



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

No. 83

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2006, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

The Senate met at 11:04 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God our Father, we turn our hearts and minds toward You. Search us deeply and cleanse us from all insincerity. Give us a desire to do Your will, even when it means bearing a cross.

Bless our Senators. Strengthen them to resist temptation and to walk the narrow road that leads to life. Give them compassion for others that can be seen in courageous actions that liberate.

Help us all to strive to be faithful in order that one day, we can hear You say, "Well done."

We pray in the Name of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. GRAHAM thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we return to session today for a period of morning business to allow Senators to introduce legislation and to make remarks. We will have a relatively short session today, I expect. When we finish, we will adjourn until Monday.

On Monday, we will begin debate on the constitutional amendment relating to antflag desecration. I will have more to say about the schedule for next week later in the day.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I congratulate the two managers of the Defense authorization bill who did a superb job over the last several weeks in overseeing the debate and marching through the amendments on this important legislation. We had some strong disagreements on both sides of the aisle, sometimes within each side of the aisle. We addressed a number of contentious issues. At the end of the day, after debate and amendment, we had overwhelming support for the bill itself.

The debate followed a healthy and productive debate on immigration and border security for the 2 to 3 weeks prior to that, a total of a month prior. We have seen in recent weeks that the Senate is working quite well in terms of having people's views expressed, debated in a dignified way, getting points across, helping become better educated ourselves and educating the American people in the process.

I thank Senators WARNER and LEVIN for their tremendous work in navigating through the challenging issues and bringing Defense authorization to a close in a cooperative manner.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S6445

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. DORGAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3561 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am going to talk briefly about an issue I think is really very important dealing with the country of India and nuclear weapons that are possessed by India and other countries around the world.

Yesterday, one of my colleagues in the Senate indicated that weapons of mass destruction had been found in Iraq. I guess he was referring to some inert artillery shells that were produced in the 1980s for the Iran-Iraq war. No one believes those are weapons of mass destruction. That is an absurd claim. I think it has been described as absurd by nearly everybody. But since the subject of weapons of mass destruction has been raised I want to make a few comments.

I have in my desk in the Senate a piece of metal. I ask unanimous consent to show it on the floor of the Senate.

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

Mr. DORGAN. This is from a Backfire bomber. It used to be part of a wing strut on a Soviet Backfire bomber. This bomber, presumably, carried nuclear weapons to threaten the United States at some point. The bomber doesn't exist anymore. The bomber's wings were sawed off and it was cut into small metal pieces. We paid for that under the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program in which we spend American taxpayers' money to dismantle former Soviet nuclear weapons and their delivery systems—missiles, bombers, submarines.

I also have in my desk some chewed-up copper from the electrical wiring from a submarine that once carried nuclear weapons aimed at the United States. We paid money to dismantle weapons of mass destruction in the arsenal of the Soviet Union. So we didn't shoot this airplane down. This piece of metal from a Soviet bomber was achieved because we paid for the saw that cut the wings off of the bomber. What a remarkably successful program to try to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons.

I think the threat of nuclear weapons is the greatest threat that we face. We have roughly 25,000 to 30,000 nuclear weapons on this Earth. The loss of one nuclear weapon to a terrorist and the detonation of one by a terrorist in a

major American city will cause a catastrophe unlike any of us can imagine. There are roughly 25,000 to 30,000 nuclear weapons in this world. Where are they? Are they safeguarded? Will someone steal one? Who is building more? Who wants nuclear weapons? What are we doing about that? These are critically important questions.

A former Secretary of Defense says that he believes the question is not so much whether but when will a nuclear weapon be detonated in an American city? A former Secretary of Defense says he believes there is a 50-percent likelihood that within the next 10 years a nuclear weapon will be detonated in a major American city. I don't know whether that is true or not. I do know this: this world is full of nuclear weapons. More countries want to achieve the capability of possessing nuclear weapons. It is our responsibility—it falls to us as a world leader to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and begin to reduce the number of nuclear weapons. That is our job.

I am not very encouraged, frankly, by actions in the Congress in recent years, turning down the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, suggesting that we want to reserve the right to test nuclear weapons again. The discussion in the administration and even some in Congress is that what we really need are new nuclear weapons, designer nuclear weapons, earth-penetrating bunker buster nuclear weapons. There is a suggestion by some that nuclear weapons are perfectly usable. They are not.

The only success we can measure will be the success by which we prevent another nuclear weapon from ever being exploded in anger on this planet. That is the only success that can matter.

I want to talk a little about the nuclear agreement the Bush Administration has reached with India, which I think undermines our nonproliferation policy of many years. It also undermines the Non-Proliferation Treaty that we have signed, and many other countries have signed. India has not signed it. It stops the proliferation of nuclear weapons. At least it says it is our resolve to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

I want to talk about this new agreement that Secretary Rice, on behalf of the President and others, has negotiated with India, and what it means for the job we have of stopping the spread of nuclear weapons. One of our major periodicals in this country described a story that was not reported much post-9/11. In the period post-9/11, my understanding from press reports was that our intelligence picked up some kind of a report from their sources that a nuclear weapon had been stolen by a terrorist organization from the Russian stockpile of nuclear weapons and was prepared to be detonated by terrorists. I believe they said either in New York City or Washington, DC—in any event, one of America's major cities. Those who picked up this rumor

in the intelligence community were very concerned about it, very worried about it.

After some period of time it was determined that this was not a credible rumor, but in retrospect the analysts determined that it is perfectly plausible. It is not unthinkable that a terrorist organization could acquire a nuclear weapon, or steal one from an existing stockpile. It is not implausible that having stolen a nuclear weapon they could have detonated it in a major American city. That ought to cause an apoplectic seizure in this country about the need to safeguard against nuclear weapons, reduce the number of nuclear weapons that now exist, and stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

It is our responsibility to provide the leadership to do that. That doesn't fall to anyone else; it falls to us.

Let me describe how the nuclear deal with India fits into this. Many countries want to possess nuclear weapons. North Korea, we believe, is now building them, and perhaps has them. I believe the administration said they believe that North Korea has actually produced nuclear weapons. We understand that the country of Iran is doing things that would lead it to be able to produce a nuclear weapon at some point in the future. We are concerned about that. Our country and others have been trying to prevent that from happening.

Our country invaded Iraq because we believed it had weapons of mass destruction. I heard a radio show this morning, with the fellow running the show saying that wasn't the case; that we invaded Iraq because Saddam Hussein was a bad guy. That is not true at all. Saddam Hussein is an evil man. We found him in a rat hole. He murdered people in his own country by the thousands, and he likely will, following trial, meet justice. I hope so. But we attacked Iraq because we believed, our intelligence community believed, and the American people were told, and the world community was told by Secretary Powell that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction that threatened the world and threatened us.

The point is that the threat of weapons of mass destruction is serious and real. It is serious and real because there are 25,000 or 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world. We have a lot of them. Russia has a lot of them. Other countries possess them. One of those countries is India.

Nowhere is the threat of nuclear war or nuclear terrorism, or the need to safeguard nuclear weapons more important than in South Asia, the home to al-Qaida, who seeks nuclear weapons. It is an area where relations among regional nuclear powers—China, India, Pakistan—have historically been tense. India and China fought a border war in 1962. India and Pakistan fought three major wars and had numerous smaller skirmishes. After both detonated nuclear weapons in 1998 and declared themselves nuclear powers, the

world held its breath as India and Pakistan fought a limited war in Kashmir. So this is a serious issue, one that is of great concern.

It is almost incomprehensible to me that the administration has agreed to a nuclear deal with India, a country that did not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, that will gut the non-proliferation treaty and allow New Delhi to dramatically expand its stockpile of nuclear weapons and possibly ignite another regional arms race of nuclear weapons. Giving legitimacy to the nuclear arsenal that India secretly developed is not going to help us convince other countries to give up their secret nuclear programs.

The nonproliferation treaty is a treaty that, if you describe it, puts people to sleep. "Nonproliferation" as a term doesn't even sound very exciting. But it is at the root of the determination of whether we will one day see nuclear weapons exploded in American cities.

We have to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. The nonproliferation treaty isn't perfect, but there are a host of countries in this world who have decided to forgo trying to acquire or build nuclear weapons because of it. They have done that so that they can get access to peaceful nuclear assistance for nuclear power that is allowed by the treaty because the treaty would not allow access to technology for nuclear power to build nuclear powerplants unless the country signed the nonproliferation treaty and agree to forego nuclear weapons. That treaty has worked—not perfectly—but it has worked well enough.

India, as I said, has never signed it. Instead, it secretly built nuclear weapons in the 1970s and 1980s, which they revealed only after the fact that Pakistan conducted its first test of nuclear weapons in 1998. India and Pakistan are both countries which are subject to U.S. laws—and international laws, for that matter—that prohibit sending nuclear fuel and technologies to states that are operating outside of the non-proliferation treaty. Because India has very little domestic uranium, the application of those laws has severely constrained its ability to expand its nuclear power industry, and it has restrained its ability to expand its stockpile of nuclear weapons as well.

During this past year, New Delhi has stepped up efforts to get the assistance of our country to obtain nuclear fuel and reactor components so it can deal with an impending energy crisis. I understand their interest and concern about their energy crisis, but this was an opportunity, I believe, to get India to abide by and to become a signatory to the nonproliferation treaty and to cap its nuclear weapons program. Instead, the administration decided that it would initial an agreement that legitimizes India's nuclear weapons and which will make it substantially easier for India to produce more weapons grade material for more nuclear weapons. I don't understand this at all.

I was dumbfounded to discover what the administration has done, in secret, with no consultation with Congress at all. But the fact is, I have here a copy of the legislation that the Administration wants Congress to pass so the treaty can be implemented even though the text of the agreement is not even complete. They have the skeleton of the agreement. They have decided we are going to say to India: It is OK that you have decided you are going to create nuclear weapons outside of the nonproliferation treaty, but we will not have you suffer the consequences of that so we will now begin to offer you technology and fuel so that you can have the ability to produce more nuclear powerplants for your own energy needs, and you will also be able to keep some of those behind the curtain and produce additional nuclear weapons. We have said they can do that.

The agreement has not been written in its final detail, but even though its detail isn't complete, we already have legislation introduced in the Congress to say: That is OK. That is good. We approve. God bless you all.

I don't understand this at all. The fact is, this is a huge step backwards for this country in providing leadership to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

Here is what the deal does. The final text, I am told, has not been finalized, but the substance is this: President Bush's plan will allow India to buy from the U.S. and other countries sensitive nuclear technologies that are now forbidden to India under the non-proliferation treaty. That includes nuclear fuel, nuclear reactors, and advanced nuclear technology. In return, India has agreed to allow IAEA inspections and safeguards at 14 of its 22 existing and planned nuclear reactors. So 14 of India's reactors will be off-limits for the production of plutonium for India's nuclear weapons program.

But the agreement allows India to keep 8 existing and planned reactors outside of the agreement and free from international safeguards. And it will allow New Delhi to decide entirely on its own which future reactors it will designate as civilian and therefore to submit to safeguards or not.

So the agreement allows India to keep at least eight nuclear reactors behind the curtain and use them to produce nuclear weapons.

So we have essentially said that unlimited amounts of fissile material for nuclear weapons can be produced at facilities not protected by these safeguards, and it is just fine with us.

Well, that is not fine with me. It does not meet our responsibility as a world leader to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. By seeking exception to the rules for a country with which the United States wishes to build a special friendship, this nuclear deal would reinforce the impression that our country's approach to nonproliferation has become selective, self-serving, inconsistent and unprincipled. This deal will send a signal that the United States—

the country the world has always looked to as the leader in the global fight to stop the spread of nuclear weapons—is now deemphasizing nuclear nonproliferation and giving it a back seat to other foreign policy and other commercial concerns.

I think that is a huge mistake. If the United States is seen as changing or bending the rules when it suits us, others will want to follow suit. Pakistan has already said: Us, too. We would like some of that. We would like to seek comparable treatment. Not long after the United States-India deal was announced, China and Pakistan began discussing additional reactor sales. I believe the United States-India nuclear agreement very likely will reduce the constraints on other states that want to go nuclear.

In calculating whether to pursue nuclear weapons, a major factor for most countries is, how will the United States react? What will the sanctions be if we decide to produce nuclear weapons to become part of the club that possesses nuclear weapons? The sanctions, at least suggested by the India deal, is: Don't worry. If we want your friendship at some point, we might waive all of that and say that the nonproliferation issue is much less important than your friendship.

There is no question that what has happened is the administration, secretly—with Secretary Condoleezza Rice and Ambassador Burns and others—has negotiated a deal with the President's blessing that will make it much easier for a country that did not sign the nonproliferation treaty to greatly expand its illegal nuclear arsenal. It will allow India to access fissile material from overseas, buy foreign technologies and create a curtain behind which eight nuclear reactors can produce additional nuclear weapons in that region of the world. That is a profound mistake, just a profound mistake.

I don't understand why this Congress will not decide that it has a voice as well. The Administration is asking us to rubberstamp the agreement even before the agreement is fully written. It is an insult. The legislation we are asked to approve is a rubberstamp. This Congress is being asked to say: Well, sign us up, yes, of course. Of course we agree. The geopolitics of this friendship is certainly more important than restraining the growth of nuclear weapons or the spread of nuclear weapons. Sign us up. It doesn't matter.

I am a little tired of a town in which you have one view and one political party—the White House and the Senate—saying: Sign us up. We are all there. We are all hitched up. Whichever way you want to go, we want to go.

I think this is the most significant mistake—and there have been very significant mistakes in recent years—but this is one of the most significant mistakes I can conceive of.

Let me go back to where I started a minute ago. A colleague of mine yesterday said they found weapons of mass

destruction in Iraq. Of course, they didn't. They didn't. But weapons of mass destruction, no matter where they are found in the future, ought to be of great concern to all of us. We just passed a Defense authorization bill that is going to spend about \$10 billion on antimissile defense. Everyone is worried about North Korea testing a new long-range missile. So we are going to spend \$10 billion on technology to try to hit a bullet with a bullet. If anyone looks at the threat meter—I don't think anybody does much anymore—they will understand one of the least likely threats our country will face is a rogue nation or a terrorist who acquires a nuclear warhead and puts it on top of an intercontinental ballistic missile and aims it at our country and shoots it at about 18,000 miles an hour at the United States.

By far, the most likely threat is the stealing of a nuclear weapon by a terrorist organization, putting it on a container, loading the container on a ship, and having that ship pull up to a dock in a major American city at 3 miles an hour—not 18,000 miles an hour—and detonating a nuclear weapon in the middle of an American city.

There are 25,000 to 30,000 nuclear weapons, we think, tactical and strategic, in this world, the loss of one of which will be catastrophic; the detonation of one of which in an American city will be catastrophic—one. I am not talking about 5 nuclear weapons or 10 or 30 or 100; I am talking about 1. In this new age of terrorism, our responsibility is to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, be a world leader in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, and reduce the number of nuclear weapons, trying to give teeth to the non-proliferation treaty.

Instead, we are off making deals with India. Yes, India is a fine country. I want India to be a friend of ours. But I am not willing to abrogate the non-proliferation treaty and say to India: It is all right what you did to secretly produce nuclear weapons outside of the nonproliferation treaty. That is not all right with us. It ought not be a signal we send to the rest of the world that it is all right with us. Yet that is exactly what the deal with India is signaling: We will give you the technology and the capability. You allow inspectors into 14 plants in the future, you can have 8 plants that you have behind the curtain to produce nuclear weapons, and that is fine with us because the geopolitics of this deal lead us to believe it is more important to give you this agreement.

I think that is just profoundly wrong, and it is going to injure this country's national security in a profound way.

So, Mr. President, my understanding is there are people here already working on this legislation to approve the deal—it is already introduced—saying: Yes, yes, yes.

There was a former Governor in a Southern State—I won't use names be-

cause most of my colleagues will recognize it—but he was put in place by a fellow who came to the Senate. But when he went back home on weekends he would kick the Governor out of the Governor's chair because he wanted the Governor's office and he wanted to tell him what to do, and the guy would say: OK, OK, OK. They named him Governor OK because that is all he ever said was OK. That is what is going on around here. Yes, even with the India deal. It is OK. It doesn't matter what you do, it is OK.

It is not OK with me. It is not OK with me that we have legislation introduced to approve a deal that hasn't yet been written in all of its detail, but the architecture of which we know enough of to understand, at least from my standpoint, that this is a serious breach of faith for our responsibility to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

So, Mr. President, I don't know when the President or when our committees will decide they want to take a break from amending the U.S. Constitution. I understand beginning next week we will have the second opportunity to express that this Congress thinks that the work of Washington and Franklin and Madison and Mason was a rough draft and we have a lot of ideas and we ought to change the Constitution. If we can take a break from amending the Constitution, I assume someone will try to bring to the floor of the Senate legislation that will give a big rubberstamp to the India deal.

I only wanted to be here today to say that when that happens, I will certainly do everything I can to slow it down. I prefer to stop it. I don't know if I can stop it. I will try to do that. If not, I will slow it down a lot, and we will have a long discussion about what the responsibility is of this country to stop nuclear weapons in this day and age of terrorism.

Some don't care very much about that. They think there are other things that are much more important. There is nothing much more important in the day of terrorism, in this new age of terrorism, than making certain that we never, ever have a nuclear weapon detonated in a major American city. How do you do that? You stop the spread of nuclear weapons. You reduce the stockpile of nuclear weapons. And you make sure that we provide the aggressive, assertive leadership to try to keep nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists and safeguard existing stocks even as we try to reduce the number. That is our responsibility. The world looks to us for that leadership. And this, in my judgment, is not providing the kind of leadership that gives me comfort.

For that reason, I will oppose the agreement that has been reached with India and that has been announced, much to the surprise of most of us; in fact, I think to the surprise of probably everyone in Congress who didn't know it was being negotiated.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to speak about the important issue of private property rights in this country, but I did not realize the distinguished Senator from North Dakota was going to be talking about another issue that is very important, and that is the proposed civil nuclear accord between the United States and India. It is a subject I have been studying. I am interested in it. I just happened to be one of the two Senate co-chairs of the United States-India caucus and, for that reason, I have been following the developments in this proposal from the beginning.

As is so often the case, we agree on the ultimate objective, and that is to reduce proliferation of nuclear weapons, but we differ about the means. I happen to support this particular agreement because I think it is in the best interests of the United States. It will take another friend of the United States—the world's largest democracy, composed of more than 1 billion people, that has a good record for nonproliferation—and it will make us partners with them for peaceful civilian use of nuclear power while avoiding the threat of proliferation and the possibility that terrorists might acquire a nuclear weapon or it might proliferate to some other irresponsible party and then endanger the United States or our allies.

The Congress, of course, will have a chance to get very much involved in this issue. Next week, Chairman LUGAR and Ranking Member BIDEN are taking this matter up in the Foreign Relations Committee. They are going to mark up—I believe it is the Atomic Energy Act, if I am not mistaken, which is the one which needs to be amended if, in fact, Congress does consent to this agreement between President Bush and Prime Minister Singh of India.

I do know there are a lot of people watching to see just what the reaction of Congress and the United States to this agreement will be. I for one believe it is an important step in our strategic relationship, in our growing friendship. It will be another way the United States and India can work together to make the world a safer place and the United States can demonstrate its good will by providing civilian nuclear technology to a country that needs the energy.

We know how much the geopolitics of the search for oil has distorted our foreign relationships, so it is important that we find clean alternatives to oil and gas. That is what nuclear power provides, that clean, efficient alternative—although it has problems in that it can, in the wrong hands, be abused. It can be used to create nuclear weapons.

As we all know, India already has a nuclear weapon, so it is not a question of whether it is going to acquire one. It already has one. It has demonstrated its responsibility and its willingness to work with peace-loving partners like

the United States in a way that looks to this alternative of civilian nuclear energy but at the same time makes sure that the dangers of proliferation are reduced to a minimum.

THE KELO DECISION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the main reason I wanted to come to the floor today was to talk about the important issue of private property rights. Today marks the 1-year anniversary of one of the most controversial decisions ever handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court, and that is the case of *Kelo v. the City of New London*. In that decision, the Court held by a 5-to-4 vote that the government may seize private property, whether it be a home or small business or other private property, for the purpose—not of public good but, rather, to transfer that same property to another private owner simply because the transfer would create an increased economic benefit to that community.

What made this such a profoundly alarming decision was that it represented a radical departure both from what the Constitution says—that the power of government to condemn private property should be used only for public use—and it represented a radical departure from the decisions handed down interpreting that constitutional provision over the last 200 years.

After all, protection of homes and small businesses and other private property against government seizure or unreasonable government interference is a fundamental principle of American life and really a distinctive aspect of our form of government. Indeed, private property rights rank among the most important rights outlined by the Founding Fathers when this country was created. Thomas Jefferson wrote that the protection of such rights is:

... the first principle of association, "the guarantee to every one of a free exercise of his industry, and the fruits acquired by it."

These protections were enshrined in the fifth amendment to the U.S. Constitution which specifically provides that private property shall not "be taken for public use without just compensation." The fifth amendment thus provides an essential guarantee of liberty against the abuse of power by eminent domain by permitting the government to seize private property only for "public use" and only upon paying just compensation.

The Court's decision in *Kelo* was sharply criticized by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in her dissent, in which she wrote:

[The Court] effectively [has] ... deleted the words "for public use" from the Takings Clause of the fifth amendment and thereby "refuse[d] to enforce properly the Federal Constitution."

Under the Court's decision in *Kelo*, Justice O'Connor warns:

... the specter of condemnation hangs over all property. Nothing is to prevent the State from replacing any Motel 6 with a

Ritz-Carlton, any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory.

She further warns that, under *Kelo*, under the Supreme Court's decision just 1 year ago "any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party," and she said, "the fallout from this decision will not be random."

Indeed, as noted in a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the AARP and other organizations:

[a]bsent a true public use requirement, the takings power will be employed more frequently. The takings that result will disproportionately affect and harm the economically disadvantaged and, in particular, racial and ethnic minorities and the elderly.

Again, that is the brief of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and AARP and others.

Suffice it to say that the *Kelo* decision was a disappointment. What I find particularly troubling is that the *Kelo* case is just one of many examples of the abuse of the power of eminent domain throughout our Nation. Its use for private development is now widespread. The Institute for Justice has documented more than 10,000 properties either seized or threatened with condemnation for private development during the 5-year period between 1998 and 2002. Despite the fact that so many abuses of that power were already occurring, the *Kelo* decision is particularly alarming, and local governments, the condemning authorities most often, have become further emboldened to take property for private development.

As this pattern has continued elsewhere, courts very quickly used this decision to reject challenges by owners to the taking of their property for other private parties. In 2005, for example, a court in Missouri relied upon *Kelo* in reluctantly upholding the taking of a home so that a shopping mall can be built. As the judge commented:

The United States Supreme Court has denied the Alamo reinforcements. Perhaps the people will clip the wings of eminent domain in Missouri, but today in Missouri it soars and devours.

I firmly believe legislative action is appropriate and necessary, and I am not alone in that belief. Several State legislatures have taken immediate action. Indeed, my home State of Texas passed legislation that was signed into law by the Governor last summer that protects private property from seizure for purposes of economic development. But it is also necessary and appropriate that Congress take action consistent with our authority under the Constitution to restore the vital protections of the fifth amendment. That is why the week after the Court handed down its decision I introduced S. 1313 entitled "the Protection of Homes, Small Businesses, and Private Property Act of 2005." I am delighted that other Senators have joined in that in broad and bipartisan support, including

the immediate support shortly after it was filed of the Senator from Florida, Mr. BILL NELSON.

Today I am happy to report that a total of 31 of our colleagues have joined me as cosponsors of this important bill. This bill would ensure that the power of eminent domain is exercised only for public uses, consistent with and guaranteed by the fifth amendment of the Constitution. Most important, though, it would make sure the power of eminent domain would not simply be used to further private economic development interests.

The act would apply the standard to two areas of government action which are clearly within Congress's authority to regulate: No. 1, all exercises of the power of eminent domain by the Federal Government itself; and No. 2, all exercises of the power of eminent domain by State and local governments using Federal funds.

While we work to protect private property rights, we are mindful that the language we craft could have far-reaching implications. There is no question that where appropriate, eminent domain can play an important role in ensuring that true public uses are preserved. But now, just 1 year after the Supreme Court shut the door on *Suzette Kelo* and her fellow homeowners in New London, CT, it is imperative that Congress act soon to ensure that private property remains free from the long arm of government so that no American will have to worry about the Federal Government being involved in taking their private property for private development.

Chairman SPECTER of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I am proud to serve, is working with me on legislation that I hope he will choose to move soon through the committee. I look forward to working with him and my other colleagues to develop a solution that reaffirms our commitment to the protection of private property rights, one that will help stem the tide of egregious abuses of private property rights that we have seen throughout the Nation by the illegitimate use of the power of eminent domain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just a few days ago U.S. researchers at the National Institutes of Health announced they were able to help paralyzed rats move again by using embryonic stem cells from mice. This study is evidence that these stem cells will likely treat and cure people with spinal cord injuries or nerve-destroying illnesses such as Lou Gehrig's disease, MS—multiple sclerosis—muscular dystrophy, and other things.

On this breakthrough, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health, issued the follow statement:

This work is a remarkable advance that will help us understand how stem cells might be used to treat injuries and disease and begin to fulfill their great promise. A successful demonstration of functional restoration is proof of the principle and an important step forward. We must remember, however, that we still have a great distance to go.

The doctor is right. There is no question that much work remains to be done before science will know if they can apply his advances to human beings. We have, as the doctor said, a great distance to go, and if the Senate doesn't expand the President's stem cell research policy, it will only make this great distance even longer.

Under the President's stem cell policy, Federal research funds can be used only on a small number of these stem cell lines that were created before August 9, 2001. This restriction excludes newer and more promising stem cell lines. These limitations only serve to further delay progress for research that could ultimately benefit a broad range of diseases and conditions.

One year and one month ago, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act. This legislation would expand President Bush's 2001 policy for Federal funding for stem cell research and permit Federal researchers at the National Institutes of Health, with the strongest oversight in the world, to finally explore the many possibilities stem cell research holds.

Over the past year, I have repeatedly asked the distinguished majority leader to find time to consider this bill, but my requests have been met by inaction.

As a result, millions of Americans who could benefit from the cures offered by stem cell research have been forced to wait. They have waited through weeks dedicated to issues such as defining marriage. They have waited through weeks dedicated to issues such as the estate tax. They have waited through weeks dedicated to special interests and the majority's well-connected friends. And next week, I am told we are going to spend it on flag burning. They even waited through a Health Week that had nothing to do with getting America health care. How we could have a Health Care Week in the Senate and not consider stem cell research is very difficult for the American people to understand.

A month ago, the 1-year anniversary of the passage of the House bill, Senator FRIST once again said he would find time for the Senate to consider stem cell this summer. Summer is here. We have had time for marriage, we have had time for the estate tax, and we are going to have time next week for flag burning. Shouldn't we have time for stem cell legislation? But here we are on June 23. Another month has passed, and still we don't have a commitment to take up stem cell research legislation. That is not acceptable. The news this week that scientists were able to regrow damaged

nerves in rats using embryonic stem cells is more evidence of the great promise of this research.

We need a new direction. We need to bring this legislation to the Senate floor and give hope to victims of Lou Gehrig's, diabetes, Parkinson's, muscular dystrophy, lupus, and other diseases that could possibly be cured by stem cell research.

Every day, I hear from Nevadans who want the Senate to act on the issue of stem cell research so our researchers may fully explore the great promise of stem cells. Here is one example of what I hear. It is from one woman from Henderson, NV. She wrote me a letter expressing the hope that stem cells offers her and her family.

Her letter says, among other things:

... My 22-year-old son was in a diving accident just two weeks after graduating from high school and is now a quadriplegic. So instead of heading off to college on a soccer scholarship that autumn, he found himself being fitted for a wheelchair and a life of total dependency on others... while they [stem cells] may not cure him to the point of walking again, they will certainly provide him with an opportunity to improve the quality of his life. He wants to be able to feed himself, brush his own teeth, wash his hands and face when he wants to... I know you support stem cell research but I just wanted to give you my support and the support of our entire family as you fight the fight for those who can't fight for themselves....

Think of the hope of this mother when she heard on the news this week that research has shown that animals can regenerate the cells to bring back neurological functions. Think of how she must have felt when that gave her hope.

There are a number of very important issues which this body needs to consider this summer and this session. There is nothing more important to the American people and to this mother than stem cell research.

In the days ahead, everyone should be on notice that we are going to do everything we can to have a debate on stem cell research. If we can't find floor time for this, we will have to force it upon this body. We must do this. There is limited time. We have to go forward. We have waited far too long. The distinguished majority leader is a man of his word. He said he would bring this to the Senate floor. I am confident and extremely hopeful that he will do that. Lacking that, we will have to figure out a way to do it ourselves.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO TERRY MEINERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Terry Meiners, a fellow Louisvillian and well-known radio personality. Mr. Meiners is not just a local institution on Kentucky's airwaves, but also a loving father.

This fall, for the first time both of Terry's two sons will leave home for college: eldest son Max, 20, will return to Western Kentucky University, and younger son Simon, 17, will enroll at the University of Kentucky. Terry has a great relationship with both of his sons and he has done an excellent job of preparing them for adulthood.

As we have just celebrated Father's Day, I thought it appropriate to share with my colleagues the story of Terry Meiners and his two sons. On June 18 of this year, the Louisville Courier-Journal published an article highlighting Terry's family life, career, and accomplishments, as well as his importance in the Louisville community. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Courier-Journal, June 18, 2006]

WHAT KIND OF DAD IS TERRY MEINERS?

(By Angie Fenton)

It's 8:30 a.m., and Terry Meiners sits solemnly on a high-backed metal chair looking out over the lush greenery surrounding his pool.

He doesn't utter any of the quick-witted comebacks and zany ramblings that are his trademark on his afternoon drive-time show on WHAS radio. Instead, on this morning, he soaks up the silence, broken only by the soft sound of a manmade waterfall that cascades nearby and the sharp chirps from a pair of cardinals flitting among the trees.

Soon, Meiners knows, the silence will reach painful proportions when his eldest son, Max, 20, returns to Western Kentucky University in the fall and his younger son, Simon, 17, starts his freshman year at the University of Kentucky.

"I cried like a baby when Max rolled out of here (as a freshman) at WKU," recalled Meiners, 49. "It was torturous, but I realized what a great passage it is for a kid to roll out of his dad's driveway and into a wide open space."

Once Meiners could no longer see Max's car careening down the road, "I sat in his room and let the tears roll—and let it ride," he said.

After all, that's the way Meiners lives life, as if it were one big ride with unexpected adventures, where heartbreak is a part of the journey you've got to take in stride.

"My dad is like a *carpe diem* kind of guy," Simon said, as his brother poured milk into a bowl of cereal. "He tries to lead by example."

One of the most beneficial lessons Meiners' young men have learned from him is "preparedness—and don't ever depend on anyone," Max said.

Meiners also has taught his sons to laugh often.

The threesome share an affinity for "The Simpsons." They crack jokes, talk politics and quip easily with one another.

"I've learned from my dad to live life to the fullest," Simon said, before admitting that he's been guilty of trampling that fine line between full and full of it.

In May, Simon surprised his dad on-air by admitting that he would walk at Manual

High School's commencement ceremony later that night, but wouldn't receive his diploma because of his participation in a senior prank involving mayonnaise and condoms.

"I had to laugh to myself, but then my daddy genes kicked in right away," Meiners said. "I said, 'Well, you know we're going to have to talk about this later.'"

Simon has since received his diploma after making amends with the school, but he's also had a bit of punishment meted out by his father: He'll be without wheels for his first semester at UK.

"I'm going to introduce him to a part of his body he's never known before: his thumb," Meiners said.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, though, which is why Meiners said he's firm but fair when it comes to holding his sons accountable.

Meiners earned a bit of notoriety himself back in 1976 when he broke a water pipe in Boyd Hall at UK after swinging on a ceiling sprinkler.

"It was during finals week at Christmastime, and they couldn't shut the water off. The floor caved in, water flooded the dorm and everybody had to sleep on mats at Alumni Gym across the street," Meiners said. "I was not a hero."

The university booted Meiners out of the dorms "and that effectively ended my college career," he said. "I was already working in radio and went in to work on Monday and said, 'Well, I guess that didn't work out.'"

Meiners has made it a habit of embracing a *laissez-faire*—"let do, let go, let pass"—attitude. "I never get tired of getting up in the morning and starting over. I tell my boys all the time, 'I can't wait to see what happens next.'"

But Dad can get real serious too.

"You try coming home at 4 in the morning," Simon said.

"And he's really serious about preparing for very odd situations," Max added, which prompted a barrage of jokes about how Meiners hides flashlights and other "just in case" necessities in obscure places throughout the Anchorage home.

Still, said Max, "I admire his total passion for everything he does in life. Whatever he does, he does wholeheartedly."

That includes grieving for his mother, Norma Jean Meiners, who died on Dec. 12.

Just days after her death, Meiners was back on-air candidly sharing his loss. Fans flooded his personal Web site with well-wishes.

But his sons were concerned.

"He lost weight from stress—we were worried about him," Max said. "I know he has 13 brothers and sisters, but sometimes it's like he doesn't have anyone to talk to."

Yet, Meiners did what he somehow always seems to do: Let it ride and roll with it.

"The only thing you can do is will yourself into a positive feeling. I try to teach my kids . . . to bring a positive attitude to everything they do," Meiners said.

"I am abundantly grateful for everything we have," he said.

Meiners is also thankful for what blossomed in his life after his mother's death.

"It's given me an avenue to speak to my father (Mel) like I've never before," Meiners said. "My family and I, we've surrounded my father."

Even as they prepare to leave, Meiners' sons have surrounded their father too.

"I love my dad, and I'm thankful for everything he's done for me," Max said. "We've been through so much in the past six months, this Father's Day will be special."

Meiners agreed.

"My perfect Father's Day is not possible. I'd like to go back in time and remedy my

missteps. But we're here now, and I stand before (my sons) flawed but willing to learn," Meiners said.

"The bottom line is that more than anything, I want to make sure my sons are men of integrity. That's all that matters. And I'm happy to report they are."

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if you search the State of Nevada, you will find many elder statesmen. But you won't find any finer than Judge Lloyd D. George.

Judge George is my friend, and Nevada through and through.

Judge George moved to Las Vegas in 1933, when he was just 3 years old. His family's business was moving sand and gravel. He recalls his house as being built on two railroad lots and remembers Las Vegas at the time as a "slow city."

Las Vegas has grown a lot since 1933, and so has Lloyd George.

A graduate of Brigham Young University and University of California Berkeley Law School, he has been an institution in our State's legal community, as both a lawyer and a judge.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan nominated Judge George to the U.S. district court, and he quickly won Senate confirmation. In 1992, he became chief judge of the Nevada District, a position he held until 1997.

Today, Judge George is a retired senior U.S. district judge, but he still comes in to work every day. His continued service is a testament to Judge George's commitment to the law and the people of Nevada. All of us here recognized that commitment when we named the Las Vegas' Federal courthouse the "Lloyd D. George Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse" in the year 2000.

Mr. President, I began by calling Judge George a statesman, which is exactly what he is.

When statesmen speak, the community has an obligation to listen. Which is why I rise to submit Judge George's moving 2006 Memorial Day remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. His words paint a vivid picture of the sacrifice America's heroes made at Iwo Jima, and they remind us of our obligation to carry their memories with us today.

I ask unanimous consent that Lloyd George's remarks be printed in the RECORD.

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

MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS—IWO JIMA

(By Lloyd D. George, May 26, 2006)

Before World War II, the Island of Iwo Jima was considered tiny and insignificant. After the February 19, 1945, invasion of the island, where one hundred thousand men fought for over a month for control of an area only about a third the size of Manhattan, Iwo Jima became gargantuan in the history of warfare and heroism.

Both sides understood the strategic importance of the small island. It had two airfields, and had been used by Japanese fighters to attack American bombers on their way to targets. Americans also wanted con-

trol of the island as a base for their own aircraft.

The name Iwo Jima means Sulfur Island in Japanese. The five mile long, two mile wide island had soil of volcanic ash, soft enough to create extensive tunnels and underground fortifications for its 22,000 Japanese defenders, but too soft on the surface for the invasion forces to dig even an adequate foxhole for protection. And the 546 high Mount Suribachi at the southern end of the island provided the defenders a vantage-point from which they could lay down a withering fire onto the beach.

One of the Iwo Jima veterans we pay tribute to, Chester Foulke, recounts running back after carrying ammunition to Marine machine gunners, and falling as if he had been hit in order to stop the hail of bullets which were spraying all around him.

Another honoree, Larry Odell, credits flamethrowers, carried by Marines or in small tanks, for ultimately defeating the entrenched Japanese. The Japanese had years to construct a sixteen mile complex of reinforced tunnels connecting fifteen hundred man-made caverns. Attacks came upon the Marines from virtually anywhere, day or night, through warrens, spider holes, caves and crevices.

The ferocious nature of the battle was unrivaled. Sulfur, the namesake of the island, turns red when it melts under heat. So, too, the soil and rocks of the island were often turned red from blood as the battle raged on. Of the 70,000 Americans engaged in a battle, there were 26,000 casualties, almost 7,000 of whom were killed. Out of the 22,000 Japanese soldiers on the island, only 212 were taken prisoner. When told of the casualties during the battle, President Roosevelt visibly wrote: "It was the first time [throughout the entire war] that anyone had seen the President gasp in horror." Indeed, the Battle of Iwo Jima, which displayed the fanatic fervor of the Japanese, and the heavy casualties suffered by forces combating them, influenced the American decision to use atomic bombs to end the war.

Amid the overwhelming death and destruction at Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was common. The image of six Marines raising the American flag after taking Mount Suribachi on the fifth day of fighting stands as a symbol not only of the island and the battle, but of the entire war. Another local honoree, Parke Potter, was in one of three companies to take the mountain. He also helped improvise a makeshift flagpole by wiring together scraps of iron pipe.

Every single American who fought at Iwo Jima was valiant in preserving freedom and democracy. More medals for valor were awarded for action on Iwo Jima than in any battle in the history of the United States. The Marines were awarded eighty-four Medals of Honor in World War II. In just the month of fighting on Iwo Jima, they were awarded twenty-seven Medals of Honor. We will never forget those who descended into the depth of hell that month 61 years ago, so that we and future generations, might exist above it. And we honor those who sacrificed their futures that we might have ours.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE R.W. DYCHE III

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great leader in public service, Judge R.W. Dyche III of London, KY. Judge Dyche is retiring from the Kentucky Court of Appeals, Third Appellate District, First Division, after 20 years of honorable service. He began his legal career as a clerk for the law firm of Allen & Bledsoe, and after the firm dissolved,

he opened his own office. He accepted an appointment as a judge of the 27th Judicial District in 1978 and 8 years later was appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

Judge Dyche plans to take some time off to begin his retirement. From there he said he has a couple of possibilities lined up. I am sure his wife Jane and his sons Robert and John are looking forward to seeing more of him.

On June 12 of this year, The Sentinel Echo published an article highlighting Judge Dyche's accomplishments while in office as well as the excellence with which he carried out his job. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

[FROM THE SENTINEL ECHO]

JUDGE DYCHE RETIRING AFTER 20 YEARS

(By Carl Keith Greene)

Twenty years after his appointment and subsequent election to the Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge R.W. Dyche III will retire on June 20.

Dyche, 55, who began his career as a law clerk for Baxter Bledsoe and Larry Allen, served also as Laurel District Judge for eight years.

"I look forward to a new chapter, learning new things, learning different things, I've become even more convinced lately that when you quit learning you begin dying. I'm learning a few new things," he said in an interview Thursday.

Dyche entered the legal profession because, "It's all that ever interested me. I had a phase of electronics and electrical engineering. But starting about my freshman year in high school it's all that ever interested me."

He said the best thing about being a judge for him is "getting to see the good side of humanity. Unfortunately, along with that you also see the bad side."

He said the good side is made up of generosity, love, attorneys who go out of their way to represent their client well—sometimes at no cost—people who just want to do the right thing.

On the bad side, he has seen families who fight, or people who abuse or neglect children. He said these are the two worst scenarios.

Though it is hard to pinpoint a typical case Dyche has heard, he said in the criminal side, anymore, is a drug case, and generally, the most common grounds for claimed error is illegal search and seizure.

"Very often the drugs are found on the person or in close proximity and the only out they have is to say the search is illegal."

In civil court, "unfortunately domestic things are growing and growing and growing. It's such a good thing that we're going to get a family court here soon," he said.

Dyche estimated there are approximately 75 percent of affirmations of lower court cases and 25 percent reversals.

He said the case that stands out in his memory is from about 1988 or 1989 "where a child was taken from the mother at the hospital before she ever got the chance to show whether she could be a good mother, based on past history and predictability. I wrote an opinion reversing that saying, it could be under very close supervision but she should be given the chance."

He said he prides himself, and his staff, on being able to write opinions that litigants can understand, not written in what is called

"legalese" but written in plain English and short concise form so they can understand why they won or lost.

Dyche is a 1968 graduate of London High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from Danville's Centre College and his law degree at the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1975.

He and his wife of 27 years, Jane, also a lawyer, have two sons, Robert, 24, who is in law school and John, 13, an eight-grader at North Laurel Middle School.

In his years in the Laurel judicial system he has seen the court system grow from one circuit judge, Bob Helton; one district judge, Lewis Hopper; one trial commissioner, Dyche; and one pre-trial services officer, Fred Yaden.

Now there are two circuit judges, two district judges, at least two trial commissioners, and three or four pre-trial officers, he said. The case load has, with the county, grown so much.

"I can remember in the late 70s when Les Yaden was sheriff there was Les, Oscar Brown, Earl Bailey as deputies and Evelene Greene and Les' daughter Janie making up the entire Sheriff's office staff."

Now there are many, many who are needed.

Looking ahead, Dyche said he is going to take some time off to start out with, and is exploring, a couple of possibilities.

"I'm certainly not going to be idle," he said.

He said he has learned a few things about doing his job since he began the journey.

"I came into this at age 27 single, and early on I was having and I was lecturing a father, 'Oh you need to do this, you need to do that. Here's what you do with your son.' I was giving him down the road. The guy looked at me and said, 'Buddy, you got any children?' I said 'no.' He said 'huh.'"

He concluded, "I'm much more understanding when things don't go exactly as you planned in raising children."

"I appreciated how good everybody's been to me, the cooperation of the people, my staff, Sandy Slusher and Julie Ledford, and particularly my friend Fred Yaden. I'll be around. I won't go far."

A TRIBUTE TO DYCHE

(By Sandy Slusher, Appeals Court Judicial Secretary)

Working at the Court of Appeals has been the highlight of a career and life that I thought would never happen. I took a job years ago with the law firm of Allen & Bledsoe. Robbie Dyche was in law school and clerked at the firm. I found him a most interesting person when he was in the office.

When the firm dissolved, Robbie decided to open his own office. He asked if I would like to work for him, and I eagerly accepted. That was 30 years ago. His practice grew but he realized public service was truly his calling. In 1978 he accepted an appointment as district judge under the new judicial reform system, Eldon Keller, (the Circuit court Clerk at the time), hired me as a deputy clerk. I still was able to work with Judge Dyche, as well as Judge Lewis Hopper.

In 1986, Judge Dyche was appointed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals and asked if I would like to work as his secretary. The judge, Julie Ledford, our staff attorney, and I went to Frankfort together to be sworn in.

In Judge Dyche's office, we have formed a small family unit supporting each other through divorce, marriage, births, deaths graduations, illnesses both in the office and in extended family members. We have celebrated with each other at the happy times, and embraced and consoled each other through the heartbreaking moments. It had been so good.

Throughout Judge Dyche's tenure our office policy has been to write opinions that are concise, strictly based on law, easily understood by the average citizen as well as the judiciary, and rendered as soon as possible. Matters involving child custody always took precedent over other matters and Judge Dyche consistently would volunteer to take additional cases involving child custody in order to fast track these matters through the Court.

I have formed friendships that will endure for the remainder of my time on earth. If the opportunity presented itself, I would do it all over without a moment of hesitation!

COMMENDATION OF TIMOTHY E. LESHAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend the exemplary work of Tim Leshan, who is leaving the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health to become the director of government relations and community affairs at Brown University.

For the past 5 years, Mr. Leshan has served the National Human Genome Research Institute with great distinction. As branch chief of policy and program analysis at the Institute, he provided focus and leadership in numerous areas of public policy on genetics.

He served as the congressional liaison during the completion of the Human Genome Project and the International HapMap project, and was the Institute's planning and evaluation officer.

As liaison to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the White House, he has facilitated contacts between the director of the Institute and numerous Federal, State, and international policy makers.

Mr. Leshan has guided policy development for the Institute on issues relating to genomic medicine, intellectual property, and regulation of genetic tests. He has also facilitated the resolution of complex policy issues for all of NIH with respect to the National Library of Medicine's PubChem database, and provided technical assistance to the House and Senate appropriations committees and authorizing committees. He also had a particularly important leadership role in the development of legislation against genetic discrimination and on privacy protections for genetic information.

He has provided impressive technical advice to many of us in the Senate in drafting legislation on genetic non-discrimination and health disparities. One of Tim's major regrets as he leaves the Institute is not having seen the passage and signing of genetic non-discrimination legislation. Hopefully, action on that legislation will be completed before the end of the current session of Congress, and I am sure Tim will be there at the signing as a principal adviser for all of us on the bill.

Before joining the Institute, Mr. Leshan was the director of public policy for the American Society for Cell Biology, where he cofounded the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical

Research, and staffed the Joint Steering Committee for Public Policy. Earlier, Mr. Leshan had worked in government relations at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and also at Duke University.

Through his contributions to public policy, health, and privacy, Mr. Leshan's work has exemplified the best of government service, and the impact that such dedicated service can have for the Nation as a whole.

I extend my warmest wishes to Mr. Leshan in his new responsibilities at Brown University, and on behalf of the Congress and the country gratitude for his outstanding service to NIH, Congress, and the country.

NOT ALL GUNS ARE CREATED EQUAL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, crime statistics indicated a growing threat posed by a military-style semiautomatic assault weapons in the hands of criminals. A 1994 report by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, determined that while assault weapons made up only 1 percent of the guns in circulation in the United States at that time, they accounted for up to 8 percent of the guns used in crimes, "thus making them preferred by criminals over law-abiding citizens 8 to 1." The ATF relied on data such as this to support the establishment of a federal ban on assault weapons. Such a ban was enacted by Congress as part of the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act and was signed into law by President Clinton.

Following the enactment of the assault weapon ban, the National Institute of Justice, an agency within the Department of Justice, conducted a study that was mandated by Congress on the short-term impact of the statute. The study found that crimes involving assault weapons dropped 20 percent in the year following enactment of the law. Additional research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found deaths caused by guns dropped from 38,505 in 1994 to 29,573 in 2001.

Ten years after the assault weapons ban was passed, Los Angeles Chief of Police Bill Bratton said:

Since the assault weapons ban was passed in 1994, we have seen a 66 percent decline in the frequency of assault weapons use in crime. Violent criminals love these weapons because they give them far more firepower than conventional weapons that greatly increases their capacity to kill. We cannot allow these weapons to get back into their hands.

On May 8 of this year, two Fairfax County police officers were shot to death by an 18-year-old armed with multiple guns, including an AK-47-style assault rifle. Unfortunately, assault rifles like the one reported in this attack, as well as many other similar assault weapons, are once again being legally produced and sold as a result of

the expiration of the assault weapons ban.

In 1994, I voted to establish of the assault weapons ban and 10 years later I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting to extend the ban for another 10 years. Unfortunately, despite the overwhelming support of the law enforcement community, the ongoing threat of terrorism, and the bipartisan support in the Senate, neither the President nor the majority's congressional leadership acted to protect Americans from assault weapons like the one used in the attack on the Fairfax County police station. As a result, 19 types of previously banned military-style assault weapons are once again on the streets and in the neighborhoods of our cities and towns.

Congress must take up and pass common sense gun safety legislation to help prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.

PASSAGE OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, first and foremost, I want to thank the members of the U.S. Armed Forces for their service to our country. These servicemen and women are performing admirably under difficult circumstances all over the world. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, along with their families, are making great sacrifices in service to our country. I am pleased to support a Defense Department authorization bill that will help these people who are serving the country with such courage.

I supported a number of good provisions in the Senate bill, such as the rejection of the President's proposal to increase TRICARE enrollment fees and co-payments, increased funding for training programs for our nation's authorized Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil-Support Teams, and increased funding for nonproliferation programs. Another aspect of the bill that I strongly support is the increased funding for force protection equipment. I have heard from a number of Wisconsinites over the years that they or their deployed loved ones were fighting for their country in Iraq without the equipment they needed. This situation is unconscionable, and my colleagues and I have worked hard to address it. The additional \$950.5 million for force protection equipment, including \$559.8 million for additional up-armored humvees and \$100 million for counter-IED vehicles, in this bill above what was requested in the President's proposed budget further ensures that our troops have the equipment they need to perform their duties on the ground.

I am pleased that the Senate approved the Military Family Support Act amendment that I offered with Senator JEFFORDS. This amendment is designed to assist military families struggling with the long-term absence of a family member. Under this legisla-

tion, the Office of Personnel Management is directed to administer a pilot program authorizing Federal employees, who have been designated "caregivers" by a member of the Armed Forces, to use their earned leave time in a more flexible manner while a family member is deployed overseas. This amendment also encourages the Department of Labor to solicit private businesses to voluntarily offer more accommodating leave time to caregivers affected by these deployments.

This bill also authorizes funding for a provision I authored in last years' Department of Defense authorization bill establishing the Civilian Linguist Reserve Corps, CLRC, pilot project. It became very clear after the attacks of September 11, 2001 that the U.S. Government has a dearth of critical language skills. The 9/11 Commission report documented the disastrous consequences of this deficiency which, unfortunately, we still have not made enough progress in addressing over 4 years after the 9/11 tragedy. I am pleased that this bill included the CLRC pilot project.

I am also pleased that I was able to pass a Buy American Act reporting requirement for the Department of Defense. This reporting requirement is similar to the reporting requirement that I have worked to enact for the past 3 years through the appropriations process and requires the Department of Defense to report annually the dollar value of any items purchased that were manufactured outside of the United States; an itemized list of all applicable waivers granted with respect to such items under the Buy American Act; and a summary of the total procurement funds spent by the federal agency on goods manufactured in the United States versus on goods manufactured overseas. Additionally, the amendment requires the Department of Defense to make this report publicly available to the maximum extent possible. I will continue to work to ensure a similar permanent reporting requirement is extended to all Federal agencies.

I also authored successful amendments to the bill that require the administration to develop a comprehensive strategy for establishing stability and fighting terrorism in Somalia and to study of the feasibility of establishing an United States regional combatant command for Africa. In addition, the bill includes an important amendment I offered to strengthen the Special Inspector General for Iraq.

Unfortunately, I was not able to get other amendments of mine adopted. I filed a straightforward amendment that would have made life a little easier for our servicemembers and their families when they are called up to duty or transferred. When this happens now, servicemembers often face cellular phone early termination fees or the prospect of paying the monthly bill for a cell phone they cannot use until the end of their contract—up to 2

years. My amendment would have treated these cellular phone contracts the same way that we already treat residential and automobile leases—give the servicemember the right to terminate the contract without being charged an additional fee. Despite the support of the National Guard Association of the United States, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, and the Military Officers Association of America, I was not able to get this amendment adopted. While I was disappointed in this result, I will continue to fight to make sure that servicemembers are not financially punished for volunteering to protect this country.

I was also disappointed that another amendment of mine was not accepted that would have extended the Department of Defense's ability to purchase fruits and vegetables from local farms. My amendment would have helped both servicemembers and schools served by the Department of Defense programs and local farms and communities benefit from the programs.

I also introduced amendments to the authorization bill that mirrored a bill I introduced last year; the Veterans Enhanced Transition Services Act, VETS Act. This bill includes provisions that would help ensure that all military personnel have access to the same transition services as they prepare to leave the military to reenter civilian life, or, in the case of members of the National Guard and Reserve, as they prepare to demobilize from active duty assignments and return to their civilian lives and jobs or education while remaining in the military.

The VETS Act is supported by a wide range of groups that are dedicated to serving our men and women in uniform and veterans and their families, and I was pleased to honor this support by introducing the amendments to the Defense authorization bill. We should ensure that our troops receive the benefits to which their service in our Armed Forces has entitled them, and while these amendments were unfortunately not included in the final version of the bill, I will continue to work to see that these provisions become law.

I will also continue to fight for the redeployment of our forces in Iraq so that our country can refocus on fighting the terrorist networks that attacked us on 9/11. I offered an amendment with Senator KERRY that would have required U.S. forces in Iraq to redeploy by July 1, 2007. While the amendment failed, I was pleased to be joined by 12 of my colleagues in addressing the fact that the President's policies in Iraq are damaging our country's national security. I am glad that more and more of my colleagues are recognizing what the American people already know—that we need a plan to redeploy our troops from Iraq.

Mr. President, I must note with disappointment that this bill continues the wasteful trend of spending billions of dollars on Cold War era weapons sys-

tems while at the same time not fully funding the needs of the military personnel fighting our current wars. I also think the Senate missed some opportunities when it rejected amendments that could have made the bill better. However, on balance, this legislation contains many good provisions for our men and women in uniform and their families and that is why I supported it.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate approved the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2007. I was pleased to vote in favor of this bill. I wish to express my deepest gratitude and respect to Chairman WARNER and Ranking Member LEVIN for their tireless dedication to making sure this legislation was passed in a spirit of bipartisanship. I am honored to be part of their efforts to build a stronger, safer America.

This legislation is good for our troops, good for Colorado, and good for America.

Our troops—the men and women who selflessly defend the democratic way of life both here and abroad—deserve nothing less than our steadfast support. I was pleased that we were able to show that support in a significant way with the passage of this Defense Authorization Act.

First of all, starting at the beginning of next year, all military personnel will receive a 2.2-percent pay raise. This extra money in the pockets of our servicemembers will go a long way as they continue to simultaneously serve our country and work to provide for their own families.

Second, the Senate has sternly rejected the Pentagon's ill-conceived increase in the medical fees for retirees. This is important to our long-term commitment to provide for those who have served our country with dedication and determination.

As part of this Nation's commitment to taking care of the families of our servicemembers, this legislation also authorizes a pilot program to promote early childhood education for military children affected by the relocation of military units or overseas deployments.

For our wounded soldiers, we are enacting strong requirements to make sure they receive an audit of their pay, and setting up a toll-free call assistance center for military personnel and next of kin who are experiencing pay problems. We need to take care of our wounded veterans, and this is one small step that will go a long way in meeting that goal. Along those same lines, we are also authorizing \$10 million for pilot projects to address the growing problem of post-traumatic stress disorder.

This legislation will also strengthen our troop levels for ground forces, adding 30,000 more troops to the Army's end-strength, 5,000 more troops to the Active-Duty Marines, and 17,000 more

troops to the Army National Guard. I strongly support these provisions.

Additionally, the Defense Authorization Act supports several programs that our troops rely on to successfully complete their missions. There is money for new helicopters to replace those lost in Operation Iraqi Freedom: \$71.0 million to purchase UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, and \$333.1 million to purchase CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

There is over \$950 million for protective equipment for our fighting men and women, including over \$550 million for up-armored HMMWVs.

This legislation also provides over \$2 billion in funding for new technologies to help keep our troops protected from improvised explosive devices, IEDs. Every American knows that IEDs pose one of the most terrible threats to the safety of our servicemembers currently in Iraq. It is our responsibility to protect our fighting men and women from that evolving threat to the best of our ability.

All told, the Defense Authorization Act of fiscal year 2007 is very strong on providing for our troops, and I wholeheartedly support that effort.

In addition, Mr. President, I am proud of the significant, Colorado-specific funding in this bill that will solidify Colorado as America's crown jewel for national defense and homeland security.

Specifically, the bill designates \$130.7 million for military construction projects in Colorado. This includes \$26 million for Fort Carson to build a combat services support complex for special operating forces and another \$24 million for the next phase of construction of the airfield arrival/depart complex.

At Buckley Air Force Base, \$10.7 million is authorized for construction of the consolidated fuels facility, and another \$7 million is authorized for a new Air National Guard Squadron operations facility.

At Schriever Air Force Base, \$21 million is set aside for construction of the Space test and evaluation facility.

And finally, there is \$42 million authorized for chemical weapons demilitarization construction for Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Funds for the Base Realignment and Closure, BRAC, authorized in this legislation will bring another \$202 million to Fort Carson. There is \$118 million for the construction of a brigade combat team complex and \$84 million for the construction of a division headquarters for the 4th Infantry Division relocating from Fort Hood, TX.

I am also pleased to note that this legislation authorizes \$10 million to purchase interoperable communications equipment for NORTHCOM. Earlier in the year I added an amendment to the budget resolution to provide that \$10 million for NORTHCOM. Interoperable communications are absolutely necessary for NORTHCOM to be able to respond as quickly and effectively as possible to a homeland security emergency.

I am also extremely pleased that several amendments I offered were passed by the Senate.

My Chemical Weapons Convention amendment sends an extremely strong message to the Department of Defense that the Senate will no longer stand for schedule or funding delays regarding the destruction of chemical weapons. Pueblo Chemical Depot needs to be rid of its chemical weapons stockpiles. The Department of Defense needs to commit the resources to ensure it happens as quickly as possible. With my amendment, the entire Senate spoke with one voice in agreement.

Another amendment I offered and had included in the Senate bill will change the name of the death gratuity to fallen hero compensation. I have stated this before, but I believe the term "death gratuity" to be a poor description of the compensation this Nation provides to the families of fallen servicemembers. To my way of thinking, anyone who has worn the uniform of the Armed Forces is an American hero, and this small name change will be extremely meaningful to the bereaved families of those servicemembers who die while on active duty.

I am also pleased that Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN have worked with me to accept an amendment that requires the Secretary of the Army to complete a study on the High Altitude Aviation Training Site, HAATS, in Eagle County, CO. HAATS is operated by the Colorado National Guard, and I could not be prouder of the school and its mission. Helicopter pilots trained at HAATS are safer in mountainous and environmentally challenging terrain. This study I have proposed will strengthen the school and will help raise its level of visibility in the Army.

I also cosponsored a number of important amendments that have been included in the Senate's bill. One amendment will ensure the Pentagon provides the citizens of southeastern Colorado with the information they have been asking for regarding the Pinon Canyon Maneuvering Site. Another helps provide contractors at Pueblo Chemical Depot with incentives to finish by the deadline. On a national level, I was proud to cosponsor a fiscally responsible amendment authored by Senator MCCAIN that requires future money for ongoing military operations to be properly budgeted and paid for, instead of continuing to use emergency funding in a way that avoids oversight. And I was pleased to cosponsor a successful amendment to strengthen the mandate of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

During consideration of this bill, the Senate engaged in many hours of debate regarding the course of U.S. policy in Iraq. I was proud to be a cosponsor of the Levin-Reed amendment that built upon last year's Senate consensus that 2006 should be a year of transition in Iraq. While this amendment was not

successful, I believe that the debate was important, and that Congress must continue to search for constructive and responsible ways to help ensure success in Iraq by insisting on more direction and clarity in U.S. policy. Our brave men and women in uniform are doing such a remarkable job in Iraq. We need to work hard here in Washington to ensure that our policy is worthy of their efforts.

Our troops need every opportunity for success. This funding bill, and the amendments and projects it contains, send a powerful message to our troops and the enemies they bravely face: this country supports our men and women in uniform. Our brave service men and women are the best in the world, and this bill will ensure they have the training, supplies, and materials they need to continue to produce such positive results.

U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the policy in Iraq is not working and must change. The current plan does not have incentives that encourage the Iraqis to take full responsibility for their own security or to make the difficult compromises necessary for a unity government to work.

We have been in Iraq fighting this war for more than 3 years. The United States has sent hundreds of thousands of our finest troops to liberate Iraq from a brutal dictator. More than 2,500 have died for Iraq's freedom and close to 20,000 have been wounded, many very seriously. America has also spent more than \$300 billion fighting the war in Iraq.

Those sacrifices continue. We have about 130,000 troops in Iraq today and, regrettably, we will have more deaths and injuries before this war is over. We will also continue to spend tens, if not hundreds, of billions of dollars more in fighting this war.

I believe that we need a change and we need a change now. That change is the Levin-Reed amendment currently before us.

This amendment says that we will begin a phased redeployment of our troops by the end of 2006.

This will force the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own security and to do so soon. They will have to replace our redeployed troops with Iraqi troops. This will create incentives to build their own police and military because some time soon they will not be able to count on Americans doing those jobs. This will also encourage them to put aside their political differences and agree on a government that works.

This action will not come as a surprise to the Iraqis or anyone else. Last year, by a vote of 79 to 19, the United States Senate said 2006 "should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty, with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq, thereby creating the conditions for the phased

redeployment of United States forces from Iraq." What we are now saying is it's time for the phased redeployment to happen.

The Levin-Reed amendment that I voted for says that "the current open ended commitment of United States forces in Iraq is unsustainable and is a deterrent to the Iraqis making the political compromises and personnel and resource commitments that are needed for the stability and security of Iraq."

Reducing the U.S. role in Iraq also reduces the arguments made by the insurgents and terrorists that they are fighting an occupying army. When Iraqis are in charge of security, they will be forced to decide if they are going to continue to fight their own government and their own military or work together to rebuild their own country.

We are not pulling out or abandoning the Iraqi people. We are moving to a support role while the Iraqis take the lead. That is what phased redeployment means.

It is time for the Iraqis to work together and build their future. We cannot do that for them. This amendment sets in place a plan to provide the conditions for them to do it themselves. We have done our part. They must do their part and they must do it soon.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today marks the 34th anniversary of title IX. Since 1972, title IX has opened doors to athletics, education and success for millions of young women across our Nation. For 34 years, the program has increased participation under Republican and Democratic administrations, because title IX is not about politics it is about helping young women realize their dreams.

The statistics are amazing—millions of young women breaking down barriers. But behind these numbers, the lives of these women have been improved because of the changes brought about through title IX.

I have seen how title IX has changed the experience of women in my own family. When I went to school 30 years ago, the atmosphere was much different. Back then at Washington State University, I could only participate in a few sports, and women receiving athletic scholarships was unheard of.

The difference between my daughter's generation and my own could not be more stark. Women of my generation never had the chance to go to college on a sports scholarship, even though many deserved them. Some of my daughter's friends have done just that.

I am so proud of my home State of Washington, which is the first State in the Nation to boast two women Senators and a woman Governor. It is also home to WNBA champions the Seattle Storm.

There is no doubt that title IX has opened doors for women over the past

34 years. The challenge for all of us today is to make sure that those doors of opportunity stay open for our granddaughters and great-granddaughters.

As we celebrate the anniversary of this important law, I urge President Bush and Secretary of Education Spellings to protect existing title IX policies and give every young girl in America the chance to experience the roar of a crowd—and not just cheer from the sidelines.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

U.S. ARMY LT SHAW VAUGHN

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment of the Senate's time to remember a Coloradan who was lost to us last week in defense of this Nation.

Shaw Vaughan was a loving and supportive son and older brother, an avid hunter and fly fisherman. One of his most prized possessions was his 1969 Jeepster Commando, an off-roading vehicle he had personally rebuilt, affectionately named Hercules. Hercules sits quiet today, its red finish gleaming undimmed in the mountain sun.

U.S. Army LT John Shaw Vaughan, of Edwards, in Eagle County in my State of Colorado, was killed on June 7 in Mosul, Iraq. Lieutenant Vaughan was a young man with his entire life before him: He was a mere 23 years old, and had been in Iraq only a month.

As a middle school student, Shaw Vaughan caught the eye of our military leaders for his regional science fair project: comparing the accuracy of store-bought ammunition with that assembled by him. He graduated Battle Mountain High School in 2001 and attended the prestigious Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. Upon graduation, Lieutenant Vaughan was 1 of only 70 cadets, out of 5,000, to receive a much-sought-after assignment in military intelligence in the infantry. It was a high honor, reflecting his intellect, work ethic, and commitment to our Nation.

Lieutenant Vaughan was stationed in Alaska, a part of our country he had visited with his family years earlier. I guess you could say that Alaska had "hooked" the fisherman in Lieutenant Vaughan, and he was looking forward to his service there after he completed his time in Iraq.

Lieutenant Vaughan was eager to get to Iraq, to serve with his unit. In his e-mails and phone calls back home, Lieutenant Vaughan spoke of how strongly he felt about America's mission in Iraq. He told stories of Iraqi families leading him into their homes, telling him horror stories of their families' sufferings under the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein.

As one newspaper in my home State observed, it seems that every story about Shaw Vaughan was different, and yet, the same: "one of a great guy and a courageous man lost too soon."

In Act III of William Shakespeare's classic Henry V, King Henry says with

pride, "As I am a soldier, A name that in my thoughts becomes me best."

I will think of this today as I bow my head in prayer for the loss of Lieutenant Vaughan, a life of such great promise that was snuffed out too soon. LT Shaw Vaughn took pride in his life as a soldier, and it is truly a name that, in all of our thoughts, becomes him best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILLER, SD

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of Miller, SD. Miller is the county seat of Hand County, and a center of commerce and civic-mindedness. I am proud to recognize Miller on this historic occasion.

The site for the town was selected by Henry Miller in 1881 as he came north from Benton County, IA. An immigrant train was secured from Chicago that brought 22 men to the site. The men drew lots for claims and formed the town plat on a 40-acre area. Shortly a grocery store, hardware store, hotel, and lumber yard were established. A metropolitan hall was also built in order to hold public meetings, dances, and other social events.

Miller is still a thriving community, with two high schools, a public library, Hand County Memorial Hospital, the Miller Press weekly newspaper, many civic organizations, numerous churches, and a variety of stores.

The people of Miller will be celebrating the quasiquicentennial June 30 through July 4. Some of the scheduled events include a stage performance of "\$400, 40 Acres and Fortitude: The Making of Miller," school reunions, softball, a parade, fireworks, and community potluck. These activities will serve to bring this close-knit community even closer together.

I am proud to publicly honor the progressive and innovative community of Miller on this important milestone. Even 125 years after its founding, Miller continues to be a vibrant addition to our wonderful State, and I once again congratulate them on this achievement.●

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF BALTIC, SD

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the city of Baltic, SD.

Baltic was founded in 1881 by Richard Franklin and Justin Pettigrew. Baltic, originally named St. Olaf, came into being when the Milwaukee Railroad laid down track between Dell Rapids and Sioux Falls. A weigh station was established on the current site of Baltic. This development was quickly followed by the construction of the power dam and the St. Olaf Roller Mill, the latter being the work of the town's

founders, Franklin and Pettigrew. The flour mill was located on the Big Sioux River and used water as its main source of power, producing 120 barrels of flour each day. In 1884, a bridge was built between Sverdrup and Dell Rapids townships over the Big Sioux River. In 1890, the first school house was built and the first church, Baltic Lutheran, was constructed in 1903. In 1907 three lamp posts were purchased in order to light the city streets. Baltic had several population booms, one in early 1900 and another in the 1970s.

Baltic's placement on the Big Sioux River has brought people to the community and increased the town's commercial importance. Today, Baltic is a progressive community of about 900 citizens. They have many thriving businesses including a post office, co-op, seed company, bank, and the Baltic Beacon newspaper. Baltic is also home to the Baltic High School Bulldogs.

Baltic will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on July 1 through July 4 with a number of events, including a community block party.

Even 125 years after its founding, Baltic still exemplifies what it means to be a great South Dakota community. I am proud to publicly honor Baltic on this memorable occasion, and congratulate the people of Baltic on their achievements.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4890. An act to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority.

H.R. 5638. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000 and to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 409) commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 5638. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000 and to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on Finance:

Report to accompany S. 3525, a bill to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve outcomes for children in families affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction, to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-269).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DEWINE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3561. A bill to amend the Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act to improve restitution for victims of crime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 3562. A bill to allocate a portion of the revenue derived from lease sales in the 181 Area to the land and water conservation fund for use by State and local governments for conservation purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 3563. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies to determine the feasibility and environmental impact of rehabilitating the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works and the Milk River Project, to authorize the rehabilitation and improvement of the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works, to develop an emergency response plan for use in the case of catastrophic failure of the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 3564. A bill to provide for comprehensive border security and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 520. A resolution to authorize the production of records, testimony, and legal representation; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 707

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 707, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the pres-

entation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1687

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1687, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

S. 3548

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3548, a bill to authorize appropriate action if negotiations with Japan to allow the resumption of United States beef exports are not successful, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 89

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 89, a concurrent resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the historic congressional charter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DEWINE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3561. A bill to amend the Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act to improve restitution for victims of crime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today I am joined by Senators GRASSLEY, DURBIN, DEWINE and COLLINS in introducing legislation called the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act of 2006. This legislation will give Justice Department officials the tools they say are needed to help them do a better job of collecting court-ordered restitution and other federal criminal debt.

Over the past several years, the Government Accountability Office conducted at my request and the request of others a study of the amount of federal criminal debt owed victims and the reasons why much of it is still uncollected. The GAO's findings revealed what many victims already know, that the current system for collecting restitution and other federal criminal debt is failing those it is intended to help.

Let me describe what criminal debt is. You go to court. Someone is convicted of a crime, and a fine is levied. The question is, Is that fine being paid? Or you go to court and the judge assigns guilt to a defendant and says: You must make restitution. So that becomes a debt.

The problem is that the amount of uncollected restitution and other federal criminal debt has spiraled upward while the percentage of that debt ultimately recovered for crime victims has plummeted. The amount of uncollected federal criminal debt skyrocketed from \$6 billion in 1996 to over \$41 billion by the end of fiscal year 2005. That's a nearly sevenfold increase in uncollected criminal debt owed to the victims of federal crimes. Some \$15 million in criminal debt ordered by federal courts in North Dakota remained uncollected at the end of 2005, according to information from the Justice Department.

The percentage of debt that is collected or recovered for crime victims in the form of restitution has fallen to embarrassingly low levels. According to the GAO, Federal criminal justice officials collected an average of just 4 cents on every dollar that has been ordered in restitution and other criminal debt. This is restitution ordered by the courts to be paid to crime victims from those who perpetrated the crime.

The victims of crime deserve better. At the very least, crime victims should not be concerned that their prospects for financial restitution are being diminished because criminal offenders are frittering away their ill-gotten gains on lavish lifestyles and the like.

There is plenty of blame to go around for our failure to aggressively tackle this criminal debt problem. Some of the Nation's top law enforcement officials did not pursue a number of major recommendations made by the GAO in 2001 and again in 2004 and 2005 to boost our embarrassingly low criminal debt collection rate. These officials only started to take this matter seriously after I added language to an omnibus spending bill that required the Attorney General to establish a joint federal task force to develop a strategic plan for improving federal criminal debt collection. Second, Congress has not yet held extensive hearings about the federal government's recent track record on criminal debt collection and the related GAO reports.

I understand that criminal debt collection can be a tough job. It may be impossible to collect the full amount of restitution owed to victims in some cases. Clearly criminal debt collections may be more difficult in cases where convicted criminals are in prison, ill-gotten gains are already gone or these criminals are without any other financial means to pay their full restitution. However, GAO's work also made clear that more financial assets could be recovered.

Let me tell you why I and my colleagues have introduced this legislation. I had the GAO review a number of

white-collar financial fraud cases and report what is happening with respect to these cases.

I will cite some examples.

One offender, someone who was judged to be guilty criminally in the Federal court system, and his immediate family owned and resided at property that was worth millions of dollars. Yet he was not making the full restitution that had been ordered by the court to the victim.

Two offenders in Federal court cases who were ordered to make restitution to victims took overseas trips while on supervised release but had not made restitution to the victims.

One offender and his family established trusts, foundations, and corporations for their assets about the same time that they closed many of their bank and brokerage accounts and had not paid restitution to the victims of their crime.

Over the course of several years, one offender converted to personal use hundreds of millions of dollars obtained through illegal white-collar business schemes.

Several years prior to one judgment, one offender's minor child, who is now an adult, was given the offender's entire company. As of the completion of the GAO's work, that company had employed the offender. Restitution still had not been paid to the victim.

One offender and his family rented a very lavishly furnished residence—which they had previously owned—from a relative. The offender still had not made restitution he was ordered to pay.

Again, unpaid restitution and other criminal debt has gone from \$6 billion to \$41 billion over the last decade. We think that is an outrage. We have worked with the Justice Department as a result of the three GAO reports, and because of that, we have put together a bipartisan piece of legislation. The legislation is comprised of the comprehensive package of recommendations by the Justice Department that stem in large part from the work of the Task Force on Improving the Collection of Criminal Debt. Justice Department officials believe these changes will remove many of the current impediments to better debt collection.

For example, Justice Department officials described a circumstance where they were prevented by a court from accessing \$400,000 held in a criminal offender's 401(k) plan to pay a \$4 million restitution debt to a victim because that court said the defendant was complying with a \$250 minimum monthly payment plan and that payment schedule precluded any other enforcement actions. Our bill would remove impediments like this in the future.

This legislation will also address a major problem identified by the GAO for officials in charge of criminal debt collection; that is, many years can pass between the date a crime occurs and the date a court orders restitution. This gives criminal defendants ample

opportunity to spend or hide their ill-gotten gains. Our bill sets up pre-conviction procedures for preserving assets for victims' restitution. These tools will help ensure that financial assets traceable to a crime are available when a court imposes a final restitution order on behalf of a victim. These tools are similar to those already used by Federal officials in some asset forfeiture cases and upheld by the courts.

Our bill has the support of the administration, and the support of many victims organizations.

I have a long list of them: The National Center for Victims of Crime, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, National Organization for Victims Assistance—all of these organizations support the legislation we are introducing today—the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., Justice Solutions, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators. The list is rather substantial. It also includes U.S. Attorney Drew Wrigley in Fargo, ND, who said this legislation "represents important progress toward ensuring that victims of crime are one step closer to being made whole."

That is the basis on which we introduce this legislation. Among other things, our bill would clarify that court-ordered Federal criminal restitution is due immediately in full upon imposition, just like in civil cases and that any payment schedule ordered by a court is only a minimum obligation of a convicted offender. It would allow Federal prosecutors to access financial information about a defendant in the possession of the U.S. Probation Office—without the need for a court order. This legislation would also clarify that final restitution orders can be enforced by criminal justice officials through the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program. Our bill would help ensure better recovery of restitution by requiring a court to enter a pre-conviction restraining order or injunction, require a satisfactory performance bond, or take other action necessary to preserve property that is traceable to the commission of a charged offense or to preserve other nonexempt assets if the court determines that it is in the interest of justice to do so. In addition, this legislation would clarify that a victim's attorney fees may be included in restitution orders, including cases where such fees are a foreseeable result from the commission of the crime, are incurred to help recover lost property or expended by a victim to defend against third party lawsuits resulting from the defendant's crime. It would also allow courts in their discretion to order immediate restitution to those that have suffered economic losses or serious bodily injury or death as the result of environmental felonies. Under current law, courts can impose restitution in such cases as a condition of probation or supervised release but this means

that many victims of environment crimes must wait for years to be compensated for their losses, if at all.

Let me make a couple of final points. First, while this legislation reflects the entire set of recommendations from the Justice Department to improve Federal criminal debt collection, it may not include every possible improvement to the current system. For instance, the GAO has suggested making willful failure to pay court-ordered restitution a criminal offense. This is already the case for criminal defendants who willfully fail to pay a court-ordered fine. It is my hope the Senate Judiciary Committee will consider this and any other helpful improvements when it reviews this legislation.

In summary, Senator GRASSLEY and myself and others believe that it is outrageous that unpaid criminal debt ordered by Federal courts to be paid by criminals now exceeds \$40 billion. That is wrong and it ought to be dealt with. Our legislation will do so in a thoughtful, bipartisan way. It is legislation that is supported by the administration and by Republicans and Democrats who have joined in this legislation.

With the Justice Department's help, we can make criminal debt collection a top priority once again. That is good news for the criminal justice system and great news for crime victims.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 3563. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies to determine the feasibility and environmental impact of rehabilitating the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works and the Milk River Project, to authorize the rehabilitation and improvement of the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works, to develop an emergency response plan for use in the case of catastrophic failure of the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I am introducing the St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works and Milk River Project Act of 2006. In 1903, Secretary of Interior Hitchcock authorized construction of the Milk River Project as one of the first five reclamation projects under the new reclamation service. Two years later, construction was authorized for the St. Mary Diversion Facilities. Completed in 1915, the Milk River Project and the St. Mary Diversion Facilities have been in operation for nearly 100 years with minimum repairs and improvements.

The Milk River Project and the accompanying St. Mary Diversion Facilities are known as the Lifeline of the Hi-Line. The St. Mary and Milk River basins are home to approximately 70,000 people with a meager per capita income of approximately \$19,500. Most of these people depend—directly or indirectly—on the project and would be

dramatically impacted by its failure and the loss of water.

The Milk River is the backbone of the region's agricultural economy. It provides water to irrigate over 110,000 acres on approximately 660 farms. This project provides municipal water to approximately 14,000 people. Fisheries, recreation, tourism, water quality, and wildlife are all impacted by the water flow.

But now the St. Mary Diversion Facilities and the Milk River Project are facing catastrophic failure. The steel siphons have leaks and slope stability problems. Landslides along the canal and the deteriorated condition of the structure make the project an unreliable water source.

As authorized in 1903, the Milk River Project is operated as a single-use irrigation project. Since completion, nearly 100 percent of the cost to operate and maintain the diversion infrastructure has been borne by irrigators. The average annual O & M cost from 1998 to 2003 was \$420,000, of which irrigators were responsible for 98 percent. In addition, irrigators are responsible for reimbursing reclamation for the initial construction costs of the diversion facilities. Maintenance costs have increased with the accelerating deterioration of the aging facilities.

In 2003, the St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group was formed to address the pressing needs of the system. This broad coalition of interests came together to find workable solutions. This legislation is a result of their efforts and dedication.

The St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works and Milk River Project Act of 2006 will provide a feasible and comprehensive approach to rehabilitating the aging and deteriorating infrastructure while still meeting the needs of the folks in Montana. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to move this important piece of legislation forward.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 3564. A bill to provide for comprehensive border security and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that I believe offers us an opportunity to move forward in the immigration debate. My bill takes a first-things-first approach. It is imperative that we secure our borders now. This first step cannot—and should not have to—wait for a “comprehensive” solution. Once we secure our borders, we can look at all of the other illegal immigration related issues that remain. There is a bipartisan consensus on what needs to be done on border security and the provisions that make up this consensus were included with other more controversial elements in S. 2611—the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006. While the other body is holding hearings on the “comprehensive” part of that bill,

we should not hold our border security hostage.

My bill will significantly increase the assets available for controlling our borders. It provides more inspectors, more marshals, and more border patrol agents on both the northern and southern borders. It provides new aerial vehicles and virtual fencing—camera, sensors, satellite and radar coverage, et cetera. It increases our surveillance assets and their deployment, and provides for new checkpoints and ports of entry. It includes Senator SESSIONS' amendment for greater fencing along our southern border, including 370 miles of triple-layered fencing and 500 miles of vehicle barriers. It also provides for the acquisition of more helicopters, powerboats, motor vehicles, portable computers, radio communications, hand-held global positioning devices, night vision equipment, body armor, weapons, and detention space.

While we know these resources will be critical improvements, it does not just throw resources at the problem. My bill requires a comprehensive national strategy for border security, surveillance, ports of entry, information exchange between agencies, increasing the capacity to train border patrol agents and combating human smuggling. It enhances initiatives on biometric data, secure communications for border patrol agents, and document fraud detection. It includes Senator ENSIGN's amendment to temporarily deploy the National Guard to support the border patrol in securing our southern land border. Additionally, it increases punishment for the construction of border tunnels or passages.

When our borders are not secure, it is our cities and counties are on the frontlines, particularly those closest to the borders. Unfortunately, the negative impacts of illegal immigration are not limited to our border towns. Recently I worked with communities in Southeastern Pennsylvania—Allentown, Easton, Bethlehem, Reading and Lancaster—as well as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Pat Meehan, to get one of the six recent Anti-Gang Initiative grants given by the Department of Justice. This area, called the Route 222 Corridor, was the only nonmetropolitan area to receive one of the \$2.5 million grants to combat growing criminal activity in part because of illegal immigrants. However, I raise this issue here because U.S. Attorney Meehan's letter explains this issue very succinctly. He stated “[e]ach city is seeing extensive Latino relocation to its poorer neighborhoods and housing projects. Once largely Puerto Rican, the minority populations are increasingly from Central America. Simultaneously, Mexican workers migrate to the agricultural areas around Lancaster, creating a southern link to criminal networks. The urban core is therefore transient, poor, non-English speaking and often undocumented . . . In this fertile environment, the Latin Kings,

Bloods, NETA and lately MS-13, are recruiting or fighting with local gangs for control of the drug markets. Violence is a daily byproduct.”

My bill provides relief for cities, counties and States dealing with increased costs because of illegal immigration—specifically those caused by the criminal acts of illegal immigrants. There are four programs included in my bill to address these issues. First, there are grants to law enforcement agencies within 100 miles of the Canadian or Mexican borders or such agencies where there is a lack of security and a rise in criminal activity because of the lack of border security, including a preference for communities with less than 50,000 people. Second, local governments can be reimbursed for costs associated with processing criminal illegal aliens such as indigent defense, criminal prosecution, translators and court costs. Third, State and local law enforcement agencies can be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the detention and transportation of an illegal alien to Federal custody. Finally, reimbursements are available for costs incurred in prosecuting criminal cases that were federally-initiated but where the Federal entity declined to prosecute. In addition, my bill requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide sufficient transportation and officers to take illegal aliens apprehended by State and local law enforcement officers into custody for processing at a detention facility operated by the Department, and that the Secretary designate at least one Federal, State, or local facility in each State as the central facility to transfer custody to the Department of Homeland Security.

This bill also expedites the removal of criminal aliens from correctional facilities and expands border security programs through the Department of Commerce such as the Carrier Initiative, the Americas Counter Smuggling Initiative, the Container Security Initiative, and the Free and Secure Trade Initiative.

Throughout the debate on immigration reform, I have consistently stated that the first thing we must do is secure our Nation's borders. While the House and Senate are working to come to an agreement on the broader issues in the immigration bill, I am pleased to be introducing the Border Security First Act today with my colleague from Georgia, Senator ISAKSON, and my colleague from Missouri, Senator TALENT, because our borders must be secured now—not later. In the post 9/11 world we live in, our national security depends on our border security. We need to know who is coming into our country, where they are from, and what they are doing here. We must put first things first—we must secure our Nation's borders. I hope that my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing the urgency of addressing this issue without delay.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 520—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS, TESTIMONY, AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas, the United States Department of Justice is conducting an investigation into improper activities by lobbyists and related matters;

Whereas, the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration have received specific requests from the Department of Justice for records that may be relevant for use in the investigation;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration are authorized to provide to the U.S. Department of Justice the specific documents that have been requested by the Department of Justice to date for use in legal and investigatory proceedings, and to provide related testimony from their staffs, if necessary, except where a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent employees of the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration in connection with the document production and testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4542. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BIDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2370, to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4542. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BIDEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2370, to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

(a) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to support a peaceful, two-state solution to end the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in accordance with the Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (commonly referred to as the “Roadmap”);

(2) to oppose those organizations, individuals, and countries that support terrorism and violently reject a two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

(3) to promote the rule of law, democracy, the cessation of terrorism and incitement, and good governance in institutions and territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority; and

(4) to urge members of the international community to avoid contact with and refrain from supporting the terrorist organization Hamas until it agrees to recognize Israel, renounce violence, disarm, and accept prior agreements, including the Roadmap.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 1 of part III of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2351 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 620G (as added by section 149 of Public Law 104-164 (110 Stat. 1436)) as section 620J; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 620K. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

“(a) LIMITATION.—Assistance may be provided under this Act to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority only during a period for which a certification described in subsection (b) is in effect.

“(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certification described in subsection (a) is a certification transmitted by the President to Congress that contains a determination of the President that—

“(1) no ministry, agency, or instrumentality of the Palestinian Authority is effectively controlled by Hamas, unless the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority has—

“(A) publicly acknowledged the Jewish state of Israel’s right to exist; and

“(B) committed itself and is adhering to all previous agreements and understandings with the United States Government, with the Government of Israel, and with the international community, including agreements and understandings pursuant to the Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (commonly referred to as the ‘Roadmap’); and

“(2) the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority has made demonstrable progress toward—

“(A) completing the process of purging from its security services individuals with ties to terrorism;

“(B) dismantling all terrorist infrastructure within its jurisdiction, confiscating unauthorized weapons, arresting and bringing terrorists to justice, destroying unauthorized arms factories, thwarting and preempting terrorist attacks, and fully cooperating with Israel’s security services;

“(C) halting all anti-American and anti-Israel incitement in Palestinian Authority-controlled electronic and print media and in schools, mosques, and other institutions it controls, and replacing educational materials, including textbooks, with materials that promote peace, tolerance, and coexistence with Israel;

“(D) ensuring democracy, the rule of law, and an independent judiciary, and adopting other reforms such as ensuring transparent and accountable governance; and

“(E) ensuring the financial transparency and accountability of all government ministries and operations.

“(c) RECERTIFICATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the President transmits to Congress an initial certification under subsection (b), and every six months thereafter—

“(1) the President shall transmit to Congress a recertification that the conditions described in subsection (b) are continuing to be met; or

“(2) if the President is unable to make such a recertification, the President shall transmit to Congress a report that contains the reasons therefor.

“(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Assistance made available under this Act to the Palestinian Authority may not be provided until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice thereof to the appropriate congressional committees in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under section 634A(a) of this Act.

“(e) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the President may waive subsection (a) with respect to—

“(A) the administrative and personal security costs of the Office of the President of the Palestinian Authority;

“(B) the activities of the President of the Palestinian Authority to fulfill his or her duties as President, including to maintain control of the management and security of border crossings, to foster the Middle East peace process, and to promote democracy and the rule of law; and

“(C) assistance for the judiciary branch of the Palestinian Authority and other entities.

“(2) CERTIFICATION.—The President may only exercise the waiver authority under paragraph (1) after—

“(A) consulting with, and submitting a written policy justification to, the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(B) certifying to the appropriate congressional committees that—

“(i) it is in the national security interest of the United States to provide assistance otherwise prohibited under subsection (a); and

“(ii) the individual or entity for which assistance is proposed to be provided is not a member of, or effectively controlled by (as the case may be), Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 10 days after exercising the waiver authority under paragraph (1), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing how the funds provided pursuant to such waiver will be spent and detailing the accounting procedures that are in place to ensure proper oversight and accountability.

“(4) TREATMENT OF CERTIFICATION AS NOTIFICATION OF PROGRAM CHANGE.—For purposes of this subsection, the certification required under paragraph (2)(B) shall be deemed to be a notification under section 634A and shall be considered in accordance with the procedures applicable to notifications submitted pursuant to that section.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘foreign terrorist organization’

means an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)).

“(3) PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.—The term ‘Palestinian Authority’ means the interim Palestinian administrative organization that governs part of the West Bank and all of the Gaza Strip (or any successor Palestinian governing entity), including the Palestinian Legislative Council.”.

(c) PREVIOUSLY OBLIGATED FUNDS.—The provisions of section 620K of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as added by subsection (b), shall be applicable to the unexpended balances of funds obligated prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 1 of part III of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2351 et seq.), as amended by section 2(b)(2), is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 620L. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

“(a) LIMITATION.—Assistance may be provided under this Act to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank and Gaza only during a period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) is in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

“(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the following:

“(1) ASSISTANCE TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.—Assistance to meet food, water, medicine, health, or sanitation needs, or other assistance to meet basic human needs.

“(2) ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY.—Assistance to promote democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, non-violence, reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence, provided that such assistance does not directly benefit Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

“(3) ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—Assistance, other than funding of salaries or salary supplements, to individual members of the Palestinian Legislative Council who the President determines are not members of Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization, for the purposes of facilitating the attendance of such members in programs for the development of institutions of democratic governance, including enhancing the transparent and accountable operations of such institutions, and providing support for the Middle East peace process.

“(4) OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Any other type of assistance if the President—

“(A) determines that the provision of such assistance is in the national security interest of the United States; and

“(B) not less than 30 days prior to the obligation of amounts for the provision of such assistance—

“(i) consults with the appropriate congressional committees regarding the specific programs, projects, and activities to be carried out using such assistance; and

“(ii) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written memorandum that contains the determination of the President under subparagraph (A).

“(c) MARKING REQUIREMENT.—Assistance provided under this Act to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank and Gaza shall be marked as assistance from the American people or the United States Government unless the Secretary of State or, as appropriate, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, determines that such marking will endanger the lives or safety of persons delivering such assistance or would have an ad-

verse effect on the implementation of that assistance.

“(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Assistance made available under this Act to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank and Gaza may not be provided until 15 days after the date on which the President has provided notice thereof to the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under section 634A(a) of this Act.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

“(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘foreign terrorist organization’ means an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)).”.

(b) OVERSIGHT AND RELATED REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) OVERSIGHT.—For each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008, the Secretary of State shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days prior to the initial obligation of amounts for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 that procedures have been established to ensure that the Comptroller General of the United States will have access to appropriate United States financial information in order to review the use of such assistance.

(2) VETTING.—Prior to any obligation of amounts for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the Secretary of State shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that such assistance is not provided to or through any individual or entity that the Secretary knows, or has reason to believe, advocates, plans, sponsors, engages in, or has engaged in, terrorist activity. The Secretary shall, as appropriate, establish procedures specifying the steps to be taken in carrying out this paragraph and shall terminate assistance to any individual or entity that the Secretary has determined advocates, plans, sponsors, or engages in terrorist activity.

(3) PROHIBITION.—No amounts made available for fiscal year 2007 or 2008 for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 may be made available for the purpose of recognizing or otherwise honoring individuals who commit, or have committed, acts of terrorism.

(4) AUDITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that Federal or non-Federal audits of all contractors and grantees, and significant subcontractors and subgrantees, that receive amounts for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 are conducted for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 to ensure, among other things, compliance with this subsection.

(B) AUDITS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF USAID.—Of the amounts available for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank or Gaza under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, up to \$1,000,000 for each such fiscal year may be used by the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development for audits, inspections, and other activities in furtherance of the requirements of subparagraph (A). Such amounts are in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AS TERRORIST SANCTUARY.

It is the sense of Congress that, during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority, the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority should be deemed to be in use as a sanctuary for terrorists or terrorist organizations for purposes of section 6(j)(5) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(5)) and section 140 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f).

SEC. 5. DENIAL OF VISAS FOR OFFICIALS OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a visa should not be issued to any alien who is an official of, under the control of, or serving as a representative of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The restriction under subsection (a) should not apply to—

(1) the President of the Palestinian Authority and his or her personal representatives, provided that the President and his or her personal representatives are not affiliated with Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization; and

(2) members of the Palestinian Legislative Council who are not members of Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

SEC. 6. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION STATIONED AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (b), the President should restrict the travel of officials and representatives of the Palestinian Authority and of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who are stationed at the United Nations in New York City to a 25-mile radius of the United Nations headquarters building during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The travel restrictions described in subsection (a) should not apply to the President of the Palestinian Authority and his or her personal representatives, provided that the President and his or her personal representatives are not affiliated with Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.

SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful to establish or maintain an office, headquarters, premises, or other facilities or establishments within the jurisdiction of the

United States at the behest or direction of, or with funds provided by, the Palestinian Authority during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

(1) **ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall take the necessary steps and institute the necessary legal action to effectuate the policies and provisions of subsection (a).

(2) **RELIEF.**—Any district court of the United States for a district in which a violation of subsection (a) occurs shall have authority, upon petition of relief by the Attorney General, to grant injunctive and such other equitable relief as it shall deem necessary to enforce the provisions of subsection (a).

(c) **WAIVER.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the President determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the establishment or maintenance of an office, headquarters, premises, or other facilities is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

SEC. 8. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—The President should direct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to prohibit assistance to the Palestinian Authority (other than assistance described under subsection (b)) during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The prohibition on assistance described in subsection (a) should not apply with respect to the following types of assistance:

(1) Assistance to meet food, water, medicine, or sanitation needs, or other assistance to meet basic human needs.

(2) Assistance to promote democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, non-violence, reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence, provided that such assistance does not directly benefit Hamas or other foreign terrorist organizations.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “international financial institution” has the meaning given the term in section 1701(c)(2) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(2)).

SEC. 9. DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIAN TERROR ORGANIZATIONS.

No funds authorized or available to the Department of State may be used for or by any officer or employee of the United States Government to negotiate with members or official representatives of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, or any other Palestinian terrorist organization (except in emergency or humanitarian situations), unless and until such organization—

(1) recognizes Israel’s right to exist;

(2) renounces the use of terrorism;

(3) dismantles the infrastructure in areas within its jurisdiction necessary to carry out terrorist acts, including the disarming of militias and the elimination of all instruments of terror; and

(4) recognizes and accepts all previous agreements and understandings between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

SEC. 10. ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DEMOCRACY FUND.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment

of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a fund to be known as the “Israeli-Palestinian Peace, Reconciliation and Democracy Fund” (in this section referred to as the “Fund”). The purpose of the Fund shall be to support, primarily, through Palestinian and Israeli organizations, the promotion of democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, and non-violence among Palestinians, and peaceful coexistence and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for so long as the Fund remains in existence, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on programs sponsored and proposed to be sponsored by the Fund.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 for purposes of the Fund.

SEC. 11. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the steps that have been taken by the United States Government to ensure that other countries and international organizations, including multilateral development banks, do not provide direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority for any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority; and

(2) identifies any countries and international organizations, including multilateral development banks, that are providing direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority during such a period, and describes the nature and amount of such assistance.

SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) **PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.**—The term “Palestinian Authority” has the meaning given the term in section 620K(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, June 23, 2006, at 1 p.m. to hold a closed briefing on State Department/Defense Department Cooperation Overseas.

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

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

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

SECOND HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5603 which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5603) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5603) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 520, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 520) to authorize the production of records, testimony, and legal representation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 520) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 520

Whereas, the United States Department of Justice is conducting an investigation into improper activities by lobbyists and related matters;

Whereas, the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration have received specific requests from the Department of Justice for records that may be relevant for use in the investigation;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration are authorized to provide to the U.S. Department of Justice the specific documents that have been requested by the Department of Justice to date for use in legal and investigatory proceedings, and to provide related testimony from their staffs, if necessary, except where a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent employees of the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration in connection with the document production and testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

THE SAFE AND TIMELY INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF FOSTER CHILDREN ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5403, the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5403) to improve protections for children and to hold States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to speak on passage of the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act. This legislation seeks to expedite the interstate placement of foster children into the safe and nurturing families they so desperately need and deserve. In doing so, it encourages and provides incentives to States to help expedite the completion of home studies, which are all too often the cause or delays in interstate placement cases.

Nationwide, there are currently over 500,000 children in foster care, and more than 2,500 in my home State of Arkansas. On trips back home and in meetings with my constituents, I have listened to the many heartbreaking tales of children who continue to suffer needlessly because of barriers to their timely placement. While a recent increase in the number of adoptions has allowed many of these children to spend less time in foster care homes, an unacceptably large number still encounter barriers that delay their timely placement. This is particularly the situation for children placed across State lines. In fact, recent reports indicate that interstate placements take an average of one year longer than placements within a State.

The situation is unacceptable, and I am grateful that we are addressing this issue by taking a step forward. Al-

though we are taking that step here today, we must also recognize that we are improving a process, not fixing it. In cooperation with our State child welfare agencies and State court systems, we need to continue working to finish the task before us by carefully evaluating improvements that result from passage of this legislation and looking at other ways Federal and State agencies can work together in the future to make interstate placements work even better.

We must work together to provide both better guidelines for the process of gaining approval for sending children across State lines while allowing States the much-needed flexibility to cater them to their specific circumstances. We must work together to find a way to set deadlines that expedite the processing of home studies yet does not set unrealistic timelines on our States. We must work together to find better ways to ensure more efficiency in the process while also taking each State's circumstances under consideration.

In short, we must continue working together to ensure that no more of our children are unnecessarily stuck in foster homes because of bureaucratic inefficiencies, unnecessary delays, and red tape. We can do better by these children. The opportunity to grow up in a nurturing, loving, and stable family is something that none of us should take for granted. It is our duty in this Congress to ensure that these children are not denied this opportunity, but given timely placement with the home and the family that each and every one of them deserve.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5403) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this bill, H.R. 5403, the adoption bill, is a bill that is aimed at improving protection for children. It holds States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines.

I am gratified we have passed this bill today to help our children who are in foster care. Finding permanent and loving homes for foster care children is the first order of a compassionate society. Far too often, these children bounce from one temporary situation to another and then to another, never finding a permanent loving family.

The bill we passed just a few moments ago speeds their placement by making interstate placements easier, particularly with extended family. I, in particular, commend the former majority leader of the House, Tom DeLay, for his passionate crusade for at-risk children. A foster parent himself, Tom has worked tirelessly on adoption and

foster care issues during his long service in the House of Representatives.

It is a fitting tribute to Tom DeLay's service that the House passed this bill on his last day in office. And I am gratified we just passed it a few moments ago.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 5638

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5638) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000 and to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2370, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2370) to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to applaud my colleagues for passing S. 2370, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006.

My friend, the senior Senator from Delaware, Mr. BIDEN, and I cosponsored this legislation. We were joined in our efforts by Senators FRIST, REID of Nevada, DEMINT, MIKULSKI, MARTINEZ, NELSON of Florida, HAGEL, NELSON of Nebraska, DEWINE, TALENT, ALLEN, BURNS, BOXER, BUNNING, KERRY, SALAZAR, LIEBERMAN and THUNE; all of whom are original cosponsors of this bill.

I particularly thank my colleague, the senior Senator from Indiana, Mr. LUGAR, for his leadership on this issue. He has been instrumental in fashioning language on the important question of how the United States addresses the challenges posed by the new Hamas-dominated government in the West Bank and Gaza.

The elections of January 25 in the West Bank and Gaza produced the frightening result of a majority of Hamas supporters in the Palestinian parliament. Since that time, Hamas has demonstrated its continued unwillingness to accept Israel's right to exist and to accept the prior commitments made by the Palestinian Authority. It has also failed to renounce terror. That is antithetical to our security interests in the Middle East and it is clearly unacceptable to this Senate.

Our bill would do the following: it would restrict assistance to the Palestinian Authority, PA, unless the Hamas-led PA has publicly acknowledged Israel's right to exist, has recommitted itself to all its prior agreements with Israel, has made progress toward dismantling terrorist infrastructure, and has instituted fiscal transparency. This bill would essentially deny visas to certain PA officials and restrict their travel to the United States. It also limits diplomatic interaction with Palestinian terrorist groups. Finally, this bill contains rigorous audit and oversight requirements to ensure compliance with its provisions.

In short, this legislation urges the current Palestinian Government to take another step toward joining the community of peaceful nations and to step away from the ranks of terrorism.

Let me also tell you what this bill does not do. It does not cut off assistance to the Palestinian people with respect to food, water, medicine, sanitation, and other basic human needs. Thus, humanitarian assistance that does not go through the Hamas-led PA will continue. Moreover, funding for democracy programs will also be continued.

Both Senator BIDEN and I appreciate the need not to punish the Palestinian people for actions their government may take. Our concern is with terrorism and with terrorists and in providing Hamas the proper incentives to embrace peace and to abandon the proterror stance they have taken up until now. As Prime Minister Olmert said this week before a joint session of Congress: such legislation "sends a firm, clear message that the United States of America will not tolerate terrorism in any form."

Democracy is about more than just elections, it is also about responsible, accountable governance. The Palestinian elections a few months back reflect this fact. International observers indicate that the elections were essentially free and fair—which in and of itself is certainly a good thing. I strongly support democratic elections. That said, any right-minded person deplores the result of those elections that placed a proterror party at the helm of parliament.

A key part of democratic governance is that elected officials are responsible for the actions they take. If Hamas persists in sponsoring terror, rejecting Israel's right to exist and refusing to accept prior commitments made to

Israel, then they should be held accountable for their actions, and be prepared to forfeit the prior foreign aid investments in the West Bank and Gaza paid for by American taxpayers. The PA's budget is dependent in large part by foreign assistance, and Hamas has been put on notice by the United States and many in the donor community about the steps it must take in order to receive assistance in the future.

Foreign assistance is not an entitlement. It is not a free lunch. Foreign aid is an act of generosity from the American people to other nations, and it should be conducted in furtherance of U.S. interests and those of our allies. It must not be given to organizations that actively work against those interests. Hamas, as it now stands, is just such an organization.

The ball is squarely in Hamas's court. It can either work for the good of its citizens as an accountable democratic government should, or it can continue to act as a terrorist organization to the profound detriment of its citizens and the prospects for peace in the region.

I close by recognizing the hard work of staff on this legislation. In particular, I thank Bob Lester, Brian McKeon, Puneet Talwar, Paul Clayman, and Brian Lewis.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I support the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006, of which I am the lead cosponsor.

The political rise of Hamas presents us with a difficult policy challenge. None of us want to see a penny of American taxpayer money going to a Hamas-led government that refuses to meet the basic demands not just of the United States, but of the international community, including the so-called Quartet of the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations. Those demands are that Hamas recognize Israel, renounce violence, and accept past agreements.

At the same time, the situation in the Palestinian Territories is an explosive one, with potentially disastrous consequences for the Palestinian people, Israel and the entire region. Tensions between Fatah and Hamas militias have been escalating in recent weeks. 165,000 Palestinian Authority employees have not been paid in months. Avoiding a genuine humanitarian crisis and a descent into a Palestinian civil war will require diplomatic flexibility and sustained American engagement.

In this sensitive environment, my friend from Kentucky and I have tried to find the right balance between isolating Hamas, while simultaneously not doing anything to harm the Palestinian people. So let me say a few words to clarify what our bill does—and does not—do.

First, it sends a clear message: the United States will provide no direct assistance to a Hamas-led government unless it meets the three conditions—acknowledging Israel's right to exist,

renouncing violence and accepting past agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. We must not retreat from insisting that these three conditions be met.

The bill affirms support for a two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, something that Hamas rejects. The bill also requires the administration to report on steps it is taking to urge other nations to refrain from providing financial assistance to Hamas. In addition, it places restrictions on diplomatic contacts with, and movements by, representatives of Hamas.

But in dealing with Hamas, it is important that we keep our strategic objectives clear. While our intention is to pressure Hamas to accept the same terms that bound previous Palestinian governments, it is not in the interest of either the United States or Israel to be seen as punishing the Palestinian people. It is critically important that in pressuring Hamas we make it clear to the Palestinian people that it is Hamas that is failing them, not the international community. We must maintain the moral high ground.

That is why our bill allows for assistance to continue to support the basic needs of the Palestinian people. It permits assistance to the Palestinians, through non-governmental organizations, for things such as food, water, health, medicine, and sanitation, as well as for democracy promotion, human rights, and education.

It also recognizes the important distinction between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas—who has committed to the Road Map and a negotiated two-state solution—and Hamas, by incorporating exemptions to support Abbas in fulfilling his duties as President.

Lastly, our bill creates an Israeli-Palestinian Peace, Reconciliation and Democracy Fund to support organizations that are trying to build bridges between the two societies through the promotion of democracy, civil society development and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

My friend from Kentucky and I have been able to make important changes to address the most significant issues raised by the administration and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. These include broadening the President's waiver authority as well as narrowing the focus of the bill to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority. I look forward to continuing to work with the administration as the bill moves forward.

Mr. President, Hamas has a decision to make. It must respond to international demands and, even more important, be responsive to the Palestinian public which voted for reform, but not poverty, international isolation and a government that can't pay its own bills or keep the lights on. If Hamas ultimately proves unable to provide for its own people, it won't be

because of the restrictions in this legislation. It will be because Hamas is either unable or unwilling to make rational policy decisions over destructive terror and xenophobic ideology.

Simply put, Hamas must choose between bullets and ballots, between destructive terror and constructive governance. It cannot have it both ways. The legislation I have sponsored with my colleague, the senior Senator from Kentucky, is an attempt to clarify the choices for Hamas and to make clear our rejection of a group that is committed to terror.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the McConnell amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 4542) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill (S. 2370) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to make a brief comment on the legislation. I congratulate my colleague, Senator McCONNELL, for leading on this amendment as the primary sponsor of the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006.

Although all our colleagues have had the opportunity to review and express their support for this act, very briefly, I would like to at least comment on a couple of things that it does that are very important to the United States and our international relations.

The bill itself states that it shall be U.S. policy "to support a peaceful, two-state solution to end the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in accordance with the Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. . . ."

It also promotes democracy and the cessation of terrorism and incitement in institutions and territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority and urges members of the international community to avoid contact with and refrain from financially supporting the terrorist organization Hamas until it agrees to recognize Israel, renounce violence, disarm, and accept prior agreements, including the roadmap.

This is a very important piece of legislation, one that has been led by Senator McCONNELL. I know he has made several comments and has comments in the RECORD on this important bill.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 26. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the

morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 4 p.m., with the time equally divided between the leaders or their designees. I further ask that at 4 p.m., the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the flag antidesecration resolution, as under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Monday, the Senate will begin consideration of the flag resolution. There will be no votes during Monday's session, but Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to speak. The next rollcall vote will occur on Tuesday, and Members should plan their schedules accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2 P.M. MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:40 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 26, 2006, at 2 p.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR.
XIAODONG WANG

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Xiaodong Wang, of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, for being awarded the \$1 million Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine.

Dr. Wang, 43, will receive the international award in September from the Hong Kong-based Shaw Prize Foundation. A professor of biochemistry, Dr. Wang will receive the award for his discovery of the biochemical basis of programmed cell death which is a vital process that balances cell birth and prevents cancer. His scientific breakthrough marks a turning point in the history of medicine and will indeed benefit the lives of millions around the world.

The Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine is presented annually and sometimes referred to as the "Nobel Prize of the East," is awarded to those who have achieved significant breakthroughs in scientific research and applications. Dr. Wang has discovered mechanisms responsible for programmed cell death. As a doctor, I am honored to know that great scientific research continues and the heart of such work is being conducted at UT Southwestern.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Xiaodong Wang for his outstanding leadership. He is an excellent scientist who has greatly benefited his fellow man, and I hope that his research will act as a catalyst for others to strive for excellent and great achievements.

HONORING JACK WEATHERFORD
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jack Weatherford for his extraordinary service to the Smyrna/Rutherford County Airport Authority. Mr. Weatherford served on the task force that established the airport authority, and after many years of outstanding work, he is now retiring.

Today, I honor Mr. Weatherford for his achievements in Rutherford County's aviation industry, but his success has not been limited to that field. For 40 years, Mr. Weatherford led Mid-South Bank and Trust, which later merged with Sun Trust Banks. He served as President of the Tennessee Bankers Association, and in 1986, he was honored with the establishment of the Jack O. Weatherford Chair of Finance at Middle Tennessee State University.

A resident of my hometown of Murfreesboro, TN, Mr. Weatherford has been

instrumental in Smyrna Airport's success. Under his leadership, the airport added ten new buildings and hangars and developed a 400 acre business park that included new infrastructure, a business center and a new terminal.

Smyrna Airport now is the State's third largest airport and its busiest general aviation airport.

During Mr. Weatherford's 14 years as Chairman of the airport authority, the airport received many accolades, including the Governor's Silver Star Award and the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Best Governing Body and Airport of the Year awards.

While the airport's growth has kept him busy, Mr. Weatherford has found time to remain active in the community. He helped found the Main Street Association and Leadership Rutherford, and he has been active with the Chamber of Commerce, MTSU Foundation and Rotary Club.

Mr. Weatherford's leadership has served Rutherford County well and will make it a better place for years to come.

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED
STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE
GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this resolution because the process under which it is being considered is deeply flawed and unfair to those with legitimate opposing points of view. There are Members in this chamber who want to offer specific plans on Iraq and they have the right to have these proposals debated and voted on.

This entire debate is a sham, Mr. Speaker. This resolution was brought to the floor to help Republicans win in November, not to help our country win the war in Iraq. Make no mistake about it; it is very important for this House to formally acknowledge our support for our troops, especially when they are in harm's way, fighting a difficult and protracted war. But this resolution is not a show of support. It is a political tool with little substance. In fact, the only provision of substance is the third Resolved clause which "declares that it is not in the national security interest of the United States to set an arbitrary date for the withdrawal or redeployment of United States Armed Forces from Iraq." I happen to agree that we should not set a public deadline for withdrawal. I don't think it makes sense strategically and, even worse, I think it puts our commanders on the ground at a disadvantage because it provides the resistance with a clear target of how long they need to hold out. If we withdraw our troops prematurely, we run the risk of the young Iraqi government folding and the vacuum being filled by a government friendly to terrorists.

This debate should have been about alternatives. That is a primary function of Congress. To debate our country's most important issues. I can think of no issue more important than whether we succeed or fail in Iraq. Rather than add to the vast amount of rhetoric being tossed around by both sides, I would like to present what I think needs to be done for us to succeed in Iraq. First, we must dramatically improve our intelligence operations. To be sure, the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is a great accomplishment by our brave military in Iraq. But successes such as this one are too rare because most Iraqi civilians still do not feel secure enough to turn over valuable intelligence to American or Iraqi government officials. We desperately need an intelligence alliance in order to provide troops with the information they need to get the job done in Iraq.

The second thing we must do to succeed in Iraq is step up the training and readiness of the Iraqi Security Forces. Congress continues to fail in its oversight of Iraqi Security Force readiness. Because it is so difficult to get a straight and consistent answer out of the Administration regarding the readiness of Iraqi Security Forces, it is virtually impossible to determine when we will be able to begin bringing American troops home. As of this week, the Administration tells us there are 264,600 "trained and equipped" Iraqi Security Forces. Unfortunately the definition of "trained and equipped" has been elusive or not clear enough to replace American troops with Iraqi or international troops. I believe that for every fully trained Iraqi soldier, one American soldier should come home. Clearly, this isn't happening.

The third thing we must do to succeed in Iraq is to continue our support of the democratically elected Iraqi government. A strong Iraqi government will be able to provide incentives to its people to help quell the violence. This support cannot be merely military support. It must be comprehensive and include the full range of services of a functioning government. Iraq's leaders face a monumental task. Quelling the violence will not be enough to send them on the path to success. Make no mistake about it; their success is closely linked to whether our mission in Iraq will be considered a success.

In closing, I would like to comment on the Whereas clause in this resolution that states that it is "the steadfast resolve of the United States and its partners since September 11, 2001, helped persuade the government of Libya to surrender its weapons of mass destruction." Libya made the right decision to abandon its WMD programs. Our resolve in the Global War on Terror convinced Libya that the cost was too high to continue to pursue WMD. However, before this decision Libya was a primary state sponsor of terror. It now must honor its commitments to the victims of that terror, including the families of the victims of Pan Am 103. In taking responsibility for the bombing of Pan Am 103—an attack which took the lives of 189 Americans—Libya agreed

• 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.

to pay compensation to the families of those who died. While 80 percent of that agreement has been fulfilled, the remaining 20 percent was held back by Libya as long as it remained on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism. They have now been removed from that list, and must now follow through on their agreements.

Libya has renounced its weapons of mass destruction and declared its intention to be a responsible member of the community of nations. It should now make good on the remainder of its promises to the families of victims of its terrorism. With these steps, Libya will be an example of a country that has not only changed its course but has recognized its responsibility for past acts. Until it completes this journey fully and completely, doubts will remain about the nature of this regime. These doubts will be impediments to its progress as a full actor in diplomatic exchanges with the world. The United States will watch Libya's actions as well as its words. This vigilance will ensure that we will prevail in the Global War on Terror.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote no on this resolution. I hope that the next time we have a debate on Iraq, it will be substantive and offer solutions. As a coequal branch of government responsible for the welfare of our courageous men and women in uniform, we should settle for no less.

IN HONOR OF FRANK BARROW,
MAYOR OF DENTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Barrow for his admirable devotion to his family, friends, and his community. Mr. Barrow died at the age of 83; he was a model citizen to the City of Denton. He left in his wake a loving and adoring family.

Frank Barrows lived in Denton, TX, for 71 years. During his life, Frank was a successful businessman, a leader in his church and served his community as the Mayor of Denton. He helped craft the Denton which I know and love today.

One of the richest gifts Mr. Barrows left was the Denton Community Theater. Helping found the theater, and serving the organization for 30 years, Frank brought a rich culture to the neighborhood. His legacy in the theater and commerce will be remembered.

It was my pleasure to serve Frank Barrows. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May the example of this man, who enriched the lives of those around him, be inspiration to all who seek their dreams to serve their family and fellow man.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILLY
WALKER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Billy Walker, a star on the

stage of the Grand Ole Opry. A resident of Hendersonville, TN, Billy, his wife, Bettie, and two of his band members passed away late last month in a tragic car accident.

Before he found fame at the Opry, Billy honed his musical skills in his home state of Texas. Growing up, he drew his greatest inspiration from Gene Autry's music. And in 1947, he launched his own career.

Seven years later, Billy landed his first hit with "Thank You for Calling." Just six years later, he found his greatest success when he joined the Grand Ole Opry, playing alongside his wife. His single "Charlie's Shoes" hit No. 1 on the charts in 1962.

While he found fame in the Volunteer State, his Texas roots were always honored by his nickname, "The Tall Texan."

For more than 40 years, Billy continued performing at the Opry and on countless other stages. "The Tall Texan" lived an inspirational and admirable life. I know he will be deeply missed by his family, his friends and his fans.

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED
STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE
GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, although the recent death of Zarqawi did not end terrorism in Iraq, it delivered a devastating blow to the al Qaeda network. Since June 4th coalition and Iraqi forces have killed 11 other leaders of the organization.

As progress continues in Iraq, a critical debate continues throughout the halls of Congress. We cannot afford to abandon our mission simply because certain politicians believe that waving a white flag of surrender will magically deliver peace. While a timeline for withdrawal might be politically popular, it is not a strategy for victory.

As Senate Democrats attempt to gain support for their latest proposal of retreat and defeat in Iraq, U.S. troops and Iraqi Security Forces remain committed to fighting terrorists who threaten the lives of American and Iraqi citizens.

Republicans will continue to support policies that enable these brave troops to complete their mission protecting American families.

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

IN HONOR OF L.A. NELSON,
MAYOR OF DENTON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of L.A. Nelson for his admirable devotion to his family, friends, and his community. Mr. Nelson died at the age of 80; he was a model citizen to the City of Denton. He left in his wake a loving and adoring family.

Mr. Nelson was born in Hugo, OK. He served in the Navy during World War II. After

the war, he went to Denton to attend college. Soon, Mr. Nelson became one of the city's leading lawyers and served on the City Council from 1966–1970 before being elected to mayor in 1969.

L.A. Nelson is best remembered for his dedication to the City of Denton. He was president of the Denton Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Flow Memorial Hospital. He was instrumental in the construction of a new City Hall and the creation of Ray Roberts Lake.

It has been my honor to serve Mr. L.A. Nelson. His tenure as the Mayor of Denton impressed me greatly, and today, I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May the example of this man, who enriched the lives of those around him, be an inspiration to all who seek their dreams to serve their family and fellow man.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CHARLES
M. CHAMBERS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the extraordinary and diverse career and accomplishments of Dr. Charles M. Chambers. I extend my congratulations on his recent appointment as chancellor of Lawrence Technological University, and I recognize his dedication to education throughout Michigan and the world.

Dr. Chambers has already left an indelible mark on Lawrence Tech through his thirteen years as President, a trend that will certainly continue under his direction as chancellor of the University. Under his leadership, Lawrence Tech has set a number of records and has achieved national recognition as an institution dedicated to innovative and effective methods of education, often setting the standard to which other universities strive. Among the many accomplishments Lawrence Tech has made under Dr. Chambers' Presidency is its status as Michigan's first wireless laptop campus, contributing to Lawrence Tech's recognition as one of the top fifty unwired campuses in the country.

Throughout his service to Lawrence Tech, Dr. Chambers has demonstrated his dedication to the enhancement and expansion of education through the dramatic transformation of Lawrence Tech's campus, the enormous increase in student scholarships and community outreach, and the expansion of academic programs offered at Lawrence Tech, including its first doctoral programs. Additionally, Dr. Chambers has overseen the creation of learning centers and higher education partnerships worldwide.

Dr. Charles M. Chambers has served Lawrence Technological University and the State of Michigan with honor and pride throughout the duration of his career with the University. I congratulate him on his recent appointment, which is a direct result of his continued dedication to education and to the success of Lawrence Technological University.

HONORING ASHLEY PHILIPS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ashley Philips, a young woman of enormous potential whose life was tragically cut much too short this past weekend.

Ashley Philips was a vibrant and ambitious young woman who seemed destined for success in whatever path she chose. She was an excellent student, having earned honors and achieved a superior grade point average at Tarpon Springs High in my hometown, where she participated in the veterinary program. She was a good athlete and ran track at school.

Ashley also was dedicated to her community. She volunteered to help local senior citizens, worked at an area day care, and interned in the city clerk's office in Oldsmar, FL, in my congressional district. She also was the granddaughter of two of my closest friends, Oldsmar Mayor Jerry Beverland and his wife, Wanda, and was to serve as my congressional page this summer. I know they and Ashley's mother, Hope, and brother, Austin, were proud of what she had already accomplished, and looked forward to all that was to come for this remarkable young woman.

Ashley also had daring dreams and lofty goals. She wanted to do so many things, including becoming a veterinarian, lawyer, photographer, and a writer. She no doubt would have achieved all that she had hoped. Her grandfather expressed how everyone feels, noting that she "was a brilliant girl with a brilliant future, snatched away in the blink of an eye."

Mr. Speaker, I grieve for Ashley's family and friends. They are really the only ones who can truly understand how special she was and know how greatly she will be missed. Her friends and family and those with whom she came into contact would surely agree that the world is a much better place for having had her in it, no matter however briefly. I pray that her memory, and the knowledge that she will live in eternal peace, will comfort those who cared for her in this time of great sadness and sorrow.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MANUEL
"MANNY" CORTEZ**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manuel Cortez for his outstanding service and memorable impact on the city of Las Vegas. Manuel passed away on Sunday, June 18, 2006 at the age of 67.

Manny, a resident of Las Vegas since 1944, was instrumental in making the city one of the world's top vacation destinations. When Manny took over the Convention Authority, Las Vegas had 73,730 hotel and motel rooms and two major convention centers, including the then-new Sands Exposition and Convention Center, which opened its first phase in late 1990. Las Vegas hosted approximately

21.3 million visitors in 1991, an early stage of what became an unprecedented era of local growth following The Mirage's 1989 debut. By the time that boom halted in summer 2000, Las Vegas had added multiple world-class resorts, including Bellagio, Mandalay Bay and The Venetian. Today, the city today boasts 129,475 rooms and three of the nation's largest convention centers.

In the period following the terrorist attacks of September 2001 and the subsequent U.S. economic slowdown, Manny oversaw a highly flexible marketing strategy that helped Las Vegas recover more quickly than many competing destinations. Part of Manny's advertising campaign included the forever popular tag line, "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas."

On May 5, 2004, Manny resigned as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, a position he held for 13 years.

Manny served four terms as a Clark County Commissioner, beginning in 1976. He also served on the governing board of the University Medical Center, as well as the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Metropolitan Police Department fiscal affairs boards. He was honored in 1999 by having a local elementary school named for him, and was also named Travel Agent Magazine's United States Person of the Year.

The most important part of Manny's life was his family. He leaves behind his loving wife of 45 years, Joanna Cortez; daughters, Cynthia Musgrove and her husband, Dan, and Catherine Cortez Masto and her husband, Paul; grandson, Andrew Musgrove; granddaughter, Christina Musgrove; mother, Mary Cortez; sister, Patricia Snider; aunt, Mary Tapia; and numerous nieces, nephews and in-laws. He was preceded in death by his father, Edward C. Cortez.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Manny Cortez on the floor of the House. He was a good friend who served the residents and guests of Las Vegas with honor, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHILDREN'S
MUSICAL THEATER OF SAN JOSE**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and commend the Children's Musical Theater of San Jose, CMT, for winning a National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, grant award. The Children's Musical Theater of San Jose was the only theater company in California—and the only children's theater nationwide—to receive the prestigious American Masterpieces Grant.

The Children's Musical Theater of San Jose trains and educates today's youth so that they will become the artists, patrons, and leaders of tomorrow. CMT combines a commitment to casting all auditioners with the professionalism of a premier children's theater. A vital ingredient to their success has been the leadership and vision of Artistic Director Kevin R. Hauge. Mr. Hauge is as interested in the development of his actors as he is in the production of theater; he continually works to augment the

interpersonal skills and self-confidence of the children while creating immensely popular performances.

I am proud to recognize the Children's Musical Theater for its great success in theater and in the development of its talented young actors. CMT is a deserving recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces Grant. Artistic and creative innovation is part of what makes America a vibrant society, and I commend the Children's Musical Theater for their contribution to San Jose and our Nation's cultural wealth.

TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF
PEOTONE, IL**HON. JERRY WELLER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Peotone which is celebrating its 150th birthday. The Village of Peotone lies wholly within the 11th Congressional District in Illinois.

In 1856, the Illinois Central Railroad was completed. Land not held by the railroad was to be occupied by settlers. Thus, the Village of Peotone saw its first residents. Two years later the population of the town was 125 people and the first school began to teach classes in 1860. In 1869, you could find dirt streets, several homes and a few businesses. The first Village Board was also formed in 1869.

In 1871, Frederick Rathje and Christoph Eling agreed to construct a windmill to grind the grain from area farmers. In 1872, Frederick's son, H.A. Rathje built the Peotone Windmill. When the mill came into production it provided a variety of grain products such as fine wheat flour, rye, buckwheat flour, and cornmeal. The mill was also a primary source of feed for the local livestock industry. In 1982, Henry's grandson donated the mill and the land upon which it stands to the Village of Peotone. The H.A. Rathje is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Village of Peotone continued to grow and prosper. Many new businesses such as a photo gallery, an opera house, and blacksmith shop opened for business. Today, Peotone is a thriving community with over 3,385 residents and over 60 businesses located within the Village. The Village boasts the tranquility of a country life-style where the streets are wide, curbed and shaded with ancient trees of all varieties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize other communities in their own districts which can be shown as an example of living the American dream.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JERRY
HATTER**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life, service and example of Pastor Jerry Hatter. Pastor Hatter has found his home and place of service at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, in Ypsilanti, MI.

Born in Haynesville, LA, on July 17, 1945, Pastor Hatter found his calling early in life through the care and love of his aunt and uncle. Baptized at the age of nine, Jerry began his service as a Sunday school teacher and later as an assistant financial secretary for the Mt. Obie C.M.E. Church in Homer, LA. His skills in finance led him to Grambling State University, where he earned an accounting degree in 1968.

Pastor Hatter continued his education as he moved to the Detroit area, earning an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit in 1976, his State of Michigan Real Estate Broker license in 1982 and passing his C.P.A. examination in 1984. The commitment Pastor Hatter has for education has only been surpassed by his religious strength and his service to others in his community.

In 1972, Pastor Hatter joined Oak Grove A.M.E. Church in Detroit, serving that church community for 19 years as a Trustee, member of the male choir and Minister of Business and Finance. Pastor Hatter received his call to serve as a minister in 1986 and was ordained in 1989 at the St. Stephen A.M.E. Church in Detroit. He served as an Associate Minister at Oak Grove Church until 1991.

In August of 1991, Pastor Hatter began his service at Brown Chapel. In the 15 years he has served the congregation and community, Pastor Hatter has established several outreach ministries, opened a child care center, set up the Brown Chapel Foundation public charity and was elected Pastor of the Year by the Michigan Conference Lay Organization in 1995. Along with these great works, Pastor Hatter is also a mentor for the Village Initiative to foster reduction and prevention of youth incarceration, a Chairman of the Fourth District Commission on Evangelism, as well as the president of both the Mid-Michigan A.M.E. Churches Fellowship and the Michigan Conference Minister's Protective League.

Throughout his life, Pastor Jerry Hatter has served others in his community. He has worked hard to put his faith into action, serving as an example of what it means to be a leader and a teacher. I honor Pastor Hatter for his tremendous achievements and his true dedication to his fellow man.

RECOGNIZING PARTICIPANTS IN THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize three outstanding National Spelling Bee participants from my district: Andy Wade, 14, from Putnam County, WV, James Cook, 13, from Martinsburg, WV and Jonathan Nicklin Allen, 13, from Romney, WV.

2006 marked the 78th annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. This event was created by the Louisville Courier-Journal in 1925 with only nine contestants; today it has grown to 274. The National Spelling Bee is sponsored by Scripps Howard, Inc. and is held each year to help students broaden their vocabularies, improve their spelling, and develop correct English usage that will help them throughout their lives. This is the largest and longest running competition to promote education.

Sponsored by the Charleston Gazette, Andy Wade, an eighth grader at Winfield Middle School, advanced to the third round. He has now competed in five spelling bees. James Cook is also an eighth-grader and attends Charles Town Middle School. Sponsored by The Journal in Martinsburg, he advanced to the third round. Jonathan Nicklin Allen, an eighth grader at Romney Middle school, was sponsored by the Hampshire Review in Romney and advanced to the second round.

RECOGNIZING BOBBY AND NILIE SNIDER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today—the 50th wedding anniversary of Bobby and Nilie Snider. This event will take place on July 14, 2006, but the Snider Family is celebrating the event on June 25, 2006.

Bobby Joe Snider was born on February 6, 1938 in Weaver, AL, to Herman and Gertice Snider. His wife, Nilie Finley Snider, was born on May 7, 1938, in Cedar Springs, AL, to Claude and Nile Finley. Mr. and Mrs. Snider were married on July 14, 1956 at Weaver Methodist Church. Together they raised three children, and Nilie went on to work in retail after the children were grown. Bobby retired from Liberty National as an insurance agent. They have two sons, one son-in-law, one daughter, two daughters-in-law, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Bobby and Nilie are active members of Weaver Baptist Church in Weaver, AL where Bobby has served as a Deacon. On June 25, 2006, a reception will be held in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. I salute this lovely couple on the 50th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COURAGEOUS VETERAN ROBERT BROWN OF PLYMOUTH, MN

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of the Greatest Generation who recently passed away.

Minnesota lost a true hero in Robert Brown of Plymouth, MN, of the 3rd Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, Bob was a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps. His education at Columbia University was interrupted by World War II. He eagerly enlisted in the Marines and proudly served his nation during World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam.

Bob retired from the military in 1967 and began a career with Rockwell International that sent him on other missions to promote freedom and economic opportunity all over the world, including Iran and South Korea.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Brown was one of our nation's best and brightest. And the legacy of his

courage will live on forever in the hearts of freedom-loving people everywhere.

Lt. Colonel Brown earned many decorations during his 23 years of service to his country: the American Campaign Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation, the WWII Victory Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Bernidine Brown, Bob's wife of 58 years, as well as sons Michael (Barbara), Stephen (Laurie) and Mark, and grandsons Jacob, Kyle and Travis.

A grateful nation joins them in their mourning and thanks Bob for his courageous service to his country and the cause of freedom.

HONORING JOHN RADER ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions John Rader has made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. John has been a wonderful addition to the office and has performed many great services for the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

While my staff and I will certainly miss John's help and enthusiastic attitude, John is returning home to Cookeville. This fall, he will begin his junior year at the University of Tennessee, where he is studying political science and history and is president of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

During his internship, John won over the entire staff with his eagerness and easygoing attitude. Not only has he endeared himself to us as he assisted with countless projects, but he also has endeared himself to countless visitors from Middle Tennessee.

John's family is one I know well, and I consider many members of the previous two generations to be good friends. His family has made many great contributions to their community and state, and I am sure John will continue that legacy.

I hope John has enjoyed his internship and his stay in our Nation's Capital as much as my staff and I have enjoyed having him here. I wish him all the best in the future.

HONORING MARJORIE JOY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Marjorie Joy of Oak Lawn, IL, principal of Lee School, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career in education.

Dr. Marjorie Joy is a dynamic influence in the West Lawn community. She has been a leader in the community since she came to Lee School as a seventh grade teacher in 1975. She would later become an eighth

grade teacher, assistant principal, and then principal in 1984. From that time on she concentrated on developing and expanding academic and extra-curricular programs at Lee. Her dedication and enthusiasm have made Lee School a cornerstone of the community.

In Dr. Joy's time as principal, the school and community have undergone many changes. Throughout these years, the philosophy of Lee School has remained constant: that all actions and decisions are made based on the best interests of the children. Dr. Joy's leadership is the catalyst bringing together faculty, staff, parents and community to develop and implement programs and policies designed to meet the diverse needs of the children. In addition, Dr. Joy continually promotes respect, acceptance and appreciation of all persons associated with the Lee School community.

As the population of Lee School became more culturally diverse, Dr. Joy encouraged the faculty to pursue ESL and ELL certification. In order to promote a greater understanding of the different cultures now represented in the Lee School population, several Cultural Diversity Celebrations have been held. Additionally, Lee School is part of the International CPS. CPS Scholars is an advanced curriculum stressing internationalism, integrated curriculum, and world language. It is the vision that students of this program will become fluent in more than one language and skilled in the use of modern technology to become life-long learners.

For her years of dedication and service Dr. Joy has deservedly received numerous awards. These awards include the Distinguished Service Award Aquin Guild, the Whitman Award for Excellence in Educational Management, Principal of Excellence Award, Leadership in Improving Student Outcome, and many others.

Dr. Joy has consistently been driven by the desire to serve her community and improve the lives of the children and families who have attended the schools where she has taught and been an administrator. It is with great appreciation that I thank Dr. Joy for her dedicated work and wish her continued health and good luck as she travels the next path in her career.

TRIBUTE TO SAN MARCOS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the San Marcos Manufacturers' Association (SMMA) on its' twenty-five years of community service and economic development.

The San Marcos Manufacturers' Association was formed on October 11th, 1981 to provide a forum for local industry to communicate common needs, problems and objectives. The association is made up of local member companies including: Goodrich; Butler; CenturyTel; CFAN; Chatteff Controls; Gulf Business Forms, Inc.; Hadco/Genlyte Thomas; Mensor Corporation; Parkview Metal Products Inc.;

Stellar; T.B. Woods; TXI Hunter Cement; Thermon; WideLite Genlyte Thomas; Heldenfels Enterprises, Inc.; Ember Industries, Inc.; Pavestone Company; Grande Communications; and HEB Distribution Center. Associate members include: San Marcos Chamber of Commerce; Economic Development San Marcos; Texas State Department of Technology; McCoy College of Business; Gary Job Corps Community; Central Texas Medical Center; City Manager; Hays CISD; and San Marcos CISD.

The San Marcos Manufacturers' Association is well-known for its close ties to the community by working closely with several educational institutions such as the Texas State University at San Marcos, San Marcos CISD, Hays ISD, and with local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, the city of San Antonio, TX Workforce Centers, Economic Development San Marcos. Seven annual scholarships are provided by the San Marcos Manufacturers' Association to graduates of Gary Job Corps, San Marcos High School, and two scholarships for Texas State University.

One excellent example of the great community involvement by the San Marcos Manufacturers' Association is found in its contributions to the United Way of Hays County. Many members of the association serve on boards of various community and civic organizations, and are committed to Economic Development of San Marcos, and work as a team to improve the working conditions, environment and quality of life for new and existing industries.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the leadership of San Marcos Manufacturers' Association in community service and economic development for San Marcos and the surrounding communities

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year, ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take a moment to discuss the important work being done at the National Defense University to help ensure that our military continues to harness innovation in Information Technologies (IT) to improve our national defense capabilities. During the past decade, the Department of Defense (DoD) has taken enormous strides in harnessing IT to support major combat operations. We've seen this in the development and fielding of key systems to support precise position location and timing, such as Global Position Systems, as well as precise weapons delivery and communications systems. The effect of these systems on our major combat operations has been profound, increasing the speed, efficiency, and precision of our operations, while minimizing loss of life and resources, as we have seen in coalition

operations in Afghanistan and the invasion of Iraq. These IT-enabled military capabilities are extraordinary, and the U.S. needs to maintain them, explore ways to expand them, and ensure our future ability to benefit from such innovations.

It is important to appreciate that the information technology that underlies these extraordinary capabilities is largely commercially driven. Thus, although the U.S. has so far been able to exploit this capability effectively, it is an advantage that may be easily lost and regained only with great difficulty. If the U.S. is to continue to exploit commercial IT effectively, it must implement processes to identify promising technologies early in their lifecycle to ensure that they include the features required by the DoD. In addition, mechanisms must be instituted that facilitate the introduction of these key technologies into DoD systems.

Over the last several years, Congress has supplied a critical activity at the National Defense University (NDU) to ensure that the DoD retains and enhances the ability to identify and exploit innovative commercial IT. A small group at the Center for Technology and National Security Policy (CTNSP) has performed in excess of forty analyses, workshops, and conferences that have characterized the nature of the problem, identified key shortfalls, and proposed innovative recommendations. At the request of Congress, CTNSP has recently prepared and submitted a report that documents the key findings and recommendations of their work.

It is particularly notable that the efforts of this program have had significant visibility and impact in the DoD. As an example, the IT program at NDU has provided various studies and recommendations to the highest levels of the military, including the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and combatant commanders at the U.S. European Command and Joint Forces Command. These NDU products have had a very positive impact on efforts to enhance the early injection of commercial IT into key DoD policies and procedures.

Currently this NDU program is extending this work into additional critical areas. For example, they are exploring options to enhance the injection of IT into stabilization and reconstruction operations. One member of the NDU IT program has just returned from Afghanistan where he was conducting a detailed study of the impact that communications technology can have on our Nation's success there. The program has also been pursuing ways to adapt technologies currently used by the Chicago Police Department to make them relevant to our counterinsurgency efforts in Iraq. In yet another critical area, the group is in the process of developing a framework to assess the impact of enhancements in cyberspace on America's cyberpower. And finally, the group is reviewing defense spending in the area of computer science to see if it is adequate. These constitute some of the most critical issues that DoD must confront as it proceeds further into the information age.

During the past few years, the Congress and the House Appropriations Committee has

been extremely supportive of this initiative. Although the investment in the effort has been modest, I believe it has had extraordinary payoff for DoD and the Nation at large. If we can retain our strong technological lead, we can save billions in defense dollars later that would otherwise need to be spent on catch-up activities. Therefore, I hope, as we look toward conference on this bill, that the Congress is able to continue to fund the NDU Technology Pilot Program's important work by setting aside \$1,000,000 for the program in account PE 65104D8Z for fiscal year 2007.

TRIBUTE TO RIVERVIEW BIBLE
BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Riverview Bible Baptist Christian School Boys Basketball Team of Forsyth, MO, On March 18, 2006, the team won the National Championship of the National Association of Christian Athletes 2006 Boys Division V, an outstanding accomplishment.

Using the work ethic and good sportsmanship which are our core values in Southern Missouri, the young men of this team cooperated to accomplish an incredible goal. Their perseverance embodies a striking lesson for our Nation as an example of what can be done when all of the members of a team work as one. In an age where sports offers so many examples of selfish play and self-promotion, the Riverview Bible Baptist Christian School Boys Basketball Team shows what is right with sports in America. These young men and their coaches also serve as an example of how teamwork can result in remarkable success. The concept of team is perfectly illustrated by these young men.

I want to applaud the Riverview Bible Baptist Christian School Boys Basketball Team, their coaches and their many supporters on an outstanding season, ending in a great victory. I also want to recognize them for providing a meaningful lesson in the value of teamwork and thank them for representing the Eighth Congressional District so well through their play in the tournament.

FAMILIES USA STUDY EXPOSES
THE WEAKNESSES OF PRIVATE
PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in order to bring to the attention of my colleagues a study released by Families USA on the new Plan D prescription drug plan, "Big Dollars Little Sense: Rising Medicare Prescription Drug Prices." This report, which was released earlier this month, describes how private prescription drug plans have failed to secure cheaper drug prices for Medicare enrollees and have done nothing to stem the tide of rising drug prices.

By comparing the prices under private Part D plans to the prices available to veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health system, the Families USA report shows that the private insurers are failing to provide needed cost savings to their customers. Between November 2005 and April 2006, private Part D insurers raised the prices on seventeen of the top twenty most frequently prescribed drugs to seniors significantly, while the same drugs under the VA plan experienced little or no increase at all. The median difference in price between the Part D and VA plans was 46 percent. In other words, seniors enrolled in Part D private plan are paying an average 46 percent more for those drugs than they would have if they had been able to receive VA negotiated prices.

As the study details:

For each of the top 20 drugs prescribed to seniors, the lowest price charged by any Part D plan was higher than the lowest price secured by the VA . . . For Zocor (20 mg), a drug used to prevent coronary heart disease, the lowest VA price for a year's treatment was \$127.44, while the lowest Part D plan price was \$1,275.36, a difference of \$1,147.92 or 901 percent. For Zocor (40 mg), the lowest VA price for a year's treatment was \$190.76, while the lowest Part D plan price was \$1,275.36, a difference of \$1,084.60 or 569 percent.

This difference is staggering, and it shows the difference between a publicly-accountable plan that is committed to helping its beneficiaries and private plans that are committed to helping their profit margins, "Big Dollars Little Sense," debunks the myth that the price difference between the VA and private Part D plans has to do with the number of drugs covered. As the study states, the VA plan covers just as many drugs as the plans in Part D but is able to obtain "large discounts simply by using the government's negotiating power." The VA utilizes the significant leverage it has in order to get cheaper drugs for its beneficiaries—an authority Medicare is explicitly prohibited from using under the current Medicare law.

Another discovery that the report made was that the private insurers have done almost nothing to protect seniors from rising drug prices. Over a six-month period between November 2005 to April 2006, drug prices for the top twenty drugs prescribed to seniors rose 3.8 percent. That increase was mirrored by the private drug plans, which raised their prices to their customers 3.7 percent. The plans were unable to moderate increases, unlike the VA, where prices either did not increase or increased at a far lesser rate. The drug prices continue to rise and the private insurers simply pass that increase on to the seniors enrolled in their plan, making little effort to negotiate fairer prices.

The Families USA report not only draws attention to the ineffectiveness of the private insurers but highlights the fact that there is no way to hold them accountable. Part D states that these plans are required to pass the discounts they receive on to Medicare beneficiaries but does not specify the proportion of the discount that must be passed on. The insurers could actually be getting huge discounts from the drug manufacturers and just keeping the difference, but we have no way of knowing. There is no disclosure and no accountability for the private providers who supply an essential benefit to the elderly in this

country. This is a serious problem for seniors. Prices are higher than necessary, can increase over the course of the year, and can vary among plans. It is also a serious problem for taxpayers, who pay 75 percent of the cost of Part D premiums. "Big Dollars Little Sense," reports, too, that the median difference between the highest and lowest prices that Part D plans charged for the same drug was 36 percent. This is not just a question of picking the right plan during the enrollment period—since plans can change prices throughout the year but seniors are locked in, even a smart shopper can end up paying much more for their drugs than enrollees in other plans.

This report concludes that seniors in this country would get a far better deal if they were able to benefit from Medicare price negotiation:

Price data from the Part D plans from November 2005 and April 2006 show that these plans are failing to deliver on the promise that competition would bring prices down. The use of "market power," lauded by Medicare officials and the Administration, has not resulted in drug prices that are comparable to the low prices negotiated by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Not only are Part D plan prices high, but these prices are increasing far more often than they are decreasing, and the plans are not containing drug price inflation. These disturbing price trends do not bode well for either Medicare consumers or taxpayers. The "market power" of the plans has not delivered the low prices promised to Medicare consumers.

The law that established the Medicare prescription drug benefit, in prohibiting Medicare from using the negotiating clout of 43 million seniors and others in Medicare to obtain low drug prices, has given seniors and taxpayers a benefit that costs more than it should. When negotiations are divided among a multitude of plans, none seems to do as well as a single negotiator might. When it comes to reducing and containing drug prices, the Medicare drug program is an opportunity that has been badly squandered.

A Medicare-administered plan with Medicare price negotiation would lower prices since the drug companies would be more likely to provide a good deal to an entity representing 43 million of their best customers. That is why I urge my colleagues to read this important report and to support H.R. 752, the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act, which would give seniors and persons with disabilities the ability to enroll in a Medicare-operated plan with lower prices.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE KELO
V. CITY OF NEW LONDON DECISION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the one year anniversary of one of the worst Supreme Court decisions in recent memory, Kelo v. City of New London. One year ago, the Court struck a blow against property owners everywhere and delivered the government's long-standing assault on property rights on farms and ranches in rural America right to the doorsteps of American suburbs.

The Kelo decision expanded the traditional understanding of "public benefit"—roads,

bridges, schools, etc.—to include more abstract benefits like tax revenue. If a local bureaucrat decides that your house, local church, or business would be more productive if it were torn down to make room for a shopping center, the Court now says this is ok.

The 5th Amendment guarantees that private property shall not be taken by the government for public use without just compensation. These safeguards have been under assault for decades and until this decision, the typical victims were family farmers and ranchers in the West. Now we know no one is safe. In the past year, more than 5,700 properties have been threatened or taken by eminent domain, not to build roads or schools, but for private development. This is unconscionable and goes against everything our Nation stands for.

This terrible ruling did have a silver lining—it brought great public attention and outrage to an issue some of us in Congress have been fighting for our entire careers. In the wake of the decision, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4128, the Private Property Rights Protection Act. Using Congress' power of the purse, we made a strong, bipartisan statement to State and local governments that the abuse of eminent domain for private purposes would not be tolerated. Any use of eminent domain for private benefit would result in a two-year loss of federal economic development funds. Similar restrictions were placed on funds in the FY06 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The fight has also been taken up at the local level, with 25 states passing legislation aimed at curbing eminent domain abuse. This was a heartening response, but there is much more to be done. The Senate must act on similar legislation. And, we can further what we have started by introducing more legislation to protect private property. While the initial public outcry over this decision has died down, these abuses are still occurring every day, and we must keep up the fight.

Mr. Speaker, property rights are the heart of individual freedom and the foundation for all other civil rights guaranteed to Americans by the Constitution. Without the freedom to acquire, possess and defend property, all other guaranteed rights are merely words on a page. As we look back on one year of life under Kelo, we must never forget the simple truth. We must be steadfast in our defense of the rights of property owners.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, on Tuesday night, the House passed H.R. 5631, the Defense Appropriations Act for FY2007. I commend Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member MURTHA for crafting an important piece of leg-

islation that will provide our men and women in uniform with the resources they need to continue their excellent record of service to the Nation. I was proud to vote for that measure, which passed by an overwhelming vote of 407–19.

However, I am disappointed that the House did not pass a very important amendment offered by Congressman SCHIFF to block funding for any surveillance program that does not comply with the safeguards in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. I have been deeply disturbed by the President's decision to expand domestic surveillance of U.S. citizens beyond what is permitted under existing law. As a member of the House Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees, I am fully aware of the dangers posed by those who wish to harm Americans, and I have strongly supported efforts to make our Nation safer. However, President Bush has not yet explained to my satisfaction why powers available to him under existing law cannot meet the needs of the war on terrorism. For example, the Foreign Intelligence Service Act (FISA) already permits the warrantless surveillance of communications by U.S. citizens under certain limited circumstances. Nevertheless, the Bush Administration did not use those emergency powers and instead chose to expand the authority of the National Security Agency (NSA).

As I have said before, if President Bush believes that FISA needs to be altered or updated to address new threats, he should make his case to Congress and propose legislative changes. The President's decision to expand domestic surveillance while notifying only a handful of legislators does not constitute Congressional consent and is a danger to our established Constitutional system of checks and balances. While Americans may disagree about the merits of broadening the government's authority to combat terrorism, it is in all of our interests that such important decisions should be made publicly, as they affect the very values of freedom and liberty on which the Nation was founded.

Opponents of the Schiff amendment argued that we shouldn't be considering such a significant change in a spending bill. Under normal circumstances, I would agree with that assessment. However, because the House has neglected to consider any legislation to address the serious issue of domestic surveillance, we are left with no other choice.

We cannot continue to shirk our Constitutional responsibility to conduct oversight of the executive branch and its activities. We must hold hearings and consider legislation to ensure that our efforts to protect our nation are done consistent with the civil liberties that we hold dear and comply with the Constitution—the supreme law of the land.

LOWER THE THRESHOLD FOR
BILINGUAL ELECTION ASSISTANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House on the Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendment Act of 2006, proposed by the esteemed gentleman from

Wisconsin. The bill calls for renewal of certain expiring provisions from the Voting Rights Act of 1965, including Section 203—the bilingual election assistance.

As a representative of one of the many multi-ethnic districts in New York, I fully realize the necessity of providing bilingual assistance to increase voting among language minorities and allow these Americans the chance to participate in the democratic process. According to the existing provisions of Section 203, the bilingual assistance is made available when the population of a language minority group in an electoral district is 10,000. This has facilitated voting for over 200,000 Asian Americans nationwide, and caused a 50 percent increase in the Hispanic electorate in the first decade of the adoption of this provision.

Mr. Speaker, the House has agreed to a bipartisan support of this vitally important reauthorization bill to ensure a clean passage. Had the opportunity allowed, I would have liked to propose an amendment to Section 203, lowering the current threshold to 7,500. The effect of lowering the numerical trigger to 7,500 would remove language barriers for at least 77,955 limited English proficient Asian American citizens to vote, including a significant increase in the electorate of New York City. In the last election, New York only offered bilingual election assistance in Spanish, Chinese and Korean. Keeping in mind the diversity and multiethnic communities in New York, it is vital that we ensure all our constituents have an easier access to the electoral process. I have been a firm supporter of integration and accepting immigrants into American society. What better way to make them comfortable in their American identity and assist in seamless assimilation?

On another note, under the current law, U.S. Census Bureau determines the Section 203 coverage every 10 years. Considering the rapid growth of immigrant communities, particularly in cities like New York, San Francisco (CA), Los Angeles (CA), Philadelphia (PA), Essex County (NJ), Cook County (IL), King County (WA), I believe we should make census determinations every 5 years to decide Section 203 coverage.

According to the 1990 census, the Korean American population in New York was short of 250 persons to gain coverage under Section 203. Although the community reached the numeric trigger by early 1990s, it did not gain coverage until after the 2000 census. More recently, the Vietnamese community in San Diego fell 85 persons short of the numeric trigger following the 2000 census. Surely, by now the community has already surpassed the trigger but will not receive bilingual election assistance until after the 2010 census report is completed.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 with all its subsequent amendment has been immensely successful in expanding access and assistance to racial and ethnic minorities during election. It remains one of the most important civil rights laws in our country. Mr. Speaker, while coming to debate the reauthorization of the expiring provisions in this 109th Congress, we must keep in mind the limitations of the Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendment Act of 2006, and how to make it more effective and allow our citizens access to one of their fundamental rights as guaranteed by the ideals of our nation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I must commend the bipartisan effort to renew this legislation and

congrats my colleagues on their success in allowing for the expansion of the provision of until 2032, for 25 years—the longest extension in its history. I must also praise the various civil rights groups who have been extensively campaigning for the renewal of the Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendment Act.

RECOGNIZING ST. JOHN INSTITUTIONAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MIAMI ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the St. John Institutional Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary on Sunday, June 25, 2006.

Its pastor, the Reverend Henry Nevin, will lead his congregation to celebrate this milestone in the history of this beloved church that has become the Citadel of Faith in Miami's Overtown community. Indeed, St. John's longevity of service is directly related to its essential role in the community and its service to its members and to all those who now seek comfort and solace in its sanctuary.

On June 17, 1906, a group of dedicated Christians decided to build the Second Baptist Church, which came to be known as the New St. John Institutional Missionary Baptist Church. In 1939, the late Sis. Cora Lee Thomas Brown, the only surviving founder at that time, and Sis. Victoria Darry, the first secretary of the Sunday School, provided information to validate the revered history of the Church. It was legally known as the St. John Baptist Church of Miami, Florida, and the Reverend John Bynom was called as the first pastor, while brothers Grant Faulkner and Willis Williams were consecrated as the first Deacons.

In the succeeding years, the membership grew. Their second pastor, the Rev. N.B. Williams, known as a Master Builder, called upon his congregation to consider plans for a permanent location. In January, 1912, the Rev. Jarius Wilkerson Drake arrived in Miami from Jacksonville and assumed the leadership of the church. This pastor succeeded in expanding the congregation to 1,000-members in 1939. The current location of this church was purchased with a \$10,000 deposit at a local bank, and thereafter a building was erected to house the burgeoning membership in the year 1940.

Rev. Drake was God's shepherd par excellence, as he guided and served the congregation well until his death in February, 1951. This Man of God was revered as a fearless leader and community builder whose life was filled with Christian charity on one hand and civic pride on the other. He was soon followed by Rev. Thedford Johnson during the latter part of 1951, who proficiently guided the church into a veritable sanctuary of worship and learning, as he created a good mixture of religion and civic responsibility that would strengthen church members not only to become spiritual and moral leaders, but also as responsible and conscientious guardians of good government and civic pride.

On April 17, 1982, the Rev. Charles Uptgrew succeeded Rev. Johnson, and on

March 28, 1985 the Rev. Henry Nevin was appointed pastor and continues in this capacity until the present. He has emphasized Bible Study classes for the members of his congregation, and this focus gave way to the continuing enhancement of church membership amidst constant worship and praise to Almighty God. Through the genuine efforts of the current pastor, the faith-action service that now defines the St. John Institutional Missionary Baptist Church has truly persevered in showing its congregation the way and expounding for its membership the Truth that emanates from the study of Holy Scriptures.

Rev. Nevin's inspiring leadership is genuinely admirable. As a servant of God and as a deeply spiritual leader immersed in Scriptural commitment, he has earned the deepest respect and superlative commendation of our community. We therefore congratulate the members on their Centennial Celebration of their venerable Church and wish them continued success as they begin a new century of service.

SUPPORT FOR H. RES. 323, H. RES. 863 AND H.R. 1245

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the House overwhelmingly approved House Resolution 323—a resolution I am proud to be a co-sponsor of—offered by my good friend Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE of Ohio. H. Res. 323 is a straightforward bill which expresses the House of Representatives' support for increasing childhood cancer awareness, treatment, and research.

The word "cancer" evokes powerful emotions. Along with many of my colleagues, I know first-hand how devastating cancer can be to the individual who has been diagnosed, as well as their family. It is thankfully true that more and more people are continuing to lead full and productive lives both during and after cancer, but the sad fact is that lives once touched by this insidious disease are never truly the same again. The tragedy perhaps becomes even worse when cancer invades the life of a child.

I pray for the day when a cure is found and cancer is finally and forever eradicated from the face of the earth. In the meantime, as my colleague Mr. DEAL of Georgia said in his remarks, through research, public awareness, education and wise public policy, we can make powerful strides towards winning the fight against childhood cancer. I hope that the resolution we passed today will help call attention to the problem of childhood cancer and the importance of bringing improved diagnosis and treatment techniques to bear in this life and death struggle. I commend Ms. PRYCE for her leadership on this issue, and I applaud all of my colleagues for their support of this critically important resolution.

But I believe we can do more and that we should do more to address the scourge of cancer before this Congress adjourns for the year.

For example, prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in the United States. It is also the second leading cause of cancer re-

lated deaths in men, claiming around 27,000 lives in 2005 alone according to the National Prostate Cancer Coalition. According to the National Cancer Institute, in 2005 our Nation likely saw more than 230,000 new cases of prostate cancer, meaning that some 2 million American men are living with prostate cancer at this time. Statistics also tell us that prostate cancer will strike one in six men. Yet tragically, the state of prostate cancer care is decades behind what it should be.

The current screening methods of digital rectal exams and PSA blood tests are good tools—but they are not enough. A study funded by the National Cancer Institute showed that PSA blood screening tests, the most common form of testing for prostate cancer, result in both false positives and false negatives. In fact, as evidence suggests that as high as 15 percent of men with normal PSA levels actually have prostate cancer. We need to start getting serious about our diagnostic and treatment options. I firmly believe that men need to continue to get tested, even with the chance that the results may be misleading at times but I also firmly believe that we should not be satisfied with the current state of care. Our fathers, our brothers and our sons deserve more accurate technology, more reliable weapons in the fight against prostate cancer—tools like digital imaging.

That is why I am proud to co-sponsor—along with my colleague from Maryland, Mr. CUMMINGS—House Resolution 863, to bring attention to the urgent need to develop better tools in the fight against prostate cancer. Our Resolution simply expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress and the Executive Branch should recognize the successful use of advanced imaging technologies in the fight against breast cancer and provide additional support for the research and development of technologies for prostate cancer detection and treatment comparable to state-of-the-art mammograms.

Likewise, I am a proud co-sponsor and passionate supporter of Johanna's Law: "The Gynecologic Cancer Education Act (H.R. 1245)". Ovarian Cancer is the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers, and it is the fourth leading cause of cancer death among women living in the United States. In 2004, it is estimated that over 25,000 women were diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and an estimated 16,000 or so American women died as a result of this devastating disease. This is a national tragedy, and what makes it even more tragic is the fact that many of those deaths could have been prevented if more women and their doctors knew the risk factors and recognized the early warning signs of ovarian cancer and other gynecological cancers.

When it is detected early, ovarian cancer is very treatable, unfortunately, ovarian cancer is one of the most difficult cancers to diagnose because symptoms are sometimes subtle and may be easily confused with those of other diseases. As a result, only 29 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the U.S. are diagnosed in the early stages. When the disease is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 95 percent of women will survive longer than five years. But, in cases where the disease is not detected until it reaches the advanced stage, the five-year survival rate plummets to a devastating 25 percent.

As there is still no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test for ovarian cancer, like

the Pap smear for cervical cancer or the mammogram for breast cancer, early recognition of symptoms is clearly the best way to save a woman's life. Without increased education about ovarian cancer and recognition of women who are at higher risk for developing ovarian cancer, many women and their doctors will continue to ignore or misinterpret the symptoms of the disease. Any woman is at risk for developing a gynecologic cancer. As we owe it to our fathers, brothers and sons, we also owe it to our mothers, our wives and our daughters to do all we can to both raise awareness of these terrible diseases, and to fund the research necessary to stamp out this kind of cancer once and for all.

Johanna's Law will be a giant step forward because for the first time ever, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will have explicit authority to carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of women with respect to gynecologic cancers, which shall include: (1) maintaining a supply of written materials to provide information to the public on gynecologic cancers; and (2) developing and placing public service announcements to encourage women to discuss their risks of gynecologic cancers with their physicians. The bill also requires the Secretary to award grants to nonprofit private entities to test different outreach and education strategies for increasing such awareness among women and health professionals.

I am confident that with a national Public Service Announcements campaign describing risk factors and symptoms and encouraging women to talk to their doctors about their risk of gynecological cancers, that we can and will increase early detection of these deadly cancers, and, when possible, help women reduce their risk of ever contracting them in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, both House Resolution 863 and H.R. 1245 are currently pending before the Energy and Commerce Committee. In closing, I would respectfully ask all of my colleagues on the Committee to read these two bills because I am confident that after you read them you will come to the same conclusion that I have; namely these are good bills, good public policy and we need to bring these bills before the full House for a vote now. This is literally a matter of life and death.

HEALTH CENTERS RENEWAL ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5573, the Health Centers Renewal Act. By reauthorizing the health center program, we will ensure that community health centers are able to continue the delivery of cost-effective, high quality care to medically underserved communities.

It is important to note that community health centers are the primary providers of health care to America's poor and medically underserved. For over 30 years, they have been responsible for bringing doctors, basic health services and facilities into the Nation's neediest and most isolated communities. Commu-

nity health centers provide quality primary health care in over 20 locations to one out of ten Rhode Islanders throughout my home state.

With increasing numbers of Americans losing access to employer-sponsored health coverage as a result of recent increases in unemployment and the rising cost of health care, it is more important than ever to support people and programs devoted to filling in the gaps. Without the services of community health centers, we would see even more over-crowding in our emergency rooms and unnecessary declines in quality of life for those who lack access to other forms of preventative care. Health centers do a tremendous job of managing the problems that exist in our broken health care system. But they cannot continue to do it alone. As we join together today to reauthorize the health center programs, I hope my colleagues will take this opportunity to reflect on the health care crisis that exists in America.

I have introduced legislation that proposes a universal system of health care, offering access to coverage for all Americans. Under my proposal, all Americans would have the opportunity to participate in a program modeled after the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), which has provided Members of Congress, their staffs and other federal employees with quality health care over many years. With a commitment and partnership from businesses, consumers and the government, we could offer this kind of coverage and oversight to all Americans. Recent developments in Massachusetts and other parts of the country have shown us that the business community and Americans are ready to participate in such a system—it is now up to us, as Congress, to take on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, once again I call on Congress to join me in the effort to develop a universal health insurance program that will include all Americans. In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of programs that make health care available to at-risk individuals in underserved communities and vote in favor of H.R. 5573.

IN TRIBUTE AND APPRECIATION OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF EVELYN DUBROW, A DESERVING RECIPIENT OF THE PRESI- DENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the legacy of the recently passed Evelyn Dubrow. In her many years here on Capitol Hill as a delightful yet effective advocate of worker's rights, Ms. Dubrow helped influence progress in civil rights issues across the board. She was best known as the representative for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), however, her work sought to expand the rights of workers for a higher minimum wage, fair trade laws, and family and medical leave. Her forthright style and passionate advocacy won her many friends and admirers in the Congress.

For many members of Congress, she was the ideal example of a successful lobbyist, and

her wealth of knowledge benefited all who had the pleasure of crossing Ms. Dubrow's path. Not only was she a model lobbyist, but she was also an exemplary human being who did not take even a penny for granted, spending in a year what some say others spend in telephone bills alone. Hers was a personal style and her winning personality made her welcome in the offices she visited.

Ms. Dubrow's outstanding work was recognized by President Clinton, who in 1999 awarded her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was also recognized by the Washington Business Review in 1982 as Washington's top 10 lobbyists.

Known affectionately as "Evy," she began her efforts on Capitol Hill as one of very few other female lobbyists in the 50's. In those days, the minimum wage was only \$1 an hour, talk of equal pay for men and women was rare, and laws allowed discrimination in housing, hiring, and health care. It was in these areas that "Evy" fought hard to produce improvements for all Americans.

Her obituary in the June 22nd edition of The Washington Post honored the life and works of Ms. Evelyn Dubrow. I would like to enter the Obituary into the RECORD and join the Washington Post as well as my colleagues on the Hill for reflection and appreciation of this great woman's contributions to our country.

[From the Washington Post, June 22, 2006]

LOBBYIST EVELYN DUBROW, 95; WORKED FOR
ILGWU, CIVIL RIGHTS

(By Patricia Sullivan)

Evelyn "Evy" Dubrow, 95, an indefatigable lobbyist for garment workers for almost 50 years and the only person on Capitol Hill allowed to share the congressional doorkeepers' chairs outside the House chambers, died June 20 of a heart attack at George Washington University Hospital.

Miss Dubrow, the 4-foot, 11-inch, throaty-voiced representative for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and its successor union from 1956 until about two years ago, wore out countless pairs of size 4 shoes in the marble halls of the Capitol, where she advocated for a higher minimum wage, fair trade laws, family and medical leave policies and civil rights.

"Everyone knows Evy," said one newspaper profile of the friendly activist. Another said, "She stands eye-to-eye with Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich and goes toe-to-toe with the big boys, whether the late [House Speaker Thomas P.] O'Neill . . . or Sen. Alan K. Simpson, the 6-foot-7 Republican from Wyoming."

"Evelyn Dubrow is the union label," Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.) once said.

"By the accounts of her best friends in Congress, most of them Northern liberals, she is the model of the effective lobbyist—persistent but not pushy, knowledgeable and persuasive but not dogmatic," New York Times reporter David E. Rosenbaum wrote in 1970.

Her longevity gave her knowledge of the institution and an understanding of when to compromise. "There's no point trying to organize an industry if there are no jobs," she said in 1985, explaining why labor supported a protectionist textile bill. It also gave her a seat just outside the House chambers; as speaker, O'Neill ordered the doorkeepers to share their seat with the representative of seamstresses, hemmers and buttonhole girls. The apparently unprecedented courtesy lasted until Newt Gingrich won the speakership and barred lobbyists from the second floor during votes.

Miss Dubrow worked 15-hour days and outlasted almost everyone. For years, she kept

her age a secret even while spreading her secrets to successful lobbying: Never beg for votes, don't assume you know everything and don't threaten anyone.

"She carries no flip phone, beeper or Powerbook," the Baltimore Sun said in 1995. "[Miss] Dubrow keeps her daily schedule on a card in her appointment calendar in her purse. And her yearly expenses are less than what some spend in telephone bills alone."

President Bill Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999, calling her "a tiny woman, larger than life" who was "renowned for her grace, candor, and integrity, [who] has earned the respect of opponents and allies alike."

Unapologetically liberal, she had friends among both Republicans and Democrats, telling Washingtonian magazine in 1997: "In Washington you should never write off anybody. You'll be surprised where tomorrow's allies come from."

She came from Paterson, N.J., the daughter of immigrants from Belarus who found work in factories of New York and New Jersey. She got her start in labor activism handing out fliers about the Spanish Civil War in New York's Union Square. She graduated from New York University's School of Journalism and joined her first union, the Newspaper Guild, while working at the Paterson Morning Call newspaper.

She soon moved into full-time union work, as a secretary in the Textile Workers Union and as an assistant to the president of the New Jersey Congress of Industrial Organizations. She was one of the organizers of Americans for Democratic Action in 1947 and worked for the ADA until 1956. Legendary labor leader David Dubinsky hired her as lobbyist for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and sent her to Washington.

Miss Dubrow was in her mid-forties when she became one of a mere handful of female lobbyists in Washington. When she started, the federal minimum wage was \$1 an hour, equal pay was rarely mentioned and the law allowed discrimination in housing, hiring and health care. She fought long and hard for improvements in all those areas, and later, against the North American Free Trade Agreement, which eroded the jobs of American union members who made clothes.

"When I started this job, we were worried about sweatshops," she told The Washington Post in 1997. "Today we're still worried about sweatshops."

She was named vice president of the ILGWU in 1977, and when the union merged with another to form UNITE! (United Needleworkers, Industrial and Textile Employees), she became vice president and legislative director, then special assistant to its president. She was a founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Miss Dubrow became well recognized off Capitol Hill in time. In 1971, Ladies' Home Journal named her one of the 75 most important women in America, and in 1982, the old Washington Business Review called her one of the city's top 10 lobbyists.

Never married, with no immediate family survivors, she reveled in her many nieces and nephews. She also enjoyed poker, gin rummy and reading the classics.

In the 1970s, she endured four years of Metro rail construction in front of her D Street SE home. Her only complaint about it, she told The Post in 1977: "Their construction in front of my house caused my shoes to get muddy. But for two weeks, every day, one of the workers would go have them polished and bring them back to me."

FREEDOM FOR REINALDO MIGUEL LABRADA PEÑA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Reinaldo Miguel Labrada Peña, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Labrada Peña is a peaceful pro-democracy activist and a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. His life is dedicated to the proposition that the men and women of Cuba must be free: free to learn, free to worship, free to enjoy their inalienable human rights. Unfortunately, the nightmare that is the Castro regime continues to violently oppress the people of Cuba, including those that bravely make known the atrocities committed against the Cuban people for the world to see.

In March 2003, as part of the regime's heinous crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Labrada Peña was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 6 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Labrada Peña is languishing in an inhuman, grotesque gulag simply because of his religious convictions and his desire to live in liberty. According to Amnesty International, he has been denied access to religious services and has inadequate ventilation in his squalid cell.

Mr. Labrada Peña is representative of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination, depravity, and oppression of the totalitarian tyranny. Thousands languish in the gulag because, like Mr. Labrada Peña, they refuse to accept the tyrannical dictatorship in Cuba today. It is reprehensible that, at the dawn of the 21st Century, men and women like Mr. Labrada Peña are still locked in dank dungeons because of the tenets of their faith.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that peaceful Cubans of all genders, creeds and colors are locked in Castro's barbarous gulag because they believe in a free Cuba. While the entire world sits by and ignores the suffering of the Cuban people, brave men and women like Mr. Labrada Peña represent the best of mankind. My Colleagues, we must demand freedom and human rights for all people, including those who live under the darkness of totalitarian regimes. We must demand immediate and unconditional freedom for Reinaldo Miguel Labrada Peña and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

IN MEMORY OF MR. RICK MERRITT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Mr. Rick Merritt of Lighthouse Point, FL. Rick passed away on Father's Day, June 18, 2006, after a courageous battle against cancer. I had the privilege of meeting Rick in 2002, as he was extremely helpful to me during my time in the House of Representatives. Rick was a tal-

ented ally who used his ability and creativity to develop his own computer software programs. He was a patient man who spent many hours educating folks on technology, and how they could use computer software programs for their benefit. Rick's personable demeanor made him approachable and always accessible. He truly used his talents to teach others and better serve his fellow man.

Rick was also a strong advocate in protecting consumers and businesses in their dealing with the U.S. Postal Service. To this end, Rick was Executive Director of Postal Watch, a national watchdog group committed to advocating a consumer approach to postal reform. He was also active in the Wednesday Meeting that brought together folks from around the country to Washington, DC to discuss issues facing our Nation.

Roughly a year ago, Rick was diagnosed with cancer. Instead of withdrawing from his fight against cancer, Rick faced the challenge with courage and a spirit of determination. Although Rick lost his battle with cancer, his spirit lives on among his family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with Rick's wife, Debbie, his daughter, Tobi; his mother, Lois; brothers, Scott, Mark and Michael; and the rest of the Merritt family during this time.

Rick loved his country, stood by his principles, was never afraid to take a risk and could always be counted upon to be there during the toughest times for his family, his colleagues and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to call Rick Merritt my friend.

HONORING DR. JARRELL JACKMAN FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Jarrell Jackman for his dynamic and committed leadership of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

Dr. Jarrell Jackman has been a leader of the Trust for Historic Preservation for 25 years, serving first as Historic Projects Administrator and, since 1987, as Executive Director. In a unique partnership with the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Trust operates El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park that attracts 50,000 visitors annually from Santa Barbara and from around the world.

Under Dr. Jackman's leadership, the Trust bought and maintains for future generations the Mission Santa Inez Mills, significant remains of mission-period grist and fulling mills. In addition to acquiring and maintaining historic sites, the Trust preserves the diverse cultural heritage of Santa Barbara through its research, interpretation, educational programs, archeological work, historic restoration and preservation efforts. They work cooperatively with local jurisdictions and with dozens of state agencies, museums, private foundations, schools, and businesses to ensure that the rich cultural history of the central coast not only lives on for future generations but is accessible today.

The Trust has completed major construction projects for El Presidio de Santa Barbara

State Historic Park: the Chapel, the Comandancia, the Northeast Corner and (the soon to be completed) Northwest Corner, making El Presidio the most fully restored Presidio in the United States. The restored Casa de la Guerra and El Presidio have become significant museums, hosting many lectures, performances, visiting exhibits and celebrations, due in large part to the dedication and expertise of Dr. Jackman.

Dr. Jackman served honorably on the Santa Barbara County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission and has consistently been a forceful voice for the preservation of county historic structures. Among his many honors are the prestigious Norman Neuerburg Award from the California Mission Studies Association in February 2001 and the 2006 California League of Park Associations' Dewitt Award for outstanding partnership.

I have seen firsthand many of the great programs and preservation efforts of the Trust. We, as a community, benefit greatly from the skill and leadership of Dr. Jackman. I am pleased to commend Dr. Jarrell Jackman for his dedicated service to the Trust for Historic Preservation and to the preservation of many of the Central Coast's treasures. I look forward to the Trust's continued success. Congratulations on 25 great years!

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES (CHARLIE) J. BECK FOR HIS 36 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exceptional value of Charlie Beck's 36 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Fairfield.

After graduating from Sacramento State College in 1970, Charlie was hired by the City of Fairfield as a Junior Civil Engineer and in 1972 became the City's first Traffic Engineer.

Two years later Charlie moved to the Corporation Yard to become the Manager of Street, Drainage, Signs, Traffic Signals, and Equipment Maintenance Division.

In 1980 Mr. Beck became the City's first Assistant Public Works Director and in 1985 added City Engineer to his title. Under this position Charlie was responsible for the management of Development Review, Engineering Design, Capital Improvement Projects, Traffic Engineering, and Public Works and Building Inspections.

In 2000, Mr. Beck was appointed to the position of Director of Public Works for the City of Fairfield. Under his supervision, he managed 190 Public Works employees, including Engineers, Technicians, Inspectors, Maintenance Personnel, and Support Staff.

Mr. Beck's attitude of "doing it right the first time" and "build it to stand the test of time" has served the City of Fairfield well in the past and will serve the City well into the future. A long-term retired employee said it best when he referred to Charlie's knowledge of masonry which he learned from his father. He said that with every action Charlie took since he started employment with the city, he placed each brick and made sure it was level before mov-

ing on to the next one. With that approach, he built a great foundation for the city.

He is recognized by his co-workers as a model of integrity and a great mentor. Mr. Beck's wisdom and office presence will truly be missed.

Charlie Beck has spent his entire career working for his community and for the citizens of Fairfield. As he enters retirement I would like to wish Charlie, his wife Joyce, and his family many wonderful years of happiness, prosperity, and good health.

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we face a critical challenge in Iraq with no certain outcome. While those in the White House and the Majority may want to use this debate as an opportunity to gloss over the situation and cast aspersions at their opponents, now is the time for a serious and sustained conversation within our government and among the American people about how we can end the occupation and do so in a way that maximizes Iraq's chances to govern and defend itself.

A brief survey of the status of our operations confirms the gravity of our position.

First, consider our strategic interests in the conflict. The Administration's entire case for invading Iraq has proven false. The President's claims about nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, biological weapons, links to terrorism, an imminent threat—they were all wrong. CIA weapons inspectors followed every plausible lead to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and came up empty. We might have known the outcome of this search had we showed more patience with international weapons inspections before the President launched the invasion. We have also confirmed what many of us suspected at the time, that the alleged links between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda terrorists were fabricated and false. In fact, with the CIA now calling Iraq the world's number one terrorist training ground, we have ironically created a problem that did not exist when we set out to solve it. And we diverted attention and assets from Afghanistan, which truly was ground zero in the anti-terrorist offensive.

Indeed, we have engaged in a war of choice that has actually made our nation less safe. Congress has poured over \$400 billion into Iraq that was entrusted to us by American taxpayers, dealing a serious blow both to our economy and to the many critical domestic programs that have been cut, essentially to help pay for the war effort. We have overextended our military, damaging recruiting and retention efforts and leaving our military units undermanned, underequipped, and exhausted from repeated deployments. We have created a terrorist breeding ground in Iraq that may threaten our security for years to come. And, by fueling tensions both between sectarian groups inside Iraq and between Iraq and its neighbors, like Iran, Syria, and Turkey, this war has stirred up a dangerous hornet's nest

that could lead to significant regional conflict. In short, our national security is at far greater risk now than three years ago when the war began.

Despite these shortcomings, the new "unity government" led by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki represents some progress in our political efforts, produced by the successful conduct of a handful of elections, a constitutional referendum, and sustained negotiations between major Shi'a, Sunni, and Kurdish political parties. These successes are the most positive story we have to tell in Iraq. If Iraq's leaders choose to work together to unite their nation and prevent sectarian agendas from tearing the Iraqi people apart, there will be hope for achieving stability and democracy in that country.

Unfortunately, Iraqi leaders have not yet made clear what their choice will be. They have not yet shown the unity of purpose and political courage that will be necessary to hold their country together after the U.S. departs. They have not yet proven that they can set aside their sectarian agendas. Most importantly, they still must prove that they have the power to reach out beyond the green zone to influence Iraqi citizens and lead them toward unity and peace. Here, especially, the jury is still out on the extent of progress.

U.S. taxpayers have spent \$20 billion on reconstruction projects, but have only limited concrete results to show for their investment. Tens of millions of dollars were irresponsibly squandered through poor management and questionable contracts with companies like Halliburton. The Coalition Provisional Authority was unable to account for the use of nearly \$9 billion in U.S. and Iraqi reconstruction funds. According to conservative estimates, up to a quarter of reconstruction funding has been diverted away from reconstruction activities to pay for associated security costs. Furthermore, much of the reconstruction work that has been carried out has been ineffective. In an October 2005 audit of over \$250 million in water and sanitation projects, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that over one-quarter of the projects were "inoperable or were operating at lower than normal capacity."

The results of this mismanagement are striking. Over half of all Iraqi households still lack access to clean water, and 85 percent lack reliable electricity. Oil production remains well below pre-invasion levels. A quarter of Iraqi children suffer from chronic malnutrition. More than a quarter of Iraqis—possibly up to forty percent—remain unemployed. By any standard, the reconstruction effort has fallen disastrously short.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration appears to have learned the wrong lesson from these reconstruction failures, proposing no additional funding to rebuild Iraq and support the civilian population. Without additional funding, our reconstruction efforts will come to an end even though we remain far short of our goals. The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) has reported that more than two-thirds of planned health care centers, over 60 percent of planned water sector projects, and a third of planned electricity projects will not be completed due to lack of funds. The answer is not to give up on Iraq reconstruction altogether, but to find effective ways to make reconstruction projects work.

On the security front, some limited progress has been made. According to the State Department's most recent weekly update, approximately 265,000 Iraqi troops have enlisted to secure and defend their homeland. In addition, American forces recently scored an important victory by killing the number one terrorist leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al Zarqawi.

As Iraqi troops have stood up, however, American troops have not been able to stand down, despite promises to the contrary. The sheer number of Iraqi enlistees has neither translated into capability for independent operations nor improved the security situation. In fact, Iraq is more violent, more dangerous, and more divided than at any time since the war began.

The security situation is increasingly complex. Instead of fighting one battle, we are fighting at least three: against largely Sunni insurgents who are fighting to recapture the power they enjoyed under Saddam Hussein; against growing sectarian violence; and against terrorists, some foreign-born, united under a banner of Islamic fundamentalism. Above all, we are fighting to prevent full-fledged civil war, and the outcome remains uncertain. The death of Zarqawi will help in our battle against the fundamentalist terrorists, but it will not markedly change the larger challenge we face in pacifying Sunni and Shiite extremists.

This picture is not pretty, and it is not a picture the Administration has been willing to discuss frankly. But it is the reality. Crafting an effective Iraq strategy means facing this reality head-on. Unfortunately, the Administration has adamantly refused to do so. In fact, Middle East expert Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies called the Administration's most recent report on progress in Iraq, "both dishonest and incompetent." Cordesman noted, "the American people and the US Congress need an honest portrayal of what is happening, not lies by omission and 'spin.'"

Most Americans now understand that this Administration has relied on spin and misinformation to carry out its Iraq policy from Day One. It led our nation into war based on false claims and insinuations. It misled the American public about the likely costs and duration of our operations. It has attempted to discredit critics of its post-invasion operation, including former military officials. And it has consistently refused to level with the American people about the significant obstacles we continue to face.

The real question before us—the question most Americans are asking—is how long must our troops stay in Iraq?

The President has told us that, as Iraqi troops stand up, American troops can stand down. But that formula is backwards. Iraqi troops will not truly stand up until American troops begin standing down. Iraqi leaders will not make the necessary compromises and take charge of their own destiny until they know their dependence on American forces is coming to an end. As we stand down, they will have no choice but to stand up.

While our military's valiant efforts have clearly facilitated important steps forward, including the formation of a democratically elected government, the troubling reality is that our continued presence makes success more elusive. It serves as a disincentive for Iraqi military and political leaders to take courageous

risks to stabilize their country and assume responsibility for their government. Equally importantly, our presence is a magnet for international terrorists and an incitement for the insurgency. While the Administration argues that we must stay the course to help Iraqis accomplish key objectives, our very presence is actually detracting from progress toward those objectives. In order to jump-start progress, our troops must begin to come home.

How we leave does matter. We must leave in a way that maximizes Iraq's chances to govern and defend itself. At the same time, we cannot become hostages to the failures of Administration policy, prolonging our stay in a situation where our very presence is a continuing provocation. That is why I joined with Rep. BRAD MILLER last fall in introducing H.J. Res. 70, which would require the President to deliver the exit strategy that the troops and the American people deserve. Today, I am renewing that call.

Let me explain in clear terms what a responsible exit strategy means:

We need to hear that the President has a plan for reducing our presence in Iraq within a reasonable timeframe. "As they stand up, we will stand down" isn't a strategy; it is a slogan. A responsible exit strategy would set out, in clear and realistic terms, a plan to guide our troops through their departure from Iraq and a strategy for reducing our military commitment. We must be willing to adapt to changing conditions, but a responsible exit strategy must not hold our troops hostage to the Iraqi people's ability to resolve their own differences.

We need to hear that such a plan would begin with an initial, near-term drawdown of U.S. forces. The Administration has repeatedly hinted that a significant drawdown may be imminent, but has quietly backed away from such predictions over and over again. A near-term, initial drawdown of forces would send a message to Iraqis that we have no permanent designs on their country, that our presence is coming to an end, and that they need to step forward to take the reins of responsibility.

We also need to hear a pledge from the President that we will not establish long-term bases on Iraqi soil. When I questioned General John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, in a recent subcommittee hearing, he refused to make a commitment not to establish permanent bases. In the wake of that exchange, the House has voted twice to force such a commitment. A House-passed amendment to the fiscal year 2006 supplemental appropriations bill to prohibit permanent U.S. bases in Iraq was removed from the final version of the bill by the Republican congressional leadership. The House recently passed a similar provision as part of the fiscal year 2007 Defense Appropriations bill, but it is unclear if it will survive in the final version of the bill. The President must heed Congress's message and send a clear signal that the U.S. has no long-term military designs in Iraq.

In addition, we need to hear that there is a plan to continue to support Iraq when our troops depart. Such a plan would mean ongoing U.S. assistance for the Iraqi government as it crafts policies to facilitate unity, security, and prosperity. This support will be particularly critical as Iraq revisits its constitution later this year. It also means support for the development of Iraqi institutions like its parliament, its judiciary, and its security forces.

Such a plan would also involve increased and assertive engagement by the international

community to increase its involvement. The international community has pledged billions of dollars in resources for Iraq that it has not yet delivered. Just as importantly, however, we need the international community to have a presence in Iraq, working with the Iraqi government, mediating disputes between sectarian parties, establishing greater ties with Iraq's economy, and supporting the development of civil society.

Finally, this plan would require engaging Iraq's neighbors to play a constructive role in giving Iraq a chance to succeed. This means pledging not to interfere in Iraq's affairs. It also means securing borders, training Iraqi security forces, and welcoming Iraq into regional institutions. I was encouraged that the Administration tentatively agreed to conduct a dialogue with Iran on its involvement in Iraq. I hope that this effort will move forward and that similar efforts will engage other Gulf States.

These are the elements of a responsible exit strategy. This is the type of leadership that the President owes our troops and the American people. After more than three years, the loss of more than 2,500 American troops' lives, and \$400 billion, this is the type of leadership that is long overdue.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF JOE PURCELL

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Joe Purcell who passed away in 1987 at the age of 63. On June 24, 2006, a memorial dedication ceremony will be held to memorialize Joe Purcell, one of the finest citizens and public servants that the city of Benton and the state of Arkansas have ever known. This dedication will recognize Purcell's legacy and life-long devotion to public service. Joe was an admired and cherished member of the Benton community and I would like to take a few moments to recognize his achievements.

Joe Purcell was born on July 29, 1923, in Warren, Arkansas. After graduating from Little Rock Junior College, Joe served his country and entered the Army during World War II. After his time in the military, Joe attended the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he graduated in 1952. That same year, he began practicing law in Benton.

Beginning in 1955, he served four years as city attorney in Benton. In 1959, Joe became Municipal Judge, a post he held until 1966 when he was elected Arkansas State Attorney General. Joe served two terms as Arkansas State Attorney General and went on to serve three productive terms as Lieutenant Governor. He also served as acting Governor of Arkansas from January 3rd through January 9th 1979, when then Senator David Pryor stepped down to serve in the U.S. Senate, before Bill Clinton was inaugurated as Governor. Joe also served as chairman of the Arkansas Democratic Party and was chairman of the state's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976.

President Bill Clinton described Joe Purcell as "a self-made man who represented honesty and integrity in public service." This quote is inscribed on a permanent marker that will

be unveiled at the Joe Purcell Memorial Dedication Ceremony. The marker will hold a special place of honor in front of the Old Federal Building in Benton, Arkansas.

Joe Purcell spent a lifetime dedicated to the community of Benton and the betterment of the lives of others. While Joe may no longer be with us, the marker placed in his memory will remind others of his commitment to public service and pay tribute to a truly remarkable man. Joe was an admired and cherished member of the Benton, Arkansas community and his memory will continue to live on in the lives he touched and the accomplishments he achieved.

ON BEHALF OF THE BEST
FRIENDS KINDNESS WEEKEND

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this weekend, June 23–25, 2006, has been designated by Best Friends Animals Society as Best Friends Kindness Weekend.

The way a society treats its animals speaks to the core values and priorities of its citizens.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus, I am committed to animal welfare because I believe animals are vital to our livelihood, and I believe humankind has an obligation to all animals. Some species have become our companions, some play important roles in sensitive ecosystems, and some are raised for food. It is our duty to protect and care for all of these animals.

The Best Friends Weekend reminds all of us how animals enrich our lives through their companionship, friendship and love.

This weekend of kindness activities should serve as a reminder to all of us, that in this increasing fragmented society we need to be ever more compassionate about the animals in our world, whether they are companion pets, service animals, zoo critters, livestock, or nature's wildlife. It is a reminder that the bond between humans and animals is a vital one and is capable of bringing joy and healing to people of all ages. It is also a reminder to be more kind and compassionate to our fellow man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN
ROBERT "HAL" SMITH

HON. JON. C. PORTER

OF NEVADA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CAPT Robert Hallock Smith, a dear friend of mine, for his outstanding service to the United States and memorable impact on the State of Nevada, the city of Henderson, and the Southern Nevada Community. Hal passed away on Monday, June 19, 2006 at the age of 89.

Hal was born in Mitchell, South Dakota on February 9, 1917. Shortly thereafter, his family moved to Ellensburg, Washington. Upon graduation from high school, he moved to South-

ern California to attend Pasadena City College and The California Institute of Technology, earning a degree in aeronautical engineering. He later attended La Salle University and the Naval War College, taking courses in command training and international political science.

In the late 1930's, Hal was commissioned as a pilot in the U.S. Navy, and served in active duty in World War II and the Korean War as a division officer on the aircraft carrier USS *Leyte*. Hal worked at the Lake Mead Naval Base and retired as a Navy Captain. He then worked as a partner and manager of Henderson Builders' Supply for 10 years, and was Vice-President for Nevada operations of Prudential Securities/Burrows Smith Division. Hal served on many active service positions including the Henderson Charter Commission, Civil Service Board, Western States Water Council, Clark County Bond Commission, Nevada Ethics Commission, and Nevada State Board of Education. In 1966, Hal was elected to the Nevada State Assembly, serving two terms, and served in the Nevada State Senate from 1988 to 1994. During this time Hal was a member of Rotary Club International, Masonic Lodge, Shriners, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. As a capstone to Hal's career, the Clark County School District honored him by naming a school after him, the Hal Smith Elementary School.

Hal's greatest accomplishment in life was his family. On June 1, 1940, Hal married his love Tina. Together they had three children: Victoria who married Colin Holman; Peter who married Marilyn Mendive; and Christy, who married John Winlow. They also have nine grandchildren, Danny, Marc, Erin, Christian, Derek, Amanda, Hal, Katie, and Whitney, and ten great-grandchildren, Isaiah, Danielle, McKenzie, Thomas, Ava, Benjamin, Maia, Grantham, Delaney, and Alexander.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize CAPT Robert Hallock Smith on the floor of the House. My friend Hal served his family, Southern Nevada, and the United States of America with honor, and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING MR. STEVE HELLER,
TEACHER AT ADLAI E. STEVENSON
HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Steve Heller, a teacher at Adlai E. Stevenson High School, who has been recognized by a Presidential Scholar student or his great skill, knowledge, and dedication in the classroom. It is my pleasure to be able to congratulate Steve on this commendation.

As a shining example within an extremely able and talented staff of teachers, Mr. Heller, achievement reflects the extraordinarily high quality of education available at Adlai E. Stevenson High School. The school's stunning record includes four Blue Ribbon Awards for Excellence in Education and several other prizes. It has been ranked by Newsweek and U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 100 high schools in America. As an integral part of Lincolnshire, Illinois, the perpetuation of its high standards through the efforts of

such outstanding teachers as Mr. Heller is of great benefit to students, parents and the wider community.

Mr. Heller's efforts have recently been highlighted by a nomination from a student on the Presidential Scholars program. This scheme, which started in 1964, sees two students from each state, and an additional 40 at large, selected every year by the U.S. Department of Education for their academic excellence along with exemplary work in community service and the arts.

Each of these star students has, since 1983, been asked to nominate one teacher that they felt was the most challenging and motivational in their academic careers. Mr. Heller was chosen this year for the commendation by his student and Presidential Scholar recipient Michele Trickey.

It is my privilege and pleasure to recognize Steve Heller, whose extraordinary efforts in education make him a beacon to his profession. I call on the House to join me in congratulating him and Michele on their achievements.

HONORING DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL
CHOIRS AND THE LLANGOLLEN
INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL
EISTEDDFOD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Davis High School Advanced Treble and Madrigal Choirs as they prepare to perform at the 60th Diamond Anniversary International Musical Eisteddfod to be held in Llangollen, Northern Wales, this July 4th to 9th.

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod began in 1946, following the devastation of World War II, with the mission of promoting international peace through music, song and dance. Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod draws competitors from more than 50 countries. Luminaries such as Luciano Pavarotti and Charlotte Church participated as children in past competitions.

The Davis High School Advanced Treble Choir and Madrigal Choir are the only high school choirs from the United States to compete in the 2006 festival. Davis High School is only the second high school from California ever to represent their state and nation in this prestigious competition. The choirs are greatly honored to be part of an event whose purpose is the promotion of international peace and understanding through the bonds of music and friendship.

At a time when the need for cultural understanding among nations is great, the invitation highlights the choirs' cherished tradition of inclusiveness. Musically, they represent a legacy of more than 30 years for the Madrigal choir and an investment of more than five years in the development of the Advanced Treble choir. The distinguished invitation to Llangollen attests to the reputation built by predecessors and to the support of the wider Davis community. Funds have been raised in the community to ensure that every singer in the choirs is able to make the trip to Wales.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we commend and convey best wishes to the Davis High School Advanced Treble and Madrigal Choirs, and send our greetings and congratulations to all those involved in the 60th Diamond Anniversary Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod.

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to House Resolution 861.

While I reaffirm my commitment to do everything possible to support the men and women serving our country in Iraq, I will not dishonor them by supporting this sham resolution.

This resolution is no more than a deceitful effort by the Republican leadership to justify an ill conceived war—a war based on faulty and manipulated intelligence and years of reckless and costly decisions.

These decisions have increased threats to our national security and drained our treasury of valuable resources needed for critical programs such as education, healthcare, research and job training.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that the President has lost support for this war as America has become increasingly aware of the Administration's deception and lack of a clear plan for success. A plan such as the one outlined in Congressman MURTHA's resolution would protect our troops and bring them home as safely and as quickly possible.

The resolution before this House is nothing more than a ploy to regain support and political advantage by once again blurring the lines between the devastating 9/11 attacks and the ongoing war in Iraq. This connection has repeatedly been discredited.

In the aftermath of 9/11, the United States justifiably invaded Afghanistan in pursuit of Osama Bin Laden, who is the man we know was responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

U.S. intelligence sources tell us we were close to capturing him, but then the President redirected our troops and resources to invade Iraq.

As a consequence of the President's decision, the terrorist responsible for the deaths of thousands of Americans is still free, Iraq has in fact become a breeding ground for terrorists, and the invasion has inflamed hatred towards our country and has jeopardized our ability to quickly form a strong international coalition to fight terrorism abroad and protect us at home.

If the Republican leadership were sincere about honoring our troops, they would have provided them with the full equipment they are still lacking, and they would not for example, have passed a budget with a \$6 billion cut to Veterans Healthcare, or rejected Democratic amendments to increase badly needed funding in the Military Quality of Life appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, sending our troops into Iraq ill equipped, with no plan for success, and no exit strategy was a shameful mistake.

For the Republican leadership to play politics with this resolution and mask true support for our troops with mere words and rhetoric is disgraceful.

I, like every American, support our troops and honor their patriotism.

Their heroism and resolve to fight for our country, despite the deplorable circumstance under which they were sent to Iraq, heightens my pride in their service and strengthens my resolve to bring them home quickly and safely.

I will not dishonor them by supporting this Republican charade.

H.R. 4939

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the Chairman and Ranking Member for their support of my request to include \$228 million in funding for the C-17 aircraft procurement in H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror and Hurricane Recovery.

This funding allows for the procurement of seven new aircraft and clearly signifies the Defense Department's growing commitment to the future construction of the C-17 aircraft through fiscal year 2008.

The House and Senate are fervent believers in the C-17, as this plane has exceeded all expectations and is one of the most successful airlift cargo aircrafts of the Defense Department. The C-17 is currently being flown 160 percent more than usual to deliver supplies to war theatres and to conduct humanitarian missions. The C-17 is vital to our national security, and an irreplaceable tool for our country to meet our growing global commitments.

The C-17 is fighting for America, and I have proudly led the fight for the C-17. My work with the Secretary of the Air Force, letters to the Secretary of Defense and working with the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Appropriations Committees of both the House and Senate have resulted in the appropriations we have had approved. In December, I proudly delivered a letter to the President that had the signatures of 148 House Members and 13 Senators supporting the C-17 program. I am pleased to represent the Boeing Company in my District, and the skilled workforce who calls Southern California their home.

Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased that Congress has done its part for the next fiscal year to provide much-needed C-17's to our troops to fight the War on Terror and to serve humanitarian needs both at home and abroad, I will only intensify my pursuit of further funding. The American Armed Forces deserve to fly with only the best.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTTSBORO POLICE CHIEF KEITH SMITH

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scottsboro Police Chief Keith

Smith, who recently announced his retirement after 35 years of public service.

Chief Smith started his career in law enforcement as a Military Police Officer in the United States Army in 1966. After serving 1 year in Vietnam, he was honorably discharged before joining the Scottsboro Police Department in 1971. He was named the Chief of Police in 1980 and has served in that position ever since.

Mr. Speaker, as Police Chief, he continually modernized and upgraded the department's technologies and methods of crime prevention. Through his leadership, the City of Scottsboro has maintained a low crime rate and has established itself to be a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I consider it a privilege to have worked with Chief Smith on a variety of issues facing the City of Scottsboro and all of Northeast Alabama. His unique ability to serve the public and work with a number of elected officials over his unprecedented 26 year term is quite remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Smith is well respected throughout our local community. On Sunday, June 25th, the Scottsboro community will gather to honor and celebrate all of his achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to thank Chief Smith for his many years of dedicated service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER GUAM GOVERNOR BILL DANIEL

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Governor Bill Daniel, a former Governor of Guam, who passed away Tuesday, June 20, 2006, at his home in Liberty, TX, at the age of ninety. His legacy has left an indelible imprint on our island and our people. Daniel served as Governor of Guam from 1961 to 1963. He was appointed to this position by President John F. Kennedy. Governor Daniel not only rose to the task, he adopted the island as his second home and implemented changes that continue to benefit our island to this day.

Governor Daniel was a "hands-on" leader. He mounted a massive, island-wide clean-up campaign that included cutting a trail to reach the isolated Talofofo Falls, which continues to serve as one of the island's most beautiful and popular sites for visitors. Before his first 100 days ended, Governor Daniel signed legislation upgrading education by elevating the College of Guam to a four-year institution of higher learning now known as the University of Guam. The University of Guam today is an accredited institution providing quality education to approximately 3,000 students on our island.

He is however best known for removing the security clearance requirement for persons who traveled to or from Guam, including residents. The lifting of this clearance is acknowledged as the single most important act which stimulated Guam's economy.

Governor Daniel was a true visionary whose deep love for our island and our people is manifested in his accomplishments as Governor of Guam. In addition to his many successes, he never wavered in his belief that our

island was ready for a greater degree of self-governance. In 1963, Governor Daniel resigned from his position, allowing the Honorable Manuel Guerrero, his friend and protégé, to succeed him as Governor.

Governor Daniel was instrumental in helping shape our island and his success in removing the security clearance paved the way for our thriving visitor industry and private sector development. Though his tenure was brief, Governor Daniel's deep affection for Guam never waned. He set up a scholarship fund at the University of Guam to ensure his legacy in promoting higher education. He maintained his relationship with many of our leaders throughout the years, especially those leaders he mentored, and he remained an advocate and a friend of Guam. My late husband, former Governor Ricky Bordonado, was inspired by Governor Daniel's leadership and he always counted Governor Daniel as one of the most important leaders of our island and a historical figure whose vision changed our island. I will always remember him as that larger than life Texan whose greatest contribution was in knowing how to encourage local leaders. He had the wisdom to step aside at the right moment so that the people of Guam can exercise self-governance, and for that graciousness, we will always be thankful.

My thoughts and prayers are with his daughters Ann, Susan and Dani. I join all the people of Guam in expressing our deepest gratitude for his dedication and service to our island. He will be dearly missed.

HEALTH CENTERS RENEWAL ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 5573, the Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006.

Federal community health centers provide health care services to poor and under-served communities across the country. They serve the uninsured, the homeless, rural residents, farm workers, and others who have no other access to care. These centers make health care accessible and affordable through outreach programs, education initiatives, and translation services, and many people rely on these centers for their primary care.

There are over 1,000 federal community health centers across the United States, and we are fortunate in my congressional district of El Paso, TX, to have three excellent health centers.

Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe has been serving clients in the El Paso area since 1967. The organization currently operates eight clinics, including a new Child and Adolescent Wellness Center and an HIV/AIDS clinic. La Fe also employs over 300 El Pasoans.

Project Vida is a multi-service agency in El Paso that has a long record of delivering quality services to those in need. The organization operates three health care clinics in our community.

Finally, Centro San Vicente provides a comprehensive range of health care services, including primary care, dental care, and behavior health services, to El Pasoans.

Mr. Speaker, in my congressional district and across America, community health centers are essential to keeping our constituents healthy and our communities strong. H.R. 5573 will assist them in their important efforts, and I ask all of my colleagues to support the bill.

DECLARING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL PREVAIL IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution, in support of our troops, and in support of our Nation's efforts in the Global War on Terror.

In both Iraq and Afghanistan, we find ourselves locked in a struggle with an enemy that despises liberty and embraces an ideology of hate.

Terrorists did not declare war on us the morning of September 11, 2001. It started long before that. Consider the following:

In November of 1979, radical Iranians seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, holding 53 American hostages for 444 days.

Less than four years later, 63 people died when the U.S. Embassy in Beirut is bombed.

Scant months later, 242 Americans and 58 French are killed by simultaneous suicide bombers in the American and French compounds in Beirut.

March 1984, Islamic terrorists kidnapped and murdered Political Officer William Buckley.

One year later, terrorists seized the Italian cruise liner the Achille Lauro and killed Leon Klinghoffer, a 69-year-old American who was confined to a wheelchair.

In June of 1985, Lebanese Hizballah terrorists hijacked a TWA flight forcing the plane to fly to Beirut. Eight crew members and 145 passengers are held hostage for 17 days, during which time a U.S. sailor is murdered.

April 1986, two U.S. soldiers are killed and 79 are injured when Libyan nationals detonated bombs in a West Berlin discotheque.

Two years later, Libyans again take American lives when Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland. All of the 259 people on board are killed.

On February 26, 1993, for the first time, Islamic terrorists strike on American soil when a car bomb explodes in the garage of the World Trade Center, killing six and injuring 1,000.

On April 14, 1993, Iraqi intelligence operatives attempted to assassinate former President Bush.

In 1995, a car bomb exploded at a U.S. military complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, one U.S. citizen is killed.

Seven months later a truck bomb detonated outside the Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Nineteen Airmen are killed and 515 people are wounded.

In August of 1998, the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania fall victim to coordinated attacks. Over 300 are killed.

Two years later, a small watercraft laden with explosives rammed into the U.S.S. *Cole*, killing 17 U.S. sailors.

Finally, September 11, 2001, two hijacked airliners hit the World Trade Center towers,

another plane crashed into the Pentagon and a fourth plane, headed for either the White House or U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., crashed in a Pennsylvania cornfield. All told, 3,025 perish.

But until we took action in Afghanistan, our response to terror was often non-existent, sporadic, or inconsistent.

In the wake of September 11, the American people rightfully demanded that their elected officials make a commitment to aggressively combat terrorism. We went into Afghanistan to proactively stop further attacks on innocent Americans. Afghanistan was a haven for al-Qaeda, and the terror attacks on our own soil showed us that we can no longer rely on oceans and geography to protect our homeland from attack. Thus, we must drain the swamps where terrorism breeds and take the fight to those who have, through their own words and deeds, declared war on us.

In addition to the real-life need to protect our citizens, there is a larger meaning in our efforts in the Global War on Terror. Those we fight abhor freedom and liberty. They shun religious tolerance and view with disdain our deeply held belief that every person is endowed with basic human rights. And make no doubt about it—our enemy in the Global War on Terror is determined to impose their dangerous ideology on innocent people around the globe. The carnage of September 11 showed us that we can no longer turn a blind eye as hate-filled terrorists plot against our Nation and its citizens.

Then there is the question of Iraq. Hindsight is 20/20, and we now know that Iraq did not possess significant stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. But let us look at the evidence from the time—the evidence upon which the Congress, the Administration, and our allies around the world had to judge the threat posed by Iraq.

Saddam Hussein had a long history of pursuing weapons of mass destruction. Like the terrorist acts against this country, Saddam's determination to pursue weapons of mass destruction and desire to intimidate his neighbors in the region began long ago.

In the 1970's, Iraq started constructing a nuclear reactor in Osirak. The international community did nothing in response to this gathering threat. Israel, not content to watch Saddam Hussein move forward with a nuclear program, destroyed the reactor in 1981.

In the 1980s and the early part of the 1990s, Saddam Hussein's regime proved time and again that they were a threat to peace and stability in the region. Saddam repeatedly, almost continually, used chemical and biological weapons on his own citizens and Iranian troops. For example:

In August 1983, Saddam used mustard gas on almost 100 Iranians and Kurds in Haji Uman.

From October through November of that same year, he used mustard gas on 3,000 Iranians and Kurds in Panjwin.

One year later on Manjoon Island, Saddam again used mustard gas on 2,500 Iranians.

Simultaneously, he used the nerve agent tabun on 50 to 100 Iranians in Al Basrah.

A year later, in March of 1985, mustard and tabun were used in Hawizah Marsh on 3,000 Iranians.

February of 1986 in Al-Faw, mustard and tabun were used against 8,000 to 10,000 Iranians.

Later in 1986 in Urm al-Rasas, mustard gas was used against thousands of Iranians.

Then in April of 1987 at Al-Basrah, mustard and tabun were used on 3,000 Iranians.

Later that year, mustard and a nerve agent were used in Sumar/Mehran on 5,000 Iranians.

In March of 1988, mustard and a nerve agent were used on thousands of Iranians and Kurds in Halabjah and Kurdish areas respectively.

One month later, Al-Faw again sees destruction when mustard and a nerve agent were used on thousands of Iranians.

One month after that, Fish Lake sees hundreds or thousands of Iranians succumb to mustard or a nerve agent.

In June of 1988, Manjoon Island was attacked with mustard and nerve agent, this time hundreds or thousands were affected.

July of that year, the chemical agents were again used along the South-central border with the same effect.

One month later in Hajj Umrnan, mustard gas was used on less than 100 Kurds.

And finally, in March of 1991 in the An-Najaf-Karbala area, nerve agent was yet again used by Hussein's regime.

These attacks demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt Saddam Hussein's willingness to use weapons of mass destruction against not only his foreign enemies, but even his own citizens.

Now, let us remember that the intelligence community around the world continued to assert that Iraq under Saddam Hussein continued to pursue the means to produce and deploy weapons of mass destruction. It would have been irresponsible—in light of Saddam's record of using these weapons—to ignore these intelligence warnings. And I might also add that in the wake of these intelligence shortcomings and in response to the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, the House has taken concrete steps to improve our intelligence gathering and analytical capabilities.

Three years ago when I addressed this House on the resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq, I said, "while I do not find sufficient evidence to establish a concrete link between Iraq and the al-Qaeda terrorist that committed the terrorist acts of September 11th, the fact remains that Iraq continues to sponsor terrorists with global reach."

I think this analysis holds true today. To use the words of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, "September 11 was not an isolated event but a tragic prologue, Iraq another act, and many further struggles will be set upon this stage before it's over."

Let us remember—Iraq had been labeled a State Sponsor of Terrorism by both the current Bush Administration as well as the Clinton Administration. Removing this breeding ground of terrorism was and is in this country's best interest.

Furthermore, Saddam demonstrated a complete disregard for his international obligations. Over the course of more than a decade, he willfully violated or simply ignored 17 U.N. Security Council Resolutions. He attempted to assassinate our former President, and he continually violated the peace treaty that he signed to end the first Gulf War. And let us not forget that Saddam also invaded two of his sovereign neighbors.

Saddam Hussein's blatant disregard for basic human rights was well-documented. He

used fear and intimidation to retain his grip on power, and his henchmen employed torture, rape, murder and a host of other unspeakable crimes to keep the Iraqi populace under his tyrannical control. I think it is again worth reminding my colleagues that these evil individuals no longer control Iraq, and Saddam finds himself on trial before his fellow Iraqis for crimes against his own people.

I believe that history will excuse the errors in our intelligence about weapons of mass destruction and reach a common-sense conclusion—military action to remove Saddam Hussein from power was justified, and the world is a safer place with Saddam Hussein in a jail cell.

The storm clouds were gathering in Iraq. As Franklin Delano Roosevelt said in his 1941 State of the Union Address, "when the dictators . . . are ready to make war upon us, they will not wait for an act of war on our part . . . they—not we—will choose the time and the place and the method of their attack." The wisdom of President Franklin Roosevelt still rings true today. It would have been a grave mistake to dismiss or ignore the threat posed by Saddam Hussein.

Our actions in Iraq and in Afghanistan were in response to the global threat we faced from state sponsors of terror that harbored and assisted our enemies. And whether you supported or opposed military action in Afghanistan and the use of force in Iraq, the fact of the matter is that we now have troops in the field working diligently to help fledgling democracies take hold in the Middle East. The world is watching, and we must remain committed to our principles and our mission. And we have a duty to stand behind our troops.

It is in our national security interests for the seeds of democracy take hold in Iraq. And we must continue to train and assist Iraqis to provide for their own security. A significant step towards the goal of a free, peaceful and independent Iraq will be the development of security forces, composed of and led by Iraqis, that is firmly under the direction and control of the freely elected government.

Ultimately, success will be achieved when Iraq is a stable country that is no longer a threat to the region or global security, a peaceable country that respects the rights of its citizens and its neighbors.

This is a difficult but worthwhile endeavor. And we are making tangible progress.

Iraqi security forces are growing in number and taking more responsibility for internal security. We have now trained more than 240,000 security forces, and these men and even some women are now beginning to take the lead in the fight against terrorist insurgents. Indigenous personnel and intelligence assets played a key role in the successful mission that led to the elimination of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda's leader in Iraq.

Democracy is taking root in Iraq. The Iraqi people have approved what is arguably the most progressive constitution in the Arab world, and last December, 75 percent of voting age Iraqis freely elected their new government. Iraq now has a new Prime Minister, Jawad al-Maliki, and the Prime Minister has filled all of the positions in his cabinet. The new government is a representative cross-section of Iraq's diverse religious and ethnic populations.

Things are moving forward on the economic front. In 2005, the Iraqi economy grew by an

estimated 2.6 percent in real terms and the International Monetary Fund has estimated that it will grow by more than 10 percent this year. Foreign and domestic banks are opening new offices in Iraq and a stock market has been established. Vital infrastructure—schools, hospitals, fire stations and the like—continues to come online.

Progress in Iraq has been slow, but it is happening, and slowly but surely, things are moving in the right direction.

It has been suggested by some in this Chamber that we should either immediately remove our troops from Iraq or set artificial timelines for withdrawal. Like all Americans, I want our troops to return as soon as is possible. But I think it would be short-sighted to withdraw our military until stability has been established in Iraq. A premature withdrawal would waste the sacrifice of those who have worked so hard to promote freedom in the heart of the Middle East.

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2006 stated that "2006 should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq." I agree with this language.

However, the job now is not finished. Iraqi security forces are not ready to counter all of the threats that are facing Iraq and cannot secure their country on their own. If we made the ill-fated decision to turn our backs on the Iraqi people, we would doom their brief experience with democracy and risk creating a lawless safe-haven for terrorists.

Our enemies know what is at stake in Iraq. Al-Qaeda views Iraq as the frontline in their efforts to combat the spread of democracy in the Middle East. They realize that our success in Iraq is a direct threat to their ideology of fear and hate. To walk away now from our mission in Iraq would be portrayed in the Arab World as a significant victory for al-Qaeda. It would draw into question our commitment to our allies in the region and our commitment to the very principles upon which our Nation is based.

Like all Americans, I want our troops home as soon as possible. And we as Congress have a constitutional obligation to weigh-in on this effort and ensure that our Nation's policy is consistent with a goal of achieving victory in Iraq. And as appealing as an immediate withdrawal may be to certain segments of our society, I think it would be irresponsible for Congress to turn our back on our obligations and call for the removal of troops from Iraq before the mission has been accomplished. And as a matter of fairness, the embrace of a "cut and run" approach to Iraq would waste the sacrifice of thousands of American troops who have served in Iraq.

Since September 11, 2001, we have not had a major terrorist attack on American soil, despite the clear desire of our enemy to again strike us here at home. We have terminated or captured dangerous terrorists around the globe, disrupted their financing, and denied them safe-haven. We should be proud of these accomplishments, but remain vigilant in recognizing that more work remains.

God willing, we will prevail in this struggle. May God bless the United States, and God bless the soldiers that defend it.

WELCOMING NEW AMBASSADOR
OF UGANDA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Ambassador of Uganda to the United States.

His Excellency Perezi Kamunanwire presented his credentials to President Bush last month, succeeding the long-serving ambassador, Mrs. Edith Ssemपाला.

Ambassador Kamunanwire's previous diplomatic experience includes serving as his country's ambassador to Germany (1986–88) and to the United Nations in New York (1988–96).

In his capacity as a senior African diplomat, Ambassador Kamunanwire has also served as chairman of the Committee of African Ambassadors to the UN (1990–91); chairman of the Special Political Committee of the 45th session of the UN General Assembly (1991); chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Committee to Elect the UN Secretary General (1991); vice chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the 1992 UN Conference on Environmental Development (1991); chairman of the Committee for Rationalization and Revitalization of the Work of the UN General Assembly (1993); co-convenor of the Seventh Pan-African Congress in Kampala, Uganda (1994); and vice president of the UN Non-Proliferation Treaty Review (1995).

Ambassador Kamunanwire has also had a distinguished career in the academic world. Since 2003, he has been an adjunct professor at the Center for Conflict Management and Organizational Research at Bulgaria's Sophia University.

From 1997 to 1999, Ambassador Kamunanwire was director of the Black Studies Program at the City College of the City University of New York, where he has also been a lecturer since 1974. Since 1997, he has also served as a lecturer in the International Relations Program of City College's Department of Sociology. At City College, he has developed and taught courses on the United Nations, African politics, human rights, and other related topics.

Ambassador Kamunanwire was educated at Columbia University in New York, where he earned a B.A. in political science and a master's degree in international relations.

Ambassador Kamunanwire is the author of *Education for Development: The Establishment and the Success of Universal Primary Education in Uganda* (2000) and co-editor of *A Study Guide for Uganda* (1970). He contributed the foreword to *We, The PanAfrikans: Essays on the Global Black Experience*, by Professor Kannuti Kiteme (1973).

In 2003, Ignatius College in New York awarded Ambassador Kamunanwire an honorary doctor of laws degree, in recognition of "lifetime achievements in the field of international relations."

On June 14, my colleague (Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) and I, in our capacity as co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Uganda, hosted a welcome reception for Ambassador Kamunanwire. The Department of State's "Washington File" published an article about that event the next day ("U.S. Lawmaker Hails Uganda as Emerging 'Superstar'"), which,

without objection, I would like to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Ambassador Kamunanwire is a personable human being and an able diplomat. I look forward to working with him on issues of common concern to Uganda and the United States.

[From the Washington File, June 15, 2006]

U.S. LAWMAKER HAILS UGANDA AS EMERGING
"SUPERSTAR"

(By Jim Fisher-Thompson)

WASHINGTON.—Uganda is "emerging as one of the superstars of Africa," in part because of its success in fighting HIV/AIDS, House Africa Subcommittee Chairman Chris Smith (Republican of New Jersey) said at a June 14 reception honoring Ugandan Ambassador Perezi Kamunanwire.

Smith was joined by fellow lawmaker Edolphus Towns (Democrat of New York). The lawmakers are co-chairmen of the Congressional Caucus on Uganda, formed in November 2004.

Congressional staff members, including Smith's Africa specialist, Greg Simpkins, also attended the evening event, as well as Rwandan Ambassador Zac Nsenga and former U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone Joseph Melrose.

Smith welcomed Ambassador Kamunanwire, most recently Uganda's envoy to Germany, who presented his credentials to President Bush on May 15, noting that he represents a country that has made significant inroads in AIDS prevention.

"Uganda is truly emerging as one of Africa's real superstars, and that is well known to people here on Capitol Hill—on both sides of the [political] aisle," Smith said.

In particular, the nation is setting an example for AIDS prevention, the lawmaker said, because of President Yoweri Museveni and his government's strategy of "working with local faith-based organizations and others . . . especially to reach young people with the message of [sex] deferral and of life for themselves and their loved ones."

Smith, a champion of human rights and health issues in Africa who has visited the continent numerous times, including a recent trip to Uganda, said, "Frankly, I was blown over by the enthusiasm I saw for family values [there] . . . so it was a very remarkable trip."

Uganda is one of 12 African nations targeted in the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), initiated by President Bush in 2003. The program is a five-year, \$15 billion effort aimed at battling the killer disease in 120 nations worldwide using the ABC strategy, which stands for "Abstain, Be faithful and Correct and Consistent use of condoms."

On the treatment front, as of March 31, life-saving antiretroviral medicines have gone to 561,000 people worldwide under the PEPFAR program—61 percent of them women. During that period, 75,000 people received anti-AIDS drugs in Uganda. Antiretroviral prophylaxis was also provided to women for 342,200 pregnancies, preventing an estimated 65,100 infant HIV infections, according to a PEPFAR fact sheet.

On the security front, Smith added, "We're also very encouraged and hopeful about what's happening in northern Uganda with the Lord's Resistance Army [LRA]," the rebel movement that has kidnapped children from villages, forcing them to serve as child soldiers.

"I know the government of Uganda is doing everything it can to try and mitigate and hopefully end that despicable activity by [LRA leader] Joseph Kony in abducting young children," Smith told the gathering.

Turning to Kamunanwire, the lawmaker pledged: "We will work with you. Our com-

mittee is a workhorse committee. We write a lot of laws" in areas such as human trafficking, and "we want to work with you on trade, environmental protection, humanitarian and human rights issues."

Kamunanwire, who described himself as "the new boy on the block," thanked the caucus for the welcome and pledged to work closely with Congress, as his predecessor Ambassador Edith Ssemपाला had done, on issues of interest to both Africa and the United States.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
HILA "DUTCH" BUCHER NEWMAN

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to my dear friend Hila "Dutch" Bucher Newman for being recognized and honored by the City of Kansas City, Missouri in naming a segment of Westport Road, the Honorary "Dutch" Newman Drive. A special on-site event will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, so that family and friends can participate in the official christening of "Dutch Newman Drive," a fitting tribute to a lovely lady that has contributed so much to our community.

Dutch and her family have woven the fabric of the history of Westport, Missouri, now a vibrant neighborhood incorporated into the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Their family's connection to Westport dates back to the 1800's family patriarch, Sam Bucher, who helped settle the small frontier town. Her great-grandfather, Robert Bucher, served the city as Marshall. It could be said that Dutch learned a tradition of service most directly from her father, Harry Bucher, who protected the city as Chief of the Vice Squad for the Kansas City Police Department. He also helped stimulate the Westport economy by opening three businesses in the area, including "The Wrestlers Inn" which was located in the oldest building in Westport.

Dutch continued the family legacy of making Westport home while immersing her energies into enhancing her beloved community by providing direction through her leadership skills. Dutch was born in Westport, educated in Westport, married in Westport, owned a business in Westport, and continues to live in Westport. During World War II she served on the Civil Defense Program, planning the Blackout Tests. She holds memberships in the Daughters of Westport, The Westport Historical Society, and the Westport Neighborhood Crime Watch.

As U.S. Representative for Missouri's Fifth District, I am keenly aware and appreciative of Dutch's political contributions, knowledge, and experiences. As any elected official in our region can attest, if you need sound advice, political or otherwise, you count on Dutch. I proudly selected Dutch to represent the State of Missouri as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 2005. She is a strong advocate for promoting dignity, health, independence and economic security for current and future generations of seniors. Dutch has a gift for examining you with her intense blue eyes and then providing you with the straight scoop.

Currently, Dutch serves on the Missouri Democratic Party's State Executive Board; is a Missouri State Committee Member; Chairperson of the 10th Senatorial District Committee; and has been the 5th Ward Democratic Committeewoman for over 30 years. Dutch is the Founder and President of the Westport Landing Democratic Club, former founder and Past President of the 5th District Women's Democratic Club, former Vice Chair of the Fifth Congressional District Committee, former Vice Chair of the Jackson County Democratic Committee, Past President of the State of Missouri Women's Federation Democratic Club, and was the first woman appointed by the Governor of Missouri to serve on Senatorial Redistricting Committee. Dutch has represented the State of Missouri as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention eight times. She has received many honors, including the Harry S Truman Award, Women's Fifth District "Woman of the Year Award", the Rodger A. Gooden Award for her strong commitment to social justice and inclusiveness, and the Combat Community Mother's Award. As an institution in the local Democratic Party, Dutch has stood prominently beside U.S. Presidents and other officials during their visits to Kansas City.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the matriarch of Westport, Hila "Dutch" Bucher Newman, for her unyielding commitment to the Westport area and the Fifth District. With this honorary naming of Westport Road, we pay tribute to a lifetime of work and dedication to the betterment of her community. I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to join me in congratulating Dutch on her well-deserved honor.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVE AND LINDA HARMON TO THE GUAM COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of two individuals, who, for the last 11 years, have dedicated themselves to exceptional service to our community. David and Linda Harmon, Majors in the Salvation Army, are recognized in the Guam community for their boundless benevolence and enduring commitment to serving the disadvantaged, feeding, clothing and housing those in need, and helping individuals recover from substance abuse.

David and Linda Harmon first arrived on Guam in July 1995. The Salvation Army Guam Corps has become an integral part of Guam's disaster recovery and relief system under their leadership. Dave and Linda have helped the people of Guam recover from several natural disasters since their arrival on Guam, including Supertyphoon Paka in 1997, and Typhoon Chata'an and Supertyphoon Pongsona in 2002. The Salvation Army donated thousands of dollars of food, clothing, and supplies through their efforts to many residents who lost everything as a result of these natural disasters. The organization under their leadership also assisted in providing humanitarian assistance to the Kurdish refugees who were evacuated from Iraq to Guam as part of Operation

Pacific Haven in 1996, and to Burmese refugees who came to Guam to seek political asylum in the United States in 2000. Additionally, the Salvation Army Guam Corps, under the Harmon's leadership in 1997, provided critical assistance in the aftermath of the tragic crash of Korean Air Flight 801 on Guam.

The Harmons helped establish the substance abuse recovery program which eventually became known as the Lighthouse Recovery Center. The Lighthouse Recovery Center has grown from meager beginnings to a 16-bed residence today, and has helped start over 200 men down the road to recovery from substance abuse and addiction. With guidance from the Harmons the Corp's Thrift Store was expanded. And after acquisition of the former Navy Chapel at Tiyan, the Salvation Army developed its Food Bank and Education Center as their Family Services and One Stop Homeless Assistance Center.

The Harmons have been active citizens in the Guam community outside of the Salvation Army as well. They are members of the Guam Symphony Society, the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, the Guam Homeless Coalition, the Council on Homelessness, and Linda is a past president and member of the Guam Women's Club.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, I have come to personally know the Harmons. I helped welcome them to Guam as Lieutenant Governor when they first arrived on the island, and as a Charter Member of Guam Corps, I have worked closely with them in the activities of the Salvation Army. David and Linda are kind, self-sacrificing, and have a genuine, passionate love for Guam and its people. They are dear friends to many, and we will all miss them when they leave Guam for their next duty station. I am only comforted by the fact that the Salvation Army Santa Monica, California Corps will be in very capable hands under their leadership.

Therefore, on behalf of a grateful island, I join their children, Joel, Fred, Holly, and Lisa, and all the people of Guam in extending a heartfelt "Dangkulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase" to David and Linda Harmon for all the good they have done for the people of Guam and for their service to our community.

SIKHS IN PUNJAB DEMAND INDEPENDENCE WHILE OBSERVING ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE MASSACRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, June 3 through June 6 marked the anniversary of a very dark chapter in history, the Indian government's military invasion of the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, in 1984. That atrocity was commemorated by Sikhs and others all over the world. There were demonstrations here in Washington and in many cities.

At the Golden Temple in Amritsar they had a ceremony to commemorate the occasion. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Joginder Singh Vedanti, the highest Sikh religious leader, led the commemoration. During his remarks, he did not mention Saul Jmail Singh Bhindranwale, the leader of the Sikhs who

was murdered at the Golden Temple, or General Shabeg Singh or any of the others who were murdered. This displeased the crowd.

The Sikhs in attendance, hundreds of them, chanted slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad," which means "Long live Khalistan." Khalistan is the Sikh homeland which declared itself independent from India on October 7, 1987. These chants show that the movement to liberate Khalistan is still alive in Punjab. Last year, there were speeches and flag-raising on the Golden Temple anniversary. There were similar events this past January. Those events resulted in arrests and criminal complaints, even though the Indian courts have ruled that speaking out [or Khalistan is not a crime. In spite of these intimidation tactics, the Sikhs spoke out again for Khalistan.

Over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in the Golden Temple attack and the attacks on 37 other Gurdwaras around Punjab, known as Operation Bluestar. During Operation Bluestar, the Indian army shot bullet holes in the Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib. Young boys were taken outside and summarily shot. The Golden Temple itself was ransacked and severely damaged. Do these sound like the acts of a democracy?

If India were truly committed to democratic values, at the very least, the Indian government would issue a public apology to the Sikhs and pay compensation to the victims' families.

The Golden Temple attacks show that there is no place for Sikhs in India, and other minorities also feel the massive repression of "the world's largest democracy." More than a quarter of a million Sikhs have been killed and over 52,000 continue to be held as political prisoners. India has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland and tens of thousands more in the rest of the country, as well as more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, thousands more Muslims around India, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. For minority peoples and nations, India is one of the world's worst tyrannies. It is a democracy for the Brahmins and a police state for the minorities.

This is not acceptable, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express the sympathy of the Congress to the Sikh Nation for the Golden Temple massacre. In light of this atrocity and the ongoing atrocities of the Indian government, I wonder why the United States continues to fund such a country. The time has come, Mr. Speaker, to stop our aid and trade with India and to support self-determination for all peoples and nations in South Asia. This is the best way to bring about stability, peace, freedom, and prosperity in the subcontinent, to defuse the troubles there, and to make sure that every person's rights are protected.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place a couple of very good articles on the chanting of Khalistan slogans at the Golden Temple into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Tribune (Chandigarh), June 7, 2006]

RADICALS RAISE KHALISTAN SLOGANS

AMRITSAR, June 6.—Activists of various radical Sikh organizations raised slogans in favour of Khalistan on Ghallughara divas (genocide day) to mark the 22nd anniversary of Operation Bluestar in front of Akal Takht here today.

Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, president, SAD, distanced himself from it.

As soon as Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, president, SAD (A), came out from Akal Takht after participating in ardas, radicals started raising slogans for an independent Sikh state and showed pages containing statements in favour of Khalistan and posters displaying damaged Akal Takht in the military operation. However, Mr. Badal accused those who indulged in sloganeering of being agents of the Congress, which was responsible for the infamous Army operation. He said Mr. Mann was well aware that Punjab had to suffer greatly because of this.

Mr. Mann said though they were not allowed to continue their peaceful struggle to attain independence, they would contest the next elections democratically.

Commenting on the recent judgments and coverage in newspapers, he claimed that judges and the English media had also saffronised. He asked people to raise their hands if they wanted revival of Anandpur Sahib's resolution of 1973 and for severing of relations with the Congress and the BJP.

Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti, Jathedar, Akal Takht, said the real tribute to those killed in the operation would be to protect the Sikh history and culture, and to stop apostasy and addiction among the Sikh youth.

He said the Sikh religion was formed to safeguard human ideal's of truth, righteousness and values. He added that for this reason it had to fight against rulers who forgot their duties towards the masses.

Among those present on the occasion were Mr. Avtar Singh, president, SGPC, Bibi Jagir Kaur, former SGPC president, and senior Akali leaders, including Mr. Gurdev Singh Badal, Mr. Ranjit Singh Brahmputra, Mr. Sewa Singh Sekhwan, Mr. Sucha Singh Langah, Mr. Bikramjit Singh Majithia and Mr. Guljar Singh Ranike.

IN CELEBRATION OF RUTH PASSEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ruth Passen as she celebrates her 80th birthday. I am proud to pay tribute to her 40 years of respected community journalism as the editor and publisher of the Potrero View, and recognize her lifetime of community service and social activism. Born and raised in San Francisco, she became a formidable advocate for social justice, peace, equality, democracy and freedom.

In 1970, with a few dedicated volunteers, Ruth launched the Potrero View, which has become San Francisco's longest running community newspaper. With her guidance, the Potrero View grew from a neighborhood newsletter into an award-winning, respected, and much anticipated journal of local news, as well as a significant resource of community services. Its investigative style and editorial integrity are well-known throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

As a dear friend and right arm to the late, legendary Enola Maxwell, Ruth helped build the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, affectionately known as the Nabe, into a hub of vital services for the youth, the elderly, and the families of Potrero Hill. She was instrumental in bringing her beloved jazz and theater to the Nabe and the wider community.

Ruth was actively involved with the Women's International League of Peace and Free-

dom in the peace mobilization of the 1960s and 70s and worked in solidarity with the people of El Salvador for justice and democracy in the 1980s.

Ruth and her husband Joe Passen, whose life we celebrated on this floor 14 years ago, were relentless champions of the labor movement. Together, they fought for working men and women on the San Francisco waterfront and in the maritime industry throughout the West Coast. They helped San Francisco become the first and foremost trade union town in the world. They worked alongside Cesar Chavez in support of California's farm workers.

As Young Democrats they were part of a progressive movement in San Francisco that brought Phillip Burton, John Burton, Sala Burton and me to this people's House.

We thank Ruth for her immeasurable contributions to our City. We wish her every happiness as she begins a new chapter in her life as Editor Emerita of the Potrero View and grandmother extraordinaire. Finally, she will have much deserved time to pursue her many interests, as well as spend time with her beloved family—her son Marc, daughter-in-law Dianne, and granddaughters Natalie and Teresa. Thank you, Ruth for your years of service to our beautiful City of San Francisco.

ARTICLE EXPOSES REPRESSION OF SIKHS BY INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, a good article appeared in the Argus of Fremont, California on repression of the Sikhs in India. Fremont has a large Sikh population and the article appeared earlier this month in conjunction with the commemoration of the Indian government's June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple, the most sacred Sikh shrine.

The article points out that the abuse at Abu Ghraib which embarrassed all of us, was a lesser offense than what India did to its Sikh population in June 1984 when it attacked the Golden Temple and 37 other Gurdwaras in Punjab.

The article quotes a Sikh named Jasdeep Singh as saying that "We would have said that was nothing" referring to Abu Ghraib.

Now, Mr. Speaker, since we know how atrocious the Abu Ghraib incidents are, that gives us an indication of the carnage that was inflicted on the Sikh Nation by the Indian regime in June 1984.

The article also discusses the Sikhs' desire for an independent, sovereign Khalistan, which declared its independence from India in 1987. This has been met with many years of bloody repression, including the murders of over 250,000 Sikhs and over 52,000 who are held as political prisoners in "the world's largest democracy."

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to demand self-determination and full human rights for all people in South Asia. We should stop our aid and trade with India and we should demand a free and fair plebiscite not only on the status of Khalistan, but of Kashmir (as India promised in 1948), of Nagalim, and all the nations seeking their freedom in that troubled region.

It would be good for the freedom, prosperity, and stability of all concerned.

I would like to insert the Argus article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Argus, June 5, 2006]

FREMONT SIKHS RECALL OPPRESSION

(By Matthew Artz)

FREMONT.—Jasdeep Singh couldn't help but laugh at the uproar over the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib.

"We would have said that was nothing," said Singh, who moved to Fremont in 1992, he said, after Indian authorities detained and tortured him three times because he is Sikh.

Sikh nationalism barely a blip on the international radar, was front and center Sunday at the Fremont Gurdwara Sahib, the local Sikh house of worship, where community leaders reaffirmed support for transforming the Indian state of Punjab into a secular Sikh-majority state of Khalistan.

"We know from our history that Sikhs will never be safe or truly free unless they have a homeland of their own," Singh said.

For the estimated 150,000 Sikhs living in the Bay Area, Tuesday marks the anniversary of two of the most devastating and seminal events in the history of the 500-year-old faith.

In 1984, with Sikhs pressing for an independent Punjab, where they are a majority, the Indian government invaded the Golden Temple—Sikhism's holiest place—and 36 other religious sites where separatists were hiding, killing thousands. The attack came on the 378th anniversary of the torture and death of a Sikh religious leader.

Four months later, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was murdered by two of her Sikh bodyguards, rioters murdered thousands more Sikhs, who are easy to identify because the men wore turbans and grow long beards.

The bloodbath and ensuing eight years of repression drove many Sikhs to North America.

Now, 7,500 miles from their ancestral land, leaders of the Fremont gurdwara won't let their brethren forget about what transpired in India.

Photographs of 73 Sikhs murdered by Indian authorities in 1984, including the two men who killed the prime minister, ring the gurdwara's dining room.

On Sunday, the gurdwara installed an exhibit about their faith that included photographs of Sikh men being burned alive or beaten by Indian soldiers. Other pictures commemorated the 400th anniversary of the torture and murder of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, who refused to remove references to Islam and Hinduism from the Sikh's holy book.

"We're trying to make people aware," said Ram Singh, a gurdwara leader who plans to protest outside the Indian Consulate in San Francisco tomorrow. "We don't want our future generations to forget what happened to us."

Jasdeep Singh, an engineer, won't forget the day in 1989 when soldiers raided his graduate school boarding house and detained all the Sikhs in an effort to gain intelligence on separatist leaders.

"First the clothes came off," he said. Later, guards tied his hands behind his back and hung him from the ceiling. "These two shoulders," he said, "felt like they were going to pop out."

Since Singh arrived in Fremont, persecution of Sikhs in India has decreased and the governing Congress Party named a Sikh, Mammohan Singh, to serve as prime minister.

Years of repression followed by some reforms have stifled the independence movement in Punjab and left Sikhs in the Bay

Area divided over the nationalist cause, said Ram Singh, who favors an independent Khalistan.

"It's not that simple," said Balraj Gil as he peered at the pictures of torture. "You can't just get an independent state."

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE S. HUGH
DILLIN

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remark upon a good man, a great jurist, a wise friend now gone.

On June 23, 2006, United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, sitting en banc in Indianapolis, will conduct a memorial ceremony in honor of an extraordinary man. In 1961, Mr. Speaker, President John F. Kennedy appointed Indiana's S. Hugh Dillin to serve as a Judge of that Court. After 45 years of service, earlier this year in a snow storm we said farewell to him in Indianapolis.

A veteran of World War II, son of a lawyer in Petersburg, Indiana, he came up to the bench in Indianapolis through the politics of southern Indiana and our General Assembly, representing his beloved Pike County and leading the Senate.

I will never forget him. When I was first elected to Congress, it happened that I had emergency surgery at about the time the rest of Congress was being sworn in here in this chamber. A little glum, I watched the festivity of that occasion from a hospital bed in Indianapolis. As I did so, Judge Dillin came to my room with a brief case, introduced himself and produced a single sheet of paper for my inspection, his appointment as a Deputy Speaker of this House, and remarked that he never expected to be so close to the line of Presidential succession as he came that day. He proceeded to administer the oath of office to me and I became a Member of this body and a friend of his for life. I was delighted to bring him to Washington for the next swearing in and a picture of him with me and Speaker Gingrich overlooks my desk today.

He was a giant in the life of Indiana. All of his days he was a man of renowned wit and solid sense-based Hoosier wisdom, forever finding great voice in the resolution of disputes and the teaching of lessons. Much has been made of his stewardship of the Indianapolis school desegregation case which ground on for years, resulting in bussing of children to white suburban schools. A product of our segregated schools, I was always of several minds about the remedy but ended with confidence that he did his very best to follow the law in fashioning a solution. His life was threatened again and again for his trouble and bumper stickers advocated his impeachment, but he kept his listing in the phone book. He permitted the installation of security cameras and buzzers at his chambers but declined to lock his door.

There were many other cases and controversies in the course of his 45 years of service. His decisions involving Indiana's prisons and her treatment of inmates helped extend the Constitution to those so easily forgotten. In closing the disciplinary cells—dungeons, really—at the Indiana Reformatory he

began his entry of judgment with a recitation of the Indianapolis ordinance relating to the treatment of pets, succinctly pointing out that animals in our city were entitled to better conditions than those cells at the Reformatory provided human beings. He brought the Constitution to bear on the plight of women who were prisoners in Indiana, extending equal protection of the law in ways which helped to bring them most of the opportunities provided to male prisoners of the state: the chance to further their educations, pursue meaningful job skills, and to be imprisoned under conditions commensurate with the crimes for which they were sentenced.

There were smaller but important cases, too. A local Arsenal Technical High School girl, a fine baseball player, played on the "boy's" varsity team. The Indiana High School Athletic Association rules forbade her team from competing with other teams as long as she proposed to play. After a day's trial, as he announced his decision from the bench enjoining enforcement of the rule, she rushed from the room, glove in hand. When he wondered aloud what he had done wrong, he got this answer: "She's late for practice, Judge." That young woman, on account of her ability to compete, earned a college scholarship and an education she would not have had access to without his decision. She is a coach today, I am told.

He was much sought after as a speaker and one speech bears particular mention. On the occasion of his retirement as Chief Judge, I believe it was, there was one of those huge festive gatherings of the worthies of bench and bar to celebrate his career and, as usual, his remarks were warmly anticipated. When a distinguished colleague of his pulled her guitar from under the table, faced him and sang a song about him, that was a hard act to follow. As he rose to speak, though, he mastered the crowd. "I'll not talk long," he said. "I have just 482 words for you, important words, many of which many of you have forgotten, or had no occasion to study for far too long." And then he read the Bill of Rights to the gathering.

He lived his last years in Cambridge, Massachusetts, under the watchful eye of his beloved daughter Pat and was laid to rest in his beloved Petersburg. We miss him but his life and lessons, his spirit and his sagacity, his wit and wisdom, live on in our hearts, enriching us all.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN COM-
MEMORATES GOLDEN TEMPLE
MASSACRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 3 Sikhs from around the East Coast gathered here in Washington to commemorate the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple by the Indian government. That attack occurred simultaneously with attacks on 37 other Gurdwaras in what came to be known as Operation Bluestar. Operation Bluestar took the lives of over 20,000 Sikhs in Punjab.

The demonstration was organized by the Council of Khalistan, which has been leading the peaceful, nonviolent, democratic Sikh

struggle for independence for almost 20 years, ever since Khalistan declared its independence from India in 1987.

Mr. Speaker, given the repression of the Sikhs and other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and others, I think we would do well for America to support the freedom movement in Khalistan and throughout the subcontinent. This is especially so given that India has a history of anti-American activities.

It is time to press India to pay attention to human rights by stopping our aid and trade with that country and it is time to put the Congress on record in support of self-determination. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

I would like to add the Council of Khalistan's press release on its June 3 demonstration to the RECORD at this time.

SIKHS COMMEMORATE GOLDEN TEMPLE
ATTACK

WASHINGTON, DC, June 3, 2006.—Sikhs from Philadelphia, Florida, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and elsewhere on the East Coast gathered in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, June 3 to commemorate the Indian government's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, in June 1984, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered. They chanted slogans such as "India out of Khalistan", "Khalistan Zindabad", and others. In addition, demonstrations were held in several other cities throughout the world.

During the Golden Temple attack, young boys ages 8 to 13 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh country. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihaf," they were shot to death. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, were shot full of bullet holes and burned by the Indian forces.

The Golden Temple attack was a brutal chapter in India's repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, which leads the struggle for Khalistan's independence. "Sikhs cannot forgive or forget this atrocity against the seat of our religion by the Indian government," said Dr. Aulakh. "This brutal attack clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs," he said. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan.

"Sant Bhindranwale said that attacking the Golden Temple would lay the foundation stone of Khalistan, and he was right," said Dr. Aulakh. "Instead of crushing the Sikh movement for Khalistan, as India intended, the attack strengthened it," he said. "The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it," he said.

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run

into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

In the introduction to former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's new book, *The Mighty and the Almighty*, former U.S. President Bill Clinton writes that "Hindu militants" are responsible for the massacre of 38 Sikhs at Chithisinghpura in March 2000. This

reflects previous findings by the Punjab Human Rights Organization, the International Human Rights Organization, the Movement Against State Repression, and New York Times reporter Barry Bearak. President Clinton writes, "During my visit to India in 2000, some Hindu militants decided to vent their outrage by murdering 38 Sikhs in cold blood. If I hadn't made the trip, the victims would probably still be alive."

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "When Khalistan is free, we will have our own Ambassadors, our own representation in the UN and other international bodies, and our own leaders to keep

this sort of thing from happening. We won't be at the mercy of the brutal Indian regime and its Hindu militant allies," he said. "Democracies don't commit genocide. India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6445–S6465

Measures Introduced: Four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3561–3564, and S. Res. 520. **Page S6457**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 3525, to amend subpart 2 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve outcomes for children in families affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction, to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program. (S. Rept. No. 109–269) **Pages S6456–57**

Measures Passed:

Second Higher Education Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 5603, to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S6462**

Legal Representation Authority: Senate agreed to S. Res. 520, to authorize the production of records, testimony and legal representation. **Pages S6462–63**

Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act: Senate passed H.R. 5403, to improve protections for children and to hold States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S6463**

Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. 2370, to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the admin-

istrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6463–65**

Frist (for McConnell) Amendment No. 4542, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6465**

Messages From the House: **Page S6456**

Measures Read First Time: **Page S6456**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S6457**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6457–59**

Additional Statements: **Page S6456**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6460–62**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S6462**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11:04 a.m., and adjourned at 12:40 p.m., until 2 p.m., on Monday, June 26, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6465.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COOPERATION OVERSEAS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on State Department and Defense Department cooperation overseas from Philip D. Zelikow, Counselor of the Department of State; and Eric S. Edelman, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, June 26, 2006.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D647)

S. 1445, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 Colorado Avenue in Arriba, Colorado, as the "William H. Emery Post Office". Signed on June 23, 2006. (Public Law 109-237)

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of June 26 through July 1, 2006

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 4 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of S.J. Res. 12, Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment.

During the balance of the week, Senate will continue consideration of S.J. Res. 12, (listed above), and may consider any other cleared legislative and executive business, including appropriation bills and conference reports, when available.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: June 27, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the potential impact of S. 2754, to derive human pluripotent stem cell lines using techniques that do not knowingly harm embryos (referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions), 9 a.m., SD-192.

June 27, Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, business meeting to mark up H.R. 5386, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, 10 a.m., SD-124.

June 27, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, business meeting to mark up H.R. 5441, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, 12 noon, S-128, Capitol.

June 27, Subcommittee on Energy and Water, business meeting to mark up H.R. 5427, making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, 2:30 p.m., SD-138.

June 28, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to resume hearings to examine the progress of the Capitol Visitor Center construction, 10:30 a.m., SD-138.

June 29, Full Committee, business meeting to mark up H.R. 5427, making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, H.R. 5441, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, H.R. 5522, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and H.R. 5386, making appropriations for the Department of

the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, 2 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Armed Services: June 27, to receive a closed briefing from representatives of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Missile Defense Agency on recent North Korean ballistic missile developments, 10:30 a.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: June 27, Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the current state of progress and future outlook relating to SAFETEA-LU implementation, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: June 27, business meeting to resume mark up of H.R. 5252, to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services, 10 a.m., SH-216.

June 28, Full Committee, business meeting to continue mark up of H.R. 5252, to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services, 10 a.m., SH-216.

June 29, Full Committee, business meeting to continue mark up of H.R. 5252, to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: June 27, to hold hearings to examine implementation of the Energy Policy Act provisions on enhancing oil and gas production on Federal lands in the Rocky Mountain Region, 10 a.m., SD-366.

June 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Marc Spitzer, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 10:30 a.m., SD-366.

June 28, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine S. 1812, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for the conjunctive use of surface and ground water in Juab County, Utah, S. 1965, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, S. 2129, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and improvements of the Gooding Division of the Minidoka Project, Idaho, S. 2470, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the A & B Irrigation District in the State of Idaho, S. 2502, to provide for the modification of an amendatory repayment contract between the Secretary of the Interior and the North Unit Irrigation District, S. 3404, to reauthorize the Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project, H.R. 2383, to redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at 19550 Kelso Road in Byron, California, as the "C.W. 'Bill' Jones Pumping Plant", and H.R. 4204, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

June 29, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine H.R. 5254, to set schedules for the consideration of permits for refineries, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: June 28, to hold an oversight hearing on Environmental Protection Agency regional inconsistencies, 9:30 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on Finance: June 27, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric Solomon, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy, 10 a.m., SD-215.

June 29, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, 10 a.m., SD-215.

June 29, Subcommittee on Long-term Growth and Debt Reduction, to hold hearings to examine how to increase worker coverage relating to small business pension plans, 2:30 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: June 28, business meeting to consider an original bill, to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 U.S. exports to India of nuclear materials, equipment and technology, the nominations of Earl Anthony Wayne, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Argentina, Gaddi H. Vasquez, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, John Clint Williamson, of Louisiana, to be Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, Michael E. Ranneberger, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya, Eric M. Bost, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, W. Stuart Symington IV, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Gayleatha Beatrice Brown, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Benin, Robert O. Blake, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives, Robert D. McCallum, Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Australia, and Leslie V. Rowe, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: June 28, business meeting to consider proposed Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006, S. 3546, Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Drug Consumer Protection Act, S. 707, to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity, S. 757, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, and any pending nominations; to be followed by a hearing on biodefense, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: June 27, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Personnel Management, focusing on whether the Office of Personnel Management is positioned to be the Federal government's leader in personnel policy today and in the future, 10 a.m., SD-342.

June 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mickey D. Barnett, of New Mexico,

Katherine C. Tobin, of New York, and Ellen C. Williams, of Kentucky, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, 10 a.m., SD-342.

June 29, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine proposed legislation relating to enhancing employee performance, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

June 29, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine the case for reform regarding community development block grants, focusing on issues surrounding program formulas, recipient communities, and management of grants within the Community Development Block program, including aspects of the reform package, the "CDBG Reform Act of 2006", 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: June 28, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Native American Housing Programs, 9:30 a.m., SR-485.

Committee on the Judiciary: June 27, to hold hearings to examine the use of presidential signing statements, which are issued when a president signs new laws, 10 a.m., SD-226.

June 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine hedge funds and independent analysts, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

June 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kimberly Ann Moore, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, and Bobby E. Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, 2 p.m., SD-226.

June 29, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, to hold hearings to examine H.R. 1038, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow a judge to whom a case is transferred to retain jurisdiction over certain multidistrict litigation cases for trial, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: June 28, to hold hearings to examine strengthening participation of small businesses in Federal contracting and innovation research programs, 2 p.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: June 27, to receive a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

June 28, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

June 29, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: June 27, to hold hearings to examine if medical tourism can reduce health care costs relating to the globalization of health care, 10 a.m., SD-106.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, June 29, hearing to review Agriculture's Role in the Renewable Fuels Market, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, June 27, Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing on Veterans Affairs Data Security, 9:30 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, June 27, hearing on Army and Marine Corps reset strategies for ground equipment and rotorcraft, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

June 28, hearing on the status of security and stability in Afghanistan, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

June 29, hearing on reports of weapons of mass destruction findings in Iraq, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

June 29, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on assessing United States Special Operations Command's missions and roles, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, June 28, hearing on The First Tee and Schools: Working to Build Character Education, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

June 29, Subcommittee on Workforce Protection, to mark up H.R. 2561, Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, June 27 and 28, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearings entitled "Making the Internet Safe for Kids: The Role of ISP's and Social Networking Sites," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn on June 27 and 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn on June 28.

June 27, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled "The Audio and Video Flags: Can Content Protection and Technological Innovation Coexist?," 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, June 28, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled "Investor Protection: A Review of Plaintiffs' Attorney Abuses in Securities Litigation and Legislative Remedies," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 28, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled "Is America's Housing Market Prepared for the Next Natural Catastrophe?," 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 29, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness in the Financial Services Sector," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, June 27, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, hearing entitled "Clinical Lab Quality: Oversight Weaknesses Undermine Federal Standards, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

June 27, Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census, hearing entitled "Moving the CDBG Program Forward: A Look at the Administration's Reform Proposal: Where Do We Go From Here?," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 27, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, hearing entitled "Sexual Assault and Violence Against Women in the Military and at the Academies," 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 28, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, hearing entitled "Availability and Effectiveness of Programs To Treat Victims of the Methamphetamine Epidemic," 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 28, Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability, hearing entitled "OMB's Financial Management Line of Business Initiative: Do Recent Changes to the Implementation Guidance Clarify the Rules?," 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

June 29, Full Committee, to consider pending business; followed by a hearing entitled "What Price Free Speech?: Whistleblowers and the Ceballos Decision," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, June 28, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment, hearing entitled "DHS Intelligence and Border Security: Delivering Operational Intelligence," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

June 29, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity, hearing on the Chemical Facility Anti-terrorism Act of 2006, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, June 27, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 4974, To authorize the President to waive the application of certain requirements under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 with respect to India; and H.R. 4014, Millennium Challenge Reauthorization Act of 2005, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 27, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, hearing and briefing on Making Safe Blood Available in Africa, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 28, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing on East Timor: Instability and Future Prospects, 1:30 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

June 28, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing on Hurricane Reconstruction and Preparedness, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 29, Full Committee, hearing on United States Security Policy in Afghanistan, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 29, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations and the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, joint hearing on Somalia: Expanding Crisis in the Horn of Africa, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 30, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, hearing Can Religious Pluralism Survive? Minority Religions Under Threat, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary: June 29, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 5219, Judiciary Transparency and Ethics Enhancement Act of 2006, 11:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, June 27, Subcommittee on Water and Power, oversight hearing on Meeting Electricity Demand in the West through Responsible Development of Energy Rights-of-Way on Federal lands, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 28, Subcommittee on National Parks, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 2692, Acadia National Park Improvement Act of 2005; H.R. 3871, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center Foundation, Inc. certain Federal land associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Nebraska,

to be used as an historical interpretive site along the trail; and H.R. 5145, to authorize the National War Dogs Monument, Inc. to establish a national monument in honor of military working dog teams, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

June 29, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 5539, North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2006, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 29, Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, oversight hearing on Healthy Forests: Targets and Accomplishments, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, June 26, to consider the following: H.R. 4973, Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2006; and H.R. 5672, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, June 27, to mark up H.R. 5656, Energy Research, Development, Demonstration, and Commercial Application Act of 2006, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, June 27, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight, hearing entitled "S Corporations—Their History and Challenges," 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

June 27, Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment, and Government Programs, hearing entitled "Immigrant Employment Verification and Small Business," 2:30 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

June 28, Subcommittee on Tax, Finance and Exports, hearing entitled "The Effects of the High Cost of Natural Gas on Small Businesses and Future Energy Technologies," 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

June 29, Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Agriculture and Technology and the Subcommittee on Tax, Finance, and Exports, joint hearing entitled "Chinese Barriers to Trade: Does China Play Fair?" 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, June 27, Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, hearing Celebrating 59 Years: The Eisenhower Interstate Highway System, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

June 27, Subcommittee on Railroads, hearing on current FRA Rail Safety Initiatives, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

June 28, full Committee, to mark up the following: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Survey Resolutions; GSA Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions; S. 362, Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act; H.R. 4650, National Levee Safety Program Act of 2005; and the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2006, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

June 29, Subcommittee on Aviation, oversight hearing on Airline Passenger Baggage Screening: Technology and Airport Deployment Update, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, June 27, Subcommittee on Health, oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs efforts to provide high quality health care to veterans in rural communities, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

June 28, full Committee, hearing on What VA IT Organizational Structure would have best prevented VA's "Meltdown" in Information Management, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

June 29, oversight hearing on VA's current status of mitigating the nation's second largest data breach, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, June 28, hearing on Health Savings Accounts, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, June 29, executive, hearing on Integrated Collection Architecture, 10 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: June 28, to hold hearings to examine Belgium's Chairmanship of the OSCE, focusing on developments in Central Asia and neighboring Afghanistan, the emergence of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the political situation in the Caucasus, and human rights trends in the Russian Federation, 11 a.m., 2359 RHOB.

Joint Economic Committee: June 27, to hold hearings to examine prospects for U.S. economic expansion, 10 a.m., 2118 RHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, June 26

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12:30 p.m., Monday, June 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 4 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of S.J. Res. 12, Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Andrews, Robert E., N.J., E1249
 Bilirakis, Michael, Fla., E1251
 Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E1262, E1266
 Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E1249, E1250, E1250
 Burton, Dan, Ind., E1256
 Capito, Shelley Moore, W.Va., E1252
 Capps, Lois, Calif., E1258
 Carson, Julia, Ind., E1268
 Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E1265
 Cramer, Robert E. (Bud), Jr., Ala., E1262
 Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E1253
 Diaz-Balart, Lincoln, Fla., E1258
 Dingell, John D., Mich., E1251

Emerson, Jo Ann, Mo., E1254
 Gordon, Bart, Tenn., E1249, E1250, E1252
 Hulshof, Kenny C., Mo., E1263
 Knollenberg, Joe, Mich., E1250
 Langevin, James R., R.I., E1255, E1257
 Lipinski, Daniel, Ill., E1252, E1261
 Lofgren, Zoe, Calif., E1251
 Meek, Kendrick B., Fla., E1256
 Millender-McDonald, Juanita, Calif., E1262
 Pelosi, Nancy, Calif., E1267
 Pombo, Richard W., Calif., E1254
 Porter, Jon C., Nev., E1251, E1261
 Price, David E., N.C., E1259
 Ramstad, Jim, Minn., E1252
 Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E1255, E1257

Reyes, Silvestre, Tex., E1263
 Rogers, Mike, Ala., E1252
 Ross, Mike, Ark., E1260
 Roybal-Allard, Lucille, Calif., E1262
 Schakowsky, Janice D., Ill., E1254
 Shaw, E. Clay, Jr., Fla., E1258
 Shays, Christopher, Conn., E1261
 Smith, Adam, Wash., E1253
 Tauscher, Ellen O., Calif., E1259
 Thompson, Mike, Calif., E1261
 Towns, Edolphus, N.Y., E1265, E1266, E1267, E1268
 Weller, Jerry, Ill., E1251
 Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1250



Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through *GPO Access*, a service of the Government Printing Office, free of charge to the user. The online database is updated each day the *Congressional Record* is published. The database includes both text and graphics from the beginning of the 103d Congress, 2d session (January 1994) forward. It is available through *GPO Access* at www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess. Customers can also access this information with WAIS client software, via telnet at swais.access.gpo.gov, or dial-in using communications software and a modem at 202-512-1661. Questions or comments regarding this database or *GPO Access* can be directed to the *GPO Access* User Support Team at: E-Mail: gpoaccess@gpo.gov; Phone 1-888-293-6498 (toll-free), 202-512-1530 (D.C. area); Fax: 202-512-1262. The Team's hours of availability are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, except Federal holidays. ¶The *Congressional Record* paper and 24x microfiche edition will be furnished by mail to subscribers, free of postage, at the following prices: paper edition, \$252.00 for six months, \$503.00 per year, or purchased as follows: less than 200 pages, \$10.50; between 200 and 400 pages, \$21.00; greater than 400 pages, \$31.50, payable in advance; microfiche edition, \$146.00 per year, or purchased for \$3.00 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*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.