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—To the extent generally authorized at other units of the National Forest System, the Secretary shall provide the services to be carried out pursuant to the plan under a cooperative agreement entered into between the Secretary and the Trust.
“(B) REIMBURSABLE SERVICES.—To the extent generally authorized at other units of the National Forest System, the Secretary may provide, prior to the end of the fiscal year of the enactment of this Act, a method for resolving the differences in fire management for the Reserve.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. Radanoovich) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Udall) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE
Mr. RADANOVICE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members who may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The Speaker pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There is no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

S. 212 was introduced by Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN to improve the management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. In 2000, Congress passed the Valles Caldera Preservation Act, which acquired the Baca Ranch and directed the Secretary of Agriculture to reinstall the Valles Caldera National Preserve. While mostly successful, there have been some challenges to implementing the law. As a result, S. 212 was introduced to address these challenges and clarify the original intent of the act. Further, the bill will ensure that the act is fully implemented in a cost-effective manner. I support this important legislation. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from California has already explained the purpose of Senate bill 212, which is a Senate-passed measure dealing with a conservation unit located in the district of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Udall), my colleague and cousin.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve, formerly known as the Baca Ranch, was authorized by Congress in 2000 to preserve certain natural, cultural, and recreational resources through a unique management arrangement. Since its establishment, the preserve has undergone some growing pains, which the provisions of S. 212 are intended to help address.

I want to commend the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) for his work and active support in helping to see that the Valles Caldera National Preserve achieves the purposes for which it was established.

Mr. Speaker, we support Senate bill 212 and urge adoption of the legislation by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield so much time as I may consume to the gentleman from the great State of New Mexico (Mr. Udall), my cousin.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Colorado yielding.

I rise today in support of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005. The original Valles Caldera Preservation Act was enacted in the 106th Congress and was signed into law on July 25, 2000.

This act directed the Forest Service to acquire the private Baca Ranch in northern New Mexico, which comprises nearly 95,000 acres. The United States acquired the entire surface estate and an undivided 87% percent of the mineral estate. Third parties currently hold the outstanding 12% percent of the mineral interest.

The original act directed the Forest Service to negotiate with the outstanding mineral interest owners for the acquisition of their interests. Unfortunately, there is a sizeable difference in what the Forest Service and the mineral rights owners believe to be the fair market value of the outstanding mineral interests; and for the past 5 years, there has been no significant effort to resolve the problem.

Fortunately, Senate bill 212 was sponsored by Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN, and passed by the other Chamber on July 26, 2005, provides a reasonable method for resolving the differences in a timely fashion through a condemnation process. The outstanding mineral interest owners have advised each of us that they are in full support of the Senate bill.

The Senate bill, in addition to addressing the outstanding mineral interests, also addresses several issues that have been raised with respect to the administration of the trust. It is my belief that the bill appropriately provides for concerns of the Valles Caldera trust and the administration of the Baca Ranch in furthering the purposes for which these lands were acquired 4 years ago.

I urge my colleagues to support Senate bill 212, the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 212.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INDIAN PUEBLO LAND ACT AMENDMENTS
Mr. RADANOVICE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 279) to amend the Act of June 7, 1924, to provide for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction.

The Clerk reads as follows:

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

SECTION 1. INDIAN PUEBLO LAND ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Act of June 7, 1924 (43 Stat. 636, chapter 311), is amended by adding at the end the following:

SEC. 20. CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided by Congress, jurisdiction over offenses committed anywhere within the exterior boundaries of any grant from any prior sovereign shall be exercised by the District Court of the United States for the District of New Mexico.
over any offense committed by a member of the Pueblo or an Indian as defined in title 25, sections 1301(2) and 1301(4), or by any other Indian-owned entity.

Title I: Jurisdiction of the United States

The United States has jurisdiction over any offense described in chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, committed by or against an Indian as defined in title 25, sections 1301(2) and 1301(4) or any Indian-owned entity, that involves any Indian property or interest.

Section 1301(2) and 1301(4) of title 25, United States Code, define an Indian as any Indian as determined by the Pueblo or an Indian as defined in title 25, sections 1301(2) and 1301(4), or by any Indian-owned entity that involves any Indian property or interest.

The United States has jurisdiction over any offense described in chapter 33 of title 18, United States Code, committed by or against an Indian as defined in title 25, sections 1301(2) and 1301(4), or by any Indian-owned entity, that involves any Indian property or interest.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and to give particular tribute to our colleague from New Mexico (Mr. Udall). Mr. Udall introduced a companion bill as H.R. 600, and he has been a true champion for passage of this important legislation. He has worked tirelessly to impress upon us the urgency and the timeliness of these provisions. Once enacted, as my good friend from California, Mr. Udall, pointed out, this language will clarify the boundaries of criminal jurisdiction among the State, county, and tribal governments for lands on and near the New Mexico Pueblos.

As a result of some recent court decisions in New Mexico, certain Indian lands have gone without any government protection from criminal acts. As the former Attorney General of New Mexico, Mr. Udall understands fully that this put Native Americans in his district in a very perilous position.

I congratulate the gentleman from California, Mr. Udall, on his bill (H.R. 1129) to authorize the exercise of criminal jurisdiction on Pueblo lands. This bill was passed.

I congratulate the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Udall), Mr. Speaker, this bill today in support of Senate bill 279, legislation that amends the Indian Pueblo Land Act of June 7, 1924, to provide for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of Pueblo lands.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVIcH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Senate bill 279, legislation that amends the Indian Pueblo Land Act of June 7, 1924, to provide for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of Pueblo lands. Earlier this session, I introduced a companion to this bill on behalf of myself and cosponsors HEATHER WILSON and STEVAN PEARCE in the House and Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVIcH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.
eral land, subject to all valid existing rights and
interest of the United States in and to the Fed-
aspen Valley Land Trust, all right, title, and
Secretary and the Secretary shall—

State of Colorado.

ard, and the Aspen Valley Land Trust.

section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
Trust, a nonprofit organization as described in
Land Trust means the Aspen Valley Land
ance to Forest Service.

County, as generally depicted on the map enti-
land in the County, as generally depicted on the
Forest System land located in the County, as
generally depicted on the map entitled Ryan
Pitkin County and dated August 2004.

This Act may be cited as the Pitkin County
Forest Act, the map shall prevail unless the Secretary
directed for exchange between the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of
Land Management, and Pitkin County under this
Act that is comprised of the following parcels:

(A) The approximately 5.5 acres of National
Forest System land located in the County, as
depicted on the map entitled Ryan
Exchange-Wildwood Parcel Conveyance to Pitkin County
and dated August 2004.

(B) The 12 parcels of National Forest System
land totaling approximately 5.92 acres, as
depicted on the map entitled Ryan
Exchange-Smuggler Mountain Patent Remnants Conveyance to Pitkin County
and dated August 2004.

(C) The approximately 40 acres of Bureau of
Land Management land located in the County, as
depicted on the map entitled Ryan
Exchange-Smuggler Mountain-Continue parcels
and Wolf Creek Drainage Conveyance to Pitkin County
and dated August 2004.

(4) NON-FEDERAL LAND. The term "non-Fed-
eral land" means the land directed for exchange between the United States Forest Service under this Act that is comprised of the following parcels:

(A) The approximately 35 acres of non-Federal
land in the County, as generally depicted on the map entitled Ryan

(B) The approximately 18.2 acres of non-Fed-
eral land located on Smuggler Mountain in the County, as generally depicted on the map enti-
tled Ryan Exchange-Smuggler Mountain-Greenback Creek and Pontiac Claims Conveyance
Forest Service Conveyance to Forest Service.

(5) SECRETARY. The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the County offers to con-
vey the United States title to the non-Federal
land that is acceptable to the Secretary, the Sec-
retary and the Secretary of the Interior shall—
(1) accept the offer; and
(2) on receipt of acceptable title to the non-
Federal land, simultaneously convey to the County, or disposes of the title of the County, to the
Aspen Valley Land Trust, all right, title, and
interest of the United States in and to the Fed-
eral land, subject to all valid existing rights and
encumbrances.

(b) TIMING.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
graph (2), it is the intent of Congress that the
land exchange directed by this Act, the County and
the Secretary shall complete not later than 1 year after the date of en-
actment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior, and the County may agree to ex-
tend the deadline specified in paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. EXCHANGE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—The value of the Federal land and non-Federal land directed to be exchanged under this Act—
(1) shall be equal; or
(2) shall be made equal in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) APPRAISALS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the Federal
land and non-Federal land shall be determined by the Secretary through appraisals conducted in accordance with—
(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Fed-
eral Land Appraisals; and
(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Ap-
praisal Practice; and
(c) Forest Service appraisal instructions.

(2) VALUE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND. In conducting the appraisal of the parcel of Fed-
eral land described in section 3(3)(C), the app-
raiser shall not consider the easement required for that parcel under subsection (d)(1) for pur-
poses of determining the value of that parcel.

(c) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—
(1) SURPLUS OF FEDERAL LAND.—If the final appraised value of the non-Federal land
exceeds the final appraised value of the Federal land, the County shall donate to the United
States the excess Federal land which shall be considered to be a donation for all purposes of law.

(2) SURPLUS OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The final appraised value of the Federal land exceeds the final appraised value of the non-Federal land, the value of the Federal land and non-Federal land may be equalized by the Secretary—
(i) making a cash equalization payment to the Secretary;
(ii) conveying to the Secretary certain land located in the County, comprising approximately 160 acres, as generally depicted on the map enti-
tled Sellar Park Parcel and dated August 2004; or
(iii) using a combination of the methods de-
scribed in clauses (i) and (ii), as the Secretary and the County determine to be appropriate.

(B) DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS.—
(i) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Any cash equalization payment received by the Secretary under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the Sisk Act) (16 U.S.C. 484a).

(ii) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Amounts deposited under clause (i) shall be available to the Sec-
retary, without further appropriation, for the acquisition of land or interests in lands in Colo-
rado for addition to the National Forest System.

(d) CONDITIONS ON CERTAIN CONVEYANCES.

(1) CONDITIONS ON CONVEYANCE OF CRISTAL
RIVER PARCEL.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inter-
ior shall not convey to the County the parcel of land described in section 3(3)(C) until the Coun-
ty grants the Aspen Valley Land Trust, the Roaring Fork Conservancy, or any other entity acceptable to the Secretary and the County, a permanent conservation easement to the parcel, the terms of which—
(i) provide public access to the parcel; and
(ii) require that the parcel shall be used only for recreational, fish and wildlife conservation, and open space purposes; and

(ii) are acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior.

(B) REVERSION.—In the deed of conveyance that conveys the parcel of land described in sec-
tion 3(3)(C) to the County, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide that title to the parcel shall, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, revert to the United States at no cost to the United States or to the Aspen Valley Land Trust if—
(i) the parcel is used for a purpose other than that described in subparagraph (A)(i)(II); or
(ii) the County or the entity holding the con-
ervation easement elect to discontinue admin-
istering the parcel.

(2) CONDITIONS ON CONVEYANCE OF WILDWOOD PARCEL.—In the deed of conveyance of the parcel described in section 3(3)(A) to the County, or at the request of the County, to the Aspen Valley
Land Trust, the non-Federal land described in the deed of conveyance to the entity holding the con-
ervation easement, is permanently dedicated to the use of the Aspen Valley Land Trust, as deter-
mined appropriate by the Secretary in consultation with the County, to reserve to the United States a permanent easement to the parcel for the location, construction and public use of the East of Aspen Trail.

SEC. 6. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) INCORPORATION, MANAGEMENT, AND STA-
TUS OF ACQUIRED LAND.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Land acquired by the Sec-
tary under this Act shall be part of the White River National Forest.

(b) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—Land acquired by the Secretary under this Act shall be administered in accordance with the laws (includ-
ing rules and regulations) generally appli-
cable to the National Forest System.

(3) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—
For purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water
9), the boundaries of the White River National
Forest shall be deemed to be the boundaries of the White River National Forest as of January 1, 1962.

(c) RECOVERY OF ORDERS AND WITH-
DRAWAL.—

(1) RECOVERY OF ORDERS.—Any public or-
ders withdrawing any of the Federal land from appropri-
There was no objection.
Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1129, introduced by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), would authorize a small land exchange in Pitkin County, Colorado, between the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and Pitkin County. The bill would transfer 35 acres to a part of the Ryan Ranch, in White River National Forest, to the Forest Service. This property is nearly surrounded by public land and valued by the communities as open space. In exchange, the county would acquire 5.5 acres known as the Siltwood parcel from the Forest Service and a total of 45.92 acres from the Bureau of Land Management consisting of mining claims and land along the Crystal River. The BLM parcels abut county land, and the Crystal River land will be subject to permanent conservation easement for public access.

The exchange is strongly supported by local officials and would help consolidate public and private ownership of Pitkin County.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I obviously rise in support of this bill which I introduced, and which is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR). I want to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RADANOVICH, as well as subcommittee Chairman WALDEN and Ranking Member TOM UDALL for making it possible for this bill to be on the floor today.

The bill provides for completion of the land exchange that involves Pitkin County, Colorado, on the one hand and two Federal agencies, the Forest Service and the BLM, on the other.

Under the exchange, the County will transfer two parcels to the Forest Service, a 5-acre tract known as the Ryan property, near the ghost town of Ashcroft; and in addition, about 18.2 acres on Smuggler Mountain near Aspen, Colorado. These acquisitions will complete the Ashcroft Preservation Project, which was initiated by the Forest Service in 1980 to consolidate its National Forest land ownership in and around the historic ghost town of Ashcroft.

The bill will also help the Forest Service better manage its lands on Smuggler Mountain, a heavily used recreational area directly above the City of Aspen.

In return, the Federal Government will transfer to the County: first, a 5.5 acre tract south of Aspen known as the Wildwood parcel, which the county in turn will transfer to private ownership after reserving a permanent public easement for a trail.

Second, nearly 6 acres, spread over 12 scattered locations on Smuggler Mountain that abut or are near lands owned by the county.

And, finally, a 40-acre tract of BLM land along the Crystal River, which will be subject to a permanent conservation easement limiting future use to recreational, fish and wildlife, and open-space purposes.

The bill, Mr. Speaker, requires standard appraisals of all properties involved. It provides that if the lands going to the county are worth less than what the county is giving to the Federal Government, the county will waive additional payment. On the other hand, if the lands provided by the county are worth less than those the county is to receive, the county will either pay cash to equalize or convey an additional tract of about 160 acres in the Sellers’ Meadow area near Hagerman Pass to make up the difference.

A similar measure, Senate bill 100, has been introduced by Colorado’s Senators. I think the bill is fair and balanced, and I am not aware of any controversy connected with it. I urge its passage.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the leadership and energy of my colleague from the west slope of Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), who represents this beautiful part of our State, are a key part of why this bill is in front us today, and I want to commend him for his involvement and ask the other body to take this up with dispatch.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1129, the “Pitkin County Land Exchange Act”, is a bill that will bring an end to a longstanding land exchange issue.

The proposed exchange will transfer to Pitkin County a key scenic parcel along the Crystal River.

This key parcel is one of the scenic gems of the Roaring Fork Valley and deserves to be protected in its natural state.

Pitkin County, Colorado is an area of intense development and this exchange will help ensure the popular and open space preservation efforts can continue.

Not only does this bill have the support of the Pitkin County Commissioners, but also many other community groups.

This land exchange is also in the best interest of the public to help ensure some of the most beautiful pristine areas stay undeveloped.

This is a good day for me and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1129, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 136) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide supplemental funding and other services that are necessary to assist certain local school districts in the State of California in providing educational services for students attending schools located within Yosemite National Park, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to adjust the boundaries of Redwood National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 136
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

Sec. 101. PAYMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.
(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) For fiscal years 2005 through 2009, the Secretary of the Interior may provide funds to the Bass Lake Joint Elementary School District and the Mariposa Unified School District in the State of California for educational services to students—
(I) who are dependents of persons engaged in the administration, operation, and maintenance of Yosemite National Park; or
(II) who live within or near the park upon real property owned by the United States.

(2) The Secretary’s authority to make payments under this section shall terminate if the State of California or local education agencies do not continue to provide funding to the schools referred to in subsection (a) at per student levels that are no less than the amount provided in fiscal year 2005.

(b) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF FUNDS.—Payments made under this section shall not exceed the lesser of—
(I) $600,000 in any fiscal year; or
(2) the amount necessary to provide students described in subsection (a) with educational services that are normally provided and generally available to students who attend public schools elsewhere in the State of California.

(d) Source of Payments.—(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Secretary shall deposit funds received under this section into the National Park Service from appropriations, donations, or fees.

(2) The Secretary shall transfer funds from the following sources shall not be used to make payments under this section:

(A) Any law authorizing the collection of fees from service or use fee at units of the National Park System, including—

(i) the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.); and

(ii) the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.).

(B) Any unexpended receipts collected through—

(i) the recreation fee demonstration program established under section 315 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (16 U.S.C. 4601a notes; Public Law 104-134); or

(ii) the national park passport program established under section 502 of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 346e).

(C) Emergency appropriations for flood recovery at Yosemite National Park.

(D) Federal funds may be used an authorized funding source to make payments under this section only if the funding available to Yosemite National Park from such source (after subtracting any payments to the school districts authorized under this section) is greater than or equal to the amount made available to the park for the prior fiscal year, or in fiscal year 2005, whichever is greater.

(B) It is the sense of Congress that any payments made under this section should not result in a reduction of funds to Yosemite National Park from any specific funding source, and that with respect to appropriated funds, funding levels should reflect annual increases in the park’s operating base funds that are generally made to units of the National Park System.

SECTION 102.

AUTHORIZATION FOR PARK FACILITIES TO BE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

(a) Funding Authority for Transportation Systems and External Facilities.—Section 814(c) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 990k) is amended- (1) in the heading by inserting “AND YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK” after “ZION NATIONAL PARK”; (2) in the first sentence— (A) by inserting “and Yosemite National Park” after “Zion National Park”; and (B) by inserting “for transportation systems and related facilities” in place of “facilities”; (3) in the second sentence by striking “facilities” and inserting “systems or facilities”; (4) by striking “at the time of finalization” and inserting “at the time of selection” in the first sentence; (5) in the second sentence by inserting “service contract” and inserting “service contract, cooperative agreement, or other contractual arrangement”;

TITLe II—RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act.”

SEC. 202. GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, CALIFORNIA.

Section 2(a) of Public Law 92-359 (16 U.S.C. 460bb-1(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The recreation area shall comprise” and inserting the following: “(1) INITIAL LANDS.—The recreation area shall comprise”;

(2) by striking “The following additional lands are also” and all that follows through the period at the end of the subsection and inserting the following new paragraphs:

(2) ADDITIONAL LANDS.—In addition to the lands described in paragraph (1), the recreation area shall include the following:

(A) The lands purchased by the Assessor of Marin County, California, 119-040-04, 119-040-05, 119-040-18, 160-002-03, 166-010-06, 166-005-33, 166-010-12, 166-010-13, and 198-005-01.

(B) Lands and waters in San Mateo County generally depicted on the map entitled “Sweeney Ridge Addition, Golden Gate National Recreation Area”, numbered NRA GG-80,000-A, and dated May 1990.


(3) ACQUISITION LIMITATION.—The Secretary may acquire the lands described in paragraph (2)(E) only from a willing seller.

TITLe III—REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Redwood National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2005.”

SEC. 302. REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

Section 2(a) of the Act of Public Law 90-945 (16 U.S.C. 79b(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence by striking “The area” and all that follows through the period at the end of the subsection and inserting the following: “(a)(1) The Redwood National Park consists of 240,000 acres and is depicted on the map entitled “Redwood National Park, Revised Boundary”, numbered 167/05502, and dated February, 2003.”;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as designated by paragraph (1)) the following:

(2) The map referred to in paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service; and

(B) provided by the Secretary of the Interior to the following local governments of Del Norte and Humboldt Counties, California,; and

(3) in the second sentence—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary;” and

(B) by striking “one hundred and six thousand acres” and inserting “139,000 acres”.

The SPEAKER pro tem moves, Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 136, introduced by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the southern boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and adjust the boundary of the Redwood National State Park to include new lands acquired by the State of California. In addition, S. 136 contains a provision providing supplemental funding and other services necessary to assist three schools in my congressional district located within Yosemite National Park.

These three schools serve the children of Yosemite National Park, the National Park Service, and concession employees, and the schools are located a significant distance from other public schools in Mariposa and Madera counties. Because the schools are small, and California bases its State funding on the number of students, the schools do not receive sufficient State funds to operate.

S. 136 addresses this problem by giving the Yosemite National Park superintendent the authority to use a portion of its existing budget to help provide funds for the education of these children whose parents work in the Park. As the author of the House version of this legislation, I know firsthand that it will mean a great deal to the lives of the families in Yosemite National Park.

Also with respect to S. 136, I would like to extend my appreciation to Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN for her commitment and assistance in helping pass this bill in the Senate, and I do urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 136 was introduced by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Senate on July 26, 2005, passed S. 136.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, my good friend, the gentleman from California, has already explained the purpose of Senate bill 136, which passed the Senate on July 26, 2005, and includes two measures that were sponsored in the House by my Democratic colleagues from California, Congressmen TOM LANTOS and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON.

The boundary adjustment at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area has evolved over considerable time and effort. I want to commend my colleague from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership and persistence in making
this important boundary addition a reality, and also note the help and support Leader Pelosi and the other members of the Bay Area delegation.

Likewise, I would commend my colleagues from California (Mr. Thompson) for his efforts on behalf of that portion of the legislation involving Redwood National Park. Mr. Speaker, we support Senate bill 136 and urge adoption of the legislation by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my distinguished colleagues and good friend from Colorado for yielding and for his extraordinary work on all environmental and similar issues.

I rise in strong support of S. 136 and its provisions for the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act. Our bill appropriately addresses a parcel that lies to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and it also has provisions for the Redwood National Park and Yosemite National Park.

Mr. Speaker, I first introduced the GGNRA bill in the 107th Congress with the support of my friends, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and the entire Bay Area Congressional delegation.

One of the Nation’s most visited national parks, GGNRA, includes well-known places like Alcatraz, the Marin Headlands, Fort Funston, Fort Mason, the Muir Woods National Monument, the Fort Point National Historic Site, and, of course, the Presidio of San Francisco.

Our Rancho Corral de Tierra addition includes one of the largest undeveloped parcels of the San Mateo County coast south of the City of San Francisco. It is spectacularly beautiful territory.

Our permanent protection will preserve unique coastal habitats of threatened, rare, and endangered plant and animal species. It will curb future disruptive development along the Pacific coast. It will provide important scenic and recreational opportunities for millions of our residents and visitors from all across the globe.

The Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel, with its relatively untouched upper elevations, preserves habitat for several threatened and endangered plant and animal species. It contains four important coastal watersheds that provide riparian corridors for steelhead trout, coho salmon, and other aquatic species.

Mr. Speaker.

The owner of Rancho Corral de Tierra is the Peninsula Open Space Trust, or POST, a remarkable organization which paid $28.75 million to save the site from development. POST is a land conservancy trust with a remarkable track record of protecting open space in the Bay Area. POST will help preserve the area by donating from public and private contributions a substantial amount of the Federal acquisition costs of Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Our bill also authorizes the National Park Service to include over 500 acres of land in the Devil’s Slide section of our coastal highway, the scenic highway that winds along the entire California coast.

It will include approximately 300 acres of the Martini Creek-Devil’s Slide Bypass right-of-way originally purchased by Caltrans to build a highway over Mount Tamalpais Mountain. When San Mateo County voters overwhelmingly decided to build the Devil’s Slide Tunnel rather than the bypass in 1996, the right-of-way became obsolete. This property contains approximately 300 acres that Caltrans will now be able to donate to the National Park Service.

Preserving our unique natural areas for our children, and in my case our grandchildren, is one of the highest priorities that I have as a Member of Congress. I want to thank all those who have helped bring this important legislation to the House for consideration today: my dear friend and distinguished colleague, Senator Feinstein, has been and continues to be an unflagging advocate with me in protecting this irreplaceable valuable land in our State. She has been a tremendous partner for me to work with on this matter. The Bay Area congressional delegation has been united and unwavering in their support, including the Democratic leaders, Ms. Pelosi, Senator Boxer, and my colleagues Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Honda, Ms. Zoe Lofgren, Mr. Stark, Mrs. Tauscher, Ms. Lee, Mr. George Miller, Ms. Woolsey, and Mr. Thompson.

I would also like to thank the Committee on Resources for their long efforts on this legislation, including Chairman Pombo and the ranking member, Mr. Rahall. On the National Parks Subcommittee, the former chairman, Mr. Radanovich, the new chairman, Mr. Pearce, and the ranking member, Mrs. Christensen, have been enormously helpful.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Audrey Rust, president of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, a prominent leader on preservation issues in the Bay Area and across the Nation. Without her leadership and her accomplishments, we certainly would not be in a position to be here today to protect this property.

I also want to thank the many government officials who have actively participated in support of this work including the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the California Department of Transportation, the National Park Service and Brian O’Neill General Superintendent at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Many members of the professional staff have also dedicated their expertise to bringing us here today and I want to acknowledge and thank Rick Healey and Rob Howarth of the House Resources Committee, David Brooks of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Nicole Brownlee and John Wats of Mrs. Feinstein’s staff, Chris Walker of my staff, Daphne Muehle of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, and Chris Powell of the National Park Service.

And most importantly, in conclusion, I want to thank my friends and neighbors of the Bay Area, particularly those in the 12th Congressional District, who envision a future that includes the protection of the park for generations yet unborn. Without their enlightened support for preservation, we would be unable to accomplish this incredible success that we have achieved here today.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 136, the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act, which will add approximately 4,700 acres to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, also known as the GGNRA.

There has been a long journey in the effort to secure the passage of this bill. I was proud to cosponsor the legislation when Congressman Lantos first introduced it in May of 2001 and testified in the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks in support of the bill 5 long years ago.

The bill sets aside precious environmental spaces for the benefit of the broader community. It has undergone changes over the years to safeguard local agriculture in San Mateo County, and as a result, there is broad local support for this legislation.

These efforts don't just happen, it takes people of vision at the local level to recognize the need, to develop a response, and rally support. We have the best, Audrey Rust, the President of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, POST.

Ms. Rust has demonstrated great determination and flexibility in the many years of working on this bill, and she and POST deserve our thanks, recognition, and gratitude.

Acquiring this land is an environmental victory because it is habitat for several rare, threatened, endangered species. Future generations will respect and enjoy the fruits of our efforts and that's why I urge all my colleagues to vote for this critical legislation.

I salute Representative Lantos for his work and thank Senator Feinstein and Representative Radanovich for their efforts to see this legislation through.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker.

I have no further request for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVIICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker. I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 273)
recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 273

Whereas on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African American seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a city bus for a White passenger boarding the bus, as required by city ordinance;

Whereas out of the arrest of Rosa Parks initiated a meeting that weekend between the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Jo Aga Robinson, who was the head of the Women's Political Council, and E.D. Nixon, who was the Montgomery official for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also known as the NAACP;

Whereas this meeting resulted in the announcement of a large-scale boycott against Montgomery city busing;

Whereas ministers voiced the communal outrage over Rosa Parks's arrest during Sunday services, unifying the African American community in Montgomery as the ministers conveyed the message of the boycott;

Whereas members of the community continued to spread the news of the boycott by disseminating leaflets encouraging participation in the boycott;

Whereas through nonviolent means and the support of ministers and African American and White citizens alike, the Montgomery bus boycott and the beginning of the civil rights movement gained national attention;

Whereas Rosa Parks became and remains an icon of pride and dignity, establishing a standard that has continued through the civil rights movement;

Whereas Martin Luther King, Jr., became the president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, also known as the MIA, and helped organize the boycott with other civil rights leaders, such as Ralph Abernathy; and

Whereas the Montgomery bus boycott ended after the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, upheld a Federal district court ruling declaring segregation on buses unconstitutional.

Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of the Montgomery bus boycott to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 273, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS). This bill would recognize the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

On December 1, 1955, a young woman named Rosa Parks took a small act of defiance and sparked a massive response that changed our society forever. The highest profile retelling of Montgomery, Alabama enforced a policy of racial segregation on its public transit system, black passengers in the back, whites in the front. When the front of the bus reached full capacity, the driver could instruct African American passengers to yield their seats to white riders.

On that fateful day, Rosa Parks refused to yield. She was physically and emotionally drained of the decades of intimidation, harassment, and disfracement of Alabama's African American population.

From that moment on, encouraged by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., a city-wide boycott of the public transit system spread. The Montgomery bus boycott was extremely effective, drastically reducing ridership on the transit system. Instead of riding buses, boycotters walked, rode bicycles, or joined car pools to get to work and to other destinations. This African American churches raised money to buy new shoes to replace the tattered footwear of boycotters helping to fuel the fight against Jim Crow laws.

Finally, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Alabama's racial segregation laws for public transit were unconstitutional, a clear victory for the boycotters. This led to a new city ordinance that allowed African American bus passengers to sit anywhere they pleased on any bus in the city.

Rev. Martin Luther King capped off the news with a speech to encourage encouragement of the decision. The boycott resulted in the U.S. civil rights movement receiving one of its first accomplishments, with Martin Luther King the national attention that would make him one of the prime civil rights leaders in our history.

I urge all Members to come together and recognize this momentous event in our Nation's history by adopting H. Con. Res. 273.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleague in consideration of H. Con. Res. 273, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. This measure, sponsored by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), has the support and cosponsorship of 73 Members of Congress.

Rosa Parks is a great American and hero of the civil rights movement in this country. She took a stand that would make her one of the prime civil rights leaders in our history. She refused. Mrs. Parks knew full well that this act could lead to arrest or even worse had she drawn the ire of White bus patrons. Armed with this knowledge she took a stand that would prove to inspire the African American community to rally behind her example and begin a movement that would change the course of history in our country.

This simple act of refusing to give her seat in the front of the bus to a White patron, an act that led to her arrest and incarceration, was the spark that ignited a movement. Word of her defiance spread through the African American community in Alabama like wildfire. Civil rights leaders like the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, and Ann Robinson, president of the Women's Political Council, and E.D. Nixon, who was the Montgomery official for the NAACP convened to discuss the significance of this act of civil disobedience. They quickly decided to boycott the buses in Montgomery, Alabama.

The boycott that followed was ultimately successful when in November 1956 the United States Supreme Court upheld a Federal court ruling that that segregation on buses is unconstitutional. More important than desegregating the buses in Montgomery, the boycott symbolized the beginning of the civil rights movement in the United States.

Years later, civil rights leaders would invoke the memory of the bus boycott as the critical event that galvanized the movement. The bus boycott, and the action of Mrs. Rosa Parks, was the critical event that galvanized that movement, inspired countless future acts of civil disobedience, and peaceful protest against racial injustice.

I would like to recognize the actions, as all of us do, of Mrs. Rosa Parks, who passed away on Monday, October 24, 2005, and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. I urge my colleagues to join in recognition of this amazing moment in the history of all America and of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS). Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 273.

As we all know, it was 50 years ago last week that the Montgomery bus boycott had its humble beginnings in Montgomery, Alabama.

On that first day of December 1955, a quiet seamstress named Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the city bus, as required by city ordinance. The result was the Montgomery bus boycott. This was not just any ordinary strike. This was a civil disobedience movement that would change the course of history.

The boycott was initiated on December 1, 1955, when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a White passenger, leading to her arrest. The Montgomery bus company then decided to institute a policy requiring African American passengers to give up their seats to White passengers. This, in turn, led to widespread protests, as African American residents refused to comply.

The boycott gained momentum, with thousands of people joining in by carpooling, walking, or using other means of transportation. The Montgomery bus company was forced to operate on a reduced schedule, and ridership declined significantly.

On December 13, 1955, the Supreme Court of the United States declared that the segregation policy on Montgomery buses was unconstitutional. This ruling was a significant victory for the civil rights movement and marked the beginning of a new era in American history.

The impact of the Montgomery bus boycott extended far beyond Montgomery. It inspired similar boycotts in other cities and towns across the country, as well as the development of other civil rights strategies and tactics. The boycott also paved the way for the Civil Rights Act of 1957, which outlawed racial segregation in places of public accommodation.

In conclusion, the Montgomery bus boycott was a pivotal moment in American history. It demonstrated the power of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience in the struggle for equality and justice. Today, we remember Rosa Parks as a hero and a symbol of the power of the people to effect change.

I urge all Members to join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott, recognizing the sacrifices and courage of those who fought for civil rights, and reaffirming our commitment to the ideals of freedom and equality.
Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored by the House’s attention to these events today, and I am pleased to have another chance to honor one of Alabama’s greatest civil rights leaders, a woman whose recent passing has caused us all to mourn.

But this resolution also helps honor those who, along with Rosa Parks, helped make the Montgomery bus boycott a success. Leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for example, ultimately helped provide the leadership necessary for the boycott to continue.

Countless other Alabamians, as well as Americans from across the country, also came to help with this effort; and they continued with their protest until the Supreme Court ultimately ruled in their favor in 1956.

Mr. Speaker, we all have much to learn from the events of 1955 and 1956. I was in Montgomery last week and toured the parsonage where Dr. King helped coordinate many of the boycott’s initiatives. It is my hope that this resolution will help pay tribute to the Montgomery bus boycott.

It is also my hope that this resolution will honor all those who participated in the boycott and provide our Nation another opportunity to learn from its past.

I appreciate the strong support for this resolution here in the House and thank my colleagues from Alabama in particular for their support. Rosa Parks may not be with us today to witness this resolution, but I am comforted in knowing her legacy and that all of those who helped make the boycott a success will live on for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the House’s continued support for this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I certainly commend the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for his introduction of this resolution. And it is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the other distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding. Let me thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for introducing this resolution and for his comments on the floor today. And let me thank the leadership for bringing the resolution to the floor in such a timely and expeditious fashion.

We have just finished a month-long commemorative period around Rosa Parks. Mr. Speaker, we started with the events after her death and we, in effect, culminate, at least the Congress’s part of this culmination today with this resolution. And between last week, the President signed a resolution that will allow Rosa Parks to take her rightful place in Statutory Hall. And as we end this commemorative period, I simply want to make a couple of observations about what it is that we honor. The first is that we honor a community today.

The countless anonymous number of African Americans who lived in Montgomery, Alabama, formed a son and a granddaughter, included numerous other people who made their statement to history, and it is a statement that has lasted and will last for all time by the very act of perseverance.

My grandmother used to always tell the story that the hardest time of the boycott was in the summer, because in Montgomery it never gets very cold, but it can get very hot. And in the summer, a lot of black people in 1955 had no air conditioning and they could not afford air conditioning in the car. They could not afford to fix the air conditioning, so the carpools could be very uncomfortable.

Another thing that made the summer uncomfortable was that the boys were out of school, so the little boys who wanted to stand on the side of the road and jeer the boycotters and the blacks of that community, they had nothing else to do during June and July and August. So they always said the summer was the worst time.

But what made that community so special is that it persevered, and that community chose dignity over comfort. The comfortable thing would have been to end the boycott because of the strain of carrying it forward. The dignified thing was to keep going and to keep asserting their rights. So we honor their community today.

And we do one other thing that is worth noting. We recognize that this history is not simply a story of black people of one race triumphing in this country as a story of us triumphing together, because in 1955, a white person in Montgomery, Alabama was not free either because a white person in Montgomery, Alabama had to build a code of conduct around not what was in his or her heart, but around what was written in the law. And in Montgomery, if a person in the south was not free in 1955 because he or she was bound by the color code of prejudice and the legal code of segregation.

We are all of a sudden, after this assertion of dignity, white people became free too, to have a mindset, to have a sentiment that was not simply based on prejudice. So here we stand 50 years later with an appropriately uncontroversial resolution, with southern Democrats and southern Republicans standing together to offer it.

But the final thing that I say today, Mr. Speaker, is as we end this commemorative period and we put the statute in the hall and we pass the resolutions and we close this year down, we close the 50th anniversary down, it is not enough to honor this legacy by passing resolutions. And as we move into the second half of the 21st century, we may honor it by being true to this spirit. May we honor it by being true to the notion that there are no marginalized people in this country. If we marginalize and leave behind people somehow sacrifices that for our dignity. May we honor Rosa Parks by remembering that all of us have a place. If we are to have a country that is true, there is an agenda and there is a space for every one of God’s children. If we can honor that, then Rosa Parks will have left a legacy that will endure for the ages and one that will lift the spirits and the imaginations of all kind of people all over this globe.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) for his very eloquent characterization of the meaning of this resolution and the meaning of the life of Rosa Parks.

I yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for introducing H. Con. Res. 273 which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

The 1955 Montgomery bus boycott lasted for 381 days. It was a defining moment in our Nation’s history. The heroic and nonviolent actions of many people, and in particular, those of Rosa Parks, who was arrested on December 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man led ultimately to a historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling that outlawed segregated public transportation.

The catalyst for the success of Montgomery bus boycott is the fact that some 40,000 Black citizens of Montgomery decided not to ride the bus. Their nonviolent boycott ultimately drained the city financially. Perhaps for the first time in history, black residents of Alabama had used their economic power to gain social success.

Social justice and economic equality are two sides of the same coin. 50 years after the Montgomery decision, our Nation has made great strides in social justice and in increasing economic opportunities for all Americans. But much remains to be done.

Fifty years later, the unemployment rate for African Americans is almost double that for the whole of America. Fifty years later, almost 1 in 4 African Americans live in poverty. Fifty years later, America’s African American children are twice as likely as white children to die before their first birthday. And 50 years later, poverty in America still holds a tight grip on too many of our Nation’s citizens.
As this body honors and recalls a truly historic event in our Nation, let us also not forget that much still remains to be done to ultimately fulfill the legacy and the dreams of those thousands of Americans who participated in the Montgomery bus boycott. Ms. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 273, which recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott and the historical significance of the boycott to the United States.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a seamstress and wife, boarded a Montgomery bus to begin her usual journey home. Nothing was particularly different about this day, except that she wanted to sit after a long day’s work. When ordered by the white bus driver to give up her seat to a white passenger, she simply refused, and her action led to a boycott of the city’s bus system. This event was the straw that broke the back of segregation in the South.

This was a stunning moment in time, not just a step along the way. It ultimately resulted in two of our nation’s landmark pieces of legislation, the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

The bus boycott was a memorable example of how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s tradition of nonviolent protests brought about important policy changes in our world.

In our nation’s ongoing struggle for civil rights, this boycott was a watershed event, and it is appropriate to be honoring it here today on the House floor.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. The boycott was a pivotal moment that turned the tide in this Nation’s history, and it was initiated by the simplest of actions, undertaken by the most unimposing of individuals—the late Rosa Parks, whose death on October 24 we continue to mourn.

In the United States, we are born and raised to believe in individual freedom and equality. We read of it in our founding documents, we live and breathe it, we are surrounded by it and it is reinforced, time and time again, by the denial of individual freedom and equality. Ms. Parks put the nation to a test of its principles, without knowing that her simple act of defiance would reverberate around the world.

What followed, as we all know, was nothing short of the transformation of the nation.

And so I rise today to again honor Rosa Parks, and to commemorate the Montgomery bus boycott, but also to acknowledge Ms. Parks, and to commemorate the Montgomery bus boycott, but also to acknowledge—

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ms. Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and all those who launched the Montgomery bus boycott, resulting in the end of segregation on buses and commencing the transformation of the Nation. I call on my colleagues to continue the unending struggle to make the United States the shining example of freedom, democracy and equality for all that the founding fathers intended to be and the civil rights movement brought into fruition.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and urge passage of this resolution. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to support the adoption of H. Con. Res. 273. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 273.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NAVAL VESSELS TRANSFER ACT OF 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1886) to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

The Clerk read as follows:

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 “Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. TRANSFERS BY GRANT.

The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321), as follows:

(1) GREECE.—To the Government of Greece, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship PELICAN (MHC-53).

(2) EGYPT.—To the Government of Egypt, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ships CARDIN (MHC-69) and SAVEN (MHC-61).

(3) PAKISTAN.—To the Government of Pakistan, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship FLETCHER (DD-991).

(4) TURKEY.—To the Government of Turkey, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship CUSHING (DD-985).

SEC. 3. TRANSFERS BY SALE.

The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778), as follows:

(1) INDIA.—To the Government of India, the AUGUST class amphibious transport dock ship TRENTON (LPD-14).

(2) GREECE.—To the Government of Greece, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship HERON (MHC-52).

(3) TURKEY.—To the Government of Turkey, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship O’BANNON (DD-987).

SEC. 4. GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.

The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by section 2 shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred to countries in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

SEC. 5. COSTS OF CEREMONIAL TRANSFERS.

Notwithstanding section 516(e)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321(e)(1)), any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized under section 2 shall be charged to the recipient.

SEC. 6. REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.

To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel, that the country to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed before the vessel joins the naval forces of that country is performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

SEC. 7. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.

The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1886.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1886, the Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005, which the Senate passed by unanimous consent on October 18, 2005. S. 1886 would authorize the transfers of eight decommissioned United States Navy vessels to other countries.

The bill’s provisions are nearly identical to those contained in section 751 of H.R. 2601, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, which would also authorize transfers of eight vessels to the same countries and on the same terms. H.R. 2601 passed the House on July 20 by recorded vote of 351 to 78.

The Senate has not yet completed floor consideration in this session of a Foreign Relations Authorization Act. If the Senate takes a stand-alone, 1996, authorizing the transfer of these eight vessels. Since timely action was necessary to ensure the smooth operation and effective use of the decommissioned ship assets of the United States Navy, this limited purpose bill is before us. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us accomplishes a simple
and straightforward task. It gives the Navy the authority to transfer excess U.S. Naval vessels to India, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt.

With these transfers our military will have greater interoperability with the allies and these nations, all of which are either key allies of the United States or are located in strategically important regions of the world.

It is my strong hope that these transfers will encourage these countries to expand their cooperation with the United States in our mutual struggle against terrorism in all its virulent and demented forms.

I would also note that our legislation has already been approved by the House as part of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act which has, unfortunately, languished in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1886.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3269) to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that Act to the Bank for International Settlements.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3269

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT.

The International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"Sec. 17. The provisions of this title may be extended to the Bank for International Settlements, otherwise known as the BIS, as an international organization under the International Organizations Immunity Act, otherwise known as IOIA, thus allowing the President to extend appropriate immunities to the BIS.

I should note at the outset that this legislation was requested by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and it is also strongly supported by the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury.

As Members may be aware, the BIS is an international organization that functions as a bank for central banks and is owned exclusively by central banks. Following consultation with the Executive Branch and Congressional leadership, the Federal Reserve formally joined the BIS Board of Directors in 1994.

The Federal Reserve currently holds two seats on the BIS board and participates actively in the important work of the BIS to promote international financial stability.

Because the BIS is indirectly owned by more than one foreign government, the immunities granted by the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act are not available to the BIS absent legislative action by the Congress under the framework provided by the IOIA for international organizations. I concur with the Federal Reserve as well as the Departments of State and Treasury in concluding that providing appropriate immunities to the BIS has significant merit at this time.

The BIS plays a critical role in financing large volumes of U.S. dollar transactions in the United States daily for its central bank customers. It has also been integral to international efforts to promote global financial stability in the face of emerging market financial crises, such as those that hallmark much of the last decade. Without extending immunities to the BIS, these transactions could be disrupted by mischievous lawsuits. This may create disincentives to conduct international transactions in dollars.

Moreover, an extension of immunity to the BIS in accordance with the provisions of this bill would provide protection of its assets held in the United States equivalent to the protection currently enjoyed by the European Central Bank and other international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Indeed, Congress addressed a parallel situation in 2002 when it passed legislation allowing for the President to extend immunities under the IOIA to the European Central Bank.

As I noted previously, the Federal Reserve and the Departments of State and Treasury strongly support this legislative initiative. I urge the Congress to designate the BIS as an international organization under the IOIA. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3269. At the outset, I want to congratulate my good friend from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for introducing this thoughtful legislation.

The Bank of International Settlements is the world’s oldest international financial institution and plays a little-known, but key, role as the central bank to central banks. It also provides technical assistance to central banks of developing countries.

As the BIS, the Federal Reserve has two members on the board, because of recent restructuring, the bank is now owned by those central banks that have deposits in it and therefore technically does not satisfy the requirements of the International Organizations Immunities Act, which extends immunity to organizations in which the United States is a member.

Our legislation applies these immunities to the bank, helping to maintain its important role and providing an incentive to keep these reserves in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman for his thoughtful comments, and I would only add that the BIS plays a critical role in attempting to combat money laundering and to block the transfer of terrorist financing. It is a critical institution, although little known to the public; but it clearly deserves the immunities that are established for other international organizations and other foreign governments.

I urge adoption of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3269.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules
and pass the bill (H.R. 2017) to amend the 'Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes. The Clerk reads as follows:

H.R. 2017

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 referred to as the ‘‘Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005.’’

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to ensure that, in its support abroad for programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, particular incentives and support should be given to establishing and supporting such programs and centers in emerging democracies, in post-conflict environments, and, with a view to providing services to refugees and internally displaced persons, in areas as close to ongoing conflict as safely as possible; and

(2) to ensure that, in its support for domestic programs for the treatment of victims of torture, particular attention should be given to regions with significant immigrant or refugee populations.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DOMESTIC TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Section 5(b)(1)(B) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152 note) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) $25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 and 2007.’’

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOREIGN TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Section 4(b)(1) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152 note) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 pursuant to chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated in addition to carry out section 130 of such Act $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and $13,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.’’

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 pursuant to chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President for a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture $7,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and $8,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, nationwide there are an estimated 400,000 torture survivors, most of whom came to the United States as refugees. Worldwide, it is impossible to count the numbers. As witnesses have repeatedly testified before our committee and before the Congress, the paralyzing scars from the physical and psychological wounds of torture impacts not only the individual victim but their families and society as well.

Yesterday, the first witnesses testified in the trial of Saddam Hussein. Demonstrating heroic courage, they described torture on a scale that is almost beyond belief and which is simply too grisly to be repeated here. Although these events described happened many years ago, their testimony is timely. The impact of torture has on those who survive it, their families and communities. There can be no doubt that Hussein’s systematic torture was intended not only to punish specific individual but to ensure an entire population into silence and into subservience. As we try to bring democracy to Iraq and to other parts around the globe, we must try to heal the victims of torture that was used to prevent democracy from taking hold in the past.

In 1998, Mr. Speaker, Congress took a historic step towards repairing the broken lives of torture victims with the passage of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998. I sponsored that legislation, and I was joined by my good friend and colleague (Mr. LANTOS), who has also been a hero in this battle to help torture victims. We also sponsored the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1999 and the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003. As important as these congressional measures have been, there continues to be a need for us to reach out to the victims of torture who oftentimes have no other recourse for their suffering. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to join us today in supporting H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005.

The domestic aspect of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is designed to ensure that particular attention is given to torture victims in regions with significant immigrant and refugee populations. The measure authorizes $25 million for fiscal year 2006 and $25 million for fiscal year 2007 to the Department of Health and Human Services to assist domestic treatment centers. This maintains the current $25 million authorization funding level for fiscal year 2005 for such centers.

Currently, 27 programs in 16 States are assisted by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement. In addition to direct assistance, many of these centers are also engaged in training mainstream organizations and personnel in the specialized treatment of torture victims.

The number of survivors seeking treatment at U.S. centers funded through the Torture Victims Relief and Reauthorization acts has steadily increased throughout the years. The clientele base at just 14 such centers increased from 935 in 1999 to 1,550 in 2000 to 2,579 in 2001. A subsequent survey showed that during 2002, 23 Torture Victim Relief Act-funded centers treated over 3,600 clients. With the additional funding, it is estimated the U.S. center base would have an additional capacity and the capability to serve an additional 2,800 survivors per year.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2017 also authorizes $12 million in 2006 and $13 million in 2007 for foreign treatment centers and programs administered through USAID’s Victims of Torture fund. This authorization would maintain the current fiscal year 2005 authorization for 2006 and increase it by $1 million for fiscal year 2007.

The bill gives particular emphasis to supporting centers and programs abroad in emerging democracies and post-conflict environments. Nongovernmental organizations that receive this funding provide direct services to survivors, their families, and their communities. They also strengthen institutions on the ground and the indigenous capacity of these institutions to deliver services to survivors. In addition to providing treatment, many of these programs advocate for the elimination of torture itself in these countries.

Lastly, the measure maintains current authorization levels of $7 million for fiscal year 2006 for the U.N. Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture. It would increase this funding to $8 million in fiscal year 2007, in just that one year alone, the U.N. fund assisted some 77,000 victims of torture. This type of humanitarian assistance provided by organizations which receive grants from the fund consists mainly of psychological, medical, social, legal, and economic assistance.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I attach for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman HYDE and Chairman BARTON on the bill H.R. 2017 ‘‘The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005.’’

H.R. 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The petition of the Committee on International Relations was presented.

Mr. BARTON, a Minority Whip, introduced the Committee on International Relations on the bill H.R. 2017 ‘‘The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005.’’
As you are aware, H.R. 2017 was additionally referred to your Committee. The bill contains language which falls within the Rule X jurisdiction of your Committee. Your Committee, therefore, intends to hold a public hearing on its jurisdictional provisions.

I wish to note that the Committee on Energy and Commerce waives its opportunity to mark up provisions referred to it. Timely action by the Energy and Commerce Committee will expedite consideration of this or similar measures.

In the event of a conference with the Senate on this matter, I will recommend that your Committee have the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

A copy of this letter and your reply will be placed in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the floor.

Sincerely,

Henry J. Hyde
Chairman.

House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC, December 1, 2005

Hon. Henry J. Hyde,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Hyde:

Thank you for your November 29, 2005 letter concerning H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005. As you know, the Committee on Energy and Commerce was named as an additional Committee of jurisdiction upon the bill’s introduction.

I recognize your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner. Accordingly, I will not exercise my Committee’s right to a full referral on the bill. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 2017. In addition, the Committee on Energy and Commerce reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. By waiving the opportunity to mark up the bill, I understand that your Committee does not waive its jurisdictional concern over this or similar measures. In addition, in the event of a conference with the Senate on this matter, I will recommend that your Committee have the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

Sincerely,

Joe Barton
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support of this legislation.

As the principal Democratic cosponsor of the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005, I would like to thank my good friend and distinguished colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his longstanding leadership on human rights in general and on issues relating to the despicable practice of torture in particular.

No one, Mr. Speaker, in this body has done as much to fight for victims of torture as has my friend from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

The Torture Victims Relief Act is an important expression of our outstanding commitment to combat the effects of the most despicable of all human rights violations, the increasing use of torture around the world.

Of course, exact figures are difficult to come by, but well over 100 countries are guilty of these abuses, as we saw yesterday and as we will meet here today. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the McCain amendment, which was overwhelmingly adopted by the other body. The McCain amendment prohibits any torture or inhumane, or degrading treatment by the United States of detainees wherever they are held; and its adoption into law will send a strong signal that the United States will not tolerate this despicable practice.

Mr. Speaker, over 400,000 survivors of overseas torture reside in the United States. Some 100 million may exist worldwide. More than 250 treatment centers operate globally with the sole purpose of providing crucial services to torture survivors.

In the United States, the Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota was the first of its kind in our country and the third torture victims center in the world.

The ramifications of torture practices are beyond the realm of comprehension. Torture leaves no victim unscathed. It shapes the remainder of his life. While physical wounds may ultimately heal, torture survivors need ongoing psychosocial services and therapy to cope with the post-traumatic stress that afflicts them daily. Recovering from torture is a long-term process. It can take years before torture survivors can once again feel emotionally stable and comfortable in society.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply troubled by the worsening financial situation facing many well-established centers in the United States. Many of these centers just developed this expertise and capacity to make a real impact in the treatment of survivors only to learn that their Federal funds were eliminated or reduced significantly.

In my own congressional district, the 12th District of California, Federal funds to several torture survivor centers were cut severely, despite the fact that they established themselves as outstanding institutions in the field.

This development happened despite the fact that the San Francisco area is one of the main ports of entry for survivors who are the victims and survivors of torture. In the county of Los Angeles alone, there are over 10,000 people that we can document that are the survivors of torture in the county of Los Angeles alone, there are over 10,000 people that we can document that are the survivors of torture.

I am therefore delighted that the findings section of the legislation before us makes it clear that particular attention must be given to regions such as Northern California with significant immigrant and refugee populations.

The legislation before the House will have a positive impact on the provision of assistance to the victims of torture. Mr. Speaker, I fully support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) who has been like a consistent drumbeat to champion another cause that will help, unfortunately, thousands, at least in this country, of individuals when we know that there are millions throughout the world. But at least here in this country, this act, if we are able to reauthorize it, will continue to help many people who are trying to get themselves back on their feet.

To the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), we want to say thank you for constantly being the light of the vigil and certainly the voices for many people who otherwise would not have that opportunity to have their life restored.

Mr. Speaker, we know that torture exists. We know that despicable acts continue throughout the world, and we know that there are people who actually survive some of the most heinous types of crimes that can be committed on any adults and children. And when that happens and some of those people are able to somehow make it to the land that we call the “land of the free,” it is sometimes very difficult for us to find them if they do not speak out.

And many of those folks will not speak out because the last thing they want to do is let anyone know that they, in fact, were tortured, or let the people that tortured them know that they are still alive. But these folks deserve some assistance.

It is not only fitting that we try to reauthorize this act, which will provide some assistance to some of the centers overseas in the United States but also abroad that are providing some noble work to those who need it, but they are doing this in a way that coordinates services that otherwise would have to be used by some of these victims of torture who are here in this country.

As the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) said, there are some 400,000 people in this country today who are the victims and survivors of torture. In the county of Los Angeles alone, there are over 10,000 people that we can document that are the survivors of torture.

If it were not for the coordination that these treatment centers provide in terms of health care, psychological services and the like, many of these folks would continue on in a cycle that I unfortunately think would be a cycle of dead-end roads, where they would not know where to go, principally because many come from other parts of the world, and also because they would not know how to navigate throughout this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2017.
Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional requests for time and yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker. I want to thank my good colleague from California for very kind remarks. This is a bipartisan legislation. We worked very closely with the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) to come up with what I think is a bill that will make a significant difference to help those who have suffered the cruelty of despotic regimes all over the world.

I just returned from a trip to Vietnam. I was in Hanoi, Hue, and finished the trip in Ho Chi Minh City; and during the course of more than 24 comprehensive meetings with religious and political people, many of whom are under house arrest, or pagoda arrest, including that of Thich Quang Do, the venerable leader of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, Father Li, Father Phan, and others. Many and every one of those circumstances, the more the conversation went on, the more you saw, while they suffered much in prison, especially for Father Li and others, they were subjected to torture and inhumane treatment.

Their faith helps them get through it. But for most beyond a facade of coping, the mental pain is overwhelming. They and so many others like them all over the world need what this kind of legislation provides. In the foreign treatment centers as well as our domestic centers. We have learned much about post-traumatic stress disorder. We have learned much of it through our work in this country through the VA and the fine work that the psychologists have done and the psychiatrists in mitigating the pain of our GIs who served in Vietnam and in other conflicts.

But for other people who have suffered so cruelly, being put into coffin-like boxes for days and weeks on end, leaves scars. Father Calciu, I will never forget, a great leader in Romania who spent years in Communist prisons, used to be put in these small boxes where he would suffer beyond words. It was his faith that got him through it, but he carries those scars.

There are people like Armanda Valadaries who wrote a book that should be read by everyone as a primer as to what the Castro regime does to its people, “Against All Hope.” Valadaries talks about the torture that he and so many others in Cuba have suffered. And he is one of the brave ones who endured and overcame. But so many others retreat and slide into despair, clinical depression, and then sometimes even to suicide.

Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to support this. In like manner, I urge the appropriators to ensure that we meet the authorized levels. Torture victims are the walking wounded and they are on our streets. As both the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and I said, 400,000 is the estimation of torture survivors living in the United States. Many of them came here as asylum seekers. Thank God they got the asylum status. Many others survive throughout the world and need the kind of services this legislation can provide.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005, to reauthorize and increase funding for the treatment of torture victims. As the ranking member of the Helsinki Commission I was pleased to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation, which was introduced by Chairman Chris Smith. The international community must aggressively address the issue of torture. The U.S. Government estimates that about 400,000 survivors of torture live in the United States, oftentimes after escaping persecution abroad for their political or religious beliefs.

This bill would provide funding for 27 treatment centers in the United States and almost 200 treatment centers in other countries through the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID. The bill authorizes $90 million for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. The Department of Health and Human Services, USAID, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

In my congressional district in Maryland, the Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma, ASTT, organization is one of the 27 nationwide treatment centers that is supported by this legislation. The Baltimore-based group was formed in 1994, and consists of physicians, psychologists, social workers, and human rights advocates who assist in supporting the victims of torture from all over the world. The center treats patients from Maryland, Washington DC, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Over the past 5 years this group has seen its client base increase from 25 patients to 181 patients. The vast majority of their patients are from Africa, although they also serve clients from Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. These professionals have been subjected to a horrifying range of physical and psychological torture. ASTT provides crucial psychological assessment and counseling to victims, works with other organizations to provide legal assistance to asylum seekers, and seeks to educate physicians and healthcare workers on how to identify and distinguish torture victims from other victims of violence. I congratulate and commend ASTT on their efforts.

Torture victims require specialized treatment and one of the critical things that is clear today we reauthorize the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998, TVRA, in order to meet the growing demand for treatment services provided by U.S. centers. U.S. centers have witnessed a significant increase in patients since the TVRA was enacted: from 935 in 1999 to 3,664 in 2002.

The reauthorization of this legislation would ensure that victims continue to receive the treatment that they so desperately need and that centers will be able to expand their existing programs to treat more survivors. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SÀBÔ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work that is being done to aid victims of torture, and to reemphasize my support for the reauthorization of the Torture Victims Relief Act, TVRA.

The enacted fiscal year 2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act provides $6.583 million for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and fully funds foreign treatment centers through the United States Agency for International Development. Both the House and Senate versions of the Labor HHS Appropriations bill provide $9.915 million for domestic torture treatment centers. We must continue to support a strong congressional commitment for programs under the Torture Victims Relief Act.

Minneapolis, MN is home to the United States first comprehensive torture treatment center, the Center for Victims of Torture, CVT. When CVT opened in 1985 they were the first center in the United States and only the third in the entire world.

Freedom from torture is a universal and fundamental human right. Yet torture continues to take place in more than 120 countries worldwide. It is estimated that one-third of the world’s 12 million refugees are victims of torture. Politicians, journalists, teachers, students, religious leaders, trade union and human rights activists are all targets. The aim of torture is not to kill the victim, but to break down the victim’s personality. Crippled, traumatized, and humiliated, the victims are returned to their communities as a warning to others.

There are more than 500,000 torture survivors in the United States alone—refugees and asylum seekers who have fled oppressive regimes. In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of victims of torture seeking help at U.S. rehabilitation centers. In the U.S. there are 34 rehabilitation centers and programs joined together under the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs, which was started by the Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota.

I have seen victims made whole after they received care at CVT. Restoring a torture survivor to full health has a lasting benefit for the entire community. For children CVT are now public school teachers, small business owners, nurses, doctors and more. I commend CVT for their tireless work on behalf of torture victims in the U.S. and worldwide, and encourage my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the Torture Victims Relief Act.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the passage of the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2017) and appreciate Representative Smith’s leadership on this important issue. This bill, if enacted into law and fully funded, will provide much needed assistance to victims of torture, both within the U.S. and internationally.

But I am deeply disheartened that the good intentions of H.R. 2017 will be undercut by the Administration’s refusal to unequivocally reject the use of torture not only for the military but also for the intelligence community. I do not naively believe that al-Qaeda or other Foreign Terrorist Organizations have any respect for the U.N. Convention Against Torture. But, the United States immediately loses the moral battle against terrorists when U.S. policy makes acceptations for torturers and disregards due process and the rule of law. That is why, with the ambiguity about U.S. policy on torture puts into jeopardy the lives of captured U.S. citizens, both military and civilian.
It is time for the House of Representatives to embrace Senator McCain’s anti-torture language and move on.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2017, “The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005.”

Torture is a devastating physical and psychological consequence for its victims. It is a worldwide health and human rights concern. The need for assistance for torture victims living in the United States is enormous. It is estimated that more than half a million survivors of torture, who fled persecution in their native countries, now live in the United States. Survivors of torture arriving in this country include students, academicians, religious leaders and political activists.

Programs funded through the Torture Victims Relief Act help torture victims heal and rebuild their lives. Because of this legislation, more than 30 organizations in more than 20 States are caring for refugees and asylum seekers who have been brutally tortured and traumatized in their countries of origin. Torture treatment programs funded by the Torture Victims Relief Act provide critical mental health care, mental health care, and social services.

I am proud that one of the leading centers in the United States, the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, is located in my district. This program is jointly sponsored by Bellevue Hospital’s New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York University School of Medicine, a leader in medical education and research. Since the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture began in 1995, more than 1,800 men, women, and children (more than 600 in the West Bank alone) from more than 70 countries have received vital care. The Bellevue/NYU Program has established an international reputation for excellence in its clinical, educational and research activities.

One patient cared for through the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture is Samten. He is a gifted painter and was a leading artist in Tibet. After being arrested and imprisoned for writing poetry critical of the government, he was brutally beaten. During an interrogation session, he was told that he “was causing nothing but trouble with his tongue” which were then forced into a coal oven. The severe burns caused significant scarring and disfigurement of his hands. He could barely hold a paintbrush and when he did, he had terrifying flashbacks of his abuse. Nightmares interrupted what little sleep he got.

At the time of referral to the Bellevue/NYU Program he did not have a regular place to stay. Through the Bellevue/NYU Program, he received primary medical care including pain management, treatment for exposure to tuberculosis, hand referral to hand specialists and subsequent hand surgery. Social service staff assisted him in finding housing and a pro bono attorney to represent him in his asylum case. He also attended a support group for Tibetan survivors which helped him to restore his dignity and their sense of trust. The centers also help them heal physically and psychologically, and assist them in getting on with their lives. Patients who have received care from the Bellevue/NYU Program and other torture treatment centers are now working, going to school, and again leading productive lives.

It is urgent that we continue to support torture treatment centers, both domestically and internationally, through the Torture Victims Relief Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITITI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2017.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

URGING MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO STOP SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS THAT UNFAIRLY CASTIGATE ISRAEL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 438) urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 438

Whereas the 60th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations is currently underway in New York City;

Whereas the State of Israel is a critical strategic ally of the United States in the Middle East and the only true democracy in the region;

Whereas 60 years ago the United Nations was founded, in part, to prevent another Holocaust from ever occurring;

Whereas three years after its founding, the United Nations passed General Assembly Resolution 181, which provided for the partition of Mandatory Palestine and the establishment on its territory of an independent Jewish state, which became the State of Israel;

Whereas in recent years, the General Assembly of the United Nations has engaged in a pattern of approving resolutions that unfairly criticize and condemn Israel;

Whereas during the 59th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the General Assembly adopted 21 resolutions criticizing Israel;

Whereas despite the myriad of challenges facing the world community, the General Assembly of the United Nations has devoted a vastly disproportionate amount of time and resources to castigating Israel;

Whereas for the past 30 years, the United Nations has funded three entities that support anti-Israel propaganda, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

Whereas the double standard against the State of Israel perpetrated at the United Nations is pervasive: of ten emergency special sessions called by the General Assembly of the United Nations, six have been about Israel, and since 1997, at the annual meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, only Israel has had its own agenda item (Item 8) dealing with its alleged human rights violations, whereas all other countries are dealt with in a separate agenda item (Item 9); and

Whereas the United Nations has a special responsibility to promote fair and equitable treatment of all member states of the United Nations: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives urges member states of the United Nations to:

(1) stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel; and

(2) promote within the United Nations system a more balanced and constructive approach to resolving conflict in the Middle East.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANDTSMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

MS. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was none.

MS. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 438, which I am proud to co-sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTTHAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for their initiative in drafting this measure.

Let me also thank the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations and the House leadership for moving this resolution to the floor so rapidly.

Mr. Speaker, as the current session of the General Assembly of the United Nations winds toward a close, there are still important decisions to be made. Will the United Nations reform itself along the lines suggested by the United States, indeed, by this House? Many of these reforms are being debated widely among the member states of the U.N. and even in some parts of its bureaucracy. Or will it continue along its way, wasting money and political capital on what lawyers might call “larks and detours”?

Among the most wasteful of the activities of the U.N. is its incestuous use of funds and time on anti-Israel-bashing resolutions and institutions. While these were never good ideas, and have been opposed by all American administrations, any excuse for supporting them has simply disappeared with the changes in the situation on the ground in the Middle East.
The resolution carefully catalogs the abysmal record of the United Nations’ one-sided criticism of Israel over the decades. I will not repeat the details that are covered in the resolution; but it is enough to say, enough is enough. It is time to bring this unacceptable behavior to an end.

The United Nation has legitimate work to do. It should not sully its hands further with this one-sided agenda which serves no useful purpose, but only prevents it from doing good where it might be able to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the administration which has been working on these issues energetically to increase its efforts to correct this situation, including through the elimination of Palestinian offices and commissions that serve to fuel the anti-Israel bias and the resolutions that they always consider.

I included such a mandate in the U.N. Reform Act, the Henry Hyde bill, and I look forward to working with the administration toward this goal.

When our current permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador John Bolton, was Assistant Secretary of State for organizational affairs, he administered the first President Bush, he executed a masterful strategy aimed at the repeal of the infamous Zionism is Racism resolution of the General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence that he will be working with the Department, he will have success in carrying out the agenda outlined in this resolution before us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to render their strong support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution because the pathology that infects the United Nations General Assembly is its continuing obsession with singling out and castigating the democratic nation of Israel by the passing of a series of outrageous resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my good friend and colleague from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) for offering this measure which encourages the U.N. to confront this pathology.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N.’s obsessive focus on the Jewish state is not just an obstacle to the promotion of peace between Israel and the Palestinian people. The massive amount of time and resources spent on this issue by the General Assembly and the so-called U.N. Human Rights Commission crowds out the consideration of truly critical problems such as the ongoing genocide in Darfur, the AIDS crisis in Africa, Mugabe’s murderous campaign against his own citizens in Zimbabwe, and scores of other international issues.

The climate created by the repeated passage of anti-Israeli measures at the U.N. also embodies the most hate-filled, ignorant, and pathological members of the international community such as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who recently declared that Israel should be wiped off the map. The U.N.’s repeated official condemnation of Israel’s efforts to provide basic security for its citizens also emboldens fundamentalist and terrorist attacks against innocent Israelis.

Just yesterday, five innocent Israeli civilians were killed by suicide bombers. Since Israel’s population is 1/60th of ours, this would have amounted to mass murder had it occurred in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, several recent developments have provided the U.N. with an opportunity to move past its shameful legacy of bias and hatred for Israel. After decades of exclusion from positions of leadership at the U.N., Israel has gained a more normal status at the U.N. organization, culminating in the recent historic election of Israeli Ambassador Gillerman as vice president of the General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N. currently has two bold and principled leaders who embody commitment to confronting the U.N.’s lingering anti-Semitism. Secretary General Kofi Annan has made numerous statements on this issue and convened an historic commemorative session on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps earlier this year.

The new president of the General Assembly, Sweden’s former distinguished ambassador here in Washington, my dear friend Jan Eliasson, pressured the General Assembly to adopt a U.N. date to memorialize the suffering of the Jewish people in the Holocaust as the first official act of the 60th session.

Mr. Speaker, the current U.N. reform effort also presents the organization with an opportunity to eliminate the three councils that support anti-Israel propaganda: The Division For Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Human Rights Practices Affecting the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. That is quite a title for an organization, which is useless.

Mr. Speaker, I earnestly hope that the U.N. will take advantage of this moment and will begin to reverse its pattern of outrageous attacks on Israel. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 438.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to my good friend and distinguished colleague from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN), the sponsor of the resolution.

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership on all these issues and for yielding me time. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) for all her support for reforms at the U.N., as well as support for the State of Israel, what is right, and my dear friend and colleague on the House Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Kinz), for his leadership and support of a number of issues relating to reforms at the U.N. and various other issues that we hold very near and dear to our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, what if I were to ask you the following question. Maybe you would possibly guess what the answer. As you know, the United Nations has about 190 countries in it, 190 countries in the United Nations. What if I told you that over the last 30 years, about on average one-third of each of the resolutions each year at the United Nations for the last 30 years, about one-third of the resolutions relate to criticizing one country, every year, one-third of the resolutions of the General Assembly of the U.N.?

You would say, wow, one country gets one-third of the resolutions at the U.N.? What country deserves the attention, the energy, the money, the hot air of the U.N. and the condemnation of that world body? Well, you would have to be looking at the sliver of the sword in the Sudan, the genocide in Rwanda or Cambodia or Bosnia, or the actions of Saddam Hussein’s Iraq. Maybe those nations. Well, we are only talking about one, so it cannot be all of them. Would it be the one that for 30 years has gotten one-third of the resolutions condemning a country?

What if I told you that the country that for the last 30 years was condemned with 30 percent of the resolutions at the U.N., the only country, was the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East? They get one-third of the resolutions of the U.N. addressed to it, the State of Israel, condemn it, holocaustic of it.

You would say, wow, what did Israel do to deserve that? Is it because Israel is a democracy and the world does not like democracies? The U.N. is against democracies, so they attack the only democracy in the Middle East? Or maybe you are more cynical and you say, ah hah, the Arab world does not like the State of Israel, so since the Arab world has all the oil, maybe that is why the U.N. devotes one-third of its resolutions every single year criticizing Israel, because they have no oil and the Arabs do not like Israel. Or maybe it is because Israel is America’s best friend in the Middle East, its most reliable and trusted ally in the Middle East, and maybe that is why the U.N. does not like Israel. Or maybe you might say maybe it is because Israel is the only Jewish state in the world. Maybe that is why the U.N., of the 190 nations, singles out Israel for one-third of its resolutions a year, every year, for the last 30 years.

The 5 million Jews in Israel deserve castigation and condemnation, out of the 6 billion people on the planet, and
we pay American taxpayer dollars to finance the U.N. to do that? It is ab-
surd. It is immoral. It is shameful.

Yet just last week, the United Na-
tions again passed six more resolutions
condemning the State of Israel. And if it is the practice of the Arab world, this year the United Nations
will expend one-third of its resolutions
criticizing one nation in the world, the
tiny state, the only democracy in the
Middle East, the only Jewish state in
the world, the State of Israel.

Something is terribly wrong, Mr. Speaker, and I have put together, with the help and
support of the leadership of both par-
ties, on the IR Committee and in the
House, simply says to the United Na-
tions that they should stop supporting
these resolutions, wasting their money
attacking America’s best friend, the
only Jewish state in the world, and in-
stead use their energy, if they want to
focus on the Middle East, how about the
slaughter going on in all the dicta-
torships in the Arab world?

Why does the U.N. not spend its
money more constructively if they want
that to happen. Now is the time
tof its citizens, and it has

But I must tell you this: The Amer-
can taxpayers are sick and tired, as
are the Members of this House of Rep-
resentatives, of the United Nations wasting our taxpayer money to attack
our best friend for no reason with double
standards. It is shameful, it is fraudulent, it is slanderous. There is no
way to describe their lies being offered
up as truths. And we are paying for it
as a member nation of the U.N.? That
is wrong.

The U.N. must stop its double stand-
ard against the State of Israel, wasting
one-third of its resolutions for the
whole year attacking Israel, or they are
going to have to deal with the con-
sequences.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I
yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from
Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Ms. KIRK asked and was given per-
mission to revise and extend his re-
marks.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the
gentlewoman from Florida for bringing
this resolution forward, and especially
a man that we all follow his leadership
for unity in the fight against human rights and the
individual, the gentleman from Cali-
ifornia (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. Speaker, we founded the United Nations 50 years ago with the promise of “never again.” The Nazi Holocaust had just gone on in Europe and the
Nazi Holocaust had just gone on in Europe and the
world and to the civilized world
world and to the civilized world
we would never again allow such a
brutal genocide. Two years later, we

fulfilled the first step in that promise
by passing a plan for Palestine, grant-
ing the Jewish people a homeland of
their own in a world that had sought
their destruction.

How 50 years can change things.
Today in every world conflict, defen-
sed and helped, the Jewish state works almost daily to make it a
pariah in the world. The U.N. General
Assembly has evolved into a relent-
lessly anti-Israel body, scapegoating
the preeminent democracy in the Mid-
dle East, for the bulk of the world’s
problems.

When Jews are murdered in shopping
malls in Netanya or in pizza parlors in
Jerusalem, the General Assembly is si-
 lent. When Jews stand up against ter-
rorism and defend themselves, that is
when the General Assembly erupts into
condemnation.

There is now a chilling double stand-
ard at the United Nations that roots
itself in the very ideology we defeated
in Europe and rooted in a new 21st century anti-Semitism that
targets the political manifestation
of the Jewish people.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Israel once
again face a threat of genocide and an-
nihilation. May it be averted by the
existential threat, from the President of Iran who
outlined his vision of a world without a
State of Israel and highlighted his pur-
suit of nuclear power until that vision
is realized.

The United Nations cannot sit by and
allow that to happen. Now is the time
to fulfill our promise, never again. We
need to wake up now and see the United Nations for what it is, not what
it was. What it is now, in part, is a cor-
rupt and anti-Semitism organization.
What it should become is a reformed
body that fulfills the promise Mrs.
Roosevelt set for it as a dream and a
force for peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my
friend from New Jersey for his leader-
ship on this issue, and also thank the
gentlewoman from Florida and the gen-
tleman from California for bringing
this key resolution to the floor.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I
yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentle-
woman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has
supported three resolutions, which praise Palestinian actions while
condemning Israeli self-defense. Rather
than promoting democracy in the Mid-
dle East, the U.N. continually strikes
at Israel, even though it is the only
true democracy in that region. The
United Nations cannot sit by and allow
that to happen. Now is the time
to fulfill our promise, never again.
Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my
friend from New Jersey for his leader-
ship on this issue, and also thank the
gentlewoman from Florida and the gen-
tleman from California for bringing
this key resolution to the floor.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I
yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentle-
woman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has
supported three resolutions, which praise Palestinian actions while
condemning Israeli self-defense. Rather
than promoting democracy in the Mid-
dle East, the U.N. continually strikes
at Israel, even though it is the only
true democracy in that region. The
United Nations cannot sit by and allow
that to happen. Now is the time
to fulfill our promise, never again.

Mr. Speaker, I have a simple request
for the United Nations: Please do your
job. Stop wasting our time with your
anti-Israel political agenda and start
doing something useful, might, might
be really be really like really like really like really real the Oil
For-Food scandal and holding the re-
sponsible parties accountable.

Most importantly, take a fair and
balanced approach towards solving the
problems that are plaguing the Middle
East. If we are honestly trying to bring
peace to the Middle East, we must help
the Palestinians establish their own
independent state, while at the same
time showing them they must live in
peaceful coexistence with Israel.

Mr. Speaker, the President of Iran re-
cently said that Israel needs to be
wiped off the face of the map, yet no
one at the U.N. made more than a pass-
ing reference to these outrageous
comments. The United Nations must real-
ize that all member states deserve re-
spect, and that these kinds of hateful,
anti-Semitic remarks offend fair-minded
people throughout the entire world.

I urge our colleagues to support H.
Res. 438 and ask that the United Na-
tions as well take a balanced approach
to the problems facing the Middle East.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I
yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from
New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman
for the time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I
yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from
New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).
done so while enduring literally decades upon decades of violent attacks from many of its neighbors.

The U.N.’s bias has only served, however, to embolden Israel’s enemies and to promote an anti-Israel attitude. That body’s record of lagging in promoting Israel’s security and friendship, its tendency to favor its enemies and to denigrate Israel, is well known and well documented.

Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from meetings in the European Union. I and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and other colleagues urged European Union officials to switch U.N. General Assembly from “abstention” to “no” on those resolutions which fund anti-Israel entities. I say to our friends in the European Union, an abstention is the equivalent of voting “yes” and continuing the bias against Israel. By voting “no,” the EU can join the United States in dissolving these inherently discriminatory panels, transfer the funds to a real humanitarian purpose, and move unequivocally to the realm of honest broker.

Mr. Speaker, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not be solved by continuation on one side. Israel, by tolerating such action, the organization responsible for maintaining world peace is actually exacerbating the conflict by discriminating against a member state.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 438.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker I rise in support and as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 438, which urges member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East.

Israel is a critical strategic ally of the United States and is the only true democracy in the region. The Middle East is a region that the United States and Israel must continue to work closely together to eliminate terrorism and foster the spread of democracy and economic prosperity throughout the Middle East.

The state of Israel, founded shortly after the Holocaust, serves as a safe haven and strong voice for Jews around the world. “The Charter of the United Nations—adopted after the end of World War II—states that the U.N. is founded to “maintain international peace and security” and “develop friendly relations among nations.” The Charter also states that “[this] Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members.”

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has utterly failed to live up to the principles and obligations of its charter when it comes to its treatment of Israel. The United Nations has a long history of singling out Israel for unfair, biased, and one-sided criticism and treatment. Let me mention just a few examples that I am aware of in recent years:

1. The United Nations member states are expected to sponsor resolutions every year that unfairly condemn and castigate the State of Israel. These resolutions are biased and one-sided, and I am disappointed that the United States has not focused its efforts on condemning and bringing an end to Palestinian terrorist attacks launched against Israel.

2. The United Nations has a critical role to play in the 21st century in its role as peacekeeper, election monitor, and humanitarian relief provider. The U.N. has also made great strides in promoting the rule of law and democracy. Unfortunately, the U.N. to date has not played a constructive role in resolving conflict in the Middle East, and the U.N. allowed itself to be hijacked by those with a political agenda. I have also written to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and expressed my concerns about anti-Semitic statements made by U.N. officers, and have urged him to follow the lead of the Helsinki Commission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in combating anti-Semitism. I hope today’s resolution will cause the U.N. and its member states to reassess their attitudes toward Israel and to reflect on how they can use the U.N. to make a constructive and meaningful contribution to international peace and security.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my fellow colleague from New Jersey, Congressman ROTHMAN, for sponsoring this important resolution which addresses the unfair treatment of Israel in the United Nations. To frequently we witness the destructive effects of anti-Semitism, hatred and intolerance on innocent people around the world. Just this past weekend, a suicide bomber killed five people and wounded at least 66 others at a shopping mall in Netanya, Israel. Year after year, members of the U.N. have manifested themselves in U.N. resolutions that unfairly condemn and castigate the State of Israel. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution that criticizes the blatant anti-Israel tone within the United Nations and calls on the United Nations to encourage a more balanced approach to the Middle East conflict.

At a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world, the United Nations should investigate so-called Israeli Human Rights Abuses. These bodies serve no other purpose than to bash Israel and endorse the cause of one side in the long-standing conflict. Such discriminatory treatment of Israel discredits the entire United Nations organization and makes the U.N. image tarnished.

1. The United Nations General Assembly has consistently been denied full admission to its regional grouping, which violates the U.N. Charter guarantee of “sovereign equality” and denies Israel the right to fully participate in all U.N. functions.

Out of the ten emergency special sessions called by the United Nations General Assembly, six have related to the last year’s session of the U.N. General Assembly, the body adopted a total of 71 resolutions by roll call vote, 21 of which (roughly 30 percent) criticized Israel. These resolutions are biased and one-sided, and I am disappointed that the U.N. has not focused its efforts on condemning and bringing an end to Palestinian terrorist attacks launched against Israel.

Finally, I want to cite the recent bipartisan task force report issued in June 2005 entitled “American Interests and U.N. Reform: Report of the Task Force on the United Nations.” The report, authored by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, found that “systematic hostility” against Israel is “routinely expressed, organized, and funded” within the U.N. system, which treats Israel as a “second-class citizen.”

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has a critical role to play in the 21st century in its role as peacekeeper, election monitor, and humanitarian relief provider. The U.N. has also made great strides in promoting the rule of law and democracy. Unfortunately, the U.N. to date has not played a constructive role in resolving conflict in the Middle East, and the U.N. allowed itself to be hijacked by those with a political agenda. I have also written to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and expressed my concerns about anti-Semitic statements made by U.N. officers, and have urged him to follow the lead of the Helsinki Commission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in combating anti-Semitism. I hope today’s resolution will cause the U.N. and its member states to reassess their attitudes toward Israel and to reflect on how they can use the U.N. to make a constructive and meaningful contribution to international peace and security.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my fellow colleague from New Jersey, Congressman ROTHMAN, for sponsoring this important resolution which addresses the unfair treatment of Israel in the United Nations. To frequently we witness the destructive effects of anti-Semitism, hatred and intolerance on innocent people around the world. Just this past weekend, a suicide bomber killed five people and wounded at least 66 others at a shopping mall in Netanya, Israel. Year after year, members of the U.N. have manifested themselves in U.N. resolutions that unfairly condemn and castigate the State of Israel. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution that criticizes the blatant anti-Israel tone within the United Nations and calls on the United Nations to encourage a more balanced approach to the Middle East conflict.

At a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world, the United Nations should
be taking a strong stance in support of tolerance. Instead, it is funding entities that support anti-Israel propaganda; it has dedicated over half of its emergency special sessions to Israel; and it continues to single out Israel for human rights violations in both the annual meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and in thirty percent of the resolutions voted on by the UN General Assembly each year.

Let me be clear—there have been some improvements, such as the election of Israel’s Ambassador to the vice presidency of the 60th General Assembly. Yet Israel still remains the only member nation that has been denied admission to its regional grouping.

In 1948, the United Nations established the State of Israel as a homeland and refuge for Jewish people around the world. It is shameful that 57 years later, anti-Semitism has not gone away but is on the rise.

The United Nations Charter calls for its members to practice tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbors. Yet the UN’s unbalanced approach toward the situation in the Middle East in general, and toward Israel in particular, risks undermining this foundation.

The United Nations should be a bastion of equal rights, equal voices, equal treatment and, when necessary, equal condemnation. If it cannot be an impartial judge of circumstances, the UN risks losing its credibility in the Middle East and undermining any future peace process.

I join my colleagues in supporting this bill to call on the United Nations to stop unfairly criticizing Israel, to support fair and equal treatment of all member nations.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this resolution offers support for our closest ally, Israel, and calls upon member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly criticize Israel.

Israel is the only member-state in the UN that is prevented from belonging to the regional grouping which it geographically belongs in and is, therefore, prevented from participating in much of the ordinary work of the UN. Israel cannot vote for or be elected to many of the UN’s central organizations. Just as troubling as being denied full membership, however, is the disproportionate number of resolutions passed in the UN that unfairly criticize Israel.

Anti-Israel resolutions are often adopted in agencies, and on issues which have no relevance to the work or mandate of these organizations. Additionally, the Commission on Human Rights routinely adopts a grossly disproportionate number of resolutions concerning Israel. Of all condemnations of this agency, 26 percent refer to Israel alone, while states such as Syria and Libya are rarely criticized.

Another egregious example of bias against Israel is the fact that the UN has repeatedly held Emergency Special Sessions of the General Assembly on Israeli construction in Jerusalem. The Emergency Special Session was originally conceived in 1950 for emergencies like the Korean War, however in the last two decades, these special meetings have only been held regarding Israel. Emergency Special Sessions have not been convened over the genocide in Rwanda, ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, or with regard to the other major world conflicts.

Since joining the United Nations on May 11, 1949, Israel has been singled out time and again for disproportionate criticism, underrepresented on important committees, denied full membership in regional groupings and constantly attacked by a bloc of Arab states and their supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this resolution to once again reaffirm our support for Israel, and to urge members of the UN to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly criticize Israel and prevent Israel from fully participating in the UN.

It is time for the United Nations as a whole to reevaluate its priorities. We have no additional requests for time, and we yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 438, as amended). The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore announced that the resolution (H. Res. 438) had been agreed to.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 535) honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death.

The Clerk read as follows:

WHEREAS Yitzhak Rabin was born March 1, 1922, in Jerusalem;
WHEREAS Yitzhak Rabin volunteered for the Palmach, the elite unit of the Haganah (predecessor of the Israeli Defense Forces), and served for 27 years, including during the 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 Suez War, and as chief of staff in the June 1967 Six-Day War;
WHEREAS in 1975, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the interim agreement with Egypt (Sinai II) which laid the groundwork for the 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt;
WHEREAS on November 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was brutally assassinated after attending a peace rally in Tel Aviv where his last words were: ‘‘I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace . . . Peace is what the Jewish People aspire to.’’; and
WHEREAS Yitzhak Rabin dedicated his life to the cause of peace and security for the State of Israel by defending his nation against all threats, including terrorism and summons courageous leaders in the pursuit of peace: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved. That the House of Representatives:
(1) honors the historic role of Yitzhak Rabin for his distinguished service to the Israeli people and extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Yitzhak Rabin and the people of Israel on the tenth anniversary of his death;
(2) recognizes and reiterates its continued support for the close ties and special relationship between the United States and Israel;
(3) expresses its admiration for Yitzhak Rabin’s legacy and reaffirms its commitment to the process of building just and lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors;
(4) condemns any and all acts of terrorism; and
(5) reaffirms unequivocally the sacred principle that democratic leaders and governments must be changed only by the democratically-expressed will of the people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LAN- TOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

WHEREAS the peace movement has the support of the Palestinian people: ‘‘We say to you today in a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough! We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side by side with you—in dignity, empathy, as human beings, as free men.’’;
WHEREAS Yitzhak Rabin received the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his vision and bravery as a peacemaker, saying at the time: ‘‘There is only one radical means of sanctifying human lives. Not armored plating, or tanks, or planes, or concrete fortifications. The one radical solution is peace.’’;
WHEREAS on October 26, 1994, Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan; and
WHEREAS on November 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was brutally assassinated after attending a peace rally in Tel Aviv where his last words were: ‘‘I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace . . . Peace is what the Jewish People aspire to.’’; and

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include this unanimous consent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 535, honoring the life, the legacy and the example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for introducing this resolution. I would also like to thank the leadership, along with Chairman
Just 3 weeks ago, it was my great honor to represent the Congress at the official remembrance ceremony for Prime Minister Rabin at his grave on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. It was a deeply emotional event and a spell-binding experience.

Prime Minister Rabin symbolized the complexities of Israeli society. He fought in the war of independence, which established the State of Israel in 1948, and spent much of his professional life in the battlefield defending the State of Israel militarily.

However, his contributions to the greater battle for Israel’s security through a negotiated solution is what the people of Israel, the Palestinians, and, indeed, the rest of the world remember most 10 years after he uttered his last words of hope and peace in 1995.

Under Prime Minister Rabin’s leadership, Israel signed a Declaration of Principles Agreement with the Palestinians in 1993 and a peace treaty with Jordan a year later.

In 1994, Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize, saying the following about making peace with the Palestinians at the time: “Mistakes could topple the whole structure and bring disaster down upon us despite the toll of murderous terrorism, despite fanatic and scheming enemies. We will pursue the course of peace with determination and fortitude. We will not let up. We will not give in. Peace will triumph over all our enemies, because the alternative is grim for us all.”

Prime Minister Rabin paid the ultimate price for peace; and after his death his beloved wife, Leah Rabin, carried on her husband’s message. After Mrs. Rabin’s passing from lung cancer, her daughter Dalia Rabin is leading her father’s mission for hope and peace. This resolution is also a testament to their hard work and commitment to the ideals of their father and husband, Yitzhak Rabin.

Thanks to the generosity of so many people, Mr. Rabin’s legacy will permanently be commemorated in the State of Israel through the opening of the Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAUTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before the House today honors the memory of one of the 20th century’s most remarkable leaders.

It has now been more than a decade since Yitzhak Rabin was laid to rest. and his homeland. He became a warrior, a strategist, a politician, a diplomat, a statesman, and a peacemaker.

He became a general, a chief of staff, an ambassador, a defense minister, and a prime minister.

Rabin, Annette, and I were privileged to know him in all of his various roles. We knew him and his wife Leah well, and we loved them dearly. Rabin was already a giant of Israeli history when he initiated the period of intense peace-making that began with the Oslo Agreements. For all his many legendary accomplishments, it is that period that dominates our memory of him, in part because it contrasted so sharply with the military glories of his past and because he was cruelly and tragically forced to exit the scene before he found out if his labors for peace would bear fruit.

President Clinton has said that there undoubtedly would have been peace had Rabin lived. I am not so sure. But I do know this: It is more than possible that Rabin’s best efforts would have been thwarted by the devious and malevolent Arafat, just as the best efforts of Rabin’s successors were.

To me, one aspect of Rabin’s life stands out above all others. He was a leader. Shimon Peres said it well of Prime Minister Rabin at his funeral, calling him “a rare leader, capable of uprooting mountains and blazing trails, of designating a goal and achieving it.”

Many qualities contributed to his supreme leadership skills, not least his thorough identification with his people, their aspirations, their anguish, and their sorrows. But his extra dimension, what made him a special leader, a giant among giants, was his remarkable intellect and his capacity for intellectual growth. As he aged, his mind seemed to grow ever more keen and supple. When he signed the agreement with Arafat in 1995, he explained in a gravelly voice and in piercing insights and sometimes gruff style seemed to epitomize a Nation renowned both for brilliance and directness.

In his last years, at times he publicly reflected on the meaning of peace and war and life and death. And, when he did so, he surprised many of us by revealing in a gravelly voice and in incongruously defined tones, a soul seemingly forged by the pests and the profits.

His story has been told and retold many times and is familiar to most of us. As a youth, he turned down a British mandate scholarship that would have allowed him to study hydraulic engineering at Berkeley, my alma mater, and perhaps pursue a life of more conventional success. Instead, he anchored his life to serving his people.

When he embraced peace, Rabin implicitly created an operational paradigm for a two-state solution, subsequently adopted by our own government, a paradigm that remains at the heart of all realistic visions of peace today, a paradigm that has been embraced and elaborated upon by some of his fiercest critics.
Above all, Rabin believed passionately in democracy and its values. In his final speech, at the peace rally in Tel Aviv, and President Clinton and Condoleezza Rice and several of us, several tens of thousands of us attended a similar rally at the same place 3 weeks ago, he indicated that he was aware of foreboding intelligence reports because he warned, and I quote, "violence undermines the very foundations of democracy. Controversies may arise in democracy, but the decision must be made through democratic elections." Moments later, he became a martyr to a gunshot.

Today, 10 years after the tragedy, we look at Rabin even with the clear-headedness that was his own hallmark, and we recognize him as one of the towering figures of our lifetime. We miss him, but we are guided by his multiple legacy of courage and wisdom and belief in the unflagging importance of U.S.-Israeli friendship and his intertwined commitment to security and peace.

It is very appropriate that our body honor the memory of one of our great late friends, Mr. Speaker. I strongly support this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. Engel).

Mr. Engle. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 314, which I introduced on the 10th anniversary of his assassination. I am honored to be the sponsor of this resolution, and I would like to thank my colleagues on the International Relations Committee for their assistance and support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as was mentioned by my colleagues, November 4th marked the 10th anniversary of the brutal assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, a warrior turned peacemaker. In a recent national poll, Israelis ranked Rabin’s assassination as the third most formative event in the Nation’s history, after the 1967 and 1973 wars. Rabin’s impact in life was tremendous and his loss to the world is incalculable.

I remember attending his funeral in Israel with many Members of this body and the other body as well, and many leaders, international leaders, and leaders of other nations. Who can forget the moving eulogy by then President Bill Clinton, who, among other things, said about Mr. Rabin, “shalom chaver,” which means “goodbye friend.”

Mr. Speaker, my legislation highlights the legacy of the man. The Hebrew word for the anniversary of a death is Yizkor, which simply means remember. While mourning his loss, we must also celebrate his life.

Yitzhak Rabin dedicated his life to the cause of peace and security for the State of Israel by defending his nation against all threats, including terrorism, and undertaking courageous risks in the pursuit of peace. By adopting this resolution, Congress will honor the life, legacy, and example of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

This resolution expresses our admiration for Mr. Rabin’s legacy and recognizes his historic service to the Israeli people, while restating our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family and the people of Israel. It also reiterates our continued support for the close ties and special relationship between the United States and Israel and the building of a just and lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors.

We also condemn any and all acts of terrorism, including one that happened just the other day in Netanya, and reaffirm unequivocally the sacred principle that democratic leaders and governments must be changed only by the democratically expressed will of the people.

Rabin was the first Sabra, a native-born Israeli, to become prime minister. As was mentioned by Mr. Speaker, November 4th marked the 10th anniversary of his assassination. Rabin’s life mirrors the conflicting nature of his country, fiercely wielding the sword of war when necessary, and now offering a hand of peace to all of his region’s neighbors. Few will be considered to have been more dedicated to the security and safety of his country than Yitzhak Rabin.

As a young man, Rabin’s character was hardened by war. He joined the army at 18 years old, before it was named the Israeli Defense Force, before the state of Israel existed. He would serve in the military for 27 years, fighting in the 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 Suez War, and as Chief of Staff in the June 1967 Six-Day War when Mr. Prime Minister Rabin signed the Interim Agreement with Egypt, which laid the groundwork for the 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt. He also served as ambassador here in Washington, D.C., from 1968 to 1973, Minister of Defense from 1984 to 1990, and Prime Minister from 1974 to 1977 and from 1992 until his assassination in 1995.

On September 13, 1993, in Washington, D.C., Yitzhak Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles framework agreements with Israel and the Palestinians. I remember it well. I attended with my wife, who was then 7 months pregnant, and we arrived at the White House lawn and watched the historic ceremony because we wanted to be a part of it. Upon signing, Rabin said to the Palestinian people, “We say to you today in a loud and clear voice, enough of blood and tears. Enough. We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side-by-side with you, in dignity, empathy, as humans beings, as friends and neighbors.”

He received the 1994 Nobel Prize For Peace for his vision and bravery as a peacemaker. The following year, as was pointed out, Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty between their countries, and we know about the tragic assassination. As was stated before, his last words were, “I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace, peace is what the Jewish people aspire to.”

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, Israel and the world lost a leader of vision and strength. Former Prime Minister Rabin epitomized the essence of the State of Israel, fierce in his defense of his homeland, but always willing to go the extra mile for peace. As we remember him on the tenth anniversary of his death, let us express the hope that Israel and its neighbors will someday experience the peace that he worked so hard to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor the distinguished life and legacy of Yitzhak Rabin by
Rabin’s service to the nation of Israel began with his work in the Israeli Defense Forces. Rabin rose to the position of Chief of Staff, and under his command, Israel was able to successfully defend itself against its neighboring states during the Six-Day War. Following this war in 1967, Rabin was chosen to serve as ambassador to the United States. In 1973 he was elected to the Knesset. Only one year later, Rabin was chosen to be the leader of the labor party, eventually being elected Prime Minister of Israel. While in Rabin’s second run as Prime Minister, he made it a priority to solve the Palestinian conflict. His tireless efforts on that behalf led to the Oslo Accords. For his efforts Rabin was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

As we all know, Prime Minister Rabin was murdered in Tel Aviv by a citizen who did not support his efforts towards achieving peace. I had the opportunity, along with President Clinton and several other Members of Congress, to attend his funeral in Israel. It was one of the most moving ceremonies to which I have ever been.

We remember Yitzhak Rabin today as a great man who worked his whole life to protect and strengthen the free state that is Israel. His leadership, from the army during his military career as I.D.F. Chief of Staff, through his various political roles, his service to the government and the people of Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death.

My first trip to Israel was to attend Mr. Rabin’s funeral. During my most recent trip to Israel I joined thousands of Israelis and other international guests in a moving tribute to his distinguished life.

Yitzhak Rabin said that, “politicians are elected by adults to represent the children.” In my eyes, Rabin was a man that politicians could look up to for his tremendous valor and courage. During the peace rally in Tel Aviv where he was brutally assassinated his last words were: “I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace. Peace is what the Jewish People want.”

Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to be a peacemaker to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 353 to honor the legacy and life work of Mr. Rabin.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 538. On the 10-year anniversary of his death, I believe that it is important to think back and honor the life of Yitzhak Rabin, for he was a great figure in the pursuit of worldwide peace and stability in the Middle East. During his two terms as Prime Minister of Israel, Rabin attempted to work for a negotiated peace, then Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat to bring about a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

I had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Rabin and value his memory. Mr. Rabin was an extraordinary man, and not enough can be said about his dedication to the Israeli people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 353 to honor the legacy and life work of Mr. Rabin.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to be a peacemaker to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to be a peacemaker to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to be a peacemaker to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to be a peacemaker to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to be a peacemaker to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to be a peacemaker to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to be a peacemaker to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 353, honoring the life, lega...
further emergency assistance: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—

(1) Congress—
(A) mourns the horrific loss of life caused by the floods and mudslides that occurred in October 2005 in Central America and Mexico;
(B) expresses its deep condolences to the families of the victims;
(C) commits to provide the necessary resources and to stand by the people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico in the relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts;
(D) applauds the prompt humanitarian response to this natural disaster by the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Department of Defense, and other departments and agencies of the United States Government, the United Nations and other international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations;
(E) recognizes the growing support by international donors for relief efforts;
(F) affirms its commitment to additional United States support for relief and long-term reconstruction efforts in areas affected by the flooding;
(G) urges continued attention by donors and other international organizations to the needs of vulnerable populations in the stricken countries, particularly those left homeless by this disaster and whose welfare and economic livelihoods have been disrupted;
(H) urges assistance which targets immediate and long-term infrastructure needs, with a special emphasis on improvements that aim to increase emergency preparedness and withstand future natural disaster events; and
(I) encourages the Administration and other international donors to provide immediate and long-term assistance for the reconstruction of affected infrastructure that is a requisite for the economic and social development of the devastated communities and:

(2) It is the sense of Congress that it should be the policy of the United States—
(A) to promote economic growth and improved living standards, reduce poverty, and promote democracy and the rule of law in the countries of Central America;
(B) in concert with multilateral humanitarian organizations, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank, to actively support the reconstruction of affected communities in places to be determined by respective governments in collaboration with representatives of such communities;
(C) to expedite humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts in order to mitigate the immediate and long-term threats to public health, economic development, and security in Central America;
(D) to provide technical assistance to Central American governments in order to strengthen the capacity of first responders and governmental institutions at the national, provincial, and local levels. Furthermore, this legislation recognizes that there is immediate and long-term infrastructure needs, with a special emphasis on improvements that aim to increase emergency preparedness and withstand future natural disasters;
(E) to encourage the governments of these countries to improve disaster mitigation techniques and compliance among all key sectors of their societies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.
seem to know no bounds. The year began with the aftermath of the horrendous tsunami in Southeast Asia, only to be followed by a brutal hurricane season which included hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

While we in the United States have rightly come to associate these hurricanes with the apocalyptic destruction that they inflicted on our Gulf Coast States, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and to a lesser extent, Hurricane Wilma have left their imprint not only on Mexico but on our own state of Florida, just one week before Hurricane Rita hit.

The hurricanes brought similar havoc in Mexico and Central American countries codes as well. In Mexico, as in southern states like Oaxaca were forced to evacuate to shelters and up to 40 percent of the homes in popular tourist destinations like Cancun were severely damaged.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to contribute to the rebuilding and recovery efforts in Mexico and in affected Central American countries, we must ensure that our joint efforts to reconstruct homes, health facilities, schools, and other buildings increase the likelihood that these structures will withstand similar natural disasters which are sure to come in the future.

Working with volunteers from two organizations in my congressional district, I believe twin strategies are necessary to help guarantee that these structures are safe and strong. A friend and neighbor of mine, David Rivard, created an organization called Coda, while his wife created an organization called Airline Ambassadors International. David and Nancy Rivard are extraordinary and exemplary citizens, giving of their own time, energy, effort, and resources to help our neighbors in this hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that reconstruction which is financed by the United States taxpayer is less likely to succumb to hurricane-force winds or be built in mudslide-prone areas. Building projects funded by USAID must be models of quality construction. We also must cultivate a culture of code compliance in developing countries through educational seminars for professionals, educational seminars, and other expertise-sharing programs. I look forward to working with the administration and these two organizations in making the strategies a reality in our country.

We are deeply saddened by the devastation and loss of life caused by massive flooding, landslides, and hurricanes in Guatemala, and throughout Central America. We would like to express our deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims and their families and friends, both in Central America and here at home.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague and Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Congressman BURTON, for sponsoring this important legislation. The legislation is designed to help the victims of these hurricanes and flooding in Central America.

We are discussing this resolution as the record fourteen hurricanes of the season, Hurricane Epsilon, still rages. Although Hurricane Epsilon has moved out to the Atlantic where it poses no threat to land, we were so lucky with Hurricane Beta. This hurricane slammed into Nicaragua in late October and caused a great deal of damage, flooding and forced evacuations in both Nicaragua and neighboring Honduras. And Hurricane Wilma left its imprint not only on Mexico but on our own state of Florida, just one week before Hurricane Rita hit.

This has been a difficult and trying hurricane season throughout our hemisphere. And it has been made even more difficult by the fact that many of our neighbors are still trying to rebuild after hurricanes from previous years, such as 1998’s devastating Hurricane Mitch.

So I strongly support this resolution, which expresses our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the victims of hurricanes and mudslides caused by the various hurricanes. It also pledges our support to the countries of Central America that have been hit hardest by multiple hurricanes this year, and our help in rebuilding their infrastructure and economies. And let’s be clear—the region will need not only our help, but the help of the entire international community.

Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba and Costa Rica were left its imprint not only on Mexico, but on our own state of Florida, just one week before Hurricane Rita hit. Across the region, tens of thousands of families have been affected by these natural disasters. Thousands of Central American families have lost everything. They are in need of food, clean water, and medical supplies. Just as Mexico and the countries of Central America contributed to us during our time of need after Hurricane Katrina, we should now contribute to them.

I am pleased that the US government, particularly through USAID and the US Armed Forces, has responded quickly with both initial monetary and technical aid during this crisis. While I encourage these efforts, we must be sure to provide relief and long-term reconstruction assistance to the affected communities.

Many of us on the Subcommittee were already concerned about poverty and inequality in Central America and about proposed cuts to core development funding for Central America. The devastating effects of Hurricane Beta that the Subcommittee showed when almost every country in the region was affected by multiple hurricanes this year, and our help in rebuilding their infrastructure and economies.

The magnitude of this devastation is staggering. In Guatemala alone, the official death toll is just over 670, although other sources estimate that more than 2,000 people may have perished and that hundreds are missing. Across the region, tens of thousands of families have been affected by these natural disasters. Thousands of Central American families have lost everything. They are in need of food, clean water, and medical supplies. Just as Mexico and the countries of Central America contributed to us during our time of need after Hurricane Katrina, we should now contribute to them.

And I know that many of the victims’ families live here in the United States. So I would also like to acknowledge the actions of the US Latino communities in DC, New Jersey, and around the country, who quickly mobilized to send money and aid to help the survivors. Our diversity is our greatest strength and connects us to everyone in every country in the world. When tragedy strikes anywhere in the world, it is directly felt in the homes of US citizens who still have family and friends in their countries of origin.

Personally, I am deeply saddened by the devastation and loss of life caused by massive flooding, landslides, and hurricanes in Guatemala and throughout Central America. I would like to express my deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims and their families and friends, both in Central America and here at home.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 479) recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution that began on October 23, 1956 and reaffirming the friendship between the people and governments of the United States and Hungary, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 479

Whereas on October 23, 1956, university students marching through the streets of Budapest were joined by workers and others until their numbers reached some 100,000 Hungarians protesting the communist government of Hungary and its domination by the Soviet Union, whereupon the Hungarian Security Police opened fire on the crowd, killing hundreds;

Whereas the Hungarian government under Prime Minister Imre Nagy released political prisoners, including major church leaders, took steps to establish a multi-party democracy, called for the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Hungary, announced Hungary’s withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, and requested United Nations assistance in establishing Hungarian neutrality;

Whereas the Soviet Union launched a massive military counteroffensive against the rebels; and

November 4, 1956, the Soviets killed thousands of additional troops from the Soviet Union and launched air strikes, artillery
The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.  

**GENRAL LEAVE**

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include the extraordinary events on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection. Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a resolution introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member on the Committee on International Relations, and recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution that began on October 23, 1956. It is estimated that 3,000 to 4,000 Hungarian freedom fighters and Soviet troops were killed during the uprising and tens of thousands more were injured. The resolution also reaffirms the friendship between the people and governments of the United States and Hungary.

I am a cosponsor and strongly support H. Res. 479. The 1956 uprising by the Hungarian people was one of the most significant challenges to Soviet domination of Central and Eastern Europe during the Cold War. The crackdown by Soviet forces led to more than 200,000 Hungarians fleeing their country as refugees.

The brutality of the Soviet military action was a spectacular demonstration of the weakness of the Communist system imposed by the Soviet Union, and it was worsened by the full membership of the United States and the worldwide communist movement.

I urge passage of the resolution and commend Mr. LANTOS for bringing attention to this very important and historical event.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 479. The 1956 Hungarian uprising against Soviet occupation and domination was the defining event for Hungary in the 20th century. It continues to be a critical element of the Hungarian people’s identity and the defining moment in the world’s perception of Hungary well into the 21st century.

The 1956 Hungarian Revolution was also a decisive event for the Soviet Union, for the United States, and for the end of the Cold War. Beginning this fall and continuing through November of 2006, the Hungarian people in Hungary and wherever they live around the globe are proudly celebrating the 50th anniversary of their 1956 fight for freedom, democracy, and independence.

Mr. Speaker, the Hungarian struggle for freedom and recognition as an independent nation among the nations of the world has been long and difficult. In 1848, the Hungarian people united in the fight to assert their independence from the Hapsburg Empire, only to have their liberty denied by Russian troops which came to the aid of Austria. Although Hungary was given a measure of autonomy in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, it was not until the end of World War I that it became a fully independent state, though with considerably reduced territory.

After independence, Hungary suffered increasingly authoritarian governments, fell into the Nazi Germany sphere of influence, was eventually occupied by Nazi Germany military forces, and at the end of World War II was occupied by the Soviet Army, when it began nearly a half century of Soviet communist domination.

One of the brightest moments in the Hungarian struggle for freedom and independence came on October 23, 1956 when university students, workers, and Hungarians of all walks of life rallied against the Soviet occupation of their country.

The local allies of the Soviets fought against the popular uprising, but Soviet troops initially withdrew from Budapest. The reform government of Prime Minister Imre Nagy took steps to establish a multiparty democracy, called for the removal of all Soviet troops, announced Hungary’s withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact and recognized United Nations in establishing Hungarian neutrality.

The Kremlin saw the events in Hungary as a fatal danger to communist dominance of Central Europe and their international status. Soviet troops were ordered into Budapest. Massive aerial and artillery bombardments and 6,000 Soviet tanks were launched against the city. Struggling against overwhelming odds, the Hungarian people and students continued the fight, but in the end, they were overcome by the crushing Soviet force.

The black and white television and newsreel pictures of the fight for Budapest seen by the American people and the entire world were one of the most powerful and enduring images of the entire Cold War. In many ways, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 defined the Cold War.

The uprising of the Hungarian people dramatically confirmed the widespread contempt in which the Soviet Union was held even by its supposed allies. The uprising exposed the underlying weakness of the Communist system imposed by the Soviet Union, and it was a spectacular demonstration of the strength of support for democracy and the right of peoples to determine their own national destiny.

The revolution of 1956, Mr. Speaker, remains a defining element of the identity of the Hungarian people. In the late 1980s, as the Soviet nose around Hungary and the other Soviet-dominated countries of Central Europe...
began to loosen, the Hungarian people again returned to the events of 1956 to express their love for freedom and their desire for independence.

In 1989, the official rehabilitation and public burial of Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who was tried and executed by the Soviets for his role in 1956 was a key marker of the reassertion of Hungarian independence. At the same time, the rehabilitation of other individuals who played a role in 1956 and the public celebration of the uprising itself were important in affirming Hungarian sovereignty.

One of the most important symbolic Hungarian actions during this time was the government decision to formally designate October 23 the date on which the Hungarian uprising began, as a national holiday of the Republic of Hungary.

It is significant, Mr. Speaker, that one of the key events bringing down the Berlin Wall and bringing an end to the Soviet Union and its dominance of Central Europe was the Hungarian decision in August of 1989 to open the Hungarian border with Austria to East German citizens.

East Germans who could not pass through the Berlin Wall could travel through Hungary and after August 1989 could go to Austria and then to West Germany. More than any other event, this bold Hungarian initiative led to the collapse of the East German communist regime and the opening of the Berlin Wall.

Mr. Speaker, as Hungarians in Hungary and around the world mark the half century since the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, it is so appropriate that we in the United States Congress, on behalf of the American people, join in affirming the significance of that event, and that we express the condolences of the American people to those who lost their lives and their futures in their fight for freedom and liberty.

The changes that have transformed Hungary and its people in the last 15 years, the entry of Hungary into NATO, its accession to the European Union, its embrace of a free, open and democratic society are possible because of what happened half a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution which affirms our friendship and cooperation with the Hungarian government and the Hungarian people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to conclude by again commending my good friend from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership and his passion on this resolution, and join with him in urging our colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and would yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 479, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for her leadership in the United States Congress, on behalf of the American people, join in affirming the significant of that event, and that we express our love for freedom and their desire for independence.

In 1989, the official rehabilitation and public burial of Prime Minister Imre Nagy, who was tried and executed by the Soviets for his role in 1956 was a key marker of the reassertion of Hungarian independence. At the same time, the rehabilitation of other individuals who played a role in 1956 and the public celebration of the uprising itself were important in affirming Hungarian sovereignty.

One of the most important symbolic Hungarian actions during this time was the government decision to formally designate October 23 the date on which the Hungarian uprising began, as a national holiday of the Republic of Hungary.

It is significant, Mr. Speaker, that one of the key events bringing down the Berlin Wall and bringing an end to the Soviet Union and its dominance of Central Europe was the Hungarian decision in August of 1989 to open the Hungarian border with Austria to East German citizens.

East Germans who could not pass through the Berlin Wall could travel through Hungary and after August 1989 could go to Austria and then to West Germany. More than any other event, this bold Hungarian initiative led to the collapse of the East German communist regime and the opening of the Berlin Wall.

Mr. Speaker, as Hungarians in Hungary and around the world mark the half century since the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, it is so appropriate that we in the United States Congress, on behalf of the American people, join in affirming the significance of that event, and that we express the condolences of the American people to those who lost their lives and their futures in their fight for freedom and liberty.

The changes that have transformed Hungary and its people in the last 15 years, the entry of Hungary into NATO, its accession to the European Union, its embrace of a free, open and democratic society are possible because of what happened half a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution which affirms our friendship and cooperation with the Hungarian government and the Hungarian people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to conclude by again commending my good friend from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership and his passion on this resolution, and join with him in urging our colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and would yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 479, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o’clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 438, by the yeas and nays; H. Res. 355, by the yeas and nays; H. Res. 479, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

URGING MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO STOP SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS THAT UNFAIRLY CASTIGATE ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 438.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 438, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 1, not voting 31, as follows:

[Table of yeas and nays]

[Vote on H. Res. 438]
Resolved, That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. Would the Clerk-designate please take the well.

The Clerk-designate presented herself at the bar of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America; that you will administer justice, and do right to all men, without respect of persons: and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of your office, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER, without objection, 5-minute voting will continue. There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

The SPEAKER. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 535.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 535, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 0, not voting 33, as follows: [Roll No. 610]

ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 580) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. Would the Clerk-designate please take the well.

The Clerk-designate presented herself at the bar of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America; that you will administer justice, and do right to all men, without respect of persons: and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of your office, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.
So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 479, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 479, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

**[Roll No. 611]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas (395)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abercrumbie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ackerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aderholt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldwinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balduin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barret (SC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartlett (MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barton (TX)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauregard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becerra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beasor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beggar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilirakis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop (CT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blumenauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowhart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nays (0)</th>
<th>Not Voting (37)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dreier</td>
<td>Duncan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>Elbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emanuel</td>
<td>English (PA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerson</td>
<td>English (PA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everette</td>
<td>Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farr</td>
<td>Fattah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeney</td>
<td>Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filner</td>
<td>Fitzpatrick (PA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flake</td>
<td>Foley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forbes</td>
<td>Fontenberry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foxx</td>
<td>Fossella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank (AZ)</td>
<td>Fruge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilmore</td>
<td>Grijalva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gohmert</td>
<td>Gottlebere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodlatte</td>
<td>Gordon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granger</td>
<td>Granger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravely</td>
<td>Green, Al</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green, Gene</td>
<td>Green, Gene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girjavila</td>
<td>Gutknecht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Gallup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings (FL)</td>
<td>Hastings (WA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes</td>
<td>Hayworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helley</td>
<td>Hensarling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hefren</td>
<td>Herseth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hetrick</td>
<td>Higgins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinoposa</td>
<td>Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobson</td>
<td>Hodges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoekstra</td>
<td>Holden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holt</td>
<td>Honda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotellister</td>
<td>Hoyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyde</td>
<td>Inglis (SC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inouye</td>
<td>Inslee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson (CT)</td>
<td>Jackson (IL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson (TX)</td>
<td>Jackson-Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Johnson (CT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Johnson (IL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones (NC)</td>
<td>Jones, B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanjorski</td>
<td>Kapps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kellar</td>
<td>Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy (MD)</td>
<td>Kennedy (ED)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilde</td>
<td>Kilgore (TX)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King (IA)</td>
<td>King (KY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King</td>
<td>King (NV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk</td>
<td>Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klain</td>
<td>Kline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolbe</td>
<td>Kucinich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuhl (NY)</td>
<td>Kyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kucinich</td>
<td>Kyaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavagnino</td>
<td>Leavitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leano</td>
<td>Leavitt (CT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebo</td>
<td>Lechowicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leuthold</td>
<td>LeTuurde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lezak</td>
<td>Lewis (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis (GA)</td>
<td>Lewis (KY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linder</td>
<td>Ligons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LoBiondo</td>
<td>LoBiondo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>Lowey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudermilk</td>
<td>Lucas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucero</td>
<td>Luna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumley</td>
<td>Lumbard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lush</td>
<td>Madison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maestas</td>
<td>Mackinney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madigan</td>
<td>Maguire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makino</td>
<td>Mako</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marks</td>
<td>Marks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markey</td>
<td>Markey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massey</td>
<td>Masthay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCall</td>
<td>McMaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McColloin (MN)</td>
<td>McCotter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCrery</td>
<td>McDermott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McGovern</td>
<td>McHenry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele</td>
<td>McHugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McIntryre</td>
<td>McIntryre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McManus</td>
<td>McManus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McNulty</td>
<td>McNulty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Meng 

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 due to official business in my district. Had I been present, the RECORD would reflect that I would have voted:

H. Res. 438—Urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East, “yea.”

H. Res. 479 as amended—Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution that began on October 23, 1956 and reaffirming the friendship between the people and governments of the United States and Hungary “yea.”

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 609—“yea.”

Rollcall No. 610—“yea.”

Rollcall No. 611—“yea.”

**REPORT ON RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 340, UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT**

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a
NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE
Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 582) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 581
Resolved, That the Senate be informed that Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 582) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 582
Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4312
Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4312.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN IRAQ
(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

MS. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to associate myself with the reasonable presentation and offering of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), who has allowed this Nation to debate a very important issue of redeploying our troops.

Mr. Speaker, as I join him in his excellent leadership, I would offer to my colleagues the thought of engaging American diplomacy and providing an international coalition to provide the support and security for Iraq, to convene a summit of Arab nations to ensure that our Arab allies are involved in the security of Iraq, to stop the redeployment of American troops for multiple tours of duty, to have the allocation of resources and attention to cover the 15,000 injured soldiers and proceed for their medical and educational services, and to establish a special mission for those who have come home from Iraq and those who have lost their lives on the frontlines of Iraq, and then to provide this Nation with a comprehensive exit strategy to redeploy our troops.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I stood with disabled veterans in Houston. They join me in this request. I look forward to this debate.

1930
SPECIAL ORDERS
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

GUN VIOLENCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. McCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, today is Pearl Harbor Day. I remember it as the day that I lost my husband and my son was hurt. The members of our community will always remember the Long Island Massacre. It is at that point in my life that I decided to devote it to try to reduce gun violence in this country.

On November 29, we lost Dillon Stewart to gun violence. Dillon Stewart was a New York City police officer and a constituent of mine. He was killed in the line of duty by a convicted criminal with a stolen gun that had been used in another crime earlier this year. This gun was stolen from Florida, a State with much weaker gun laws than New York. While Congress no longer allows the ATF to disclose data gathered when tracing weapons used in crimes, older data reveals most guns used in crimes in New York come from out of State dealers. I agree with my Republican mayor of New York when he says we need to pass tougher Federal gun laws.

But while more and more police officers are killed by gun violence, Congress seems intent on making their jobs more difficult. For a variety of reasons, our Nation’s police departments are understaffed and overworked. For example, New York City is losing 1,000 police officers per year. The State of Ohio has the same amount of State troopers that it did in 1970. Oregon has let go 20 percent of its State troopers. Part of the problem is that State and local government budget cuts have caused many departments to lay off police officers. And many police officers are also performing military duties, including service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our police officers are working longer hours with more responsibility, but what have we in Congress done? Congress has let the assault weapons ban expire, allowing street gangs and other criminals to legally buy cheaper and more lethal weapons. Congress has given the gun industry unprecedented immunity from liability lawsuits. Congress will not even ban the sale of guns to individuals on terrorist watch lists. And we have done nothing to fix the hole in the national instant background check system that allows many convicted felons to buy guns with no questions asked. In half of our States, less than 60 percent of felons are entered into NICS databases. This has resulted in thousands of convicted felons being able to walk into a gun store and make a purchase. Many honest gun sellers may be selling guns to murderers, rapists or even terrorists with no way of knowing. The system put in place to protect us is failing and police officers are being forced to work even harder.

I have introduced legislation, the NICS Improvement and Enforcement Act, to stop felons from buying guns. The NICS database is only as good as the information that the States provide, so my bill would require that States enter all disqualifying information into the NICS system. And since so many of our State and local budget problems, my bill would give grants to States to ensure they comply. This legislation would prevent gun violence without infringing on second amendment rights. This bill passed the House in 2002 via voice vote, but time ran out in the 107th Congress before the other body could consider the matter. But the bill had the support of several Members of Congress who are well known for their support of gun rights.

Mr. Speaker, our police officers are already overburdened. With a simple voice vote, we can help them out by making sure felons aren’t able to buy guns. We owe it to Dillon Stewart and the rest of the brave men and women who have lost their lives protecting their communities.

Let’s bring up H.R. 1415 and pass it as quickly as possible. This bill will save lives and relieve the already heavy burden placed on our police officers. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to listen to their fellow Republican, Mayor Bloomberg, and start
passing common sense gun legislation. We can do a better job. We are fighting wars around the world. We are also fighting wars here in our own country. Every single day someone dies of gun violence. We can do a better job. We can make sure that the criminals have a harder time getting the weapons that are on our streets. We must have uniform Federal laws to protect our citizens.

LANCE CORPORAL ROBERT “ROBBIE” MARTINEZ, TEXAS MARINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the great General Douglas MacArthur of World War II once commented, “I have just returned from visiting the Marines at the front and there is not a finer fighting organization in the world.” Lance Corporal Robert “Robbie” Alexander Martinez was a member of this fine fighting organization. He was killed December 1 while fighting and serving our Nation in Iraq. He was a member of the Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, based at Marine Corps Air Ground and Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California.

Mr. Speaker, to date, there have been 185 Texans killed since the war began in March 2003. Lance Corporal Martinez was just 20 years of age. He was on his second Iraqi tour. He had already spent 7 months on the Syrian border in 2004. He went to Iraq and into Fallujah this past June. He and nine other Marines were killed last Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded next to them in the deadliest attack against American troops in Iraq in 4 months. Martinez was scheduled to come home this past Monday but at the last minute his tour was extended for a month and a half.

Just a week ago, Robbie Martinez had just called his mother and asked her to buy a diamond because he was coming home. He had planned to propose to his “love at first sight” girlfriend, Taylor Wilkenson, as soon as he got back.

Robbie Martinez graduated from Cleveland High School in Cleveland, Texas, in 2003. While in high school, he was known as the peacemaker. By the time he started his senior year, he had already signed up for the Marines. He pre-enlisted at the age of 17 so he could be activated as soon as he graduated from high school. Martinez was a baseball pitcher at Cleveland High and dreamed of getting his degree in education and becoming a baseball coach. He put his dreams on hold to join the elite fighting forces of the United States Marine Corps. He left for basic training 2 days after he graduated from high school.

Lance Corporal Martinez’s stepfather, Jeremy Hunt, called Robbie his “diamond in the rough” and one of the greatest things that had ever come into his life. He said Robbie loved being in the Corps and was proud of it. He was proud of being a Marine. He knew he was there for a reason and he was resolving the situation in Iraq and looking forward to coming home. He had packed up his care packages from Texas. This candy was not for him because he would hand it out to the Iraqi children that he would see.

He is remembered for his infectious smile and someone who loved spending time with his family and friends, barbecuing and making people smile. Robbie’s mother, Kelly Hunt, said that her 14-year-old son Mikie wants to join the military, just like his brother.

President Ronald Reagan once told, “Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don’t have that problem.” Lance Corporal Martinez was working to make a difference in the world when he gave his life. His bravery, his dedication, his patriotism will not be forgotten by his friends, his family and freedom-loving peoples throughout the world.

Lance Corporal Martinez died for this country, the Iraqi people and for that word freedom. His Nation made the call and he responded without hesitation with his unwavering courage and his commitment. He served his country with honor and distinction. He wanted to be in the Marines since he was 12 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, as we extend our prayers and our condolences to his parents, his relatives, his friends and his fellow students at Cleveland High School in Texas, we take time to reflect on this American hero’s devotion to country and to the people of Iraq. He is a heroic representative of the State of Texas and an honorable defender of liberty and freedom.

Country music singer Brad Cotter wrote the following in his tribute to American soldiers and it is fitting right now:

“Thank God for Americans in uniform. Those who fight to keep our freedom every day. Thank God for Americans in uniform. Those who fight to keep us safe along our way.”

Semper Fidelis, Lance Corporal Martinez. Semper Fi.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND COLLEGE TUITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, at 2 a.m. before Congress adjourned a couple of weeks ago, we passed something called the reconciliation bill, theoretically the first attempt to begin to deal with the Government’s drowning of our Nation. But these were kind of mean spirited cuts that hit at those people who should sacrifice. These are the people who should sacrifice. These are the people who can afford to pay more to help those in the Shantytown spending and debt being piled up on that side of the aisle. What is the trade-off the Republicans want? They are going to take the $14.3 billion that these students will have to pay in additional costs, many of them will probably have to give up in higher education and just go to work in a dead-end job, and they are going to give it to the richest among us. It is much in order to protect the very wealthy.

Here is how it worked. The biggest single category of cuts in that bill was $14.3 billion out of student loans. On the Republican side, they said, We didn’t cut student loans. All we did was increase the cost of student loans. Well, it is the same impact on the student. They are going to double the origination fee on the student loans, they are going to charge students a fee to fix the rate, and they are going to give them a really high fixed interest rate instead of the rather reasonable rate that is available now. It is estimated for the average Oregonian going to a public school who borrows the maximum amount for 4 years, they will incur another $5,800 in loan costs.

I went out to see what the students in Oregon thought about this and how they were doing. I was inspired. I went to the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. I met with government leaders and regular students who are getting financial aid. The stories were inspiring, what these young people are doing to try and better themselves. There was one couple, they had been displaced. They have a child. They went through Lane Community College to get associate’s degrees because it was cheaper and they borrowed $40,000 to do it. They are now at the U of O. They estimate they will graduate with $68,000 in debt.

There was the young woman who is holding three jobs, three jobs, and 14 credit hours. She said, Congressman, I’m going to have to reduce my credit hours. You know what that means. It’s going to take me longer to finish school, which means I’m going to have to borrow more money.

They said, when you were young and you went to school, and I think a lot of the Republicans have not thought about this maybe, you could take a summer job and save enough money to pay tuition at a public school. That would work. They said. If we get a summer job and save really well, we get just about enough money to buy our books. You can work full-time year round at a minimum wage job in Oregon where the minimum wage is considerably higher than the federal minimum wage and still not have enough money to eat and pay your tuition, let alone your housing costs.

This is a dire situation. The response of the Republicans is that these are the people who should sacrifice. These are the people who can afford to pay more to help those in the Shantytown spending and debt being piled up on that side of the aisle. What is the trade-off the Republicans want? They are going to take the $14.3 billion that these students will have to pay in additional costs, many of them will probably have to give up in higher education.
going to continue the tax cuts for people who are lucky enough to clip coupons off of stocks, dividends. The trade-off is almost exact.

So students will pay more for their loans, kids who are trying to get ahead, start a life, start a family, do better second chances. Everybody else is going to have a good living and pay taxes so that the richest among us will not have to pay taxes on their investments. But under their bizarre theory of trickle-down economics, somehow those students who are going to pay for their tax cuts, and 1.3 million, but the people over 1.3 million, they did not even do really that well. It is not a one percent decline in real dollars. One percent saw a decline in the Internal Revenue Service, 99 percent of the people in America saw their incomes decline in real dollars. One percent saw an increase, those over $300,000; and they did not even do really that well. It is only 4 percent for between $300,000 and 1.3 million, but the people over 1.3 million, the people that these students are going to pay for their tax cuts, they saw a 10 percent increase in their income.

There is something wrong here when we have young people working hard, trying to get ahead, and we are saying you are going to pay for the rich folks' free ride.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

I wonder how many people from that side of the aisle went and talked to students, to parents, during the break. They probably went to the country club and chortled with the rich people over champagne after Thanksgiving dinner, but they did not go out and talk to the students who they are sticking it to nor the seniors who they are sticking it to in this bill or the hungry primary and secondary school kids whose school lunch programs they are cutting. Those are the people who have to sacrifice so the richest among us can have their tax cuts continue.

Last year, according to the Internal Revenue Service, 99 percent of the people in America saw their incomes decline in real dollars. One percent saw an increase, those over $300,000; and they did not even do really that well. It is only 4 percent for between $300,000 and 1.3 million, but the people over 1.3 million, the people that these students are going to pay for their tax cuts, they saw a 10 percent increase in their income.

There is something wrong here when we have young people working hard, trying to get ahead, and we are saying you are going to pay for the rich folks' free ride.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

I wonder how many people from that side of the aisle went and talked to students, to parents, during the break. They probably went to the country club and chortled with the rich people over champagne after Thanksgiving dinner, but they did not go out and talk to the students who they are sticking it to nor the seniors who they are sticking it to in this bill or the hungry primary and secondary school kids whose school lunch programs they are cutting. Those are the people who have to sacrifice so the richest among us can have their tax cuts continue.

Last year, according to the Internal Revenue Service, 99 percent of the people in America saw their incomes decline in real dollars. One percent saw an increase, those over $300,000; and they did not even do really that well. It is only 4 percent for between $300,000 and 1.3 million, but the people over 1.3 million, the people that these students are going to pay for their tax cuts, they saw a 10 percent increase in their income.

There is something wrong here when we have young people working hard, trying to get ahead, and we are saying you are going to pay for the rich folks' free ride.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

I wonder how many people from that side of the aisle went and talked to students, to parents, during the break. They probably went to the country club and chortled with the rich people over champagne after Thanksgiving dinner, but they did not go out and talk to the students who they are sticking it to nor the seniors who they are sticking it to in this bill or the hungry primary and secondary school kids whose school lunch programs they are cutting. Those are the people who have to sacrifice so the richest among us can have their tax cuts continue.

Last year, according to the Internal Revenue Service, 99 percent of the people in America saw their incomes decline in real dollars. One percent saw an increase, those over $300,000; and they did not even do really that well. It is only 4 percent for between $300,000 and 1.3 million, but the people over 1.3 million, the people that these students are going to pay for their tax cuts, they saw a 10 percent increase in their income.

There is something wrong here when we have young people working hard, trying to get ahead, and we are saying you are going to pay for the rich folks' free ride.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

I wonder how many people from that side of the aisle went and talked to students, to parents, during the break. They probably went to the country club and chortled with the rich people over champagne after Thanksgiving dinner, but they did not go out and talk to the students who they are sticking it to nor the seniors who they are sticking it to in this bill or the hungry primary and secondary school kids whose school lunch programs they are cutting. Those are the people who have to sacrifice so the richest among us can have their tax cuts continue.

Last year, according to the Internal Revenue Service, 99 percent of the people in America saw their incomes decline in real dollars. One percent saw an increase, those over $300,000; and they did not even do really that well. It is only 4 percent for between $300,000 and 1.3 million, but the people over 1.3 million, the people that these students are going to pay for their tax cuts, they saw a 10 percent increase in their income.

There is something wrong here when we have young people working hard, trying to get ahead, and we are saying you are going to pay for the rich folks' free ride.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

I wonder how many people from that side of the aisle went and talked to students, to parents, during the break. They probably went to the country club and chortled with the rich people over champagne after Thanksgiving dinner, but they did not go out and talk to the students who they are sticking it to nor the seniors who they are sticking it to in this bill or the hungry primary and secondary school kids whose school lunch programs they are cutting. Those are the people who have to sacrifice so the richest among us can have their tax cuts continue.

Last year, according to the Internal Revenue Service, 99 percent of the people in America saw their incomes decline in real dollars. One percent saw an increase, those over $300,000; and they did not even do really that well. It is only 4 percent for between $300,000 and 1.3 million, but the people over 1.3 million, the people that these students are going to pay for their tax cuts, they saw a 10 percent increase in their income.

There is something wrong here when we have young people working hard, trying to get ahead, and we are saying you are going to pay for the rich folks' free ride.
years into the Iraq war, the Bush administration has seen fit to share with the American people their war plan. The bad news is that there is no “there” there. The national strategy for victory shared with the American people is rarely worth the paper it is printed on.

It is essentially the same old warmed-over rhetoric that we have become accustomed to and frustrated with: the enemy is bad; we are good; we will come back down; we will achieve total victory.

To the extent that this strategy for victory contains specifics, they are completely divorced from reality.

In last week’s speech, the President mentioned that Haifa Street in Baghdad, formerly called Purple Heart Boulevard because of all of the U.S. attacks incurred there, is now safely under the control of all of the U.S. attacks incurred. While this is true, it has not thwarted terrorism but, instead, made Iraq a hotbed of terrorism.

The President insists that fighting the terrorists in Iraq is “vital to our war.” He does not mention that he did not fight them at home. I doubt the people who call London, Madrid, or Bali their home would agree with that assessment. Who is to say that next time it will not be Chicago, Las Vegas, or San Francisco? There is no evidence that any more security exists at home because of the war in Iraq.

Iraqi democracy is anything but a certainty. We are undermining our own stated goal of advancing freedom when we torture prisoners and when we spend millions of dollars to spread propaganda in the Iraqi press.

When the White House’s statements are not divorced from reality, they contradict everything they once said about the war. Like this one, from the supposed “victory strategy” document: “It is not realistic to expect a fully functioning democracy, able to defeat its enemies and peacefully reconcile generational grievances, to be in place less than 3 years after Saddam was finally removed from power.”

Now they tell us. So much for “Mission Accomplished.” We have sure come a long way from the confident assertion that we would be greeted by grateful Iraqis throwing flowers at our feet, that we would be in and out in a flash, that all we had to do was depose Saddam and democracy would instantly take hold.

The President’s speech last week demonstrates his inability to recognize the intensity of people’s anxiety about this war. Americans are not looking for the administration to do the same thing but just do it a little bit better and to put it in a glossy booklet.

They want a serious, fundamental shift in direction like the plan outlined in a letter I wrote to the President, which was cosigned by 61 other House Members: one, engage in greater multilateral cooperation with our allies; two, pursue diplomatic, nonmilitary initiatives; three, prepare for a robust postconflict reconciliation process; and, four, and most importantly of all, bring our troops home.

I wish this administration would stop out of its bubble. They should break away from the yes men and listen to the American people who do not understand the cause for which more than 2,100 and countless thousands of Iraqis have died.

It is not just the American people that the administration is ignoring. It is the Iraqis also. Kurdish, Shiite, and Sunni leaders agree on practically nothing except that there needs to be a clear timetable for our troops to leave Iraq.

The President wants to have it both ways. He will not change his underlying approach, an open-ended military strategy, that will last as long as he deems it appropriate, but he can read the polls. So he wants to be perceived as doing something new and something different in order to rescue his administration from political oblivion, but Mr. Repackaging a Twinkie does not improve its nutritional value, and the same goes for the Bush Iraq policy.

REBUILDING CASINOS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to the inclusion of any tax breaks to rebuild the gulf coast gambling industry in the tax package that may reach the House floor in the near future. I believe that it is an extraordinary controversial and improper measure to support the casino industry with tax incentives. I would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for his active role in bringing attention to this important issue.

I certainly understand the need to provide general economic incentives for businesses to rebuild in the gulf region, which was so heavily devastated by the hurricanes earlier this year. I support efforts to encourage economic development and restore infrastructure in the area. However, I cannot support allowing casinos to access Federal tax breaks while at the same time we are proposing to achieve savings from a host of other governmental programs.

If Americans were given a choice, I believe that they would prefer not to use limited resources to support the casinos. Prudent use of hard-earned taxpayer money demands that we stay focused on concerns such as the defense of our Nation, education of our children, health of our veterans, and subsistence for the poor.

My constituents are aware of the problem and realize that many of our citizens are struggling with the high cost of energy. On the House floor today, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.
Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, humorist Frank McKinney Hubbard once said, "Don’t knock the weather. If it didn’t change once in a while, nine out of ten people wouldn’t start a conversation."

Unfortunately, extreme weather is nothing new. About 5 billion authorized this year in the energy bill. However, there are three problems with this argument, or as I like to call it; “the triple whammy.”

First, we have to understand the $5 billion authorized in the energy bill was cut to $3 billion due to the $2 billion included in the Thanksgiving budget reconciliation bill. Second, the $3 billion figure will be further cut to around $2 billion by the appro priators, because that is the figure they are pushing for to effectively flat line the funding for LIHEAP. Third, take a look at this graph. You can clearly see that even when appropriations increased for LIHEAP, the purchasing power, and that is what is critical for these funds, actually decreased for LIHEAP recipients. Inflation in heating oil and natural gas prices actually decreased purchasing power by 42 percent since the program’s inception in 1982.

Ironically, during this time of inadequate LIHEAP funding, oil companies are reaping record profits, some as large as 255 percent. This situation is so bad that some of our Senate colleagues recently wrote a letter to the nine big oil companies and asked them to donate a part of their profits to help low-income residents cover these increased energy costs.

Only one response was received, from Citgo, a state-owned Venezuelan company controlled by Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela, Chavez took this opportunity to promote his socialist world view as counterpoint to the United States capitalist world view.

Specifically, he is using profits from Venezuelan-based Citgo to make friends in the United States and attempting to illustrate the failures of American democracy. Citgo has provided discounted heating oil this winter to low-income residents in Massachusetts. Twelve million gallons of this oil was donated to low-income communities across the State of Massachusetts, helping consumers save between 60 and 80 cents per gallon. This is a total savings of $10 million to $14 million which will occur this winter.

While I am certainly appreciative of this gesture, by having to accept Venezuela’s charity, we are playing into Chavez’s hands. We cannot effectively promote democracy and free markets around the world if our policies here at home reflect a callous disregard for our poorer citizens.

Close to home in my State of Maryland, we will need about $34 million in Federal fuel assistance, that is more than twice the amount originally anticipated to help low-income residents heat their homes this winter. The Maryland Energy Assistance Program says it will need $51 million more to cover rising energy costs.

In conclusion, I call upon my Republican colleagues to forego or at least delay the additional tax cuts for the warm and the wealthy. Instead, I hope my colleagues on the right side of the aisle will fully fund the $5 billion promise in the energy bill for low income energy assistance.

IRAQ SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle woman from Florida (Ms. ROS- LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps difficult for some to comprehend the extent of our successes in Iraq because they are focused on isolated incidents rather than looking at the totality of our efforts. So to fully grasp how far Iraq has come, it is necessary to take stock of these successes.

The Iraqi army and police forces are growing larger and are better trained and they are more effective than ever. The Iraqi security forces grew from just one operational battalion in July 2004 to more than 120 today. Many critics note that only one battalion is rated at what the U.S. Army categorizes as a level one, fully independent degree of operability. However, over 40 are at the level two, which are capable of fighting, with some support, usually just logistics or artillery support from our coalition forces.

All of these units are patrolling their own areas of operations, and the cities of Najaf and Mosul are now patrolled exclusively by Iraqi security forces, as are large portions of the city of Baghdad. And there are also roughly 80 battalions, both police and military, identified as capable of fighting, and are currently fighting alongside our U.S. and coalition forces.

As a result, the United States military recently transferred more than two dozen U.S. established bases to Iraqi control. In addition, there are now currently 25,000 Iraqi special police officers who can conduct combat and commando operations as well as routine policing duties. Also, there are 75,000 Iraqi police officers trained and equipped.

And looking to the future, Mr. Speaker, the current plans include establishing 10 Iraqi army infantry divisions. That is 160,000 soldiers, 300,000 regular police officers, 9,000 border police, in addition to the current force of 17,000, and 3,000 additional highway patrol officers in addition to the current level of 3,000, by the year 2007.

Today, thousands of young Iraqis are volunteering, volunteering for service, and they are training to become soldiers and police officers and crucial facilities throughout the country of Iraq. As a result, over 225,000 Iraqi soldiers and police officers will be available to
Forty-five percent of Iraqi citizens view the United States as an unpopular occupier. That is right, an occupier. Of the many other smaller towns along the Syrian border.

The increasing effectiveness of the Iraqi security forces has inspired optimism among the Iraqi people, and this is reflected in the growing number of intelligence tips from Iraqi citizens. According to reports in March 2005, Iraqi and coalition forces received 483 intelligence tips from Iraqi citizens. This figure rose to 3,300 in August and to more than 4,700 in September. This has translated into further public confidence in the security situation in Iraq. Simultaneously, the increasing effectiveness of the Iraqi security forces has caused fear and derision within our enemies' ranks. Significant success securing the Syrian border, previously a sieve for Iraqi and foreign insurgents, has made it tougher for Syrian-based insurgents to orchestrate or support attacks in Iraq. As a result, homicide bombings in Baghdad have reportedly been down 30 percent since the October constitutional referendum.

So the military and the security components of the strategy are laid out in the national strategy for victory in Iraq, as stated by the President, and it is due to the commitment of fighting men and women like my stepson, Doug, and his fiancée, but also thanks to the brave men and women of the Iraqi security forces who continue to fight for their emerging democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to look at the situation in Iraq, look at the threat posed by Iraq under the regime of Saddam Hussein, then look at Iraq today. There is no question that we are succeeding.

U.S. DETAINEE POLICY IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEEHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Well, Mr. Speaker, if so many of these Iraqis are ready to come up and to provide the security, the police work in the country, then surely there should be no problem with putting American troops into the back-ground instead of having them up front.

The reality is that we have missed a lot of opportunities in Iraq because of a failed policy. Our own State Department has said that 80 percent of the Iraqi people view the United States as an unpopular occupier. That is right, an occupier.

Forty-five percent of Iraqi citizens think it is morally okay to attack American troops. So if, in fact, Iraqis are ready to keep security in their own country, surely now is the time to let them do that.

We should have had, as General Shinseki said, more security forces in from the beginning. He said a few hundred thousand troops. And if we had had them there, maybe we could have won the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people from the beginning when Saddam Hussein fell. But the Pentagon said, ‘‘We can’t afford it. We can’t afford it.’’

General Shinseki did not know what he was talking about and they put him out to pasture. But the truth is, he knew what he was talking about.

There have been other mistakes made. In April of last year, the shocking photographic evidence of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib became public. In an instant, America’s new image in the war on terror was published around the world with photos of Iraqi prisoners being subjected to cruel, unusual, and degrading treatment.

A report by Major General Antonio Taguba found numerous incidents of sadistic, blatant, and wanton criminal abuses, constituting ‘‘systematic and illegal abuse of detainees’’ at Abu Ghraib. And, unfortunately, Abu Ghraib is only the most publicized case of torture in Iraq.

Regrettably, it has become clear that torture of detainees in United States custody is not limited to Abu Ghraib or even Iraq. Since Abu Ghraib, there have been increasing reports of torture. Most recently, The Washington Post broke a story of secret CIA detention centers around the globe where prisoners were being sent for questioning.

Under the leadership of President Bush and Vice President Cheney, the United States has given up the moral high ground that we used to occupy as an international leader.

Last month, President Bush defended U.S. interrogation practices, proclaiming, ‘‘We do not torture.’’ However, he has refused to back up these words. Instead, he and his administration have vehemently opposed a provision that would specifically prohibit the use of torture as official U.S. protocol.

They supported legislation that would strip the right of detainees being held by the United States to the writ of habeas corpus, an 800-year-old legal procedure grounded in the Magna Carta. Instead of denouncing torture is never acceptable, the administration seems to continually be looking for exceptions to the rule.

In the now-infamous ‘‘torture memo,’’ along with other documents, the Justice Department sought to carve out an increasingly narrow definition of detention. Instead of firing administration officials like Alberto Gonzales, who referred to the Geneva Convention as ‘‘quaint’’ and ‘‘obsolete,’’ we have a President who promoted him to the chief law enforcement officer of the United States of America, Attorney General.

By accepting this behavior, the Bush administration has not only hurt America’s credibility around the world; but it has put our soldiers at risk.

I have joined forces with a number of my colleagues to try to change this course. However, the leadership in this body has kept us from being heard. We have tried to obtain documents related to Federal investigations of detainee abuse in Iraq. Attorney General Gonzales; but our efforts have been shut down by the majority in this body.

Mr. Speaker, 173 Members of this body have signed onto the Waxman legislation to establish an independent commission to investigate these abuses; but nearly 6 months after being introduced, this bill languishes in committee without even a hearing from the majority.

President Bush and the majority did not even support the independent 9/11 Commission. They have also opposed independent commissions to investigate the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina. But just like the revelations that came from the 9/11 Commission, an independent investigation into our detainee policy would help us all in the end.

It is time to investigate these abuses. It is never too late to regain our credibility around the world. I call on my colleagues to stand up against torture by standing firm to the belief that the United States has held for generations, that no individual in U.S. custody be subject to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, any time, any place, anywhere.

CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT), Under the previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there are two things I want to address tonight, both terribly disappointing to me both heartsick and very angry. A valiant Vietnam veteran, a man of courage and daring, a Navy pilot, a defender of this country, an ace, a true military leader by example, pled guilty, basically, to accepting bribes to push defense contracts to contractors who may not have been entitled to them.

For those of us who have served in the military, we know what it is to requisition supplies, equipment or services and get quality in response. On the other hand, we also know what it is to receive supplies, equipment or services and wonder who in the world got their bank account padded or their
back scratched to allow such substandard material to be sent.

Now to hear that our fellow congress
man, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, was such a Member of Congress on the take makes me both very sad and very angry.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM has made true acts and comments of contrition and humility; but my goodness, how much damage has been done. Not only will be sentenced to satisfy the requirements of justice, retribution and degradation, his family and friends will suffer. That is what happens when crimes are committed.

Let us also not lose sight of the fact that the contractors who paid bribes should be barred from ever contracting with the government again. I do not know who it is, and it does not matter to me who they are or with whom they are friends, they should be barred.

But one other thing that has caused me great bewilderment in the last month to 6 weeks or so is the rhetoric against our efforts in Iraq and how it has reached a crescendo and fanatical pitch. In what may well have been the cradle of mankind, the people of Iraq are on the threshold of democratically electing their first permanent leaders under their new Constitution. As a democratic self-governing people, we should as a Nation be uniting in support and encouraging the people of Iraq in their own efforts at self-government.

Some, like our colleague and war hero, Mr. MURTHA, have been expressing concerns of this type about the war for over 2 years. Others have now jumped on the bandwagon, and still others have raised their pitch dramatically. This historic election is 9 days off. It is true that if the election goes well, it not only is a great victory for freedom, democracy and against terrorism, but it will probably help President Bush. It is also clear, and many realize that if the election goes badly, it will probably exacerbate and lower President Bush’s popularity still further. But could Members not wait 9 days, wait until after December 15, to make your points about withdrawal or how we are losing and we cannot win.

Obviously, if the people of Iraq think we are about to withdraw before that permanent ink wears off their finger when they vote, they may hesitate to vote or not vote. Heightened rhetoric against the election goes against it, it will probably undermine the election and may assist in its failure. I implore Members, regarding Iraq, please let us put partisan politics aside for the next 9 days until after the election.

Sure, it would make you happy to see President Bush’s numbers fall lower; but at the cost of democracy and stability in the Middle East and of our own safety, the price is too high. You can go back to your Bush bashing in 9 days, but how about being statesmen and do something until after the Iraqi election. Show that there is one noble thing you can put above partisan politics for the next 9 days.

We are doing a great good over there. I have seen, Senator LIEBERMAN has seen it. Mr. SHAES has seen it. We have witnessed it. At this time of year, we can note tragedy as I have tonight, but let us also rejoice in this great thing that may be about to come to pass next week if you will stop trying to poison it before it happens.

100 DAYS OF EMPTY PROMISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 100th day since Hurricane Katrina came ashore in south Mississippi. Since that time, we have had a mixture of incredible support from the people of this Nation; but also, quite frankly, there have been a lot of promises made by the President of the United States that have yet to be fulfilled.

In 100 days since the storm, numerous regrets by me, Senator LOTT, Mr. PICKERING and others to try to help those people who found themselves in the horrible situation of having a home that never flooded, or a piece of land that had never flooded since the Europeans settled in Mississippi in 1699, who thought they were properly covered by having wind insurance, who thought they had taken adequate precautions to secure their home in the event of a storm, who found that their homes had flooded.

And now for 100 days, I, Senator LOTT, Mr. PICKERING and others have asked to try to do something to help those people. After all, every aid package the President talks about talks about tax breaks for the fat cats. Well, the fat cats are going to do just fine after the storm. They always do. They have got the money; they know how to invest it; they know how to make more money. They do not need tax breaks. The people who need help in south Mississippi are the average-Joe homeowners: the kid who coaches the Little League team, the guy or lady who sings in the choir, who find themselves now at the end of 90 days that their mortgage is due, they have lost their job, their house has been either destroyed or horribly damaged and they are looking for help from their Nation. This is an extremely patriotic part of the country, and an extremely high percentage of those people have served in the Armed Forces or are presently serving, and all they are asking from you, Mr. President, is a little bit of consideration.

After 100 days, we had taken care of the people of New York after 9/11. After 100 days, we had taken care of the people of San Francisco. Tonight in south Mississippi, people will crawl into two and three-man tents because 12,000 families are still waiting for a FEMA trailer.

The company you gave the contract to, Bechtel Incorporated, has donated tens of thousands of dollars to your campaign and to the Republican majority. You are obviously friends. I think you can pick up the phone to the Bechtel family and ask them to finish the job.

After 100 days, only two-thirds of the people who have asked for a trailer since their home has been destroyed have received one. I did not promise those folks a trailer. You did, Mr. President. After 100 days, it has turned cold. A shower with a garden hose in August feels pretty good; a shower with a garden hose when it is 33 degrees outside is a pretty crummy experience.

The contracts for debris removal were let on a per-cubic-yard basis. Therefore, the people who did that had an incentive to work quickly because the more they did the more they got paid. The contracts to deliver FEMA trailers was paid by the month. If you pay anyone to do something by the hour as opposed to the job, it is human nature they are going to do it slower. The people of south Mississippi have waited long.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to call your friends at Bechtel and tell them to finish the job. Folks had to live in a pup tent for Thanksgiving and their patience has worn thin.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, I remember when the promise was made that you could cut taxes, increase spending, and pay down the debt. I thought that was a bunch of malarkey at the time, and it has turned out to be $2.4 trillion wrong.

But to come to south Mississippi and to promise the people in south Mississippi that you are going to get them a trailer, and not fulfill that promise or drag your feet on that promise, that is something people see every day. It is something I see every time I go home, and that is every weekend.

Mr. President, it is time for you and the people at Bechtel to do the job: deliver the trailers that are sitting in places like Hope, Arkansas, where there are trailers sitting on the runway. Or Purvis, Mississippi, where there are over 1,200 trailers sitting on the ground, or the staging area in De Lisle or the staging area in Hancock County. They are not doing anything any good sitting in the staging areas.

If you have to void the contract with Bechtel, by all means do so. If the Bechtel family has any respect for their good family name, I am asking them as a Member of Congress representing south Mississippi to replace the management you have in south Mississippi and get the job done because the people of south Mississippi and the people of this Nation who are paying for this deserve better.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will
appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, for the next 60 minutes, me, along with other Members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, will come to the floor of the United States House of Representatives to talk about the debt, the deficit, the budget, the cuts in spending as well as tax cuts that will be proposed on this debt are one of the fastest growing parts of the Federal budget, and the debt tax. I did not say death tax, the debt tax, a phrase coined by the Blue Dog Coalition, is one tax that cannot be repealed.

And let me tell you what I mean by that. Every day in this land, our Nation is spending a half a billion dollars. That is right. $500 million every single day simply paying interest on the national debt. How much is that? We could build 100 brand new elementary schools every single day in America just with the interest we are paying on the national debt. It is what we call the debt tax, D-E-B-T, and it is one tax that cannot go away. It is one tax that will prevent us from being able to meet the priorities of this Nation when it comes to education and health care and all the other important areas until we get our fiscal house in order and pay down this debt and stop this deficit spending.

Deficits do matter. Deficits reduce economic growth. They burden our children and grandchildren with liabilities. They increase our reliance on foreign lenders who now own 40 percent of our debt. That is right. Foreign lenders now own 40 percent of our debt.

Let me put it another way. This President, this Administration, this Republican Congress, in the last 4½ years has borrowed more money to run the United States of America than the previous 42 presidents of the United States combined.

Now, let us think about that. This President, this Republican Congress has borrowed more money from foreign governments, foreign lenders and foreign central banks to operate our government than the previous 42 presidents combined.

Congressman JOHN TANNER, a founder of the Blue Dog Coalition from Tennessee, said it best when he said if Congress decides to invade Taiwan, the United States will have to go borrow even more money from China to defend Taiwan. What has happened to this country? What has happened to the fiscal responsibility that leaders of this country should share? It is a duty and an obligation that we keep, or at this point, put back, restore fiscal discipline to our Nation's government, and that is what the Blue Dog Coalition is all about.

The United States is becoming increasingly dependent on foreign lenders. Foreign lenders currently hold a total of $2 trillion of our public debt. You see here, we owe $8.121 trillion. That is how much money, more money we have spent than we have taken in as revenue. Can I give you an idea of how much money we have borrowed. In fact, we are borrowing to the tune of about $907 million a day, we are sending about $188 million every day to Iraq, $33 million every day to Afghanistan. And the $2 trillion of our public debt has come from foreign lenders or 45 percent of our total debt.

Some people may wonder where the other 6 trillion is coming from. The majority of it is coming from money that we are borrowing to the tune of $907 million a day, we are sending about $188 million every day to Iraq, $33 million every day to Afghanistan. And the $2 trillion of our public debt has come from foreign lenders or 45 percent of our total debt.

Now, when I go to my banker to get a loan, he wants to know how I am going to pay it back, when I am going to pay it back and where the money is going to come from to pay him back. And yet, our government continues to borrow money from Social Security, or to give me a hearing on my bill that the government refused, refused to give me a vote or give me a hearing on my bill that basically told the politicians in Washington to keep their hands off the Social Security trust fund.

I mentioned that we were going to have a number of Blue Dogs join us tonight, 37 Members of the Blue Dog Coalition. We are conservative to moderate Democrats and we come from all across this Nation. And at this time, it gives me great honor to be able to introduce a real leader in the Blue Dog Coalition, someone that understands fiscal responsibility, someone that came from a state legislature where he helped balance a state budget, and that is the gentleman from Georgia, DAVID SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you so much my distinguished colleague, Congressman Ross, from the great State of Arkansas. You continue to do an extraordinary job of leadership in this

H11080 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE December 6, 2005
Congress and the people of Arkansas, I am sure, are very, very proud of you.

It is indeed a pleasure to join you once again as we talk about the number one issue facing the future of our great Nation. Alexander Hamilton said it best: the father of our financial system, when he said, woe to those who borrow more than they have.

Our Founding Fathers would not be proud of this country today when we say that 90 percent of every penny that we are spending to run this country today is coming from foreign countries. That is a very dangerous position for this country to be in. And I am here to tell you especially that China and India are eating our lunch. Not only are we borrowing money to run the government on it, but through our warped trade policies, we are exporting thousands and thousands of manufacturing jobs from Arkansas, from Georgia, from this country over to India, over to China and these other countries. So it is important that we wake up America. I believe that is our mission as Blue Dogs, to wake up this country to understand what the number one issue is facing us.

I should also mention my time in Georgia where I served in the Georgia legislature for nearly 30 years, 10 of those as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. And we kept the State of Georgia in sound fiscal shape because we understood the law that we would not spend more than we have. And that is what we have got to do in this Congress of the United States to get our financial house back in order. For 5 years, the Blue Dog caucus has been warning, we have been pleading, we have been begging, we have been talking about the dangers of blowing the Federal surplus that was left by the last administration. Say what you want to say about Bill Clinton and the Clinton administration. But they left this country in a surplus shape, with hundreds of billions of dollars in surplus.

In September, the Blue Dogs formally asked President Bush if he would be kind enough to hold a bipartisan summit on budget deficits and Federal spending. That offer was rejected. Instead, President Bush and the Republicans want to cut money from our veterans. Yes, our veterans. Cut money from our veterans. Cut money from our farmers, cut money out of seniors programs, and you cut the very programs designed to help those who need the help the most right now, and those are our victims of Katrina and Rita and Wilma, and then to give $70 billion in tax cuts to the wealthy among us who really do not need it. We cannot afford to give it to them now. And I have had wealthy people even come up to me and say, we do not need this money now. The victims of Katrina need the money. The farmers need the money whose farms have been flooded citizens need the money. We do not have health care. Our young people need the money to go to school instead of cutting our education budget. And now we are concerned about our national credit. Now we are discussing the budget deficit. But we did not discuss the dangers of overspending until Hurricane Katrina hit. Then we correctly responded. And now what are we being asked to do? We are being asked for more programs that would help people like those displaced by Hurricane Katrina. America deserves better than this. Americans deserve much better than this, and they are expecting this House of Representatives, and they are expecting Congress to do what is right, what we can do better. And the first order of business is to certainly reject these painful cuts that are untimely. A time when our Nation is in great need and great pain is not the time to cut these vital Social Service programs.

And certainly it is not the time to give tax cuts to the wealthy. Not now. And certainly it is not the time to support tax cuts. I supported the first round of tax cuts. But I am at the head of the list today, as most of us should be. This Nation is suffering too much, too greatly for us to give tax cuts to those who really do not need it. We are not even asking for nearly $5 billion for child support programs. Agriculture programs will be cut, including nearly $5 billion for child support programs. Agriculture programs will be cut at a time when high energy prices are crushing the family farmer. Veterans cut by $2 billion, child nutrition by $2 billion at a time when children are going hungry.

The Federal budget should be an honest blueprint for our spending priorities, for the government. Here in this budget process is not honest, and I am going to tell my colleagues something. The American people are sick and tired of this dishonesty coming out of Washington. We might as well say what it is. And they are expecting their congressmen and women to stand up and represent them with honor, with dignity. This budget process is, indeed, not honest because we are passing on our obligations, our responsibilities, our challenges, and this debt to our grandchildren. We are giving tax breaks to the wealthy by cutting and failing to fund the basic program that the 9/11 Commission said we need to do, and that is to provide the radio-spectrum communications devices so that our firefighters and our first responders can at least coordinate and communicate with one another during the crisis. A failing grade.

Our precious Americans deserve better. We cannot afford the tax cuts for the wealthy now. Perhaps later. America is in pain now. We need help now.

The victims of the gulf region were just up here today testifying before the Government Reform Committee, their hearts breaking, tears in their eyes. Our American citizens are suffering. We failed them down in New Orleans. Many are homeless. And we are failing them today by cutting the very programs that we have designed to give to those who America deserves better.

This budget reconciliation bill reminds me of the poorly run business that lays off employees in order to stay in the black. That same company in turn gives big bonuses to the corporate officers. Our American Nation is in terrible financial shape of the deficit and now because of the Republicans wanting to add to that deficit $70 billion in tax cuts for the wealthy. The American people are watching this debate; and they need to know what programs will be cut, what we are talking about in this reconciliation.

I want to talk first about the budget cuts. We need to remind the American people how irresponsible we are at this precious time. Nearly $12 billion will be cut in Medicaid; yet nearly 45 million Americans, in spite of that, do not even have health insurance. The cost of college is increasing faster than inflation; and more than $14 billion will be cut from student loan programs. And the Department of Agriculture is reporting that an additional 2 million Americans are now going hungry; yet over $800 million will be cut in the food stamp program. That is immoral, and we cannot stand for it.

Other programs will be cut, including nearly $5 billion for child support programs. Agriculture programs will be cut at a time when high energy prices are crushing the family farmer. Veterans cut by $2 billion, child nutrition by $2 billion at a time when children are going hungry.

The Federal budget should be an honest blueprint for our spending priorities, for the government. Here in this budget process is not honest, and I am going to tell my colleagues something. The American people are sick and tired of this dishonesty coming out of Washington. We might as well say what it is. And they are expecting their congressmen and women to stand up and represent them with honor, with dignity. This budget process is, indeed, not honest because we are passing on our obligations, our responsibilities, our challenges, and this debt to our grandchildren. We are giving tax breaks to the wealthy by cutting and failing to fund the basic program that the 9/11 Commission said we need to do, and that is to provide the radio-spectrum communications devices so that our firefighters and our first responders can at least coordinate and communicate with one another during the crisis. A failing grade.

Our precious Americans deserve better. We cannot afford the tax cuts for the wealthy now. Perhaps later. America is in pain now. We need help now.

The victims of the gulf region were just up here today testifying before the Government Reform Committee, their hearts breaking, tears in their eyes. Our American citizens are suffering. We failed them down in New Orleans. Many are homeless. And we are failing them today by cutting the very programs that we have designed to give to those who America deserves better.
Finally, let me say this: I think that great writer Sir Edmund Burke put it best when he said that the only necessity for the triumph of evil, for the triumph of wrong, is for good men and women to do nothing. And that is why we Blue Dogs are standing in this Congress tonight. We are standing up and we are doing something. We are demanding that this Congress treat the American people better, and the first step is to reject these budget cuts and to reject this tax reconciliation package.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), a fellow member of the 37-member strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, for joining me here on the floor this evening, as we will do every Tuesday night, to talk about the Nation’s debt and deficit and what it means not only for today’s generation but for future generations.

And, again, Mr. Speaker, I remind the Members that outside the office of every one of us, every member of Congress, every fiscally conservative Democrat in the Congress, there are 37 of us. We are 37 strong. And as one walks the Halls of Congress, it is easy to spot a Blue Dog Member because beside their front door is a sign that welcomes you that is a poster that will demonstrate and remind the taxpayers of this Nation of a number that unfortunately changes and goes up every day.

Today, the U.S. national debt, when we went to work this morning, was $8.121 trillion-and-some-change. Again, for every man, woman, and child that is a citizen of this country, for us to get this Nation out of debt tonight, they would have to write a check for $27,000. Our Nation is spending half a billion dollars every single day in this country simply paying interest on the national debt. Give me 3 days’ interest on the national debt, and I can finish $27,000. Our Nation is spending half a billion dollars every single day in this country simply paying interest on the national debt. Give me 3 days’ interest on the national debt, and I can finish $27,000.

Mr. ROSS. Well, it is the most fascinating thing for me. Ever since I was growing up as a small child in Emmett County, I always heard it was the Democrats who spent the money. And yet it was a Democrat named Bill Clinton who gave us the first balanced budget for the first time in 40 years. Of all things, a Democrat.

So this discussion, this debate here on the House floor is not about pointing fingers. It is about accountability. It is about accountability to the American citizens. It is about accountability to the taxpayers. And this Congress is not being accountable. Blue Dogs have brought up the larger deficit ever in our Nation’s history for the 5th year in a row and given us the largest debt ever in our Nation’s history.

I am pleased to yield to not only a fellow fellow Blue Dog Democrat but a real leader in the Blue Dog Coalition, one of the co-chairs of the Blue Dog Coalition, and that is the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Ross for yielding to me. I have to say the citizens of the gentleman’s district in Arkansas are certainly ably represented.

It is interesting that before, as he was talking here earlier and mentioned that we are spending in excess of a half billion dollars a day just on interest on the national debt, I was thinking I do not know how much his State budget is per year, but my State budget in California is around $100 billion a year. And if we were to take our State’s budget and Mr. SCOTT’s State budget and add them all together with my State’s budget, I would bet that we would still be below the annual number of what we pay in interest on the national debt.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California makes an excellent point. In Arkansas I was in the State senate there for 10 years. It has grown since then. I have been here 5 years now. But the Arkansas State budget, at around $2 billion a year, is what the Arkansas State government budget is. That means that just the amount of money we are spending as a Nation on interest on the national debt in 10 days equals the budget for the State of Arkansas for a year; and I think it really drives on the point of how much a half billion dollars is. Our Nation, again, is borrowing $500 million every 24 hours simply to service the debt, simply to pay interest on the debt, and that $500 million that we cannot go for better schools, better education, better health care, increasing teacher pay. These programs are going unmet, and they will continue to go unmet until we get our fiscal house in order.

As I was mentioning earlier, as Blue Dogs we are tired of all the partisan bickering that goes on in our Nation’s capital, and we are not here to condemn the Republican leadership, the majority, this Republican administration for failing the American people by giving us the largest deficit ever in our Nation’s history without also offering up the solution. And as Blue Dog members, the Blue Dog Coalition has a 12-point plan for budget reform, 12 points. We will be discussing some of them tonight. We will be discussing them every Tuesday night. Twelve points that we believe have to be implemented by this Congress, but before that we have meaningful and truthful budget reform.

So we are not here as conservative Democrats to simply say Republicans are bad. We are here to offer up two things: we are here to demand accountability, to put our fiscal house back in order and state some common sense to our Nation’s government; and we are also here to offer a plan. We have a plan of action, and we are calling on this Republican Congress and this Republican President to embrace our 12 points for budget reform. Let us together and let us fix this problem for the American people before this number, this $8.121 trillion debt, gets any bigger.
giving us the largest budget deficit ever in our Nation’s history for 4½ years.

It is time to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation’s government and stop this reckless spending. Today, the U.S. National debt is $8.121 trillion.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman was talking, I recall when I was an intern in this body for Congressman Martin Frost from Texas, 26, 27 years ago, I sat here and listened to the Republicans rail against the Democrats saying that they were fiscally irresponsible.

And yet since that time, their deficits, when they have been in control, the White House and now in control of everything, have just exploded. I wish they would go back and read those and listen to those old tapes, I am sure C-SPAN still has them back in the old archives, and remember what they said when they were in the minority.

If you ask the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. I just wanted to go back to a point that both of you made, because I think it is important for the American people, those who are watching today, the role of leadership that Democrats have played throughout the history of this country, going all the way back, and you go to the great world war and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. You come all of the way up through the fiscal initiatives that we have served. We have been very strong and very responsible in areas of defense, in areas of the budget, bringing it in on time.

This is just a recent phenomenon with this administration. So I do not want the American people to feel like we are jumping on the Republicans here. The truth is there. When Democrats left office running this government there was an extraordinarily large surplus. Nobody argues with that. We went in an extraordinary deficit now, and dangerously so. And I think what we are seeing tonight as Blue Dogs, as Democrats, is this: that whether you are Republican, whether you are a Democrat, the whole point of it is, I think we all will agree, that our country deserves better.

The American people deserve better than what this is, and all we are doing as Democrats, and as our Blue Dog Coalition, is proving our heritage, proving our purpose, our mission, our goal, is to bring about a balanced budget. We are the group in this Congress that has been at the leadership of this issue. It is time to lead. We have been leading. We think we are getting the ear of the American people.

Once we get the ear of the American people to help put pressure on this Congress, which unfortunately or fortunately, depending upon what party you belong to, is run by Republicans. And I think the Republican and Presidents that we have worked together. And there are many on the other side of the aisle who want to bring this deficit down

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) makes an excellent point, that is, that this is not about politics. It is not about who is a Democrat or who is a Republican. It is about accountability. It is about a group of us that want to restore the confidence of our Nation’s government and want to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation’s government.

And, quite frankly, this debate is about priorities. It is about values. On the Republican side, this Congress, since they have been around for quite some time, a real leader in the Blue Dog Coalition, a co-chairman of the 37-Member-strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. Ross) and, I appreciate your leadership in this Special Order and in so many activities in our Congress.

I want to point out a couple of things, and perhaps you have touched on them already because of what I have heard of your remarks. I am proud to associate myself with them. You are doing a great job of helping inform the American people about what is really going on with their country.

It is not a Blue Dogs or Republicans. It is a little bit scary, because most people who come into our offices do not realize the debt is that big. You see, the debt is rising up and it is rising up at a rate that is going to bust the debt limit cap. Just a few billion dollars from now, our Nation is going to have to ask formal permission to raise the debt ceiling of the United States.

Just a few billion dollars from now, we will lose our ability to borrow any more money unless an act of Congress changes that.

And yet the leadership in this Congress is not telling the American people about that. They are going to hide this information up to the Democratic primary, next March, even though, as that chart shows, the debt is already 8.121 trillion. By the time it gets to 8.170 trillion, we will lose our ability to borrow any more money as a Nation. Our credit card will be maxed out. That is a moment of tragedy for our country because the actual debt burden for working families, if you look at the unfunded obligations of our country, it is not the $27,000, for every American. For a working family, it is $350,000 of debt burden that is already on their shoulders.

So I like to refer folks to a report that came out, it is available on the Internet, it is from the Heritage Foundation. That is not a Democratic group. It is a strong Republican group. But it is one of the scariest reports to ever be issued. It came out on November 30. It is by Brian Riedel. It details how under the Republican budget we can look forward to $800 billion annual deficits and structural deficits that will never go away.

So I just wanted to help folks who may not appreciate Blue Dogs, who
may appreciate Republicans more, that they do not read from the Republican think tank about what the Republicans are doing to our country’s finances. This is an issue that should concern all Americans, whether Democrat or Republican.

I am proud of the role that the Blue Dogs are playing in trying to reduce this fiscal insanity, to try to get our Nation back on the right path. I thank my colleagues, particularly the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. Ross).

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Cooper) and would invite him to stick around as we continue this debate about restoring fiscal responsibility to our Nation’s government. I think it is important to note not only that we have an $8.1 trillion debt this evening, not only important to note that we are spending $500 million of the Nation’s resources in this evening, not only important to note that we are spending $500 million of American citizens’ tax money every day simply paying interest on the national debt, or the fact that we are borrowing $36 billion a day.

I think it is also important to contrast and make the American people aware that these $50 billion in cuts came from Medicaid, came from student loans, came from farm programs, came from food stamps to fund tax cuts for those earning over $40,000 a year.

In fact, this week, this week, we are going to vote on legislation that would provide the majority of tax relief to the most fortunate. That is on the heels of November 18 at 1 a.m. when we voted, they voted, the Republican leadership voted, on a 217-to-215 vote, that I might add not one Democrat voted for, to cut Medicaid and student loans and farm programs and food stamps. They voted to do those cuts to do what? To pay this week for a tax cut, a $70 billion tax cut in tax cuts.

The reduced tax rates on capital gains and dividends, something most of the folks in my district do not have to worry about, they wish they did, the reduced tax rates on capital gains and dividends will cost over $20 billion, or 36 percent, of the bill’s total, nearly 50 percent. I talk about these tax cuts will benefit those earning over $400,000 a year.

Nearly 50 percent of the benefit of these rate reductions will be received by those with annual incomes of over $1 million per year, yet we are not talking about people who have $1 million in the bank. We are talking about annual incomes of over $1 million. That is where 50 percent of the $70 billion will go; and the majority, the rest of it will go to those earning over $400,000 a year.

Look, as Members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, we are conservative Democrats. A lot of us support tax cuts when we can afford them. I was a Democrat that voted for tax cuts. It was before 9/11. It was before 9/11. We really had a surplus. We really were giving people some of their money back.

Since then, I have opposed these tax cuts for a simple reason. I will give them this. It might make for good politics, but it makes for bad fiscal policy and it is the wrong way to treat our children and our grandchildren because now with every tax cut, that mostly benefits a $400,000 a year, how are we paying for it? Not by cutting spending. That is one of the 12 points in the Blue Dog plan. If you are going to cut taxes, cut spending. That is what we do at Ross home in Prescott, Arkansas, around the kitchen table. If we want to buy something, we have got to make sure we have got the money in the checkbook to pay for it. If we want something really bad that costs more than we can handle that month, we have to cut something else. As a State Senator for 10 years, Arkansas like 49 States in this Nation, I had to help balance the budget. And we did it. There is no reason why this Nation cannot have a balanced budget. We are not against tax cuts. We are against borrowing the money from China and Japan and the Caribbean banking center and OPEC nations to pay for tax cuts. Yet this week another $70 billion will be borrowed mostly from foreign lenders, foreign central banks, foreign investors, to pay for tax cuts to the tune of $70 billion that mostly benefits those earning over $400,000 a year, at a time when we have a record debt of $8.12 trillion that continues to increase.

I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CARDOZA. I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas for a great explanation of what the problem is. But as part of that, I also want to highlight the fact that the Republicans criticized the Blue Dogs for not supporting what they call the Deficit Reduction Act. I want to tell you just one reason why they may be wrong, and I believe the most immoral cut that was advocated by the Republican side of this Chamber, and, as you said, not one Democrat voted for that bill, was the $600 million cut to foster care programs. You cannot tell me that out of a $2.2 trillion budget, you cannot find someplace else to cut. But $600 million from orphaned and abused children who are put in foster homes, that to me is just unconscionable. And so what they are asking us to do is not a reconciliation but a changing of priorities. I do not believe that cuts to orphaned and abused children are American priorities. I certainly don’t believe they are American family values. That is not what we learned in church. That is not what I learned in church.

Mr. ROSS. And, I might add, you know a thing or two about that.

Mr. CARDOZA. Well, I do, Mr. Ross. In fact, I have two children that were adopted out of foster care. My wife and I are blessed to have two children from foster care. I just cannot believe that we cannot find a different place to cut. I know after dealing with the foster care system that there are a lot of things that do not work in that system, but it is not that there is too much money in the system, because having seen it up close, there is not too much money in the foster care system. We must have enough. We can save kids from going into a life of crime or being victimized in other ways that cost society much greater amounts. Incarcerating one prisoner is over $40,000 a year. If we lose a young person because of what we are doing, there is no treatment of foster care and being abused a second time after they have been abused either in their home or abandoned or neglected like my children were, if we lose them in the system, it will cost society much more in the long run.

I have a word that I want to call this. I believe we should call this Scrooge-onomics, because I believe it is just the wrong priorities. The other side in my priority has adopted Scrooge-onomics. Just like in the movie and in the book written by Charles Dickens, I just hope that my colleagues on the other side do wake up. I worry for the ghost of Christmas past when they sleep in their nice warm homes, in their nice warm beds on Christmas day, that they have totally forgotten about those children who don’t have the same kind of advantages that they have in life. I would ask them to abandon Scrooge-onomics and adopt a vision for America that is much more compassionate, conservative but compassionate, truly compassionate, and adopt a vision that we can all be proud of instead of abusing our foster children a second time.

Mr. ROSS. We discussed $1.4 billion in cuts to health care for the poor, the disabled, the elderly. Eight out of 10 seniors in nursing homes in Arkansas, my home State, $1.43 billion in cuts to student loans, at a time when I know how many parents feel now, because I have got a child that will soon be going off to college. My wife and I are very blessed. We are very fortunate that we will be okay. We both went to college, we got a good education, we work hard and we will make sure our children get an education. But we are thinking about it and we are concerned about it. I now understand how so many parents across this country lay in bed at night and can’t sleep worried about the cost of their child’s education, at a time when $14.3 billion has been taken cut from our farm families at a time of record diesel prices and we just went through a drought. $700 million in cuts to food stamps. It is like this Republican Congress thinks that people are going to wake up tomorrow and not have enough food or sick anymore. My wife and I own a small town family pharmacy. I see a lot of people come through our doors that are sick. Never once have I met one that loved being sick. We meet a lot of people coming through the doors of our pharmacy in my hometown of Prescott, Arkansas, 3,400 people, where everybody knows everyone.
We know a lot of poor people. We see them come through our door. Never once has someone said, I’m proud to be poor. Yet these cuts make it appear as though people in this country are going to wake up tomorrow and not be poor or sick anymore. And now you are telling me that there are cuts in that bill, the Deficit Reduction Act, that actually adds $20 billion in new debt that cuts our orphans in foster care?

Mr. CARDOZA. That is right, Mr. ROSS. Not only does it cut those two populations but it is done to pay for tax cuts, to pay for additional tax cuts.

Mr. ROSS. This week’s tax cuts. $70 billion this week, mostly to benefit those earning over $400,000 a year, half of it to benefit those earning in income over $1 million a year.

Mr. CARDOZA. I don’t think you can call it anything but Scrooge-onomics.

Mr. ROSS. Scrooge-onomics.

With this every powerful statements here tonight. One point that needs to be addressed a little bit more is the fact that we are going where everyone is giving money from foreigners and the gentleman touched on that, particularly the Chinese. They are lending us more and more money, but I didn’t know if you had pointed out so far here tonight as our colleague John Tanner, that has shown in the past that President George W. Bush has already borrowed more money from foreigners in the last 5 years than every previous President in American history combined. That is an incredible statement because that is every President from George Washington through Bill Clinton. They borrowed about $1 trillion in total from foreigners. But already under President George W. Bush we have borrowed over $1 trillion just from foreigners. So the gentleman with very powerful points about cuts to American citizens, cuts that are really going to damage their lives, at the same time we are cutting them, we are going to be paying more interest money to foreign lenders, to foreign bankers.

And talk about wrong priorities. Hurting home folks so we can benefit rich foreigners? That is completely out of hand. But that is what happens when we not only have giant deficits but we have the borrow so much money from foreigners.

Mr. ROSS. $2 trillion of our debt today is being held by foreign lenders, foreign governments, foreign central banks. Compare this to only $23 billion in foreign holdings in 1993. The top 10 is it kind of like David Letterman last tonight and his top 10 list. The United States of America, we owe Japan $687.3 billion. We borrow money from them to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy people here. China, we owe them $252.2 billion. I know I have got that southern drawl and so I want to make sure everybody understands that I say billion, not million. $252.2 billion.

United Kingdom, $182.4 billion. Caribbean banking centers. I had never heard of such. Caribbean banking centers, $102.9 billion. Korea, $61.7 billion. OPEC, and we wonder why gasoline is so high, we have borrowed $54.6 billion from OPEC, Taiwan $71.7 billion. They are almost in a panic. If China decides to invade Taiwan, we’ll have to borrow even more money from China to defend Taiwan. Germany, $65.5 billion. Switzerland, $37.5 billion. And Hong Kong, $48.1 billion.

Mr. CARDOZA. You have made very powerful points about Scrooge-onomics and more money, but I didn’t think you touched on that, particularly money from foreigners and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. I am proud to be a Georgian, no State in this Nation needs help. We are not nearly pay for tax cuts for the wealthy people in this administration and this Republican Congress account- able and also offer up our 12 point reform plan for curing our Nation’s ad- diction to deficit spending.

Point number one, require a balanced budget. We will be talking more about that and the other 11 points next Tuesday night as members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 37 conservative to moderate Democrats, take to the floor to hold this administration and this Republican Congress accountable for these record deficits and to offer up a solution, including requiring a balanced budget.

The Blue Dog Coalition, the poster here, today the U.S. national debt, this morning, when we started this hour, it was $8.121 trillion. In the past 60 minutes, while we have been standing here discussing the crisis at hand in America, the national debt has risen another $41 million. Another $41 million in debt has accumulated since we began this discussion here on the floor of the U.S. House 60 minutes ago. That is eight more elementary schools that cannot be built tonight in America simply because that money is going to pay interest on the national debt. This discussion will continue with my colleague and other members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition next Tuesday night, and I want to thank you for coming and joining me in this debate about accountability and common sense and fiscal responsibility.

Mr. ROSS. I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia. This is exactly why the 37-member-strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition will take to the floor every Tuesday night to discuss with the Members the debt, the deficit, and to hold this administration and this Republican Congress accountable and also offer up our 12 point reform plan for curing our Nation’s addiction to deficit spending.

Mr. ROSS. This week Taiwan. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), a founder of the Blue Dogs, again he put it best when he said, if China decides to invade Taiwan, we’ll have to borrow even more money from China to defend Taiwan. Germany, $65.5 billion. Switzerland, $37.5 billion. And Hong Kong, $48.1 billion.

Again, this President, this administration, this Republican Congress, has borrowed more money from foreign lenders in the past 4½ years than the previous 42 Presidents combined. It is time for accountability. It is time to restore fiscal discipline to our Nation’s government. I hope the gentleman from Georgia agrees.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. I definitely do agree. Just to bring your point home to the Tennessee’s point home about what we are doing and the money we are borrowing from foreign governments, just think about this as you tie that to homeland secu- rity. We are spending more in our in- terests to defend the Blue Dogs, that we are paying these countries, in addition to the billions of dollars for each country you have mentioned, there is an in- terest on top of that that they are charging us to borrow the money. It is more than what we spend on our own homeland security. You talk about the height of irresponsibility.

But I do want to make sure that the American people understand the hypocris- racy that is at stake here with what my friends and I have been asking us to do which we must not do. We must not trade these budget cuts for foster care programs and for those of the needy to give the wealthy these tax cuts. Not now. Later when we can afford it, let us do so. But certainly not now. Just think. I am not sure that my friends on the other side of the aisle understand nor the President really understands how our country, most of the majority of the working families, the people in this country that are the backbone of this country, let us just even take our soldiers and our National Guardsmen, our soldiers who are de- fending us so brilliantly, doing an ex- traordinary job in Iraq and Afghan- stan, many are on their second and third tours. Our military might is being strained. We are not nearly pay- ing our soldiers enough. They are com- ing from the middle class and they are coming from people like my district. I talk to them every day as I stand here as a Georgian, no State in this Nation has the soldiers, in the number of soldiers who have lost their lives in this combat in Iraq as in the State of Georgia. While at the same time in my State of Georgia, we are faced with the loss of manufacturing jobs. We have just had news of the General Motors plant closing. There is a possibility, strong possibility, before the week is out, we may have news that the Ford Motor plant is closing. Delta Airlines, stretched with its pension, benefit, and asking this House of Representatives for help to help with their pension so they do not go under. That is where we need help. Katrina victims, nearly 80% in my State, the State of Arkansas who need help. And you mean to tell me at a time like this when our country is in such great pain, in such need, not only are we going to cut their programs but we are going to take that money and give it to billion- aires and millionaires.

Mr. ROSS. I want to thank the gentle- man from Georgia. This is exactly why the 37-member-strong fiscally conser- vative Blue Dog Coalition will take to the floor every Tuesday night to discuss with the Members the debt, the deficit, and to hold this administration and this Republican Congress accountable and also offer up our 12 point reform plan for curing our Nation’s ad- diction to deficit spending.

HONORING PETER E. HAAS, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for allowing me to speak out of turn. I appreciate it very much.
Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to a great friend and great American, Peter E. Haas, Senior, for a lifetime of leadership. Peter Haas, who, with his brother Walter, led the renowned blue jean empire Levi Strauss, died at the age of 86 on December 3 in San Francisco. His extraordinary life will forever serve to enrich the lives of all of us living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Known for his integrity, honesty and modesty, Mr. Haas was distinguished in the business world with his unyielding commitment to corporate ethics and for championing blue collar workers.

Mr. Haas was born in San Francisco in 1918 to Elise Stern Haas and Walter A. Haas, Senior, the third generation of his family to lead the family business. Mr. Haas’ great-granduncle, Levi Strauss, created blue jeans as working pants for gold miners in the 1850s. Mr. Haas graduated from UC Berkeley in 1940 with a bachelor’s degree in economics and from Harvard Business School in 1943. In 1945, he joined his brother Walter at Levi Strauss, commencing a 60-year career. In 1953, Time magazine named the two brothers Leaders of Tomorrow. Peter Haas focused on the company’s operations and finance, while his brother Walter focused on marketing and advertising. Peter Haas served as president of the company from 1970 to 1981 and chief executive officer from 1976 to 1981. In 1981, Time magazine named Mr. Haas Chief Executive Officer of the Year. Under their leadership, the Haas brothers’ leadership, the company experienced massive growth and expansion. As the baby boomers hit their teenage years, they capitalized on the growing popularity of blue jeans.

With the first Levi Strauss manufacturing plants in southern States, Mr. Haas took a stand against segregation, refusing to allow separate working areas for African-American white workers. He demanded equal treatment for all employees. His ethics did not hinder the company’s success. In 1945, Levi Strauss consisted of three small factories in the San Francisco Bay Area and $2 million in denim sales. By the time Mr. Haas left his position as board chairman in the late 1980s, sales had reached $3.1 billion in 50 countries.

Mr. Haas used his business sense and financial success for public service, working with numerous foundations and service organizations, including the San Francisco Foundation, the Jewish Community Federation, and the United Way. Through the Miriam and Jewish Community Federation, and the San Francisco Foundation, the Haases gave millions to United Way. Through the Miriam and Jewish Community Federation, and the San Francisco Foundation, the Haases supported numerous foundations and organizations, including working with numerous foundations and service organizations.

Mr. Haas was the university Foundation trustee for 12 years and provided high-quality, early childhood services. The Haases gave millions to United Way. Through the Miriam and Jewish Community Federation, and the San Francisco Foundation, the Haases supported numerous foundations and service organizations, including working with numerous foundations and service organizations.

Peter Haas served as a UC Berkeley Foundation trustee for 12 years and was the university’s most avid donor and fund-raiser. He and Walter built the Haas School of Business in honor of their father, Walter Haas, Senior. In 1996, Peter Haas received the Berkeley Medal, the school’s top honor, and was named Alumnus of the Year. Mr. Haas never missed a home football game or basketball game. He was preparing to attend a UC Berkeley game Saturday when he fell ill.

San Francisco is forever indebted to Peter for his immeasurable contributions. It is with great personal sadness that I offer my deepest sympathy to his wife, Mimi; his sons, Peter and Michael, and their families; and his daughters, Ari and Daniel Lurie; his four grandchildren, Jennifer Haas-Dehejia, Daniel, Bradley, and Nicholas; and one great-grandchild, Maya Cady Haas-Dehejia. I hope that it is a comfort to Peter’s family that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be here tonight to host this hour, and I am looking forward to having a colloquy with some of my friends from our party to discuss the economy, which I think in this era of where we are going through with tax increases, as well, that we have to work to create enough: and so we are going to spend the next hour bragging on the economy.

Before I do that, though, I would like to talk a little bit about what my friends on the other side have been talking about.

When I was campaigning for this first time, the Chair and I are in our first term in this House, I talked about trying to make some friends on the other side of the aisle and build a group of folks we could deal with across the aisle in a bipartisan manner. I committed to myself to try to avoid inflammatory rhetoric, overreaching hyperbole, all the kinds of things that sometimes get us and our colleagues in a lot of trouble when we come to these microphones and speak.

Having listened for the last few minutes to the folks on the other side, I would like to, with as much respect as I can, I can found, some of the things that we have heard here tonight.

I am a CPA. I spent 30-plus years in business helping write financial statements and do tax returns and all the kinds of things that a CPA does. With respect to financial statements, it was always the goal of the financial statement to fairly present the financial results of a particular enterprise, whether it is a small business or a large business. The goal was the same, get all the information out, allow the investor, the banker, and the owner to make fair and well-informed decisions.

One of the things we do here each night is to try to do that same thing. We try to get information out to each other, to the American people, so that they can make good decisions; and then, hopefully, we can make good decisions as well.

Sometimes it is not what is said that is important as what is left unsaid, and I would like to point out a few things tonight that were left unsaid while my colleagues talked about the debt of the Nation and how we got in this particular position.

One of the things you heard over and over is that we are experiencing the largest deficits ever, and that is an accurate statement. But it also ought to be put in context with a couple of other ‘‘largest ever,’’ and that is that, that we are now in the largest economy, the largest U.S. economy, ever. The American economy, U.S. economy, has never been bigger than it is today. That is not an excuse for the deficit, but it helps to put it into context.

We also have more people working in America today than ever. More people employed, more people self-employed, more people at jobs every single day to try to feed their families, provide for themselves, and communities a better place to live. That is a point that ought to be said in the same sentence or same several sentences when we talk about the deficit.

We have got more people owning homes today than have ever owned homes in America, and that is a major statement because with respect to probably on an absolute basis from the family standpoint, homeownership is the largest asset, single largest borrowing that most all families will ever do. There is obviously some exceptions to that; but by and large, most folks will see their biggest debt is their home and biggest asset will be the equity in that home. Overall, good news with which to examine the deficits.

Now, coming at my role here in Congress with a background in finance, background in accounting, you go at budgets or correcting budget deficits, there is really only one way to do it. You either raise revenues or you cut expenses, and what got left unsaid tonight over and over and over as my colleagues on the other side talked about the spending that the Republicans have championed over the last 5 years in our attempt to try to reduce that was where would the Democrats not spend money.

We heard a lot of things about what they did not like about the $50 billion that we passed a couple of weeks ago in rates of reduction in the growth of spending in mandatory programs, mandatory programs being two-thirds out of our annual budget. They did not like mentioned. They were simply reducing in the rate of growth.

What got left unsaid was where would the Democrats, our Blue Dog
colleagues, actually cut, which program. Let us be precise. It is real easy for my colleagues and me to stand up here and say we are against excess spending, we are against the runaway spending, we are against all those kinds of things. But talk is cheap. So I am going to stand up here tonight, in west Texas, where the Chair and I hang out. Where are the specific programs that they think are subject to being cut? We did not hear any of that.

Maybe over the next several weeks, as there are going to come down here again next Tuesday night and talk about what their plans are, and maybe then they will lay out for us are they going to cut defense. I do not think so. Are they going to cut homeland security? We did not hear that tonight. In fact, what we did hear is that they are going to increase spending in those areas. Are they going to cut mandatory spending? It did not sound like it. It sounded like they would prefer to increase spending in all of these areas.

That leaves the nondefense, non-homeland security discretionary budget, which is about $400 billion, a lot of money; but if we have got a $300 billion deficit and we only have $400 billion that we will work on in terms of providing us with spending cut direction, that runs everything else by the way. So I do not realistically think you can cut out of the $400 billion that is in discretionary spending can cut out enough to eliminate $300 billion in deficits.

The other side of the equation, though, is revenue. What I did hear tonight is that my colleagues are in favor of tax increases, period. Someone once said that trying to work your way out of a deficit with tax increases is like standing in a bucket and trying to lift yourself up with the handles. Those do not work.

What we have seen over the last 3 years is that with the new tax rates, the new tax code that we have in place for America, a tax code and a tax scheme that is pro-growth, pro-job creation, is a recovery from a pretty tough time. Let me just go quickly through a couple of numbers that will help you set in context, and then I would like to allow a couple of my colleagues time to visit with us about that.

In 1999, the Federal Government’s total tax receipts, and this was in the years of surpluses as they have mentioned, was $1.827 trillion; and then in 2000, it was just a little over $2 trillion in tax receipts. Then we had a couple of things happen that seem to get lost often when we are in these Chambers and we talk about contingent projections that were done back in 1999 and 2000, about the ongoing surpluses as far as you could see into the future.

We had a little thing called September 11, 9/11, horrible attack on this country that had a devastating impact on our economy. We also had the bust of the dot-com era, the stock market bust. We had corporate accounting bust. We had corporate accounting of the dot-com era, the stock market on our economy. We also had the bust of the September 11, 9/11, horrible attack on this country that had a devastating impact on our economy. We also had the bust of the dot-com era, the stock market bust. We had corporate accounting bust. We had corporate accounting of the dot-com era, the stock market on our economy. We also had the bust of the dot-com era, the stock market bust. We had corporate accounting bust. We had corporate accounting of the dot-com era, the stock market on our economy. We also had the bust of the dot-com era, the stock market bust.
place. So let us not talk about it in terms of cuts in the future, let us make sure my colleague and I use the right phrases.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate that so much, that of the fact that is exactly right. A metaphor that is opposed to extending the tax decreases is in favor of, in fact, a tax increase.

And what could we expect from continuing the tax decrease? Well, I would expect, just as I know my colleague would, that the revenue to the Federal Government will increase, more than enough. I am certain, to continue the appropriate programs that we should at the Federal level, and, in fact, what we ought to be able to anticipate is the opportunity to further continue those tax decreases.

Now, I have some other examples of what happens when you decrease taxes that I would like to share with my colleagues. Remember, 2003 is when the tax decrease went into effect, and this chart shows the amount of growth by each quarter, the amount of growth by each quarter before the tax cuts took effect and after tax cuts took effect.

What you will see very clearly, this is as vivid as it gets, before the tax cuts took effect, you had kind of variable growth. We had the difficulty, as the gentleman mentioned, of the challenge of 9/11, the extreme hardship that we faced at that point and the difficulty of recovering from that. The tax cuts were put in place and they took effect at the beginning of 2003, and since then, then since then we have had 10 straight quarters of plus 3 percent or more growth in GDP. In fact, every one of those quarters is greater than every one of the quarters before when the tax cuts were not in place.

That is the kind of remarkable growth that occurs when you put more money in people's pockets. It increases the amount of economic activity throughout our country.

This is the remarkable chart that demonstrates again what happens with tax cuts, with tax decreases. This chart demonstrates the change in employment. These are the jobs across our Nation. Again, this line in the middle is when the tax cuts took effect. Before that you see from January 2001 through the beginning quarter of 2003, before the tax relief occurred, you see decrease in job growth.

Again, 9/11 took an enormous toll, but decreased job growth. What happens when the tax cuts take effect? You have increased job growth, with 4.4 million jobs created since the tax cuts took effect. Every single quarter you have job growth, sometimes less, but a lot more. This past month, we had 215,000 new jobs created across our Nation.

What happens when you cut taxes? You increase revenue to the government. You increase the economic productivity and growth in this Nation, and you increase jobs. That is what happens when you cut taxes.

Would my colleague agree with that? Mr. CONAWAY. I agree with that completely, and the evidence is in the statistics that we have and that the gentleman is presenting tonight and that my other colleague from Texas will, I suspect as well.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Let me just share a few more charts with my colleagues, because I think these charts just speak loudly. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and these charts can say it so much better than I can.

This shows again the jobs as it relates to the unemployment rate since the tax cuts took effect. So again, we have jobs that we see in this line down below here, the green line as it heads up; unemployment rate in the red line, and time across the bottom. So the tax cuts take effect right here. Job growth is relatively low. Continued upward increase in the amount of jobs. And in terms of the rate of unemployment, chopped in early 2003, and since then, has been steadily declining.

In fact, we are now at an unemployment rate in this Nation of 5 percent, which many economists will tell you is full employment; that people are able to determine greater their destiny, to decrease the size of government, and that all of those things play in determining the size of government, and that all of those things play into increasing the ability of the market to increase jobs and increase the productivity of our private sector and economic development.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Georgia for coming out tonight and sharing these facts with us. I want to quote my good colleague from Texas, everybody is entitled to their own opinion, but none of us are entitled to our own set of facts. And the more we speak to the facts and the less we talk about the phrase, I believe, the better off we all are.

This is clear and convincing evidence that the tax system, while flawed in many ways, is working, and that to tinker with that at this point in time is muddle-headed and hopefully some- thing we will keep from happening. So I want to thank my colleague for coming out and joining us.

And I now want to recognize my good friend and colleague from Texas, Congressman HENSARLING, who has been at this for four or five times as long as I have been, and who is a constant champion of reining in Federal spending.

We sometimes equate Federal spending with the Federal Government's deficit, and I think that that is an im- portant portrayal, and Congressman HENSARLING is a leader among many of us here on the Republican side, and in the Congress overall, and a voice calling for a smaller Federal Government. I want to thank my colleague for his illuminating presentation and, indeed, a picture is worth a thousand words, so we benefited by many, many words tonight through those pictures.

There are a number of facts that the American people need to know, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that we can help illuminate those those evening. As we enter the Christmas season, people are looking for some good news and, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of good news out there. There is good news because of the economic policies that have been enacted by this Republican Congress at the instigation of President Bush.

Since we passed tax relief, as the gentle- men have pointed out, 4.4 million new jobs, jobs with a future, have been created in this economy. That is 4.4 million new jobs. Mr. Speaker, that is wonderful news at this Christmas season.

Now, before we passed the tax relief, this economy was struggling. It was struggling after 9/11, it was struggling after the wake of all the corporate scandals, and it was struggling in the wake of the bust in the high-tech bubble.

But what this President knew, and what this Republican Congress knew, is that if you would only allow the Amer- ican people to keep more of what they earned, put more capital into small business, allow families to keep more of what they earn as they go about
December 6, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

their daily lives, that people would go and they would expand their businesses.

They would become entrepreneurs, and they would start new businesses. And then the greatest housing program, nutritional program, and educational program in the history of mankind would be created, and that is a job in the free enterprise system.

Thanks to the tax relief policies of this Republican Congress, that is what has been done. Now we are going to have this incredibly important vote, I believe, at the end of this week where the Democrats are trying to increase taxes yet again on the American people. What is odd about the procedures that we have, and my colleague from Texas knows this, but when a Member of Congress does something to enact spending, spending is forever; but somehow tax relief is only temporary. We have to vote to keep it alive. Spending goes on forever and ever and ever, but we have to keep tax relief alive.

This is not about any further tax cut: this is about preventing tax increases on the American people. That is what this is about. Already the Democrats want to take all of the tax relief that has been enacted in past years away. Somehow they want to bring back the death tax. Americans will have to visit the undertaker and the IRS on the same day. They want to bring back the marriage penalty so that when two people fall in love, they are going to have to pay Uncle Sam extra money if they want to get married. They would double the child tax credit.

I can tell you as a father of two young children, it is not easy. And yet the Democrats want to take that child tax credit and cut it in half. They want to take away the accelerated depreciation for small businesses and they want to tax investments, the capital of capitalism, that makes all of these jobs possible.

Mr. Speaker, I have held a number of jobs in my life. I used to clean out chicken houses on a poultry farm. I used to tote luggage at a Holiday Inn in College Station, Texas, and I used to bus tables. And although I am somewhat loathe to admit it, I actually practiced law at one time.

MR. OXAYAWAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, was the chicken coop cleaning better or worse than the practice of law?

MR. HENSARLING. That is an excellent question. I will say this, though. It has proven so far to be an excellent practice for this particular avocation of Congress since there are a number of messes that have been left here as well that need cleaning up.

But the point I was going to make is that of all of the jobs I have held, no poor woman ever hired me. It was somebody who rolled up their sleeves, risked their capital, and went out and created a business. So Democrats keep on telling us how much they love jobs, they just seem to hate everybody that creates them because they want to go out and tax and tax and tax and tax. That is no Christmas gift for the American people.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, what is going to happen later this week, if we allow the Democrats to impose their tax increases yet again on the American people, let me tell you what could happen to the 4.4 million jobs that have been created because of tax relief. Let me tell you about a few in my congressional district.

Not long ago, I went to visit a small business in my congressional district called Jacksonville Industries located in Jacksonville, Texas. They are an aluminum and zinc die cast business. They employ about 20 people. Prior to passing tax relief, due to competitive pressures, they were on the verge of having to lay off two of their workers, two of 20. That is 10 percent of their workforce.

Because of what we call "accelerated depreciation," they were able to go out and buy this new piece of equipment. It is large. It is noisy. I could not tell you what it does, but it makes them more competitive. They are making them more competitive, they went out and hired three new workers. They did not lay off two. They hired three. They hired Roger. They hired Jess. They hired Victor.

The Democrats now, though they want to go and increase the taxes on Jacksonville Industries. They want to take away the paychecks from Roger and Jess and Victor and replace them with welfare checks. Mr. Speaker, they call that compassion.

I will tell you about Hugh Dublin and East Texas Right of Way and Tennessee Colony over in Anderson County in my district in east Texas.

This company specializes in the purchase of leases, right-of-way for property for many different purposes. Previously, it had two full-time employees, a very small business. But once we passed tax relief, this business took off. The economy soared. As you have seen earlier this evening, we are having over 4 percent economic growth. Their business soared, and so East Texas Right of Way went out and hired two other people who are unemployed, Dan and David. Those are two new workers who now have good jobs.

Yet the Democrats now are trying to increase taxes on Hugh Dublin and East Texas Right of Way. They want to take away Dan and David’s paychecks and replace them with welfare checks. And, Mr. Speaker, they call that compassion.

Let me give you one more example. Eddie Alexander of Triple S Electric in Henderson County, Texas, once again in my congressional district, has a small business that specializes in residential and commercial electrical contracting. Up until we passed the tax relief, his business consisted of himself with one part-time helper. But since the passage of tax relief and the economic boom that has brought on, he has hired two new individuals. He hired Jarad. Jarad was unemployed. He hired John. John was unemployed. Now they are both full-time employees. They started to make money. They have been able to buy new homes because of the tax relief. Yet the Democrats would take that all away with their tax increases. The compassion is seeing that we have the highest rate of homeownership in the entire history of America under this administration and this Republican Congress. The highest rate of homeownership. Part and parcel of the American Dream is to own your land and have your own home and put that roof over the heads of your own family.

That is the American Dream. Under this administration, this Republican Congress, our policies, our tax relief policies that the Democrats are trying to take away, so many people have been able to buy new homes because of the tax relief. Yet the Democrats would take that all away with their tax increases. The compassion is seeing that we have the highest rate of homeownership in the entire history of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard earlier this evening, this Nation still has a big deficit challenge. We know what, since we have passed tax relief, the deficit has come down. I wish it were because we were spending less. Many of us fight the battles up here to try to protect the family budget from the Federal budget. But what it is, we have cut tax rates and guess what, we have more tax revenues. And do not believe me, it is not my opinion, go to the United States Treasury. Look at the report. It is there in black and white. Already individual income tax receipts are up 14.6 percent over last year since we passed tax relief. Business income tax, corporate income taxes are up a whopping 47 percent. More revenues, more tax revenues are being down the drain. Guess what? Not only did the economy grow but so did tax revenues. Tax revenues grew by about 25 percent.
The same is true under the Kennedy administration. They cut tax rates, and real economic growth was promoted at about a 5 percent rate, and it increased revenues to the Federal Government by about 33 percent.

You go to what some people consider fairly ancient history, the Coolidge administration. Guess what? They cut tax rates and they got more tax revenue, an increase of 61 percent. Why is it that if you will allow the American people, if you will allow small businesses, if you allow American families to keep more of what they earn, they will go out. They will start that new barbecue stand over on the corner. They will start a new transmission shop over there, and they will grow a new automobile dealership on that street corner. It is free enterprise. We have 200 years of history to show us that where jobs of the future are created, it is not as we go to the government program, the great health care program, the great educational program.

But to support that free enterprise system, we have to prevent the Democrats from saying that they are going to impose upon the American people. I want to thank my colleague from Texas in leading this Special Order this evening and making sure that the American people know that due to the economic policies of this Republican Congress and this Republican President, there is a lot of good news today. 4.4 million new jobs. But that is in peril. It is in peril if we do not prevent the Democrat tax increase that we know is coming and coming soon.

But when the American people know what is at stake, when they know that the Democrats want to increase taxes and take away jobs, the American people are not going to buy into that. We need and we will keep this economy growing and the American people will truly have a great Christmas and a great holiday season.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for coming out tonight and sharing his background and his experience in this area. He is one of those loud, clear voices on the side of things. It jumped from 5.6 percent in the last quarter, and that is staggering growth out the year, I was looking at the same estimate these things. They generally are not going to buy into that; and if you allow the American people, if you will allow the middle class, if you will allow the small business, if you allow the American people, if you will allow small businesses, if you allow Americans to keep more of what they earn, the American people, if you will allow small businesses, if you allow the American people, if you will allow small businesses, if you allow Americans to keep more of what they earn, they are not going to buy into that; and if you allow the American people, if you will allow the middle class, if you will allow the small business, if you allow the American people, if you will allow small businesses, if you allow Americans to keep more of what they earn, the American people, if you will allow small businesses, if you allow Americans to keep more of what they earn, they are not going to buy into that. And the Democrats are not going to win that fight.

Mr. CONAWAY. So the numbers we have been talking about tonight, the $50 billion in tax cuts, the $56 billion and the impact extending the current tax law will have on tax revenues, pale against over 108 to $109 billion of increased Federal revenues that has come about as a result of the pro-growth, pro-job creation tax policy that was put in collectively in 2001 to 2003.

In addition to that good news, at the end of last week, the GDP growth for the third quarter of calendar year 2005 was 4.3 percent. That is a good growth rate on any economy, a developing economy. But let us make sure that we understand this is on the single largest economy in the world. It grew 4.3 percent in the third quarter, and that is staggering growth under any conclusion.

The unemployment rate was mentioned earlier as being as low as 5 percent. That is full unemployment in government statistics, and is certainly lower than the averages of unemployment of the previous 3 decades. The decade of the 1970s, which you remember, we had a big depression then, and as a result of a run-up in oil and gas prices, lower than in the 1980s, when those of us in the oil business experienced a significant downturn in 1986 and later, and then lower than the boom years of the 1990s when the unemployment rate was as low as 4 percent, would ever be. The current unemployment rate is actually lower than that. Statistics are full of all kind of odd and important indexes that statisticians and economists use to try to make projections as to where the economy is going. One of those that you do not hear a lot about is the consumer confidence index, and that is supposed to be a measure of how consumers feel about themselves, are they going to go spend money, do they feel comfortable with their job and those kinds of things. It jumped from an 85.2 percent rating in October to a 98.9 percent rating in November, a 1-month jump of over 13 points in consumer confidence.

So the consumer confidence is up. Another statistic that gets talked about a little bit is that sales of new homes jumped 15 percent in October; the largest 1 month percentage gain in 12 years, and new single-family homes also climbed to an all-time record high of 1.42 million units, more people, again, as we have said several times tonight, more people owning a home in America than ever before.

Now 1 month does not make a trend. But continuing to talk about Federal tax receipts and revenues, the first month of fiscal year 2006 was the month of October of 2005. And during that first month, Federal tax receipts were about $149 billion, and a year ago, the equivalent month in October of fiscal 2005, which was October of 2004, Federal tax receipts was $137 billion, so there was a $12 billion gain in just 1 month against previous years’ months.

Now you have got to be careful. That may or may not be a trend. But it is hard to say it is bad news, that the tax receipts for October and November are greater than tax receipts for October of last year. I think that is good news. I would also like to point out a couple of tax provisions that are included in the extension that we will do later on this week that are important, and one of those would continue the tax deduction for state and local sales taxes for States that do not have a State income tax, States like yours and mine.

And so this provision would allow Texans to deduct, rather than the State income taxes, to deduct State and local taxes, which are used to fund many of the exact same programs that States that have income taxes use those taxes to provide goods and services to their citizens.

Another deduction that is extended is the above-the-line deduction for higher education expenses. Now, trying not to be someone who is downsizing my office or speak, above-the-line deductions means that you get to deduct that without having to itemize your deductions.

So higher education expenses, the deduction for that is continued, as well as an important expenditure for many teachers who find the school budgets do not provide some of the extras, and maybe even sometimes some of the essentials that a teacher needs in providing a good classroom experience for those students, teacher deduct their out-of-pocket expenses above the line, which means they do not have to itemize deductions to get to deduct those personal expenses that the teacher may pay.

One that I came across tonight, or an example of one I came across tonight is the tax incentive to revitalize the District of Columbia. Included in the Code of the past two tax cuts has been a $5,000 tax credit for anyone, any first time home purchaser in the District of Columbia. Well, one of the folks on my staff, who as you know, staff are legendarily overworked and way underpaid. One of the folks on my staff 2 years ago took advantage of this provision and bought his first home in the District of Columbia. Well, one of the folks on my staff 2 years ago took advantage of this provision and bought his first home and has begun to build equity in that home over the past 2 years and would not have been able to do that were this tax provision not in place. When you sell a home, you have bought it from somebody who probably owns it, who has sold another home, and it is all likely that this person is going to go invest that money in another home, so it is important that we have first-time buyers to work
into the market, work into the housing market, because as we stated earlier, for many families, the ownership of a home is the single largest asset that they have in their portfolio. And this gentleman now has a home that he is paying a mortgage on, of course, and building in that home, building equity, in his personal wealth, and he is going to be better off as a result of having done that.

Let me talk about something that we probably should have talked about right off the bat, and that is the Federal Government does not grow this economy. A lot of times, the Federal Government gets a lot more credit for good economic news than it deserves, and in all likelihood, sometimes a lot more of the blame for bad economies than it deserves. But the truth of the matter is, a growing economy that we have right now is not created by a Federal Government. It was created by hundreds of thousands of hard working Americans, employees who go to work every day and work for their employer to try to provide a good or a service that that employer can sell and make money on.

Self-employed individuals who have gone out there and taken the business risk of leaving that paycheck, leaving the security of a check every 2 weeks to try to make it on their own. Those are the folks who are building this country, and those are adding people to their payrolls, who are hiring new people or setting up additional businesses to take advantage of opportunities that we are having in this growing economy. So we cannot overstate the value of the hard working American in growing this economy. But we do have some risks a lot of times of overstating the impact the Federal Government has. In my view, the role of the Federal Government is to get out of the way of these hardworking Americans and let them continue to grow this economy, pay their fair share of taxes, of course, but let us not do things that puts the government in the way of creating jobs, gets in the way of furthering homeownership, gets in the way of growing this economy and providing new opportunities for men and women in this country.

I participated in, back in the early 1990s, in a needs assessment for Midland, Texas. This was an attempt to surveying, essentially, working throughout Midland County, what were the needs of people within Midland, what were the needs of your family, what were the needs in your neighborhood, what were the needs within the overall community. And we got all of this information together and began to sort them into like items and pared the list down to 10 so that we had, in fact, 10 top needs that the people in Midland, Texas, told us they were having in their homes, their families, their neighbors, their communities. And as you look down that list, nine of those needs would have been positively impacted by a family that had a job.

It has been my experience that jobs cure an awful lot of ills within every community. When families are working, the family itself is better off. Communities are better off. The strains on the social network, that is the United States way, that is the American way, that is the charities that are in place to create that safety net that is so vital in every single one of our communities, is less strained when more people have jobs. It is also better supported when more people have jobs.

So it is important that we give credit where credit is due with respect to this growing economy. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) mentioned one of his, or three actually of his constituents that are good examples of why these pro growth/pro job creation tax policies are in effect now and that we ought to continue them in effect.

I want to talk about Calvin Fryar. Calvin is a good friend of mine from Brownwood, Texas. He and his family own a company that distributes gasoline. They also have convenience stores. They hire people to work. And he told me the other day at dinner that, because we were talking about extension of the current tax cuts. He said that the one that he feels the most important to him as a small business owner was the section 179 deduction. Section 179 provides for the immediate write-off of certain equipment that is purchased and put into use in the business each year. And I think he talked about $100,000. Calvin told me that when that came into effect, I think it was 2003, that it helped him make a decision to invest additional money into the businesses that he was trying to create. And not only did he invest the amount of money that qualified him to immediately deduct that amount, he also invested a lot of money on top of that, and in doing so, created jobs, and not only did he create jobs for the people who built whatever it is he bought, but he also created additional jobs for his company because he was expanding his opportunities within the gasoline distribution area as well as convenience stores.

So he was adding jobs to his business as a result of that one specific Tax Code that is expiring, and under the tax law that we will pass, hopefully, pass on Thursday, will be continued.

Another one of those that is very important is Mr. HENSARLING earlier in the previous hour mentioned it, and that is the tax rate on capital gains and dividends. If you were to listen to the colleagues on the other side, it is as if the Federal Government has some innate claim to some portion of your capital gains, some portion of your dividends, and I would argue that that is not logical. Where is it stated anywhere that the Federal Government has a claim on selling property that you have held, selling property that you have owned for a number of years, that you built from scratch? Why is it that the Federal Government has a claim to a certain amount of that?
these arguments, not really debate since we are not going back and forth, but listening to the three of us put out information that we believe is important for the American people to hear and to understand—and to understand how we are coming to the conclusions that we are coming to. Too, that we hold to a very high standard of what we say and that we are able to back up each and everything that we do say with facts that are verifiable.

So Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you tonight for being able to lead this hour; and I want to thank my colleague from Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, for his role in our talk tonight and I want to also thank my freshman colleague from Georgia, Mr. PRICE, for his helping me out tonight as well. So the message I would leave with the American people is this, that we have got a growing economy, we have got an economy that is well grounded and is going to sustain this growth; but that what we do not need to do is to increase taxes, tax rates. Our pro growth/pro job creation tax rates on that economy, but that we have an economy that is well grounded and is going to sustain this economy, we have got an economy that is. So the message I give tonight as well. So the message I give tonight is that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you tonight for being able to lead this hour; and I want to thank my colleague from Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, for his role in our talk tonight and I want to also thank my freshman colleague from Georgia, Mr. PRICE, for his helping me out tonight as well. So the message I would leave with the American people is this, that we have got a growing economy, we have got an economy that is well grounded and is going to sustain this growth; but that what we do not need to do is to increase taxes, tax rates. Our pro growth/pro job creation tax rates on that economy, but that we have an economy that is well grounded and is going to sustain this economy, we have got an economy that is. So the message I give tonight as well. So the message I give tonight is that.

THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for half the time until midnight, approximately 45 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, of course, I come to the floor to talk about a subject that we do not talk nearly enough about. And I really did not intend to talk about tax policy or taxes, but after listening to the last hour, and especially some portions of it, I resisted, as I listened to some of the commentary. As a matter of fact, it reminded me of the young fellow who went to Sunday school and rushed home because he was so excited and told his mother, "Mom, you should have been with me at Sunday school. We just had a great lesson. You really would have enjoyed it.

She said, "Well, what was so exciting about it?"

He said, "Well, in Sunday school, they told us all about this great general named Moses and how he led his army out of Egypt with the Egyptians hot pursuit. And when they got down to the Red Sea," he said, "Moses dispatched his engineers and had them build a pontoon bridge and all of his soldiers went across. And then when the Egyptians got on the bridge, he dispatched his demolition experts, and they dynamited the bridge, and all of the Egyptians fell into the water and drowned. Johnny's mother said, "Now, Johnny, are you sure that is what they told you?"

He said, "Well, no, ma'am." But I figured you would believe this more than you would what they did tell us.

And listening to what some of my colleagues have been saying this evening, I figure that the American people have got to believe something other than that. I mean, I have been truly amazed about how they can put money in the pockets of those at the top of the economy, but that we continue the pro growth/pro job creation tax rates that have been in effect since 2001 and 2003.

We just had a great lesson. You really would have enjoyed it.

Well, what was so exciting about it? He said, "Well, in Sunday school, they told us all about this great general named Moses and how he led his army out of Egypt with the Egyptians hot pursuit. And when they got down to the Red Sea," he said, "Moses dispatched his engineers and had them build a pontoon bridge and all of his soldiers went across. And then when the Egyptians got on the bridge, he dispatched his demolition experts, and they dynamited the bridge, and all of the Egyptians fell into the water and drowned. Johnny’s mother said, “Now, Johnny, are you sure that is what they told you?” He said, “Well, no, ma’am.” But I figured you would believe this more than you would what they did tell us.”
We must collectively, law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, correctional officials, address this issue. Otherwise, we will continue to spend tax dollars incarcerating and continuing to incarcerate individuals. We need to contemplate that while they are incarcerated and continue to have an opportunity to train, that they have an opportunity to be educated.

I know a lot of people think that going to prison is like being in a hotel. I guess it's like being in a hotel, even though we used to call our county jail the "McFall Hilton." McFall was our sheriff. It is nothing, as many contemplate. And while they are there, we need to work on issues to give them skills once they hit the streets.

The programs that I spoke about implementing, the Pretrial Diversion Program, the Municipal Drug Court, and some of the community reentry programs, are still in existence. We need to continue to believe that prisoner reentry is not a Democratic issue, it is not a Republican issue. It is a common-sense issue. The facts are clear that meaningful reentry programs significantly diminish the chances that ex-offenders will return to prison. They save taxpayer dollars and increase public safety. So why not invest in enhancing reentry programs in order to end the cycle of recidivism? That is exactly what the Second Chance Act does.

Before the legislation, and I am going to leave that to some of my colleagues as well, I just want to give a few statistics. In 2002, 2 million people were incarcerated in all of the Federal and State prisons. Each year, nearly 650,000 return to communities nationwide. Two-thirds of them are expected to be re-arrested. The State of Ohio has one of the largest populations of ex-offenders reentering the community, with about 24,000 ex-offenders returning to their respective communities annually. Of those ex-offenders, about 6,000 will return to Cuyahoga County, my county, and almost 5,000 will reenter in the city of Cleveland, which is the largest jurisdiction in my congressional district.

Statewide, about 40 percent of ex-offenders will return to prison. In Cuyahoga County, about 41 percent. Such high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes each year and wasted taxpayer dollars which can be averted through improved reentry programs.

H.R. 1704, the Second Chance Act of 2005, allocates $110 million toward a variety of reentry programs. One of the main components is the funding of demonstration programs that will provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring service. This broad array of services will provide stability and make the transition of ex-offenders easier, and in turn, reduce recidivism.

One of the things that we have found over the years in our community reentry programs is a lack of housing for ex-offenders. An ex-offender comes home to a family and the family says, "I cannot take you in. You need to be somewhere else." An ex-offender comes home and does not have access to drug treatment programs and maybe no access to reentry programs. We found that statistically, inmates in many of the prisons not only have a drug problem, they have a mental health problem. And when they hit the streets, they often self-medicate because they have been very active in creating a program called the Choice Act.

In that he has been able to implement services and programs beginning in the penal institution so that as they come out, they are already prepared. I am so pleased to have been a part of many of these programs, and I am so pleased that our legislation has had a hearing before the Judiciary Committee.

Many times you introduce legislation, the legislation goes to committee and it never gets a hearing, does not get voted out of committee; and then it kind of lingers and dies in committee. We were pleased that we had had that Judiciary Committee hearing and the committee is now to have two hearings and I want to get it out of committee and bring it to the floor of the House so all of our colleagues can talk about the issue.

The other beauty of this program is that we have bipartisan support. There are Democrats and Republicans on this bill. The trade representative, Mr. Portman, was very active in that process. I can go on and on and on talking about this issue and my experiences with the program.

And with that, because our time is limited, I am going to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and say to him again thank you so much for your leadership, thank you so much for your concern.

I keep talking about that the prisoners but their families who are always looking at this, they say, I sent my son to get a job, and when he went to get the job, if he told them that he had a felony record he would never get the job, or if he does not tell them, then they learn he has a record, he loses the job. There are men and women out here who need to be put to work and take care of their families.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. Jones). You are absolutely right. I get letters every day that I can read. They are very important. I mean, they respond to all of our mail. I have got a cardboard box of letters that we have not been able to get to of individuals and their families simply expressing a hope that this legislation is going to be passed, that there is going to be some possibility that they would have an opportunity to reclaim their lives and become again meaningful members of society.

And we certainly thank the gentlewoman for the role that she has played. I am optimistic, because we are going to see this legislation passed. Right now we have got about 85 sponsors in the House. When it was introduced in the Senate, there were 10 co-sponsors in the Senate, or 10 sponsors, who is a good number that has great support and that is continuing to rise.

One of the reasons I think we have been able to have a hearing in the Judiciary Committee is because there is bipartisan support on the Judiciary Committee for the legislation. And one of the members of that committee who has been very instrumental in not only moving this legislation, but instrumental in protecting the rights of American citizens, perhaps like none other, and using his office, we all like to call him our constitutional scholar, that is one who understands the Constitution and what it was that its framers were trying to protect and provide, there are indeed members who the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Scott) is here with us this evening.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. Jones) for working together tonight on this Special Order. I especially want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his hard work in dealing with prisoners and their problems.

Obviously, we all recognize where in most States prisoners cannot vote, so there is nothing in it for you. However, there is something in it for the prisoners. But also there is something in it when you help those prisoners get out and do well. There is also something in it for everybody else, because if they get out and do well rather than get out, and with the present trend, two-thirds are going right back to prison.

The public, the law-abiding public benefit from your work, because they are less likely to be victimized by another crime. They also as taxpayers are less likely to have to pay for the
$20,000, $30,000, or $40,000 a year incarceration for the two-thirds of the prisoners that go back.

So the gentleman’s work not only helps the prisoners, but also helps the law-abiding citizens in terms of their public safety and helps the taxpayers in terms of not having to pay for the incarceration.

Your legislation is bipartisan legislation. It is not a panacea for everything that needs to be done, but it certainly makes a significant step in the right direction in ensuring those who leave our Federal and State prisons have the assistance they need to avoid returning.

As you mentioned, there are close to 700,000 people who will leave the prisons, the jails and prisons of the United States next year. Most will be ill prepared to succeed in earning a living and leading a law-abiding life, and the resources to help them are very limited. Your bill will help them.

Now, the chances of success for the prisoners are extremely small. Two-thirds come back to prison within 3 years. We know, as the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) has pointed out, that it is hard to get a job if you have a felony record. Obviously, the fact that you have that gap in your resume does not help.

The fact that you have to say that you are a convicted felon does not help you get a job. Most prisoners have limited or no family support, no community support. So it is not surprising that two-thirds return to prison after serving a year.

And there are benefits that they are not entitled to. We also have a situation where they have limited or no family support, no community support. We need to make sure that we do the financially and morally responsible thing. We cannot allow ourselves the luxury of sounding tough on crime, tough on crime policies with no attention to what happens next.

To continue in the direction we are going is unfair to the taxpayer, unfair to those prisoners, and unfair to the unsuspecting people that will be victims of crime because we made that cost-effective effort that is not the end of our responsibilities. But with the numbers of prisoners and the amount of money we spend with those long sentences and the fact that when they finish that long sentence, they are going to turn around and go right back, we need to do more.

We need to make sure that we do the imprisonment for new crimes within 3 years of their release.

Although the national crime rate has fallen significantly over the last few years, we are seeing more and more people sent to prison for longer and longer times, and the problem is going to continue to grow before it gets better. We are still passing new bills with longer prison sentences and establishing mandatory minimum sentences and other kinds of sentences that make sure that the time served is even longer and longer and more and more people are sent to prison.

We have seen some of these schemes, like the mandatory minimums studied. And the studies have concluded that minimum mandatory sentences are distorted in the effort to establish an orderly, fair, and appropriate sentencing scheme. These programs discriminate against minorities, violate common sense, and in the end waste the taxpayers’ money.

Now, all of this focus on the draconian mandatory sentences has led us to the point, as you pointed out, over 2.2 million people are locked up in our Federal prisons and State jails, a five-fold increase in just the last 20 years. The prison population on the Federal level has increased over seven-fold in the last 20 years.

For example, in 1984 the daily lock-up count in prisons and jails was just seven in the Federal prisons. Today 2 million prisoners are in State and local prisons. Almost 200,000 in Federal prisons. 400,000 20 years ago, over 2 million today.

According to many studies, most of that is through the new sentencing schemes like mandatory minimums. As a result of the focus on incarceration, the United States leads the world in incarceration, far. We are in first place: 726 inmates per 100,000 population. 726.

Second place Russia, 532. We are at 726. 532. Most are in the hundreds. England, 142 per 100,000. Australia, 117. Canada, 116. Germany, 91. France, 95 per 100,000. The United States, 700—and-some per 100,000. When you go into the inner cities, it is not 700—and-some; it is 3,000 per 100,000. Five thousand in the inner cities. 116 in Canada, 5,000 in our inner cities.

No matter how tough we get in sentencing, the fact is that 95 percent of prisoners are not entitled to. We also have a situation where they have limited job skills, they have limited education, they have limited resources, they have limited or no family support, no community support. That is why the Second Chance Act is so important. And I applaud the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) and former Representative Portman. This is a bipartisan bill supported by over 90 cosponsors, including me and virtually all of the criminal justice advocates and organizations in the country, including law enforcement who work with or are familiar with the situation encountered by those leaving our prisons.

The only criticism I have heard of this legislation is that it perhaps might not go far enough to fully address all of the problems of those facing problems reentering society from prisons.

Now, I agree with that criticism, because it does not do everything that needs to be done, but it is an important first step. And so I am a cosponsor of not only this bill but one that is being developed by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONTERS) that was introduced last Congress and will be refilled this Congress, the Reentry Enhancement Act.

That bill addresses many of the programs and issues touched by this bill and goes even further by actually implementing many of the programs on a national level.

Now, I have seen the value of these programs. The Virginia CARES Program, Community Action Reentry System, Virginia CARES Program, has been studied, and they have just little more research to do.

But those who get the benefits of that program, we have seen a 25 percent reduction in recidivism compared to like prisoners who do not get a benefit from the program. Twenty-five percent reduction. When you calculate that out in terms of those that do not come back into prison and what we would have to pay for their incarceration, we save more money than we spend.

And we not only help the prisoners lead a productive life, save more money than we spend and also spare that 25 percent of victims who would have been victimized, victims of crime, they do not have to be victims of crime because we made that cost-effective effort that is not entitled to. The expenditure of money helping the prisoners, but also helping the taxpayer and helping public safety.

As a society, we often breathe a sigh of relief when a long sentence is issued for a crime as if that is the end of our responsibilities. But with the numbers of prisoners and the amount of money we spend with those long sentences and the fact that when they finish that long sentence, they are going to turn around and go right back, we need to do more.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of my colleagues in developing and promoting this legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with them and other members of the bipartisan coalition to enact this measure so that we cannot only help the prisoners but help the taxpayers and help public safety.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.
are going to make on crime policy. Are you trying to reduce crime or are you trying to play politics? We know what helps us get elected. We know how to play politics. We also know how to reduce crime. Once you have made that choice, the fixing of a crime policy is easy. If you are playing politics, you just have to worry about the effects of the policy, you just have to make sure that you have got a good vote-getting slogan. You can be wasting the taxpayers money. You can be even increasing gan. You can be wasting the taxpayers policy, you just have to make sure that you have got a good vote-getting slogan. You can be wasting the taxpayers money. You can be even increasing gan. You can be wasting the taxpayers money. You can be even increasing gan. You can be wasting the taxpayers money. You can be even increasing gan. You can be wasting the taxpayers money. You can be even increasing gan. You can be wasting the taxpayers money. You can be even increasing gan.

The crime rate will go up. You help yourself get elected, the crime rate goes up. Like I said, make your choice. If you are in interested in reducing crime, some of these policies are stupid. If you are interested in protecting yourself, some of those slogans are very helpful. When you get into helping prisoners, let’s decide not whether you are interested in the prisoner or not, just whether you are interested in reducing crime. If your goal is to reduce crime, something of the most cost-effective expenditures you can make, a lot better than lengthening the sentence. Ninety-five percent will get out of prison at one point or another. You have got 600,000 people, almost 700,000 people, going into the community, two-thirds of whom will end up going back to prison if we don’t do anything. If you want to take that 650,000, almost 700,000 people, spend a little bit of money and you can reduce the crime rate amongst that group, if you can reduce the crime rate, you will not only reduce crime, you will also save the taxpayer a lot of money and spare the potential victims of crime that victimization.

If you ignore what you have done for humanity in helping the prisoners, just ignore that, just look at what you are doing for the taxpayer and the law-abiding citizen, this is the right thing to do. You also help prisoners lead a more productive life. But that is frankly, from a public policy position, a secondary aspect. We are trying to reduce crime. We are trying to save money. This saves money and reduces crime so that the law-abiding citizen doesn’t have to deal with about getting victim of crime. You do that by helping the prisoner lead a productive life. That is what your bill does. It is cost effective and reduces crime.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I was about to jump out of my seat in order to respond to being soft on crime. Again as a former prosecutor and judge, I have served on a number of commissions with other law enforcement people. In fact, one of the great community reentry programs is actually part of our Ohio Corrections system under the leadership of our director. But in the community reentry program that is run by Lutheran Metropolitan Min-

isteries, our motto is that people are more likely to act their way into a new way of thinking than think their way into a new way of acting. One of the things that we want to do is to give them an opportunity to act into a new way of thinking and to have new poli-
cies and new laws help them do some of those things. The duty of many of these reentry programs is that if we do not do something, we bring offenders back into the community without mental health opportunities, without drug treatment, without opportunities for employment.

One of the things that is really impacted by a community reentry program and the opportunity for jobs is child support. There are many offenders who are unable to pay child support because they are not working anywhere and we are paying the cost of supporting their children. Through giving them meaningful employment, we will be able to have them pay some of the costs that they have either fathered or mothered. But as importantly as we all talk about the importance of family, the importance of having a mother or father in your life, in many of these programs we are able to think about the children that they have fathered or mothered. But as importantly as we all talk about the importance of family, the importance of having a mother or father in your life, you get into helping communities, two-thirds of whom will end up going back to prison if we don’t do anything.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. The gent- lewoman so much. I think we are fortunate that many publications are talking the right spin on this. I was just looking at a group of them: The Baltimore Sun, the Houston Chronicle, Newport Daily News, Journal and Courier, Detroit News, Baltimore Sun, Tulsa World, Daily Oklahoman, Baltimore Sun again, San Francisco Chronicle. All of these have written positive editorials, stories, or entertained letters to the editor. One that struck me that I picked up really came from Oklahoma. It talks about a person who

“Facing five 20-year sentences at the age of 35, Debbie Green’s life seemed pretty much over. An abusive husband led her to a heavy meth habit and that, in turn, to dealing the drug and landing in Oklahoma’s prisons. But in 2001, 7 years into her third prison term, she convinced the parole board to give her another chance. They did, and so far their bet is paying off: Debbie has worked 4 years now at a fencing company in Tulsa, staying clean, supporting herself, and paying taxes. She credits her success to counseling programs on the inside, strong support from her church and community, and the Second Chance Act, which helps establish programs such as the one that Debbie benefited from in Oklahoma. We had hoped that we were going to get this out this year. Obvi-
ously that is not going to happen because of Katrina and all kinds of other things that have crept or jumped into the legislative process, but next year.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have still got a couple of minutes left.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I just want to add that the Second Chance Act will provide demonstration grants, but it also provides some resources. It provides some money, block grants to States that can be used to establish programs such as the one that Debbie benefited from in Oklahoma. We had hoped that we were going to get this out this year. Obviously that is not going to happen because of Katrina and all kinds of other things that have crept or jumped into the legislative process, but next year.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have still got a couple of minutes left.
We need to understand this war that we are in. We need to understand our enemy, and as I listened to the debate here on the floor a couple of weeks ago on a Friday when we debated the resolution to immediately pull out of Iraq, it occurred to me that there were a lot of people in this chamber, Mr. Speaker, that I thought did not have a long-term view for the future of the United States of America or the free world for that matter.

I want to raise a point, and I want to the statement of the gentleman from New Mexico, that I have brought in a picture and a poster to help with that point. This is not the number one villain in all of Iraq or all of this war against radical, militant extremists, but this is Muqtada Al-Sadr, who is actually a Shi’ite leader, an individual we have heard quite a lot about. He got into the military business and brought his militia to bear against U.S. and coalition military forces and Iraqi military forces. The statements and the fixed results I think we can say at best.

I made a number of trips over to Iraq, and what we do is we go into Kuwait and then usually leave very early in the morning to go into Iraq in the afternoon. In the morning I am sitting up there, and I had turned on my television set in the hotel in Kuwait and turned it to Al Jazeera TV because watching Al Jazeera TV tells me a lot about what people are seeing in the Middle East and across the Arab world.

As I watched that television, it was Arabic audio, but it had English I call them subtitles. On that date, which was June 11, 2004, this particular CDEL, I watched the television and saw Muqtada Al-Sadr come on there, and I heard him say in Arabic, with the English subtitles underneath, just what you see here, Mr. Speaker. He said, “If we keep attacking Americans, they will leave Iraq, the same way that they left Vietnam, the same way that they left Lebanon, the same way that they left Mogadishu.”

Now, what does that mean? It means that the word has been spread throughout all Qaeda world that Americans do not come and stay till it is over, that they will pull out, and that we are not committed to this cause. He would like to convince his followers and those he would recruit to be his followers that Americans are prepared at any moment to pull out of Iraq.

That is far from the case. Mr. Speaker, and this is the cause where we must stay, and we must carry this message across this world to our coalition partners, to our soldiers that are over there, that they are not the only ones who have just not too long ago celebrated Thanksgiving in foreign soil again, and again to our allies but especially to our enemies.

This language, this statement, that Americans do not stick to it, is a thread that goes through many of the writings of these victims of al Qaeda leaders. I believe I can find that in a Google search in words phrased a little bit differently but the same meaning, out of Osama bin Laden, out of Zawahir, out of Zargawi, and that coupled with Muqtada Al-Sadr.

That message has been sent. It keeps getting sent. It is echoed out off Al Jazeera. That means whoever is watching Al Jazeera hears this message. We have to believe this message that America is not going to stay until the job is done.

We had a debate on this floor, Mr. Speaker, and that vote took place in the fall of 2002. It authorized the President to use force to enforce the United Nations resolutions, all for a good cause. That is how a free Nation should do this. We should have a free debate, and it ought to be an open debate. The people in this country should engage in this debate and carry their message to their Members of Congress and let that echo in these chambers, Mr. Speaker, and it did in that debate.

The resolution after the vote went up, and it was a solid majority to give the President the authority to enforce those U.N. resolutions and to use force, if necessary, to bring Saddam Hussein in line. In fact, it is the policy and was the policy of this Congress to establish a regime change in Iraq. We had our debate. When debate is over and there is a majority vote that prevails, then the people in this chamber need to abide by that decision.

If we pass a law in here, we do not go and say, okay, I am going to ignore that law and undermine that law. We live by that decision by that majority decision. There is nothing more important than when you have men and women in uniform, put their lives on the line, and you do by a majority vote and you endorse it, you do not want to see people undermining that effort. Undermining that effort indexes directly with this statement by Muqtada Al-Sadr.

Mr. Speaker, I will pick that up in a moment and carry some more details on that. But I want to call that, but I want to call the College of yielding to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. KING), my friend, the first of the Caucus States, the first in the Nation primaries.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

I would like to thank you for your leadership and your willingness to talk about what is a very important issue for the future of our country and for the future of the Middle East.

It makes me, I have traveled to Iraq on two occasions, and I have seen both the problems that our troops are confronting there, but I have also seen the progress. I think it is important when we talk about Iraq that we have a balanced perspective and we look at both those problems and the progress.

There is no question that today was a very difficult day for the Iraqi security forces, as the suicide bomber killed over 40 police recruits, and the U.S. Marines that were killed on Friday by...
December 6, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H11097

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to team up with Mr. BRADLEY and help direct our Presidential candidates on to South Carolina, too, in about another 3 years. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here tonight.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to team up with Mr. BRADLEY and help direct our Presidential candidates on to South Carolina, too, in about another 3 years. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here tonight.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to team up with Mr. BRADLEY and help direct our Presidential candidates on to South Carolina, too, in about another 3 years. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here tonight.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to team up with Mr. BRADLEY and help direct our Presidential candidates on to South Carolina, too, in about another 3 years. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here tonight.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to team up with Mr. BRADLEY and help direct our Presidential candidates on to South Carolina, too, in about another 3 years. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here tonight.
some issues I would like to add to that tally.

Two elections already this year in Iraq, one in January that elected the interim Iraqi Government and the one in October which was for the referendum on the Constitution. We have heard the Iraqis cannot hold elections. There will not be enough safety, they will not be legitimate. And all of those criticisms got rolled out.

In fact, I would take us back to the first election after the liberation of Iraq that I know of, and Mr. BRADLEY mentioned General Petrais who commanded the 101st Airborne that went in in March 2003, and he liberated the region of Mosul and approximately three of the provinces up in that area. That was March.

I was in the region of Mosul in the fall, and I met with the governor of Mosul and the vice governor of Mosul, and one or two other officials of that region. If you have a governor and vice governor, you are appointed by the government before the targeted deadline. We established the CPA, the Coalition Provisional Authority, and then shortly after that we handed over the Civilian Provisional Authority, and then having the elections that elected the Iraqi interim parliament and then having the referendum that ratified the Constitution on October 15, one might say what is all of that about.

Well, all of them together were required sequentially to get to the point where they are today: poised to have an election of a new parliament in Iraq, a new parliament that will be established upon the Constitution that the people have ratified in their referendum last October 15. The new parliament that will be seated shortly after those elections of December 15 will be a parliament that truly represents a sovereign nation of Iraq.

When they sat at the United Nations and the representative that is appointed to represent Iraq in the United Nations, they will be the most legitimate government represented in the United Nations of the Arab world that is there because they will be the ones that are elected by a free people. The voice of the representative from Iraq will actually be the voice of the people of Iraq.

That is a misconception that many of the people in the United States of America have about the United Nations themselves, the idea that the United Nations is a voice of the world, that it is a free and democratic global forum where we can resolve all of our disputes, whereas if the countries represented are not free countries. They do not allow their people to have freedom of speech, press, and religion. They do not allow their people to step forward and voice their opinions. In fact, some of those countries will cut their tongues off for doing that, but they have a voice for their dictator sitting at the table of the United Nations.

This will be an Arab country, Iraq, which has a free and duly elected government that sends a representative to the United Nations that will be more representative of the people of that country than any other Arab country represented in the U.N.

And so this is a huge milestone coming up December 15. But for a lot of other reasons too. Now the Iraqi people can start to direct their national destiny. This is really the cornerstone that allows that to happen. And I have traveled over to Iraq three times. The last trip in was in August, and I asked to go...
down into Basra where I believe we were the first congressional delegation to visit the coalition forces down in that region. General Dutton commands the forces there. He is a British general. And I stood in one place with soldiers on forces that represented Romania and The Netherlands and Denmark and Australia and Great Britain and Poland. I am sure I am missing one or two others. Put them in a group and took their picture because they really did represent the coalition forces.

And down in that region, there the largest oil reserves are down in that region around Basra and we reviewed that and then went up to Kirkuk, as the gentleman from New Hampshire had mentioned, that he had been up there earlier during this conflict. And there, I saw places where oil seeped to the top of the ground. There was so much oil that I could drill a well and hit it. I would have done that before I started to drill. But there needs to be a lot of oil that is developed in Iraq in the south around Basra and in the north up around Kirkuk and those distribution lines and refineries and the export systems have got to be set up so that we can get some of this oil flowing back into that country. This milestone of a truly sovereign Nation with a duly elected parliament that will select, that will elect themselves a prime minister so that they can move and and the future of that country is an essential milestone. And it has taken blood and treasure to get to this point, and it will take blood and treasure for a while beyond this point. And it has been a price that has been painful to pay, but it is also a price that has freed 25 million people and it has the opportunity for Iraq to become the lone star nation that inspires the entire Arab world, inspires them to freedom and that freedom that becomes contagious like it did in eastern Europe after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, November 9.

Freedom echoed across eastern Europe and almost bloodlessly and in almost the blink of a historical eye, Mr. Speaker. And I do not expect that kind a change to take place in the Middle East that fast, but we are seeing those yearnings for freedom and yearnings for democracy. We have seen Lebanon for the first time since 1979 throw off the yoke of Syrian occupation and move towards freedom. And we have watched some things change in Saudi Arabia and in Egypt. So it is happening, Mr. Speaker. There is progress that it is being made and the inspiration that is there, the listing of the gift of freedom Iraq is an important inspiration.

But 108 of those polling booths were attacked in January of 2005. And the following October, the security situation in Iraq had improved so much that that number became 19 polling booths attacked as opposed to 108 just the previous January, 10 months before.

So that is an indicator, I think, Mr. Speaker, of the progress that has been made in Iraq. There are a number of other indicators and some of them are, we need the cooperation for intelligence of the Iraqi people. And so what are we getting for tips? Where are they coming from? We are finding about 50 percent of the improvised explosive devices actually being located by the hands of those IEDs are being found because of tips from the Iraqi people. The tips that we were getting in March, 483 in the month of March of 2005. In April, 1,591, it has grown five times better, a little greater than that, just from March to April. That is the sign that they have more confidence, that they can take the risk, that their country needs them to weigh in and put their neck on the line to give tips that will protect the lives of American and coalition forces. Many of those from March 1, 2005, April 1, 2005, May of 2005 up to 1,740 tips in that month, in June 2,519, in July 3,303 tips, and in August, 3,341. This trend is a fantastic trend line that shows that the Iraqi people see the future and they are committing themselves to helping save and protect the lives of the American soldiers. This goes on.

There is more and more good news. And Mr. BRADLEY talked about 210,000 that have been in Iraq that are trained or in training to defend their own country. And that is what we need to happen. Of that 210,000, there are quite a lot of battalions that are really combat ready. We keep hearing that there is only one battalion that has no American advisors in it and that can operate in a combat situation, Mr. Speaker, without having U.S. support. Well, I do not know that we want to be in that situation where we do not have country with combat forces in Iraq. There is too much at stake there. And we have handed over 20 bases that were coalition American controlled that now it is all Iraqis that control those 20 bases. And at least a third of the battalions that are there are ready for combat. And a lot of them are engaged in combat. And they are going in with American forces. And so the question of whether they are totally 100 percent independent, it is just a moot point. And the military strategy, when are we going to leave, you know, when the previous President sent our troops into Kosovo, he told America they would be out in a year. I never hear that from the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, as to this is the longest year.

I think this year is over 3,000 days long, and we are still waiting to get the troops out of Kosovo. And so I raise the issue, that issue because the situation is stabilized there. And American casualties are not zero, but they are very, very low. And I support our efforts there to provide peace in that region. And I have been in the middle of that, Mr. Speaker. We have troops in nearly every place that they have been engaged over the last 60 to more years, and those troops remain in Germany. They remain in Korea. We have other troops in other locations around the world because we need them there strategically.

And so, you know, when are we going to get out of Iraq? Why would we want to leave? Why would it be our goal to go there and pull the troops out, especially if it risked the goal of the mission entirely? And I heard Mr. BRADLEY address the importance of supporting our troops and their mission. And I want to emphasize that Mr. Speaker, that you cannot send a soldier off to defend your freedom, put his life on the line for you, and then say, I support you, soldier, I am with you, but I do not like your mission. You cannot ask somebody to put their life on the line and tell them you support them but you oppose their mission.

And that is what I am hearing over here. That is what I am hearing from the liberal media. That is what this fellow right here, Muqtada al-Sadr hears. It is what Osama bin Laden hears. It is what Zawahiri hears, and it is what Sarkawi hears. They hear I am with you, troops. I think you ought to be home but I do not support your mission, and if something happens to you, then you know, you were a casualty of a failed and flawed mission. Not true. This is, I believe, one of the most noble things that the United States of America has ever done.

Many, many times we have sent our soldiers off to foreign lands and here in this city, Mr. Speaker, if one would go down to the Korean Memorial and there in the sidewalk, etched in that stone in the sidewalk is a message at the Korean War Memorial that says, if you know, you were a casualty of a failed and flawed mission. Not true. The history of this country has always been to reach out and promote our freedom.

I think about a speech that I heard here in Washington, D.C., a couple of years ago about this time of year. It was given by President Arroyo of the Philippines, and as she delivers that
speech, it was in a hotel downtown and I was not before a Congressional delegation. I may have been the only Member of Congress that was there. But I point this out because she was not speaking to Congress. She was speaking to a gathering of people in a downtown hotel in Washington, D.C. and we went out of respect and her message was that she said, thank you America, thank you America for sending the Marines to the Philippines to liberate us and for their gratitude.

Thank you for sending over your interests that taught us your way of life, free enterprise and the freedoms that you have and the constitutional structure that you have. Thank you for sending the missionaries to the Philippines where we learned Christianity, and thank you for sending 10,000 teachers to the Philippines.

□ 2350

She had a Filipino name for those teachers, and one day I will learn that name.

Thank you for sending 10,000 teachers who taught us the English language, who taught us American culture, who educated us, and today we have over 1.6 million Filipinos that travel elsewhere in the world that can get a job anywhere because the universal language of business is English and they are making good money, and they send that money back to the Philippines in significant dollars. She is grateful. She made that message to the United States of America 103 years at least, probably 105 years, since the time that the Marine Corps landed on the shores of the Philippines in 1898.

That is a profound message, and I believe the gratitude that I heard from President Arroyo will come from the mouths of the Prime Minister of Iraq 100 years from now. It will come here to the United States, and Iraq will have established this image, this vision, of a free Arab country; and I believe that the rest of the Arab countries will see the prosperity that comes and they will adopt that same kind of freedom hopefully through a peaceful change rather than a violent change. But I expect the people of Iraq will express their gratitude to our descendants 100 years from now.

So a loss of 2,000 American lives in Iraq, painful, every one a personal loss to every family, a real profound sacrifice on the part of every soldier and Marine. We have lost over 200 of them also in Afghanistan. I have heard nothing from the other side of the aisle about why it is right to be in Afghanistan and wrong to be in Iraq. It is just on their part wrong to be in Iraq, and it seems to be that the number of casualties is the measuring stick.

So I would submit that it is time now for the people on the left side of the aisle about why it is right to be in Afghanistan and wrong to be in Iraq. It is just on their part wrong to be in Iraq, and it seems to be that the number of casualties is the measuring stick.

The Iraqi people are losing about 600 a month. We are losing about 73 a month on average. A painful loss for all of us, but the enemy is losing more by far than we are, Mr. Speaker. And it is wrong on the part of Howard Dean. We have been engaged in this war for 6 years. Mr. Speaker, we have lost over 2,000 Americans in this war. Where he says that we are losing to lose it is just plain wrong, that is just undermining the President, that is undermining our foreign policy, and it is undermining our military. And he identified it with Vietnam. I laid out the difference.

He suggests that we redeploy our troops to Afghanistan because that is where we are welcome. Now, when in history has it been important to deploy troops to a place where the troops are welcome? It is nice to have them there for security reasons, but a strategic redeployment of troops because that is a place where they are welcome? And he suggests we ought to pull our troops all the way out of Iraq and take them to a friendly Middle Eastern country where they can have a strategic redeployment and they can be someplace where there is support for our troops there, Mr. Speaker.

Another point that was made on this floor by the gentleman that was the purpose of our debate, he, Mr. Dean, both say that 80 percent of Iraqis want us to leave. Mr. Speaker, it is not 80 percent of the Iraqis that want us to leave. I do not know where that number comes from. I asked that question over and over again. We have had surveys over there that come a little bit different, but it does not matter; they ask the question. Now, if we would ask the Iraqis someday sometime when they get full control of their country and they have safety and security and their freedom is established and the economy is flowing and they are not worried about enemies from without and enemies from within, they would like to have the last American soldier pull out of Iraq, maybe 80 percent would say yes, I think that would be a good idea.

I think the responsible people in Iraq do not look forward to the day that American troops pull out anytime soon because they know that their future and their freedom is contingent upon American and coalition troops being there to guarantee it for now, as the 2,010 Iraqi numbers grow and increase and their training increases and their commitment increases, and, in fact, their courage has been substantially too, and they have the courage to fight for their country. I am hearing that from our generals over there now too.

I asked the question of the Iraqi people, if there is a referendum today, the same referendum that was on the floor of this House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, that only found three Members of this 435-Member body that would vote to move our troops out immediately. If that referendum were held out before the Iraqi people, the Iraqis that I talked to say that 90 to 95 percent would say stay, please stay, we
are so grateful for our freedom. When we come home, we expect our family to be there instead of wondering if Saddam has taken and spirited them away.

I met with a Kurdish young lady who is here now on a scholarship, that has been, by several months. She said up in that region around Kirkuk, every household that has boys has a crawl space for the boys to hide in when Saddam’s henchmen came to conscript them into the military. She grew up with her neighbors would not admit to the neighborhood that she had brothers because they would be conscripted into the military. The list goes on and on.

The testimony that is taking place now in the trial of Saddam and his fellow henchmen that are bringing out atrocity after atrocity, Mr. Speaker. We will hear more about these atrocities as this trial unfolds. And when this trial is over and a new one begins and the history of Saddam’s regime is written into the court records of those courageous jurists that put their lives on the line to provide a fair trial for a person whom I believe is a murdering tyrant, they need to be honored. They need to be respected. They need to put that in the history, and the American people need to watch it, Mr. Speaker. We need to all understand this, and we need to understand that when we speak up and we speak out and when we undermine our American troops, meanwhile posturing that we support them but not their mission, what happens is people like Muqtada Al-Sadr say on Aljazeera TV, “If we keep attacking Americans, they will leave Iraq the same way they left Vietnam, the same way they left Lebanon, the same way they left Mogadishu.”

Never again, Mr. Speaker. This is where that stops. This is where the bright line is being drawn. This is where the legacy of the freedom that emanates from America is established in the Middle East and where the lone star of Iraq inspires the rest of the Arab world and eliminates the habitat that breeds terror.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the Members in the Chamber this evening.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

- Mr. LARSEN of Washington (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

- Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

**SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED**

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

**SENATE BILL REFERRED**

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker’s table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 581. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to allow the continued occupancy and use of certain land and improvements within Rocky Mountain National Park, to the Committee on Resources.

**ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED**

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4313. An act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program.

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. WOLF:

H.R. 680. An act to direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2602. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania as the “Randall D. Shugart Post Office Building.”

H.R. 2183. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the “Vincent Palladino Post Office.”

H.R. 2528. An act making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3585. An act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3853. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the “Willie Vaughn Post Office.”

H.R. 4145. An act to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

**BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT**

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on November 21, 2005, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:


Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House also reports that on November 22, 2005, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 126. To amend Public Law 89–366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of ice resuming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.


H.R. 580. To direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1101. To revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.


H.R. 2062. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the “Vincent Palladino Post Office.”


ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion agreed to, adjourned unusually (at midnight), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 7, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

5321. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by the Arms Export Control Act, 50 U.S.C. 1611(c), and section 204(c) of the National Emergency Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13467 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on International Relations.

5322. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of Kazakhstan (Transmittal No. DDTC 033-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5323. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Korea (Transmittal No. DDTC 042-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5330. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles to the Government of the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 032-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5331. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of Mexico (Transmittal No. DDTC 050-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5332. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 032-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5333. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles to the Government of Israel (Transmittal No. DDTC 032-05); to the Committee on International Relations.


5361. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission’s FY 2006 Performance Plan and the Consolidated Budget; to the Committee on Government Reform.


5363. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by the Arms Export Control Act, 50 U.S.C. 1611(c), and section 204(c) of the National Emergency Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13467 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on International Relations.
and Family Readiness Division, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9063(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5348. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5349. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5350. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5351. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5352. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5353. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5354. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5355. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5356. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5357. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5358. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5359. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5360. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5361. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5362. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5363. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5364. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5365. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5366. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5367. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5368. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5369. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5370. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5371. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5372. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department’s Fiscal Year 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5373. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department’s FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5374. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department’s FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5375. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the FY 2005 Annual Report on Performance and Accountability; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5376. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5377. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s Management Report on Management Decisions and Final Actions on Office of Inspector General Audit Recommendations for the period ending March 31, 2005, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9066; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5378. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s Management Report on Management Decisions and Final Actions on Office of Inspector General Audit Recommendations for the period ending September 30, 2004, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5379. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s Annual Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5380. A letter from the Administrator, Environmetal Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s Fiscal Year 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5381. A letter from the Deputy Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission’s FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5382. A letter from the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Inspect. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5383. A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the FY 2005 report pursuant to the Financial Managers’ Financial Integrity Act and the Inspector General Act of 1978, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5384. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s Fiscal Year 2005 Performance and Accountability Report required under the Accountability for Tax Dollars Act of 2002; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5385. A letter from the Director, Congressional Triangle Building, transmitting a copy of the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.


5387. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation’s Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5388. A letter from the Director, National Mediation Board, transmitting the Board’s Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.


5390. A letter from the Director, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s Fiscal Year 2005 Performance Report, in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; to the Committee on Government Reform.


5392. A letter from the Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s Fiscal Year 2005 Performance Report, in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5393. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the 2005 annual report on the Agency’s compliance with the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.
Government Performance and Results Act; to the Committee on Government Reform.


5396. A letter from the Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.


5398. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5399. A letter from the Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the agency’s report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.


5401. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency’s Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5402. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the FY 2004 annual report under the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA), pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3521(c); to the Committee on Government Reform.


5404. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2004 annual report on the activities of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Criminal Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 529; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5405. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on the status of petitions for designating classes of employees as members of the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOCIPA), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1851; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5406. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report proposing restoration for victims of crime by amending the Mandatory Victims’ Restitution Act (MVRA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5407. A letter from the Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department’s report entitled, Government Performance and Results Act; Through 2005, as of March 31, 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5408. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Safety Zone Regulations; Tampa Bay, FL (COTP St. Petersburg 05-120) (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5409. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Security Zone; Cape Fear River, Carolina Beach, North Carolina State Port Authority Terminal, Wilmington, NC (COTP05-05-123) (RIN: 1625-AA07) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5410. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Escort Vessels for Certain Tankers (CGD 91-202) (RIN: 1625-AA05) (Formerly RIN: 2115-AD10); Escort Vessels for Fishing Vessels (Critical Fish Stop Criteria [USCG-2003-14734]) (RIN: 1625-AA05) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5411. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Fox River, Green Bay, WI and DePere, WI (CGD08-05-081) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5412. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Fox River, Green Bay, WI and DePere, WI (CGD08-05-081) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5413. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal; Sturgeon Bay, WI (CGD09-05-080) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5414. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Dorchester Bay, MA (CGD01-05-020) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5415. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Passaic River, NJ (CGD01-05-061) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5416. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Saugus River, MA (CGD01-05-074) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5417. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Elizabeth River, Eastern Branch, Virginia (CGD05-05-124) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5418. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Elizabeth River, Eastern Branch, Virginia (CGD05-05-124) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5419. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Tennessee River, Chattanooga, TN (CGD08-05-041) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5420. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Berwick Bay, Morgan City, LA (CGD08-05-039) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5421. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Raritan Bay, NJ (CGD05-05-061) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5422. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Upper Mississippi River, Ft. Madison, Burlington, and Dubuque, IA, and Rock Island Arsenal, IL (USCG-2005-22953) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5423. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; New York Harbor, NY and New Jersey (CGD05-05-061) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5424. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; New York Harbor, NY and New Jersey (CGD05-05-061) (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5425. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Taunton, MA (CGD01-05-097) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5426. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department
of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Jamaica Bay and Conne...
Airplanes, and Model A320-200 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2002-23911; Amendment 39-14354; AD 2005-22-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5447. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmittting the Department’s final rule — Establishment and Revision of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States [Docket No. FAA-2005-20322; Airspace Docket No. 06-ANM-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5448. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmittting the Department’s final rule — Establishment and Revision of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States [Docket No. FAA-2005-20322; Airspace Docket No. 06-ANM-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5449. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmittting the Department’s final rule — Establishment and Revision of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States [Docket No. FAA-2005-20322; Airspace Docket No. 06-ANM-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5450. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmittting the Department’s final rule — Establishment and Revision of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States [Docket No. FAA-2005-20322; Airspace Docket No. 06-ANM-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5451. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmittting the Department’s final rule — Establishment and Revision of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States [Docket No. FAA-2005-20322; Airspace Docket No. 06-ANM-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THOMAS: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3590. A bill to amend the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. ROYCE: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3181. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Transportation, and their respective agencies, to enter into public and private agreements with Indian tribes and local communities to encourage greater cooperation in the administration of Forest Service activities on and near National Forest System lands, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–325 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. OXLEY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3909. A bill to provide emergency authority for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration to restructure and liquidate insured depository institutions to the extent necessary to protect the depositors of such an insured depository institution, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HARSHBARGER: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 2994. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire land in the United States for the purpose of conserving water resources, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. LAMAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2012. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to provide emergency funds to acquire lands in the United States for the purpose of preventing a disaster, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GILL: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2262. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 and the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to require the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to take certain actions to ensure that insured depository institutions are insured primarily by insured depository institutions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. WARNER: Committee on Armed Services. H.R. 2907. A bill to amend the United States Code to require all units of the Armed Forces to maintain an adequate number of hospital beds in the United States and its territories, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CHILCOTT: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. H.R. 1584. A bill to provide for the establishment of the United States Air Force Reserve–Air National Guard Reserve Training Program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. MURPHY: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1725. A bill to amend the United States Code to establish a national program to preserve, protect, and enhance public access to coastal and ocean resources, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. JENSEN: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1802. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to States and local governments for the purpose of providing emergency funds for transportation projects, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HARRIS: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1722. A bill to amend the United States Code to establish a national program to preserve, protect, and enhance public access to coastal and ocean resources, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS: Committee on Science. H.R. 2412. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide public access to Navassa National Wildlife Refuge and Descheo National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–326). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1183. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability of designating the solders’ Memorial Military Museum located in St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–319). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1190. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, and Tijuana Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–321). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4195. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–322). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1901. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to conduct research on climate change, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–324). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1902. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct research on climate change, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–324). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1904. A bill to amend the Federal Emergency Management Agency Act to authorize the Administrator to provide financial assistance to States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the District of Columbia, for any emergency or disaster caused by a major disaster or emergency declared by the President, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–324). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1905. A bill to amend the Federal Emergency Management Agency Act to authorize the Administrator to provide financial assistance to States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the District of Columbia, for any emergency or disaster caused by a major disaster or emergency declared by the President, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–324). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1906. A bill to amend the Federal Emergency Management Agency Act to authorize the Administrator to provide financial assistance to States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the District of Columbia, for any emergency or disaster caused by a major disaster or emergency declared by the President, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–324). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the State of the Union.
H.R. 4435. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4436. A bill to provide certain authorities for the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. FOXX, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. ISA, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California):

H.R. 4437. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. MENendez, Mr. FORTUNO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. FASCELLI, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. CORrine BROWN of Florida, Mr. ROTH, Ms. MILLEMMER-McDONALD, Mr. DENT, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FOR, Mr. HOLDEN, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE MONSON of Texas):

H.R. 4438. A bill to establish special rules with respect to certain disaster assistance provided for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. McCaul of Texas, Mr. RECHERT, and Ms. HARRIS):

H.R. 4439. A bill to establish an Airport Screener Retirement Act in the Civilian Aeronautics Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. McCREERY (for himself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SHAw, Mr. BRady of Texas, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. BAKER, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for the Gulf Opportunity Zone and certain areas affected by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 4441. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for certain expenses related to the use of recycled materials in qualified highway or surface transportation facilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BAKER:

H.R. 4442. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reestablish the hazard mitigation program cap at 15 percent of major disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4443. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 4444. A bill to authorize farmers in the State of Louisiana to operate certain commercial motor vehicles anywhere in the State for the purpose of obtaining a commercial driver's license until January 1, 2006; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 4445. A bill to provide an exclusion from gross income for income earned in 2005 from sources within the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita core disaster area; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. NYS and Mr. Lewis of California):

H.R. 4446. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for fair treatment of services furnished to Indians under the Medicaid Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4447. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for the Medicare prescription drug benefit during the first full year, to establish the Energy Assistance Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4448. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit the admission to the United States of nonimmigrant students and visitors who are the spouses and children of United States permanent residents, aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4449. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a temporary windfall profit tax on crude oil, to allow a credit against tax for qualified fuel-efficient vehicles placed in service during the taxable year, to establish the Energy Assistance Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 4450. A bill to require hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to disclose charge-related information and to provide price protection for treatments not covered by insurance as conditions for receiving protection from charge-related legal actions; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R. 4451. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Texas (for herself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. ROY, and Mr. JOE bare of North Carolina):

H. Res. 579. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the life, achievements, and contributions of Alan Reich; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SODEREL (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HOSTETTLER, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 587. A resolution commemorating the life, achievements, and contributions of Tony Stewart on winning the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H. Res. 11: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H. Res. 19: Mr. JONES of North Carolina and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 65: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 111: Mr. ALEXANDER.

H. Res. 197: Mr. TARP.

H. Res. 226: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 284: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. GORDON.

H. Res. 303: Mr. CROWLEY and Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

H. Res. 333: Ms. BERKLEY.

H. Res. 363: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H. Res. 501: Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 517: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 552: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. SULLIVAN.

H. Res. 558: Mr. MOONEN and Mr. MEEHAN.

H. Res. 583: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and Ms. SOLIS.

H. Res. 676: Mr. MCNULTY.

H. Res. 690: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H. Res. 752: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H. Res. 759: Mr. Watson.

H. Res. 763: Mrs. MccARTHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H. Res. 780: Mr. GORDON.

H. Res. 819: Mr. BIKELAH.

H. Res. 844: Mr. SHERRA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. LaTOURETTE.

H. Res. 896: Mr. TANNER, Mr. CUNYERS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

H. Res. 916: Ms. LOBETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. Watson, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. REESE of Kentucky, and Mr. STUPAK.

H. Res. 920: Mr. EvertETT.

H. Res. 925: Mr. McKEON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MICA, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. MILLER of Missouri, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H. RES. 972: Mr. RIEYS, Mr. PETTERSON of Minnesota, Mr. LANDOYIN, Mr. RAHALI, Mr. MILSTEIN, Mr. JENSEN of Idaho, and Mr. GRANDER, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. PORTER.

H. Res. 997: Mr. King of New York.
TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. BERRY, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HERSETH, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H. Res. 223: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 367: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 456: Mr. STARK and Mr. CONYERS.
H. Res. 471: Mr. LYNCH.
H. Res. 489: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. LOWry, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SHAW, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MARKs, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. ANDREWS.
H. Res. 499: Mr. ISSA and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H. Res. 507: Mr. WAMP.
H. Res. 517: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LoBIONDO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HOLDen, Mr. KIND, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. LANGEvIN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Ms. DeLAuro, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H. Res. 526: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. F林ER, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. LAtourrette.
H. Res. 535: Mr. HOLT.
H. Res. 561: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. BERkLEY, and Mr. FreenEY.
H. Res. 574: Ms. HARMAN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. Baca, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. DICKs.
H. Res. 575: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. HERGER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BROWn of South Carolina, Mr. WINEr, Mr. BONNER, Mr. POMbo, Mr. LANTos, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BEAN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. HARs, Mr. FERgUSon, Ms. ZOE LOFOREN of California, Mr. DENT, Mr. CHAROT, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CANNOn, Ms. MATSU, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. MALONEy, Mr. PALLone, Mr. McHENry, Mr. SHIMkUs, Mr. NUSSElE, Mr. RADAkOVICH, Mr. Weller, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCCOTTer, Mr. BURton of Indiana, Mr. GERlACH, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ADERHOlt, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. VAN HOLLEn, Mrs. McCARTHy, Mr. KNOLLEnberg, Mr. KENNedy of Minnesota, Mr. LAThAM, Mr. STEGER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. CARNahan, Mr. REYNOLdS, and Mr. SHAW.
H. Res. 578: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING COURTNEY RAFES
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Courtney Rafes of Justin, TX, on her commitment, contribution and success in this year’s Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix. Courtney is the youngest daughter of Richard and Tommye Rafes of Denton, TX. Dr. Richard Rafes is the senior vice president for administrative affairs for the University of North Texas. Tommye Rafes is a science teacher at Piney Middle School in Justin, TX.

As part of a science project, Ms. Rafes devised a railroad warning system that uses ultrasonic sound to detect broken rails and to warn two trains before a collision. Working over a period of several weeks, Ms. Rafes collected data from eight experiments and more than 2,000 runs on a model train track system constructed in her living room.

She was selected for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix after earning a top honor with her railway project at a regional competition at the University of North Texas in Denton. At the national competition, Ms. Rafes earned a $20,000 scholarship from the Department of Homeland Security for her project and was offered an internship with an engineer for the department. Her project has been featured on the Today Show, CNN, ABC and the Discovery Channel.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Courtney Rafes for her research and for receiving this commendable award. Her commitment to science and to helping others serves as an inspiration to all.

THANKING CATHERINE (CATHY) BRICKMAN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE
HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on January 16, 2006, we rise to thank Ms. Cathy Brickman for 25 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Cathy has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources, in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Cathy Brickman worked with the United States House of Representatives in November of 1980 as an applications analyst in the House Information Systems group. Cathy’s potential and drive were recognized early in her career, resulting in her steady progression to positions of increasing responsibility. During the first 15 years of her career she developed the requirements for the House’s first Correspondence Management System and led the development of the House’s first local area network. She was also detailed to the Speaker’s Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Eastern and Central Europe. On this detail she worked in country in the Parliaments of 11 Eastern, Central European and Baltic countries and Russia to implement information technology systems.

Her last 10 years were spent as team leader, Network Configuration Management for House Information Resources and she continued to be a key member of many important information technology projects in the House. During this time she supervised a team of 17 network communications specialists responsible for configuration and support of the House’s large, enterprise data communications network consisting of 20,000 network devices. She was the Contracting Officer’s representative for all of the House’s Wide Area Network—Internet—communications services and in this capacity she authored multi-year, multi-million dollar contracts. Cathy also managed the expansion of the House’s Flagship Frame Relay service and started the implementation of Gigabit Ethernet replacement for the legacy ATM campus data network.

Cathy’s leadership while serving the United States House of Representatives has been superior. During the October 2001 anthrax incident, as House Members and staff were forced off-site, Cathy was a key contributor to the efforts to ensure alternate site data networks were rapidly set up. Her standard of excellence, dedication to passionate customer service, organizational skills, professionalism and ability to get the job done earned Cathy the Distinguished Service Award, the Chief Administrative Officer’s highest honor, in September 2003. Cathy is admired by the people she led and appreciated by those she served.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Cathy for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Cathy many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

RECOGNITION OF THE SACRED HEART-GRIFFIN CYCLONES FOOTBALL TEAM
HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great achievement of the Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones football team of Springfield, IL, last week winning the championship game of the Illinois High School Association Class 5A football playoffs, defeating Rock Island Alleman 28–21. The win was the first State championship in SHG’s history. The Cyclones went 14–0 this season, and won the Central State Eight conference championship, along with the State title.

My congratulations go out to Head Coach Ken Leonard and his coaching staff on this magnificent achievement. Most of all, I want to congratulate all the members of the 2005 Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones football team who represented their school, their community and all of Central Illinois so well. I congratulate them on their achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE PRIDE OF ACADIANA MARCHING BAND
HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great achievement of the Pride of Acadia Marching Band from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the Seventh District of Louisiana.

The Pride of Acadia Marching Band participated in the 79th Annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City on November 24, 2005. One of only ten bands selected, the Acadia Marching Band was the first Louisiana band to be invited to perform in the parade. The band followed the Big Apple Float, which featured the New Orleans’ Krewe of Orpheus along with NYPD officers and FDNY rescue workers in a musical salute to New Orleans.

Playing several Cajun tunes, the Pride of Acadia Marching Band excited the crowds with songs including “Big Chief,” “Moneymaker,” and “Winter Wonderful.” For the NBC exclusive area, the band performed a combination of “When the Saints Go Marching In,” “On the Sunny Side of the Street,” and “South Rampart Street Parade.” “Sleigh Ride” was the holiday tune performed while exiting the NBC area.

In addition to their participation in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, the ULL Marching Band performed on the USS Intrepid, an aircraft carrier museum.

Today I want to recognize and congratulate the Pride of Acadia Marching Band and Director Brian Taylor from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, for their achievement and thank them for representing Louisiana at such an extraordinary event.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL FUNDERBURK
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Daniel Funderburk of Ft. Worth, Texas for being selected as a finalist in the national championship in SHG’s history. The Cyclones went 14–0 this season, and won the Central State Eight conference championship, along with the State title. My congratulations go out to Head Coach Ken Leonard and his coaching staff on this magnificent achievement. Most of all, I want to congratulate all the members of the 2005 Sacred Heart-Griffin Cyclones football team who represented their school, their community and all of Central Illinois so well. I congratulate them on their achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

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.
the fourth annual TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes high-school entre-

preneurs for their successes in business. To be eligible, a high school student must run a business for at least a year. These students are the best of the students who applied and their talent, leadership, time management and commitment are remarkable. Finalists are eli-
gible for a series of scholarships valued up to $20,000.

One of those finalists was Daniel Funder-
buck, a senior at Grace Preparatory Academy.
Mr. Funderbuck started X-Press Cuts Lawn
Service with his brother in the summer of
2002 at the age of 15. The business grew
over the years from mowing local neighbor-
hood lawns to expanding into new neighbor-
hoods to eventually adding a commercial cus-
tomer. Mr. Funderbuck’s focus has always
been on doing quality work and being reliable.
His target market has been those who are not
able to take care of their own lawn, either
by old age and disabilities, lack of proper equip-
ment, or simply not enough time. In most
cases this means he serves the elderly and
occasional business person. He plans to con-
tinue to grow his business through targeted
advertising. So far in 2005 X-Press Cuts Lawn
Service has earned $15,000 in revenue.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr.
Daniel Funderbuck for his efforts and for his
success in business at such a young age. His
dedication and commitment to helping others
serve as an inspiration to all.

THANKING MRS. SHERRI SAVERCOOL FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of
her retirement in October 2005, we rise to
thank Mrs. Sherri Savercool for 25 years of
outstanding service to the U.S. House of Rep-
resentatives.

Sherri began her career at the House work-
ing as an Administrative Specialist and shortly
afterwards she was promoted to a Technical Support Specialist. For the past 25 years
Sherri has served this great institution as a
valuable employee of House Information Re-
sources (HIR) within the Office of the Chief
Administrative Officer.

During her career Sherri held many posi-
tions of increasing responsibility, requiring her
to learn new and evolving computer tech-
nologies. She worked in the Customer Serv-
ces Group providing technical customer sup-
port and training to Members of Congress and
their staffs.

In the early 1980s when the House began
using personal computers, Sherri was there
helping both Member and Committee offices
with the integration of their office automation
requirements and procedures. She continu-
ously expanded her technical expertise to help
House staff in their use of personal computers
and a wide range of desktop software. Over
time she began supporting more complex
hardware and software technology projects as
well as managing the Office Management
Demonstration and Training Center. There she
was responsible for the day-to-day operation
of the Center that provided equipment demo-
strations and consulting services for all
House staff. Sherri participated in past Con-
gressional transitions for many years, playing
an important role ensuring that Members
made a seamless transition.

Since 1995, Sherri has been a valuable
member of HIR’s Client Services Group where
she has provided direct technical support and
training to all House Staff. Sherri has been
very customer oriented, displaying great pas-
sion for her work and maintaining excellent re-
lationships with her customers. As a result of
this dedication, each of her customers re-
ceived the best available and most cost-effec-
tive office automation services and training.

On behalf of the entire House community,
we extend congratulations to Sherri for her
many years of dedication and outstanding
contributions to the U.S. House of Represent-
atives. We wish Sherri many wonderful years
in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEWTON EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
pay tribute to an outstanding group of young
men from southeastern Illinois. The Newton
Eagles football team last week reached the
championship game of the Illinois High School
Association Class 4A football playoffs for the
first time in school history. The Eagles won
12–2 this season, outscoring opponents by a
total of 438–191, and winning the Apollo Con-
ference.

My congratulations go out to Head Coach
Bob Horst and his coaching staff on this mag-
ificent achievement. Most of all, I want to
congratulate all the members of the 2005
Newton Eagles football team, who represented
their school, their community and all of sou-
theastern Illinois so well. I congratulate them
on their achievement, and wish them all the best
in their future endeavors.

HON. BILL SHUSTER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
congratulate the Northern Cambria High
School Girls Volleyball team on their PIAA
Class A volleyball State championship.

The Colts have demonstrated that strong
dedication and teamwork will produce unex-
pected results. After narrowly missing the
championship last year, the girls united behind
their strong coach, Mike Hogan, and handly
defeated their opponents in the State competi-
tion. Posting an undefeated season, the Colts
also captured the Tri-County Conference and
District VI championships.

This is Northern Cambria Girls Volleyball
first State championship title in the school's
history, which is a great testimony to the unique
character of this team. They fought
through obstacles and their unwillingness to
quit led to their success. The teamwork and
the leadership skills the team developed will
enrich their lives and serve them well beyond
their high school years. I congratulate the
Northern Cambria Girls Volleyball cham-
pionship and I look forward to hearing of their
continued success in next year's season.

Led by head coach Mike Hogan and assist-
ant coach Jennifer Dumm, the 27 members of
this championship team include Seniors Ash-
ley Nowak (co-captain), Kaci Jones (co-capt-
tain), Sara Hoover, Jess Valeria, Jen Hassen,
Shayna Butterworth, Christie Rocco; Juniors
Becky Butterworth, Julie Paronish, Lexy
Pawlowski; Jenny Eagle, Jacque Link, Carrie
Shevock, Lisa McCombie, Tajia Stephens,
Megan Long; Sophomores Briana Butterworth,
Brittney Daisley, Stephanie Paronish, Cour-
ty Zernick, Brittany Sedlock, Nikole
Sherry, and Jennifer Valeria; and Freshmen
Cassandra Kollar, Becky Petrisko, Samantha
Rodgers, and Deanna Maurer. Congratulations
one and all.

CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA McNEILL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
congratulate Virginia McNeill for receiving her
bachelors in applied arts and sciences from
the University of North Texas.

Ms. McNeill has owned McNeill’s Furniture
and Appliance in downtown Denton since
1962. She began pursuing a degree in busi-

ness in 1981 but left college a year later with
only 40 credit hours completed to help with
the family business. After a brief return to
school for a semester in 1984, Ms. McNeill
made the decision to return to the University
of North Texas in 2002 and not to quit until
she had her college degree.

Ms. McNeill’s determination and dedication
has been an inspiration to her professors and
fellow students alike. Fifty-five years after she
began working towards her degree, Ms.
McNeill will graduate on December 17, 2005,
at the age of 77.

It is with great honor I stand here today to
recognize Ms. Virginia McNeill for her commit-
ment to fulfilling her lifelong dream.

THANKING MR. BILL FOULOIS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of
his retirement in December 2005, we rise to
thank Mr. Bill Foulolos for 6 years of out-
standing service to the U.S. House of Rep-
resentatives. His service to the House cul-
minates a career of more than 37 years of
service to our country.

Over the past 6 years, Bill has made signifi-
cant contributions to the improvement of the
operations of the office of the Chief Administrative Officer, CAO. When Bill came to work for the House in October 1999, he immediately began working on the reorganization of the former Office of Media and Support Services, MSS, into what is today House Support Services, HSS. His leadership eliminated the duplication of activities between the individual offices of MSS and changed the culture from an inward-focused organization that waited for the customer to come to them to an outward-focused organization that attempts to anticipate the customer’s need. Bill’s work with the reorganization of HSS was the first step in the direction of the major cultural change that is taking place within the CAO organization. Therefore, it was only logical that Bill be asked to lead the effort in developing the implementation plan for the CAO Customer Solutions Delivery Model. For the past 6 months, Bill has led the team that is developing this new CAO-wide model of customer service that will expand upon, and improve, the underlying tenet of the HSS reorganization: providing outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bill for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Bill many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO MARY WELLS, L.C.S.W.
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mary Wells, President and CEO of Family Service of Burlington County as she retires after 35 years of faithful service to the citizens of this great county.

Mary earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Drew University in 1964, and her Masters in Social Work at the Rutgers School of Social Work in 1967. She became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in 1994.

Mrs. Wells was the first chair of the New Jersey Department of Human Services Children’s Coordinating Committee, and chaired the New Jersey State Human Services Advisory Council and Executive Committee. She was a 2004 Gubernatorial appointee to the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women, a Trustee for Virtua Health, and a Director of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank.

She has been recognized by the Alliance for the Mentally Ill as their Administrator Recognition Award recipient, as New Jersey Social Worker of the Year, has received the Humanitarian Award from the New Jersey Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Martin Luther King Award for her work in the field of public service and human relations, among other awards too numerous to mention.

My staff and I have worked closely with her through the years for the betterment of the community, and her knowledge and compassion will be sorely missed.

I wish her a retirement filled with health, happiness and dreams come true.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT LUIS REYES
HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Luis Reyes of Aurora, Colorado.

Sergeant Reyes died November 18, 2005 after succumbing to injuries he sustained near Ali Al Salem, Kuwait carrying out his duties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Reyes was a member of the 947th Engineer Company, Army National Guard, Durango, Colorado and a graduate of Montbello High School in Denver.

He was just 26 years old.

According to media reports, Sergeant Reyes and other Colorado members of the Guard were carrying out a mission to help repair, improve and reconstruct damaged and inadequate infrastructure in Iraq.

Reyes was known to his friends and colleagues as dedicated to his work, his family and the mission. He was described as someone who would often, "go above and beyond" the call of duty.

He is survived by his wife, two children, father, mother and a brother.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans owe Sergeant Reyes and his family a great debt of gratitude for his service to our Nation. My deepest sympathies go out to his friends and family.

He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

IN MEMORY OF TOMMY KINCAID
HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tommy Kincaid, Mayor of Sanger, Texas for nearly 10 years. Mr. Kincaid was a natural leader who loved his community and always kept his best friend at heart.

Mayor Kincaid was born June 18, 1936, in Vernon, Texas, to Carl Thomas and Lesta Hill Kincaid. He graduated from Sanger High School in 1954 and married Betty Burns on June 30, 1956, in Sanger. Mr. Kincaid worked in the former Office of Media and Support Services, MSS, into what is today House Support Services, HSS, within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, CAO. When Bill came to work for the House in October 1999, he immediately began working on the reorganization of the former Office of Media and Support Services, MSS, into what is today House Support Services, HSS. His leadership eliminated the duplication of activities between the individual offices of MSS and changed the culture from an inward-focused organization that waited for the customer to come to them to an outward-focused organization that attempts to anticipate the customer’s need. Bill’s work with the reorganization of HSS was the first step in the direction of the major cultural change that is taking place within the CAO organization. Therefore, it was only logical that Bill be asked to lead the effort in developing the implementation plan for the CAO Customer Solutions Delivery Model. For the past 6 months, Bill has led the team that is developing this new CAO-wide model of customer service that will expand upon, and improve, the underlying tenet of the HSS reorganization: providing outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bill for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Bill many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

THANKING WILLIAM NORTON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE
HON. ROBERT W. NEY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in December 2005, we rise to thank Mr. William Norton for over 27 years of outstanding service to the United States government, most recently here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bill began his legislative career as a Senate intern while attending Georgetown University. Following his graduation in 1975, he served as a Legislative Assistant to Senator Bill Brock of Tennessee, before attending law school at the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

During and after law school, Bill worked in the Congressional offices of Representatives Paul Tribble of Virginia, John Rousselot of California, and Jim Jeffries of Kansas, in positions ranging from caseworker to Legislative Counsel.

In 1983 Bill began a series of increasingly responsible positions as an appointee in the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. He served in the General Services Administration, the President’s Commission on Executive Exchange, the Office of Personnel Management, and concluded his tenure as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Force Management and Personnel during a period that included the Persian Gulf War. There he received the Air Force Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the second highest medal for which Air Force civilians are eligible.

Bill returned to service here at the House in 1995 within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, being sworn into office on the first day of that organization’s existence. He played a key role in establishing the new Office of Procurement and Purchasing where he served in a management capacity, including a year as Acting Associate Administrator. The House has seen major changes in its acquisitions process in the ensuing years including actions such as the privatization of House Postal Operations and the conversion of its purchasing system from a paper based one to an electronic one. With Bill’s help, we have been able to build a procurement system that is fair, open, competitive, auditable, and which has resulted in millions of dollars in savings to the taxpayers.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bill for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. Government, and in particular to the House of Representatives. His wit, his counsel, and his expertise in the procurement policies and procedures of the House will be missed by his colleagues. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND
HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Crestview High School Band's fantastic performance at the national competition in Washington, D.C., earlier this month, and to pay tribute to the school's dedication and hard work that led to their success.
Marching Band in Crestview, Florida for their remarkable performance in the 79th annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The Big Red Machine, directed by David Cadle, was chosen as one of six high school bands to perform in the renowned parade. As everyone knows, Macy’s saves the best for last with the bands arriving in Herald Square. This holds true for marching bands as Crestview was honored to celebrate Santa’s yearly anticipated arrival in to Herald Square, while millions of Americans were at home watching with excitement.

The band’s dedication and hard work was apparent throughout the show. Awakening the holiday spirit in each and every one of us, they welcomed in the holiday season with warmth and joy as they performed a colorful rendition of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” Watching their smiling faces as they marched into the Square reminded me of how proud I am to represent the people of Northwest Florida.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize and congratulate the Crestview High School Marching Band for their outstanding performance in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS BROCKMAN WELLINGTON
HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Lois Brockman Wellington, an amazing public servant, leader, caregiver, and friend.

Lois was an exceptionally dedicated health provider, both for her family members and for the community she cared about so dearly. She became a champion of home care providers and long term care for seniors, and dedicated herself to the well-being of the aging.

As a representative of Los Angeles County in the California Senior Legislature, Lois successfully pursued legislation on behalf of both youth and the aged. She also represented U.S. Senator BARBARA BOXER as a Silver Senator to the National Silver Haired Congress. This organization holds annual meetings to discuss senior concerns and has been particularly active on social security and prescription drug policies. Lois was also President of the Congress of California Seniors. In this role, she advocated positions on numerous propositions and provided Californians with an important perspective on policy issues. She also fought for better regulation of long-term care insurance policies.

I know what a dedicated advocate Lois was for senior issues because she was not only a community treasure; she was also a dear friend. She was a constant—and vocal—reminder of the importance of Medicare as a lifeline for seniors, and of Medicaid as a social safety net. She tirelessly advocated for other programs such as the Older Americans Act and one of its signature programs, Meals on Wheels. Lois was a true inspiration to me—she was active even through her golden years—and her memory will be a lasting one both to our community and to me and my family.

Lois received much well-deserved recognition for her work. In 1999, she was named Woman of the Year in the 43rd Assembly District and was appointed to the Commission on Aging by then Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. This important commission is a principal advocate to the state on behalf of older individuals. To Lois, her most exciting distinctions she received occurred in 1997, when as a representative to a national senior organization, she was chosen to introduce then-President Bill Clinton. Lois also traveled widely in her role as President of the International Senior Citizens Association attending conferences in Guadalajara, Manila, Toronto, and Dublin.

She is survived by a devoted family, including her husband of over 68 years, Frederick E. “Ted” Wellington, daughter Barbara Dunbar Erman, son Rick Wellington, grandsons Larry and Mike Erman and Edward and Peter Wellington, and great grandchildren Sean Erman and Hailey Wellington.

Lois was passionate and knowledgeable about her work, extremely energetic and an inexhaustible, wonderful, beautiful, gentle spirit. I have watched with excitement for having known Lois, and I want to express my heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. She will be deeply, deeply missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND LEANDER WILKES
HON. LOIS CAPPs
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Reverend Leander Wilkes, who passed away on November 24, 2005. Reverend Wilkes, the youngest of eight children, was born on September 20, 1924 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Jackson and Lillie Wilkes. After receiving his education in Arkansas and Ohio, he took a position with the government. In 1942 he met and later wed, Thelma Ora Benson. To this union, five children were born.

Reverend Wilkes retired in July of 2004 and became the Pastor Emeritus of Second Baptist Church.

Reverend Wilkes was a lecturer in the Department of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He enjoyed reading and researching Egyptology along with other ancient religions and philosophies. Reverend Wilkes was also an avid traveler, and fan of western television shows and movies. An excellent cook, he enjoyed preparing his specialties, gumbo and barbecue, at family gatherings. Reverend Wilkes was an active leader in our community who touched the lives of countless people. Family and friends will remember him for his integrity, wisdom and compassion.

I have known Reverend Wilkes for many years and remember fondly when he accompanied my late husband, Congressman Walter Capps, to Washington, DC in 1997, where he led the House of Representatives in prayer. Reverend Wilkes was a dedicated husband, father, and servant to his church community and the Santa Barbara community as a whole. His long time service to residents of the Central Coast deserves to be recognized and celebrated. I feel privileged to have known Reverend Leander Wilkes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. ELTON GALLEGLY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 571 on November 18, 2005 (Rollcall No. 608). Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY
SPEECH OF
HON. ROSA L. DELAURO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this politically-motivated resolution. I believe this resolution does a disservice to the courage my colleague from Pennsylvania has shown in seeking to open a dialogue on one of the most important issues facing our country today—how we can be successful in Iraq while putting in place a process that begins to bring our troops home.

And let there be no mistaking my colleague’s motivations. Congressman MURTHA is a highly decorated Marine veteran and a Vietnam War hero. His love for and loyalty to the brave men and women who wear our Nation’s uniform is sincere. It is profound.

I agree with his characterization of the war in Iraq—specifically how errors by this administration and negligent Congressional oversight have compromised our mission there and put our troops in harm’s way.

And I agree that next year must be a time of transition in Iraq, allowing Iraqis to take control of their country. America cannot support another year of “staying the course” with no end in sight, as the president continues to propose.

The time has come for the Bush administration to implement a new strategy for Iraq—one that both safely brings our troops home and brings stability and security to the country and throughout the region. To get there, we must consider the various proposals for success in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, that is a discussion we in this body have waited far too long to have. Now is not a time for the partisanship this majority has shown in bringing this political resolution to the floor. The American people expect better from their representatives in Congress—particularly on a matter such importance. They deserve better.
PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4241, DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF
HON. TODD TIAHRT
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about the devastation we will cause by passing this small little act tonight. In fact, we are told we must reform welfare. This legislation will reform welfare. This legislation will improve the system of delivery of the services and goods for those in our society who need them most.

Something that really surprises me, though, is there is really no plan from the other side. I have noticed in our hallways the Democrats’ signs crying for action on the Federal deficit, but I have yet to see their plan to deal with the deficit.

Blue Dog Democrats have billboards in front of their offices declaring how much each family owes on the federal debt, but they have no plan to reduce it. There are more plans on the television show West Wing than the Democrats have here in the United States House of Representatives. There are more plans on the other political shows about how to deal with the problems of today, but we get no plans or help from the other side.

We need some Blue Dog Democrats that will actually hunt. We need dogs with bite rather than a large bark. Right now all we hear is a lot of noise from the Blue Dogs, but there is no action and there is no plan. All we hear are complaints about trying to improve the system.

I will give you one quick example. In Kansas, Medicaid claims are only correct 3 out of 4 times. One out of 4 times the payment is inaccurate. We need to reform that system. You would not get on an airplane today if you had a 3 out of 4 chance of getting to your destination. You would not start a trip today if you had only a 3 out of 4 chance of getting to your destination. When we make a Medicaid payment in the State of Kansas, it is wrong 24 percent of the time. This legislation includes reform to help improve our Medicaid system, so those who are truly in need get the services they require.

But the other side doesn’t want to do that. We need to pass this legislation, reform the welfare system, and do the right thing about the Federal budget.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4434, “18,000 TEACHERS, 10 MILLION MINDS” SCIENCE AND MATH SCHOLARSHIP ACT AND H.R. 4435, ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY ACT

HON. BART GORDON
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two pieces of legislation: H.R. 4434, the “18,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds” Science and Math Scholarship Act and H.R. 4435, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, ARPA–E, Act. These two bills authorize a set of recommendations from a committee of the National Academy of Sciences chaired by Mr. Norman Augustine. The recommendations of the committee’s report, Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future, reflect the consensus forged among nationally-recognized industry, academic and government experts.

The Augustine Committee’s highest priority is to improve K-12 math and science education by enhancing the skills and qualifications of math and science teachers. The “18,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds” Act establishes a National Science Foundation, NSF, program to award scholarships to science, math, and engineering students if they obtain their teaching certification and commit to becoming math and science teachers upon completing their degrees. The bill also authorizes NSF to establish a master’s degree program for in-service science and math teachers and establish training programs for preparing science and math teachers to teach Advanced Placement, AP, and International Baccalaureate, IB, courses in science and math. In addition, legislation also authorizes summer teacher training institutes at NSF and the Department of Energy.

The Augustine Committee stressed the need to “sustain and strengthen the nation’s traditional commitment to the long-term basic research that has the potential to be transformational to maintain the flow of new ideas that fuel the economy, provide security, and enhance the quality of life.” One specific action recommended by the Augustine Committee is to create in the Department of Energy, DOE, an organization like the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, DARPA, at the Department of Defense. My second piece of legislation, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, ARPA–E, Act implements this key recommendation. It establishes within the DOE a new agency modeled after DoD’s successful DARPA program. By supporting high-risk, potentially high-payoff research, ARPA–E will turn cutting-edge science and engineering into technologies for energy, environment, and national security with the goal of reducing the Nation’s reliance of foreign energy sources by 20 percent during the next 10 years.

These two bills are a response to a serious challenge to our Nation’s future economic prosperity. From the Augustine report, “This Nation must prepare with great urgency to address these challenges. Today’s Washington Post, includes the op-ed Learning to Lose? Our Education System Isn’t Ready for a World of Competition (By Norman R. Augustine)

In the five decades since I began working in the aerospace industry, I have never seen America business and academic leaders as concerned about this nation’s future prosperity as they are today.

On the surface, these concerns may seem unwarranted. Two million jobs were created in the United States in the past year. Citizens of other nations continue to invest their savings in this country at a remarkable rate. Our nation still has the strongest scientific and technological enterprise—and the best research universities—in the world. But deeper trends in this country and abroad are signs of a gathering storm. After the Cold War, nearly 3 billion potential new capitalists entered the labor market. A substantial portion of our workforce now finds itself in direct competition for jobs with highly motivated and often well-educated people from around the world. Workers in virtually every economic sector now face competitors who live just a mouse click away in Ireland, Finland, India, China, Australia and dozens of other nations.

Soon the only jobs that will not be open to worldwide competition are those that require near physical contact between the parties to a transaction. Visitors to an office not far from the White House are greeted by a receptionist on a flat-screen display that controls access to the building and arranges contacts; she is in Pakistan. U.S. companies are even now receiving software by electronic mail written in India overnight in time to be tested in the United States and returned to India for further refinement that same evening. Drawing on American ideas are produced in Brazil. Call-center employees in India are being taught to speak with a Midwestern accent.

This movement of U.S. jobs to other countries has few natural limits. Manufacturing jobs were the first to go, but jobs developing software and conducting various design activities are soon followed by others. Research and support jobs are starting to move overseas, and even “high-end” jobs such as professional services, research and management are threatened.

Other nations will continue to have the advantage of lower wages, so the United States thrives in the aerospace industry, I have never seen...
must compete on the basis of its strengths. Throughout the 20th century, one of these strengths was our knowledge-based resources—particularly science and technology. The scientific and technological foundations of our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are building their innovative capacity.

This balance in high-technology goods swung from a positive flow of $33 billion in 1990 to a negative flow of $24 billion in 2003. Two years from now, for the first time ever, the most capable high-energy particle accelerator in the world will be outside the United States. Low-wage employers in this country, such as McDonald’s and Walmart, create many more jobs than do high-wage employers. In 2001 U.S. industry spent more on tort litigation and related costs than on all research and development.

Today, high-technology firms have to be on the leading edge of scientific and technological progress to survive. Intel Corp. Chairman Craig Barrett has said that 90 percent of the products his company delivers on the final day of each year did not exist on the first day of the same year. To succeed in that race, companies place, U.S. firms place, employees who are flexible, knowledgeable, and scientifically and mathematically literate.

But the U.S. educational system is falling in precisely those areas that underpin our competitiveness: science, engineering and mathematics. In a recent international test involving mathematical understanding, U.S. students finished 27th among the participating nations. In China and Japan, 59 percent and 66 percent, respectively, of undergraders received bachelor’s degrees in science and engineering, compared with 32 percent in the United States.

I’ve recently had an opportunity to review these trends as chairman of a 20-member committee created by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine. Congress asked the committee to examine the threats to America’s future prosperity. The panel was a diverse group that included university presidents, Nobel laureates, heads of companies and former government officials.

We agreed unanimously that the United States faces a serious and intensifying economic challenge from abroad—and that we appear to be on a losing path.

Our committee emphasized that the United States needs to focus on fundamentals. We recommended an investment of 10,000 new science and math teachers each year through the awarding of competitive scholarships. The skills of a quarter-million current teachers should be improved through enhanced training and education. We recommended establishing 25,000 competitive science, mathematics, engineering and technology scholarships and 5,000 graduate fellowships.

To boost scientific and technological innovation, we recommended that the U.S. government increase research funding by 10 percent annually over the next several years, with primary attention devoted to the physical sciences, engineering, mathematics and information sciences. We urged the federal government to create an Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E), modeled after the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which would support out-of-the-box, transformative research aimed at ending our crippling dependence on foreign sources for energy and on the government to provide permanent tax incentives for U.S.-based innovation.

The United States wants other nations to do well economically. Broadly based prosperity can make the world more stable and safer for all. What worries business leaders is that the United States could easily fall behind as the rest of the world prospers.

WORLD DAY FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the International Child Abuse Network. This wonderful organization works worldwide to break the cycle of violence that leads abused children to grow up to become abusers.

The International Child Abuse Network, also known as Yes ICAN, is a leading global provider of information and resources to deal with child abuse. Yes ICAN believes that child abuse would cease to exist if everyone had the capability to receive accurate, up-to-date information about abuse. Yes ICAN provides assistance and support to survivors who are too afraid or wounded to utilize traditional community resources. Through online forums, victims can heal together in a confidential, mutually supportive atmosphere.

In an effort to raise awareness to the effects of child abuse on societies around the world, every November 19th Yes ICAN recognizes the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse. This year’s event featured a showcase of art and poetry submissions from schoolchildren. Participants in the program were honored during a reception at the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center in my district in California.

The International Child Abuse Network is making positive strides in the fight against child abuse. Their work to create a better future for all children is to be commended. I am proud to congratulate the International Child Abuse Network and thank them for their valuable contributions.

CONGRATULATING MR. DAVID L. BRANT

HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a dedicated law enforcement official at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, David L. Brant, who is retiring after 28 years of service with NCIS.

Mr. Brant graduated with a master’s degree in criminology from Indiana State University in 1975. He began his law enforcement career as a police officer with the Dade County Metropolitan Public Safety Department in Miami, Florida. In 1977, he accepted an offer from the Naval Investigative Service and began his service as a Special Agent assigned to NSIRA Norfolk, VA on January 31, 1977. During his 4 years in the Norfolk area, Director Brant served in 4 different NIS offices and also completed an assignment as Special Agent Afloat aboard the USS Independence.

Following his assignment as a Special Agent Afloat, Director Brant transferred to the Philippines to become the Special Operations Squad Leader from 1981–1983. He then was assigned to the Headquarters Training Division as the Executive Assistant to the Director, and then was the Special Agent in Charge at NSIRA Mayport. He returned to the Philippines in 1989 to serve as the Deputy Regional Director for the NCIS Southeast Asia Region. In 1991 he returned to NCIS Headquarters and held various positions until he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service and was selected as the Assistant Director for Counterintelligence. Mr. Brant served in that capacity until he succeeded Roy D. Nedrow as Director in May 1997.

Mr. Brant has been widely recognized within the Department of the Navy, the Department of Defense, and the Federal law enforcement community for his innovative and transformational approaches to enhancing law enforcement and counterintelligence capabilities. He led NCIS in developing and implementing operational strategies, established the Counterterrorism Directorate, and built the Multiple Threat Alert Center (MTAC) to specifically enhance NCIS’s ability to counter threats facing the Navy and Marine Corps.

During his career, Mr. Brant has been recognized as an outstanding leader by multiple organizations. His awards include the Department of Defense Presidential Rank Award and the Department of the Navy Distinguished Service Award. Additionally, in 2004 he was awarded the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA) Aguila Award for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and the Outstanding Advocate for Women in Federal Law Enforcement Award from the Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE). Mr. Speaker, in close of today’s session, I would like to congratulate Mr. David L. Brant for his service to our country. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding his past accomplishments and wishing him and his wife, Merri Jo, and children Emily and Andrew, the best of luck in all future endeavors.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF
HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, in the other body, the junior member from Massachusetts delivered compelling remarks about Congressman MURTHA. I believe that it would be to the benefit of all of my colleagues to hear Senator KERRY speak.

Yesterday, Jack Murtha, a respected congressman on military matters, and former Marine Drill Sergeant and decorated Vietnam veteran, spoke out on our policy in Iraq. He didn’t come to that moment lightly. He spoke his mind and spoke his heart out of love for his country and support for our troops. I am not going to stand for a swift betray of the soldiers and the sacrifices they have made.

It disgusts me that a bunch of guys who have never put on the uniform of their country venomously turn their guns on a marine who served his country heroically in Vietnam and has been serving heroically in Congress ever since.
No matter what J.D. Hayworth says, there is no sterner stuff than the backbone and courage that defines Jack Murtha’s character and conscience.

Dennis J. Hastert, Speaker of the House who never served—called Jack Murtha a coward and accused him of wanting to cut and run. Well let me tell you, Jack Murtha wasn’t the only one who put himself in harm’s way for his country in Vietnam and earned two purple hearts—he was a patriot then, and he is a patriot today. Jack Murtha didn’t just talk about his courage in combat; he earned him a Bronze Star, and his voice should be heard, not silenced by those who still today cut and run from the truth.

Just a day earlier when he put himself in harm’s way for his country in Vietnam and earned two purple hearts—he was a patriot then, and he is a patriot today. Jack Murtha didn’t just talk about his courage in combat; he earned him a Bronze Star, and his voice should be heard, not silenced by those who still today cut and run from the truth.

Robert Kennedy once said, ‘The sharpest critic often goes hand in hand with the deepest idealism and love of country.’ Chuck Hagel showed what he meant when he said, ‘The Bush administration must understand that each American has a right to be proud of their country and should not be demonized for disagreeing with them.’ But too many in the Republican Party forgot that long ago. They forgot that asking tough questions isn’t pessimism; it’s patriotism.

We’ve seen the politics of fear and smear too many times. Whenever challenged, Republican leaders engage in the politics of personal destruction rather than debate the issues. It doesn’t matter who you are. When they did it to John McCain, we saw it doesn’t matter what political party you’re in. When they did it to Jack Murtha, we saw it doesn’t matter if your service put you in a wheelchair. And when they did it to Jack Murtha yesterday, perhaps the most respected voice on military matters in all of Congress, we saw that this administration will go to any lengths to crush any dissent.

Once again, they’re engaged in the lowest form of smear and fear politics because they’re afraid of actually debating a senior congressman who has advised presidents of both parties on how to beat defend our country. They’ve engaged in a delusional debate with a dedicated veteran who lives and breathes the concerns of our troops, not the empty slogans of an American who lives and breathes the concerns of our troops, not the empty slogans of an American who lives and breathes the concerns of our troops, not the empty slogans of an American who lives and breathes the concerns of our troops.

During a recent news conference, the auto-cratic Belarusian leader expressed confidence in his victory in the presidential election scheduled for next year, rhetorically asking why should he be rigging this election. Given his intensified assault on civil society, his dismal human rights record, and penchant for rigged elections, Mr. Lukashenka’s statements ring hollow. Yet, Lukashenka’s actions against democratic forces, non-governmental organizations and the independent media belie his stated confidence regarding electoral victories.

Last week, the lower chamber of Lukashenka’s pocket parliament passed a law endorsing tougher new penalties for activities “directed against people and public security,” as proposed submitted to the parliament only days before passage. These changes to the Criminal Code increase penalties for participation in organizations that were liquidated or warned to stop their pro-democratic activities, or for the training and other preparations for unauthorized demonstrations or other civic actions.

Mr. Speaker, to cite just one of the draconian provisions, the Code now gives authorities the leeway to jail an individual for up to 2 years for “providing a foreign country, a foreign or international organization with patently false information about the political, economic, social, military, and international situation of the Republic of Belarus.” Putting aside the matter of such a provision violating free speech, one must wonder what kind of abuse of power it is to discourage street protests during the upcoming presidential race.

This law, while particularly blatant, is part and parcel of other actions designed to strengthen the regime’s control and deny the Belarusian people any alternative voices as the presidential election campaign unfolds. Last month, a new law further controlling political parties came into force. A recent Council of Ministers decree clamps down on organizations that conduct public opinion polls. A Lukashenka decree further discriminates against independent trade unions, stipulating that only trade unions belonging to the pro-governmental federation are granted the right to premises at no cost. Yet another decree considerably limits students’ opportunities to travel abroad.

Meanwhile, opposition activists are routinely beaten up or detained. Just last week, for instance, Ales Kalita was detained and at the hands of the police suffered a dislocated arm for merely distributing the independent newspaper “Narodna Volya.” Viktor Syriulya, a lecturer at Baranavichi College was fired for organizing a meeting of students with presidential opposition candidate Alexander Milinkevich. Belarusian State Economic University in Minsk expelled for 30-day studies Tatjana Khoma because she took a brief trip to France, where she was elected to the executive committee of the Brussels-based National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB), an umbrella organization of student national student organizations. The police beat activist Mikita Sasim. They detained youth activists Yauhen Anfagel and others. Other repressive actions include frequent arrests of activists of democratic youth movements such as ZUBR, a ban on worship by some religious organizations, and passage of repressive actions against selected religious minorities, and continued harassment of members of the Union of Poles in Belarus.

Moreover, there is an emerging pattern of the regime putting obstacles in the way of Mr. Milinkevich. Recently, a public meeting he held in Borbuisk was disrupted by the authorities, with participants being told by the authorities to go home and threatened with tax inspections. During the conference, the electricity in the room was cut off, as well as a “hot-line” phone with town residents.

Especially egregious has been the regime’s intensification of the war against the already repressed and struggling independent media. Normally closures, suspensions, threats, and exorbitant and absurd libel fines, pressures on advertisers and other forms of harassment have become routine. Outright police confiscations of independent newspapers are also not uncommon. A seemingly more subtle tactic, implemented just a few weeks ago, involved the decision by Belarus’ monopoly state postal service to stop delivery to subscribers of a dozen private periodicals. Meanwhile, the suspicious murder in 2004 of journalist Veronika Charkasova has not been resolved. Authorities have refused to open a criminal investigation into journalist Vasili Hrodnikau’s death. Lukashenka himself recently admitted to Russian journalists that his regime applies very serious pressure on the media, somewhat incongruously adding that “this does not mean I am crushing them.”

Mr. Speaker, what I have cited is by no means an exhaustive list of abuses perpetrated by the Lukashenka regime, merely a sampling of the types of repressive actions employed on a daily basis by Europe’s last dictator. As Helsinki Commission Co-Chair, I will continue to monitor closely and speak out forcefully regarding these and other violations of Belarus’ freely undertaken OSCE commitments.

I urge the Bush Administration to step up efforts to break the Lukashenka regime’s near monopoly over the country’s information space and provide timely assistance to pro-democracy forces in Belarus.

It is clear that Mr. Lukashenka and his minions are laying the groundwork for yet another un-free and unfair election—similar to the 2001 presidential election and 2000 and 2004 parliamentary elections—that will fall far short of OSCE standards. Lukashenka is once again showing that, despite his confident rhetoric, he fears his own people and profoundly fails to respect their dignity as citizens and as human beings.

Riding Roughshod Over Rights in Belarus

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
of NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission and the sponsor of the Belarus Democracy Act, I remain deeply concerned about the violations of human rights occurring every day in Lukashenka’s Belarus.

During a recent news conference, the autocratic Belarusian leader expressed confidence in his victory in the presidential election scheduled for next year, rhetorically asking why should he be rigging this election. Given his intensified assault on civil society, his dismal human rights record, and penchant for rigged elections, Mr. Lukashenka’s statements ring hollow. Yet, Lukashenka’s actions against democratic forces, non-governmental organizations and the independent media belie his stated confidence regarding electoral victories.

Last week, the lower chamber of Lukashenka’s pocket parliament passed a law endorsing tougher new penalties for activities “directed against people and public security,” as proposed submitted to the parliament only days before passage. These changes to the Criminal Code increase penalties for participation in organizations that were liquidated or warned to stop their pro-democratic activities, or for the training and other preparations for unauthorized demonstrations or other civic actions.

Mr. Speaker, to cite just one of the draconian provisions, the Code now gives authorities the leeway to jail an individual for up to 2 years for “providing a foreign country, a foreign or international organization with patently false information about the political, economic, social, military, and international situation of the Republic of Belarus.” Putting aside the matter of such a provision violating free speech, one must wonder what kind of abuse of power it is to discourage street protests during the upcoming presidential race.

This law, while particularly blatant, is part and parcel of other actions designed to strengthen the regime’s control and deny the Belarusian people any alternative voices as the presidential election campaign unfolds. Last month, a new law further controlling political parties came into force. A recent Council of Ministers decree clamps down on organizations that conduct public opinion polls. A Lukashenka decree further discriminates against independent trade unions, stipulating that only trade unions belonging to the pro-governmental federation are granted the right to premises at no cost. Yet another decree considerably limits students’ opportunities to travel abroad.

Meanwhile, opposition activists are routinely beaten up or detained. Just last week, for instance, Ales Kalita was detained and at the hands of the police suffered a dislocated arm for merely distributing the independent newspaper “Narodna Volya.” Viktor Syriulya, a lecturer at Baranavichi College was fired for organizing a meeting of students with presidential opposition candidate Alexander Milinkevich. Belarusian State Economic University in Minsk expelled for 30-day studies Tatjana Khoma because she took a brief trip to France, where she was elected to the executive committee of the Brussels-based National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB), an umbrella organization of student national student organizations. The police beat activist Mikita Sasim. They detained youth activists Yauhen Anfagel and others. Other repressive actions include frequent arrests of activists of democratic youth movements such as ZUBR, a ban on worship by some religious organizations, and passage of repressive actions against selected religious minorities, and continued harassment of members of the Union of Poles in Belarus.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR SAVING ITS MEMBERS FROM DANGEROUS DRUGS VIOXX AND CELEBREX

HON. FORTNEY P. STARK
of CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs buys drugs for about half the market price, saving the American taxpayer billions of dollars. It does this by insisting on the best price offered to other customers, by negotiating for further discounts, and by moving market share through the use of a formulary.

The formulary is an excellent one that provides Veterans with the drugs they need that are safe and effective.
This formulary is under attack by ‘think tanks’ that may receive a lot of money from drug companies. PhRMA wants to convince the American public that, like the children of Lake Wobegon, all drugs are above average and should be readily available to be marketed to all Americans at whatever price the companies want to charge. The fact is, most drugs—about 80 to 85 percent in recent years—are me-too drugs: copies of stuff already on the market that bring little or nothing new to the fight against diseases. There is no need to cover all these drugs on a formulary. Rather, by using a formulary to list only the safest, most effective drugs, a buyer can obtain huge discounts from the companies. An exceptions and appeals process can ensure that in those rare cases where a non-formulary drug is needed, it will be available.

Listing all new drugs on a formulary can also be dangerous, because many drugs are approved after only six months or so of testing on a few thousand people or less. As doctor and Senator Frist has said, there should be a 2 year moratorium on the mass advertising of new drugs, because we really don’t know how safe they are. Vioxx and Celebrex are classic examples of drugs that added little new but have unacceptable risks.

The VA formulary never listed Vioxx and Celebrex. Good for them. Vioxx alone has been estimated to have caused up to 40,000 unnecessary deaths and another 100,000 heart attacks or strokes.

But the Manhattan Institute has just published a paper by a Frank R. Lichtenberg who says he is a Professor at Columbia University’s School of Business. The thesis of the paper is that because the VA does not immediately cover every drug, like Vioxx and Celebrex, veterans are starting to die earlier. The Professor includes in his paper one of the most hilarious, or saddest examples of sophistry I’ve ever seen. He plots a graph the life expectancy at birth of all males, and shows it rising from 72 years in 1991 to 74.5 years in 2002. He also plots veterans’ life expectancy, which rises from about 77.6 years to 80.5 years by 2004. But then he does something that, if he were a student, would earn an “F.” He superimposes the two life expectancy lines in different colors on the same chart but uses different vertical lines to represent the two different populations. The Veterans’ axis on the left starts at 77.0 years and rises to 81.5 years. The life expectancy at birth of all males axis on the right side of the chart starts at 70.5 and rises to 75.0. By doing this, he makes it appear to the quick scanner or casual reader (i.e., most of us), that Veterans are dying sooner than the rest of American males. Instead, Veterans are living 6 years longer.

The Professor deserves an “F”—and so does the drug industry for trying to libel the VA drug system.

We need a system like the VA’s for Medicare. It would save us hundreds of billions of dollars in the years to come—and save us from the Vioxx of the future.

---

**NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK STATEMENT**

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

**OF MISSOURI**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2005**

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, it was my great pleasure to serve this year as the Congressional Co-chair for the House of Representatives for National Bible Week, November 20 through December 2.

The Bible was foundational to development of our country. The English Puritans came to the New World to follow the Bible according to the convictions of their own consciences. Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 24 had what today would be considered Bible colleges and the Theological Seminaries. Only a few years later, in 1782, Congress itself authorized the printing of the Bible.

The Bible has found its way into everything from casual conversation—expressions like “by the sweat of your brow” and “the salt of the earth” and myriad others all come from Scripture—to the landscape of America. From Corinth, Maine, to Bethel, Alaska, the Bible has marked our national map.

More than any map, however, the Bible has marked who we are as a people. Earlier generations of Americans almost inhales the words of Scripture as they inhales the air. To read the inaugural addresses of our Presidents, from George Washington to George W. Bush, is to read repeated allusions to or quotations of biblical texts.

The Bible speaks to the uniqueness of man—that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. It speaks of the greatness of God—that He is the object of true worship, the fountain of all blessings and the Redeemer, Lawgiver, Friend, Savior and Judge.

Historically, we have been a people of the Book. We lose our allegiance to and our reliance on the Bible to our grave peril.

The Bible can be hard to understand. Yet as the theologian R.C. Sproul has written, “We fail in our duty to study God’s Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work.”

And it is worthwhile work. There can be nothing nobler than seeking not only to know the Bible’s teachings but to know the Bible’s God.

It was President Lincoln who said, “I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.” Or, as Jesus Himself remarked, “Search the Scriptures . . . for they testify of Me.”

Today, Mr. Speaker, I echo Abraham Lincoln’s comments and urge my colleagues and all Americans to reacquaint themselves with the Bible. As literature, it is unmatched. As philosophy, it is unparalleled. And as truth, it will make you free.

I commend the National Bible Association for its outstanding work to bring the Bible to the attention of all Americans of every faith and creed. And I am humbled by the opportunity to serve in such a way as to draw attention to this most precious of books.

---

**HON. RÁUL M. GRIJALVA**

**OF ARIZONA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2005**

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John B. Gabusi, an Arizona native known nationally and internationally, who retired September 30 as Vice Chancellor of Pima Community College.

Mr. Gabusi was an accomplished administrator who brought excitement, enthusiasm and excellence to his endeavors and his relationships. He possesses a superior intellect, is extremely well informed, and has an amazing ability to analyze information quickly and accurately. He is a compassionate human being with a particular affection for the less fortunate. He extends his help quietly, hoping only that others will overcome obstacles and achieve success.

Mr. Gabusi joined Pima College in 1991. He established the economic development office, then moved on to create a government relations program. From there, he undertook a myriad of successful activities for the College. Among his other remarkable achievements was a marketing campaign that increased the school’s enrollment by 30 percent over a five-year period and a counseling-mentor program that increased the number of area high school graduates who enrolled at Pima by more than 60 percent over a three-year period.

Mr. Gabusi grew up in the mining town of Clifton. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona in 1964, and was studying for a Ph.D. in political science when, in 1966, he and classmate Earl deBerge created a Tucson polling firm known as Survey Research Associates. He departed the partnership in 1968 to join the staff of U.S. Representative Morris K. Udall, whose congressional district then encompassed the entire State outside of Phoenix and Maricopa County. His friend deBerge continued the firm, which now is based in Phoenix and known as the Behavior Research Center Inc.

Mr. Gabusi spent 23 years away from Arizona, most of the time in Washington, DC.

Mr. Gabusi walked the halls of Congress as a Udall aide, and served as Udall’s principal staffer for the Postal Reorganization Act of 1971, the first step toward today’s independent postal system. Mr. Gabusi managed four of Udall’s congressional campaigns and directed the congressman’s attempted bid for the 1976 Democratic Presidential nomination. President Jimmy Carter reached out for his help in 1977, appointing Mr. Gabusi as Assistant Director for Management and Budget of the Community Services Administration. He oversaw a $2 billion annual budget at an agency with 1,800 employees between Washington and 10 regional offices.

Two years later, President Carter chose Mr. Gabusi for another major position: Assistant Secretary for Management in the fledgling Department of Education. Among other things, he managed the inter-agency task force that designed and implemented all of the required systems to create the Cabinet-level department.

Both jobs required Senate confirmation and Mr. Gabusi was one of a handful of appointees to undergo that process on two occasions.
With the 1981 change in administrations, Mr. Gabusi departed government service for private enterprise. He spent 2 years as General Manager of Rural Ventures Inc., the economic development arm of Control Data Corporation of Minneapolis.

He returned to Washington in 1983, and spent the next 8 years as an economic development consultant on a national and international basis.

His emphasis was on providing technical assistance to foreign ministries, and special contracts, primarily from the U.S. Agency for International Development. He also consulted with the governments of Egypt and Poland, and played a major role in establishing Poland’s first retail banking system.

Back home, Mr. Gabusi provided economic development and government expertise to small businesses, Indian tribal councils, small cities and towns and one federal agency, the Economic Development Administration.

Mr. Gabusi has been struggling with renal cell cancer for nearly 3 years and it was with regret that he retired from Pima College. He was a positive and progressive force at the college and in every other venture he undertook.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4241, DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about how this legislation is out of step with mainstream American values. I would like to submit for the Record the text of a letter sent to every Member of the House from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reflecting the misguided values that this bill embodies.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD PEACE,
Washington, DC, November 8, 2005.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: When Congress began the process of developing the 2006 budget for the United States government last February, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops president Bishop William Skylstad urged Members of Congress to remember that budget “decisions will reflect not only economic policies but moral choices as well,” and urged Congress “to give priority attention in the budget to the needs of poor and vulnerable people both here and abroad.”

As the House now takes up its budget reconciliation bill, we write to reiterate the Conference’s priorities and to share our views on how that bill may impact several key programs and the people they serve. We are guided by Catholic moral principles: respect for human life and dignity; the importance of family and the value of work; an option for the poor and the call to participation; and the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity. We also draw upon the Church’s experience living with, and serving the poor among us. As perhaps the largest non-governmental provider of health care and human services to vulnerable people, the Catholic community meets the poor in our soup kitchens, Catholic Charities agencies and health care facilities.

We are deeply disappointed by the budget reconciliation proposal before the House of Representatives, in particular, its lack of concern for some of the specific examples of programs that serve vulnerable people—often children—that will lose funds if this legislation passes in its current form.

The food stamp program includes harmful cuts to the Food Stamp program that will result in food assistance for fewer families and individuals, many of whom are being helped now. This would be objectionable anytime, but it is particularly unfair at this time. Recently, USDA reported that the number of people using Food Stamps has increased by 10% over 10 years, and we want to show our support for this program. The Food Stamp program produces spending on key conservation programs. The bishops have stated that protecting God’s creation must be a central goal of agricultural policy. This conference also endorses targeting limited government resources for direct federal payments and other forms of domestic agricultural support to small and moderate-sized farms, to help them through difficult times caused by periodic price shocks or unpredictable natural disasters, such as the recent hurricanes. Limiting U.S. farm supports and targeting them to those who need them the most would also increase the possibility that poor farmers around the world would be able to sell their products and support their families. We would welcome efforts to begin the process of redirecting agricultural subsidies to those most in need.

We urge you to remember that the federal budget is more than a fiscal plan; it reflects our values as a people. Budget choices have clear moral and human dimensions. A just society is one that protects and promotes the fundamental rights of its members—with special attention to meeting the basic needs, including the need for safe and affordable health care, of the poor and underserved. In these difficult times, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops urges you to work for a budget that does not neglect the needs of “least of these” in our nation and the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Nicholas DiMARZIO,
Bishop of Brooklyn, Chairman, Domestic Policy Committee.

Most Rev. John Ricardi, S.S.J.
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Chairman, International Policy Committee.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4241, DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the value of finding additional spectrum

Child Support Funds: The House reconciliation bill cuts Federal funding for state child support services which will make it harder for states to collect child support for low and moderate-income families. According to CBO estimates, over the course of ten years families could receive $21 billion less in child support payments. Child support payments can be crucial to the economic viability of some families, keeping them out of poverty and off public programs. They also encourage parental responsibility and can help to maintain the connection between children and their non-custodial parent. Undermining the collection of child support is not good for children or families.

Agricultural Programs: We are disappointed that the reconciliation bill reduces spending on key conservation programs. The bishops have stated that protecting God’s creation must be a central goal of agricultural policy. This conference also endorses targeting limited government resources for direct federal payments and other forms of domestic agricultural support to small and moderate-sized farms, to help them through difficult times caused by periodic price shocks or unpredictable natural disasters, such as the recent hurricanes. Limiting U.S. farm supports and targeting them to those who need them the most would also increase the possibility that poor farmers around the world would be able to sell their products and support their families. We would welcome efforts to begin the process of redirecting agricultural subsidies to those most in need.

We urge you to remember that the federal budget is more than a fiscal plan; it reflects our values as a people. Budget choices have clear moral and human dimensions. A just society is one that protects and promotes the fundamental rights of its members—with special attention to meeting the basic needs, including the need for safe and affordable health care, of the poor and underserved. In these difficult times, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops urges you to work for a budget that does not neglect the needs of “least of these” in our nation and the world.
below 1 GHz for unlicensed devices to meet the growing consumer demand for robust wire-
less broadband connections. As outlined in the committee report, the Federal Communica-
tions Commission should evaluate whether the presence of unlicensed devices operating in
the broadcast television bands will produce harmful interference to television stations
broadcasting in that band.
Unlicensed devices that utilize spectrum below 1 GHz could be used by neighbors who
want to communicate with each other, by wire-
less Internet providers who want to improve their
coverage, or by other service providers who
want to expand their capabilities. Unli-
censed use of these bands has the potential
to foster additional broadband competition,
technological innovation, and economic de-
velopment. In addition, wireless broadband de-
VICES can be deployed rapidly in areas where
wireline communications infrastructure has
been wiped away, such as has occurred dur-
ing recent disasters. I agree that the FCC
should act expeditiously on this proceeding,
and we were therefore pleased to provide the
FCC with a deadline to complete its work.

HONORING DAVID MITCHELL ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 8
HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
honor David Mitchell, a resident of Chau-
tauqua County for his quest to become the
elected representative to the eighth legislative
district in Chautauqua County Legislature. Al-
though Mr. Mitchell was not able to realize his
dream he has been able to make an impact on
other’s lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take.
Any person with a dream may enter but only
a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Mitchell
traveled that path with his head held high and
a smile on his face the entire way. I have no
doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting im-
pression on the voters of district 8.

Dave Mitchell was a former Jamestown police
officer that was wounded while on duty. Through his courage and determination to rise
above his injuries David has made a tremen-
dous recovery. It is inspiring to see a man with
such conviction to better his community run for
public office.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such
strong candidates with a desire to make this
county the wonderful place that we all know it
can be. Mr. Mitchell is one of those people
and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor
him today.

HONORING DAVE SMITH, NEWARK’S RECENTLY RE-ELECTED MAYOR
HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
honor Newark, CA’s Mayor Dave Smith. His
recent re-election makes him the second long-
est serving mayor in the country as he em-
barks on his 28th consecutive year of service.

Mayor Smith began his career in public
service as the Fremont chapter president of
the Jaycees, a fraternal business group. He
then ran for, and was elected to, the Newark
city council in 1976. Two years later he was
elected Mayor, where he has remained ever
since.

During his tenure, Newark has become a
model for the country to follow. It has a $35
million surplus, a low crime rate, beautiful
parks and well-maintained streets. Newark
city council meetings are efficient and exemplify
Mayor Smith’s ability to build consensus
among the city’s leadership.
He has steered Newark through the dot-com
boom and bust, avoiding the common pitfalls
that plague many other cities. His plans for
managed growth have allowed Newark to
thrive. Also, he is a respected governmental
figure—not an easy trick for a Republican rep-
resenting a city that is registered 55 percent
Democratic.

Smith’s nickname, Mr. Newark, is well de-
served. With an easy style prone to practical
jokes and trombone solos, he has become an
accomplished politician, a beloved public serv-
ant and a committed member of his commu-
nity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dave Smith’s
dedicated commitment to the city he serves.
His ability to lead Newark, one of the jewels
of the East Bay, is unquestionable and I for
one hope he continues to serve for another 28
years.

RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENT MARGARET A. MCKENNA’S 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AT LESLEY UNIVERSITY
HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
recognize Dr. Margaret A. McKenna, president
of Lesley University since December 4, 1985.
Dr. McKenna became president of Lesley
College 20 years ago and her leadership has
created Lesley University, with a School of
Education, a Graduate School of Arts and
Sciences, an Art Institute and the School of In-
tegrative and Experiential Studies. Over these
two decades, Lesley University’s enrollment,
education and programmatic reach have
expanded dramatically. While these
achievements would be laudable on their own
for any university president, they are only a
portion of the success Dr. McKenna has fos-
tered at Lesley University.

Dr. McKenna has placed a very strong em-
phasis on educating our educators. Under her
leadership, Lesley has also become one of
the largest providers of graduate profes-
sional education to classroom teachers in the
Nation. The faculty and students have become
an important resource to local public school
districts. This is due in large part, to her
commitment to pioneering on-line and distance
learning. With President McKenna’s impri-
matur, Lesley University has placed many re-
sources and much energy toward providing
quality education for teachers specializing in
the hard sciences.

President McKenna has also used her posi-
tion as the head of a leading university to call
attention to important causes. One need only
glance at her published work to know she
believes that education can build a citizen, not just a student. Clearly, from her
perspective, there is no civic topic that is not
enmeshed with higher education.

In closing, I salute President Margaret
McKenna for 20 years of outstanding leader-
ship and vision.

STATEMENT HONORING SFC RICHARD SCHILD
HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH
OF SOUTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am sad-
den to report the passing of SFC Richard
Schild. He was killed while serving in Opera-
ion Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enor-
mously enhanced by Richard’s goodwill and
service. He inspired all those who knew him.
Our Nation is a far better place because of his
life. All Americans owe Richard, and the other
soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice
in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of
gratitude for their service.

Every Member of the House of Representa-
tives has taken a solemn oath to defend the
constitution against all enemies, foreign and
domestic. While we certainly understand the
gravity of the issues facing this legislative
body, Richard lived that commitment to our
Nation. Today, we remember and honor his
nobility service to the United States and the ulti-
mate sacrifice he has paid with his life to de-
fend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to
the family and friends of SFC Richard Schild.
I believe the best way to honor him is to emu-
late his commitment to our country. I know he
will always be missed, but his service to our
Nation will never be forgotten.

HONORING NANCY PETRUCCELLO ON HER CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 10
HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
honor Nancy Petruccello, a resident of Chau-
tauqua County, for her quest to become the
elected representative to the 10th legislative
district in the Chautauqua County Legislature.
Although Ms. Petruccello was not able to real-
ize her dream, she has been able to make an
impact on others’ lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take.
Any person with a dream may enter but only
a few are able to reach the end. Ms.
Petruccello traveled that path with her head
held high and a smile on her face the entire
way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 10.

Nancy Petruccello has served as a voting machine custodian for many of the Jamestown voting machines. Even though she was running her own campaign this year, Nancy still found the time to serve as the custodian.

Nancy Petruccello is an amazing woman who ran a tremendous campaign. Many do not realize this, but Ms. Petruccello ran her campaign while dealing with the trials of having a brain tumor. She clearly loves her county and wanted to do what is best for it at any cost.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Petruccello is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

HONORING AL HUEZO, CITY MANAGER OF NEWARK, CA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Newark, CA’s extraordinary city manager, Alberto “Al” T. Huezo. After a long and illustrious career, he will retire on December 30, 2005.

He was hired by the city on July 1, 1974 and promoted to the position of city manager on July 1, 1996. For the last 9 years, City Manager Huezo has led Newark in an exemplary fashion. He defines his position as city manager as “the chief executive officer of an organization that provides municipal services.” He emphasizes the word services and describes his role also as “an ambassador for the organization, someone who actively markets and promotes that organization to people on the outside, potential customers and certainly customers within.” During his tenure as city manager he never lost his focus on service.

When asked how he would like to be remembered, Mr. Huezo responded “as a man who didn’t take himself too seriously, someone who did his job with passion and gusto.” Among his legacies to the city is the development of Newark’s Stillman Center, a modern multi-purpose community center, and maintaining city services through difficult fiscal issues and challenges. He points to the proudest moment of his career, as city manager, as being part of a team that dealt effectively with the ongoing homicide in Newark. This tragedy put the city under a microscope and communities acted with dignity and as a tightly knit group to face the challenge together.

Referring to his legacy, Mr. Huezo points to the people that he has promoted or brought into the city’s organization and the key people in place to lead Newark forward.

I join the city of Newark and its residents in wishing Al Huezo all the best upon his well deserved retirement. He has been a trusted public servant and we shall miss his warm personality and the genuine, consistent caring he exuded throughout his duties to make Newark a model city. Thank you, Al Huezo, for making a positive difference with your commitment to excellence.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY M. LASSEN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mary M. Lassen, who has served more than a decade as president and CEO of the Women’s Union in Boston. Mary Lassen has been an extraordinary force for social justice and effective reform. The Women’s Educational and Industrial Union, established in 1877, supported suffrage, legal rights, and wider opportunities for women. Mary Lassen built upon those historic triumphs and led the union into a new century, working with and on behalf of poor and immigrant women. Under her leadership, the union has provided job training for women moving from welfare to work, supportive housing for survivors of domestic abuse, and compelling advocacy for family economic self-sufficiency.

Mary Lassen graduated summa cum laude from Radcliffe College, determined to secure liberty, justice, and opportunity for all persons. For her struggle against poverty and injustice has been both intellectual and pragmatic. She believes in rigorous analysis and sustained collaboration. After working as a community organizer, she became executive director of the Committee for Boston Public Housing. In that office, she introduced early childhood, antiviolence and community building programs in several of Boston’s public housing developments, and then, characteristically, she took time to reflect. In a sabbatical year, as a fellow of the Mary I. Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College, she produced a study of “Community-Based Family Support in Public Housing.” During a public policy fellowship sponsored by the Japan Society, she explored women’s employment and workforce development in East Asia. She has inspired the union’s important research on Family Self-Sufficiency and helped forge the Massachusetts Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project, MassFESS, a statewide coalition of organizations, to measure the real costs of living, working and paying taxes without subsidies and to frame policy in terms of these real costs.

Under her leadership, the Women’s Union opened Horizons II, increasing by 30 percent the number of supportive transitional housing units for battered and homeless women and their children in the city of Boston. This year, the Women’s Union celebrated the opening of a newly designed, state-of-the-art, woman-focused technology training center. The title of their report expresses their goal: Achieving Success in the New Economy.

Several of the most daring, inspiring, and influential women in the history of our country have been associated with the Women’s Union, sometimes as supporters, sometimes as clients: Louisa May Alcott, Julia Ward Howe, Helen Keller, and Amelia Earhart. Mary Lassen deserves a place among them.

HONORING FRED YEZZI ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE Elected TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 11

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fred Yeazzi, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become a legislator. Mr. Yeazzi is a widely respected voter and has actively sought to understand and connect with his constituents. His dedication to public service has been both intellectual and pragmatic. He believes in rigorous analysis and sustained collaboration. After working as a community organizer, he became executive director of the Committee for Boston Public Housing. In that office, he introduced early childhood, antiviolence and community building programs in several of Boston’s public housing developments, and then, characteristically, he took time to reflect. In a sabbatical year, as a fellow of the Mary I. Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College, he produced a study of “Community-Based Family Support in Public Housing.” During a public policy fellowship sponsored by the Japan Society, he explored women’s employment and workforce development in East Asia. She has inspired the union’s important research on Family Self-Sufficiency and helped forge the Massachusetts Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project, MassFESS, a statewide coalition of organizations, to measure the real costs of living, working and paying taxes without subsidies and to frame policy in terms of these real costs.

Under her leadership, the Women’s Union opened Horizons II, increasing by 30 percent the number of supportive transitional housing units for battered and homeless women and their children in the city of Boston. This year, the Women’s Union celebrated the opening of a newly designed, state-of-the-art, woman-focused technology training center. The title of their report expresses their goal: Achieving Success in the New Economy.

Several of the most daring, inspiring, and influential women in the history of our country have been associated with the Women’s Union, sometimes as supporters, sometimes as clients: Louisa May Alcott, Julia Ward Howe, Helen Keller, and Amelia Earhart. Mary Lassen deserves a place among them.

STATEMENT HONORING SSG DANIEL CUKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of SSG Daniel Cuka. He was killed while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Daniel’s goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation is a far better place because of his service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of SSG Daniel Cuka. He was killed while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Daniel’s goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation is a far better place because of his service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation will never be forgotten.
ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERVICE OF MR. JIM DION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, at the complicated intersection of housing, poverty and community development issues, one man has shined as a guiding light. Mr. Jim Dion, assistant executive director for Housing Operations at the King County Housing Authority, has devoted his life to ensuring that our low-income neighbors—be they families, victims of domestic violence, seniors or people with disabilities—live in high quality affordable housing. After three decades of distinguished public service in King County, WA, Mr. Dion is about to retire. He is a living testament to the power that a single individual possesses to help provide quality affordable housing opportunities, build communities, encourage self-sufficiency and protect the dignity of people with limited resources by safeguarding the public trust. The child of a minister father and a social worker mother, Mr. Dion undoubtedly acquired a keen sense of public service from an early age. Perhaps that explains his rise through the ranks from a property manager overseeing 700 units of family and elderly public housing in 1974 to a senior executive currently administering more than 4,300 units of housing as well as rental subsidies for 8,200 additional households.

During his career, Mr. Dion expanded the housing safety net in King County through a number of additional Federal and local programs and by partnering with nonprofit organizations to provide on-site services to residents. Mr. Dion also worked diligently to promote acceptance of low-income housing in several high-cost suburban cities such as Bellevue, Redmond, and Kirkland, areas of the county with excellent job bases. Mr. Dion’s involvement in this initiative, along with the well-managed, well-maintained housing he oversaw, paved the way to a community response to low-income housing in affluent areas and continues to ensure that living in these cities is a viable option for struggling families.

While administering housing for more than 12,500 households is a staggering enough accomplishment in itself, Mr. Dion did so as a model of efficiency and effectiveness. Since HUD has had an evaluation process in effect, Mr. Dion led his staff to achieve HUD’s highest ratings for both KCHA’s section 8 and public housing programs, reflecting his hard work and high commitment to the families and individuals he served.

Awards from industry housing organizations for KCHA programs and properties under Mr. Dion’s jurisdiction have been practically commonplace.

Mr. Dion also tackled issues beyond the scope of “bricks and sticks.” With his strong belief in the ability of people to overcome difficult circumstances with appropriate support, Mr. Dion is credited for laying the foundation of what is now the Resident Services Department of the housing authority.

Mr. Dion’s commitment to public service did not stop with King County. For most of his 30-year career, he has also been an active member of the National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials, serving on its Housing Committee and its Board of Governors at the national level, as well as in various positions of leadership at the regional and chapter levels. His unparalleled grasp of the regulatory process made him a truly respected voice on Capitol Hill.

Home is where we raise our children. Home is where we hope to age in the company of our friends and family. Home is where vulnerable individuals and families can maintain their dignity and gain a foothold in self-sufficiency. Through his compassionate leadership, thousands of people have improved the quality of their lives because they had a good, safe home.

As the sun sets on his career, it is only fitting that we acknowledge the 30 extraordinary years of Mr. Dion’s dedicated public service. My sincere congratulations to Mr. Dion, whose calm, reasoned approach to ensuring quality housing and services for our most vulnerable residents has forever instilled in his colleagues at the King County Housing Authority and in Washington’s congressional delegation the importance of providing the best possible support to families and individuals in need. He leaves a legacy of hard work, compassion and high standards that serves as an example to us all.

HONORING MICHAEL EAKER ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 7

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Eaker, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the seventh legislative district in the Chautauqua County legislature. Although Mr. Eaker was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other’s lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Eaker traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 7.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Eaker is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to submit for the RECORD the following commentary written by Keith Buirris which appeared in the Journal Inquirer on November 21, 2005. It is one of the most thoughtful and accurate commentaries on the plan for action in Iraq proposed by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA). I agree wholeheartedly with his conclusion, “JOHN MURTHA is trying to save lives now. He is right. And courageous. And the loyal friend of those who fight.”

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

(By Keith C. Buirris)

Everyone knows that public support for the president’s war in Iraq has eroded. We know it not only because we read the newspapers and their reports about the polls but because so many of us are a part of that erosion.

After 9/11, most of us were capable of a knee-jerk reaction. Most Americans felt, “We have been attacked; we cannot just sit back and wait for the next attack.” Most Americans supported attacking Afghanistan, because, to the extent that there was a Terrorist Central, that was it.

Invading Iraq was a tougher sell. But Americans were inclined to trust their government, even though the memory of the Vietnam War was fresh in our minds. That was a war in which thousands of young soldiers fought bravely and some 50,000 died. They were told, and we were told, that they fought for freedom; to contain communism; and, to paraphrase what was then being taught senior officers at the Army War College: If we fought the bad guys over there, we might not have to fight them over here.

Today, the young men and women fighting in Iraq are told the exact same things, and the nation is today told the exact same things, except that the word terrorism may be substituted for communism.

Our leaders went into Vietnam with good, even noble intentions. “To help those people” and to give them what we have—freedom and democracy. But our leaders didn’t know enough about the history or the culture of the region. They didn’t have a clear political or military objective. They didn’t have adequate military power to subdue the country. So they got bogged down in a civil war in which they could not be sure about their allies and they sent our soldiers to fight a guerrilla war in which tactics were as unfocused as strategy and mission.

And then they began to lose.

The newest Nixon tapes show that the president actually instructed his aides and the military to lie. He told them to lie to the public our troops were out when they weren’t. It’s easy, explained the command-in-chief to his deputies—we say one thing and do another.

Indeed, the entire war was based on what is now called “false intelligence.” President Lyndon Johnson told the Senate that an American ship had been fired on in the Tonkin Gulf. It hadn’t been.

The final stage was flag waving: President Johnson, President Nixon, and their allies alike said that people just had to listen. We had to correct this massive, tragic mistake—negotiate a political end and get the troops out—were demoralizing our troops and aiding and abetting the enemy.

In other words, they were treasonous.

Don’t criticize the war effort while there are men in the field, we were told.

And yet, if the war was not criticized, and a correction of course was not made while the war was going on, and the president would not or could not exert sufficient military effort to win the war, how would we know it could only end as it did. By spouting out. But with ultimate Viet Cong victory
December 6, 2005  CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E2451

and hasty American retreat by the U.S. troops that remained.

Meanwhile, between the time the nation realized it had made a mistake, roughly 1968, and the time we got the romantic notion that perhaps three million Iraqis died, there were thousands of American soldiers. Many naval men patrolling waters they would give up, take back, and ultimately give up again. Many Marines. Many, many Vietnamese civilians.

And all for what?

None of it stopped the triumph of communism or the subsequent triumph of capitalism in Vietnam.

We got it wrong.

But, worse, once we realized we got it wrong, we did not go back to the classroom. We did not go back to the ‘course,’ and then our leaders told us lies.

The biggest lie was: ‘The way to show devotion to the troops is to support a war without a goal; without adequate military strategy or resources; without a chance of victory. If you love the boys, don’t question the war.

In reality, that attitude killed a lot of boys who should not have died.

The biggest lie was that patriotism is blind acceptance and sacrifice of our country’s young.

But something stopped Abraham before he slew his son. Maybe it was the voice of God. Or maybe it was the voice of questioning and of reason.

After Vietnam, one of that war’s brave soldiers, a man named Colin Powell, came up with a formula for what he said we really owed our troops.

It wasn’t flag waving or blind loyalty to those in charge of the state.

No, he said we owe our soldiers:

—A clear reason for fighting.
—A plan to win.
—And overwhelming force, so that they can be sure they will win and will not be sent out to fight and die as sitting ducks and human sacrifices.

We knew that Powell not only understood war, but understood the Vietnam War. And that is why many of us trusted him when he told us we had to go to war with Iraq.

But it turned out he was wrong.

The CIA was wrong.

The Department of Defense was wrong.

The Senate was wrong.

Most of the country was wrong.

We had a reason to be there.

Saddam Hussein was a brutal tyrant.

If he had nuclear or deadly chemical weapons, he would have used them.

We were told he did.

Take him out first.

Fight them on their ground and not ours.

—Create a quick reaction force in the region.

—Create an ‘over the horizon’ presence of Marines.

—Use diplomatic channels to pursue security and stability.

—Turn Iraq over to the Iraqis.

Murtha said he thinks it will take about six months. He said there is no military objective left for our military to achieve. They have done all they can.

Second, he said he is now convinced that the presence of our troops actually makes the region less secure than before.

They are the target of the terror and unrest. They are the cause of continuing war, not the solution. Our troops function as foment. They are only killing time for the Iraqis and U.S. politicians, and being killed.

Murtha rockied the capital and reignited opposition to the war.

John Murtha also has two Purple Hearts. ‘Are they going to call him a traitor?’ asked a friend.

Well, yes.

The speaker of the House immediately accused Murtha of delivering “the highest insult to the troops.”

The Republican floor leader said Murtha was “undermining the troops.”

A congressman from Texas said Murtha wanted to “take the cowardly way out.”

About a week ago, the president started this mantra: ‘Trying to end the war gives comfort to the enemy,’ he said.

Criticizing war policy demoralizes the troops.

Then the vice president said it.

Then the president repeated it. Twice.

And all Republicans have said since spoken with one voice: If you don’t want your son or daughter to die for a war Bush and Cheney have no idea how to win, you are a disloyal American.

Sadly, even Connecticut’s own 2nd District Congressman, Rob Simmons, joined in. He attacked war critics on Veterans Day, just as the president did, and said that antiwar politics “undermines their (veterans) cause and degrades their heroic service and sacrifice.”

No, it doesn’t. It values their heroism enough to try to save their lives.

Lack of mission demoralizes them. Lack of reinforcements undermines them.

A war without purpose or chance of ultimate victory is what degrades their sacrifice.

Simmons even joined in bashing John Murtha.

But Murtha probably knows more generals, officers, and grunts personally than anyone in Congress. He insists that they should not be asked to die, or suffer lifelong maiming, in vain.

Murtha’s retort to the suggestion that he is undermining the fighting men and women he has devoted his life to: ‘This is not a war of words. This is a real war, and people are getting hurt.”

Rep. Simmons went on to speak of the lack of support for Vietnam veterans during Vietnam and the mistreatment many suffered when they came home—they were not honored as they should have been and some were taunted and blamed for the war of their president.

True.

But that abuse was as nothing compared to fighting in that war after our government had given it up.

And most Americans, even then, could tell the difference between brave soldiers and a bad policy.

This country loves its fighting men and women in Iraq. The people have backed them all the way. The government criminally—has not.

During Vietnam there were plenty of us who wanted to end the war but honored and admired those willing to fight and die for their country. Some of us had family there and were intensely proud of their bravery and their sacrifice. We could see the futility of the war and the cynicism of the war makers. It is possible to do both. Most Americans get that. Rob Simmons should too.

A few weeks ago, I was in Washington when the big national protest of the war was going on. ‘The city was full of “peaceniks.”’ I met one of them on the subway. He was a man in his middle to late 70s who had been wounded in Korea, the forgotten war—my Dad’s war. This man wore a T-shirt that said “Peace for peace” and what he told me we owe our troops: ‘Certainty. We have to be sure it is worth it. We have to know what we are doing. Or don’t go. If we screw it up, we have to fix it.

That doesn’t sound unpatriotic to me.

When this war was about to start, Rep. Simmons was not for it. He said that from the intelligence he had seen, Saddam was not a lethal and imminent threat. He said we needed to clean up Afghanistan. He said the other terrorist war would be mostly an intelligence war, not one of bombs and tanks. He said it would be a long and complicated war. He changed his mind.

But he was right the first time.

And I wish he had spoken out and broken with his president then.

That would have had an impact.

When military men stand up to an unjust war, it makes a difference.

Sen. Richard Russell, the lead military expert in Congress during Vietnam, told President Johnson to get out in 1966.

And when LBJ was afraid to leave a war, and Russell kept silent. Imagine if he had spoken out.

The end of this war is a moral that is: Irak is an American hero. He fought bravely in the Vietnam War and he is trying to end the Iraq War.
His speaking out may save American lives. Rob Simmons is also a good man—a brave, decorated vet, and a fine public servant. But the odious tactic of questioning the loyalty and patriotism of people who want to end the war is beneath him. And you know what else? The people who kept the Vietnam War going for at least seven years after they knew the war was lost, and kept sending good boys to die knowing it was lost, and called the people who tried to end the war unpatriotic, are the ones whose names stand disgraced in history.

And the doves who saw that the war was hopeless, who wanted the president called “weak” and “soft” and “Nervous Nellies”—they were right. Far from being treasonous, they were patriots. Far from being demoralizers, they were trying to save soldiers’ lives. John Murtha is trying to save lives now. He is right.

And courageous. And the loyal friend of those who fight.

HONORING MARK SACKETT ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4
HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005
Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Sackett, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the forth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Sackett was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other’s lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Sackett traveled that path with his hand held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 4.

Mr. Sackett is a first time legislator where he served the people of district 4 for many years. Mark is also a very creative man who never stops thinking of ways to assist a friend. Many people of Sheridan, New York may remember the large gavel that he constructed.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Sackett is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

CHEMICAL ADDICTION AND THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS
HON. JIM RAMSTAD
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005
Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize last week’s World AIDS Day and draw attention to the troubling relationship between chemical dependency and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

In addition to the implicit dangers associated with intravenous drug use, use of illicit drugs and/or alcohol abuse can lead to poor decisions and unsafe sexual behavior that can result in HIV infection.

America’s youth, our most precious resource, are at especially high risk since adolescents face increased vulnerability to chemical addiction. Studies show that 50 percent of the individuals addicted to illicit drugs begin using drugs when they are between 15 and 18 years old.

That’s why the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) views drug abuse prevention and treatment as essential to stopping the spread of HIV infection, especially for America’s young people.

And while NIDA is an excellent resource that provides some of the top research in the area of chemical addiction, it is equally invested in educating the public about this public health problem. That’s why, in conjunction with World AIDS Day, NIDA is initiating a new public awareness campaign about the dangerous relationship between addiction and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As co-chair of the Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, I want to congratulate NIDA and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for developing this life-saving campaign and commend these fine organizations for the tremendous research they are doing. This educational campaign and increased research will help us to better understand and prevent the devastating connection between chemical addiction and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND MASANORI SHOBO OHATA
HON. ZOE LOFGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005
Ms. LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor the Reverend Masanori Shobo Ohata as he formally retires from the Buddhist Churches of America and from the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

Reverend Ohata has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Institute of Buddhist Studies since 1982. The Institute of Buddhist Studies is the graduate school and seminary of the Buddhist Churches of America. It is the first non-western religious seminary to be affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union, an interfaith consortium of seminaries dedicated to study and dialogue in a religious and cultural pluralism.

Reverend Ohata has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Endowment Foundation since 1998. He was involved with the inception of the Endowment Foundation in 1983. The Foundation has provided over 11 million dollars of direct benefit to vital programs of the BCA which include ministerial welfare, education and communicative support.

Reverend Ohata has also served as a Sanyo (advisor) to the Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America and has advised five consecutive Bishops beginning with Bishop Shinsho Hanayama, whose term ended in 1988, through Bishops Tsuji, Yamaoka, Watanabe and Ogui.

Reverend Ohata’s contributions to the community are clearly demonstrated in his compassion and understanding. An immigrant himself, Reverend Ohata is a strong believer in the unifying powers of diversity, faith, tolerance and understanding. He has shared this strength through roles within the community.

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin sits in the heart of my district and opens its doors to people of every ethnicity, faith, nationality, culture and creed in the spirit of sharing and community. Yearly Obon festivals bring hundreds of people into the halls of the Buddhist church for good food and increased understanding among San Jose’s extremely diverse communities of neighbors and friends.

Although Reverend Ohata is formally retiring, I am certain that his legacy will continue throughout the sidewalks of San Jose’s Japantown and within the vibrant and diverse communities he has touched.
HONORING RICHARD NEWTON ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Newton, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the first legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Newton was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other’s lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Newton traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 1.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Newton is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOEL E. CAHILL

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, Captain Joel Cahill died last month from injuries he sustained while serving in Iraq. The personnel carrier in which he was traveling hit a roadside bomb, killing him instantly. He was 34 years old. He leaves behind his two daughters, Faith and Briana, and his wife, Mary.

Joel was the son of Larry and Barbara Cahill. He graduated from Papillion-La Vista High School in 1989 and enrolled in the Army a year later. His first act was to register for Special Forces training. With his strong intellect and fierce dedication, Joel Cahill became a decorated member of the U.S. Army Rangers. Joel also went on to continue his education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, majoring in general studies. He served in Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry from Fort Benning, Georgia.

During his service, Captain Cahill became a skilled soldier. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Soldier’s Medal, which he received for saving the life of a fellow soldier. During a training exercise with live grenades, Joel’s quick action delivered a col-lege from harm.

This act of bravery demonstrated how he lived his life; by putting others before himself. Joel Cahill had a strong sense of purpose. When asked about his recent assignment, he responded, with heartfelt emotion in his voice, “I strongly believe that this is what I need to do to keep my girls safe in the future.”

Captain Cahill took pride in protecting America. His brother, Randy, described Joel as a compassionate individual with a good sense of humor, who conveyed a sense of sincere gratitude towards the troops with whom he served.

Captain Cahill’s death is particularly hard. The father of young children, the husband of a young wife, his loss carries an unemployment sting. As we pay tribute to him, our hope is the sting may be softened, if for a moment, by the remembrance of a heroic soldier who sacrificed himself in service to his country. Captain Cahill lived and died an American patriot.

Captain Cahill now rests in Arlington National Cemetery; a fitting tribute for a dedicated soldier. He is a true hero. We shall forever be grateful.

IN RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER ROSS AND HER SERVICE IN THE PEACE CORPS

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Jennifer Ross, who has recently returned from two years of service in the Peace Corps.

Ms. Ross has followed in the footsteps of over 182,000 Americans who have served in 138 countries around the world since the Peace Corps’ inception in 1961. Every year, thousands of selfless volunteers share their time and talents by serving as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and youth and agriculture workers.

Ms. Ross spent her time in the Peace Corps teaching students in Colijuje, Moldova, about health education and life skills, such as the development of self esteem and the value of friendship. In order to promote these lessons she used baseball as a teambuilding effort and as a means of creating a positive environment for her students.

Seeing the success of baseball in fostering sportsmanship and self confidence in her students, Jennifer worked to obtain a $65,700 grant from the Baseball for Tomorrow Fund. Using this grant, she set up a summer baseball camp in Moldova.

Although Ms. Ross’s service in the Peace Corps has ended, she has made a lasting impression on lives of the children she worked with in Moldova. I am proud of Ms. Ross and all of my constituents who are serving and have served in the Peace Corps and I offer them my deepest gratitude.

HONORING RETIRING CONCORD TOWN COUNCILMAN JOHN ALLAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor John Allan, whose service as a member of the Concord Town Board will come to an end on December 31, 2005.

Allan is a man dedicated to ef-fecting public service for the resident of the town of Concord. Few public officials love their hometown the way John Allan does, and as a means of creating a positive environment for his constituents, he used baseball as a teambuilding effort and stand opposed to any cut-and-run strateg-egy.

In his book, The Hinge of Fate, Winston Churchill said, “I like commanders on land and sea and in the air to feel that between them and all forms of public criticism the Government stands like a strong bulkhead. They ought to have a fair chance, and more than one chance.”

I think that we ought to let those words sink in. They ought to have a fair chance, and more than one chance.

No one ever said war was easy and any historian can tell you that anything of signifi-cant value has never come easy. The brave men and women serving in Iraq are writing the latest chapter in the history of freedom.

We should look forward, continue to support our troops, and provide them with the tools and the strategy to triumph—completing their mission is the most important thing to them. It should be our goal as well.

Mr. Speaker, let’s show our support for this mission and embrace a victory strategy, not just an exit strategy.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD E. TOMKO

HON. TIM HOLDEN
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Richard E. Tomko of St. Clair, Pennsylvania for his many years of selfless and heartfelt service to the residents of St.
Clair Borough and the many contributions he has made to Schuylkill County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Tomko began his public life as committeeman for the West Precinct in St. Clair at the age of 21. Soon after, in 1970, he became the chairman of the St. Clair Republican Party, a position he held to this day. At the age of 23, Mr. Tomko was elected to the St. Clair Borough Council and served 8 years, including 5 years as council president. In 1980, Mr. Tomko resigned from the council to become borough secretary until he was appointed to the Post Office Civil Service Commission where he served for 3 years.

In 1985, Richard Tomko was elected mayor of St. Clair. Mayor Tomko was re-elected four times, serving 20 years in the position. A high school government teacher, neighbor, and friend, Mr. Tomko continues to be a vital member of the community, also serving on my Military Academy Recommendation Board.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to recognize a man who has dedicated his entire life to the borough of St. Clair, helping hundreds of people in my district, including myself. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Richard E. Tomko on his many years of devoted public service and thank him for the many contributions he has made toward the well being of the citizens of St. Clair, Schuylkill County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HONORING SCOTT TUCKER OF PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor Scott Tucker, of Petaluma, California. On January 1, 2006, Scott will officially retire after 13 years as the San Francisco District Manager, and 38 years with the United States Postal Service. He is the longest serving postal service executive at any major metropolitan area in consecutive years.

Mr. Tucker’s career with the U.S. Postal Service began in 1968 in Hanford, California as a letter carrier. He held a succession of managerial positions in postal operations, until in September 1992, he was appointed to his current position as the San Francisco District Manager.

As the District Manager, Scott is responsible on a daily basis for the delivery of approximately 10 million pieces of mail to 3 million customers throughout northwest California that ranges from Sunnyvale in the south to the Oregon border in the north. He supervises a workforce of 10,400 mail carriers, mail handlers, mail clerks, postmasters, and operations managers. In the North Bay we have grown to approximately 3,000 employees spread throughout 205 postal facilities under Scott’s leadership.

The San Francisco postal district has for nine consecutive quarters, under Scott’s leadership, received the “Order of Yellow Jersey” award for excellence in customer satisfaction and commitment to professionalism. The district has been repeatedly recognized by IBM’s Business Consulting Services Unit, as one of the best on-time mail services for any metropolitan area in the Nation.

In the past 13 years, Scott has helped increase awareness of multi-cultural groups within the district. Under his leadership, numerous diversity leadership advisory councils were established, including the Women’s Council, African American Council, Asian American/Pacific Island Council, and the Hispanic Council. The Bay Area Federal Executive Board recognized his efforts and presented him with a diversity leadership achievement award.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we honor Scott Tucker today for the years he has dedicated to consistently improving upon how we all receive our mail. The San Francisco District of the U.S. Postal Service employees and customers will greatly miss him. He has left some very big shoes to fill.

HONORING RETIRED ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM THE TOWN OF BRANT, NY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor three dedicated public servants whose service to the town of Brant has been effective and honorable. I wish today to honor retiring Town Supervisor Samuel J. Chiavetta and retiring Council Members Eugene Czyz and Marting Rosiek.

Although one of the smallest towns in Erie County and among the smallest in the 27th Congressional District, the town of Brant is in many ways a very natural blend between the two counties that make up the 27th District—Erie County in the north and Chautauqua County in the south. Though a tiny rural farming community, the town of Brant is an important part of our region, and I am pleased to honor its retiring elected leaders today. Supervisor Chiavetta, Councilman Czyz and Councilman Rosiek served as a effective public officials during a time of change, both in Brant as well as throughout western New York. Their service was to the taxpayers who elected them to public office, and their dedication to their town and to their community is steadfast. I am honored to have been able to call them colleagues in government.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank you for this opportunity to honor these three fine public servants, and I want to wish to them and to their many friends, family members and public supporters all the best of good luck and Godspeed in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JERRY TIPPENS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jerry Tippens, a pillar of my Congressional District and Oregon for the past 40 years. Jerry died on November 28, 2005 at the age of 74.

Jerry came to Oregon in the early 1960s to work as a journalist for The Oregon Journal, covering among other things the Oregon state
legislature. He soon joined their editorial board and quickly became its editorial page editor. When the Journal merged with the Oregonian in 1982, Jerry continued to serve by joining the Oregonian’s editorial board where he worked until his retirement in 1991.

It was upon his retirement, that Jerry’s work and service continued. He joined the board of the Oregon Food Bank, and through his chairmanship, grew this agency into becoming the second-largest food bank in the nation. He was passionate about helping those who were hungry and in need. Jerry ultimately became the voice for those who had no voice of their own.

I am honored to have known Jerry, and while he will be deeply missed, I am comforted with the knowledge that Jerry’s spirit of community service and hard work will continue in Oregon. I am fortunate to have his daughter, Julie Tippens, serving as my Chief of Staff, and I send my heartfelt condolences to Julie, her brother Hal, their mother, Helen, and Jerry’s sister, Katherine Wiper.

In conclusion, I would like to submit for the record an editorial from The Oregonian that highlights the work and legacy of Jerry Tippens.

[From the Oregonian, Nov. 30, 2005]

JERRY TIPPENS
THE EDITORIAL WRITER AND ANTI-HUNGER ACTIVIST LEFT A MARK DEEPER THAN ANYTHING ON PAPER

Jerry Tippens, who died Monday in Eugene, was a substantial figure in the life of Oregon. As an editorial writer at The Oregonian and The Oregon Journal, and as the last editorial page editor of the Journal, he was a powerful voice for rural Oregon and for the state’s hungry, and a bottomless resource on Oregon in the second half of the 20th century.

After his retirement from The Oregonian, as a board member and board chairman of the Oregon Food Bank, Tippens played an important role in building it into the second-largest food bank in the nation, with a new state-of-the-art facility. Beyond any institutional role, he had a constant and influential voice in Salem and around the state on behalf of Oregon’s poor and hungry, and for parts of the state that don’t always appear in the media.

But on the editorial board, he was a colleague, gentle and persistent, firm on the things he believed in—people and planning and Cleveland’s prospects in the American League—and tolerant of the things he didn’t.

In many ways, Tippens was an example of what editorial writers claim to be. To the news of each day, he brought a wide range of personal experience, from growing up on a Dakota ranch, serving in Korea and covering personal experience, from growing up on a Dakota ranch, serving in Korea and covering

by www.prakashsingh.com

Mr. Higgins. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Guise, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the twelfth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Guise was not able to realize his dream he has been able to make an impact on other’s lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Guise traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way, I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 12.

Mr. Guise has left his hand in county politics a couple of times. That is a respectable trait to have. Determination to do good things for your county is one thing that Chautauqua County residents strive for.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Guise is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN H. ADAMS
HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John H. Adams, a longtime resident of the Hudson River Valley in New York State, whose tremendous vision and distinguished career in environmental protection have left a significant and lasting legacy for our entire nation.

I am very pleased to recognize and pay tribute to Mr. Adams as he celebrates his retirement from the position of president of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) after more than thirty-five years of dedicated leadership of the organization.

John Adams co-founded NRDC in 1970 as an organization of public interest lawyers focused on the development and enforcement of emerging environmental laws. As its Executive Director from 1970–1998, Mr. Adams built an effective and influential non-profit organization of lawyers and scientists, which is today supported by a national membership of more than one million people. As president of NRDC since October 1998, Mr. Adams has advised policy makers and members of industry on the growing importance of protecting and conserving our nation’s natural resources for future generations.

Mr. Adams grew up on a farm in the Catskills of New York State. He earned a B.A. in History from Michigan State University in 1959, followed by a law degree from Duke University in 1962. Mr. Adams returned to New York after graduating from law school and, several years later, worked as the Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, during which time he met and worked with a number of people who inspired him to enter public interest law.

With the unflinching and invaluable support of his wife Patricia, Mr. Adams established NRDC and became the organization’s first employee. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Adams and NRDC’s lawyers took on their first environmental case: preventing the construction of the New York King Mountain pumped storage facility. This historic environmental battle, which eventually succeeded in protecting one of the most recognizable natural features in the Hudson Valley, has been viewed by many as the birth of the modern environmental movement, establishing important legal precedents and inspiring similar citizen efforts throughout the country.

Mr. Adams joined the adjunct faculty of New York University’s School of Law in 1972 where he taught Clinical Environmental Law for 26 years. A year later, Mr. Adams reconstituted the defunct Open Space Institute (OSI), a conservancy devoted to the protection of open space, and has served as Chairman of the Board since this time, during which OSI has purchased or protected thousands of acres of land in the Hudson Valley, the Adirondacks, and the Catskills. One of the organization’s most notable successes was its pivotal role in purchasing Sterling Forest, an area now consisting of more than 20,000 protected acres between New York and New Jersey, made possible through an historic partnership between the federal government, two states and numerous private organizations.

Mr. Adams serves on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters, Woods Hole Research Center, American Progress and Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences. In 1999, he completed his membership on the President’s Council on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Agency’s Common Sense Initiative. Mr. Adams has received many notable honors and environmental awards including: One World One Child Lifetime Achievement Award (2005); NRDC’s Forces For Nature Award (2005); the Environmental Justice Foundation’s Robert Marshall Award (2005); the Natural Resources Council of America’s Award of Honor (2001); the Green Cross Millennium Award for Individual Environmental Leadership (2000); the Judge Lombard Cup for public service from the United States Attorney’s Southern District of New York; the National Conservation Achievement Award from the National Wildlife Federation (1999); and the Francis K. Hutchinson Conservation Award from the Garden Club of America (1990). In 1998, Mr. Adams was named Audubon’s John James Audubon’s 100 Champions of Conservation. In 1997, he received the Environmental Careers Organization’s 25th Anniversary Award. In 1991, he received Duke University’s Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 1992, Duke University Law School’s Charles J. Murphy Award. Mr. Adams was also the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Laws from Duke University and Knox College and an honorary doctorate from Cedar Crest College.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Mr. Adams on this occasion of his retirement as president of NRDC after his many years of hard work and committed service on behalf of the Hudson River Valley and
Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Poteet High School Pirate Marching Band for their recent victory at the University Interscholastic League State AAAA Marching Band Championship. On November 8, 2005, the Pirates competed against more than 20 other bands from across the State of Texas and won their second State Championship since 1997.

I would like to recognize the students and directors of the Poteet Pirates Marching Band, especially director Scott Coulson. Scott Coulson has been a strong role model and exceptional leader for the Poteet Pirates Marching Band.

As the Congressional representative of the students, parents, and teachers involved with the Poteet High School Marching Band, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory. This is an accomplishment that these young men and women will remember for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO TONY BENNETT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in rising before you today to recognize one of the world’s greatest and most admired entertainers—Tony Bennett who was honored by the Kennedy Center on December 4, 2005.

World-renowned as an “individual of unequaled excellence,” Tony Bennett has remained for over 5 decades, one of our leading male singers of traditional pop songs who has entertained all age groups with his magnificent voice and dynamic performances. Indeed, he is an American icon whose talents are timeless and who continues to be an inspiration to all generations.

It is said of Tony Bennett that he is a superb performer, a true legend of American music, and a national treasure. While all that may be true, Tony is all those things and so much more.

In addition to entertaining audiences through song, Tony Bennett is also an accomplished painter and author, as well as a devoted philanthropist. Throughout his career, he has participated in many humanitarian causes and concerns. He has raised funds for the American Cancer Society, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, and the Hospice of Baltimore. He has worked with the Center for Handgun Control and the National Rifle Association through such organizations as Save the Rainforest and the Project for Walden Woods.

His charity concerts have also benefited many causes, namely the preservation of the Apollo Theater in my Congressional District of Harlem in New York City.

What many people may not know is that Tony Bennett served as a foot soldier in World War II, and was an active participant in the liberation of a concentration camp. In 1965, he participated in the March on Selma with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and refused to perform in South Africa during the era of apartheid.

Tony Bennett is a lifelong New Yorker born in the Astoria section of Queens. He attended the High School of Industrial Arts in Manhattan where he continued nurturing his two passions—singing and painting.

Tony’s extraordinary and enduring career, took off shortly after Bob Hope discovered Bennett in a New York nightclub in 1949. That discovery has resulted in scores of albums, ten Grammy awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award, and induction into the Black Entertainment in Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to pay tribute to Tony Bennett, an extraordinary entertainer, a true humanitarian, and a champion for all people. Legions of fans of all ages and musical tastes applaud his genius, and we can be assured that the legacy of Tony Bennett will live forever.

EXPRESSION OF SENSE OF HOUSE
THAT DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES
IN IRAQ BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY

SPEECH OF
HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. I have no doubt that the majority of the House will oppose it, so it will be voted down.

And by voting down this resolution, we are responding to the Republican leadership’s desire to have us say what we’re against. But that’s the hard part—the part that should be under discussion—is to say exactly what we are for, what policy we think our country should follow regarding our military involvement in Iraq.

The Republicans don’t want to have that discussion. They would rather put forward a politicized, petty, irresponsible resolution that is intended to score political points. Like the Bush Administration, they are adopting the tactics of a political campaign, and like the Administration, their greatest success will only be to further divide Americans. How does this honor our brave men and women who are even now risking their lives in Iraq?

It’s clear that the Republican leadership is concerned that Representative Jack Murtha’s call for the rapid redeployment of American forces and reducing our military presence in Iraq is already carrying significant weight in Congress. Why else would the Republicans seek to trivialize and play politics with this proposal from a man who is not only a decorated veteran, but one of the most respected voices in this country on military and national security policy?

Like Mr. Murtha, I believe the Bush administration has largely failed in Iraq because the civilian direction of the war has not matched the skill and sacrifice of our soldiers. Going to war, the way we did war, was a mistake, and the aftermath has been a failure because of the president’s refusal to plan and refusal to listen.

I voted against the resolution authorizing the president to rush to war in the first place. I did so because I had concerns about the president’s refusal to consider more aggressive inspections of WMD before going to war, his inability to secure international support, his obvious failure to develop a plan for securing peace after ousting Saddam, and his reckless disregard of experiences and military advice.

Although I was an outspoken opponent of going to war in Iraq, I have supported our brave soldiers because it has seemed to me that our national security is now linked, like it or not, to a credible plan for stabilizing Iraq and preventing a catastrophic civil war in the region.

I do not think supporting our troops is a partisan issue. In fact, I know everyone on both sides of the aisle does support them. So, it is disappointing—but, unfortunately, not surprising—that some have alleged otherwise.

And, some have suggested the resolution we are voting on today is a Democratic resolution, even though it was introduced by the gentleman from California, the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who of course is a Republican.

The resolution we are voting on today isn’t Jack Murtha’s resolution—it is a cheap ripoff of a well-intended effort on the part of a respected veteran and long-serving Member. Jack Murtha’s resolution calls for the immediate termination of the deployment of our forces, but it also says that the redeployment of forces should happen at the earliest practicable date, not right away. Jack Murtha’s resolution includes important safeguards such as a quick-reaction U.S. force and a presence of U.S. Marines outside of Iraq who could respond as necessary if events in Iraq were spiraled out of control.

I remain concerned about setting an arbitrary date for withdrawal because how we leave is as important as when we leave. We all know why I cannot support Mr. Murtha’s resolution and why I certainly cannot vote for this resolution proposed by Mr. Hunter.

Nevertheless, the fact of today’s debate, coupled with the evaporation of public confidence in the president’s management of the war, should be a wake-up call to the president to develop a withdrawal strategy that engenders bipartisan support and set an unmistakable path toward exiting Iraq expeditiously with and with our interests and security intact.

This country cannot have 535 commanders-in-chief. There can only be one commander-in-chief—we need a strategic management of our country, explain his withdrawal strategy, and to be honest with the American people about the costs and timetable for withdrawal.
We were led into war as a divided nation and today we are even more divided. A successful withdrawal from Iraq can only be helped if Congress and the Bush Administration work to bring unity at home. In a hopeful sign, that kind of unity was on display when the Senate passed with overwhelming bipartisan support the resolution requiring accountability by the President in Iraq, and the House should, at a minimum, do the same.

HONORING JANIE WALENTA

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and achievements of Janie Walenta, former president of the Westlake Republican Women.

Mrs. Walenta has served the Republican Party as a Precinct Chair and election judge. In addition, she has been actively involved with the Dallas Republican Career Women, the Bayview Century Club, and the Westlake Republican Women’s Club. Through her service she continues to strengthen the Republican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP’s common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

Janie Walenta is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Dallas, and is currently employed as a senior consultant with the Dallas Republican Career Women, the Bayview Century Club, and the Westlake Republican Women’s Club. Through her service she continues to strengthen the Republican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP’s common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

Janie Walenta is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Dallas, and is currently employed as a senior consultant with the Dallas Republican Career Women, the Bayview Century Club, and the Westlake Republican Women’s Club. Through her service she continues to strengthen the Republican Party through candidate recruitment, training and election activities as well as advocating the GOP’s common sense conservative philosophy of faith, family, free enterprise, and freedom.

PRESTON ROBERT TISCH: GREAT CIVIC LEADER AND PHILANTHROPIST HAS DIED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce into the record the obituary of Preston Robert Tisch written by Douglas Martin which appeared in The New York Times on November 16, 2005. Mr. Tisch died on November 25, 2005.

In his interview, Bob Tisch acknowledged that the Tisch name of New York City is touched by his generosity even though he is who would never meet him personally. Many millions of people benefit from his projects, but he remains a private individual.

Boys and girls, you smile. The cause was a brain tumor, said Jeffrey Sills, Henry Kissinger and Mr. Dinkins who spoke about Mr. Tisch. Henry Kissinger said Mr. Tisch was a wonderful man who understood the importance of education and athletics. I believe what was so special about Bob Tisch was his passion and love he brought to each of his projects.

His research and writing on the board as a founding member of Take the Field. His goal was to rebuild athletic facilities in order to promote health, academic performance and pride. In his interview, Bob Tisch acknowledged that the Tisch name of New York City is touched by his generosity even though he is a man who would never meet him personally. Many millions of people benefit from his projects, but he remains a private individual.

Bob Tisch was one of a kind. I will miss him. New York City will miss him. What is wonderful is that the students of New York City will continue to benefit from his ideas and his passion for education for a long, long time. Because of this I am positive his spirit is still with us and his soul is with God. (From the New York Times, Nov. 16, 2005)

PRESTON ROBERT TISCH, OWNER OF LOWES HOTELS AND GIANTS, DIES

(Douglas Martin)

Preston Robert Tisch, who with his older brother built a multimillion-dollar business empire and who himself was postmaster general, half-owner of the New York Giants football team and leader of many of the city’s top business groups, died yesterday at his home in Manhattan. He was 79 and also had a home in Harrison, N.J.

The cause was a brain tumor, said Jeffrey Stewart, spokesman for the family. Wellington Mara, chairman of the Giants with Mr. Tisch, died on Oct. 25.

Mr. Tisch was sometimes called “the other Tisch” to differentiate him from his older brother, Laurence, who was known as a nononsense financial strategist, partly from being the fiercely cost-conscious chairman of CBS from 1966 to 2003.

But it was more often Preston Robert Tisch, universally known as Bob, who seized the public view, first as a persuasive marketer for hotels and other companies owned by the Loews Corporation. As operations chief, his attention to detail once included personally hiring all nationally hiring all Loews hotel bellmen. He saw them as his best salesmen.

Mr. Tisch freely gave his talents to New York City. He served as Mayor David Dinkins’ postmaster general of the United States, his service in the ’90s, at the request of then Mayor David Dinkins, as New York City’s Ambassador to Washington, chairing the NYC Public Schools and Community Facilities program to fund community programs, sitting on the board as a founding member of Citymeals-on-wheels, and as a driving force behind the new Giants Stadium.

Ms. Baum pointed out, that Bob Tisch cited among his proudest achievements programs that have benefited public schools, particularly among them “Take the Field.” This program is one that Bob Tisch founded in 2000 and has already restored 41 of 43 athletic fields for New York public schools. By May 2005, Bob Tisch’s efforts had added $135 million in private and public funds for Take the Field. His goal was to rebuild athletic facilities in order to promote health, academic performance and pride.

In his interview, Bob Tisch acknowledged that the Tisch name of New York City is touched by his generosity even though he is a man who would never meet him personally. Many millions of people benefit from his projects, but he remains a private individual.

In his interview, Bob Tisch acknowledged that the Tisch name of New York City is touched by his generosity even though he is a man who would never meet him personally. Many millions of people benefit from his projects, but he remains a private individual.

Bob Tisch was one of a kind. I will miss him. New York City will miss him. What is wonderful is that the students of New York City will continue to benefit from his ideas and his passion for education for a long, long time. Because of this I am positive his spirit is still with us and his soul is with God. (From the New York Times, Nov. 16, 2005)
worked hard and tried to move up the scale,” Mr. Tisch said in an interview with Newsday in 1991. The family moved every three years to get three months of free rent, a common practice even among the middle class. This meant Mr. Tisch attended DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx for one year, and Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn for three.

Mr. Tisch joined the Army after briefly attending college. He enrolled at the University of Michigan after his discharge in 1944, earning a bachelor’s degree in economics.

His wife, the former Joan Hyman, recalled him selling keychains for a dime, or two for 15 cents, in front of the university’s football stadium. They married in 1948. Besides his wife of 57 years, he is survived by two sons, Steven and Jonathan; and a daughter, Laurie.

In 1946, Larry, then a student at Harvard Law School, saw an advertisement for a sleepy resort in Lakewood, N.J., called Laurel-in-the-Pines, and persuaded his parents to put up $125,000 to buy it. A family friend threw in another $50,000 and took a one-fourth interest.

The Tisches refurnished the hotel, added amenities like a swimming pool and dreamed up promotional schemes that included importing three reindeer from Finland to pull sleighs by the time Mr. Tisch joined the business in 1948, the hotel was prospering.

The family began investing profits in small hotel operations in Atlantic City, almost literally playing Monopoly on the boardwalk. They then took positions in Manhattan hotels. They particularly focused on unprofitable properties, made improvements and raised rates.

The brothers, personally and in business, could not have been closer. Their families socialized together, they went to temple together, played tennis together and even cooked together. In business, Larry made deals, Bob ran companies.

Bill Ruhn, comparing the Tisches to his father Lewis and uncle Jack, the New York real estate magnates, said in an interview “They both sketched out a role that each of them wanted to play, and each ran with the ball.”

In 1956, the brothers were ready to build their Americana at Barbour, Fla. They did not borrow a cent to build the $17 million hotel. It did $12 million in business the first year, in large part because of Mr. Tisch’s success in getting convention business.

With $65 million from their thriving hotels, the brothers started buying into the Loews Corporation. An antitrust decree had separated the company’s theaters from its filmmaking unit, and the brothers recognized that many of the theaters occupied prime locations. By January 1961, they gained total control of Loews.

They knocked down the old Loews Lexington theater and used the site to build the 800-room first hotel built in Manhattan in 30 years. They built the Americana, which at 50 stories was the world’s tallest hotel upon completion in 1962. Other hotels followed, and Loews became a leading chain.

The Tisches decided to recast the company as a conglomerate. In 1968, they acquired Lorillard, then the nation’s fifth-largest cigarette company. In 1974, they bought the CNA Financial Corporation, a nearly bankrupt Chicagobased insurance company. Within a few years, it had assets of $16.5 billion and an A+ credit rating. In 1979, they purchased the troubled Bulova Watch and turned a profit.

By 1980, the company’s revenue of $5 billion and earnings of $260 million, and all its segments were doing well.

Luck mixed nicely with strategy. When the brothers sold the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City in 1956, they retained a parcel of its land. They were able to take advantage of the casino gambling law passed in New Jersey in 1977.

In the early 1980’s, the Tisches bought five supertankers for $25 million when the oil market was depressed. The deal had no risk because even if oil prices dropped, the scrap value of each tanker was $5 million.

Mr. Tisch was postmaster general for almost two years, beginning in 1986. He used his marketing acumen to come up with the idea of selling stamps by phone, and stressing sales of commemorative stamps, which are financially advantageous for the Postal Service because collectors seldom use them as postage.

Mr. Tisch, whose net worth was $3.9 billion in 2003, according to Forbes, relished such hands-on personal involvement. Not only did he help found Meals-on-Wheels and serve as its president for 20 years, he many times personally delivered meals to elderly patrons.

His habit of working Sundays prevented him from seeing a professional football game until 1961, but he made up for it. By buying the Giants in 1962, he paved the way to attend practices and confer with coaches.

Mr. Tisch improved the Giants’ business by sharpening marketing strategies, and, just as he had produced ticket cutout prices, he considered civic and philanthropic contributions—he found people most admired his ownership of the Giants. That made sense to him.

“I want to stay part of the franchise and live out my life as a Giants owner,” he said in 1991, shortly after acquiring a share of the team.

IN HONOR OF ANGEL GURRIA’S SELECTION AS THE NEXT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OECD

HOM. PETE SESSIONS OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) selecting Jose Angel Gurria Trevino as their next Secretary-General. Angel Gurria has been a good personal friend of mine for several years, and I am certain that his impressive leadership skills will be a tremendous asset to the OECD.

Previously, Gurria served as Mexico’s Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1998 and Minister of Finance and Public Credit from 1998 to 2000. During his time in these two posts, Gurria has demonstrated his intelligence with me and many of my Congressional colleagues in promoting a better relationship with our neighbor to the South. In 1999, he was named Finance Minister of the Year by Euromoney Magazine. The following year, he was chosen by World Link, the magazine edited by the World Economic Forum. We are fortunate that all of the OECD member countries will now be able to benefit from Gurria’s brilliance. He has done great work for his native Mexico and his economic abilities can now serve the thirty nations of the OECD.

I thank the current outgoing Secretary-General, Donald J. Johnston, for his ten years of service to the OECD. Gurria inherits a good legacy created under Johnston, and I am confident that he will be able to lead the organization to even greater accomplishments.

I wish Gurria all the best for a successful start to his term leading the OECD. I congratulate him, his wife Dr. Lulu Quintana, and their three children on Gurria’s honorable appointment.

HONORING THE DALLAS ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrates its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than $1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also wish to recognize the Dallas Rotary Club for their 95 years of service to Dallas County. Throughout its history, the Dallas Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The Dallas Rotary Club has raised money for community programs and events, from the local bike rodeo and youth summer camps, to teacher award programs and as far away as supporting our troops fighting in Iraq and being housed in San Antonio. In addition, they strongly support organizations, such as the Children’s Medical Center and Scottish Rite Hospitals.

Through these initiatives, the Dallas Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As one of the Congressional representatives of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

IN MEMORY OF MAURICE S. PAPRIN: NEW YORK REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER AND ADVOCATE, EDUCATOR AND PROMOTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a dear friend and prominent citizen of New York City, Mr. Maurice S. Paprin. Mr. Paprin was not only a successful real estate developer in New York City as president of Douglass Urban Corporation and other companies, but also a tireless advocate for affordable housing and comprehensive social services. He passionately defined "Renaissance man," having an affinity and talent for many fields, succeeding in all he touched.
Mr. Paprin graduated from the City College of New York in 1939 and obtained a Master’s degree in history from the University of Wisconsin. A lifelong champion of public education, under his leadership, the City College of New York bought a building from the B. Altman department store, transforming it into the current Graduate Center for the City University of New York. He also dedicated time to teaching history at New York University.

Mr. Paprin entered the real estate field in the 1950s, ascending to president of the Douglass Urban Corporation before starting his own development firm, Paprin Realty Organization. A true pioneer in the field of affordable housing, Mr. Paprin oversaw the construction of countless apartment buildings in Harlem, part of my district, including the Schomburg Plaza in 1974, which partnered public and private interests to provide housing for low and moderate income families.

While Mr. Paprin left his fingerprints across the New York City real estate landscape, his efforts in the arena of political action and advocacy are also a significant part of his legacy, equaling his business prowess. A paragon of the American ideal that one person can make a difference, he founded and led a number of advocacy groups in New York City. As president of the Associated Builders and Owners of Greater New York, Mr. Paprin pushed for affordable rental housing, housing subsidies and competent tax policy. In order to foster debate and positive political action, he also founded the Foundation for Social Change, the Fund for New Priorities in America and the Business Labor and Community Coalition of New York. These groups exist solely to explore new ideas about good governance and the role of government in society.

Aside from his overwhelming professional and social achievements, Mr. Paprin loved as he lived—with unmatched zeal and abandon. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline, three sons, Seth, Yale and Frederick, a daughter, Judith, a sister, Eugenia Gunier, two stepsons, Steven Stuchin and Miles M. Stuchin, and 12 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Rita.

Maurice Paprin lived an amazing life, leaving behind a legacy of positive contributions to society and business. He was a New York City icon, a titan among titans. His forward thinking and influence will be sorely missed, both within New York City and elsewhere. It is my privilege to honor him for his accomplishments and for his example of how to be a true American patriot.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO FRED AND KATHY FABRIZIO IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND COMPASSION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the life of Fred and Kathy Fabrizio. Fred and Kathy remained friends of mine until their passing. Their legacy is the community in which we live.

The life of Fred and Kathy Fabrizio begins and ends with Tiffin, Ohio. Fred was a member of Paul Hoermann’s football squad and a graduate of Heidelberg College where he excelled as a student and a leader. In 1999, Fred was honored with an induction into Heidelberg’s Athletic Hall of Fame. The co-founder of PT Services, Inc., Fred remained an active part of the physical therapy profession until his passing. While Fred was a dedicated part of the community for his compassion and care of those in need. Her work as a nurse at Mercy Hospital provided Kathy with the perfect avenue by which to help us all.

The legacy of Fred and Kathy Fabrizio is one of leadership and compassion. Mentors in the community, Fred and Kathy supported the St. Mary’s Church, Calvert High School and established the Carmella Fabrizio Trust Fund to provide scholarships to parochial students. In addition, Fred’s membership on the Heidelberg College Board of Trustees ensured our memory of him as a steadfast advocate and guardian of his alma mater.

Mr. Speaker, the Fifth District of Ohio is not a densely populated area. Instead, we are composed of many small communities complete with the character and needs of a closely connected people. Our survival depends on the kindness of residents like Fred and Kathy Fabrizio. Traveling throughout Tiffin, you will find many people who have been touched by the kindness of the Fabrizios.

Fred and Kathy’s big hearts left many marks on our community and their generosity extended across all barriers and provided the love our community needed. While Fred and Kathy were taken from us too soon, their legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of all the residents of Tiffin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Fred and Kathy Fabrizio. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am honored to recognize their efforts to better the community. Their impact on us will far outlast everyone of us and we wish the family of Fred and Kathy our prayers and thanks.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALLAS COUNTY COUNCIL OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN

HON. JEB HENSARLING
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Dallas County Council of Republican Women. Fifty years ago, 17 Republican Women’s groups joined to form an alliance, based on the guiding principle of the National Federation of Republican Women, “to foster and encourage loyalty to the Republican Party and the ideals for which it stands.”

For the past 50 years, the Dallas County Council of Republican Women have worked together to support Republican Women’s groups in the area as they promote the principles of the Grand Old Party and help elect Republican leaders from the Courthouse to the White House. The Dallas County Council of Republican Women continue to serve Republican Women’s Clubs through meetings, a council newsletter and website, and training seminars.


BONO: A PERSONAL TRIBUTE

HON. JAMES A. LEACH
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, at a time the world is crying out for leadership, and so frequently finds it lacking in political life, I would like to take a moment to comment on an individual who has never been elected to any post but is leading in ways beyond those who have. He is a musician. His name is Bono. For the history of celebrity, no one has used his stature for greater social effect than this Irish songwriter and performer.

While the nightly news centers on problems of terrorism and other hate-inspired acts, Bono has recognized that the greatest public challenge of our time is disease control, and the greatest social issue is the division in the world between the haves and the have-nots. He has worked without ideological blinders with Republicans and Democrats in power in America; with liberals and conservatives in Europe; and with religious groups around the world to raise public consciousness and enhance public commitments to stem the onslaught of HIV/AIDS and reduce indebtedness of the poorest countries in the world.

Based on the movements that he has singularly helped lead, Bono is the first celebrity who merits serious consideration for the Nobel Peace Prize.

At a personal level, Bono has assiduously eschewed the pomp of overdressing and honored an “everyman” appearance which masks a razor-sharp IQ. As a songwriter, he has a poet with lyrics and an advocate of political causes, he utilizes a profound observation and artistic capacity to articulate issues in ways which energize and uplift. He is a star because his vision is so compelling.

To understand Bono, one must look to aspects of his background, including in particular, a love for a sport that I also played for many years: rugby.
Bono was a hooker. A hooker plants himself in the middle of the first row of a scrum, a position analogous in American football to a center. Hookers are generally the shorter, broad-shouldered leaders of the pack. They are the first to charge into a scrum. They balance themselves on the shoulders of their front row teammates called “props” and bend in a gymnastic-like contortion attempting nimble-footedly to kick the ball backwards with their heels as their teammates push forward so that their side can control the subsequent movement of the ball. Hookers in rugby are the center of team effort and generally end each game with the most noticeable badges of the struggle: welts and bruises on foreheads and chins.

As a celebrity, Bono is the obverse of spoiled Hollywood prettiness. He is the member of the cast who succeeds because of unyielding determination, yet interacts with others as if he fully understands their plight and has received himself significant licks in life.

I once took my daughter to a U2 concert in Washington and was impressed with the way Bono used an oblong walkway jutting out from the main stage to engage the audience. Repeatedly, he would sprint from one side to the other and then stop and bellow a vibrant melody with no evidence that he had exerted himself physically. His physical condition appeared closer to that of a world-class athlete than night club crooner.

My wife and I have had the good fortune to welcome Bono to our home in Iowa City and, in turn, to visit him in his studio in Dublin. We were struck by his genuineness, by the collegiate banter of his band and by the sophistication and discipline with which they produce music. Bono has enormous artistic talent, but his success is rooted in a work ethic. Practice and refinement hallmark his efforts.

Bono speaks to a new generation of youth because he understands that their yearnings and dreams include a common concern for the human condition and a desire to tap the idealistic side of human nature.

It is Bono’s idealism and capacity to communicate that define his leadership. When Bono sings the refrain in; when he speaks, he inspires people to care.

The world is obligated to take note of this hooker with an international conscience.

IN RECOGNITION OF TARYN FRITZ WALPOLE’S YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF TEXAS

HON. HENRY BONILLA OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of an outstanding individual, Taryn Fritz Walpole. Walpole, a world citizen, served the people of Texas for 7 years and the people of the 23rd District for 5 years making sure that her fellow Texans remained fully informed on congressional actions.

Mrs. Fritz Walpole’s talents were recognized shortly after her graduation from Southern Methodist University. Her preparation there as a dual journalism/political science major anticipated her future career and helped lead to Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison making her a Deputy Press Secretary in 1998. Her successes and contributions to Senator Hutchison’s efforts led me to ask Mrs. Fritz Walpole to join my staff. During her 5 years in my office Mrs. Fritz Walpole has set a standard for work that will be hard to replicate. Her accomplishments were recognized with promotions to both the position of Director and Senior Advisor. Taryn’s gifts were apparent at a very early age. As a crusading reporter at Ravenswood Elementary School Taryn founded the school’s first newspaper, the Ravenswood Raven in Burke, Virginia. That newspaper and on her laurels, Taryn was soon at it again, founding the Spicewood Times, at Spicewood Elementary School in Austin, Texas. Therefore, her current achievements should be a surprise to no one.

My colleagues, in the days ahead the State of Texas will be losing the services of Mrs. Fritz Walpole as she embarks on a higher calling. She will be serving the entire nation as Senior Advisor to the Commissioner of the Federal Food and Drug Administration. Texas’ loss is America’s gain and our nation will be well served by the professionalism of Taryn Fritz Walpole as she ensure that all Americans are adequately informed on FDA actions.

THE DAYTON AGREEMENT’S TENTH ANNIVERSARY
HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, the tenth anniversary of the Dayton “General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina” is being commemorated here in Washington, in Dayton, Ohio, and in various European capitals.

Despite its shortcomings, the Dayton Agreement has, in fact, formed the basis for maintaining peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and building a country devastated by a horrible war and conflict that included atrocities on a scale not seen in Europe since World War II. The very fact that discussions now center on moving beyond the confinement of Dayton’s provisions through constitutional reform is a confirmation of the agreement’s success. This success, as is widely known, did not come easily but required constant pressure from the international community.

One area of particular concern to me has been the necessity, recognized in Dayton, to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, located in The Hague and commonly known as ICTY, in order to punish those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Officials in Republika Srpska, one of the two political entities into which Dayton divided Bosnia and Herzegovina, have been particularly recalcitrant in this regard, and most persons captured in this entity have been through the efforts of NATO-led peacekeeping units. Officials in Serbia have also resisted cooperating with The Hague in transferring indictees and providing access to evidence and witnesses.

Fortunately, a combination of outside pressure—including conditionality on assistance and on Euro-Atlantic and European integration—and increasing revelations of the true nature of the Milosevic regime and its activities have led to considerable improvements in the last year. Many more individuals have now been taken into custody. Both in Bosnia and in Serbia, it is increasingly recognized that cooperation with international criminal courts will go away as a demand of the international community.

Some go a step further and note that the same criminal circles which harbor persons indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide also undermine democratic institutions and reform processes. Some, but too few, also see it as a moral necessity to recognize the horrors that were committed in name of the nation.

I applaud the efforts of those brave persons representing non-governmental organizations who have helped to document the atrocities which have taken place and increased public awareness of what really happened. I am also pleased to know that, ten years after Dayton, a War Crimes Chamber in the Courts of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been established and, with continued assistance, will relieve ICTY’s work load and continue its work as necessary. Together, prosecuting war crimes will provide justice to the victims, strengthen the rule of law in the region and hopefully serve to deter future war criminals from committing crimes against humanity.

There would be added enthusiasm for commemorating Dayton, however, if it were coupled with the arrest and transfer of Radko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, who have been indicted by ICTY particularly for their responsibility regarding the genocide at Srebrenica in July 1995. The House commemorated the anniversary of that horrific event in which almost 8,000 individuals, mostly men and boys, were massacred in the days following an assault on the declared “safe haven.” Other at-large indicted must be arrested and transferred.

I therefore use this time, the commemoration of the Dayton Agreement signed ten years ago, to call upon those authorities in Serbia and in the Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina to do the right thing, apprehend the remaining indicted persons, transfer them to The Hague and cooperate fully with international tribunal will not go away as a demand of the international community.

HONORING WORLD AIDS DAY
HON. ELIOI L. ENGEL OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, last week, on December 1, communities across the world joined to commemorate the 18th annual World AIDS Day.

World AIDS Day gives us a chance to evaluate what needs to be done to make substantial progress combating HIV/AIDS, both at home and abroad. Globally, 25 million people have already lost their lives to this disease, with another 40 million people currently living with HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS-related causes of death (age 15–59) and threatens the political, social and economic stability of nations worldwide.
We must answer the call to action to fight the AIDS pandemic on the global, national and local levels. Globally, we must continue to fund programs that not only directly address the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, but also those programs that promote the overall health, economic and social prosperity of developing nations.

On the national level, we can start by reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act. This landmark program, which provides federal support to metropolitan areas and states to provide lifesaving health and social support services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS, expired on September 30, 2005. I strongly urge the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee to commence with hearings on the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act when Congress reconvenes in the new year.

In my state of New York, significant time and money has been invested into HIV/AIDS care. No state spends more than New York to care for its residents with HIV/AIDS—over $3 billion last year. Sadly, New York’s efforts still are not sufficiently addressed to the need. New York City comprises three percent of the nation’s population, but more than 16 percent of the nation’s AIDS cases.

Mr. Speaker, we must do better by CARE Act funding. This program has been virtually flat funded for years, and its AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP) only received a ten million dollar increase in this year’s House Labor-HHS bill. Many very low-income people continue to be shut-out from ADAP programs due to states’ varying income eligibility levels, which currently exclude 25 percent to 30 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Without early, aggressive treatment people living with HIV/AIDS can experience rapid and often irreversible disease progression. Additionally, if care is interrupted drug resistance can develop, which compromises their ability to properly control their health.

The President’s Principles for Ryan White CARE Act Authorization, released this past summer, include some troubling provisions which could have devastating results for communities’ ability to provide consistent, appropriate care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The proposed Severity of Need for Core Services Index will change funding formulas to take into account the availability of other resources, like state and local funding streams. This is bad public policy as it punishes states that have taken responsibility for their local HIV care and creates a powerful disincentive for other states to prioritize funding for HIV funding in future years, if they think the federal government will just cover the gap. No state spends more than New York does to care for its residents with HIV and AIDS—over $3 billion last year. New York has always viewed this funding as a partnership between the state, cities and federal government and should not lose out on future federal funding for being at the forefront of providing progressive services and treatment.

Secondly the President’s proposal for a minimum of 75 percent of Ryan White CARE Act funding to be spent on core medical services should be seriously revisited. While there is no question that appropriate funding should be directed towards medical care, localities that benefit from comprehensive state funding for medical care, might better serve patients with using the funding for transportation to medical visits, emergency housing assistance for homeless patients, and other key services. This hard number fails to reflect the different resources that cities like New York utilize to care for their patients, and the changing needs of the HIV/AIDs patient population.

New York City has always had a special respect for the opportunities the Ryan White CARE Act affords the city in serving the needs of our HIV/AIDs population. As of December 31, 2003, there were 142,085 cumulative AIDS cases in NYC, and 88,479 City residents diagnosed as Living With HIV/AIDs. Although Ryan White CARE Act is widely considered the payer of last resort for people with HIV/AIDS, it fills much of the void in providing treatment and support services for those who either are uninsured or underinsured, without the necessary resources to access desperately needed care.

Mr. Speaker, it is shameful that Congress recently passed legislation with billions of dollars in cuts to Medicaid, all in the name of reform. Real reform would be to permit early access to treatment for those living with HIV in the Medicaid program. Under current Medicaid rules, most HIV positive people must meet both an income standard and be disabled—by AIDS—before they can receive access to Medicaid provided care and treatment that could have prevented them from becoming ill so quickly. This policy runs counter to current Federal HIV treatment guidelines which call for early access to medical care and treatment including the use of combination antiretroviral therapy. Medical costs for those with advanced AIDS are significantly higher than costs for caring for HIV positive people, and this is a burden on the States’ Medicaid budgets.

I offered an amendment in the Energy and Commerce Committee markup for Medicaid reform to give States the OPTION of amending their Medicaid eligibility requirements to include uninsured, pre-disabled low-income people living with HIV/ETHA, which has been introduced by Leader Pelosi in prior Congresses. Senator Clinton, in the Senate, is modeled after the successful Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, BCCA, that allows states to provide early access to Medicaid to women with cancer. Forty-nine States have implemented the BCCA, which designed to preserve health and prevent unnecessary and high-cost medical interventions. As with the BCCA, ETHA includes an enhanced Federal match rate of 65 percent to 83 percent to encourage States to participate in offering the services.

Although my amendment failed, a demonstration project for ETHA, was successfully offered by Senator CLINTON and Senator SMITH in the Senate consideration of the reconciliation bill. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage the preservation of this important policy in the formal reconciliation bill. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to examine what progress we have made and to seriously consider what we must do to address this overwhelming problem. Working together, we can address both prevention and early treatment options, attacking HIV/AIDS head on.
2004, Director of the National Employee Development Center, based in Fort Worth, Texas, from 1993–97, South National Technical Center Associate Director, also based in Fort Worth, from 1992–93, and Water Quality Coordinator at the center from 1990–92.

Before that Adams served as NRCS’s State Conservationist for Arizona, based in Phoenix, from 1988–90, after having been the State Conservationist for Nevada, based in Reno, from 1986–88. He was the Deputy State Conservationist in New Mexico, based in Albuquerque, from 1985–86, after having been the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations at that location from 1984–85.

Adams worked as an area conservationist in Rio Rancho, N.M., from 1983–84, after working as an area conservationist in Flagstaff, Ariz., from 1981–82. From 1978–81 he served as a district conservationist in Edinburg, Texas, following service from 1976–78 as a district conservationist in Eastland, Texas. He was a soil conservationist for the Agency in Abilene, Texas from 1973–76. He began his full-time career with the agency as a soil scientist in Athens, Texas in 1969.

During his tenure with USDA, Charles founded some of the Agency’s most innovative approaches to outreach, including the Student Trainees in Agriculture Related Sciences (STARS) program, an initiative to introduce under-served high school students in the Southeast to agriculture, as well as NRCS’s American Indian Program Delivery Initiative, an annual conference linking USDA officials with American Indian leaders to promote tribal participation in USDA programs and services.

While working for NRCS Charles Adams has received a number of awards and recognitions. Within the last few years alone he received several USDA Honor Awards, including the Secretary’s Award for his leadership of the Southeast Region American Indian Initiative Workgroup and the Sustainable Coffee Production Team, and his work in the Agency’s Streamlining and Cost-saving Initiative. He received special recognition through a national volunteer award for his long-standing dedication to the NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program and was the recipient of the Chief’s Workforce Diversity Award which praised his encouragement and promotion of professional development among his employees. In addition, his extensive outreach efforts to minorities and women earned him a nomination for the Agency’s highest Civil Rights Award in 2003.

Adams is married to the former Prenella Williamson of Port Gibson, Mississippi. In his spare time, he enjoys raising horses on his ranch in Shreveport, Louisiana, restoring his collection of antique cars, and fishing with his young grandsons.

RECOGNIZING MR. KIM KEE YEE FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kim Kee Yee for a career of dedicated service to the United States Government spanning sixty years. Mr. Yee will be honored today in Tiyon, Guam with a Federal Career Service Ceremony.

Mr. Yee was born on February 18, 1928, in the United States of America. While in the Army, Mr. Yee successfully completed fifty “jumps” as a paratrooper in the famed 82nd Airborne Division. Mr. Yee was honorably discharged from the Army in 1946. Shortly afterward he came to Guam and accepted a position as an electronic technician with the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

In 1950, after passage of the Organic Act of Guam, Mr. Yee began his career with the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Guam Office. Since then, Mr. Yee has served with distinction. Mr. Yee was given a career appointment by the FAA in 1957. Of special note is that, as an FAA employee on Guam, Mr. Yee worked in support of U.S. Armed Forces during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War of 1991.

Currently, Mr. Yee serves as an Airway Transportation Systems Specialist. Mr. Yee has received numerous awards in recognition of his excellent service. Mr. Yee is a seven-time recipient of the FAA’s Performance Award. In addition, he has also received the Special Act/Service Award on four separate occasions. Mr. Yee has furthermore received a Letter of Commendation for Reliability of Guam Radar Services.

Today, I join with the FAA and the people of Guam in honoring Mr. Kim Kee Yee for his years of distinguished service. His career serves as an inspiring example of commitment to the United States Government.

Mr. Yee married Ms. Anita Benevente Santos from the village of Sinajana, Guam on December 1, 1956. Their marriage has blessed them with five children and eleven grandchildren. I congratulate Mr. Yee and his family upon his reaching sixty notable years of distinguished service to the United States Government.
Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet at 2 p.m., on Monday, December 12, 2005.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 4433–4451; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 579, 584–587—were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4340, to implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (H. Rept. 109–318);

H.R. 2830, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–232, Pt. 2);

H.R. 452, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum located in St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System (H. Rept. 109–319);

H.R. 1183, to require the Secretary of the Interior to provide public access to Navassa National Wildlife Refuge and Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge (H. Rept. 109–320);

H.R. 1190, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–321);

H.R. 4192, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, (H. Rept. 109–322);

H.R. 4195, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District (H. Rept. 109–323);

H.R. 4292, to amend Public Law 107–153 to further encourage the negotiated settlement of tribal claims (H. Rept. 109–324); and

H.R. 3818, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into partnership agreements with entities and local communities to encourage greater cooperation in the administration of Forest Service activities on and near National Forest System lands, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–325, Pt. 1);

H.R. 3909, to provide emergency authority for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration, in accordance with guidance issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to guarantee checks cashed by insured depository institutions and insured credit unions for the benefit of noncustomers who are victims of certain 2005 hurricanes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–326);
H.R. 4314, to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–327);

H. Res. 583, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4340) to implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (H. Rept. 109–328); and

H.R. 4312, to establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–329 Pr. 1).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Boozman to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Cunningham, wherein he resigned as Representative of the 50th Congressional District of California, effective close of business on Thursday, December 1, 2005.

The Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California, the whole number of the House is 433.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Gateway Communities Cooperation Act: H.R. 585, amended, to require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies;

Authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a feasibility study with respect to the Mokelumne River: H.R. 3812, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a feasibility study with respect to the Mokelumne River;

Southern Oregon Bureau of Reclamation Repayment Act of 2005: H.R. 4195, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District;

Directing the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of real property to Beaver County, Utah: S. 52, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of real property to Beaver County, Utah—clearing the measure for the President;

Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005: S. 212, to amend the Valles Caldera Preservation Act to improve the preservation of the Valles Caldera—clearing the measure for the President;

To amend the Act of June 7, 1924, to provide for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction: S. 279, to amend the Act of June 7, 1924, to provide for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction—clearing the measure for the President;


Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act: S. 136, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide supplemental funding and other services that are necessary to assist certain local school districts in the State of California in providing educational services for students attending schools located within Yosemite National Park, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to adjust the boundaries of Redwood National Park—clearing the measure for the President;

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott: H. Con. Res. 273, to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott;

Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005: S. 1886, to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients—clearing the measure for the President;

Amending the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that Act to the Bank for International Settlements: H.R. 3269, to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that Act to the Bank for International Settlements;

Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005: H.R. 2017, to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture;

Urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East: H. Res. 438, amended, to urge member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in
the Middle East, by a yea-and-nay vote of 400 yea

with 1 voting nay, Roll No. 609;

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Resolution

urging member states of the United Nations to

stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate

Israel and to promote within the United Nations a

more balanced and constructive approach to resolv-

ing conflict in the Middle East.”

Honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anni-

versary of his death: H. Res. 555, to honor the life,

legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death,

by a yea-and-nay vote of 399 yea with none voting

“nay”, Roll No. 610;

Mourning the horrific loss of life caused by the

floods and mudslides that occurred in October 2005

in Central America and Mexico and expressing the

sense of Congress that the United States should do

everything possible to assist the affected people and

communities: H. Con. Res. 280, amended, to mourn

the horrific loss of life caused by the floods and

mudslides that occurred in October 2005 in Central

America and Mexico and expressing the sense of

Congress that the United States should do every-

thing possible to assist the affected people and com-

munities; and

Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Hun-

garian Revolution that began on October 23, 1956 and

reaffirming the friendship between the people and
governments of the United States and Hungary: H. Res.
479, amended, to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the
Hungarian Revolution that began on October 23, 1956
and reaffirming the friendship between the people and
governments of the United States and Hungary, by a yea
and nay vote of 395 yea with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 611.

Recess: The House recessed at 5:06 p.m. and recon-

vened at 6:30 p.m.

Election of the Clerk of the House of Representa-

tives: The House agreed to H. Res. 580, that Karen

L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives. The Speaker then administered the oath of office.

Notify the Senate of the Election of the Clerk:
The House agreed to H. Res. 581, to inform the Senate that Karen L. Haas has been elected as Clerk of the House.

Notify the President of the Election of the Clerk:
The House agreed to H. Res. 582, authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the United States

that the House of Representatives has elected Karen

L. Haas as Clerk of the House of Representatives of the
109th Congress.
MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 3682, To redesignate the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia as the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge; and H.R. 2866, James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2005. Testimony was heard from Rick Schultz, Chief, Division of Conservation, Planning and Policy, National Wildlife Refuge System, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a closed rule providing two hours of debate in the House on H.R. 4340, to implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that pursuant to section 151(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion. Section 2 of the resolution provides that during consideration of the bill, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker in consonance with section 151 of the Act of 1974. Testimony was heard from Representative Shaw.

HURRICANE KATRINA: VOICES FROM INSIDE THE STORM

Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina: Held a hearing entitled “Hurricane Katrina: Voices from Inside the Storm.” Testimony was heard from Charles Allen, Vice Mayor, Newport News, Virginia; citizens and evacuees of New Orleans; and public witnesses.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D 1213)


H.R. 4326, to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract for the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of the U.S.S. Carl Vinson (CVN–70). Signed on November 19, 2005. (Public Law 109–104)


H.R. 4133, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program. Signed on November 21, 2005. (Public Law 109–106)

H.R. 2490, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 West Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the “Mayor Joseph S. Daddona Memorial Post Office”. Signed on November 22, 2005. (Public Law 109–107)


H.R. 3339, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2061 South Park Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the “James T. Molloy Post Office Building”. Signed on November 22, 2005. (Public Law 109–109)

S. 161, to provide for a land exchange in the State of Arizona between the Secretary of Agriculture and Yavapai Ranch Limited Partnership. Signed on November 22, 2005. (Public Law 109–110)

S. 1234, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. Signed on November 22, 2005. (Public Law 109–111)

S. 1713, to make amendments to the Iran Non-proliferation Act of 2000 related to International Space Station payments. Signed on November 22, 2005. (Public Law 109–112)

S. 1894, to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide for the making of foster care maintenance payments to private for-profit agencies. Signed on November 22, 2005. (Public Law 109–113)


H.R. 4145, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place
the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–116)

H.R. 126, to amend Public Law 89–366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–117)

H.R. 539, to designate certain National Forest System land in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–118)

H.R. 606, to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior for the restoration of the Angel Island Immigration Station in the State of California. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–119)

H.R. 1972, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Williamson County, Tennessee, relating to the Battle of Franklin. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–120)

H.R. 1973, to make access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–121)

H.R. 2062, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the “Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building”. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–122)

H.R. 2183, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the “Vincent Palladino Post Office”. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–123)

H.R. 3853, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the Willie Vaughn Post Office. Signed on December 1, 2005. (Public Law 109–124)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, December 7, hearing on H.R. 4200, Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act, 10 a.m., and to consider the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Reauthorization Act of 2005, 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, December 8, Subcommittee on Science, The Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies, hearing on Federal efforts related to the exclusion, removal and prosecution of aliens and naturalized U.S. citizens who have committed war crimes or human rights abuses outside the U.S., 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.


December 7, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing entitled “Understanding the Peak Oil Theory,” focusing on H. Res. 507, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States, in collaboration with other international allies, should establish an energy project with the magnitude, creativity, and sense of urgency that was incorporated in the “Man on the Moon” project to address the inevitable challenges of “Peak Oil,” 9:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

December 8, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Improving America’s Health: Examining Federal Research Efforts for Pulmonary Hypertension and Chronic Pain,” 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, December 8, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled “Housing Options in the Aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,” 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on International Relations, December 7, hearing on Avian Flu: Addressing the Global Threat, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

December 7, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to mark up a Subcommittee report entitled “The Oil-for-Food Program: The Systematic Failure of the United Nations,” 12:30 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

December 8, full Committee, to mark up H. Res. 549, Requesting the President of the United States provide to the House of Representatives all documents in his possession relating to his October 7, 2002, speech in Cincinnati, Ohio, and his January 28, 2003, State of the Union address, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, December 7, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, oversight hearing on International IPR Report Card—Assessing U.S. Government and Industry Efforts to Enhance
Chinese and Russian Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, December 7, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 862, To redesignate the Rio Grande American Canal in El Paso, Texas, as the "Travis C. Johnson Canal"; H.R. 2334, City of Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act of 2005; H.R. 2978, To allow the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation to enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights recognized under the Fort Peck—Montana Compact for the purpose of meeting the water needs of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Incorporated; H.R. 4000, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise certain repayment contracts with the Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska, the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No.2, the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, and the Webster Irrigation District No.4, all a part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program; and S. 101, To convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

December 8, full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4322, Indian Trust Reform Act of 2005, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, December 7, to consider the following: the Essential Gulf Coast Recovery Act of 2005; and H.R. 3699, Federal and District of Columbia Government Real Property Act of 2005; a Building Project Survey Resolution; and other pending business, 11 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, December 7, oversight hearing on the challenges and opportunities facing disability claims process at the Veterans Benefits Administration, 1 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, December 7, executive, briefing on Global Updates/Hotspots, 9 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

December 7, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence and the Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy, executive, joint briefing on Muslim Extremism, 3 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina, December 7, hearing entitled "Hurricane Katrina: Preparedness and Response by the State of Mississippi," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 4 through November 30, 2005</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Days in session ....................</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>129</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time in session 1,138 hrs., 24′ 965 hrs., 4′</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Record:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages of proceedings ..................</td>
<td>13,425</td>
<td>11,037</td>
<td>24,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensions of Remarks ..................</td>
<td>2,457</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public bills enacted into law ..........</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private bills enacted into law ..........</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills in conference .......................</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures passed, total ..................</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>1,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate bills ..............................</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House bills ...............................</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions ..................</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions .....................</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions ..........</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions ..........</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions ......................</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total* ...............</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate bills ..............................</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House bills ...............................</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions ..................</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions .....................</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions ..........</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions ..........</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions ......................</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special reports .........................</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference reports ......................</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures pending on calendar ..........</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total ............</td>
<td>2,493</td>
<td>5,395</td>
<td>7,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills ........................................</td>
<td>2,072</td>
<td>4,432</td>
<td>6,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint resolutions .......................</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concurrent resolutions ...................</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions ......................</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quorum calls ............................</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yea-and-nay votes ......................</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorded votes ...........................</td>
<td>292</td>
<td></td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed ................................</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden ........................</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

(109–1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 4 through November 30, 2005</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian nominations, totaling 485, disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed ..................................</td>
<td>292</td>
<td></td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed ................................</td>
<td>178</td>
<td></td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn ..................................</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned to White House ...............</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Civilian nominations, totaling 1,891, disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed ..................................</td>
<td>1,615</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed ................................</td>
<td>276</td>
<td></td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force nominations, totaling 9,828, disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed ..................................</td>
<td>8,243</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed ................................</td>
<td>1,585</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army nominations, totaling 6,954, disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed ..................................</td>
<td>6,937</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed ................................</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy nominations, totaling 4,545, disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed ..................................</td>
<td>4,540</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed ................................</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,380, disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed ..................................</td>
<td>1,378</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed ................................</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session .................. 0
Total nominations Received this Session .................................. 25,083
Total Confirmed .................................................. 23,005
Total Unconfirmed ............................................. 2,068
Total Withdrawn .................................................. 13
Total Returned to White House ...................................... 2

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 184 reports have been filed in the Senate, a total of 317 reports have been filed in the House.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
2:00 p.m., Monday, December 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, December 7

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of Suspensions: (1) H.R. 1721—to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs to improve the quality of coastal recreation waters; (2) H.R. 3963—to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for Long Island Sound; (3) H. Con. Res. 196—Honoring the pilots of United States commercial air carriers who volunteer to participate in the Federal flight deck officer program; (4) H.R. 4311—to amend section 105(b)(3) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App); (5) H.R. 1400—Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2005; (6) H. Res. 196—Recognizing the anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment and encouraging the American people to educate and instill pride and purpose into their communities and to observe the anniversary annually with appropriate programs and activities; (7) H.R. 4096—Stealth Tax Relief Act of 2005; (8) H.R. 4388—Tax Revision Act of 2005; and (9) H.R. 4314—Terrorism Risk Insurance Revision Act of 2005. Consideration of H.R. 4340—United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

Gillmor, Paul E., Ohio, E2459
Gordon, Hart, Tenn., E2443
Grijalva, Raúl M., Ariz., E2446
Hensarling, Jeb, Tex., E2456, E2457, E2458, E2459, E2461
Herseth, Stephanie, S.D., E2346, E2349
Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E2348, E2348, E2349, E2350, E2352, E2354, E2355
Hinchey, Maurice D., N.Y., E2345
Holden, Tom, Pa., E2353
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E2344
Larson, John B., Conn., E2350
Lewch, James A., Iowa, E2349
Lewis, John, Ga., E2361
Loftgren, Zoe, Calif., E2352
McDermott, Jim, Wash., E2349
Miller, Jeff, Fla., E2341
Ney, Robert W., Ohio, E2349, E2349, E2440, E2441
Ramstad, Jim, Minn., E2342
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E2345, E2347, E2348
Sherrill, Brad, Calif., E2344
Shimkus, John, Ill., E2348, E2440
Shuster, Bill, Pa., E2340
Smith, Christopher H., N.J., E2345
Stark, Fortney Pete, Calif., E2345, E2348, E2349
Tauscher, Ellen O., Calif., E2343
Tiahrt, Todd, Kans., E2343
Udall, Mark, Colo., E2346
Woolsey, Lynn C., Calif., E2345
Wu, David, Ore., E2345

Congressional Record

The Congressional Record (USPS 087-390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published on the fees as following the prices: paper edition, $252.00 for six months, $503.00 per year, or purchased for $0.00 per issue payable in advance. The semimonthly Congressional Record Index may be purchased for the same per issue prices. To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2250. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. Following each session of Congress, the daily Congressional Record is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the Congressional Record.