

families allows us to demonstrate our immense gratitude for those who have courageously served our country.

Mr. Speaker, nation's veterans and their service to our appreciation for their service to our country. I ask all my colleagues to join me in voting favorably on S. 2562.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL
PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 973, "Recognizing Financial Planning Week." I want to thank Mr. HINOJOSA and Mrs. BIGGERT for introducing the resolution. I am cosponsor of this resolution because I believe that we must acknowledge the importance of financial planning for all Americans.

This resolution accepts the goal of financial planning as a tool to enable families and individuals to achieve their financial and life goals. It recognizes the relevance of financial planners, many of whom are essential to American individuals and families planning for their futures.

Sound financial planning must be integrated into any comprehensive life plan. Many of the financial instruments and investments require basic if not advanced financial planning to be used productively. Financial independence is a goal that I strongly advocate. Without financial independence it is impossible to function and to meet future challenges.

The Financial Planning Association has designated the week beginning October 2, 2006 as Financial Planning Week. The House officially recognizes the importance of financial planning and financial planners in the process, and this resolution embraces Financial Planning Week. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

ON THE DEATH OF SECOND
LIEUTENANT EMILY J.T. PEREZ

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the tragic loss of Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez, a young soldier from Prince George's County, MD, who gave the ultimate measure of sacrifice for our Nation in Iraq, saddens all of us.

And today, I want to pay tribute to this outstanding young American, as well as express my deepest condolences to her family, including her parents, Vicki and Daniel, and all of her friends and loved ones.

Second Lieutenant Perez of Fort Washington died on September 12 after a roadside bomb exploded under her Humvee. She is the first female graduate of West Point to die in Iraq.

But she should not be remembered solely for how she passed from this life and into God's hands. She must be remembered for the outstanding and inspiring way in which she lived and those she touched during her 23 years.

Emily Perez was a trailblazer and a star in every sense of the word.

She rose to the top of her class at Oxon Hill High School. She became the first minority female command sergeant in the history of the U.S. Military Academy. And she excelled at everything from track to the gospel choir.

As the Washington Post reported, friends and family members nicknamed her "Kobe," after Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Kobe Bryant, because "everyone knew she could make the shots, in whatever she did."

Second Lieutenant Perez was best known for her tenacious leadership, first as a wing commander of Junior ROTC and then on the campus of West Point. She leaves behind a collection of young cadets inspired by her patriotism, as they prepare for military careers defending our Nation.

While incredibly strong willed, Perez also is remembered for her sensitivity to others, organizing an HIV-AIDS ministry in high school after family members contracted the virus.

Yet it was being a soldier that was Perez's true calling. She was born into a military family in Heidelberg, Germany, and knew from a very young age that she wanted to serve. After graduating from West Point, she was assigned to the Army's 204th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and deployed to Iraq in December.

One of her mentors, Roger Pollard, told the Post: "I clearly remember thinking that she would definitely be the first female president of this country."

Lost at the age of 23, we will never know what was in store for this extraordinary young woman. But one thing is certain: She heroically served her Nation in defense of our freedom, and we should all be proud of the full life she led in her short time here.

STATEMENT ON IOM REC-
COMMENDATIONS FOR FDA RE-
FORM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to my colleague's attention a New York Times editorial that comments on the recommendations by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) for reforming the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The editorial contends that IOM has wisely called for a significant increase in financing and personnel to correct the imbalance between the funds and staff devoted to approving new drugs and the smaller resources available for post-market surveillance. The editorial also observes that, even when problems arise, the agency virtually has no authority to regulate drugs on the market unless there is overwhelming evidence that they are unsafe.

The IOM report, *The Future of Drug Safety*, confirms what many of us in Congress have been arguing all along—that FDA authority needs to be strengthened and that the agency relies too heavily on negotiations with industry. The recommendations outlined in the IOM report reflect the initiatives that many of us in Congress already have proposed, including: requiring post-market surveillance of drug products; requiring a moratorium on direct-to-

consumer (DTC) advertising; and eliminating conflict-of-interests involving members of FDA advisory committees.

This report provides independent verification that Congress must act to implement the changes that are needed at the FDA. Congress will have the opportunity next year to make an immediate impact when it considers the reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA). Congress should strongly consider IOM's PDUFA recommendation that a portion of the user fees be diverted to specific safety-related performance goals.

I ask that the New York Times editorial be inserted in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 28, 2006]

PRESCRIPTION FOR A STRONGER F.D.A.

A prestigious advisory group has put its weight behind criticism that the Food and Drug Administration is pitifully weak when it comes to removing dangerous prescription drugs from the market. Last week, a panel appointed by the Institute of Medicine, part of the National Academy of Sciences, issued a slew of recommendations to strengthen the beleaguered F.D.A. as it struggles to regulate a huge array of medications whose ill effects sometimes show up only after years of wide use.

The institute's report, which was requested by the F.D.A., deplores the big imbalance between the money and staff devoted to approving new drugs and the much smaller resources for monitoring drugs after they are on the market. The imbalance results in part from the pharmaceutical industry's providing user fees that pay for expediting the approval process, but not for monitoring the aftereffects. Worse yet, even when it spots a problem, the agency has very little power to regulate drugs on the market unless there is overwhelming evidence that they are unsafe, which is seldom the case.

Although the nation is mired in budget deficits, the institute was wise to call for a large increase in financing and personnel for this crucially important regulator of public health. If Congress is too stingy to ante up more money, it should at least divert some of the drug industry's user fees to surveillance after a drug's approval.

The panel calls for the F.D.A. to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs that are truly new, not just copycats, at least once every five years. It wants the agency to be given explicit power to compel post-marketing studies and to impose fines, injunctions and withdrawals to enforce its decisions. In a departure from conventional wisdom, the panel also urges the F.D.A. to require that a substantial majority of the members of each of its advisory panels be free of significant financial involvement with companies whose interests might be affected. That undercuts the agency's claims that there are not enough experts without ties to the drug industry.

COMMENDING THE BOY SCOUTS OF
AMERICA TROOP ONE OF SAC-
RAMENTO ON ITS 90TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the Boy Scouts of America Troop One of Sacramento as they celebrate their 90th anniversary and ask all of my colleagues to join