The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Johnny Isakson, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, sustainer of our lives, give us courage to not run from difficulties. Help us to see that problems and challenges come with a life of service. In spite of burdens, show us the joys to come that will make the sacrifices worthwhile.

Infuse our Senators with the power of self-denying love. Empower them to help build not only a safer but also a more just world.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Honorable Johnny Isakson 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,

To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Johnny Isakson, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Ted Stevens,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ISAKSON 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.

CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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

SCHEDULE
Mr. Frist. Mr. President, in a few minutes, we will begin consideration of S. 403, the Child Custody Protection Act. Over the last 2 days, we have been working on an agreement which would allow us to conclude that bill on Tuesday. I hope we will be able to work out the final details of that agreement early today, and at that point in time I will announce the schedule for the child custody protection bill for next week.

We had a remarkable day yesterday, finishing last night the debate and vote on the voting rights reauthorization bill, four judges, the child predator legislation, and therefore I announced no rollcall votes for today. I will be updating Members as to Monday and Tuesday’s schedules shortly, after we work out a unanimous-consent agreement on several matters for early next week.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Mr. Frist. Mr. President, in walking over here just a few moments ago, I ran into my counterpart from the Australian Senate, and we were commenting—or he was commenting—he said: You had a productive day yesterday. And I said: Indeed, we had a very productive day, not only yesterday but over the course of this week.

On Monday and Tuesday, we had a very important debate, a powerful debate on stem cell research, a debate which is uncomfortable to a lot of people because it addresses so strongly that nexus between ethics and morality and religion and faith with science, advancing science, which is moving at breathtaking speed, thank goodness.

As a scientist, I see great hope in those dreams which one day can become realities for cures and for treatments that come from the field of science.

The issues are tough, though, but very important for us to have in this body, representing the 280 million people
around the country, because science will continue to advance and we do have the opportunities to understand the molecular and cellular basis of disease in a way that will improve the lives of everybody listening to me right now. And I think it is a very important debate.

We will increasingly have those sorts of issues come before this body. It used to be that we would hit these tough ethical issues in science about once every 10 years, and it has gotten down to about once every 5 years, and I predict—again, this is good news—we believe science is developing so quickly, medical science—that we will be debating those issues about once every year. So this body needs to get used to it, get accustomed to it.

We did pass the Fetus Farming Prohibition Act overwhelmingly. The President has already signed that bill into law.

We passed the Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act this week, which supports alternative—or alternate—ways of developing these very powerful embryonic stem cell-like cells, what we call pluripotential cells, to support the type of research that can derive those pluripotential cells, short of having to employ human embryos—exciting research. The House has not yet acted on that particular bill. I hope they do so in the near future so that the President can sign it into law, so that we can further support our research dollars in what I see as very exciting research that, in many ways, if successful—and I believe it will be—will some day eliminate the more contentious debate of having to derive embryonic stem cells from blastocysts themselves.

We also passed the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, a bill I supported. It was not unanimously supported in this body, but there was overwhelming support in this body. I feel strongly that this particular bill, which supports embryonic stem cell research for blastocysts that are going to be discarded with 100 percent certainty, clearly falls within certain moral and ethical guidelines, and that bill passed I think by 63 votes in the Senate.

On Tuesday evening, we shifted a bit and expressed our support for Israel by passing S. Res. 534 by unanimous consent, expressing strong support in this body for Israel. Hezbollah and Hamas are terrorist organizations, confirmed enemies of Israel. It is important that they and their state sponsors realize we will stand with Israel and hold them accountable for their actions. This body spoke loudly, boldly, clearly on Tuesday evening.

Later Tuesday evening and on Wednesday, we addressed the Water Resources Development Act under the super leadership of Chairman Jim Inhofe and Senator Kit Bond and others in the body. But I told Chairman Inhofe again and again that this bill, which I strongly support, embodies and further supports conservation and development of water and water-related resources, which strengthens our Nation’s waterways and the infrastructure of our waterways, is going to be a tough bill. There are going to be too many amendments; it is going to take a long time on the floor. But by working very hard in a bipartisan fashion, we limited the number of amendments and brought it to the floor in a very reasonable, very efficient period of time, so we were able to address that important issue.

Then I mentioned earlier, yesterday, we reauthorized the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act. As we all talked about, we have come a long way in 41 years since it was first enacted. We put aside whatever partisan differences there might be to ensure that discrimination at the voting booth remains a relic of the past, to ensure that no American citizen and no election law of any State could deny access to the ballot box because of race or ethnicity or language minority status. We all know that progress continues, that we are protecting the civil liberties of each and every American.

Protecting the vulnerable—that is what the Voting Rights Act did 41 years ago. And that is what the Adam Walsh bill will soon do. Last night, we passed that Adam Walsh bill as well. This bill arguably is the most comprehensive child crime and protection legislation in recent history.

The Adam Walsh bill establishes a national sex offender registry which is publicly available and which is searchable by ZIP Code. Parents shouldn’t have to live in fear that a neighbor somewhere down the street is waiting for an opportunity to victimize their children. Now parents are going to have those tools they need to protect their children from harm.

Last night, late last night at about 11 o’clock, I received a phone call from two individuals who have worked with Child Help, who started this organization called Child Help, and their call was to congratulate this body for addressing a specific issue that was also in the Adam Walsh bill, and that is the creation of a national child abuse registry. The bill also toughens the penalties for crimes against children, and it cracks down on the growing crisis of Internet predators and child pornography, addressing this particular bill. It will go to the House of Representatives in the early part of next week, and I am very hopeful the President will be able to sign that bill by July 27, which is the very tragic anniversary of the death of Adam Walsh. But out of that tragedy, if the President signs the bill on that day, there is great hope and a great willingness to address and confront an issue we know is destroying people’s lives, with effective tools to combat the tragedies that occur every day in this country in a direct way.

Judicial nominations last night: We confirmed four exceptionally qualified nominees to the Federal bench: Neal Gorsuch, Bobby E. Shephard, Daniel Porter Jordan III, and Gustavo Antonia Gelpi. Next week, we are going to continue our constitutional duty of advice and consent in nominations and take up Jerome Holmes for the Tenth Circuit.

Today as we open, we are beginning debate on legislation that protects vulnerable young women from exploitation. It is the Child Custody Protection Act. This bill prohibits taking a minor child out of State to State, for an abortion in circumvention of a particular State law, and it does so by requiring parental notification for that child’s abortion.

Right now, the victims of such exploitation have absolutely no means of restitution within our legal system. It is time to fix that. Thus, we are taking that bill to the floor to do just that. We will have that debate over the course of the morning—we won’t be able to complete it today—and we will have some understanding here shortly in terms of how that debate will be conducted in the early part of next week.

Next week is going to be a busy week. There will be a lot going on over the course of the week and many challenges in the weeks ahead. We have to finish the Child Custody Protection Act next week, and we have to confirm the nomination of Jerome Holmes.

This week, we focused on another very important issue; that is, energy. I say energy is important because it has national security implications, and it affects each individual in this body and their families and families all across America because it will impact the long term the price of gas, the price of natural gas, and the price of energy in this country. The issue is deep sea energy exploration in a region called Area 181 in the Gulf of Mexico.

Americans are feeling the pain at the pump. They are feeling it each and every day. And they expect us to act. It is interesting that in that area of 181 and just south of that in an area called 182 in the Gulf of Mexico, there is estimated to be over 1.2 billion barrels of oil—1.2 billion barrels of oil—that would be subjected potentially to exploration; 5.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in that area. That is how important it is to obtain that supply. We all know that price of supply and demand and that new influx of homegrown, domestic supply will have an impact.

Before the August recess, we need to take up the Department of Defense appropriations. We need to be certain that our troops overseas do have the equipment and technology they need to be safe and successful.

As all of our colleagues know, we are addressing, every day, pensions. We will have that legislation ready before the recess. We also need to address the issues surrounding port security, to further secure our homeland, as well as
small business health plans, which also have a direct impact, similar to what we are doing in energy, in affecting the cost of living that squeezes everyday Americans.

If we can lower those health care costs, make health care both affordable and available, that will take some of that squeeze off individuals and their families and they will be able to benefit from what we know is a very productive, growing economy out there with 5.4 million jobs created in the last 2 1/2 years and unemployment at historically low—4.6 percent—levels. The average American doesn't quite feel how good our economy is because of energy prices, which we are going to address, and because of health care costs, which we are going to address. Americans need to know they are safe and secure. They need to know their futures are safe and that their health care is affordable and secure.

We have a lot of issues to address. Again, we have had a very productive week. If we continue that productivity we will be able to address those issues. It is our job in the Senate to deliver these meaningful solutions to the challenges and the needs of people across this country. It is our duty and our privilege to do just that, and I am confident, by continuing the progress we made this week, that we will be able to do just that.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am glad the majority leader has called up and allowed us to consider the Child Custody Protection Act today. I was involved, in 1998, when then-Senator Spence Abraham, later Secretary of Energy Spence Abraham, offered this bill. We had a press conference and made a number of efforts to pass it and always had a good deal of support but, frankly, to my frustration and surprise, it never became law. It has, in every respect, strong support among the American people and in the Congress.

I am pleased that Senator JOHN ENGVOLD of Nevada has taken up this piece of legislation. He has directed his considerable talents to pressing it forward. We now have it on the floor. We will soon have a vote on it. I believe it should pass. I expect it to pass. I think those who would object to it have a high burden to show what is unreasonable about the legislation that is before us today.

The Child Custody Protection Act deals with an important subject. It deals with how young girls are being secretly taken across State lines for the purpose of abortion, without the consent of their parents or even the knowledge of their parents, in violation of the laws of the State in which they live. Forty-five States have enacted some sort of parental consent laws or parental notification law. By simply secreting a child across State lines, one can frustrate the State legislature's rules. It is, in fact, effectively blackmailing a child. Constitutionally approved rights parents have with regard to being involved in the health care of their children, emotionally and physically. It is a very important issue. That is why it is one we need to continue to discuss.

This bill does not in any way deal substantively with abortion or the right to abortion. It does not really expand additional restrictions on abortion. It is one to stop an abominable practice by which someone—usually an adult, often an adult male who has gotten a young girl pregnant without wanting the parents to know about it—takes them across a State line to some foreign jurisdiction to seek an abortion without the parents' involvement, an abortion that could not be performed in their home State without the approval of the parent.

In fact, the abortion clinics in those States know that they must have a parent's consent. They seek that consent. If they don't have it, they don't perform the abortion—at least most of the time. That is what the law is and that is what the situation is. But that is being subverted by moving them across the State line.

I submit this is a commonsense proposal. It is consistent with Federal prohibitions on interstate transportation, in violation of law, and it is something we should act on now. It is past due, in fact.

I submit the American people care about this issue. It is something that is important. And well they should because they love their daughters. They care about them. They will be involved with them medically, physically, and emotionally the rest of their lives. It won't be some abortion clinic in some distant State that will be involved with their emotional problems, their psychological problems, their physical problems, which arise from having had an abortion. The parents are the ones who care about it and have the responsibility to raise her.

As we all know, a child cannot be given an aspirin in a school without parental consent. I have heard recently that you can't even give them sunblock without parental consent. So we have this kind of legal procedure for a child's medical protection, but we have a circumstance in which a valid parental consent for a very serious procedure such as an abortion can be conducted without parental consent if you go across State lines and avoid the existing State law in the home State.

The Supreme Court, I hasten to add, has considered parental consent laws. They have considered a number of those cases. Parental consent laws have been enacted in many big States such as Pennsylvania and Texas. In Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld consent laws and said they are valid restrictions on abortion. This is not too much of a restriction or an undue burden.

They also say that if somehow the parent is a problem—if there is a question of incest or child abuse or dysfunctional parents—there must be a judicial procedure which allows a judge to bypass the parental consent requirement of that State. So all the State laws in existence that require parents to be notified have a judicial bypass option. If a child does not believe they could tell their parents for whatever reason, they can go to a court and seek court approval without telling that person, if there is a case for it.

In fact, this legislation provides in unusual circumstances that judicial bypass would take place. It is responsible in that regard.

The ability of parents to be involved in the health of their children is a fundamental parental right. It is being undermined today—and we ought to strengthen that right and that responsibility.

In fact, one of the great threats to our Nation is legal undermining of parental rights and parental abdication of responsibility for their children and how they develop. We need to strengthen families, we need to strengthen the responsibility of parents, and we need to protect children. We need better involvement of parents with their children.

Some say this is painful, if we required young people to tell their parents that they are pregnant. But I submit to you that you can come healing, can come good decisions, can come a change in behavior, a recognition that a child is in trouble and has problems, a recognition by parents, perhaps, that they need to be more involved and more engaged in their children's activities.

How is that bad? How is it bad that a child would be required to engage with their parents once they get in this kind of serious trouble? We are talking about minor children, minor girls, often taken advantage of by much older men.

I think it is the right thing to do. But regardless of that, regardless of how you feel about parental consent, it is State policy by State laws that have been passed in States throughout this Nation that parents should be informed, and in some cases have consent. These constitutional State laws are being undermined in a real way. I will talk about that in a minute and show you some points on it. But it is a very real problem. It is not imaginary.

Let's look at some of the advertise—flers, and brochures that are
When Crystal was just 13 years old, she cited a maturity beyond her years when a particularly moving story involved a young woman who need assistance from adults to do that. Here is the flier:

We accept all insurance and credit cards.

It goes on to say:

All calls and appointments are confidential. Parental consent is not required.

They passed this out in the region to people in surrounding States which do have to have parental consent. The word gets out that they can come and avoid that requirement.

I think that is unhealthy. I think that is an attempt to undermine the laws of the States of this country.

Here is another one, South Jersey Women's Center. It mentions all of their promotions, their abortion procedures. I will highlight this phrase: "No 24-hour wait..."

In some States, it is required that you wait 24 hours after being informed about the abortion procedures before you go forward, "No 24-hour wait or parental consent required."

That is in New Jersey.

Again, there is promotion in the other States to come into that State to obtain an abortion that would otherwise be illegal in the minor's home State.

Here is an advertisement in, I believe, a Pennsylvania phone book.

Pennsylvania has a parental consent law. This one is from a clipping in Buffalo NY. It is Planned Parenthood Women's Health Center. But they run an ad in the Pennsylvania phone book for a Buffalo, NY, abortion clinic. It says: "No parental consent or waiting period."

We have many of those. There are lots of those. I just show these ads to show that we are not talking about a rare or insignificant event. There is a studied policy to promote abortion in distant States where parental consent is not required to undermine existing law or the State where the child may have become pregnant.

The attorney for the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, Kathryn Kolbert, stated:

There are thousands of minors who cross State lines every year seeking medical attention for medical procedures who need assistance from adults to do that.

We see several examples of abortion clinics which openly place advertisements in phone books and otherwise.

I chair the Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, and I chaired a hearing in June a couple of years ago where we heard a number of stories that deal with this issue. One particularly moving story involved a young woman named Crystal Lane who exhibited a maturity beyond her years when she testified before the committee.

When Crystal was just 13 years old, she was secretly transported across the State line by adults seeking to hide the fact of her pregnancy from her mother. Crystal was taken across State lines from Pennsylvania, a State which had a consent statute, to New York, a State which did not.

Crystal testified that she suffered serious complications from this "illegal" abortion that was botched and which resulted in "the most terrifying time" in her life.

Crystal's mother, Mrs. Joyce Farley, testified that her daughter was taken out of State for an abortion by one Rosa Marie Hartford.

Is this just a neighbor trying to take care of her? That is not really the pattern. Mrs. Hartford was actually the mother of a 19-year-old young man whose statutory rape of the then-12-year-old girl caused the pregnancy. In other words, the woman was trying to cover up the criminal activity of her son. The son later pleaded guilty to statutory rape.

Thus, the clinics are openly encouraging evasion of State laws. The Child Custody Protection Act would shut those practices down.

The question of parental notification and consent is an important one. The American people care about it.

I would like to show a chart which shows the depth of the feeling of the American people on this issue, which has remained strong for a decade or more. Just last year, in a Fox News Dynamics Opinion Poll, the question was:

Do you favor or oppose requiring parental notification before a minor could get an abortion?

Seventy-eight percent said yes. Only 17 percent said no.

How about this one, a Quinnipiac University poll of just last year:

Do you favor or oppose requiring parental notification before a minor could get an abortion?

Seventy-five percent say yes; eighteen percent say no.

How about this one, a CNN-USA Today poll conducted by Gallop:

Do you favor or oppose each of the following proposals? How about a law requiring women under 18 to get parental consent for any abortion?

You see how they changed that language a little bit; you would affect the numbers a little bit. It did—73 to 24. But still three-fourths of the people say a parent should know and consent before their minor daughter can get an abortion.

How about this one. This is the Wirthlin Worldwide poll from several years ago:

Do you favor or oppose requiring one parent of a girl who is under the age of 18 years of age to be notified before an abortion is performed on the girl?

Eighty-three percent to fifteen.

Here is another one, the Los Angeles Times:

Should girls under the age of 18 be required to get the consent of at least one parent before having an abortion?

Eighty-two to twelve.

Here is CBS News-New York Times:

Would you favor or oppose requiring parental consent before a girl under the age of 18 could have an abortion?

Seventy-eight to ten percent.

That one was 1998, 8 years ago.

The numbers have been strong. They haven't gone down; it is still there. Why? Because it is good policy.

For Heaven's sake, shouldn't a parent know if their child is having this kind of medical procedure? I think so.

Some may think that a 13-year-old should just be allowed to be taken away by some 29-year-old, some 40-year-old man to have an abortion to cover up his statutory rape. They may think that is good policy. I don't.

But I would just say this: This law that we are considering today, the Child Custody Protection Act, really does not deal with that. It simply says that if a State of this United States passes a law, and someone takes a child across State lines to avoid that law, they would be implicated in a Federal violation. The Federal Government would simply be affirming and supporting the States that choose to have a parental consent law. It does not make any new law. It does not set any parental consent standard. It does not put any new constraining limitation on it. It simply says that if you try to avoid the State law, the Federal Government will be of assistance.

I think the statute is drafted in a good way. I was a Federal prosecutor for 15 years and very familiar with many of the questions that come up with regard to prosecuting Federal cases. We have had some recent federalism decisions by the Supreme Court. They basically raise concerns that we in Congress have become too careless in how we draft legislation by attempting to make criminal acts solely within a State that have no interstate connection.

When I was a young prosecutor, some of the first cases I got to prosecute were automobile theft cases. But it is not automobile theft in Federal court, it is interstate transportation of a stolen motor vehicle. That is the crime—interstate transportation of that vehicle. If you just stole a car in Alabama, and you caught the person in Alabama, they never crossed a State line, it is not a Federal crime. It can only be prosecuted in Alabama.

The Supreme Court raised some concerns about that.

Theft from an interstate shipment is also a Federal crime. It is a Federal crime for people to steal from a railroad going through the community, if it is an interstate shipment. But if you steal from a farmer, and you don't get out of State with the produce, it is not a Federal crime. It is theft from interstate transportation of stolen property, ITSP. And that is a Federal offense.

So that is how this statute is written. This statute does not say we are going to micromanage what goes on within a State. What we are saying is, if someone travels in interstate commerce—because the Constitution of the
Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have already announced that I will do everything I can to block Senate consideration of the major overhaul of the telecommunications laws until it contains language to ensure there cannot be discrimination on the Internet. Last week, I outlined a number of examples of the kind of discrimination that could take place unless there is language known as Net neutrality in the legislation. I am going to give additional examples this morning of what will happen if discrimination is allowed on the Net. I also intend to start laying out answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about Net neutrality.

The major phone and cable companies that are now spending enormous sums trying to prevent Net neutrality so our ISP friends who share my views that I think it is important for the Senate to get a sense of what is going on. That is why it is my intent to come to the floor of the Senate again and again and again to outline what is at stake with respect to ensuring that the Internet is kept free of discrimination.

Let me begin by first addressing this question of what exactly is Net neutrality. If you listen to some of the so-called experts about communications, they would suggest this is so complicated, so arcane, so difficult for any body to understand, you ought to let the lawyers and the lobbyists sort this out. Of course, that is traditionally what has gone on in this field. You have lawyers and lobbyists being paid very handsomely to battle it out with each other, usually in Washington, DC, or courtrooms across the country.

Somehow, the typical person, the typical citizen, who has become empowered using the Internet, does not get to participate in these discussions. I tell you, Mr. President, I do not think the American people are going to buy that any longer. The Internet, which, of course, has opened up so many doors for our citizens in terms of health care and business opportunities, education, and culture, has also ensured they get a lot of information about these communications debates that used to be reserved for lawyers and lobbyists.

The people of this country—and the hundreds and hundreds of organizations that want to keep the Internet discrimination free—are no longer going to accept a notion that a handful of insiders in Washington, DC, can have these debates about the future of the telecommunications systems they depend on and that the people of this country will have to take what these so-called experts decide. So this is going to be a debate, in my view, that is going to be driven by the grassroots of this country, by thousands of people getting involved and coming to their legislators, and others, to talk about the future of telecommunications—why so much communication power is concentrated in so few hands.

I am going to try to advance this debate here on the floor of the Senate. Today, somebody pays a fee to get on the Internet. The people who are against Net neutrality—I call them "the discriminators"—because that is their agenda—want to discriminate. They want to be in a position to play favorites. They want to say: We will give certain people a good deal, both in terms of service and all the considerations that go into folks making their choices on line.

I think the American people are going to say, in so few hands.

United States provides that this Congress, this Federal Government, has the authority to regulate interstate commerce—for the purpose of avoiding a State law to help a minor child get an abortion without the knowledge of their loving parents, who are raising the children, to have to raise them. In the future, they are guilty a Federal offense.

I think that is perfectly sound constitutionally and something we should do. It is past time we do it. I would urge my colleagues to consider this. If there is one circumstance in which we should be most concerned about abortion, it is that of the young lady I described who testified at our hearing. Crystal Lane was impregnated and having sex with an older man when she was 12 years of age, and had an abortion at 13 years of age, and her parent did not know about it. How did it happen? The young man’s mother and young man got together and secreted her away, got together, and had an abortion, so he would not be found out, so he would not be prosecuted for statutory rape. This was not done out of any interest in the child’s welfare.

That is a very real problem that should not continue. We have the ability to do something about it. I urge my colleagues to study this act and to make sure we stop those who would usurp State law, usurp parental rights, and damage children without the knowledge of their parents.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have already announced that I will do everything I can to block Senate consideration of the major overhaul of the telecommunications laws until it contains language to ensure there cannot be discrimination on the Internet. Last week, I outlined a number of examples of the kind of discrimination that could take place unless there is language known as Net neutrality in the legislation. I am going to give additional examples this morning of what will happen if discrimination is allowed on the Net. I also intend to start laying out answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about Net neutrality.

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I think the American people are going to say, in so few hands.

In addition to criminal penalties, the bill allows any parent who suffers harm from a violation of this act may seek and obtain an appropriate civil remedy. At a time when children in public schools cannot obtain so much as an aspirin from a school nurse without parental consent, America has overwhelmingly insisted that before permitting minors to undergo a major medical procedure, such as an abortion, that they be notified at the very least, be notified. Thirty-four States have enacted parental consent or notification laws. Parental notification is supported by 83 percent of the American people.

Yet, too often, outside third parties have intentionally sought to circumvent these profamily State laws and invade the parent-child relationship by transporting children across State lines for the purpose of having an abortion.

This bill will serve as a real deterrent to such efforts. It reaffirms the parent-child relationship which is so important to the overwhelming majority of Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

I yield back.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

INTERNET NEUTRALITY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have already announced that I will do everything I can to block Senate consideration of the major overhaul of the telecommunications laws until it contains language to ensure there cannot be discrimination on the Internet. Last week, I outlined a number of examples of the kind of discrimination that could take place unless there is language known as Net neutrality in the legislation. I am going to give additional examples this morning of what will happen if discrimination is allowed on the Net. I also intend to start laying out answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about Net neutrality.

The major phone and cable companies that are now spending enormous sums trying to prevent Net neutrality so our ISP friends who share my views that I think it is important for the Senate to get a sense of what is going on. That is why it is my intent to come to the floor of the Senate again and again and again to outline what is at stake with respect to ensuring that the Internet is kept free of discrimination.

Let me begin by first addressing this question of what exactly is Net neutrality. If you listen to some of the so-called experts about communications, they would suggest this is so complicated, so arcane, so difficult for any body to understand, you ought to let the lawyers and the lobbyists sort this out. Of course, that is traditionally what has gone on in this field. You have lawyers and lobbyists being paid very handsomely to battle it out with each other, usually in Washington, DC, or courtrooms across the country.

Somehow, the typical person, the typical citizen, who has become empowered using the Internet, does not get to participate in these discussions. I tell you, Mr. President, I do not think the American people are going to buy that any longer. The Internet, which, of course, has opened up so many doors for our citizens in terms of health care and business opportunities, education, and culture, has also ensured they get a lot of information about these communications debates that used to be reserved for lawyers and lobbyists.

The people of this country—and the hundreds and hundreds of organizations that want to keep the Internet discrimination free—are no longer going to accept a notion that a handful of insiders in Washington, DC, can have these debates about the future of the telecommunications systems they depend on and that the people of this country will have to take what these so-called experts decide. So this is going to be a debate, in my view, that is going to be driven by the grassroots of this country, by thousands of people getting involved and coming to their legislators, and others, to talk about the future of telecommunications—why so much communication power is concentrated in so few hands.

I am going to try to advance this debate here on the floor of the Senate. Today, somebody pays a fee to get on the Internet. The people who are against Net neutrality—I call them "the discriminators"—because that is their agenda—want to discriminate. They want to be in a position to play favorites. They want to say: We will give certain people a good deal, both in terms of service and all the considerations that go into folks making their choices on line.

I think the American people are going to say, in so few hands.

Today, somebody pays a fee to get on the Net. They go where they want,
when they want. And if you want to buy something online from Harry & David—their wonderful fruit, which we know a lot about in the State of Oregon—you pay your Internet provider for the connection, Harry & David pays its Internet provider for its connection, and if you do not pay your Internet access fee, no one stops you from shopping at Harry & David because you did not pay an extra fee.

Without a clear policy preserving Net neutrality, would pay higher prices. And if you were able to stop Net neutrality, consumers would no longer have access to all the content available on the Internet. So in my view, it would be forever changed if discrimination is allowed on the Internet.

So that is why I have indicated I am going to use every procedural tool I have as a Senator to block Senate consideration of the telecommunications overhaul until it ensures there is Net neutrality and no discrimination online.

Now, a second question I am often asked is people want to know, as a consumer: How will Net neutrality affect me? For starters, keeping things the way they are, keeping Net neutrality, is not going to change anything about the Net for millions and millions of our consumers who rely on it. Net neutrality has been the way we have enjoyed the Net since day one. And it is in the last year that there has been this new front opened up where folks say: We have to be allowed to discriminate—some content providers pay a higher price for their content to be delivered than others. And their families at home. "Local Cable" the priority access fee. Downloading movies from the popular Vongo could cost $49.99 for a 6 megabit per second connection. In a world with Net neutrality, when Josh buys his connection from "Local Cable," he gets to visit any Web site he wants, when he wants, and how he wants. If he wants, for example, to download movies from the popular Vongo for $10 a month, he can do that. If he wants to search the Web using Yahoo! and book a family vacation online at Travelocity, he can do that too.

Under the bill that has come from the Senate Commerce Committee—the bill that does not protect Net neutrality—Josh will not be able to do any of those kinds of things. I have described unless content providers pay a new priority access fee on top of the $49.99 Internet access charge Josh already pays, and the fees the content providers pay to get on the Net. Unless Travelocity pays the additional priority access fee, booking that vacation at Travelocity could take 20 minutes to process because they are not paying the extra fee to "Local Cable" for priority access. Downloading movies at Vongo could cost more as well, could cost $20 rather than $10 because Vongo is passing on the costs of paying "Local Cable" the priority access fee.

Josh at this point—and this is as sure as night follows day in terms of what is ahead—is going to want to switch to another broadband provider, given all these extra costs he would have to eat. But he is stuck. There are no other choices for many people across the land.

The second example I want to outline involves somebody I am calling Mary Smith. Mary goes on line now through a broadband connection with a local Bell company to purchase a television from her local electronics store, Barnes Electronics. In a world with net neutrality, when Mary goes to Barnes Electronics web site, the site works properly and she can purchase the new television with ease. Under the legislation that came from the Senate Commerce Committee, it is going to be a different world for Mary. When she types in the web address for Barnes Electronics, the site may not immediately load. Instead a page could load asking her if she would prefer to shop at "Local Cable" which paid the local Bell to interrupt Mary's browsing. After clicking no, she is directed to Barnes Electronics web site. However, the site takes a long time to load and she becomes so frustrated, she will not continue shopping for the television at Big Box and eat all those higher prices.

In each of these examples, those who own the pipes extend their reach to the detriment of the American people. According to the business plans—and these have not exactly been hidden—of the big phone and cable companies and what they tell Wall Street, the kind of world I describe is what we are heading toward. Without net neutrality, neither of the people in the examples I just outlined will enjoy the Internet the way they enjoy it today.

One last question for purposes of this morning. I am often asked now: If we have net neutrality, does that mean we are not going to have sophisticated communications networks built in my neighborhood? Of course, we all want these sophisticated communications systems. Folks want them in Georgia, in Oregon, across the land. We all understand the value of constantly trying to improve our communication systems. Nobody wants policies that create disincentives to building new and improved communications networks. For years cable companies have been digging up the streets in neighborhoods across the land to build more sophisticated networks, even though net neutrality protections were in place. For all these years, when we have said we were not going to allow discrimination on the Internet, we have had the cable companies out there digging up the streets putting in these systems. So it is not as if we don’t have some evidence of what you can do when the Internet is free of discrimination.
We have seen these sophisticated networks built by cable companies right now. They are doing it when there is an absence of discrimination on the net. The reason I cited this is, it proves that if consumers demand it, the communications companies are going to build it because they can make a profit. The Bells, for example, would rather build a network with discrimination in it because they can make billions of dollars of extra profit. That is why they are threatening not to build networks and to try to hold hostage consumers and businesses across America. I don't think that is right. There is concrete evidence that this notion that we will not have sophisticated communications networks unless we allow discrimination on the net makes no sense at all.

I have tried to make a focus of my career in public service to keeping the Internet free from discrimination. It has some real precedents already, particularly in regard to taxation. I was a Senate sponsor of the legislation that prohibited discrimination in taxes on line. When we started, it was a very simple proposition. We would see, for example, that if you bought a newspaper on line, you paid taxes. But if you bought the snail mail version of that newspaper, you didn't pay any taxes. So Congress came together on a bipartisan basis and said: We are not going to allow discrimination and taxation to the Internet. We have done it. It has made sense.

For all those who claimed there were going to be dire consequences, that the States and localities wouldn't have any money, that it was going to kill the traditional retailer, the main street retailer, we haven't seen any of that. The Internet Nondiscrimination Act as it relates to taxation has made a huge difference. I worked with Senator Allen on the other side of the aisle on that. My friend, former Congressman Chris Cox, who now heads the Securities and Exchange Commission, he and I began this effort when he was serving in the other body. We have seen already, with respect to ensuring that the net is free from multiple and discriminatory taxes, why it makes sense to keep the Internet a discrimination free zone.

For the life of me, I can't figure out why we want to bring discrimination back on telecommunications, which is what this telecommunications overhaul will do, unless net neutrality is protected. The major cable and phone companies have spent more than $40 million since January of this year to make the American people think that net neutrality is what they call a lose-lose proposition. I am here to say that the absence of net neutrality will be the lose-lose proposition. The American people will see discrimination in Internet content, higher prices for consumers, and organizations that span the political spectrum, who disagree with each other on virtually everything, have come together to say: We are going to pull out all the stops to try to protect the Internet from discrimination.

I do not want to see the American consumer face the double barrel discrimination on the net of reduced choice in the classroom, and services, and the additional prospect of higher prices. As a result, it is my intent to keep my hold on this major telecommunications rewrite until it ensures true net neutrality and an Internet free of discrimination.

**AMERICA’S OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR KIDS ACT**

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, earlier this week, I introduced the America’s Opportunity Scholarships for Kids Act, S. 3682, on behalf of President Bush. I was joined in introducing this legislation by Senators Ensign, Gregg, and Santorum. This bill provides a way to end the racial and class-based educational apartheid in America by providing incentives for children to choose — along with autonomy and competition — that has made our system of education the best in the world.

Our Nation gives families choices in educational institutions nearly everywhere but in grade school and high school. After World War II, the GI bill enabled veterans to attend the educational institutions of their choice—public or private, secular or nonsecular. Today, Federal dollars for higher education still follow students to the school of their choice. It is this choice—along with autonomy and competition—that has made our system of higher education the best in the world. We also allow Federal funding to follow preschoolers to the childcare program of their choice.

Unfortunately, we have gotten in a rut with K–12 schools. We have created local monopolies where dollars flow directly to schools with little or no say from parents. The ones paying the highest price are the poor children of America.

America’s opportunity scholarships are a way out for families who have waited too long. I hope my colleagues will support this important legislation so we can help our neediest children achieve a brighter future.

**GUN SAFETY EDUCATION**

Mr. President, high profile school shootings across this country in recent years have focused the Nation's attention on easy access to guns by children, especially in the home. Each day in the United States, an average of 80 people die as a result of homicide, suicide, and unintentional injuries that involve a firearm. Stated another way, one of those who die everyday are children. The epidemic of firearm violence affects us all.
Steps to Prevent Firearm Injury in the Home. STOP 2, developed by the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, supplies health care providers across a wide range of disciplines including nurses, social workers, psychologists, health educators, and counselors, with the tools to educate diverse populations about the dangers of guns in the home and proper gun storage. Health care providers routinely discuss ways to prevent many types of injury, such as using child car seats, wearing bicycle safety helmets, and locking up prescription drugs. STOP 2 helps health care providers incorporate firearm injury prevention along with these other safety messages. Health care providers, as important messengers of health and safety information, are able to speak with patients and their families about the dangers of guns in their own homes as well as the homes of relatives or friends they visit. The program also assists health care providers in alerting families to the typical warning signs of gang involvement and suicide, and outlines action steps that can help prevent these possible tragedies.

STOP 2 expands on the original STOP program, which was launched in 1994 as a joint effort of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, CPHV, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. STOP was designed specifically for pediatricians. STOP 2 broadens the program’s scope to include other health care providers who work in a wide range of disciplines with diverse populations. With funding through the Metropolitan Life Foundation, CPHV is providing STOP 2 kits free of charge to the health care community. Health care providers can request a free STOP 2 kit that contains patient/client brochures, waiting room posters, and other gun violence prevention information, by contacting the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence.

I commend the President for his action of disapproving and urging Israel to negotiate. When their very survival is at stake, how do you measure proportionality? With whom do they suggest Israel negotiate? I am not saying there is no role for diplomacy or a diplomatic solution. But the foundation of such a solution must be No. 1, Israel has an absolute right to defend itself and No. 2, we must make absolutely certain that our actions do not embolden terrorists to continue their inexcusable tactics.

I commend the President for his active work with the leaders in the region, the United Nations and Europe. This is a situation where public statements should be few and maximum influence exerted in private networks of diplomacy.

I believe the President is honoring our Nation’s commitment to Israel and forcefully pursuing our Nation’s wider objectives in the War on Terror in this situation.

I think the American people can be reassured and proud that the United States is acting as a great power, in pursuit of high moral principles. We have fought hard and persuasively for peace, for a just settlement of the conflict and for the rights of the Palestinian people and for the rights of the Israeli people, and I am hopeful that the Americans that are in the Middle East, we would be wise to do the same thing.

The United States made a solemn, unequivocal, inescapable commitment to the State of Israel in 1948. We did so for two reasons. First, we were responding in moral revulsion to centuries of persecution of the Jewish people around the world and specifically in Nazi Germany. Second, we were affirming the formation of a democratic society in the Middle East because we believed, then and now, the democracy is, in Lincoln’s words, “the last best hope of Earth.” That commitment has absolutely nothing to do with politics, partnership or the price of a gallon of gasoline. Today on this floor we renew that commitment to Israel, and by doing so, remain faithful to our own creeds and national moral identity.

As a nation are committed to democracy and the rule of law. We believe that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. We know from our own history that many disagree with that commitment. We know that those values are not self-actualizing. Sometimes free nations have to fight violent people to preserve the circumstances under which they can live in peace and freedom. We stand with Israel today to support its right to defend itself against terrorists and those who support them.

Israel is a small country, surrounded by many who are hostile to their existences. Over the last six decades, Israel has made risky territorial concessions to its neighbors in hopes that moderate Arab voices would prevail over extremists. Those extremists’ view of peace in the Middle East are predicated on the destruction and removal of Israel. Despite the fact that southern Lebanon and the Gaza Strip have been the launching points for attacks against Israel in the recent past, Israel agreed to withdraw from them in the hope of peace. That hope has been dashed by Hamas and Hezbollah, both in the abduction of Israeli soldiers and the launching of rocket attacks. Some in the European community and even in the United States have said criticized Israel’s response as “disproportionate” and urged Israel to negotiate. When their very survival is at stake, how do you measure proportionality? With whom do they suggest Israel negotiate? I am not saying there is no role for diplomacy or a diplomatic solution.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL JAMES E. MCPHERSON

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and pay tribute to RADM James E. McPherson, the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Navy. Admiral McPherson will retire from the Navy on July 28, 2006, having completed over 27 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

Admiral McPherson, a native of San Diego, is a graduate of San Diego State University and University of San Diego Law School. He also earned a master of laws degree from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School.

Admiral McPherson began his military career as an enlisted man in the U.S. Army. He served over 3 years as a military policeman at the Presidio of San Francisco, with the Eighth Army in South Korea, and with the First Infantry Division. Notably, he is the first Navy Judge Advocate General to begin his career as an enlisted man. After receiving his commission as an ensign and completing Naval Justice School in Newport, RI, Admiral McPherson was assigned as an Assistant Force Judge Advocate for Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He continued his distinguished career with assignments at the Naval Legal Service Office in Norfolk, VA; the Naval Air Station, Cubi Point in the Philippines; and as Command Judge Advocate on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt. Following completion of graduate school, Admiral McPherson returned to the Naval Legal Service Office in Norfolk and served tours as senior defense counsel and senior trial counsel. He was then assigned as Force Judge Advocate for Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; the assistant for legal matters for the vice chief of Naval Operations; and as special counsel to the Chief of Naval Operations. In September 2000,
Admiral McPherson assumed command of Trial Service Office East in Norfolk, and in October 2002, he was promoted to rear admiral and assigned as the Deputy Judge Advocate General and Commander, Naval Legal Service Command. Admiral McPherson assumed his current duties as the 39th Judge Advocate General of the Navy in November 2004.

The Nation, the United States Navy, and the Judge Advocate General’s Corps have been fortunate to enjoy the talents and dedication of such a distinguished and wonderful gentleman. Admiral McPherson’s commitment to the rule of law strengthened the Navy, and he has served this Nation well. I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Admiral McPherson on the occasion of his retirement, and we wish him fair winds and following seas.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Chiappardi, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5681. An act to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:


MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3711. A bill to enhance the energy independence and security of the United States by providing for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:


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. DEWINE:

S. 3712. A bill to redesignate the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in the State of Ohio as the ‘Dayton Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historical Park’; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3713. A bill to protect privacy rights associated with electronic and commercial transactions; 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. 538. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Rockefeller v. Bingaman, et al; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mrs. Dole):

S. Con. Res. 113. A concurrent resolution congratulating the Magen David Adom Society in Israel for achieving full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 666

At the request of Mr. DeWINE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 793

At the request of Mr. Durbin, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to establish national standards for discharges from cruise vessels into the waters of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. Inhofe, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the presentation 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. 1096

At the request of Mr. Kyl, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance.

S. 2145

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2145, a bill to enhance security and protect against terrorist attacks at chemical facilities.

S. 2385

At the request of Mr. Reid, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Pryor) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2385, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability.

S. 3659

At the request of Mr. Burr, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Santorum) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Bond) were added as cosponsors of S. 3128, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 3667

At the request of Mr. Bingaman, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Reed) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3667, a bill to include costs incurred by the Indian Health Service, a Federally qualified health center, an AIDS drug assistance program, certain hospitals, or a pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance program in providing prescription drugs toward the annual out of pocket threshold under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act and to provide a safe harbor for assistance provided under a pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance program.

S. 3667

At the request of Mr. Burns, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3667, a bill to promote nuclear non-proliferation in North Korea.

S. 3691

At the request of Mr. Domenici, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3681, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 to provide that manure shall not be considered to be a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

S. 3692

At the request of Mr. Alexander, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Frist), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Vitter), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DeMINT)
were added as cosponsors of S. 3682, a bill to establish the America’s Opportunity Scholarships for Kids Program.

AMENDMENT NO. 468

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4686 proposed to H.R. 4472, an act to protect children from sexual exploitation and violent crime, to prevent child abuse and child pornography, to promote Internet safety, and to honor the memory of Adam Walsh and other child crime victims.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 538—TO AUTHORIZ E REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF ROCKEFELLER V. BINGAMAN, ET AL.

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

S. Res. 538

Whereas, in the case of Rockefeller v. Bingaman, et al., Case No. 06–CV–0198 (D.N.M.), pending in the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico, the plaintiff has named as defendants Senator Jeff Bingaman and the United States Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend the Senator and Members, officers, and employees of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities; Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator Jeff Bingaman and the United States Senate in the case of Rockefeller v. Bingaman, et al.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 113—CONGRATULATING THE MAGEN DAVID ADOM SOCIETY IN ISRAEL FOR ACHIEVING FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Con. Res. 113

Whereas international humanitarian law is, quintessentially, about principle, establishing standards of conduct that can not be breached under any circumstance, or for any calculation of political efficacy or utility;

Whereas the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a worldwide institution in which all national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have equal status, whose mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, without discrimination;

Whereas the Magen David Adom (Red Shield of David) Society is the national humanitarian society in Israel and has performed heroically, aiding all in need of assistance, on a purely humanitarian basis, without bias, even those responsible for acts of horrific violence against Israeli civilians;

Whereas, since 1949, the Magen David Adom Society has been refused admission into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and has been relegated to observe the Red Cross because it has used the Red Shield of David, the only such national organization denied membership in the Movement;

Whereas the neutral symbol was intended as the visible expression of the neutral status enjoyed by the medical services of the armed forces and the protection thus conferred, and the symbol has never, in any implicit religious connection in the cross;

Whereas, since its establishment in 1930, the Magen David Adom Society has worked under its own symbol, the Red Star of David, as an expression of the humanitarian values the Magen David Adom shares with the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies;

Whereas Israel acceded to the Geneva Conventions in 1961 with a reservation specifying their intent to continue to use the Magen David Adom;

Whereas international consultations among nations and national Red Cross Societies entered with the International Committee of the Red Cross formally called for adoption of a protocol to the Geneva Conventions creating a third neutral symbol, allowing the use of either the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, or the third neutral symbol, and allowing for the third neutral symbol to be used in combination with other national Red Cross Society symbols, including the Magen David Adom;

Whereas a diplomatic conference to adopt this proposal into the Geneva Conventions was scheduled for October 2000, but was prevented by the outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada;

Whereas the United States, the American Red Cross, and the American Friends of Magen David Adom have worked ceaselessly to resolve the issue of the third neutral symbol and achieve full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the Magen David Adom Society;

Whereas Congress has insisted that funds made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross be contingent on a certification by the Secretary of State confirming that the Magen David Adom Society is a full participant in activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

Whereas the American Red Cross has stood alone among all the national humanitarian aid societies, and has withheld over $45,000,000 in dues to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to protest the exclusion of the Magen David Adom;

Whereas the Government of Switzerland, the depositary state for the Geneva Conventions, convened a Diplomatic Conference of the states party to the Geneva Conventions in December 2005 for the purpose of adopting a Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions and the rules for its implementation;

Whereas the United States and the American Red Cross at the Diplomatic Conference in December 2005 were critical to achieving both an overwhelming positive vote in favor of adopting the Third Additional Protocol, as well as an extremely important memorandum of understanding between the Magen David Adom and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society;

Whereas sustaining international support for the adoption of the third neutral symbol against efforts to divert the conference into unrelated political subjects required extraordinary diplomatic efforts by the United States and the American Red Cross;

Whereas the Third Additional Protocol adopted in Geneva in December 2005 established the new third neutral symbol, the "red crystal" that can be used in conjunction with the Red Star of David and cleared the way for Israeli membership in the international movement;

Whereas, in June 2006, the states party to the Geneva Conventions and humanitarian aid societies, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross met in Geneva to adopt rules implementing the Third Additional Protocol; and

Whereas, at the June 2006 meeting in Geneva, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement accepted the Magen David Adom Society as a full member: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends the Magen David Adom Society for its long and distinguished record of providing humanitarian assistance to all those in need of aid, even those responsible for heinous atrocities against Israeli civilians;

(2) congratulates the Magen David Adom Society, and the Government and people of Israel, for securing full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 57 years past due;

(3) thanks the President, the Secretary of State, and United States diplomatic representatives for their tireless pursuit and maintenance of the international consensus that culminated in the recent acceptance of the Magen David Adom Society as a full member in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

(4) thanks the American Red Cross for its unwavering and unyielding insistence within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement that the principles of international humanitarian law could not be reconciled with continued exclusion of the Magen David Adom Society;

(5) thanks the Government of Switzerland and officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross for helping to prepare the necessary consensus and carrying to completion the adoption of the Third Additional Protocol by the states party to the Geneva Conventions and the rules for its implementation; and

(6) commends the President for—

(A) submitting the Third Additional Protocol to the Senate for its advice and consent; and

(B) pending approval by the Senate, preparing for congressional consideration and enactment of legislation necessary to carry into effect the Third Additional Protocol.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 21, 2006, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on the U.S.–UK Extradition Treaty.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 403

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of S. 403, the child
custody protection bill, immediately following morning business on Tuesday, July 25, and that it be considered under the following limitations: that the only amendments in order be the following: Feinstein, clergy and grandparent exemption, 2 hours equally divided; Seymour B. Pierce and grandparent exemption, 2 hours equally divided; Time Warner and grandparent exemption, 90 minutes equally divided; Boxer, parental incest, cannot sue, 2 hours equally divided; Ensign or designee, incest, to be voted on before the Boxer amendment, 2 hours equally divided; time Warner and incest, cannot sue, 2 hours equally divided; and that the court be一律 divided for general debate; and that following the disposition of the above-listed amendments and the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, July 24, at a time determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 764, Jerome Holmes to be U.S. circuit judge for the Tenth Circuit. I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 hours equally divided between the chairman and ranking member, or their designees, to be used on Monday and another 2 hours equally divided for debate to be used on Tuesday, July 25. I further ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate; further, I ask unanimous consent that following that vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 538, which was submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 538) to authorize representation by the Senate legal counsel in the case of Rockefeller v. Bingaman, et al.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a pro se civil action filed against Senator Jeff Bingaman, the United States Senate, Representative Steve Pearce, and the United States House of Representatives, in which plaintiff challenges as unconstitutional the fact that he does not have a guaranteed right to have his appeals heard by the United States Supreme Court nor a right to have a three-judge district court hear his challenges to Federal statutes at the trial court level. Plaintiff complains that permitting the Supreme Court discretion as to whether it will hear and allow single-judge district courts to decide cases challenging the constitutionality of Federal statutes violates the Constitution’s separation of powers. Plaintiff seeks an injunction against the operation of the statutes that provide for petitioning the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, and for convening a three-judge district court to hear a case.

This suit is subject to dismissal as defective on both threshold jurisdictional grounds and as failing to state a claim on the merits as a matter of law. This resolution authorizes the Senate Legal Counsel to represent Senator Jeff Bingaman and the United States Senate in this suit and to move for its dismissal.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 538) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 538

Whereas, in the case of Rockefeller v. Bingaman, et al., Case No. 06-CV-6196 (D.N.M. Mar. 30, 2006), the United States District Court of the District of New Mexico, the plaintiff has named as defendants Senator Bingaman and the United States Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 280(a) and 280(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend the Senate and Members, officers, and employees of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator Bingaman and the United States Senate in the case of Rockefeller v. Bingaman, et al.

COMMEMDING THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 448, which was received from the House.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 448) commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle’s second Return-to-Flight mission.

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

Mr. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, the House has passed and sent to the Senate, H. Con. Res. 448, which commends NASA and the crew of the Space Shuttle “Discovery” on the successful completion of the STS–121 mission earlier this week.

I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to join with me and provide the Senate concurrence to this resolution. I also note that the House passed this resolution on July 20, the 37th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing, adding special significance to the action we are being asked to endorse.

The resolution recognizes and applauds the very successful STS–121 mission, which accomplished all of its test objectives regarding on-orbit repair procedures, as well as delivering 14 tons of equipment and supplies to the International Space Station, and the space station’s ability to be restored. This restores the space station to its full crew complement since the “Columbia” accident and allows for additional crew time to be spent on-orbit research.

Calendar mission also demonstrated that changes made to the external tank, while still not fully completed, resulted in the least amount of foam shedding during lift-off and the cleanest, most undamaged underside of the shuttle yet seen.

The successful completion of this second Return-to-Flight test mission is especially significant because it means the Shuttle Program is once again on the threshold of completing the important work of assembling the International Space Station.

If all goes as expected, the next mission to the Space Station will take place in just a little over 5 weeks from now, near the end of August. That mission will deliver additional supplies and equipment to the space station, including a new structural truss element and an additional set of solar arrays. Once the solar arrays are deployed, they will not only provide additional power to the space station, which can be used for an increased number of scientific experiments during the ongoing assembly period, but they will begin to make the space station one of the brightest objects in the night sky. By the time the space station is completed, it will be brighter than any other object in the night sky besides the Moon, an ever-present reminder that we are a species no longer confined to the Earth and able to make use of that unique environment of low Earth orbit for research that can benefit all of humanity.

I applaud the crew of “Discovery” and the team at NASA who all worked together to restore this Nation’s ability...
to conduct the human exploration and utilization of space.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the Record.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 448) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today’s Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 707, 768, 786 through 810, and all nominations on the Secretary’s desk. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Secretary then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Martin J. Jackley, of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years.

Brett L. Tolman, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Susie C. Payton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Charles E. McQueeney, of North Carolina, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general
Colonel Gregory A. Biscone, 0000
Colonel Edward L. Bolton, Jr., 0000
Colonel Joseph D. Brown, IV, 0000
Colonel Gregory L. Brundidge, 0000
Colonel Timothy A. Byers, 0000
Colonel Michael W. Callan, 0000
Colonel David S. Fadok, 0000
Colonel Craig A. Franklin, 0000
Colonel David W. Griffin, 0000
Colonel Francis L. Hendricks, 0000
Colonel John W. Hesterman, III, 0000
Colonel James W. Hyatt, 0000
Colonel John E. Hyten, 0000
Colonel Michelle D. Johnson, 0000
Colonel Richard C. Johnston, 0000
Colonel Joseph A. Lanni, 0000
Colonel Kenneth W. Lewis, 0000
Colonel Michael R. Moeller, 0000
Colonel Harry D. Polumbo, 0000
Colonel John D. Posner, 0000
Colonel James A. Price, 0000
Colonel Mark F. Ramsay, 0000
Colonel Mark O. Schisler, 0000
Colonel Charles K. Shugg, 0000
Colonel Marvin T. Summett, Jr., 0000
Colonel Alfred J. Stewart, 0000
Colonel Everett H. Thomas, 0000
Colonel William W. Uhle, Jr., 0000
Colonel Darragh J. Wilson, 0000
Colonel Brett T. Williams, 0000
Colonel Todd D. Wolters, 0000

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. N. Ross Thompson, III, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Thomas B. Turner, II, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Douglas R. Lute, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general
Brig. Gen. Charles H. Davidson, IV, 0000
The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general
Brigadier General Steven R. Axt, 0000
Brigadier General James A. Hashbarger, 0000
Brigadier General John P. McLaren, Jr., 0000
Brigadier General William Monk, III, 0000
Brigadier General William T. Rafferty, 0000

To be brigadier general
Colonel Craig A. Bugno, 0000
Colonel Harold G. Bunch, 0000
Colonel Walter B. Chahanovich, 0000
Colonel Charles C. Cline, 0000
Colonel David S. Elmo, 0000
Colonel Robert N. Hipwell, 0000
Colonel Alexander I. Kozlov, 0000
Colonel Jon J. Miller, 0000
Colonel David L. Smalley, 0000
Colonel Robert P. Stahl, 0000
Colonel Jonathan Woodson, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Richard F. Natonski, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Maj. Gen. Keith J. Stalder, 0000
The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. James F. Amos, 0000
The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general
Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general
Col. Charles M. Gurganus, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (ih) David D. Dorsett, 0000
The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (ih) Richard E. Cellon, 0000
Rear Adm. (ih) Wayne G. Shear, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. (ih) Richard E. Cellon, 0000
Rear Adm. (ih) Wayne G. Shear, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Mark A. Handley, 0000
Capt. Christopher J. Moses, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:
To be rear admiral (lower half)
Capt. Thomas P. Meek, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be rear admiral
Rear Adm. William D. Sullivan, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be vice admiral
Rear Adm. William D. Crowder, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
To be vice admiral
Vice Adm. Albert M. Calland, III, 0000
The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:
NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK
IN THE AIR FORCE
PN1797 AIR FORCE nomination of Julio Ocampo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1798 AIR FORCE nomination of John L. Putnam, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1794 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning JOHN D. ADAMS, and ending DIANE HUEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1795 AIR FORCE nominations (30) beginning JOHN D. ADAMS, and ending KARL WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1796 AIR FORCE nominations (13) beginning GARY J. ZICCARDI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1797 AIR FORCE nominations (29) beginning MICHAEL J. APOL, and ending DAWN M.K. ZOLIDI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1798 AIR FORCE nominations (32) beginning MICHAEL J. APOL, and ending DAWN M.K. ZOLIDI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1799 AIR FORCE nominations (335) beginning BRIAN E. ABELL, and ending CUTTER M. ZAMBONI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1800 AIR FORCE nominations (69) beginning ROBIN M. ADAMS, and ending EDWARD E. YACKEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1801 AIR FORCE nominations (17) beginning RICHARD E. BAXTER, and ending BARRY D. WHITESIDE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1802 AIR FORCE nominations (62) beginning CHRISTOPHER G. ARCHER, and ending PAUL H. YOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1803 AIR FORCE nominations (106) beginning WADE K. ALDous, and ending ESMERALDO ZARZABAL, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1804 AIR FORCE nominations (20) beginning JOHN C. BEACH, and ending LLOYD T. PHINNEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1805 AIR FORCE nominations (160) beginning JOHN C. BEACH, and ending LLOYD T. PHINNEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1806 AIR FORCE nominations (28) beginning JOHN C. BEACH, and ending LLOYD T. PHINNEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1807 AIR FORCE nominations (530) beginning JOHN C. BEACH, and ending LLOYD T. PHINNEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
PN1629 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION nominations (67) beginning PHILIP A GRUCCIO, and ending JAMES S WASSER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 24, 2006.
IN THE NAVY
PN1744 NAVY nominations (24) beginning CAL ABEL, and ending THOMAS J. ZERR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN780 NAVY nomination of David E. Bauer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1804 NAVY nomination of Cathy L. Trudeau, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1805 NAVY nominations (3) beginning WALTER J. LAWRENCE, and ending RONALD L RUGGERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1806 NAVY nominations (3) beginning WALTER J. LAWRENCE, and ending RONALD L RUGGERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1740 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ROBERT T. DAVIES, and ending CURTIS E. WELLS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2006.
PN1741 ARMY nominations (15) beginning MICHELLE A. COOPER, and ending DAVID W. TOWLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2006.
PN1742 ARMY nominations (3) beginning RICKIE A. MCPKEAKE, and ending EUGENE J. FALK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 28, 2006.
PN1743 ARMY nomination of Paul A. Carter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 26, 2006.
PN1777 ARMY nomination of Maritza S. Ryan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1778 ARMY nominations (32) beginning ARMANDO AGUILERA, JR., and ending MICHAEL S. WALL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1779 ARMY nominations (335) beginning BRIAN E. ABELL, and ending CUTTER M. ZAMBONI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1800 ARMY nominations (69) beginning ROBIN M. ADAMS, and ending EDWARD E. YACKEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1801 ARMY nominations (17) beginning RICHARD E. BAXTER, and ending BARRY D. WHITESIDE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1802 ARMY nominations (62) beginning CHRISTOPHER G. ARCHER, and ending PAUL H. YOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 29, 2006.
PN1803 ARMY nominations (106) beginning WADE K. ALDous, and ending ESMERALDO ZARZABAL, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1804 ARMY nominations (20) beginning JOHN C. BEACH, and ending LLOYD T. PHINNEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1805 ARMY nominations (160) beginning JOHN C. BEACH, and ending LLOYD T. PHINNEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
PN1806 ARMY nominations (3) beginning WALTER J. LAWRENCE, and ending RONALD L RUGGERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 12, 2006.
LEGISLATIVE SESSION
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, The Senate will now return to legislative session.
ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006
Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 24; I further ask that following the prayer and the reading of the Bible, the 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 of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each until 3 o’clock; further, I ask that at 3 o’clock, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Holmes nomination, as under the previous order.
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.
PROGRAM
Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Monday, we will turn to the nomination of Jerome Holmes to be a circuit court judge for the Tenth Circuit. Under the order, we will spend 2 hours of debate on Monday and then have an additional 2 hours of debate on Tuesday, to be followed by a vote on confirmation of the nomination. This vote on Tuesday will be the first vote of the week. Next week we will have a very busy week. We will continue with the Child Custody Protection Act. Under the agreement, we will have a limited number of amendments which we will consider on Tuesday. We will finish the child custody bill on Tuesday. That is going to require a number of votes throughout the afternoon and possibly into the evening. I ask my colleagues to adjust their schedules accordingly.
Next week I expect we will have other nominations and legislative items to complete. It will be a very busy week.
SENATE PROGRESS
Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have had a productive week. I don’t know if I could say an unusually productive week as we always have weeks, but a very strong week in terms of both the range of issues that we have debated on the floor as well as pieces of legislation, important pieces of legislation that have passed. The range is quite remarkable. As I outlined earlier this morning, we began this week studying and talking about and discussing and debating three bills that addressed issues that are challenging in that they address the ethical concerns surrounding science and the tremendous advances in science. I have been a beneficiary of this because of my profession as a doctor and as a scientist. We all recognize
the great power and the great potential for science to bring cures, to bring treatment, and to bring a better quality of life to people in this country and, indeed, around the world. Our challenge is to make sure that as we allow that momentum to move forward, we propel it, we push it, we do so in a way that is consistent with our moral values and with a framework of ethics that we all respect. It is a challenge. It is the sort of thing that traditionally legislators have not had to deal with a lot with. They would deal with it on a periodic basis.

Now the reality is, with science moving so fast, we are going to have to be accustomed to dealing with these tough issues, struggling with them. We all struggle with it. It is easy to vote yes or no at the end of the day. But those ‘yes’ or ‘no’ votes do represent real struggles, both internally and as we talk to family and talk to friends, and as we talk to scientists. It is clearly something that is very powerful in our own lives.

We moved through confirming four judges—I mentioned that last night—the Water Resources Development Act, which we passed under the leadership of Chair Night—yesterday afternoon, last night—and passing the Voting Rights Act after 41 years of real success. Then we went on this child custody protection bill which has to do with parental consent, with people taking minors across the border, without their parents’ consent, for an abortion. That is a very important issue. That comes on the heels of an issue we passed last night, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, which arguably could be considered the most comprehensive child crime protection bill that we passed in a generation. So it is quite remarkable as well.

THANKING THE PAGES

Mr. FRIST. I thank the pages who are here. I think we have almost 50 pages who are here for a part of the summer. The pages, I am talking to them most of the time in here on both sides of the aisle. I talked to them about an hour ago and had the chance to welcome each of them and to thank them for their tremendous service in making this place click. When we hand these pages over to that window and look out on that Lincoln Memorial out there and the Washington Monument, it is a real honor and delight for me to have Mary Lauren and Lawson and especially Harrison and Frist and Cole to walk them through these marble halls in the great Rotunda. Lawson’s parents Sam and Phyllis are here as well. I have had the pleasure of having them in the past and hosting them here as well. It is a big family.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2 P.M.

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006

Mr. FRIST. 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 12:13 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 24, 2006, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 21, 2006:

EXCHANGE-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES


EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SHARON LYNN HAYS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RECLAMATION, VICE JOHN W. KYRs, III, RE-SIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMES R. KUNDER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE FREDERICK W. SCHIECK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KAREN B. STEWART, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, VICE CATHERINE McQUINN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BASSIOON, TO BE SURVEYED CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMMISSION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, ANTIQUA AND BARBUDA, THE SOUTHERN CAROLINAS, BARBADOS, GUATEMALA, NIGERIA, AND SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRANADINES.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

JANE M. DODGE, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 30, 2012, VICR STEPHEN MCKNIGHT, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DONALD J. JAMES, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE REGINALD JUDE BROWN, MAJOR GENERAL TODD I. STUART, USAF, (RET.), OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ARTHUR JAMES COLLINS,TERM EXPIRING.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 524.

To be commander

GREGORY R. BART, 0000
JAMES P. BOIESOT, 0000
TERENCE W. COSTELLO IV, 0000
ROBERT J. CROW, 0000
KRISTA J. DELLAPINA, 0000
JASON M. DOLGIN, 0000
THOMAS L. DOWIN, 0000
MARK F. KLEIN, 0000
SHANNON H. KOPFLIN, 0000
ANDREW D. LEVITZ, 0000
EVA M. LUSHNE, 0000
MICHAEL E. MAULE, 0000
CARL N. MCCODDY, 0000
ELLEN N. MCNAMI, 0000
JOHN M. NISLEN, 0000
BETHANY L. PAYTONORIEN, 0000
MERRITT L. ROBINSON, 0000
GREGORY J. SMITH, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 524.

To be commander

RICKY V. ASHIDE, 0000
CHRIS A. ANDERSON, 0000
ALBERT E. BAKER, 0000
ROBIN L. BARNBR, 0000
DOUGLAS M. BRIDGES, 0000
JUANETO R. BUCKLEY, 0000
RICHARD C. BUELL, 0000
ERIC H. BURES, 0000
RICHARD SYRDSOM, 0000
CHARLES W. COHRT, 0000
ROBERT CORB, 0000
ROBERT E. DARLE, 0000
JEFFREY P. DAIVS, 0000
ROBERT T. DEGUIGN, JR., 0000
DAVID W. FRR, 0000
SEAN M. EGGE, 0000
THOMAS A. FULFORD, 0000
FRISTON L. GILL, 0000
BARRY L. GOLDEN, 0000
MARIE E. GREEN, 0000
Samantha J. Green, 0000
GENE A. HAWKS, 0000
GARY HAYTAM, 0000
JONATHAN B. HAYNES, 0000
JASON S. HENNING, 0000
DAVID K. HERRFIELD, 0000
BANDON D. JOLIE, 0000
ELENA A. KUNR, 0000
DAVID M. LOCKEY, 0000
RICHARD H. MANNING, 0000
SETH A. MANTY, 0000
RAMON B. MARIN, 0000
MATTHIAS N. OPII, 0000
ERIC OXENDINE, 0000
MICHAEL W. PUFFER, 0000
BOBBY R. PITTS, 0000
ERIC H. BURKS, 0000
JUANITO R. BUCKLEY, 0000
ALBERT R. BAKER, 0000
CHRIS A. ANDERSON, 0000
RICKIE V. ADSIDE, 0000
SAMANTHA J. GREEN, 0000
MARIE E. GREEN, 0000
The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Navy under Title 10, U.S.C., Section 624:

To be commander


To be commander

IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

COLONEL TODD D. WOLTERS

COLONEL BRETT T. WILLIAMS

COLONEL ALFRED J. STEWART

COLONEL MARVIN T. SMOOT, JR.

COLONEL JOHN D. POSNER

COLONEL KENNETH D. MERCHANT

COLONEL RICHARD C. JOHNSTON

COLONEL JOHN E. HYTEN

COLONEL JAMES W. HYATT

COLONEL JOHN W. HESTERMAN III

COLONEL FRANCIS L. HENDRICKS

COLONEL CRAIG A. FRANKLIN

COLONEL DAVID S. FADOK

COLONEL TIMOTHY A. BYERS

COLONEL JOSEPH D. BROWN IV

COLONEL EDWARD L. BOLTON, JR.

CATEGORIZED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION,

OF FOUR YEARS.

KOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED

IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE

IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED

IN THE AIR FORCE

IN THE NAVY

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Friday, July 21, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MARTIN J. JACKEY, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

BRADFORD L. SMITH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, CHARLES E. MQCAREY, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.


BRIG. GEN. CHARLES R. DAVIDSON IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624.

CAPT. THOMAS R. TURNER II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601.

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ARMY NOMINATION OF PAUL A. CARTER TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARITZA S. RYAN TO BE COLONEL.


ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBIN M. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH EDWARD E. YACKEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 12, 2006.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD E. BAXTER AND ENDING WITH BARRY D. WHITESIDE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 12, 2006.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER G. ARCHER AND ENDING WITH PAUL H. YOON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 12, 2006.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WADH K. ALDOUS AND ENDING WITH ESMERALDO ZARZABAL, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 12, 2006.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN C. BEACH AND ENDING WITH LLOYD T. FRINZET, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 12, 2006.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PHILIP A. GRUCCI AND ENDING WITH JAMIE S. WASSER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 24, 2006.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CAL ABEL AND ENDING WITH THOMAS J. ZERR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 26, 2006.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DAVID E. BAUER TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CATHY L. TRUDEAU TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WALTER J. LAWRENCE AND ENDING WITH RONALD L. RUGGIERO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 12, 2006.
TRIBUTE TO MIKE PARMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Michael J. Parman, who had a long and distinguished career as editor and publisher of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, the newspaper of record in Sonoma County.

Mike Parman died on July 1st after a long fight against pancreatic cancer. His rise to the top of the North Coast’s paper was marked by grit, determination and independence. His tenure at the Press Democrat was marked by excellence and community involvement. And his final days marked by self-awareness, humor and grace.

Orphaned at 14, Mike raised himself in Reno, Nevada, with the guardianship of two far-apart relatives. He attended Reno High School where he played basketball and was on the wrestling team. Inspired by his journalism teacher, Rex Daniels, he became a sports writer, and the school paper’s sports editor, and wrote a weekly column for Reno’s daily paper. Mike went on to the University of Nevada at Reno, where, while earning bachelors and master’s degrees, he wrestled and boxed and worked as editor and sports editor of the campus paper, and continued to write for the Nevada State Journal.

In 1967, he married Michael McCulloch, the daughter of journalist Frank McCulloch and Jackie McCulloch, a marriage that lasted until his death and produced two children, Chris and Leah, who are now parents themselves.

After completing his master’s degree in 1968, Parman was called to military duty. He served as an Army journalist and photographer in Vietnam, where he earned a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal. In 1970 he was hired as a reporter by the Pioneer Press, a group of weekly newspapers on Chicago’s North Shore. He quickly rose to managing editor and at the same time worked as a stringer for Money Magazine. In 1973 he headed west for California, and worked briefly as a copy editor of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat before being hired at the Sacramento Bee. Starting at the copy desk, he successively was promoted to executive sports editor, weekend editor, assistant managing editor, and finally managing editor.

When the New York Times acquired the then-privately-owned Press Democrat in 1985, Mike saw an opportunity play a major role in remaking the paper. At the Press Democrat, Mike Parman, first as editor, then as publisher, oversaw several major graphic redesigns of the paper, the construction of a regional printing facility, and the winning of dozens of awards, including a Pulitzer for Photography and a Polk Award for a series of articles.

During his 20 years at the Press Democrat, Mike Parman not only improved the look of the paper and the quality of its journalism and expanded its circulation; he also became deeply involved in community affairs. Mike Parman served as the President of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, on the board of directors of the Sonoma County United Way and on the Advisory Board of the Green Music Center and the North Bay Council.

When Mike Parman retired for health reasons in December 2005, he did not give up his public voice. Instead, he took to the new media, and began writing an Internet “blog,” which gave a very personal account of how he, his family and friends were dealing with his cancer. Mike’s blog revealed a man facing mortality and the terrors of cancer with courage, compassion and good humor. Going on vacation, Mike wrote that his cancer was a thing that he chose to leave behind. While undergoing chemotherapy, he wrote that he anticipated speaking at a rally where “I will mop my sweating brow, gray hair will explode from my head and little children will run home screaming.” And if he used medical marijuana, the rather straight laced Parman feared he would be “thrown in jail and forced to wear paisley pajamas the rest of my life.”

Mike Parman’s blog brought heartfelt responses from dozens of cancer patients and survivors, because he not only expressed his own feelings, but hit a universal chord.

“We make every moment count,” Mike Parman wrote. “We love deeper. We live deeper. We soar on hope and laughter. We appreciate everything and nothing is taken for granted.”

Mr. Speaker, if only we could all live that way every day of our lives.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RAMON AYALA

HON. HENRY CUÉLLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. CUÉLLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ramon Ayala, one of the most accomplished norteño music legends, for his contribution as the headlining act at the Supply Our Students concert on August 2nd, 2006.

Mr. Ayala was born on March 10th, 1945, and first began his love of norteño music at small Mexican towns. He then started his path to his career by forming the Los Relampagos Del Norte band in the 1960s that defined modern norteño music. He has performed over a hundred albums, each one completely distinctive in the musical style that is the trademark of Mr. Ayala.

Mr. Ayala also has received two Grammy awards for his music, and numerous other awards. He is known for his philanthropic involvement in the community of South Texas with underprivileged children and children with disabilities. Mr. Ayala has raised thousands of dollars for school supplies in the previous Supply Our Students concerts, and I commend him for his dedication to the education of our children in the great State of Texas. He is a truly exceptional musician and a role model for aspiring musicians.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the exemplary career of Mr. Ramon Ayala and his involvement with the Supply Our Students concert in the City of Laredo on August 2nd, 2006, and I thank you for this time.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. McCaul of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Israel, our ally in the Middle East. I would like to thank Major Leader BOEHNER and Chairman HYDE for their leadership in bringing this timely resolution to the floor.

Since its inception nearly sixty years ago, Israel has been engaged in a war for its survival. It has conducted that war according to every rule set out by the international community and has always acted with restraint when it comes to civilians. Israel’s enemies have not only acted without restraint, they have deliberately targeted civilians in an effort to terrorize the nation.

Israel is now engaged in a new chapter of its war on terror. I fully support Israel’s right to defend its citizens by using all means necessary to destroy terrorists and those that support them. However, we must also consider the root cause of today’s violence. For nearly thirty years, the government of Iran has been monetarily and militarily supporting Hezbollah around the world. Evidence of Syrian and Iranian complicity in Hezbollah’s abduction of two Israeli soldiers last week is abundant.

The scourge of terrorism will never go away until the state sponsors of terrorism have been dealt with decisively. Iran today remains the world’s largest state sponsor of terror. Iran’s president has repeatedly threatened to bring a rain of fire to Israel and the United States. Imagine what might happen if they get a nuclear weapon to back up those threats. The majority of the Iranian people oppose the theocratic dictators that rule their country. The time has come for the United States to actively support the Iranian people and help them bring about democratic change in their country.
CONDEMNING THE REPORT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. ANNA G. ESHOO
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this Resolution which condemns Hezbollah and Hamas, the terrorist attacks against Israel and the full support of the U.S. for Israel to defend herself and live in peace among her neighbors.

As I support this Resolution, I believe it is deficient in not expressing this body’s strongest desire for all parties involved in the current conflict to exercise military restraint in order to spare the lives of innocent Israeli and Lebanese civilians.

While the Lebanese people have been making laudable strides toward a more positive future and a peaceful coexistence in the region, terrorists have sought continuously to ignite conflict. The Government of Lebanon has paid a price for their stand against Hezbollah and Syria, enduring assassinations, political and social turmoil, and now the wide-scale destruction of civilian lives and critical infrastructure.

As a result the people of Lebanon are alongside our friends in Israel in being victimized by Hezbollah and Hamas in the current crisis. Both sides are enduring extraordinary hardship from air and rocket attacks and hundreds of civilians have been killed during the current military campaign. The terrorists have succeeded in creating a humanitarian crisis which the international community, including the United States, has yet to respond to. The escalating conflict is nearing full-scale war and terrorists and their state sponsors are realizing their goal of scuttling the Roadmap to Peace and pushing regional leaders away from the negotiating table.

I believe the United States has the responsibility and the power to be the voice of reason and put an end to brinkmanship. The region is desperate for restraint on the part of all parties. The Resolution is silent on this.

It should be our goal today to protect the civilian lives and critical infrastructure that have been targeted in the current fighting, and work to bring about restraint to resolve the crisis without further bloodshed.

We need a policy in the Middle East that does not begin and end with military force. A political solution must be structured and the United States Armed Forces, I stand here today to honor one such individual, Chief Master Sergeant David G. Harlow. On August 26, 2006, Chief Harlow will retire from reserve duty, after more than 29 years of federal military service in the defense of our great nation.

Chief Harlow was born in Riverside, California, and attended Charter Oak High School, where he excelled at Track and Field. After his graduation from Charter Oak, he enlisted in the United States Air Force in July of 1966. Upon completion of his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Chief Harlow was assigned to Phelius Air Force Base in Libya, where he worked in information management. In July of 1968, he was reassigned to the 7272nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, at Kingsley Field in Oregon, where he served as an Information Management Specialist.

Upon completion of his active duty service in July of 1970, Chief Harlow was licensed by the Department of Treasury as an International Customs House Broker in the cargo industry. Over the next few years, Chief Harlow became known as one of the top professionals in his field, and in 1980 he authored a book entitled “Importer’s Guide to U.S. Customs.”

In August of 1981, Chief Harlow entered the Air Force Reserves at Norton Air Force Base in California and was promoted in the 445th Aerial Port Flight, where he became the Unit Training Manager. In July of 1985, he was reassigned to the 37th MAPS unit at March Air Force Base where he eventually became the Superintendent of Operations. In 1989, Chief Harlow was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant. In November of 1990, he was reassigned to Saudi Arabia in support of operation Desert Storm, and served as his unit’s Deployment Team Chief.

Upon his return from Operation Desert Storm, Chief Harlow was awarded the “Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year” award and was promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Later, he was reassigned to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron, where he introduced a set of training exercises known as the Aerial Port Field Exercises. This program trained Aerial Port Squadrons in the areas of mobility deployment and chemical attack survival. Chief Harlow’s program was so successful that it led to the 56th Aerial Port Squadron being awarded the Air Force’s prestigious “Aerial Port of the Year Award.”

In June of 2000, Chief Harlow was promoted to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant and became the Superintendent of Squadron Operations. In June of 2005 he was reassigned to the 50th Aerial Port Squadron as Superintendent of Squadron Operations.

Chief Harlow has received numerous decorations including the Air Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with Seven Oak Leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service medal, the Air Force Good Conduct medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Throughout his extraordinary service to our country, Chief Harlow has always been a dedicated and loving family man. He is married to his wonderful wife, Laurie Harlow. Together they have two sons, David and Daniel, as well as four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with an extreme sense of respect and pride that I stand here today to recognize Chief Master Sergeant David G. Harlow. His contributions to his family, the United States Air Force, and this great nation serves as a wonderful example of patriotism for all Americans to follow.

COMMENDING NASA ON COMPLETION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE’S SECOND RETURN-TO-FLIGHT MISSION

SPEECH OF
HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Con. Res. 448—Commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle’s second Return-To-Flight mission.

I can think of no better way to celebrate this great Nation’s Independence Day than to witness the triumph of science and innovation. As a Member of the House Science Committee and the Senior Member of the Subcommittee on Space on the Committee, I was excited to see the Space Shuttle Discovery launch on July 4.

The Discovery crew finished their 13-day mission, which included a docking with the International Space Station, two space walks, but most importantly, a keen review of all safety issues.

We began to focus on the issue of safety when the issues were raised by NASA safety engineers just before the launch of Discovery the first week of July. I met with NASA Administrator Michael Griffin just before the launch, and I am pleased that emphasis and priority has been placed on the safety of the astronauts and the space shuttle.

This was an exciting and positive mission. Over the course of the 5.8 million mile journey, the STS—121 Mission Crew succeeded in testing shuttle safety improvements, repairing a rail car on the International Space Station and producing unprecedented images of the shuttle during and after its July 4 launch. In addition, the entire mission exhibited a new concern with safety to coincide with NASA’s exemplary reputation for accuracy, precision, and innovation.

Americans love their space program and it is the first priority of NASA and Members of Congress to ensure that it is a viable, continuing, and safe program. The survival of the space program has to be premised with an understanding of the risk, yet at the same time must embrace this new important culture of safety.

I would like to extend my thanks to STS—121, Commander Steve Lindsey, Pilot Mark Kelly, and Mission Specialists Piers Sellers, Stephanie Wilson, Lisa Nowak, and Michael Fossum. Your courage and resolve will continue to be an inspiration for generations to come.

Welcome home Discovery.
CONDEMNNG THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPRING OF
HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 921. I strongly believe that the State of Israel has the right to defend itself and its citizens from attacks by Hezbollah. Congress must stand with Israel and the Lebanon people to keep the peace. Lebanon is one of the most unstable regions in the world. Hezbollah must disarm and we must not be afraid to do what is right by them. I strongly support House Resolution 921.

CONDEMNNG THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPRING OF
HON. ROBERT WEXLER
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to express unwavering support for Israel as it faces a campaign of violence perpetrated by Hezbollah; express strong support for the Israeli government, which has evoked its unequivocal right to self-defense; and express support for the Israeli people, who are not alone. America stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel in its ongoing, 58-year struggle for security and peace.

Israel has been victimized by attacks on its sovereign land, and the international community must join us in decrying these horrific acts. Make no mistake—Hezbollah is not Israel's problem alone. In the past few years, Hezbollah has acquired advanced weaponry from Iran and Syria that threatens the security of Israel, the stability of the region, and American interests in the Middle East. The world cannot afford to remain on the sidelines as Israel fights to eradicate this global threat.

Two years ago, the United States and France joined together in passing U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559, which affirmed the sovereignty of Lebanon and demanded the disarmament of Hezbollah. While Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon, the Lebanese government was negligent in failing to disarm Hezbollah. During this time, Hezbollah strengthened its arsenal while continuing to serve as a terrorist proxy for Syria and Iran. Today, I call on the international community to assist the Lebanese government in fulfilling its obligations outlined in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559. I call on the European Union to add Hezbollah to its terrorist list. I call on the United Nations to hold Iran and Syria responsible for arming, financing, and supporting Hezbollah. And I respectfully call on President Bush to implement the full range of U.S. sanctions against Syria and renew U.S. sanctions against Iran. As Israel's strongest ally and friend, the United States must exhaust every effort to restore stability and security to the Middle East.

As we reflect on the violence unfolding as we speak, we are reminded of the resilience and perseverance of the Israeli people, who have never sacrificed the dream of peace. It is my wish that the vision of hope embodied in Israel's national anthem—Hatikva—may come to fruition, and that Israel will succeed in defeating Hezbollah and creating a lasting peace.

CONDEMNNG THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPRING OF
HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost loved ones in the recent escalation of violence in the Middle East. I am pleased that H.Res. 921 expresses Congress's "condolences to all families of innocent victims of recent violence."

The United States is faced with a harsh reality that peace in the Middle East has been so elusive. Yet we cannot, we must not, stop trying to broker peace. The U.S. cannot turn its back on the families in the Middle East and must not conclude that constant war is inevitable. The U.S. must step up to the challenge of engaging the Israelis, Palestinians, and Lebanese and all the Middle East nations who want a lasting peace. I am not willing to give up hope that peace in the region can be achieved and nor should this administration.

It is imperative to remember that this region is very complex, and that there are forces working for peace and forces that crave war. Benjamin Franklin once said, "There was never a good war or a bad peace." It is time for this administration to remember these important words. The Middle East conflict has largely been pushed to the back burner by this administration with serious repercussions for U.S. national security interests. The U.S. must stop performing band-aid diplomacy and focus on long-term solutions to move toward peace. History should have taught us that violence only begets more violence and all actors involved need to recognize the mutual benefits of peace.

We are faced with a vital question—where can we go from here? First and foremost, Hezbollah and Hamas must disarm and recognize Israel's right to exist. Armed political parties that use brute force do not foster peaceful solutions. Israel has survived five major wars since its inception. This country lives in constant defense mode because terrorist organizations surrounding it still harbor hope of its destruction. The U.S. must continue its steadfast support of Israel, and all countries in the region must abide by U.N. resolutions that promote a two-state solution.

The loss of civilian lives in the Middle East is tragic and continued violence makes the challenge of achieving peace more difficult. The U.S. must renew a serious diplomatic effort in the region.

CONDEMNNG THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPRING OF
HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with very strong and mixed feelings on H. Res. 921. This resolution condemns the recent attacks against the State of Israel. The State of Israel has two intractable enemies, Hamas and Hezbollah. Presently, Israel is engaged in military operations in Gaza and Lebanon. I cannot over-emphasize that I am vehemently and unalterably opposed to the attacks undertaken by Hezbollah against Israel. At the same time, I cannot and will not support other language in the resolution which I consider to be harmful to the interests of peace, diplomacy, security, and the protection of civilians in Lebanon and Israel.
Let me say at the outset. I support the right of Israel to exist and to defend itself from attack. I cannot support the level of retaliation it is using against the civilian population that did not provoke the attack. Hezbollah is the guilty party, and their attacks were egregious, without merit, and provocative. Israel must direct its campaign against confirmed Hezbollah strongholds. Given the sophistication of current surveillance technology and intelligence-gathering, I am convinced those strongholds can be effectively eradicated, without the current and ongoing loss of life and casualties to innocent civilians.

This resolution on first glance would appear to be easy to support, but on further review, it poses serious philosophical problems for me. Hezbollah provoked the attacks by capturing and killing Israeli soldiers. Indeed, in some instances, Hezbollah is using Lebanese civilians as shields.

The resolution declares that the House affirms its support for Israel. I believe that offering unconditional support to Israel's response sends the signal that the House supports the continuing and increasing carnage that is taking place in Lebanon. I fully recognize that lives have been lost in Israel too. All of these deaths are tragic and deplorable. This resolution does not even offer counsel to Israel to aggressively pursue the course of minimizing civilian casualties. Furthermore, the resolution recognizes Israel's commitment to minimizing civilian loss of life. To date, Israeli military operations have resulted in excess of 300 civilians killed, with an estimated one-third of them being children. I do not see Israel's actions being consistent with a commitment to minimizing the loss of life.

The resolution also cites Israel's right to take appropriate action to defend itself, including conducting operations in both Israel and in the territory of nations which pose a threat to it. At the present time, Israeli military bombing operations are completely dismantling the infrastructure of Lebanon. Bridges, roads and buildings are being destroyed. Once the campaign wanes, the country will consist of rubble. I am also concerned by the language that commends the President for fully supporting Israel. The language and the message state explicitly that the House supports the way he has handled the current crisis. I strongly disagree with this premise and statement.

I want to state that I am mindful that although the focus of our current attention is on the plight of the citizens affected in Lebanon, we must not forget the other component of the equation—the situation in Gaza involving the Palestinians.

In Gaza, a cordon has been set up by the Israelis, and Palestinians are suffering under unbearable conditions. My concern rests with the humanitarian plight of civilians in Gaza and Lebanon who are pawns in a struggle by terrorist organizations. Both organizations, Hamas—Sunni—and Hezbollah—Shia—provide vital social services such as education and medical care to civilian populations, while simultaneously engaging in terrorist activities. In fact, their efforts and ideologies have created desperate political and military scenarios. In the case of Hezbollah, their efforts are contributing to instability in the region.

I fully recognize the gravity of the situation that is presented by the unconscionable and provocative behavior of Hezbollah. I also have grave reservations about the level of the response by Israel to Hezbollah's actions. The competing complexities and mixed messages presented by the language in the resolution preclude me from offering my support to H.Res. 921. Therefore, I will cast a vote of "nay" on this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
HON. FRED UPTON
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 150th anniversary of the founding of a storied community in Southwest Michigan, Chikaming Township. This Saturday, members of the community will come together to celebrate the township's sesquicentennial.

The earliest known residents of Chikaming Township were the Miami Indians, who were first encountered by the European explorer, Father Jacques Marquette, in 1675. By the early 1820s the land was ceded to the U.S. Government and Chikaming was formally established on March 6, 1856. The first pioneers to settle there were lumbermen who harvested trees that were used to build the piers that extended out into Lake Michigan—a source of great pride for all Michiganders who reside on the lakeshore. As time passed, the first of many successful farmers and growers in Southwest Michigan took advantage of the soil and climate of Chikaming by harvesting a variety of fruits and vegetables. The magnificent weather and scenic beauty of the land attracted families to vacation on the lake's shores and continues to be a popular summer escape today.

Chikaming Township has also long been an important center of commerce for Southwest Michigan. Forestry and agriculture are only two of the many industries that have strengthened Southwest Michigan's economy. The beautiful beaches and friendly residents have been bringing generations back to the township for years.

I would like to congratulate the residents of Chikaming on their sesquicentennial. Know that your vital community will continue to be a blessing and an asset to our corner of Southwest Michigan for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND S.L. ROBERSON
HON. JOHN D. DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the tremendous works of Reverend S.L. Roberson of Ypsilanti, Michigan as he marks his 52nd year of service to his church and his community.

Born in Moundville, Alabama, Reverend Roberson moved to Ypsilanti when he was two years old and has remained there since. He attended school in Ypsilanti and went to Western Michigan University for his undergraduate degree and continued his education at Detroit Bible College, ultimately earning his Doctorate of Divinity at Urban Bible College.

While honorably serving his country in the United States Marine Corps, the Reverend formed the unique perspective he has on the world, one that would help him in his decision to serve his fellow man. After his military service, Mr. Roberson went to work for Ford Motor Company in their Labor Relations and Personnel Services of Industrial Relations Department ultimately staying for 33 years. Through this position, he was able to help many individuals find employment, in turn bettering their own lives. The Reverend's other services are numerous, including posts as Treasurer of the Hope Valley District Association and President of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission.

In 1954, Reverend Roberson heard the call to serve and became the Pastor of the Metropolitan Memorial Baptist Church in Ypsilanti. He has stayed with Metropolitan Baptist for 52 years and by every account his service has been productive. He provides leadership and moral guidance for his congregation, in turn leading the community through his example. His tenure has been so successful that he has received the Lawyers Association's Liberty Bell, the Ypsilanti Police Department's Honor Award, the Washtenaw Community College's Service Award and the city of Ypsilanti has designated December 14th as Reverend S.L. Roberson day. His faith also led him to serve as Chaplain of the Ypsilanti Police Department.

Reverend Roberson is a man of faith who embodies the characteristics of service, love and decency. I am glad and fortunate to know the Reverend and the people of Ypsilanti have truly benefited from such an upstanding and committed civic and spiritual leader. I thank the Reverend for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL
SPEECH OF
HON. THELMA D. DRAKE
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to come to the floor today to voice my support for this resolution.

Since the year 2000, Israel has demonstrated a willingness to act unilaterally in the name of peace; only to have their enemies respond with more acts of violence.

In 2000, Israel withdrew their forces from southern Lebanon, only to be followed by Hezbollah and their missiles.

In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza, only to be replaced by the militant wing of the Hamas party. As a sovereign and independent nation, Israel has every right to defend itself from these constant attacks led by groups with the expressed purpose of destroying Israel.

There is agreement in this House and in the world community that there be peace in the Middle East, so that all families, whether they be Israeli, Palestinian, or Lebanese, can live without fear.

But there will be no peace so long as these terrorist organizations insist on the destruction of Israel.

There will be no peace, until Hamas agrees to curtail acts of violence and aggression and...
show that they are willing to work towards a two-state solution.

Our own soldiers are currently engaged against an enemy that has no respect for human life and a complete disdain for democracy.

In this Global War on Terror, we have no greater ally than the nation of Israel, whose citizens are all too familiar with terrorists and their tactics.

I am proud to support this resolution because I believe it is important that we let the Israeli people know that we stand behind their right to defend their homeland and their citizens. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, so that we may speak with one voice so that there may be peace for all people in the Middle East.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today the House is considering H. Res. 921, a resolution condemning the recent attacks against the State of Israel.

The resolution focuses on the attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah on Israel and expresses its condolences to all families of innocent victims of the recent violence. While the resolution is not perfect, it does call on the international community to cooperate to bring an end to the violence in the region.

The two sides cannot resolve this by themselves, and it is clear that only a diplomatic track will help to address the wide-spread unrest in the Middle East. Believing that, I would prefer the resolution do more to solidify the U.S. as an honest broker in the conflict.

It is unfortunate that while the violence has continued for more than a week now, Secretary of State Rice still has failed to travel to the region. Even further, she has declined to send a Special Envoy to focus exclusively on the crisis. This is yet one more example of the Bush Administration’s failure on the foreign policy front.

The Administration must become engaged with the international community in pursuing a peaceful and just resolution to this on-going crisis instead of standing by while innocent civilians are killed. President Bush’s stubborn in-volvement in Iraq has made it difficult for the U.S. to focus on this and other conflicts in the region. Instead of bringing parties to the negotiating table, President Bush and Secretary Rice have ignored the region while it has literally gone up in flames.

History has shown that the U.S. is most successful when it supports even-handed, diplomacy-based foreign policy. This can be achieved by supporting and implementing the legislation I introduced earlier this year, SMART (H. Con. Res. 158). SMART steps include:

1. Preventing future acts of terrorism by strengthening international institutions and respecting the rule of law;
2. Reducing the threat and stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction;
3. Addressing the root causes of terrorism;
4. Shifting U.S. budget priorities to more effectively meet our national security needs; and
5. Pursuing to the fullest extent alternatives to war.

Until the Bush Administration adopts principles like these in the Middle East, and throughout the world, the cycle of unrest will continue.

Unlike previous Congressional acts, SMART strives to achieve a balance of support for all parties and puts the U.S. in the role of a partner for peace in Middle East.

With my fellow colleagues, I call on the President to dedicate himself fully to the peace process and to guarantee the safety and well-being of all innocent civilians involved in the chaos in the Middle East.

INTRODUCTION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Reps. HOWARD BERMAN (D–CA) and JERROLD NADLER (D–NY), am introducing a resolution commending the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of the Inspector General. For those who may not be aware, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) was established in 1988 as part of an effort to investigate waste, prevent fraud, and review legislation at the Department.

The OIG and its agents and employees have been unwavering in their pursuit of justice. Even in the most trying of times, the OIG has been steadfast in its resolve. For instance, it was the OIG that uncovered the truth behind the incarceration of Brandon Mayfield as a material witness in the Madrid bombing investigation. It was the OIG that exposed the abuses of detainees in federal custody after the September 11 attacks.

On June 21, 2006, Special Agent William “Buddy” Sentner gave his life in service to his country, attempting to execute a search warrant on behalf of the Department. He left behind a legacy of public service and patriotism. His service no doubt will inspire those who follow in his footsteps.

This resolution recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of the agents, attorneys, and employees of the Office of the Inspector General. I look forward to working with my colleagues on securing passage of this legislation.

32ND ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH ILLEGAL INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to stand in solidarity with my constituents and with the family and friends of those killed and injured in the illegal invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in 1974.

I am proud to support this resolution because the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), a government formally recognized only by Turkey, prohibited Greek-Cypriots from freely crossing the Green Line to visit the towns and communities of their families. Controlling 37 percent of the island, Turkey’s military occupation has had severe consequences, most notably the dislocation of the Greek-Cypriot population and the resulting refugees.

The Republic of Cyprus has proven to be an ally of this country. An ally which, in times of need, stands up to the plate and offers assistance, understanding and compassion to our citizens.

I am sure that most of you have been following the developments in Lebanon, and the plight of over 25,000 Americans who are trying to leave safely with their families. How many of you know that Cyprus has opened its doors to everyone evacuating Lebanon? On July 15, 2006, Cyprus declared its readiness to assist efforts for the evacuation of U.S. citizens and nationals fleeing Lebanon. A coordinating committee set up by the Cyprus government is in charge of organizing the reception and hospitality of foreign nationals arriving in Larnaca from Lebanon.

The U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Ronald Schlichter said that several thousand U.S. citizens were expected to arrive on Cyprus. They will stay in hotels or—if there are not enough beds—in schools and an exhibition space equipped with tents and prefabricated housing provided by the Cyprus government. Thanking Nicosia, Schlichter said that the Cyprus Republic had offered significant assistance and that this could be a good opportunity to deepen U.S.-Cyprus cooperation.

During the U.S. State Department briefing on the Lebanon evacuation efforts, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Maura Harty expressed gratitude for help offered by the Cyprus Republic. “We’re so grateful to them. . . . Cypriots have met every helicopter and ship with sandwiches and water and juice. They’re just being fantastic” she said. “The Cypriot Civil Defense Force has been very helpful to us in what they have provided,” she added.

The Cypriot citizens know firsthand what our people are going through because they have lived through it. I want to personally recognize and thank President Tassos Papadopoulos and the Greek-Cypriot people
for their swift offer of assistance for our citizens and for their efforts to alleviate the distress and suffering of our families. I pray for their safe return.

There also have been some other positive developments recently, based on Cypriot President Papadopoulos’ initiative. He and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed earlier this month to begin a process of bi-communal discussions to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. The decision, which is part of a set of agreed-upon principles, was made during a meeting between the two leaders in Cyprus with the U.N. Undersecretary General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari. The two leaders stressed their commitment to the unification of Cyprus, based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

President Papadopoulos already has submitted a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of two committees on Economic Integration and Population Determination. The Government of Cyprus also has proposed and is ready for the establishment of additional bi-communal committees that will tackle other problems arising from the division of the island. Asked about Turkey’s EU accession course in relation with the developments in the Cyprus problem, President Papadopoulos said they were two separate issues, and pointed out that Ankara still had to meet its obligations toward the EU. In a conversation with President Papadopoulos, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan expressed his satisfaction with the result of the meeting and congratulated both sides.

The agreement is the first positive result after the meeting in Paris last February between President Papadopoulos and U.N. Secretary General Annan, where they had expressed their common hope that these discussions would help restore trust between the two communities and prepare the way for the earliest full resumption of the negotiating process.

The following is the set of principles agreed to on July 8, 2006:

1. Commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

2. Recognition of the fact that the status quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation would have negative consequences for the Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

3. Commitment to the proposition that a comprehensive settlement is both desirable and possible, and should not be further delayed.

4. Agreement to begin a process immediately to establish an inter-communal discussion on issues that affect the day-to-day life of the people and other substantive issues, both of which will contribute to a comprehensive settlement.

5. Commitment to ensure that the “right atmosphere” prevails for this process to be successful. In that connection, confidence-building measures are essential, both in terms of improving the atmosphere and improving the life of all Turkish and Greek Cypriots. This requires putting an end to the so-called “blame game.”

The following are the decisions by Mr. Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat:

1. The Technical Committees on issues that affect the day-to-day life of people will commence by the end of July provided that, at the same time, the two Leaders will also have exchanged a list of issues of substance and its contents to be studied by expert bi-communal working groups and finalized by the Leaders.

2. The two Leaders will meet further, from time to time, to appropriate give directives to the expert bi-communal working groups as well as to review the work of the Technical Committees.

I would like to stress that the Government of Cyprus continues to emphasize that it remains committed to reunify Cyprus as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with democratic and human rights for all Cypriots. The Cypriot Government has announced a series of measures aimed at assisting those Turkish-Cypriots residing under the control of the occupying Turkish army. The package included a wide range of political, social, humanitarian, educational and economic measures that would enhance the Turkish-Cypriots’ ability to enjoy many of the benefits that the Republic of Cyprus offers to its citizens—including benefits which result from its European Union membership. Far beyond those which it has provided to date, and as part of the package, there is a substantive program to integrate the Turkish-Cypriot community into the larger Cypriot society.

The Republic of Cyprus and Greek-Cypriots have provided the Turkish-Cypriot community more than $700 million dollars in social insurance pensions to Turkish-Cyprus, and Turkish-Cyprus working outside the Green Line made $7 million dollars in wages last year. More than 24,000 Turkish-Cyprus have received free treatment in hospitals and medical centers inside the Republic of Cyprus, the combined cost of which totals more than $9 million.

Since the invasion more than three decades ago, Turkish-occupied areas have received free electricity from the Cyprus Electricity Authority at a cost of nearly $343 million. Also, more than 150,000 birth certificates, identity cards and passports have been provided to Turkish-Cyprus by the Republic of Cyprus, so that Turkish-Cyprus could travel and acquire work more efficiently. The Republic of Cyprus has begun a program where it pays the full tuition fees of Turkish-Cypriot pupils in secondary education private schools in the government-controlled areas. To date, this program has promised more than $5.4 million in tuition fees, and the program added five times as many students this year than it did in 2003, its first year.

The occupying Turkish regime partially relaxed restrictions that limited travel across the Green Line, which has increased more than ten million incident-free border crossings by Turkish and Greek Cypriots to visit areas and homes that were inaccessible to them for over 30 years. This has produced rare displays of human kinship, exchanges of flowers and pastries, and emotional visits to homes abandoned in April 1974.

As a result, Greek-Cypriots have infused more than $57 million into the impoverished, Turkish-occupied economy in the North.

Still, neither the Government’s incomplete, albeit well-intended, benefit package for Turkish-Cyprus, nor the limited lifting of restrictions by Turkey’s occupying regime, substitutes for a comprehensive resolution to end Cyprus’ divide. I urge the Bush Administration, the United Nations, the European Union, and this honorable body to remain engaged in efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem, and to work toward a fair and lasting reunification of Cyprus.

We should look to correct the wrong that occurred more than thirty years ago. We should work to bring about a just resolution to the situation. And, at the very least, we must act to halt the continuing injustice which the world community allows to continue in Cyprus, our proven and strong ally.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALFREDO ZAMORA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Alfredo Zamora, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of South Texas Rural Health Services, Inc., for his exemplary leadership in providing healthcare to those living in rural areas in South Texas.

Alfredo Zamora, Jr. was born on June 19, 1941, to his Mexican-American migrant parents, Estrella and Candido Zamora. His family would travel to Wisconsin, and to the fields of Illinois to work the land there. After he graduated from Cotulla High School in 1961, he joined the United States Army, and received a honorable discharge in 1963, which allowed him to attend a teacher’s college where he then continued his further education at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education in 1968.

He also received a fellowship in the Ford Foundation Leadership Development Program in 1969 that helped him learn how to become an effective leader in advocacy, community organizing, and political awareness. The leadership skills that Mr. Zamora learned was put to great use by becoming the first Mexican-American mayor of the City of Cotulla in the State of Texas. In 1972, Mr. Zamora was recruited to become Executive Director of SER-Jobs For Progress, an advocacy organization that helped represent Hispanics in Racine, Wisconsin. He also attended the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee where he received his M.S. in Supervision and Administration, and extensive study work towards his Ph.D. in Urban Education during his tenure with SER-Jobs For Progress.

In 1981, Mr. Zamora was hired as Chief Executive Officer of South Texas Rural Health Services, Inc., a community health center. He has successfully guided the organization from a singular site and a $250,000 operating budget to approximately $4.5 million worth of needed services to a multi-county service area in South Texas. Mr. Zamora has spent his life working to help better the lives of those in his community, and I commend him for his commitment to South Texas and to improving rural healthcare services.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the wonderful dedication and commitment of Alfredo Zamora, Jr., my advocate in the areas of healthcare and education for the City of Cotulla and to the rural community of South Texas, and I thank you for this time.
Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a strong and consistent supporter of Israel to urge my colleagues to pass H. Res. 921.

This important resolution condemns the recent attacks on Israel by the Hamas and Hezbollah terrorist groups and expresses continued U.S. support for the right of Israel to defend itself.

The State of Israel was created in 1948, and the United States was the first country to formally recognize its right to exist. Since that time, Israel has been one of our strongest allies in the world and a glimmer of hope in the Middle East as the only developed democracy in a region that has known too much war, too much terror and too much violence.

Israel consistently stands shoulder to shoulder with the U.S. in countering the most dangerous threats we face today, including the use of terror by groups attempting to destabilize moderate regimes and disrupt various peace-making efforts.

In August 2005, Israel began its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and gave the Palestinian Authority (PA) the opportunity to prove themselves capable of exercising just and rightful authority over their own people. Since that time, the PA has proven to be ineffective in immobilizing terrorist activities, as shown by Hamas’ frequent rocket attacks on Israeli cities and the cross-border ambush that took place only a few weeks ago, which resulted in the deaths of two Israeli soldiers and the kidnapping of another.

In addition, Iran’s public declarations calling for the destruction of the state of Israel and greater development of nuclear arms have produced a dangerous and volatile situation both regionally and globally. As Iran continues to provide weapons and supplies to terrorist groups like Hezbollah, we must allow Israel to continue to take necessary action to protect itself.

This is a critical time for Israel. We must allow Israel to continue its self defense efforts and attempts to prevent terrorist organizations from destroying the Middle East. As Prime Minister Olmert stated in his address to Congress, “[We must] replace the ‘Culture of Hate’ with an ‘Outlook of Hope.’”” Hezbollah and Hamas are organizations that have proven to be committed to this “Culture of Hate.” Consequently, their removal from the Middle East is essential to instill hope into a region that has seen far too much destruction of innocent life.

Once again, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.
Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2389, the so-called Pledge Protection Act. H.R. 2389 would strip all Federal courts, including the Supreme Court, of their ability to hear cases involving the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance is a true expression of liberty and justice for all—cornerstones of our great Nation. However, H.R. 2389 would punish those who exercise that freedom. Basic due process demands an independent judicial forum capable of determining Federal constitutional rights. This legislation deprives Federal courts of their ability to hear cases involving the fundamental free speech rights of students, parents, and other individuals. In our Country, dissenting views are supposed to be valued, allowed and tolerated. To take away this fundamental freedom of expression is to dishonor America and all Americans.

At this time when American soldiers continue to die every day in Iraq, with the Taliban and Al Qaeda making gains in Afghanistan, when millions of Americans are suffering because the minimum wage has not been raised in almost a decade, when millions more lack any health care coverage, and when gas prices are skyrocketing, the Republican majority has decided that the House should instead debate a bill that is unnecessary and, if passed, would only serve to undermine our democracy.

I am not afraid of those Americans who oppose parts of the Pledge having an opportunity to express those views. Healthy, controversial debates and a free society able to challenge the status quo are what make our country so strong and so great. What is scary are those who seek to use bills, such as the one before us today, to advance their ideology at the expense of freedom and liberty. That is something we should all oppose in the strongest terms.

As Members of Congress we owe our constituents better. I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on H.R. 2389.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Louis ‘Botch’ Tonella on the occasion of his recognition as the Napa County Farm Bureau’s Agriculturalist of the Year for 2006.

Mr. Tonella has been an active participant in the remarkable transformation of the Napa Valley into the world’s premier wine-growing region. His career in vineyards started at a young age when he went to work at the Ponti-Beaulieu Vineyards, helping tend vines and trimming the orchards. During the difficult years of the Great Depression, he and a friend opened a general store in Rutherford to serve the needs of local farms and families. In 1949 Mr. Tonella purchased the vineyard, which he owned and operated for half a century before passing control to his son. Working among the vines beside his employees during the harvests, Botch was known for being a hard worker and team player. He drove his tractor through the vineyards a final time in 1997, at the age of 85.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his achievement as a vineyard owner, we should acknowledge Mr. Tonella’s role as a member and leader of the community in the Napa Valley. He has performed the invaluable service of a volunteer fire fighter for the Rutherford Fire Department, including 10 years as the fire chief. He was also a founding member of the Sunny St. Helena Co-op Winery and an active participant in the Farm Bureau of Napa County for many years.

Mr. Tonella’s life has been blessed by the company of his wife of 70 years, Eda Villa. His son Raymond now owns the Tonella vineyards, which today includes the Ponti vineyards. Mr. Tonella worked on during his first job in the 1920s. The arrival of his first great-grandchild earlier this year marks another welcome addition to the Tonella family.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Louis ‘Botch’ Tonella for his lifetime of dedication, hard work and success in the vineyards of the Napa Valley and his leadership as a member of numerous organizations in our community.

CONGRATULATING ELICOTT CITY AND COLUMBIA, MARYLAND FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF THE “BEST PLACES TO LIVE” IN AMERICA BY MONEY MAGAZINE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellicott City and Columbia, Maryland located in beautiful Howard County which is part of my district, the 7th District of Maryland, for placing 4th on Money Magazine’s “Best Places to Live” 2006 list.

This list recognizes what we in Maryland have known for years: that Ellicott City and Columbia provide the best of both worlds—an area in which parents and children can thrive and a quality of life that allows them to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Located in the corridor between Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, DC, the area that became known as Ellicott City was a tobacco outpost until the Ellicott brothers turned it into the flour-milling capital of the 1700s. Two centuries later, Columbia grew from the vision of developer Jim Rouse, who created the town as an alternative to the epidemic of boring suburbs. Only 5 miles apart and now called home by 160,000 Marylanders, these two towns provide an active and charming downtown, a major music venue, a 30,000 square foot arts center, an impressive mall, and over 4,500 acres of park space. The Money Magazine recognition stands as a testament to the fine administration of the county and local government and to the unyielding commitment to active community involvement—working together to ensure the highest quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, Ellicott City and Columbia are not just great places to play and enjoy life, they are also excellent places to work and attend school. About one-third of these residents work at local businesses, at one of the national corporations headquartered there, or at

PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance:
the Howard County General Hospital, a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine. Many others make the commute to nearby Baltimore, or Washington, DC.

In addition, Howard County’s public schools, from kindergarten through community college, are constantly ranked as the best in the State and boast test scores 50 percent above average. Parents know that their children are receiving the best education possible, due to the hard work and dedication of the employees of the Howard County Public School System led by Superintendent Dr. Sydney L. Cousin, who has served the school system for almost 20 years in an exemplary manner.

With its top schools, great jobs, low crime rates, variety of recreational activities, and acres of open space, it is no surprise that Columbia and Ellicott City beat 741 other communities to place fourth on Money Magazine’s Best Places to Live 2006 list. I applaud Howard County Executive James N. Robey for his nearly four decades of service to Howard County, as well as the citizens of Columbia and Ellicott City for making this area truly one of the best places to live in America—for it is the people who make our communities great.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the other 2006 Best Places winners, and I remind my colleagues to work with me to ensure that our policies facilitate the creation of livable communities for all Americans.

Again, I congratulate Columbia and Ellicott City, located in my district in Howard County, Maryland, on receipt of this prestigious recognition.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT- TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution, which I sincerely believe will do more harm than good.

I was in Congress in the early 1980s when the U.S. Marines were sent into Lebanon, and I came to the Floor before they went, when they went, and before they were killed, arguing my case against getting involved in that conflict.

Ronald Reagan, when he sent the troops in, said he would never turn tail and run. Then, after the Marines were killed, he had a reassessment of the policy. When he wrote his autobiography a few years later after leaving the Presidency, he wrote this:

"Perhaps we didn’t appreciate fully enough the depth of the real problems and the complexity of the problems that made the Middle East such a jungle. Perhaps the idea of a suicide car bomber committing mass murder to gain instant entry to Paradise was so foreign to our own values and consciousness that it did not create in us the concern for the marines’ safety that it should have.

In the weeks immediately after the bombing, I believe the last thing that we should do was turn tail and leave. Yet the irrationality of Middle Eastern politics forced us to rethink our policy. It would be another example of how some rethinking of policy before our men die, we would be a lot better off. If that policy had changed towards more of a neutral position and neutrality, those 241 marines would be alive today.

It is very easy to criticize the Government of Lebanon for not doing more about Hezbollah. I object to terrorism committed by Hezbollah because I am a strong opponent to all violence on all sides. But I also object to the unreasonable accusations that the Government of Lebanon has not done enough, when we realize that Israel occupied southern Lebanon for 18 years and was not able to neutralize Hezbollah.

Madam Speaker, there is nothing wrong with considering the fact that we don’t have to be involved in every single fight. That was the conclusion that Ronald Reagan came to, and he was not an enemy of Israel. He was a friend of Israel. But he concluded that that is a mess over there. Let me just repeat those words that he used. He said, he came to the conclusion, “The irrationality of Middle Eastern politics forced us to rethink our policy there.” I believe these words are probably more valid now even than when they were written.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RUTH MCKENRY

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Ruth McKenry. She was an exemplary woman and a premier advocate for health care and the agriculture industry in the Valley. She passed away on June 2, 2006.

Ruth McKenry was a native of New York. She graduated from Bellevue School of Nursing in 1943 and became a U.S. Navy Nurse Corps Lt.j.g. serving from 1944 to 1946. Soon after being honorably discharged in 1946, she moved to California with her husband and worked as a registered nurse in various hospitals in the Central Valley.

Having raised four children, Mrs. McKenry was very knowledgeable and experienced as a nurse. She worked for the Selma District Hospital Emergency Room, as well as at the Doctor’s Hospital in Modesto, California, specializing in orthopedics, cardiology, surgery and as a relief supervisor. Furthermore, having an extensive background and a great understanding of the health care industry, Ruth was a strong advocate for improving the health care system in the country. She was involved in the politics of the Valley and held several important positions in different organizations.

Ruth maintained an encompassing interest in the activities of her community. She served as a Brownie Girl Scout Leader, 4-H Leader, and as a volunteer for a local Well Baby Clinic. Additionally, her involvement in many vital agricultural groups and organizations left a mark on the people of the Valley. After retiring as a registered nurse, Ruth farmed grape vineyards and together with her husband, managed McKenry Farms in Kingsburg, California. Being a farmer herself, Ruth was strongly engaged in the workings of the agricultural industry. She served as the State and Federal Legislative Chair and the Agricultural Labor Chair for the California Women for Agriculture (CWA). She also served as Agricultural Labor Chair for the American Agri-Women (AAW) and for the Tulare County Farm Bureau.

Additionally, Ruth was involved with Women in Agriculture Committees and the Farm Bureau Federation Agricultural Labor Committee. Many of her colleagues, especially in the CWA and AAW attest to her enthusiasm and her driving force in pushing for change in the agricultural labor industry, especially in providing farm workers access to necessary health care programs. Ruth once stated, “My involvement in agricultural labor has given me an interest in affordable health care for the farm worker and both pre-natal and well baby care for his/her family. I am interested in the nation’s rural areas [and] as an employer, access to affordable health care premiums is needed.”

The positions she held on agricultural labor committees gave her the chance to promote the changes that were necessary for the advancement of the agriculture industry. Her hard work was witnessed not just by her colleagues, and in 1986, after being nominated by her fellow CWA members, she was awarded the prestigious Leaven Award, the highest award an American Agri-Woman can receive. Her ability to work with and influence those around her, and multiply the effectiveness of the organization was testimony to the character she possessed which made her truly deserving of the Leaven Award. In addition, California State Assemblymember Bruce Bronzan nominated her as the Woman of the Year in 1991 for her outstanding contributions to her community.

Ruth McKenry was a prime example of a strong resilient woman. She lived a life of purpose and served as a role model, not just for the youth in the Valley, but for her peers and colleagues. She was devoted to her family and deeply involved in the life of her children and grandchildren. She was honored by those who worked beside her and by those whose lives she was able to change and touch throughout her lifetime. Ruth McKenry’s life is a prime example of pure passion and loyalty and an unquenchable interest in agriculture—one of the most vital sectors of the Central Valley. She had an outstanding life and will always be looked up to by those who knew her.
CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. JOHN D. DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. DINGLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness over the events in Lebanon. I believe we must speak with one voice that Israel has a right to defend itself. I believe we are unanimous in our opinion that Hezbollah began this conflict; and I believe that we are unanimous that Iran and Syria continue to destructively meddle in the emerging democracy of Lebanon.

This resolution comes at a time when Lebanon—a potential unwavering ally to the United States, a western looking democracy, has become an unfortunate proxy in a war between Israel and extremism.

Right now, there are 5,000 of my constituents who are facing bombing raids and a harrowing escape from war. They were in Lebanon visiting friends, relatives, childhood homes, or just enjoying Lebanon’s sites, and now they are in a war zone. As their representation is our responsibility, the events of the last week have been horrific. The violence on both sides of the Israeli-Lebanon border has escalated, and more and more people, mostly civilians, have seen their lives forever changed.

Innocent Israelis and innocent Lebanese have been pulled into a conflict not of their own making. The “Peace of the Brave”, that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave his life for, is today a lost hope.

Diplomacy, which the last Administration was criticized for using too much, seems to be a dirty word today.

This House, which after each Middle East conflagration brings a resolution of resolve and solidarity to the floor, could do much more to alleviate the suffering of the Lebanese.

Last summer, we passed unanimously a resolution that said, the United States would support efforts to enhance Lebanon’s sovereignty. The same resolution said, “The United States should aid the people of Lebanon in their efforts to restore the separation of powers, the rule of law, and a proper respect for fundamental freedoms of every citizen.”

We promised a commitment to the people of Lebanon that is not entirely reflected in this resolution. We said we would support them, and in our view the best way we can support them is to bring about a cessation of violence.

Israel’s right to defend itself is absolute, but I am concerned that the current action will make it impossible for Lebanon’s small military to properly assert itself along the troubled border.

We should support Prime Minister Tony Blair’s plan to expand the international force along the southern border. We should also begin to rethink our own aid package to Lebanon’s democratic government.

The United States can truly change hearts and minds in the Middle East if we commit ourselves to helping to rebuild Lebanon’s infrastructure, help professionalize and equip their national military, and provide the economic assistance they will need to keep their restive population employed and prosperous.

That is where I believe this resolution should be focused, and I believe it is in that omission that this Congress’ policy is woefully inadequate.

The events of the past few days are heartbreaking. Not only because the unfolding violence involves our dear, and unwavering ally, Israel but also because it has sucked in Lebanon, a fragile nation that has had a bitter history and has only recently begun to reemerge from its dark past.

Madam Speaker, most tragically it was only 6 years ago that we were on the cusp of something almost magical—peaceful coexistence in the Middle East. The engagement of the United States was vital to that.

The brave dream laid out by Yitzhak Rabin was shattered by an assassin’s bullet. The brave concessions by Ehud Barak and the support of President Clinton almost realized that dream.

But I believe we can get back to that moment. I believe it will take a fully engaged United States. I believe it will take a substantial investment on our part as a Congress to provide Lebanon and Israel with the assistance they need to overcome this crisis and reestablish security along their border.

Unfortunately, this resolution does not address these issues, and is an inadequate statement of policy to the parties who are friends of peace.

Madam Speaker, at this time I want to enter into the RECORD the names of twelve members of the Bzeih family who were killed as a result of the fighting—they have family in Michigan that held a memorial service for them on Sunday.

Haji Fatme Bzeih, 80 years old; Haji Thanya, 74 years old; Souad Nassour, 38 years old; Mariam Naem, 52 years old; Ammal Bzeih, 42 years old; Naem Naem, 11 years old; Naeem Naem, 24 years old; Farah Bzeih, 18 years old; Khouloud Bzeih, 18 years old; Hajji Fatme Bzeih, 80 years old; Hajji Thanya, 74 years old; Souad Nassour, 38 years old; Mariam Naem, 52 years old; Ammal Bzeih, 42 years old; Naem Naem, 24 years old; Ammal Bzeih, 42 years old; Naem Naem, 11 years old; Naeem Naem, 24 years old; Ammal Bzeih, 42 years old; Naem Naem, 11 years old; Hussein Naem, 17 years old; Malaak Naem, 17 years old; Ammal Bzeih, 18 years old; Farah Bzeih, 12 years old; and Aziza Bzeih, 9 years old.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. JAMES P. MORAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 921, which expresses the United States House of Representatives’ support for the government and people of Israel at this most difficult time, and also extends its condolences to the families of all the innocent victims of the ongoing violence. I further wish to express my condolences to the Americans who are stranded or trapped in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza amidst the crossfire between Israel, Hezbollah and Hamas. My thoughts are with them at this time.

Though I support this resolution, I feel it falls short in failing to call for an immediate cessation to the ongoing hostilities, for an end to the loss of civilian life and the destruction of property that is occurring in Israel, Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza. Violence, death and destruction are the unfortunate consequences of war. But, here, these consequences are especially unfortunate because they have been experienced almost entirely by innocent civilians from all sides of the conflict, rather than its actual combatants. Over 200 innocent Lebanese civilians have been killed, with at least a thousand more injured. This destruction of innocent lives must immediately come to an end.

It is the responsibility of our government to protect Americans everywhere and lead them to safety during times of war. It’s estimated that approximately 25,000 Americans are in Lebanon. Yet after 7 days of fighting, the government has only managed to evacuate a few hundred. It is now reported that 7,000 more Americans are scheduled to be evacuated by naval ship to Cyprus by week’s end, but this is still not enough. I urge the administration to increase the pace at which it is evacuating Americans from Lebanon.

The administration must play a different, far bolder and more balancing role in resolving the current Middle East hostilities. When it comes to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the administration has been disengaged for more than 5 years. Over the past 3 weeks, we have seen the disengagement.

Starting now, the United States must be willing to again engage itself, directly and forcefully, in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. We have played an important role in the prior progress that has been made toward peace and stability in the Middle East. We must resume this role. Secretary Condoleezza Rice must immediately lead the efforts for a multilateral diplomatic return to the peace process, and hang in there until real fundamental reconciliation is achieved.

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the impact the current crisis will have on the long-term prospects for peace in the Middle East and upon future generations in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and Lebanon. A continuation of the violence and hatred will only serve to harden feelings and widen the gap now separating the people of this historic and cherished part of the world, and to make the securing of a real and permanent peace in the region more difficult and elusive than ever. Israel must learn to get along with its neighbors and vice versa.

Sometimes conditions need to hit bottom in the short term before they can get better in the long term. My fervent hope is that a decade from now, we will look upon these times as the bottom of the descent, and the beginning of a wondrous ascent, led by people of good faith in the Middle East and throughout the world, that ended the hatred and enmity between Israel and its neighbors, and produced the lasting peace that the peoples of the region pray for.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CHARLES IVAN BITHOS

HON. DENNIS MOORE
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt appreciation and
support the Mohawk Valley Contractor
financial wellness of the entire community. Most
role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Di-
and I wish Mike the best of luck in his new
is the hallmark of the credit union movement
enjoys the success it has today. Such service
of small contracting companies in inner
protection and defending the United States.
In honor of this great occasion, I am proud
share my admiration for dedicated public
such as Major Bithos and offer both
him and his family my most sincere gratitude
for his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL J.
PARSONS, NEWLY ELECTED
BOARD MEMBER OF THE Na-
TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FED-
ERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with
great pleasure that I rise today to recognize
Michael J. Parsons, the President/CEO of First
Source Federal Credit Union on his recent
election to the Board of Directors of the Na-
tional Association of Federal Credit Unions
(NAFCU). Mike Parsons has been a vocal
supporter of credit union issues at both the
state and national levels.
Mike’s election to the NAFCU Board is just
one more in a long list of accomplishments
that he has as President/CEO of First
Source Federal Credit Union, including
his previous service as District President for
the New York State Credit Union League.
As the President/CEO of First Source Fed-
ceral Credit Union, Mike has focused on ensur-
ing that his members receive helpful, personal
service that caters to the needs of individuals
and their financial goals. Through his credit
union, Mike Parsons continuously dem-
onstrates First Source’s commitment to the fi-
nancial wellness of the entire community. Most
recently, Mike worked to have First Source
support the Mohawk Valley Contractor’s Guild,
described as an “incubator for the develop-
ment of small contracting companies in inner
city Utica.”
Mike’s involvement to improve the lives
of others can be further illustrated in his commit-
tment to the Central Association for the Blind
and Visually Impaired, School and Business
Alliance, the Community at Sunset, and volun-
teeering with the American Heart Association
and Upstate Cerebral Palsy Association.
It is because of the good work of Mike and
others like him that the credit union movement
enjoys the success it has today. Such service is
the hallmark of the credit union movement
and I wish Mike the best of luck in his new
role as a member of the NAFCU Board of Di-
rectors.

SUPPORT FOR
HON. JIM MCDERMOTT
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it was with
unwavering support for Israel, its safety, secu-
ritv and right to exist, that I cast a vote today
against House Resolution 921. Hezbollah, not
Israel, started this conflict with an ambush,
and Israel has every right to defend itself.
There is no doubt about that.
Nor is there any doubt anywhere about
America’s deep and abiding commitment to
Israel.
A resolution in the House of Representa-
tives will not change what the world already
knows, but it might encourage what the world
already fears: a wider war with greater casual-
ties, undermining fragile but crucial support for
Israel among Arab nations, and further endan-
gering Israelis and other innocent civilians
across the region.
I am especially troubled by the fact that H.
Res. 921 goes far beyond reaffirming our un-
wavering commitment to Israel by declaring
unlawful any action anywhere in the region. The resolution says we: “support Israel’s right to take appropriate
action to defend itself, including to conduct op-
erations both in Israel and in the territory of
nations which pose a threat to it.”
This raises the ominous prospect that the
House has given the administration a pre-re-
corded vote to support any action, at any time.
Could that include a military strike on Iran’s
nuclear facilities? The resolution is a blank
check, and we know that policy has failed in
Iraq, and has only incubated further violence
and terrorism.
No one can for one moment accept rockets
in Haifa, Nazareth, or anywhere in Israel. But
demanding that the Lebanese government rein
in Hezbollah while bombs rain down on a van-
ity of targets, some civilian, is not the answer.
Widening the war will inflame tensions, in-
crease casualties and decrease any prospect
for a permanent peace. The United States can
best support Israel and the Arab world by vig-
orously pursuing an end to the violence, the
ceasefire, and the commitment to unite the
region to isolate terrorist
groups and all who oppose a just and lasting
peace for all people.
[From the Daily Star, July 19, 2006]

BACK TO BEIRUT, READY TO DEFEAT ISRAEL

I must be one of the few people in the
world trying to get into Beirut, rather than
flee the city that is being bombarded daily
by Israel, with explicit American approval.
Israelis should grasp the significance of this,
if they ever wish to find peace and a normal
life in this region.
My wife and I were on a trip in Europe
when the fighting broke out last week and
we could not return directly to our home in
Beirut. So we have returned to our previous
home in Amman to find a reasonably
safely land route back into Lebanon. I
want to return mainly because steadfastness
in the face of the Israeli assault is the sin-
cerest—perhaps the only—form of resistance
available to those of us who do not know how
to use a gun, and prefer not to do so in any
case, for there is no military solution to this
conflict.
Of the many dimensions of Israel’s current
fighting with Palestinians and Lebanese, the
most significant in my view is the continuing,
long-term evolution of Arab public attitudes to Israel. The three critical aspects of this are: a steady loss of fear by ordinary Arabs in the face of Israel’s perceived
superiority; a determined and continuous quest for
more effective means of technical and mili-
tary resistance against Israeli occupation and
occupation of Palestinian and other Arabs; and a strong political backlash against the prevailing governing elites in the Arab world who have quietly acquiesced in the face of Israeli-American sav-
ergy by Israelis and Arabs alike, for the
sixth decade in a row. The flurry of inter-
national diplomacy this week to calm things
down was impressive in its bold and en-
ergy. But it will fail if it only aims to place
an international buffer force between
Hezbollah and Israel, and leave the rest of
the Arab-Israeli situation unresolved.
Protecting Israel has long been the pri-
mary focus of Western diplomacy, which is
why it has not succeeded. For decades now
Israel has established buffer zones, occupa-
tion zones, red lines, blue lines, green lines,
interdiction zones, killing fields, surrogate
armies, and every conceivable kind of zone
between it and Arabs who fight its occupation
and colonial policies—also with success. Here is why: protecting
Israelis while leaving Arabs to a fate of hu-
miliation, occupation, degradation and sub-
servient acquiescence to Israeli-American
dictates only guarantees that those Arabs
will regroup, plan a resistance strategy, and
come back one day to fight for their land,
their humanity, their dignity and the pros-
pect that their children can have a normal
life one day.
In the past two decades, with every diplo-
matic move to protect Israel’s borders and
drive back Arab foes, the response has been
a quest to expand Israel’s buffer—
because the core dispute in Palestine re-
 mains unresolved. Three Arab parties to date
have made the concept of buffer zones militarily
obsolescent and politically irrelevant. New buff-
er zones imposed by the American community to protect Israel, while leaving Arab
grievances to rot, will only prompt a greater
determination by the next generation of young Arab men and women to
embrace the means to fight back, some day, in some way
that we cannot now predict.
Piecemeal solutions and stopgap measures
will not work any more. Ending these kinds
of military eruptions requires a more deter-
mined effort to resolve the core conflict be-
 tween Israel and Palestine. This would make
it easier to address equally pressing issues
within Arab countries, such as Hezbollah’s status as an armed resistance
group in the political life of Lebanon, which itself
is a consequence of Israel’s attacks against
Lebanon and the unresolved Palestinian issue.
In Israel’s determination to protect itself
and the Israeli Arab community, this means that
fight back, we have the makings of perpetual war.
Or, for those willing to be even-handed for

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once, an opening for a diplomatic solution that responds simultaneously to the legitimate rights of both sides.

In the meantime, I keep looking for a reasonably safe route back to our home in Beirut. Standing with the people of Lebanon in their moment of pain is the highest form of solidarity I can think of, and also the only meaningful form of defiance and resistance to Israel that I—and several hundred million other Arabs—can practice at the moment.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SPEECH OF
HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, honest and fair trade will help the U.S. and other countries grow more prosperous and stable. Trade barriers, quotas, and restrictions hurt all but a select few by raising prices for consumers, limiting economic growth, and restricting the ability of developing countries to improve their economies. However, I do not support free trade at any cost. There must be strong protections to ensure that workers benefit from trade, that the environment is protected, and that we provide the necessary help to those who lose out from increased trade.

Before the 2002 vote on “fast-track” trade promotion authority, I told President Bush in a meeting that he could gain broad bi-partisan support for a trade policy that expanded markets for U.S. products and helped developing countries grow themselves out of poverty if he made simple, small changes to the trade agreement model to take into account concerns over labor, the environment, and farmers in developing countries. However, the Oman Free Trade Agreement continues President Bush’s tradition of pushing forward harsh and divisive agreements, designed to pass by the smallest of margins.

For example, the Senate Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the trade agreement exclude items made with forced labor, slave labor, or trafficked persons. Despite this, the President refused to make these simple changes that Congress demanded.

Questions of how the United States engages in an increasingly global economy are too critical to our future to use as partisan and political wedges. We must develop a forward-thinking and honest trade policy that can be broadly supported by Americans of all political stripes and that reflects the concerns that I hear from Oregonians. Because the Oman Free Trade Agreement doesn’t meet that test, I must oppose it.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the liberation of Guam. On July 21, 1944, Marines of the 3rd Marine Division and soldiers of the 77th Army Infantry stormed the shores of Asan and Agat to liberate the Chamorros, the indigenous people of Guam, from enemy occupation. The Imperial Japanese attacked, invaded, and then controlled Guam, at the outset of the War in the Pacific. Guam was the only American territory with a civilian population that was occupied by the enemy during World War II—an experience that had not occurred since the War of 1812.

The enemy occupation was a difficult time for the Chamorros. The Chamorro people, loyal Americans, endured atrocities including executions, beatings, forced labor, forced march and internment. They lost their freedom but remained loyal to the United States and resolute in the face of a brutal occupying force. The Chamorros proved their resilience and their patriotism during this trying time.

Today, we recall those who sacrificed. Both the liberated and the liberators are remembered. Liberation Day, which will be commemorated tomorrow on Guam, is a time for us to celebrate our freedoms and to honor those who fought and endured for our future.

The lives of many service members were lost in the battle to liberate Guam. Although the Chamorro people enjoy the freedoms they have today because of this sacrifice, the scars of their past remain. The story of the occupation and liberation of Guam is a story of courage, sacrifice, and resilience. It is a story worthy of commemoration and worthy of recognition. Liberation Day is our way of sharing and preserving this story.

The theme of Liberation Day this year is “Sustaining our Freedom, Honoring our Heroes.” Last week, we honored our heroes here at our Nation’s capital with a solemn Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. I was privileged to lay a wreath with General Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This wreath laying served as the national commemoration and paid tribute to the Chamorros who suffered the occupation and the Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, Merchant Mariners, and Airmen who lost their lives in the battle to liberate Guam.

This month the people of Guam have commemorated this sacrifice with ceremonies on our island. The people of Guam have gathered at Fena, Tinta, Faha, and Manenggon, historical sites where atrocities occurred. These sites and the stories of the horrors that occurred there remind us of the price of freedom. Tomorrow, the people of Guam will witness the annual Liberation Day parade. The celebration is the culmination of the annual commemoration activities. Liberation Day is the most widely celebrated public holiday on Guam. The Liberation is a defining moment in our island’s history. It is our day to celebrate our freedom. This year we renew our commitment to the cause of freedom, we honor our manamko, and we salute our fallen veterans.

SI Yu’os un benidisi Amerika yan SI Yu’os un benidisi Guahan.

THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLEGAL TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. I have commemorated this day each year since I became a Member of Congress.

PSEKA, the International Coordinating Committee “Justice for Cyprus”, the Cyprus Federation of America, SAЕ, World Council of Hellenes Abroad, and the Federation of Hellenic Societies are primarily located in the 14th Congressional district of New York, which I am fortunate to represent.

These organizations have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus.

The United States must continue to play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus. First and foremost is the ongoing illegal occupation by the Turkish military forces of the northern part of the island in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The peaceful and cooperative spirit in the person-to-person, family-to-family interactions between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots is an encouraging sign for the successful reunification of Cyprus. However, it is time for Turkey to remove its occupation troops so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation.

Turkey must also show respect for the rights of the owners to their property in the north. I have introduced legislation, H. Res. 322, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the European Court of Human Rights for its decisions in the Loizidou and Xenides-Arestis cases against Turkey. Turkey must respect these decisions while ending the illegal exploitation of Greek Cypriot properties in the areas of Cyprus under Turkish military occupation.

Earlier this month, Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed to begin a process of bi-communal discussions to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem. Based on President Papadopoulos’ initiative, the two leaders agreed to a set of principles including a commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions; recognition that the status quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation would have negative consequences for the Turkish and Greek Cypriots; and agreement to begin a process immediately involving bi-communal discussions of issues that affect the day to day life of the people and concurrently those that concern key transnational issues, both of which will contribute to a comprehensive settlement. I welcome these developments.

As a full-fledged member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. Last July, the United States and the Republic of Cyprus signed a reciprocal Proliferation Security Initiative, PSI, Ship Boarding Agreement, which is aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of
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East is a fragile place. Unfortunately, America's unconditional support for Israel is now tipping the balance in Israel's favor, facilitating a cycle of violence that undermines hopes for long-term peace. The latest back-and-forth threatens a larger, longer, and more deadly war, and underscores the failure of this administration to bring stability to the region.

Lebanon has a democratically elected government that is by no means safely ensconced. I fear that in an attempt to weaken Hezbollah, Israel will instead undermine a Lebanese government that is more autonomous and sovereign than at any time in the past two decades. Killing Lebanese soldiers, for example, will not help the Lebanese government limit Hezbollah's influence. President Bush and I rarely agree, but even he this week cautioned against being "disloyal" of allowing Lebanon's government to "succeed and survive" after the conflict.

I do not agree with the President's refusal, however, to join the international community in calling for a prompt cease-fire. Nor do I appreciate this resolution's tacit approval for a lack of American diplomacy. Rather than work with all actions Israel takes, the United States should act as an honest broker and pressure both Israel and Lebanon to show restraint. Diplomacy, not more violence, is the path to peace in the Middle East.

Additionally, I strongly encourage the United States to acknowledge the plight of Americans living in Lebanon. Yesterday morning, the Washington Post ran a letter to the editor by a constituent of mine, noting the administration's Katrina-like response to evacuation requests. The constituent's family would like to depart Lebanon, but has been unable to secure transport out of the country.

Finally, I am concerned that particular language in this resolution that all but encourages Israel to take action against Iran's nuclear facilities. Section Eight in particular sanctions "Israel's right to take appropriate action including to conduct operations in the territory of nations which pose a threat to it." As with the current violence, I would urge Israel—and the United States—to pursue a diplomatic solution in Iran.

I cannot vote for a resolution that condemns one tragedy while supporting another. I urge my colleagues to embrace the difficult and challenging path to peace rather than the reflexively simple march to war.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I reluctantly rise in opposition to this one-sided resolution that condemns recent attacks against the State of Israel while failing to deplore Israeli violence against the people of Lebanon. Like the authors and supporters of this resolution, I support Israel's right to exist and denounce the tragic kidnapping of Israeli soldiers. I also appreciate the desire to marginalize Hezbollah. But Israel's disproportionate military response, which is decimating Lebanon's infrastructure and economy, and preventing the transport of necessary medicines into the country, is counterproductive.

As we are all painfully aware, the Middle East is a fragile place. Unfortunately, America's unconditional support for Israel is now tipping the balance in Israel's favor, facilitating a cycle of violence that undermines hopes for long-term peace. The latest back-and-forth threatens a larger, longer, and more deadly war, and underscores the failure of this administration to bring stability to the region.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I, with my colleague Congressman WEXLER of Florida, would like to submit a statement regarding the current situation on the island of Cyprus.

As both Greek and Turkish Cypriots reflect on the events that took place more than 30 years ago, there is good news coming from the divided island of Cyprus. After a hiatus of more than 2 years since the unsuccessful referenda of April 2004, in which the Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly voted in favor of a U.N. plan for a settlement, while the Greek Cypriots overwhelmingly voted against it, the two Cypriot leaders, Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos, met under U.N. auspices on July 3 and 8, respectively, and agreed to hold further meetings at the technical, as well as political levels, on the basis of a "Set of Principles."

Among these principles aimed at "the unification of Cyprus based on bi-zonal, bicommunal federation and political equality," is a commitment to the creation of the "right atmosphere" in order for the process to be successful; the enactment of "confidence building measures" to that end, and putting an end to the "blame game."

The meeting of the two leaders and the agreement they reached have been welcomed by the international community, including the United States, the European Union and others. It is important that this new and positive spirit demonstrated by the two Cypriot leaders be supported by the United States Congress in order to help the parties build trust and forge an atmosphere conducive to peace. It is our sincere hope that the spirit of reconciliation and goodwill generated during the recent meetings will continue to be promoted by all parties involved.

Mr. Speaker, as the process moves forward it is also important to recognize the resolve of the Turkish Cypriot people who have demonstrated time after time an unwavering commitment to reconciliation as well as remarkable flexibility both in the 2004 referenda and after. Despite their continued commitment to reunify Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots are still awaiting the fulfillment of the promises made to them by the international community before and after the referenda that their isolation would be lifted. We believe that both the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey, whose support was crucial in securing the "yes" vote of the Turkish Cypriots in the 2004 referenda, should be rewarded, not penalized, in order for the process to move forward toward a lasting settlement.

More than ever before, it is important to support the recent progress made in Cyprus and look towards a brighter future for Greek and Turkish Cypriots.
CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. TIM MURPHY
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I strongly support House Resolution 921 and America’s ally, Israel.

This is a critical time for the entire Middle East. The unprovoked, illegitimate acts of Hamas and Hezbollah in recent days have been despicable. As the President has said, Israel, like any other sovereign nation, “should be allowed to defend herself.” Israeli citizens should not have to live with hundreds of Hezbollah’s Katyusha (ka-TOO-sha) rockets reining down upon them in their neighborhoods.

Let there be no question that the attacks on the northern border and the kidnapping of the soldier along the western border are the result of more than 58 years of hatred against Israel by supporters of groups like Hezbollah and Hamas. These terrorist organizations simply do not want to live in peace alongside Israel. Hamas and Hezbollah both officially state they are totally dedicated to ending the nation of Israel and killing Israelis.

Certainly, the loss of innocent life anywhere in the world is tragic. We all mourn for families in Lebanon and Israel who have been torn apart in the recent violence. But perhaps the real treachery of extremist terrorists lies in their efforts to assimilate into nations of the world and hide amongst law-abiding citizens.

For one full week now, from civilian areas of Lebanon, Hezbollah terrorists have lobbed more than a thousand rockets at innocent people in Israel. In response, Israel retains every right to retaliate against these attacks, and Hezbollah’s disregard for innocent life on both sides of the Lebanese-Israeli border has led to needless deaths.

While our brave servicemen and women fight for freedom and democracy in Iraq, we must never forget that the nation of Israel has for decades been the greatest Middle East ally to the U.S. and all democratic, free nations.

The enemies of Israel can choose to live in peace alongside Israel. If they do not choose peace, Israelis have every right to defend their nation, with full confidence the United States will always stand with them.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 921 condemning recent attacks against Israel. The attacks and kidnapping of Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah have precipitated a crisis in the region. Like any sovereign power, Israel has the right and responsibility to defend herself against unprovoked attacks.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 calls for the dismantling of all independent militias in Lebanon. That resolution has never been enforced. Consequently, the Hezbollah militia has been able to operate freely in Lebanon, especially in the southern area, bordering Israel, and has amassed a large arsenal of weapons, including an estimated 13,000 rockets. During the past year, Hezbollah has launched at least four separate rocket attacks into Israel. The latest round of rockets have fallen indiscriminately on civilians in Haifa and other population centers. Hezbollah’s terrorist operations not only pose a threat to Israel, but they also threaten the security of Lebanon. The majority of people in Lebanon strongly resent Hezbollah for dragging Lebanon into a conflict with Israel. They understand that Israel did not initiate these hostilities and has a right to defend herself. Israel also has a right to destroy the military and terrorist apparatus employed by Hezbollah in its attacks on Israel. Israel must make it absolutely clear that its efforts are focused on that objective. Every effort must be made to prevent civilian casualties. Actions perceived by the people of Lebanon to unnecessarily target civilian infrastructure will have the unintentional consequence of transforming Lebanese anger at Hezbollah into anger at Israel. The United States and Israel must not unwittingly hand Hezbollah a propaganda victory and strengthen the hands of the extremists in the region.

Unfortunately, recent American actions in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, especially the war in Iraq, have had the unintentional but very pernicious consequence of inflaming anti-Western sentiment and strengthening the position of the most radical Islamic forces. Among the biggest beneficiaries of the situation in Iraq has been neighboring Iran. Iran has exploited the chaos and instability in Iraq to advance its own radical agenda and expand its influence in the region. It has also further strengthened its leverage and reach in the region through its continued support of Hezbollah. The United States must do more to rally the international community to pressure Syria and Iran to end their support for Hezbollah and Hamas. However, our leverage has been considerably weakened by the situation in Iraq and the perception that the United States is bogged down there.

In a speech delivered at the American Enterprise Institute in February 2003, a few weeks before invading Iraq, President Bush declared that going to war in Iraq would promote democracy and stability in the Middle East, reduce the influence of the hardliners and help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Specifically, President Bush said, “Success in Iraq could also begin a new stage for Middle Eastern peace and set in motion progress toward a truly democratic Palestinian state. The passing of Saddam Hussein’s regime will deprive terrorist networks of a wealthy nation that pays for terrorist training and offers safe haven to families of suicide bombers and other regimes will be given a clear warning that support for terrorists would not be tolerated.”

Unfortunately, but predictably, we have seen the opposite result in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq. The prospects of achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace settlement are far more remote today than they were when we invaded Iraq. While we engaged militarily in Iraq, this Administration disengaged from any serious effort at re-establishing an Israeli-Palestinian peace process. This Administration must confront the fact that its failed policies in Iraq and the region are further destabilizing and inflaming an already volatile region. We must lead not just by the might of our military, but by the power of our example. It is time to begin rebuilding our credibility around the world.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House several key moments over the last several weeks where the United Nations has been called upon by the international community to address crises of grave global concern and has taken significant steps to increase its own efficiency and efficacy.

In the last week alone, the U.N., which is located in my congressional district, has been dealing with the nuclear threat from North Korea, hostilities in Lebanon and the deteriorating peace and humanitarian situation in Gaza. In fact, as I speak, a U.N. team, led by Under Secretary General Vijay Nambiar, is on the ground in the Middle East helping defuse the current crisis. They have already met with the prime ministers of Israel and Lebanon and the foreign ministers of the Arab League. Over the next few days, they may return to Lebanon and, perhaps, travel to Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories before returning to New York to brief the U.N. Security Council. Secretary Rice called for the creation of this team and has, along with the President, the National Security Advisor, and a host of other administration officials, publicly supported it since its inception. In fact, during a press briefing in Germany on July 13, Secretary Rice called the Secretary-General’s mission “the best opportunity now for deescalation of this crisis.”

The U.N. Security Council has also taken action against Iran and North Korea, two regimes that the United States has deemed a serious threat to international security and stability but has been unable or unwilling to address directly on its own. Last Saturday, the Security Council voted unanimously to demand that North Korea suspend all ballistic missile launches and related activity and required all member states to prevent the import or export of funds or goods that could fuel Pyongyang’s missile or weapons of mass destruction programs. And, as reported in Tuesday’s New York Times, the Security Council, including China and Russia, is currently developing a resolution based on a previous agreement with the prime ministers of both Israel and Iran to provide a platform for international support. The Deputy Secretary General has already traveled to Baghdad to begin discussions with
CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPREECH OF
HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise to express strong support for Israel's right to defend itself against unprovoked acts of terrorism.

On June 25, members of Hamas attacked an Israeli army post, killing two Israeli soldiers and kidnapping another, Corporal Galid Shalti. Israel responded with appropriate force, seeking the return of its soldier and an end to rocket attacks coming from the Gaza Strip. Then, on July 12, Hezbollah terrorists attacked an Israeli military unit patrolling the Israeli border south of Lebanon, taking two Israeli soldiers hostage. They also began firing dozens of Katyusha rockets at northern Israel, including Haifa.

The acts of terrorism perpetrated by Hamas and Hezbollah created the situation that the world confronts today. Israel could not tolerate such assaults on its soil, against its citizens—no nation would. Israel responded to these acts of aggression, justifying them. They entered Gaza and Lebanon to try to rescue their kidnapped soldiers and prevent terrorists from committing further attacks on their homeland.

Both of these attacks were calculated acts of war—attacks on Israeli soldiers guarding undisputed Israeli territory. The attacks by Hezbollah are blatant breaches of Security Council resolutions 1559, 1655 and 1680, which certified Israel's full withdrawal from Lebanese territory and called for the disbandment of all militias in Lebanon and an end to attacks across the Israel-Lebanon border. Unfortunately, the government in Beirut has not done its part to enhance the security of both nations. In fact, the attacks against Israel are the result of Iran, Syria, and certain factions of the Lebanese Government's inaction towards these terrorist organizations in their country.

Let's look at the facts. Despite the Security Council resolutions, Hezbollah remains an armed militia group that controls 23 seats in the Lebanese parliament and 2 ministers in the national government. According to the State Department, Hezbollah receives between 30 and 40 million a month in cash, aid and arms support from Iran. Additionally, the State Department reports that Syria is an active partner with Iran in supporting and funding Hezbollah.

At the same time, the leadership of Hamas recently called Hezbollah's actions “a heroic operation.” It is clear that, despite optimism that Hamas would transform into a secular, stable government, it is sticking to its roots as a terrorist organization, supporting and encouraging attacks against innocent civilians.

Given these facts, I believe it is time for the world community to take action against Hamas and Hezbollah and the nations that support both regimes. The United States should demand that the Government of Lebanon immediately release the abducted Israeli soldiers. The same holds true for the soldier held by Hamas in Gaza. At the same time, we must insist that Iran and Syria immediately cease interfering in the internal affairs of Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories by ending all support for Hezbollah and Hamas.

The United States must also continue to provide Israel with consistent and broad-based support, since an even greater destabilizing force is developing in the region—a nuclear-armed Iran with terrorist allies in Hezbollah and Hamas.

I also believe the United States must also play an active role in forging a solution to this conflict and its underlying cause. Let us not forget that it is not only the lives of Israelis, Lebanese, and Palestinians threatened by the fighting. Press reports indicate that approximately 25,000 Americans are in Lebanon, many of whom are trying to leave that war-torn area.

The best deterrent to future acts of terrorism is the presence a unified world community. In the days ahead, I hope the Bush administration works to build a broad global alliance to deal with the current crisis in the Middle East, which will act as a powerful deterrent against similar acts of terrorism in the future. We cannot afford to let Israel go it alone in this conflict—we need the engagement of the Bush administration and the world community to punish the regimes that support terror, while also supporting the moderate voices in the Muslim world.

At this time of struggle and great peril, we need to stand firmly with the people of Israel and their government. Our country will stand with the government and people of Israel as they defend themselves. As an independent sovereign nation, Israel has every right to respond to acts of aggression against its homeland and the soldiers who defend it.

Tribute to Severo Martinez

HON. TOM UDALL
OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Severo Martinez who passed away in Santa Fe on Sunday, July 16, 2006 surrounded by his loving family and friends. He and friends have lost a very special person and New Mexico has lost a patriot who answered his country’s call early in his life to fight for democracy in Europe and the South Pacific.

Severo was born on May 7, 1916 in Chama, New Mexico. He loved to fish and hunt throughout northern New Mexico with his brothers, son, grandchildren, and nephews. My former Legislative Director Tony Martinez, Severo’s great nephew, joyously recalls going on many of those outings with his uncle where Severo would always be ready to pass the time by telling some jokes, playing cards and sharing stories of his service during World War II and in the South Pacific.

Severo was a proud veteran of World War II where he served with the 58th Quartermaster Battalion in Europe and in the South Pacific. He was recalled to federal service as a member of the New Mexico National Guard during the Korean Conflict. As a forward observer he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. After returning from federal service he remained in the New Mexico National Guard until his retirement at the rank of Major.
Severo was always very proud of the men he served with in the National Guard and loved them dearly. After his service in the Armed Forces and the National Guard, Severo was employed with the New Mexico Employment Security Commission for 39 years. His faithful and dedicated public service assisted many New Mexico Veterans and citizens to obtain employment and helped start new careers for them throughout New Mexico. Severo is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a life member and charter member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Patrick Hurley Chapter.

To Severo’s grandchildren: David, Will, Meagan, Ashley and Natalie, your grandfather lived through 90 years of extraordinary events throughout our country and world. His service during World War II and the Korean Conflict helped contribute to the preservation of democracy and freedom that exist today. That is something you should all be very proud of him for—in addition to the love he held for each of you as a proud grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to his children Vince, Norie, Kate, Becky, and the whole Martinez Family. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in honoring the memory and life of a proud veteran, proud father, proud grandfather and New Mexican—Severo Martinez.

HONORING GRETCHEN JENKINS ON THE COMPLETION OF HER INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions Gretchen Jenkins has made while interning in my Washington, DC, office. Gretchen, a resident of Lebanon, Tennessee, has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee’s Sixth Congressional District.

Gretchen must now return to the Volunteer State, where she soon will begin her junior year at my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University. The political science major has been active on campus as a member of the Raider Democrats, vice president of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a columnist for MTSU’s Sidelines.

Gretchen has gained a wealth of congressional experience that I hope will serve her well in the future. During her time here, she has addressed constituent concerns, served as a friendly and informative tour guide of the U.S. Capitol, and has been first in line to attend briefings given by some of our Nation’s brightest and most eloquent statesmen.

I hope Gretchen has enjoyed her internship as much as my staff and I have enjoyed her presence in the office. I wish her all the best in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE HICKMAN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ON BREAKING GROUND FOR ITS EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate a few wonderful news with me: the breaking ground to the Hickman Community Hospital in Tennessee.

Patients and visitors at the hospital will enjoy updated dining facilities and improved patient rooms to name just two of the enhancements that will improve the quality of life and the quality of care at the facility.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Jim Houser, Jack Keller, their teams at Saint Thomas Health Services and Hickman Community Hospital, leaders in the community, and most importantly, those who pledged support and are making this project a reality.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. JIM NUSSLE
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. NUSSLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for today’s resolution (H. Res. 921) condemning attacks against Israel. Israel is a friend of the United States and a strong ally in the War on Terror. They have every right to defend themselves against brutal terrorists who attack innocent civilians and bomb their cities. Terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah rely on violence, fear, and terror to spread religious fanaticism and advance their political agenda.

We will continue to defend the cause of freedom and stand up to evil terrorist regimes wherever they exist. Peace in the Middle East will not be possible until there is a permanent end to the violence by these terrorist groups and the countries that sponsor them.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support today’s resolution. By taking action, the House of Representatives is sending an important message: That we support our friends in Israel and we condemn the state sponsors of recent terrorist acts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAY INSLEE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday’s votes on H.R. 2389, which amends the Federal judicial code to deny jurisdiction to any Federal court, and appellate jurisdiction to the Supreme Court, to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of the Pledge of Allegiance or its validity under the Constitution. At that time, the House also considered H. Res. 911 pertaining to deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai and H.R. 5683 regarding the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial.

Had I been present, I would have voted against H.R. 2389, and I would have voted in favor of both H. Res. 911 and H.R. 5683.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I share your concern about the grave nature of the ongoing violence in the Middle East. It’s good we are here talking about these very serious issues. I am pleased to see honest debate about the nature of this conflict and the need to stand with Israel. But what else should this Congress be doing?

It is vital that we engage one another in these critical days. With American military assets already deployed to the region for the evacuation effort, and the risk of escalation high, we must work together to get this right. Passing this resolution, however, is only the first step.

After expressing our will, Congress must insist that the White House take our resolution and use it to encourage the international community to condemn Hamas and Hezbollah and expose them for what they really are—terrorist groups openly operating within the borders of democratically elected regimes.

The recent events in the Middle East have troubled us all. The campaign by Hamas and Hezbollah to kidnap Israeli soldiers and launch rocket attacks in Israel has the potential to destabilize the entire region and invite an expanded conflict.

Israel’s ongoing incursions into Lebanon should rightly be viewed as retaliations against Hezbollah—and not against the people of Lebanon. Like many of my colleagues, I have traveled to Lebanon and seen first hand the potential that country has. Like Israelis, the Lebanese want nothing more than to live in peace and prosperity.

But as fast as a rocket flying across the Israel border, the dreams of the Lebanese have been put on hold. Once again, their population is held hostage by foreign interests. And once again, the threat to Israeli sovereignty has forced an armed response.

I agree with Secretary Rice that Israel has a right and obligation to defend its people. That is exactly what Article 51 of the U.N. Charter guarantees to all sovereign nations. As justified as their response may be, Israel must continue to be mindful of the effects, both physical and psychological, that their actions have on civilians in the region.

There is substantial evidence that Israel has taken several measures to minimize harm to the civilian population in Lebanon.
This includes the dropping of warning pamphlets in advance of Israeli missions in civilian areas. It also includes the use of advanced weaponry that targets a military objective without harming civilians or civilian infrastructure.

But we must be honest. When engaged in armed conflict it is difficult to ensure the safety of civilians.

In fact, Hezbollah and Hamas purposefully operate in populated areas, often putting civilians between heavily armed terrorists and the Israeli military.

The effects of this type of warfare is also painful to Israel.

As Golda Meir so poignantly stated, "When peace comes we will perhaps in time be able to forgive Arabs for killing our sons, but it will be harder for us to forgive them for having forced us to kill their sons." As dire as events on the ground appear, there is room for U.S. leadership. The question now is what form that leadership should take.

The administration must swiftly do what it can to create conditions in the region that will open the doors to diplomacy.

This Congress expects the President to work toward achieving this goal. Once more favorable conditions are created, it should be the administration's priority to dispatch our senior diplomatic leaders, led by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to the region as soon as possible.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 921, which, among other things, condemns the recent attacks against the State of Israel, expresses the House of Representatives' condolences to all families of innocent victims of recent violence, and holds terrorists and their state-sponsors accountable for such attacks.

On June 25, 2006, the terrorist group Hezbollah disrupted peaceful relations between Israel and Lebanon by crossing Israel's internationally recognized borders and abducting two Israeli soldiers. Let me say upfront that I know from meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora that the Lebanese government is not able to control Hezbollah. However, this incursion provoked Israel to take action to retrieve its two nationals, a response U.S. citizens would fully expect of their own government were it in the same situation. Unfortunately, escalating violence has led to the death of innocent civilians in both Israel and Lebanon.

While pundits have voiced concerns over how "measured" Israel's response was in this case, we must remember that this situation just serves as the surface of a deeply rooted conflict between Israel and a number of terrorist groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, etc. Since Israel withdrew from Southern Lebanon in 2000, Hezbollah has terrorized and ravaged Israel's northern border. Many have also called for a cease-fire. Rest assured, I welcome the cessation of all hostility, but am concerned about whether a conventional "cease-fire" is appropriate when dealing with a terrorist group that openly fires upon civilian populations. I believe that Israel, on the other hand, exercised due diligence in specifically targeting Hezbollah. However, even though many civilians have died in Lebanon, we must remember this task is extremely difficult to execute because Hezbollah hides among the civilian population. Hezbollah is cleverly aware that this makes it extremely difficult for Israel to target it. Moreover, at the bitter cost of innocent Lebanese lives, it rejoices at the public torrent that Israel receives.

There is no easy solution to this situation. However, our primary concern at this point ought to be to evacuate all U.S. citizens who wish to leave Lebanon as quickly and safely as possible. I have been personally working with a number of my constituents who have family in Lebanon to ensure their safe return back home. I ask the American people to stand in solidarity with all the families who have lost loved ones in this conflict.

Madam Speaker, in closing it is truly sad that in this day and age a terrorist group like Hezbollah dares to point their weapons at innocent civilians. We must continue to support the return of Israel's kidnapped soldiers and push for a cessation of all hostility in any way that we can. I urge for an aye vote on H. Res. 921.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF
HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and I rise in support of our friend and ally, Israel, during this critical period. September 11th was a defining moment for our country in many ways. In particular, it forced Americans to confront a new reality—that terrorists could cause massive destruction on our soil and that we are all at risk. Faced with this new reality, we resolved to fight—to go to Afghanistan with the aim of destroying al-Qaeda and removing the government that sheltered and protected them.

Israelis have been living with this reality for decades. Well-armed, well-financed and sophisticated terrorist organizations—backed by Syria and Iran—saw its chance. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah have carried out thousands of attacks on Israeli soil. They have strapped bombs to teenagers and sent them on suicide missions targeting buses filled with innocent women and children. They have launched rockets at Israeli homes and stores. And, they have murdered and kidnapped Israel's soldiers. They will stop at nothing to accomplish their one common goal: the destruction of Israel.

Just as America does, Israel has a right to defend herself. Israel has a right to better secure its borders, its security and its future. A secure Israel can not exist with Hezbollah controlling the territory directly north of the country. A secure Israel can not exist with thousands of kathuza rockets aimed at Haifa, Tiberias and other population centers in the north. A secure Israel can not exist with Hamas in control of the Palestinian territories.

Israel is at war with these terrorist entities and we must stand by her. We have a moral obligation to do so—to stand on the side of democracy and freedom versus terror and radicalism. We must also do so because left unchecked, these terrorist organizations will continue to destabilize the region and use it as a base to foster global instability and undermine our national security.

As the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, I will never forget what can result when the world fails to confront evil and terror. Passage of this resolution with strong bipartisan support will send an unequivocal message to the world—Hezbollah and Hamas are responsible for this violence, Israel has a right to defend itself, and the United States will stand with Israel as it confronts the evil and terror of Hezbollah and Hamas. I am confident that Israel will prevail in this fight. And, it is my hope that their strong actions against terror will ultimately lead to the peace and security that so many in the region desperately seek.

SCHOMBURG CENTER HOSTS A SUMMIT FOR HIP-HOP ACTIVISM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the Record an article from the Volume 6 Edition of Africana Heritage magazine which highlights an event hosted by Dr. Cornel West celebrating the music genre of Hip-Hop.

This panel based event, held on Monday, April 24th, 2006, was titled “A Hip-Hop Revolution?” and it featured expert panelists from the academy, entertainment, and publishing spheres who gathered to address the issue of whether Hip-Hop music had the capability to serve as a tool for revolution.

This event formed part of a four-program series, the “Leadership Forum Series: Higher Pursuits” taking place at the Schomburg Museum in Harlem, New York. This particular event that focused on the potential of Hip-Hop to serve as an instrument for social movement shed some light on contemporary perspectives on the evolution of Hip-Hop from a subgroup of African American music born to the New York borough of the Bronx, to one of the most popular genres of music around the world.

To some panelists, the answer to this question was positive. Writer Greg Tate held that Hip-Hop was just a manifestation of black people's way to transform their world. To him, Hip-Hip embodied a culture that produced leaders and prophets who brought the next plateau of our struggles. On the other hand, Dr. Imani Perry, associate professor at Rutgers Law School, submitted that “Hip-Hop doesn’t exist as a viable social movement, but its music generates courage.”

Whatever the case may be, facilitator Dr. West concluded and all the panelists agreed that Hip-Hop may perhaps offer the “soundtrack” for a movement. However, one should
not look to it for a ‘blueprint’ for a revolution when there is a great exemplar from the Afri-
Camp and African Diasporan history.

(From the African Heritage, Apr. 24, 2006)

CORNELL WEST AND PANEL TALK HIP-HOP

ACTIVISM

On Monday, April 24, 2006 the Schomburg Center held the third of four programs in its Leadership Forum Series: Higher Pursuits hosted and moderated by Dr. Cornel West. The focus of the discussion was “A Hip-Hop Revolution?” and featured guest panelists Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, Assistant Professor of Urban Education at Temple University; Dr. Imani Perry, Associate Professor at Rutgers Law School and author of Prophets of the Hood: Politics and Poetics in Hip-Hop; Carlito Rodriguez, Producer Consultant at BET News and former Editor-in-Chief of The Source magazine; Akiba Solomon, Senior Editor at Vibe Vixen and Co-Editor of The Hood: Black Culture and long-time contributor to Black Culture and Skin, Hair, Hips, Lips, and Other Body Parts; and Greg Tate, author of Everything But the Hood: What White People Are Taking from Black Culture and long-time contributor to the Village Voice.

Dr. West gave each of the panelists time to address the issue of whether Hip-Hop music has any revolutionary potential. According to Carlito Rodriguez, people often have a very romantic view about Hip-Hop and its influence, but he reminded the audience that he grew up in the Bronx during the music’s toddler years and everything about the culture wasn’t necessarily a good thing. “I don’t subscribe to the revisionist history that everybody and everything in Hip-Hop was positive. It began with acts like Run-DMC who went from looking like Parliament Funkadelic to [wearing] street gear. It soon became ‘I want that chain, that car’ and somewhere along the line, that became the norm. I think someone has to make music that caters to me—grown man rap.” Rodriguez emphasized that the lyrics today don’t really address the many issues he faces as a man in his late 30s.

Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, who is currently working on several book projects regarding Hip-Hop culture, made a very important distinction. “The question mark at the end of ‘A Hip-Hop Revolution?’ is so critical. Is Hip-Hop a revolutionary form, born out of resistance? Yes, is it in content? I’m not sure.” Dr. Hill added, “When someone looks at a rapper like Lil’ Kim as a feminist role model, there is a [disconnect] with the message of Hip-Hop not engaging listeners in the day-to-day politics of the hood.”

Writer Greg Tate was more optimistic on what the future could bring as far as leadership. “I know it has never really been about Hip-Hop; it has always been [about] black people’s way to transform their world.” explains Tate. “The culture spits [out] the prophets, the leaders, to get us through the next plateau of our struggles. The future of Hip-Hop is in a maternity ward somewhere. The answer to the crisis is a voice we haven’t heard before, but because we can imagine it, it probably exists.”

Dr. Imani Perry believes that a community-based approach seems more realistic than a creative one. “Hip-Hop doesn’t exist as a viable social movement, but its music generates courage. I am more interested in the community providing a social justice movement. Editor and journalist Akiba Solomon put things rather bluntly: ‘my short answer to the question [about Hip-Hop being revolutionary] is ‘no.’ I’ve gone through a lot with Hip-Hop; I compare it to an abusive marriage. Every time it punches me in my face—it gives me gifts. Hip-Hop has been used as a euphemism for different things. It’s important that we define what we’re talking about and whom we’re talking about. My mid-80s view is that I think we are talking about predominately black and Latino youth who come from a certain class or struggle. But I think a major piece that is missing is that you cannot have an art form have any social change potential when it objectifies or minimizes half the population.”

Dr. West offered closing thoughts: “Latinos and blacks have so many resources, but they still don’t have total control of it. Hip-Hop is a global phenomenon and it has a different context in other countries like Bolivia and Colombia.” Unlike those countries, Hip-Hop here in the United States can often be more degrading than it is splitting. But one thing that all the panelists, Dr. West included, agreed on is that society’s ills will not be changed by a song or a performer, but by small pockets of people doing their best to make a difference. And while Hip-Hop can sometimes provide the soundtrack to a movement, no one should look to it for a blueprint, when there is so much more from African-American and African Diasporan history that could provide that sort of guidance.

‘YES’ TO STEM CELL RESEARCH

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, President Bush said that stem cell research raised “profound ethical questions.” There is no more profound or ethical question than the fate of 100 million American lives. Lives that can be saved, and lives that will be lost if we don’t move forward with this vital research.

This Congress sent the White House a bipartisan bill that ethically advances stem cell research—a practice supported by over 70 percent of Americans. Stem cell research may one day provide a cure for Alzheimer’s, juvenile diabetes, Lou Gehrig’s disease, and spinal cord injuries.

The promise of this research is enormous, but regrettably, the President used his first veto to deny hope to millions of Americans whose lives could be improved by stem cell research. The answer to this profound ethical question is clear—yes to stem cell research would mean yes to saving lives.

32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 32nd anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus. Although this event took place 32 years ago, the situation is still one that demands attention and strong intervention today.

In 1974 Turkish military forces invaded the Greek island of Cyprus thereby disrupting the lives of its citizens. In two waves, Turkey was able to seize control of more than one-third of the Island by labeling the invasion as a “peace keeping operation.” As a result, Northern Cyprus was divided by a 113 mile barbed fence, which thereby prevented Cypriots from visiting areas and communities within their country.

Turkish presence on the island of Cyprus is in clear violation of repeated U.N. Security Council Resolutions. There are currently 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed in Cyprus as it continues to remain one of the most militarized areas in the world. As a result of the invasion over 250,000 Greek Cypriots were subject to ethnic cleansing in Northern Cyprus.

I would like to commend Congressman BILIRAKIS and Congresswoman MALONEY for bringing this issue to a forefront in Congress. I sincerely hope that we will see a better day when the people of Cyprus who have been disenfranchised will receive proper treatment and regard.

Again, I want to express my support for the true government of Cyprus, and I urge the United States government, the European Union and the United Nations to continue efforts in finding a solution to this unfortunate predicament.
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8095–S8111

Measures Introduced: Two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3712–3713, S. Res. 538, and S. Con. Res. 113.

Measures Reported:

- S. 2146, to extend relocation expenses test programs for Federal employees. (S. Rept. No. 109–289)

Measures Passed:

- Senate Legal Counsel: Senate agreed to S. Res. 538, to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Rockefeller v. Bingaman, et al.

- Commending NASA: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 448, commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the completion of the Space Shuttle’s second Return-to-Flight mission.

Child Custody Protection Act: Senate began consideration of S. 403, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill on Tuesday, July 25, 2006; that only certain amendments to be proposed, with time limitations, be in order; that there be 1 hour, equally divided and controlled, for debate on the bill; and that following disposition of the amendments and upon the use, or yielding back of time, Senate vote on final passage of the bill.

Holmes Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 3 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2006, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Jerome A. Holmes, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; that there be 2 hours of debate, equally divided and controlled, between the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary, or their designees; and that upon the use, or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

- Sue C. Payton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.
- Martin J. Jackley, of South Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years.
- Brett L. Tolman, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of four years.
- Charles E. McQueary, of North Carolina, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.
- 31 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
- 22 Army nominations in the rank of general.
- 5 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.
- 12 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Navy.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

- Bijan Rafiekian, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the remainder of the term expiring January 20, 2007.
- Sharon Lynn Hays, of Virginia, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- Robert W. Johnson, of Nevada, to be Commissioner of Reclamation.
- James R. Kunder, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.
- Karen B. Stewart, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus.
- Mary Martin Ourisman, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to
St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Jane M. Doggett, of Montana, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012.

Ronald J. James, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Major General Todd I. Stewart, USAF, (Ret.), of Ohio, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

Routine lists in the Navy.

Messages From the House:

Measures Placed on Calendar:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 12:13 p.m., until 2 p.m., on Monday, July 24, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8107.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

U.S.-U.K. EXTRADITION TREATY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and related exchanges of letters, signed at Washington on March 31, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108–23), after receiving testimony from Paul J. McNulty, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice; Samuel M. Witten, Deputy Legal Adviser, Department of State; John J. Meehan, Jr., Ancient Order of Hibernians, Quincy, Massachusetts; Robert C. Linnon, Irish American Unity Conference, Boynton Beach, Florida; and Madeline Morris, Duke University Law School, Durham, North Carolina.

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, July 24, 2006.

Committee Meetings

POLICING CAPITAL SITES

Committee on Government Reform: Held a hearing entitled “Policing Capital Sites: Improving Coordination, Training and Equipment.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: RADM Terence McNight, USN, Commandant, Naval District Washington, Department of the Navy; and MG Guy C. Swan, III, USA, Military District of Washington, Department of the Army; Joseph W. Trindal, Regional Director, National Capital Region, Federal Protective Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; and Michael D. Fogarty, Assistant Chief of Police, U.S. Park Police, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.
V. Dunn, of Iowa, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Nancy Montanez-Johnston, of Nebraska, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Margo M. McKay, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and Bruce I. Knight, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation, 9:30 a.m., SR–328A.

July 27, Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Agriculture’s use of technical service providers, 10 a.m., SR–328A.


Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 25, to hold hearings to examine regulation of hedge funds, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 25, Subcommittee on Aviation, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Joint Planning and Development Office, 10 a.m., SR–253.

July 27, Full Committee, to hold a hearing to examine pending nominations, 11 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 26, business meeting to consider the nominations of John Ray Correll, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and Mark Myers, of Alaska, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, both of the Department of the Interior, and Drue Pearce, of Alaska, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD–366.

July 27, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine S. 3638, to encourage the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects to plan, design, and construct water supply projects and to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to encourage the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat impaired surface water, reclaim and reuse impaired groundwater, and provide brine disposal in the State of California, S. 3639, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to provide standards and procedures for the review of water reclamation and reuse projects, H.R. 177, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project, H.R. 2341, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility, Texas, and H.R. 3418, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 27, to hold hearings to examine a path forward for the nation’s emergency preparedness and response system relating to the Stafford Act, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: July 25, Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine a decade of covering children relating to State Children’s Health Insurance Program, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

July 26, Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight, to hold hearings to examine the size and sources of the tax gap, 2 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 27, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, to which position he was appointed during the tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations, to which position he was appointed during the recess of the Senate from July 29, 2005, to September 1, 2005, and to U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations, to which position he was appointed during the recess of the Senate from July 29, 2005, to September 1, 2005, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 27, to hold hearings to examine S. 3128, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 25, business meeting to consider the nomination of Stephen S. McMillin, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

July 25, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense Supply Chain Management Plan, focusing on the extent to which the supply chain management improvement plan is integrated with other Department of Defense logistics strategies, concepts, and plans, and if the Department has identified valid performance metrics and data to use in monitoring initiatives and measuring progress, 10 a.m., SD–342.

July 26, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine a progress report on protecting and enforcing intellectual property rights here and abroad, focusing on the Administration’s Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy (STOP!) and the extent to which it has been effective in educating businesses about the issues related to conducting business in the global economy, the progress made since the appointment
of the IP Coordinator last July, and explore if the STOP initiative has identified effective human capital and strategic plans to build on the existing program, and if it has the necessary resources required to complete its mission, 3:30 p.m., SD–342.

July 27, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine the Health Resources and Services Administration financial management of its budget in carrying out its mission to increase access to and quality of health care, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

July 28, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine recovery and reconstitution of critical networks relating to cybersecurity, focusing on immediate steps that Department of Homeland Security and the private sector can take to formalize a partnership and to ensure effective response and recovery to major cyber network disruption, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: July 25, to hold hearings to examine the authority to prosecute terrorists under the war crime provisions of Title 18, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

July 26, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the current and future status of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act which prescribes procedures for requesting judicial authorization for electronic surveillance and physical search of persons engaged in espionage or international terrorism against the United States on behalf of a foreign power, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

July 27, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine detecting smuggled nuclear weapons, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: July 27, business meeting to mark up an original bill to reauthorize the Small Business Administration, 10 a.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: July 27, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patrick W. Dunne, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning, and Thomas E. Harvey, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs, 10 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 25, to hold a closed hearing regarding intelligence matters, 10 a.m., SH–219.

July 26, Full Committee, to hold a closed meeting regarding intelligence matters, 10 a.m., SH–219.

July 27, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: July 27, to hold hearings to examine at home DNA tests, focusing on whether these should be considered a marketing scam or a medical breakthrough, 10 a.m., SD–106.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, July 27, Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development, and Research, hearing to review Conservation Issues, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, July 26, Subcommittee on Defense, oversight hearing on Defense Contracting, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

July 27, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

July 27, Subcommittee on Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies, hearing on the Census, 9:30 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, July 26, hearing on standards of military commissions and tribunals, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

July 26, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on plutonium disposition and the U.S. Mixed Oxide Fuel Facility, 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, July 26, Subcommittee on Education Reform, hearing on Examining Views on English as the Official Language, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

July 27, full Committee, hearing on No Child Left Behind: Can Growth Models Ensure Improved Education for All Students, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, July 25 and 27, Subcommittee on Health, hearings on How To Build a Payment System That Provides Quality, Efficient Care for Medicare Beneficiaries, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 27, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing on the following: Pipeline Safety Improvement Act Reauthorization; and H.R. 5872, Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2006, 11 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

July 27, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to continue hearings entitled “Questions Surrounding the ‘Hockey Stick’ Temperature Studies: Implications for Climate Change Assessments,” 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, July 27, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled “Changing Real Estate Market,” 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.


July 26, full Committee, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 5503, FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act of 2006; H.R. 5851, Hawaiian Ownership Opportunity Act; and H.R. 5637, Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act of 2006, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on Government Reform, July 25, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, hearing entitled “Retirees Returning to the Rescue: Re-employing Annuitants in Times of National Need,” 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

July 25, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “Is the Federal Government Doing All It Can To Stem the Tide of Illegal Immigration?,” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

July 26, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled “Prescription Drug Abuse: What Is Being Done To Address This New Drug Epidemic?,” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

July 26, Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability, hearing entitled “Implementing FOIA—Does the Administration’s Executive Order Improve Processing?” 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

July 27, full Committee, hearing entitled “Code Yellow: Is The DHS Acquisition Bureaucracy a Formula for Disaster?” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.


July 27, full Committee, to mark up H.R. 5695, Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, July 27, oversight hearing on the Library of Congress, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on International Relations, July 25, Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia, hearing on Assessing Energy and Security Issues in Central Asia, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

July 26, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing on Immigration: Responding to a Regional Crisis, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.


July 27, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing on the Report of the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, July 25, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, oversight hearing entitled “The 60th Anniversary of the Administrative Procedure Act: Where Do We Go From Here?” 11:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 26, full Committee, to continue mark up of H.R. 1704, Second Chance Act of 2005; and to mark up the following bills: H.R. 2679, Public Expression of Religion Act of 2005; H.R. 5092, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) Modernization and Reform Act of 2006; H.R. 5005, Firearms Corrections and Improvements Act; H.R. 1584, Firearm Commerce Modernization Act; and H.R. 1415, NICS Improvement Act of 2005, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 27, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, hearing on H.R. 5055, To amend title 17, United States Code, to provide protection for fashion design, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.


Committee on Resources, July 25, Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing entitled “The Recently Released Final Draft of the National Park Service Management Policies,” 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

July 26, full Committee, to mark up H.R. 4893, To amend section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to restrict off-reservation gaming, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

July 27, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, oversight hearing to Examine Atlantic Stripped Bass Conservation and Management, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.


July 27, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 630, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal lands to the City of Yuma, Arizona, in exchange for certain lands owned by the City of Yuma, Arizona; H.R. 5666, Southern Idaho Bureau of Reclamation Act of 2006; H.R. 5796, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to exclude and defer from the pooled reimbursable costs of the Central Valley Project the reimbursable capital costs of the unused capacity of the Folsom South Canal, Auburn-Folsom South Unit, Central Valley Project, and S. 895, Rural Water Supply Act of 2005, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, July 24, to consider H.R. 1956, Business Activity Tax Simplification Act of 2006, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

July 25, to consider H.R. 5682, United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006, 3:30 p.m., H–3113 Capitol.

Committee on Science, July 25, hearing on Scientific and Technical Assessment and Advice for the U.S. Congress, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.


Committee on Small Business, July 25, hearing on the Failure to Comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act: IRS Endangering Small Businesses Yet Again, 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. July 25, Subcommittee on Railroads, oversight hearing on Human Factors Issues in Rail Safety, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

July 26, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, oversight hearing on proposed amendments to and reauthorization of the National Dam Safety Program Act, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, July 27, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, oversight hearing on VA’s accelerated education benefits, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, July 25, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing on Customs Budget Authorizations and Other Customs Issues, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

July 26, full Committee, hearing on Impacts of Border Security and Immigration on Ways and Means Programs, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

July 27, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Emergency Care, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. July 26, executive, hearing on Intelligence Community Acquisition Reform, 12:30 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

July 26, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, hearing on DOD HUMINT Way Ahead, 3 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

July 27, full Committee, executive, briefing on Global Updates/Hotspots, 9 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

July 27, hearing on FISA legislation, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

July 27, Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy, executive, hearing on U.S.-Russian Strategic Considerations, 4 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: July 27, to hold hearings to examine how the United States Government can live up to its commitment to promote human rights and democratic governance in Russia while preserving a relationship with Moscow, 1 p.m., SD–226.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
2 p.m., Monday, July 24

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 3 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Jerome A. Holmes, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12:30 p.m., Monday, July 24

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
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