

sovereignty, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, IGRA, directs tribes to negotiate gambling compacts with states and the federal government. H.R. 4893 amends Section 20 of IGRA to restrict off-reservation Indian gambling by forcing tribes to enter into agreements with subdivisions of states for the first time in over 200 years.

H.R. 4893 further undermines tribal sovereignty and Indian Self-Determination with a provision that requires tribes to enter into binding arbitration with counties and parishes. Binding arbitration is an alternative dispute resolution process between two equals, yet the Constitution makes clear that Indian Tribes are equal to Federal and state governments, not their local subdivisions. This legislation creates a precarious precedent that could lead to further erosion of tribal sovereignty.

For these reasons, major tribal organizations vehemently oppose passage of H.R. 4893. The National Indian Business Association, the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians, which includes 250 tribes throughout the United States, are among the bill's detractors.

This bill is only the most recent in a long and regrettable series of assaults on the rights of Native Americans. As a proud member of the Native American Caucus and a stalwart defender of tribal sovereignty, I stand opposed to this legislation and in defense of the Constitution. I will continue to work in Congress to ensure that our federal government's commitment to America's Native peoples, cultures and languages remains steadfast.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP L.N.
FORBES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, Bishop L.N. Forbes whom I greatly respect for his dedication, commitment and loyalty to serving the Lord and his people. Bishop Forbes was born on October 24, 1936 in Wayne County, North Carolina, the fourth of ten children to the late Will Scott and Sally Melvin Forbes. At an early age, he began practicing actively and later received his biblical and spiritual guidance at the Leventon Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, where he remains a member in good standing.

After receiving the call to the ministry, Pastor Forbes preached his initial sermon in May 1959, using as a subject, "You Need It and You Must Have It." In 1959, Pastor Forbes established Faith Temple No. 1 in East Orange, New Jersey, and in 1962, Faith Temple No. 2, now in Capitol Heights, Maryland. In 1978, Bishop Forbes established Faith Temple No. 3 in St. Paul, North Carolina.

As the Presiding Bishop of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference, he spearheaded the construction of the L.N. Forbes Tabernacle in Wilson, North Carolina, which was dedicated in 1975. He now serves as the General Bishop of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference of America, the Vice President of the National Convention of Free Will Baptist of USA, President of the East Orange Clergy Movement and Past President of the Hampton University Ministers Conference.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Forbes is my personal friend and I know so well the difference his Ministry is making in our community. He works tirelessly and often without compensation. My colleagues, I ask that you join with me in honoring this great American, Bishop Lemmie Nathaniel Forbes.

RECOGNIZING VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING AND GODCHAUX HALL

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many contributions of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and its historic Godchaux Hall. Some of Nashville's most talented health care professionals, educators and students will gather today to celebrate a place "where tradition meets innovation," the newly renovated Godchaux Hall.

Godchaux Hall was built in 1925 as the dormitory for the 100 students and faculty of the Vanderbilt nursing program. It included classrooms, laboratory space and a library. Since then, it has undergone several name changes and renovations, but last year, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing was awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to improve the space for the first time in thirty years.

Today, Godchaux Hall is a truly innovative place where students from all over the world come to earn advanced nursing degrees and learn the skills they need to care for patients as nurses. An advanced 9-bed "Intervention Lab" provides a simulated hospital environment and includes state-of-the-art computer equipment, "Sim Man," to replicate a human patient. New behavioral labs create space for nursing researchers to work with human subjects outside the laboratory. The increased space also allows Vanderbilt to expand its relationship with community partners like Fisk and Lipscomb Universities whose students can earn Bachelor degrees at Vanderbilt's Godchaux Hall.

The improved learning space at Godchaux Hall will give Vanderbilt the ability to continue its long tradition of excellence in nursing education. I commend Dean Colleen Conway-Welch for her leadership and Vanderbilt University School of Nursing for its achievements in innovation and education. One of the most significant outcomes of today's ribbon-cutting is that it will allow Nashville to combat the nursing shortage our nation faces and continue to provide the best in health care to patients from across Middle Tennessee.

NATO SUMMIT IN RIGA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Croatian Caucus and in light of the forthcoming National Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit in Riga, I would like to bring your attention to the signifi-

cant progress Croatia has made to date under Euro-Atlantic integrations. I would also like to emphasize the contributions Croatia could make as a new NATO member in furthering its principles and enhancing security in the area. Finally, I would like to commend both the Croatian Embassy to the United States and the National Federation of Croatian Americans for their steadfast commitment to furthering the U.S.-Croatian relationship.

In pursuing extensive political, economic, and defense reforms since its independence, Croatia has proven to be a reliable partner in the international community's efforts to build long-term support and stability, and has been an active supporter of the global coalition against terrorism. Croatia fully recognizes the fundamental importance of sharing its vision of Euro-Atlantic integration with other countries in the region, demonstrating this through various regional initiatives such as the U.S. Adriatic Charter for Partnership with Albania and Macedonia.

Croatia is one of the countries first in line for the next round of NATO enlargement, and has benefited greatly from the substantial investment made by the United States in the region. This investment represents the United States' belief in Croatia as a partner in promoting democratic ideals and peace-keeping efforts world-wide. Croatia has been an active contributor to non-Article V. NATO operations in the areas of crisis management and crisis response, notably under NATO-led ISAF operations in Afghanistan. Further, Croatia has consistently demonstrated its support for international efforts to bring peace, stability, and democracy in Iraq.

The Congress' continuing support for further NATO enlargement was expressed last year, when the United States House of Representatives unanimously adopted House Resolution 529, recommending Croatia's integration into NATO. This was quickly followed by a similar resolution in the United States Senate. These resolutions not only represented recognition by the U.S. Legislature of the significant progress made by the Croatian government towards participating actively in a free and democratic world, they also provided valuable support for further efforts in Southeast Europe towards stability and security in the Southeastern European region.

At the Riga Summit, NATO should go beyond its "open door" policy and issue an unequivocal message to invite one or more aspirant MAP countries to begin accession talks with NATO at the next Summit in 2008, provided that they continue with necessary reforms and fulfill the conditions for membership. Croatia has demonstrated it is willing and able to assume responsibilities of NATO membership, and will prove to be an effective contributor to the collective defense and overall Alliance mission.

Mr. Speaker, as a Co-Chair of the Croatian Caucus, I am fully convinced that Croatia's earliest integration into NATO will allow it to be a more valuable ally to the United States. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me today in recognizing Croatia's progress and in encouraging the Departments of State and Defense to push for full integration of Croatia into NATO at the earliest opportunity, preferably with an invitation no later than 2008.

CRIMINAL CODE MODERNIZATION
AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2006**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Criminal Code Modernization and Simplification Act of 2006."

This measure revises the criminal code to update, simplify and consolidate many of the criminal provisions in Title 18 of the United States Code. It has been over 50 years since the criminal code was last revised. The existing criminal code is riddled with provisions that are either outdated or simply inconsistent with more recent modifications to reflect today's modern world.

As my term as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee comes to a close, I am introducing this measure to begin the dialogue and process for rewriting the criminal code. It is my hope that this bill will trigger a dialogue and input from other interested parties to develop a more comprehensive re-write. Further, it is my hope that a careful review of the code will lead to even more of a reduction in the "federalization" of what many consider local crimes. I am well aware that federal prosecutions constitute only 7 percent of the criminal prosecutions nationwide. We need to ensure that the federal role continues to be limited and that the State and local offenses are not subsumed within an ever expanding criminal code.

Through the years, the criminal code has grown with more and more criminal provisions, some of which are antiquated or redundant, some of which poorly drafted, some of which have not been used in the last 30 years, and some of which are unnecessary since the crime is already covered by existing criminal provisions.

This bill cuts over 1/3 of the existing criminal code; reorganizes the criminal code to make it more user-friendly; and consolidates criminal offenses from other titles so that title 18 includes all major criminal provisions (e.g., drug crimes in title 21, aviation offenses and hijacking in title 49).

In redrafting the criminal code, I applied several drafting principles: (1) added a uniform set of definitions for the entire title; (2) revised the intent requirements to apply a consistent definition of intent in response to Supreme Court criticisms of intent requirements for criminal offenses; (3) eliminated excess language that confuses, or potentially complicates, use of a criminal statute; and (4) added new headings to make the code more user friendly.

I attempted to the extent possible to make these changes policy neutral; however, two general policy changes were made: (1) attempts and conspiracies to commit criminal offenses are generally punished in the same manner as the substantive offense unless specifically stated otherwise; and (2) criminal and civil forfeiture and restitution provisions were consolidated unless a more specific policy was adopted for a crime.

I wanted to take a moment to thank the Legislative Counsel's Office and in particular Doug Bellis, the Deputy Counsel of that Office, who devoted substantial efforts to preparing this bill and should be commended for his extraordinary efforts.

I recognize that additional input from outside interested parties will be needed, and look forward to working with other Members, the Justice Department, the Department of Homeland Security, the Treasury Department and other parties on this worthwhile project.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG
POLITICAL LEADERS**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is with appreciation that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). As a bipartisan, non-profit educational exchange organization, ACYPL serves a critical purpose in helping to ensure strong U.S. public diplomacy around the world.

ACYPL programs enhance understanding of political systems, cultures, and people by fostering relations between young political leaders. These international exchanges are an important strategy in a broader effort to ensure our nation's security and the protection of U.S. interests abroad.

Through these exchanges young political leaders learn from each other and share their experiences. In fact, two of my own staff have participated in ACYPL programs, including a program to Egypt and a program to Tanzania and Uganda. These experiences have provided opportunities for them to share their views on democracy, foreign policy issues, and cultural differences—broadening their world views and building new international relationships.

I am also proud that my Congressional Office has hosted several young political leaders over the years. This September, my office hosted a young political leader from Egypt—Ms. Fatma Zaki-Khalil. Fatma is a staff member with the Badrawi Technical Bureau. Dr. Hossam Badrawi, a former of the People's Assembly and Chairman of the Education Committee, has also hosted young American political leaders, including a staff member from my office, through ACYPL exchange programs in Egypt.

Thank you ACYPL. I look forward to continued partnerships in working to support cultural and political exchanges.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on September 28, 2006, I was unavoidably detained and failed to cast a recorded vote on rollcall vote No. 495. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2006 I missed rollcall vote No. 433, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this bill that intends to put an end to horse slaughter in this country for good. The practice of this purely export-driven market which involves the cruel treatment and killing of our horses for trade is unacceptable, and therefore I am a proud cosponsor and supporter of this bill that moves to end these practices.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6014

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta provides water for millions of Californians and is a recreational and environmental treasure. In addition, it serves as a home, where generations of us continue to live and work.

The Delta, however, is also one of the most flood-prone areas in the world. Hurricane Katrina reinforced the need to do everything possible to protect the Delta. To do otherwise would risk tempting the same human and environmental disaster that devastated New Orleans. Simply accepting that the Delta will flood catastrophically is unacceptable.

Over the past two years, we have held productive hearings on protecting the Delta and have steered funding towards actual levee construction. Long-term studies are underway, but I worry that our federal and state agencies are studying levee protection to death and do not have a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan. The reality is hearings and long-term studies don't protect Delta Residents and water users from the immediate threats that swollen waterways present.

That's why I introduced H.R. 6014. Experts on the ground who work to keep the levees safe have told me that the most effective levee protection is performed through the California Levees Subvention Program. It's a proven program with tangible results. While we continue to develop long-term strategies for protecting the Delta, funding this existing program will cut through bureaucratic red tape and get needed dirt and rock on the levees in a cost effective manner.

My bill is not a cure-all, but it is a bipartisan step in the right direction. It rightly forces the Bureau of Reclamation to funnel money to a proven program that will benefit the agency and the 22 million California water consumers who depend on reliable levees in the Delta.

The 2004 Jones Tract levee failure demonstrated that what happens in the Delta, does not stay in the Delta. Private levee failures can have a significant impact on federal agencies: The Jones Tract failure forced the Bureau of Reclamation to shut down its export water pumps to those south of the Delta for several days. The funding in my bill helps prevent future levee failures that could have far-