

to reflect the same spirit in which the department was established more than 100 years ago. I am honored to rise today to extend my thanks for what the members of the Radnor Fire Company do each day and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE WEST HAVEN
BLACK COALITION AS THEY CELEBRATE
THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, in so many communities across this nation, civic organizations have been founded in an effort to advance the local African-American community. For the last twenty years, the City of West Haven, Connecticut has been home to the West Haven Black Coalition—an organization that has not only helped to promote African-American involvement in the community, but has also worked diligently to improve the community and quality of life for all West Haven residents.

We begin each year celebrating the life and lessons of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King followed by the celebration of Black History Month. It could not be more fitting that the West Haven Black Coalition's anniversary coincides with these festivities. In the last two decades, under the leadership of founder and president Carroll Brown, the West Haven Black Coalition has gone a long way in bringing life to the legacy of Dr. King and addressing social, political, and economic issues through active participation in the government and community. Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you going to do for others." Dr. King devoted his life—indeed gave his life—to working for others. Despite our best intentions, it is not always easy to find the time for community service. With so much going on in our daily lives it can be a challenge which is why I have a deep admiration for those among us who take the time to give something back and to share our talents with others. For 20 years, the West Haven Black Coalition has done just that.

It was not so long ago that minorities faced seemingly overwhelming obstacles to justice and equality. While our nation has taken great strides, there is still work to be done—this has become the mission of the West Haven Black Coalition. Actively encouraging African-Americans to not only run for public office but serve in city government, developing and implementing community enrichment projects throughout the city, and making opportunity real for our students by providing college scholarships—these are just some of the ways that the West Haven Black Coalition has made a difference.

Perhaps more important than the physical impact the West Haven Black Coalition has had on our community is the inspiring message that their good work has passed on to a new generation. Your participation, your service—in school, in government, or in the community—gives you a strong voice and empowers you to make a difference. In its first 20 years, the West Haven Black Coalition has left

an indelible mark on our community and I have no doubt that they will continue to have a positive impact on the city for many years to come. That is why I am pleased to stand today to join the many who have gathered to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Carroll Brown and the West Haven Black Coalition for their invaluable contributions. My sincere and heart-felt congratulations as they celebrate this very special milestone.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT DIMITRI
MUSCAT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from Aurora, Colorado, Sergeant Dimitri Muscat. Sergeant Muscat died on February 24 in Balad, Iraq. He was just 21 years old.

Sergeant Muscat was born in Russia and came to Colorado when he was only 12 years old. According to his stepfather, serving in the Army to defend America was something Dimitri had wanted to do since he was young—and he joined the Army at 17. Dimitri was serving as a gunner on his unit's tank when he died.

Dimitri is survived by his mother, stepfather and his sister.

Sergeant Muscat was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division based in Fort Carson, Colorado. He was in his second tour in Iraq when he died.

Dimitri served his adopted country with courage and valor, fighting for the cause of freedom.

The American and Iraqi people owe Dimitri and his family a great debt of gratitude for his service and his sacrifice.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to all who knew and loved Dimitri.

TRIBUTE TO THE MARINES OF
BULK FUEL COMPANY BRAVO

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the five returning Marines of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo, based in Wilmington, Delaware. During the past seven months, the five Marines of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo answered the call to duty in a highly volatile and dangerous region of Iraq. Their efforts contributed to the safety and security of an emerging democracy and our own great nation. With this sacrifice they have inspired others—including their family, friends, and neighbors.

As Americans, we are mindful of what we have lost, but we are deeply grateful for all that cannot be destroyed. It is Marines like those of Bulk Fuel Company Bravo who sustain and invigorate the timeless values, principles, and extraordinary character that define our great nation.

Today, I am just one of many Delawareans who would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to them for their service and sacrifice on our behalf. When they were needed, they answered their country's call, proving once again that extraordinary individuals live within each generation of Americans.

THE "PORT OPERATIONS REQUIRE
TOUGH SCRUTINY" (PORTS) ACT
STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Port Operations Require Tough Scrutiny (PORTS) Act to ensure that decisions about the sale of critical U.S. infrastructure such as ports are thoroughly reviewed so that the homeland security consequences of these transactions are not brushed aside in favor of commercial interests.

The Bush Administration's recent decision to approve the sale of British port operator Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation to Dubai Ports World, a company owned by the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has raised significant homeland security concerns. This decision also has shined a light on a little-known committee at the Treasury Department and the secretive process it uses to make decisions that can have important consequences for the security of our Nation.

Clearly, the UAE port deal did not receive the scrutiny it deserved. The 9/11 Commission identified the government of the UAE—the same entity that would operate major functions at 6 U.S. ports—as a "persistent counterterrorism problem". Two of the 9/11 hijackers were from the UAE. The 9/11 Commission concluded that the UAE banking system was used as a conduit for funds for the September 11th attacks. The UAE was a key transfer point for illegal shipments of nuclear components to Iran, North Korea and Libya. The UAE was one of only three nations to recognize the legitimacy of the Taliban government and still does not recognize the State of Israel.

Despite all of these warning signs, the proposed port deal did not even trigger a 45-day investigation, which is provided in current law and should have been interpreted as being mandatory when foreign governments—whether involving the UAE, the UK, the Ukraine or any other nation—seek mergers, acquisitions or similar transactions that could affect U.S. national security. Nevertheless, when asked about the UAE port deal last week, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said, "I am reluctant to make judgments based on the minimal amount of information I have because I just heard about this over the weekend." (Defense Department news briefing, 2/21/06).

It is unacceptable that President Bush, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Treasury were not informed of the UAE port deal until after it was approved and had caused widespread public outrage. President Bush has repeatedly told the American people that 9/11 changed his thinking, and extraordinary measures, such as warrantless wiretapping of