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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 10:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

REPRESENTATIVE LEACH FOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNITED NATIONS

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I reflect on the gentleman from Iowa's almost four decades of public service, 30 of them as a distinguished Member of this House of Representatives. I am referring to my friend, JIM LEACH.

For many of the 12,000 men and women privileged to serve in the House of Representatives since the founding of the Republic, their careers are distinguished by service in this Chamber. JIM LEACH is one of those rare individuals for whom Congress itself is distinguished by his service. There is no one from whom I have learned more by his words, his deeds and his friendship. He is one of the few among us who, when he speaks on the floor of the House, people who care about substance listen. He consistently chooses the right words, and invites people to be part of the process. He listens. He is never drawn into petty partisan politics that too often rear their ugly heads.

For 30 years we have been privileged to watch his conscientious and thoughtful work on the Financial Services and International Relations committees. JIM predicted the savings and loan crisis, and was spot on in his observations about American diplomacy from the Middle East to North Korea.

He was always dignified and principled, one of the few people who navigated the legislative halls successfully without being mired in partisan politics.

Indeed, in his congressional campaigns, he refused PAC contributions, didn't want out-of-State donations, he wouldn't run negative ads, and he rejected outside groups who tried to run negative ads on his behalf. He may have actually won his election by playing by the rules widely accepted as the norm and by which most prefer to operate. He may have won, but it wouldn't have been JIM LEACH and we all would have been the poorer.

While Iowa has lost JIM's service to Congress, America need not lose his service, his intellect and his unique talents. Ambassador John Bolton's appointment to the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations expires at the end of the year, and the United States cannot afford a gap in our representation. We desperately need a strong, positive direction to guide multilateral diplomacy in the United Nations.

There is not another American who is better suited to advancing United States interests in that important forum by temperament, experience or intellect than JIM LEACH. Remember, as a young foreign service officer, he actually served at the United Nations under then-ambassador George H.W. Bush before returning to Iowa as part of his family's business, and then on to 30 distinguished years of service in this body.

If anything, JIM may be better suited as a diplomat than at partisan politics. He is the most diplomatic politician I have ever met. Black and white was not JIM's view of the world, especially if grays and even colors were part of the picture.

This week my colleague JIM WALSH and I will be circulating a ''Dear Colleague'' letter to Members of the House of Representatives on both sides of the aisle, a letter that would urge President Bush to consider the appointment of JIM LEACH as our Permanent Representative to the United Nations. It is a nomination that no doubt would be greeted by acclaim. It would pass the United States Senate I predict unanimously, and we would all be the better off.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join us in signing this letter for the nomination of JIM LEACH.

CONSERVATISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, voters did not reject the core values of traditional conservatism: Lower taxes, smaller government, traditional family values, and strong national defense. They did not reject that when they went to the polls on November 7. In the words of George Will, ''Republicans were punished not for pursuing, but for forgetting conservatism.''

This election represents neither a defeat for conservatism nor a victory for liberalism. The American people are a conservative people. While the election results put a majority in power in both the House and Senate for the first time in 12 years, we see that 36 percent of the American electoral describes itself as ''conservative.'' That is double the number that consider themselves ''liberal.'' We are a conservative nation.

A Rasmussen poll conducted after the election found that 61 percent of

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the American people think that higher taxes will hurt the economy. We are a conservative Nation, Madam Speaker. And I would tell you that what the voters said on Election Day is that they want conservative policies in place. Voters opted for the more conservative candidate and more conservative side of most issues. Nine States passed measures to restrict the government's ability to take land through eminent domain, taking private property for government use or public use.

Voters in Colorado, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin passed constitutional amendments to define marriage as between one man and one woman. Now a majority of States have enacted those constitutional protections stopping liberal judges from redefining marriage. We are a conservative Nation, Madam Speaker, and similar amendments on marriage have passed across the country in previous elections and will continue to happen going forward.

Previous Democratic wins in 1974 and 1986 swept into office new and very liberal freshman classes. If we look at the new Democrat freshman class of 2006, they are not liberals, Madam Speaker. What is striking is that this freshman class campaigned as conservatives. In fact, I know of one candidate who went out and advocated for certain principles. They might ring true to me as a Republican. He said he is pro-life, he is pro-gun. He is for traditional marriage, tax cuts, and for balancing the budget and a strong national defense. Sounds like a Republican to me, but he is a registered Democrat.

Pro-life Democrats were elected in North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, just to name a few. Pro-gun Democrats were elected in Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Vermont. Wow, those are conservative principles, and I will tell you that it is a call to conservatives, to Republicans, to be true to those conservative issues we ran on originally.

After the Republicans' last electoral disaster, then-California Governor Ronald Reagan spoke before the Conservative Political Action Conference and said, ''Our people look for a cause to believe in. Is it a third party we need, or is it a new and revitalized second party, raising a banner of no pale pastels, but bold colors, which make it unmistakably clear where we stand on all of the issues troubling the people.''

Madam Speaker, Ronald Reagan said that in 1975. These bold colors underpin our conservative platform, and that is what we must return to as a governing majority in the next election. As Republicans, that is what we should stand for.

Ronald Reagan went on to say, ''We have just heard a call to arms based on that platform, and a call to us to really be successful to communicating and reveal to the American people the difference between this platform and the platform of the opposing party, which is nothing but a revamp and a reissue and a running of a late, late show of the thing that we have been hearing from them for the last 40 years.''

He said that 30 years ago. So I would submit to you today the Democrat platform is just what it has been for the last 70 years, but the new freshman class advocated a platform similar to what the Republicans have been advocating for the last 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I would tell you this election was a wake-up call for us to return to those bold colors and return to conservative values.

WAR ON TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, the people have spoken. The election is over and they have said to us that they have given us their marching orders.

For 40 months American soldiers have been suffering, working, and dying for their country in the Iraq war. Since that day, 2,800 Americans have been killed. More than 20,000 have been wounded, most in gruesome fashion, and we have spent $450 billion when Secretary Wolfowitz told us the Congress would pass only $3 billion in appropriations to fund this curious exercise.

According to the National Intelligence Estimate, we have been made less safe. The other members of the axis of evil, Iran and North Korea, have developed or are developing nuclear weapons. We have forgotten our mission in Afghanistan where a democratically elected government is slowly losing control of the country.

The war in Iraq has produced more terrorists. According to the National Intelligence Estimate, it has found that the Iraq war has created more terrorists and terrorist sympathizers than have been destroyed. Iraq has become the central front in the war on terrorism, simply because this administration has made it so.

Vice President CHENEY said the insurgency was on its last throes, and more Americans die every month than did when the actual war itself was going on. Again, the National Intelligence Estimates said that fanatical terrorism has metastasized and spread across the globe.

At each and every turning point: The toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue; the dissolving the Iraqi Army; the creation of the Iraqi constitution; the vote for the constitution; the parliamentary elections; the capture of Saddam; or the death of Zarqawi, the Bush administration has told us victory is at hand.

Meanwhile, the bloodshed intensifies, hope dims, and more Americans come home with terrible wounds or in body bags.

Madam Speaker, this Nation has to have a plan and it is time that the President, whose war this is, come forward with such plan as to how we can win. Staying the course has failed. Americans will support what has to be done to get us out with honor and dignity and to win. Now the President can claim that he has the power to do these things, and clearly under the Constitution he does; but the President also has the duty to come forward with a plan that can be understood, accepted, carried out, implemented and successful for the American people.

If we are committed to staying in Iraq, the President must face the American people and adequately prepare them for the truth: The truth that his desires for Iraq will take more soldiers, more money, and cost more lives.

The American people respect and admire leadership and honesty. They admired it in Roosevelt, in Truman and in Ronald Reagan. Honesty begins with making an honest accounting of the costs and coming forward with a truthful statement of where we are and what we must do. If this Nation needs more equipment for our soldiers or needs more soldiers over there, then we must be told that and the President must face that, and we must do what has to be done to see to it that we have the proper forces there to prevail.

This war is being charged to our children and grandchildren. We need to examine whether or not it is just and proper for us to do that. We must pursue with vigor the diplomatic front. The countries in the area must be involved, and certainly little sign of that taking place is visible to all of us.

We have to swallow our pride. Let us talk to everyone, reengage the Syrians and the Iranians, in addition to those countries who are our allies in the region. And as we approach the fourth year of this war, and it must be observed that is longer than we were committed to the war in Europe in 1945, Syria and Iran have to be explored as possible participants in the solution to the problems which exist there.

The President must look the American people directly in the eye and he must deal honestly with our people. He must provide the generals with what they need and not shortchange our troops. We have only one option, and that is to either win or to get out.

Mr. President, your country asks you if Iran is so central to our security in the future, why haven't you made it possible to win and why have you not provided our military with the assets and the strategy that they need to win at the earliest time?

I was a soldier in World War II. Our purpose then was to win quickly, to win strongly, and to do so at the least cost to our people. Victory was our goal, and we were committed to it and we worked for it.

In this world the only thing that will count in this matter is success. In this war there has not been strong leadership from the White House to achieve

our goals. As the President dithers, American soldiers are killed and maimed. Let's win or get out.

REMEMBERING BOB GOLDWATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning in remembrance of a great American and great Arizonan, Bob Goldwater. If the last name sounds familiar, it should. The brother of Arizona's favorite son, Bob Goldwater labored alongside his brother in the family business in Phoenix, Goldwater's Department Store, and Bob was his own unique contributor to his brother Barry's political success and to the continued success of Goldwater's Department Store.

Bob Goldwater possessed a laconic wit. Madam Speaker, in my first campaign for public office, I was honored to have Bob Goldwater and former Governor Jack Williams, and the former Republican leader of this House, John J. Rhodes, cosponsor an event for me in the White Mountains of Arizona. This was at a time when I aspired to represent the Sixth Congressional District, an area in square mileage almost the size of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and so to get from suburban Phoenix up to the White Mountains was quite an undertaking that was made a bit more difficult by an incredible thunderstorm because this was during what we call the monsoon season in the summertime in Arizona.

The late great Governor Williams, a former broadcaster, was a stickler for time. The event was supposed to start at 7 p.m. I blew in the door at 7:05. There stood Governor Williams and Leader Rhodes and brother Goldwater. Governor Williams said, ''HAYWORTH, 7:00; it's 7:05,'' to which Bob Goldwater replied, ''Oh, heck, keep your shirt on, Jack, booze isn't going to spoil.''

At the memorial service for his brother Barry, Bob Goldwater spoke not only of Barry Goldwater, the public servant, but of Barry, his brother. He reminisced how both he and Barry played for their church in a youth basketball league and how Barry suggested that the jerseys they wore should bear the letter ''P.'' Bob recalled that he asked Barry why, and Barry responded, ''You know, Bob, P for 'Piscopalian.'''

Perhaps a function of age and time, but the passing of other noteworthy Arizonans would bring Bob Goldwater into the public eye and he, above all other Arizonans, could deliver a heartfelt, humorous, poetic and practical remembrance. I don't have those abilities here today, but I just felt compelled in a moment perhaps of personal indulgence but perhaps more accurately a moment of official reflection, to bring notice to the passing of Bob Goldwater, bring insight into the very human and humorous way he described others.

And also, to make this note: To my knowledge, Bob Goldwater never ran for public office, although he hailed from an Arizona family synonymous with public service. A lesson that has been impressed upon me through the years and especially in recent days is this fact, that public service is not always defined by public office, that it is what a person does in his fellowship of faith, in his community, in his business that can distinguish that person, a good lesson to remember in these days, a lesson typified by the life and times of Bob Goldwater.

Madam Speaker, those of us who knew Bob count ourselves not lucky but blessed to have a man who championed the success of his brother politically but added immeasurably to the lives of Arizonans in terms of commerce and public service, and as the father of our Phoenix Open.

Rest in peace, Bob Goldwater, you won't be forgotten.

AUTHORIZING GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE LOWER PRICES WITH DRUG COMPANIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, last week America went to the polls and sent Washington a message that they wanted a new direction. Unfortunately, when it comes to the Bush administration, it seems as though the voters' call for change has fallen upon deaf ears.

Yesterday, the New York Times reported that the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike Leavitt, were ''strenuously opposed to legislation that would authorize the government to negotiate with drug companies to secure lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries.''

This is not groundbreaking news. They have said all along that they oppose negotiated prices in the Medicare program. Still, given the outcome of last week's election, it is disappointing that this administration would not even take a moment to reconsider its misguided policies.

Mr. Levitt went on to say, ''I don't believe I can do a better job than an efficient market.'' I agree that the secretary hasn't done such a good job so far, but he shouldn't get too down on himself, he is not entirely to blame. His Republican friends here in Congress have kept him from realizing his potential by legally prohibiting him from negotiating with drug makers.

However, if a Democratic Congress passed a law granting him authority to negotiate prices with drug manufacturers, I am certain we could achieve enormous savings in the Medicare program which could be passed on to America's elderly and disabled in the form of more generous coverage. Indeed, there is a lot of evidence to support this conclusion.

Take, for instance, a study considered earlier this year by the consumer group FamiliesUSA. They compared prices under private prescription drug plans participating in Medicare part D to the prices available through the Department of Veterans Affairs' health system. Their research showed that the government could help lower costs substantially. From November 2005 to April 2006, FamiliesUSA found that virtually all of the part D plans raised their prices for the majority of the top 20 drugs in this study. The median price increase among part D plans for the top 20 drugs prescribed to seniors was 3.7 percent.

Furthermore, for all of the top 20 drugs prescribed to seniors, VA prices in April were lower than the lowest prices charged by part D plans. The median price difference was 46 percent. In other words, Madam Speaker, for half of the 20 drugs, the lowest price charged by any part D plan was at least 46 percent higher than the lowest price secured for the VA. This is what the secretary must be referring to when he talks about the magic of the market.

My Republican friends argue that allowing the secretary to negotiate lower drug prices cannot actually work because the government will act to set prices. This is just more of the same old excuses we have been hearing all along. The truth of the matter is that the President, Secretary Leavitt, and Republicans in Congress are opposed to negotiated prices simply because they want to preserve the profits of the pharmaceutical industry which this program was really written for.

I have to be honest here. The American taxpayer is being ripped off by the Republican prescription drug law. Pharmaceutical companies have reaped record profits since Medicare part D was implemented while the American taxpayer has been left holding the bill.

Before the Republican law went into effect this year, more than 6.5 million low-income Americans received help for their prescription drug bills through Medicaid. Under the Medicaid system, however, States can purchase drugs at the lowest available prices or the best price. While this was good news for the taxpayer, it certainly cut into the profit margins of the pharmaceutical industry. So now those same 6.5 million Americans have been moved into the Republican prescription drug plan. They are no longer receiving the lower prices, and the higher costs, adding up to as much as $2 billion this year alone, will be passed on to the American taxpayer.

This is why American voters rejected the Republican platform last week. Republican policies over the past decade have served special interests like the pharmaceutical industry, and now the American taxpayer is paying the price. Clearly voters are fed up, and they

want us in Washington to implement change. Democrats are going to heed their call, Madam Speaker.

We have said from the beginning of our campaign for a new direction that one of the first things we will do when we take back the House is to pass a law that will authorize the government to negotiate lower drug prices. We intend to live up to that promise. The savings from that program can be used to help eliminate the infamous ''doughnut hole'' that millions of seniors have fallen into over the past few months.

While the President and his cronies are threatening to oppose such legislation, I think they would be better served to reconsider. It is time for us to take a long and hard look at the Medicare part D program and see where we can make some improvements. Democrats are not calling for repeal of this law, but we are calling for some changes, changes that the American voters clearly support. I hope that my Republican friends will join us as we work together to improve the Medicare program on behalf of America's seniors.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

God of power and mercy, You are Lord of all creation, yet You bend to every human need, and are always attentive to our prayer. Bless this Nation and the endeavors of Congress today. Give us freedom of spirit and health of mind and body that we may serve the people we represent and work to establish the values of Your kingdom here on Earth.

May your revealed presence in our midst carry over to the way we deal with one another in mutual respect, and confront the problems we face together. We pray, calling upon Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STUPAK 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.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to work together to provide effective immigration reform. I am pleased the Secure Fence Act of 2006 was signed into law. Securing our borders must be our first step to stop the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.

One thing is clear, we must work to uphold the law. Congress must not provide a path to citizenship or any type of amnesty for those who have crossed our borders illegally. In 1986, Congress passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill that included amnesty.

This was a failure. It did not reduce illegal immigration or permanently solve any of the immigration problems we face today. Rather, it provided the incentive to come here legally by rewarding illegal aliens with amnesty.

As Members of Congress, we took an oath to uphold and defend our laws in the Constitution. There is a solution to the problem of illegal immigration, but the answer is not to reward those who violated the laws of the United States.

9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on November 7, the American people voted resoundingly in favor of a Congress that would make implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission a top priority. They voted for a Democratic Congress.

For months, the Republican leadership in this body has sat on the 41 recommendations the 9/11 Commission gave for improving the security of our Nation. The Republican Congress did nothing when the expert bipartisan group released a scathing report card on the lack of progress that has been made and gave our government Ds and Fs for failing to take steps necessary to ensure we would never face another tragedy like 9/11.

Democrats believe it is unacceptable that 5 years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks our Nation's first responders are still without interoperable radios and have planes flying across our country that are loaded with cargo that is rarely ever inspected.

Madam Speaker, Democrats know how important it is for us to make our Nation as safe as possible. That is why we will implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission next year so that we can be better prepared to protect our Nation against potential terrorist attack. I know, as I was a first responder for 11 years.

VETERANS ESTABLISH FREEDOM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this past weekend we celebrated Veterans Day, and it is appropriate to acknowledge today that because of our veterans, freedom and democracy are more widely spread than ever before.

Fifty million people have been liberated by our courageous troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Last week was the 17th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, confirming the success of President Ronald Reagan. From Estonia to Bulgaria, from Mongolia to Hungary, hundreds of millions of people have emerged from communism and are now free.

Earlier this year I visited Liberia, which is still celebrating the election of the first female African leader. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected after the dictator Charles Taylor fled at the urging of President Bush.

Today, America's veterans can be prouder than ever of their success as they are freeing oppressed people around the world.

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

THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM DESERVE OUR HELP

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, permanent trade relations for Vietnam was brought before the House with no committee hearings and under suspension of the rules. I spoke against the bill and demanded a rollcall vote, and last night the bill failed to get the necessary two-thirds, so it was defeated.

Now, the people of Vietnam deserve our help. The United States actually has a moral obligation of a long-standing nature with respect to Vietnam that we don't really need to elaborate on, because we understand what this Nation did to Vietnam. If you care about Vietnam, you should care to know that the permanent trade relations would have this effect, this bill. It would cause millions of peasants to be thrown off the land as agricultural supports are withdrawn.

Millions of workers losing their jobs at State enterprises wither in the face of foreign competition or downsize and

speed up operations in an effort to stay competitive. As a result of these and other factors, there would be a surge in income and wealth inequality, exacerbating dangerous trends already under way.

Until we have a trade policy that has workers rights, human rights and environmental quality principles, all that free trade means for nations like Vietnam is more exploitation of the country and of the workers. That is why we need to vote down this bill when it comes back this week.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CITY OF JOHNS CREEK, GEORGIA

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the mayor and city council and citizens of the newly created City of Johns Creek in Georgia. In accordance with the bill passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, the community of Johns Creek will be officially incorporated as a city on December 1, 2006.

This is a wonderful and gratifying time for the people of Johns Creek. Those residents fought diligently to make this day a reality. They have chosen to honor Mr. Mike Bodker as the first mayor of their new city.

Johns Creek is a vibrant, engaged and dynamic community. They have seized the opportunity to have a more direct impact on their future, and this achievement also comes with many new responsibilities.

I am confident that the citizens will successfully embrace these new challenges, as our 10th largest city, Johns Creek, will also be a leader in our larger Georgia community.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the privilege of bringing the recognition of this House of Representatives as we congratulate the people of Johns Creek, Georgia and wish them the very best during this exciting transition.

AMERICANS DEMANDING CHANGE IN WASHINGTON AND DEMOCRATS BRINGING CIVILITY TO D.C.

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, last week, the American people spoke loudly and clearly. They want a change here in Washington, and they want Democrats and Republicans to work together to solve the problems they confront on a daily basis. During the campaign this year, Democrats promised to change the tone of the debate here in Washington, and work cooperatively on behalf of all Americans.

Because we will not be the party of anger politics, Democrats will honor our pledge. We will treat the Republicans in the minority in a manner compatible with the interests of the voting public. In the past, Democrats have been shut out of the debate. This is not how a Democratic form of government is supposed to work.

But the campaign is over, and we are not going to focus on the past. Democrats pledge, therefore, to preside over the most open and honest Congress in history. We want to pass solid ethics legislation that the public is actually demanding. We are here to represent only our constituents, and we need to make that clear.

Madam Speaker, change is coming to Washington.

ED DAVIS TRIBUTE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Admiral Chester Nimitz, in describing the bravery of Americans battling for Iwo Jima, said, ''Uncommon valor was a common virtue.''

Captain Ed Davis, who died last week at age 67, was a man of most uncommon valor. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Davis was shot down over Vietnam in 1965, and he would spend the next 7½ years as a prisoner in Hanoi.

When finally released from captivity, he said, ''When I first saw that flag''—meaning the U.S. flag—''I knew it was all worth it.''

To those of us who knew him, his death is a great loss. But his passing is also a great loss to the country he loved.

Captain Davis won three silver stars, the Legion of Merit with Combat Citation, five air medals, two purple hearts, as well as numerous other honors both military and civilian.

Our thoughts and our prayers and those of a grateful Nation go out to his family. May he rest in peace.

IRAQ

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, last week the American people voted for new ideas and a new direction in Iraq. Changing the Secretary of Defense was a good first step, but we have a long way to go, and the situation is getting worse.

Last week, I went to Amman, Jordan, to listen to a cross-section of moderate secular leaders from the region. They gave me their ideas for stabilizing Iraq. It is a way forward and it comes from the people in the region closest to the chaos.

These leaders believe the U.S. should redeploy our soldiers to the borders between Iraq and Syria and Iraq and Iran. These leaders believe strategic redeployment can stop the infiltration of violence and get U.S. soldiers out of harm's way in Baghdad.

The leaders gave me a four-point plan they believe will save American and Iraqi lives and their country. Strategic redeployment is a key element. We should do it.

In medicine, doctors are taught to listen to the patient. The saying is, ''Listen to the patient. He's telling you what's the matter.'' Too often we have gone in like a doctor who had an idea that they knew what was wrong and how to fix it.

We, the Congress, must listen to those moderate secular leaders in Iraq.

ISSUES FACING TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 22

(Ms. SEKULA GIBBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. My name is SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS. I am the new Congressmember from Texas Congressional District 22.

As the winner of the special election, I promise to roll up my sleeves and work hard over the next 2 months to move our country forward and to support the hardworking people in my district who have put their faith in me.

Some of the key issues for my district are:

Reducing the size of government and lowering taxes; to help seniors in their search for more choice and security in health care and have a stable source of funding for Medicare; to enhance Ellington Field as the linchpin of homeland security for the Houston region; to also help fund NASA/Johnson Space Center, the return to the Moon and onward to our voyage to Mars. Space is at the epicenter of our Nation's future.

As a physician, wife and mother who respects life from conception to natural death, I look for ways to support the sanctity of life.

Texas shares a long border with our neighboring country Mexico. I will work to honor my commitment to the people of my district by seeking ways to stop illegal immigration while streamlining the process of legal immigration.

I look forward to serving the district and the opportunity to serve my Nation.

□ 1115

DEMOCRATS TO REINSTATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO REQUIREMENTS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, for too long in this country Republicans have governed without a strong dedication to fiscal responsibility and without using the pay-as-you-go method. The President and his friends here in Congress

have squandered the Clinton administration's projected 10-year surplus of $5.6 trillion and have put us into a projected deficit of $3.5 trillion.

Last Tuesday, the American people told the Republicans that enough is enough and demanded a change in the way that Congress does business. They voted in a Democratic majority to return our country to a path of strong fiscal responsibility and back to the pay-as-you-go system.

Madam Speaker, the current Republican leadership has incurred more foreign debt in these 6 years than the previous 42 Presidents combined incurred. When we assume the majority in January, Democrats are committed to fiscal responsibility, and we will reinstate pay-as-you-go, working effectively as we did in the 1990s when President Clinton and the Congress balanced the budget.

MAKING IT FIRM THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO BE IN AMERICA WITHOUT PERMISSION

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, according to the Dallas Morning News, ''Farmers Branch, Texas, on Monday adopted strict measures against illegals, requiring apartment renters to provide proof of citizenship or residency and making English the city's official language.''

''The city also unanimously agreed to let police apply to participate in a Federal program that would enable them to check the residency status of suspects that they arrest and initiate deportation proceedings in certain cases. These measures, believed to be the first of their kind in the State of Texas, brought cheers from some supporters, but sparked anger among some Hispanics.''

Madam Speaker, cities across the Nation are taking positive action in dealing with illegals. These are commonsense steps the Federal Government has refused to take for political reasons.

Of course, the pro-illegal immigrant crowd has threatened lawsuits. It seems odd that illegals can use American courts to prevent cities from enforcing laws against illegal entry.

The example of Farmers Branch, Texas, is a statement that cities cannot and will not continue to bear the costs in education, health care and social services of illegals. This Nation must be firm that it is illegal to be in America without permission.

And that's just the way it is.

PROVIDING PROPER OVERSIGHT OF THE ADMINISTRATION

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the war in Iraq, congressional Republicans have refused to provide any oversight of the Bush administration in its handling of the war.

When no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq, House Republicans refused to investigate how the intelligence could have been so bad.

When the administration sent our troops into combat without the proper body armor, House Republicans refused to hold anyone in the administration accountable.

When milestone after milestone passed without things getting better in Iraq, congressional Republicans refused to hold oversight hearings and allowed the Bush administration to continue with the status quo when a change was clearly needed.

Today, our Nation desperately needs for Congress to do its job and provide real oversight of the administration. When Democrats take control of Congress in January, we vow to provide proper oversight of the actions of this administration. It is something that is required of us all by the U.S. Constitution.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO HELP LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PRICES FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, millions of American seniors are trying to make the best of the Medicare prescription drug plan that congressional Republicans and President Bush signed into law 3 years ago.

Today, seniors are demanding changes in this program. They want a plan that does not create a giant gap in coverage, where they can lose coverage for months on end and where they still must pay their monthly payments.

The giant doughnut hole, as we call it, leaves many seniors in the predicament of paying for groceries, paying their rent or the drugs they need to live healthier and longer lives. They may cut their pills into two or take them every second or third day. That is a recipe for disaster, and this is not a decision that seniors should have to make in America today.

Democrats have long opposed this doughnut hole, and one of our top priorities next year is to eliminate it by making prescription drugs cheaper. How are we going to do this? It is simple. We are going to do the same thing the Veterans Administration does today, and that is, give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate on behalf of all seniors for lower drug prices.

Today, American veterans pay 42 percent less for their drugs because of this negotiating authority. If we make prescription drugs cheaper, we can fill in the doughnut hole so seniors no longer fall into it. This is one of our top priorities as we become the majority party in Congress next year.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO WORK WITH REPUBLICANS TO HELP MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, now that the elections are over, it is time for Democrats and Republicans to come together to work in a bipartisan fashion to help all Americans.

Throughout this year, Democrats have talked about a forward-looking agenda, one that encompasses all Americans. We want to expand economic opportunity to millions of Americans who have been left behind by increasing the minimum wage for the first time in 9 years. We want to expand educational opportunities to teens who want to attend college, by cutting interest rates on student loans so that they can better afford college. We also want to help seniors better afford their prescription drugs by cutting drug prices and filling the doughnut hole.

Democrats touted these plans, but that doesn't mean Republicans can't join us in implementing them when the new Congress convenes in January. Raising the minimum wage, helping college students better afford their education and helping seniors pay for their prescription drugs is something we all, Democrats and Republicans alike, should be interested in. We will have the opportunity to follow through on this agenda in January.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 860. An act to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas.

H.R. 5842. An act to compromise and settle all claims in the case of Pueblo of Isleta v. United States, to restore, improve, and develop the valuable on-reservation land and natural resources of the Pueblo, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3501. An act to amend the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement Act to establish an acquisition fund for the water rights and habitat acquisition program.

S. 3687. An act to waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EXTEND CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS OF LAW

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6314) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law and to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6314

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS OF LAW ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR PARTICIPATION IN DOD CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE TESTING.—Section 1710(e)(3)(D) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''December 31, 2005'' and inserting ''December 31, 2007''.

(b) GRANT AND PER DIEM GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2011(a)(2) of such title is amended by striking ''September 30, 2005'' and inserting ''September 30, 2007''.

(c) TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2031(b) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2006'' and inserting ''December 31, 2007''.

(d) ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR HOMELESS AND SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL VETERANS.—Section 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2006'' and inserting ''December 31, 2007''.

(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2066(d) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2006'' and inserting ''December 31, 2007''.

(f) GOVERNMENT MARKERS IN PRIVATE CEMETERIES.—Section 2306(d)(3) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2006'' and inserting ''December 31, 2007''.

(g) ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE FOR WORK-STUDY.—Section 3485(a)(4) of such title is amended in subparagraphs (A), (C), and (F) by striking ''December 27, 2006'' and inserting ''June 30, 2007''.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section 3501(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a semicolon;

(3) by striking '', or'' at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting a semicolon;

(4) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting ''; or''; and

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) the spouse or child of a person who at the time of application by such spouse or child for educational assistance under this chapter is a member of the Armed Forces who, as determined by the Secretary, has a total disability permanent in nature incurred or aggravated in the active military, naval, or air service;''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is further amended—

(1) in section 3511—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) by striking ''Each eligible person'' and inserting the following: ''Each eligible person, whether made eligible by one or more of the provisions of section 3501(a)(1) of this title,'';

(ii) by striking ''a period'' and inserting ''an aggregate period''; and

(iii) by striking the second sentence;

(B) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''section 3501(a)(1)(D)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (D) or (E) of section 3501(a)(1)''; and

(C) in subsection (c), by striking ''or 3501(a)(1)(D)(i)'' and inserting ''3501(a)(1)(D)(i), or 3501(a)(1)(E)'';

(2) in section 3512—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''an eligible person (within the meaning of section 3501(a)(1)(A) of this title)'' and inserting ''an eligible person whose eligibility is based on the death or disability of a parent'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(I) by inserting after ''section 3501(a)(1) of this title'' the following: ''or a person made eligible by the disability of a spouse under section 3501(a)(1)(E) of this title'';

(II) by striking ''or 3501(a)(1)(D)(ii) of this title'' and inserting ''3501(a)(1)(D)(ii), or 3501(a)(1)(E) of this title'';

(ii) in paragraph (1)(B), by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) The date on which the Secretary notifies the member of the Armed Forces from whom eligibility is derived that the member has a total disability permanent in nature incurred or aggravated in the active military, naval, or air service.''; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or (D) of this title'' and inserting ''(D), or (E) of this title'';

(3) in section 3540, by striking ''and (D)'' and inserting ''(D), and (E)'';

(4) in section 3563, by striking ''each eligible person defined in section 3501(a)(1)(A) of this title'' and inserting the following: ''each eligible person whose eligibility is based on the death or disability of a parent'';

(5) in section 3686(a)(1), by striking ''or (D)'' and inserting ''(D), or (E)''; and

(6) in section 5113(b)(3)(B), by striking ''or (D)'' and inserting ''(D), or (E)''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a payment of educational assistance for a course of education pursued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise and urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 6314, a bill that would extend several existing Department of Veterans Affairs benefits provisions.

This bill will extend these provisions of health care services to veterans exposed by chemical and biological testing under Projects 112 and SHAD, and treatment and rehabilitation programs for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans until December 31, 2007. The bill would also extend VA's homeless grant and per diem programs until September 30, 2007, and extend additional services for mentally ill and homeless veterans until December 31, 2007. It would extend VA's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans, as well as the program which is providing government markers in private cemeteries until that date.

The work/study provisions of the legislation allowing veterans to assist VA and other government agencies would be extended until June 30, 2007. The work/study program is an increasingly popular benefit that provides veterans with an alternative use of their GI Bill if they choose not to go to college.

The bill also provides education benefits for the family members of severally injured veterans who are undergoing long-term convalescence while on active duty. Spouses and children of servicemembers who are determined by the VA to be permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected cause or causes would be eligible to receive Chapter 35 education benefits while the servicemember is still on active duty while undergoing treatment. This Chapter 35 provision would enable spouses and dependent children of severely wounded servicemembers to access their Dependents' Educational Assistance benefits while the servicemember is going through extended convalescence prior to discharge.

Under the current law, these beneficiaries must wait until the member is discharged, and since the spouses of these members most often become the primary breadwinner, I believe it is important to give them as much of a headstart as possible on becoming more competitive in the job market. The amount of the benefit remains the same.

I thank the Blinded Veterans Association for bringing this important issue to the attention of myself and members of the committee. We met with Army Sergeant 1st Class Jeffrey Mittman and his wife Christine. Sergeant 1st Class Mittman was blinded by an IED and is undergoing extensive rehabilitation and facial reconstruction.

Madam Speaker, this young soldier is articulate, has a very positive outlook on his life and is truly an inspiration. One look at his wife and you can immediately pick up the burdens she is bearing in caring not only for her husband, but also for her children. His wife Christy is a model of the love and support that she is providing to her husband as they face these challenges together. In fact, I think of this as the Christine Mittman provision, a provision not only that would help Christy, but also other spouses lessen the financial stress.

So, in essence, while Christy is providing leadership and mentoring for her children, caring for her husband instead of waiting until he completes all of the facial reconstruction and rehabilitation necessary, she can start her educational opportunities now.

I think this is the right thing to do. We all know he is going to be 100 percent disabled. She wants to become a nurse, so let's give her and others who are likewise situated to have these opportunities.

Madam Speaker, the committee is currently also undergoing bipartisan negotiations on a number of bills, not only with my House counterparts, but also with the Senate counterparts.

Among these bills are H.R. 3082, the Veterans Small Business and Memorial Affairs Act of 2006. It passed the House on July 24, 2006. We have informally been discussing provisions since July 28. The bill improves the status of veterans and disabled veterans small businesses when competing for contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs. It allows Tribal government to participate in the VA's State Cemetery Grants Programs, authorizes the VA Secretary to provide the family of a veteran interred in a private cemetery with government markers, which we are doing now. It also requires the Veterans Employment Training Service, otherwise known as VETS, to establish nonmandatory guidelines for disabled veterans outreach programs. There are a lot of things in this bill, and I am hopeful we are going to get this done and negotiated.

There is another bill, H.R. 4061, the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Management Improvement Act. It would centralize VA's IT organizational structure so that it reports directly to the Department's chief information officer.

Ultimately, the bill would empower the CIO with the authority over the IT budgets, equipment and personnel. While the House passed this bill with widespread bipartisan support, and I appreciate the leadership of Mr. FILNER and others on this legislation, the Senate is even yet to take action on that bill.

There is another bill, H.R. 5815, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2006, that would ensure that we will efficiently provide the right facilities with the right places for veterans' health care. Given the current veteran population and those which we can expect in the coming years, it would authorize $2.5 billion for major implementation projects and $51 million for facilities leases. This is an important bill, and we are getting close on these negotiations.

We have another bill, H.R. 5835, the Veterans Identity and Credit Security Act, as amended. This bill requires notification to Congress and individuals in the event of a data breach. All of us Members understand and remember the data breach.

□ 1130

And we had extensive oversight on the committee. Mr. FILNER and I were able to lead over eight hearings in a 6-week time frame, and we are perfecting change in our cooperation with the administration. This is a good bill and I am hopeful that we can get this bill done.

This bill also included a scholarship and loan repayment program to provide the Secretary with a recruitment and retention tool to attract qualified people in the areas of information technology and management so they can work in these security areas. As I said, this bill received widespread bipartisan support here in the House and I am most hopeful that we can move to the Senate and achieve our work.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am also pleased to rise in support of H.R. 6314, which would, as we have heard, extend expired and expiring authorization for the Department of Veterans' Affairs and expand eligibility for survivor and dependent educational assistance.

I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), the chairman of our committee, and my other colleagues for working together on this very important legislation. I also would like to remind us all of the work of Ranking Member LANE EVANS. His integrity, leadership, and advocacy for veterans will be missed as we move into the next session of Congress.

This bill extends important authorities for the Department of Veterans Affairs to take care of our veterans. From 1962 through 1973, the Department of Defense conducted biological and chemical warfare tests on active duty servicemembers. These tests were known as Project 112 and Project SHAD. The Department of Defense has acknowledged that it did not keep patient care records to archive health effects of the tests nor did they get, I am sure, informed consent on these tests.

Just recently, in 2003, in response to concerns from veterans that their illnesses may be a result of these exposures, Congress did act. We authorized the VA to provide priority care to veterans who participated in these tests and did not require them to provide medical evidence that any of the illnesses are attributable to the testing.

This legislation before us today does the right thing for these veterans. It would extend the VA's authority to provide priority care for them through the end of next year.

I am disappointed that we have not extended VA's authority to give priority care to veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. Just like those veterans who were subject to Project 112 and Project SHAD tests, veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and probably got cancers and other maladies as a result deserve priority care, which may be a result of this exposure. They have provided service to the Nation. They were not given full information. They deserve our help and care today.

The administration has requested that we extend VA's authority with respect to veterans exposed to Agent Orange, and I will work certainly in the next Congress to pass that extension.

The bill today also helps the over 200,000 male and female veterans who each night are sleeping in a doorway, under a bridge, in an alley, a box, a barn, a car, or a homeless shelter. Through a network of local nonprofit or public agencies, VA's grant and per diem program for homeless veterans offers homeless veterans a safe haven that is free of drugs and alcohol.

Last year roughly 300 programs across the Nation were able to give 14,000 homeless vets the help they needed to recover, rehabilitate, and obtain the skills necessary to reintegrate back into society. This legislation means that the VA can continue to support these hundreds of community shelters. But let me remind us all, as I will continue to do next year, that this covers barely 5 percent of the homeless veterans. We owe as a Nation help and care to the almost 200,000 others that remain on the streets tonight.

This bill extends the authority to treat seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans. More than one out of three veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who have turned to the VA for health care has received an initial diagnosis for a mental health disorder. Many more have such a disorder but did not come to the VA. Many did not check the boxes that would indicate this because they just want to get home to their families. We have a lot of work to do in this country to help those with mental health disorders.

This bill, though, will ensure that the VA has the authority it needs to provide our recent veterans, as well as veterans from previous conflicts, with this mental health care that they need.

As the chairman said, this legislation also extends certain work study opportunities for veterans who are students through June of 2007. Helping veterans who are attending college or vocational training to earn while they learn makes good sense. This bill will allow veterans who are students to receive work study allowances for working at VA hospitals and domiciliaries, at State veterans homes, and at national and State veterans cemeteries. While I am disappointed that we could not extend authority for this program beyond next June, I am glad that this legislation will allow veterans who are participating in this program to continue through the end of their academic year.

A small number of permanently and totally disabled servicemembers are kept on active duty status to help them recover and rehabilitate from their injuries. When these servicemembers are discharged, their spouses and dependent children are then eligible for VA's educational assistance program. This bill, though, accelerates eligibility in cases where a disability rating of permanent and total disability is delayed because the servicemember has not officially yet been discharged from

military service. I am proud and I am grateful that this legislation will help families of these very severely wounded veterans by providing early education benefits.

I appreciate the chairman's enumerating other bills that need to pass through the Senate. As he said, a lot of good things are waiting. And this is one of them. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6314.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend Mr. FILNER for his comments.

You are absolutely right. We have a lot of good work product that hopefully we can get done.

At this point I would like to yield 2 minutes to a friend of America's veterans, the Honorable MICHAEL BILIRAKIS. MICHAEL will be retiring and leaving us here at the end of this Congress, and his work and leadership will be missed.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BUYER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I don't know if this is the last statement that Mr. BILIRAKIS will make on the floor, but I just want to say how much we all appreciate your work. We are looking forward to another Bilirakis joining us. But your advocacy on areas such as no offsets between pension and disability that we call concurrent receipt, you kept that issue alive and made sure that we would do justice. So we want to thank you for that. And we want to thank you for the civility that you have exhibited through your whole career and especially on this committee, which sometimes especially this gentleman needed.

So we hope that you have a good retirement, Mr. BILIRAKIS. We will be missing you, but we really appreciate your service to this committee and to this Nation.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. We will have one more opportunity, I am hopeful, to speak about Mr. BILIRAKIS' efforts.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank you, BOB, for those kind comments and also the chairman.

I do rise in support of H.R. 6314, introduced by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs chairman, STEVE BUYER.

For the past 24 years, Madam Speaker, I have had the pleasure of serving in this body and also the honor, true honor, of being a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. During that service I have helped create and advance numerous programs that benefit our Nation's veterans. This Congress, as chairman of the committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I have monitored and scrutinized billions of dollars of programs and projects that benefit veterans.

Today I stand before you and ask that we extend expiring provisions of current law that provide health care, housing, educational, and other assistance that help veterans and their families. By supporting H.R. 6314, we will ensure the continuation of many of the programs and benefits that our Nation's veterans have earned.

H.R. 6314 is an important bill that is truly worthy of our full support. I urge my colleagues to continue meeting our obligations to our Nation's defenders by approving this measure.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD).

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his time. I also want to thank Mr. BILIRAKIS for his time here working in a strong bipartisan manner on veterans issues.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6314. I commend the chairman of the committee, STEVE BUYER, for his work on this legislation. This bill does deserve bipartisan support.

As a member of this committee and as citizens, we are united in our dedication to address the needs of veterans and their families. Ensuring that the Department of Veterans Affairs has the authority and resources to provide veterans with the medical care and benefits they have earned is a mission that we will continue in the next Congress.

H.R. 6314 is an important bill with a number of must-pass provisions. This legislation improves transition assistance for severely disabled service personnel. It is important that we do all we can to help the individuals and their families to regain their independence and economic security. This legislation also puts VA's specialized programs for homeless veterans on a more secure footing.

I am proud that this Congress is acting to extend the soon-to-expire authorization of VA's grant and per diem program for homeless veterans. I am glad that we are extending the authorization for VA's treatment of severely mentally ill veterans. By acting to reauthorize these fundamental VA programs, we give veterans and their families hope for recovery and having a better life.

Extending the authorization for these programs until the end of 2007 is an important first step, but it is not enough. In our great Nation, it is unacceptable that even one veteran should be homeless or go hungry. I am shocked that last year the VA's health care program for homeless veterans served nearly 600 veterans who returned from Iraq and Afghanistan. It is troubling that more than one in three returning veterans who come home to the VA for medical care has received an initial diagnosis for a mental health disorder. Homeless veterans and those with psychological wounds should not be left behind. They have served our Nation and deserve a rich and full life. In this Congress I introduced legislation to improve VA's capacity to help homeless veterans recover, rehabilitate, and return to a full life in our society. I plan to reintroduce my bill in the next Congress to help homeless veterans. We must keep the faith that we can end homelessness among veterans.

This September, the Health Care Subcommittee heard about how posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries are emerging concerns for veterans from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. I support H.R. 6314 because it helps keep our promise to veterans with these injuries. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs and this Congress must continue to address veterans' mental health care needs in the future. Next Congress I plan to reintroduce an updated version of Ranking Member LANE EVANS' comprehensive bill on mental health. LANE EVANS has been a great leader and mentor. His legacy is measured in the millions of veterans and their families who have benefited from his determination to fight for the needs of veterans. I will deeply miss him and so will this institution.

I also want to thank Chairman BROWN for his work in a bipartisan manner on issues dealing with veterans affairs. I enjoyed his service and will look forward to working with him in the upcoming Congress.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill. I want to thank Mr. FILNER for his leadership on this legislation as well.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6314.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the First District of South Carolina, the chairman of the Health Subcommittee, HENRY BROWN.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding this time.

Let me begin by thanking our esteemed committee chairman, Mr. BUYER, for his hard work in this Congress. Under his leadership this committee has fought to do what is right for veterans. And I would like to also extend my thanks to Mr. MICHAUD, what a great gentleman, the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee. It has been a real pleasure in working with him.

And, Mr. FILNER, we certainly appreciate your leadership on this committee. It has been great working in a nonpartisan fashion. We have always said when you come into that committee room, veterans is a nonpartisan issue, and it is great working in a nonpartisan fashion. I look forward to next year.

I especially want to applaud Chairman BUYER's willingness and attempts to look outside the box and push forward new and innovative initiatives to keep pace with the emerging health care needs of those who have faithfully served this country. The chairman has championed opportunities to improve the quality of the care delivered to our veterans through collaborative partnerships.

Collaboration is becoming increasingly essential in delivering health care across the Nation.

□ 1145

So long as we remain true to the distinct identity of the VA, and so long as we ensure the continued quality associated with VA care, VA collaboration on joint ventures with extensive medical university affiliations and the Department of Defense can be mutually advantageous for all organizations.

I am hopeful that the diligent and bipartisan work of the committee and its jurisdiction over VA construction matters will carry into the next Congress. The bill we are considering today will extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The legislation includes provisions to extend the authority for the grant and per diem assistance programs for homeless veterans and programs for the treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

The VA is the Nation's largest single provider for integrated and specialized services for homeless veterans. On behalf of the homeless veterans who need and depend on the services in achieving successful outcomes, it is our duty to assure that the continuity of these services is not interrupted.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), who is a staunch advocate for the veterans throughout her State, and who is the ranking Democratic member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks, I also would like to thank Chairman BUYER, Ranking Member EVANS, who we will miss very much, and Acting Ranking Member FILNER for moving forward on this bill.

I am supporting this legislation, but I feel that I need to make note of the fact that several of the provisions important to our veterans and their families have already expired. This should not have been allowed to happen.

In addition, there are other provisions that will expire before the end of the year. I want to particularly mention a provision in this legislation which extends through December 31, 2007, the Department of Veterans Affairs authority to provide a grave marker or headstone when a veteran is buried in a marked grave.

Veterans who served our country honorably should not lose their eligibility for recognition in death merely because the grave in which they are buried has a nonmilitary marker. I have a long record of interest in providing the burial benefits provided to our Nation's veterans, and this provision is truly a step in the right direction. We ought to make it permanent.

I joined Chairman MILLER in introducing legislation to extend this authorization. Although the VA and Members on both sides of the aisle supported making the authorization permanent, the committee was not able to fund the cost of a permanent authorization. I hope that we will be able to do so in the next Congress.

Eligibility for a headstone or a marker should not depend on whether a VA marker is provided before or after the placement of a private marker. As I stated, I am supporting this legislation, but I must make note that there are a number of other matters which should be acted on. I am especially disappointed that lease authorization for four clinics in Las Vegas on leases that will soon expire is not included, and it is going to have to be in order to provide health care to the veterans that live in southern Nevada.

Las Vegas' veterans are forced to rely on a string of clinics as the community awaits a new VA medical complex to be completed. It is at least 3 years out from being completed, even though we did break ground in October, which is a step in the right direction.

I have got 80-year-old veterans standing in 110-degree temperature going from clinic to clinic in order to get their health care needs met. That is why we are getting a full-service VA medical complex. But the fact is we need four leases approved by the end of the year. I hope we are going to do that before we recess for the year.

As I stated, Madam Speaker, I do support this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ms. BERKLEY, I want to thank you for your leadership on this bill. Thank you for working with NANCY JOHNSON, JEB BRADLEY. This symbol of honor and remembrance is very important. I want to thank you for that.

Also I want to embrace your words regarding the leases. In the construction bill we have a number of leases, and we need to complete our work. And so I embrace your words. I call on you for your help. The Senate has not been as helpful. You know that is a continuous body over there. We do not know how it is about to be reorganized. We have a lot of our work that needs to be done over the last 2 years, and we cannot let this construction bill die on the vine. We have to complete that work.

If we do not re-up these leases, it is going to cost the Federal Government more money because there are penalty clauses that will go into effect, and we cannot and should not let that happen.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BUYER. I yield to the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. BERKLEY. Well, I want to thank you, Chairman BUYER, thank you for coming to Las Vegas and feeling my pain by the end of the day and appreciating how seriously impacted my veterans are.

I can assure you that I will do everything I can to urge the other body to move in an expeditious way, because you are quite right, we cannot let these leases expire. Thank you very much for your support.

Mr. BUYER. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as vice chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, I rise with very mixed emotion. I am certainly happy that Chairman BUYER is bringing this important bill to the floor that will extend several worthy veterans programs and add a new provision that will improve education opportunities for the spouses and dependents of our severely wounded veterans.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill in a bipartisan manner. However, I am disappointed that to date negotiations with the other body on Chairman BUYER's package of veterans initiatives, which was very, very bipartisan, has produced only limited progress. And there is a real possibility that many good provisions passed by both the House and the other body might not become law.

These bills include improvements to VA medical care, hospital construction and maintenance projects and a wide range of veterans benefits. From my subcommittee's perspective, important improvements include small business and employment legislation that is widely supported by the administration and the veterans community.

For example, our legislation will improve the competitive status of veterans and disabled veteran-owned small businesses seeking to win VA contracts. As the Members know, Public Law 106–50 and Executive Order 13360 direct Federal agencies and departments to award at least 3 percent of Federal contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, service-connected veteran-owned businesses.

To date the only department to make that goal was the Department of State in fiscal year 2004. This is an unacceptable record for a nation whose armed forces are engaged in hostilities as we speak. One of our bills, H.R. 3082, will help rectify that shortfall in at least the Veterans Administration Department.

The small business provisions of H.R. 3082 would provide VA acquisition staff additional tools that would give veterans and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses priority in many VA contract competitions.

The bill would also ensure that surviving spouses who retain control of those businesses after the veteran owner dies continue to enjoy status as a service-disabled veteran-owned business for up to 10 years.

In short, at least at the VA, the veteran business owners will be treated

fairly and enable the VA to set a standard for other Federal agencies. Mr. Speaker, the bill also makes several other improvements to the employment programs operated through the veterans employment and training service at the Department of Labor.

I am especially pleased that H.R. 3082 includes provisions of a bill I introduced to improve licensing and credentialing of veterans based on skills and experience they gained during their military service.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, this is an excellent bill. We need to pass it and make sure that the Senate gets the message loud and clear.

Mr. BUYER. I thank the gentlewoman for her contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the Honorable TIM MURPHY.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important bill the House is now considering to extend a lot of critical services to veterans. I really on behalf of veterans am grateful for the work you have done on this.

Because of this type of bill, it cannot be amended, I would like to bring to your attention an issue that, Mr. Chairman, you and I have discussed, that we all remain very concerned about. That is the security breaches of veterans' personal records.

And if we are not able to pass a bill at this time, perhaps in the coming weeks or at least next year, we really need to be dealing with some of the issues, such as on November 2, a laptop containing 1,600 veterans records was stolen from a Manhattan hospital.

In August a desktop computer was stolen that had 38,000 veterans records, that had detailed records from the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia hospital areas.

Back in May we knew about another laptop computer that contained the personal records of 26 million veterans. I had introduced a bill, H.R. 6109, the Stop Endangering the Records of Veterans Act, or the SERV Act, in September which would require the VA to encrypt all data. I am pleased they are doing that now.

But we also need to have some teeth in this and make sure that those who do not properly protect veterans records, that there are penalties for them, criminal penalties if need be, if through their neglect or carelessness or direct action they cause a veteran's records to be stolen and cause harm from identity theft and just the problems that go with having medical records released.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that you are so concerned about these veterans issues. I don't know if there is time left in this session to deal with these issues. But I hope we can at the very least take this up in the next session. Veterans know that you, Mr. Chairman, have worked so diligently to protect them on so many issues. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these issues, that we can work for our veterans' safety and peace of mind in the future.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I thank the chairman for bringing us this legislation of must-pass authorizations and extensions, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of our time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. FILNER for his cooperation on this bill and other bills. Mr. FILNER, we have got the CIO bill, we have got the cyber security bill. The Senate sent us two health bills, a benefit bill and we have got the construction bill. So all of these are in negotiation with the Senate. It is hard work. It represents 2 years of effort.

Recalling the recent words of my esteemed colleague, NANCY PELOSI, with the creation of this new theme of a bipartisan way for all Americans, let's embrace it. Let's get our work done. We enjoy bipartisanship on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and I wish other committees could see how well we have worked together over the years. I call on leadership of everyone here in the House in dealing with these bills here on veterans affairs to complete our work on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I also call upon the Senate leadership to finish our legislative negotiations. Let's complete our work. Let's not forget our veterans and their families. And, Mr. Speaker, I also call upon the leadership of the veterans service organizations and the military service associations to encourage the Senate leadership to finish our negotiations and again finish the work that we had started on behalf of this Nation's veterans and dependents.

These warriors fought for our freedom. The least we can do is complete our work and provide for them the best care and benefits possible. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Included in H.R. 6314 is a provision to extend, through December 31, 2007, a program that provides government markers for veterans who are buried in a private cemetery.

The current five-year authority, which was effective for deaths that occurred as of September 11, 2001, expires on December 31st of this year.

Prior to this authority, if a veteran was buried at a private cemetery and the family purchased a private headstone, the veteran was ineligible for a government marker.

I want to recognize Representative NANCY JOHNSON, who has been championing this cause for over 5 years.

I appreciate her working with my Subcommittee to ensure that veterans and their families continue to have access to symbolic expressions of remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, as the 109th Congress comes to an end, I want to recognize Representative JEB BRADLEY, the Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, and Ms. SHELLEY BERKLEY, the ranking member, for their active participation on the Subcommittee. We accomplished quite a bit over the past 2 years and I thank them both.

I also want to thank the Subcommittee staffs on both sides of the aisle—Paige McManus, Chris McNamee, and Mary Ellen McCarthy.

Finally, on behalf of the Subcommittee, I commend Chairman BUYER and Ranking Member EVANS for their bipartisan leadership of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill before us.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I have no furthers requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6314.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks relative to the bill which the House just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

□ 1200

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO RAISING AWARENESS AND ENHANCING THE STATE OF COMPUTER SECURITY

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 993) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 993

Whereas over 205,000,000 Americans use the Internet in the United States, including more than 84,000,000 home-users through broadband connections, to communicate with family and friends, manage their finances, pay their bills, improve their education, shop at home, and read about current events;

Whereas the approximately 26,000,000 small businesses in the United States, who represent 99.7 percent of all United States employers and employ 50 percent of the private

work force, increasingly rely on the Internet to manage their businesses, expand their customer reach, and enhance their connection with their supply chain;

Whereas according to the Department of Education, nearly 100 percent of public schools in the United States have Internet access, with approximately 93 percent of instructional rooms connected to the Internet, to enhance our children's education by providing access to educational online content and encouraging responsible self-initiative to discover research resources;

Whereas according to the Pew Institute, almost 9 in 10 teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17, or 87 percent of all youth (approximately 21,000,000 people) use the Internet, and 78 percent (or about 16,000,000 students) say they use the Internet at school;

Whereas teen use of the Internet at school has grown 45 percent since 2000, and educating children of all ages about safe, secure, and ethical practices will not only protect their systems, but will protect our children's physical safety, and help them become good cyber citizens;

Whereas the growth and popularity of social networking websites have attracted millions of teenagers, providing them with a range of valuable services, teens must be taught how to avoid potential threats like cyber bullies, predators and identity thieves they may come across while using such services;

Whereas our Nation's critical infrastructures rely on the secure and reliable operation of our information networks to support our Nation's financial services, energy, telecommunications, transportation, health care, and emergency response systems;

Whereas cyber security is a critical part of our Nation's overall homeland security, in particular the control systems that control and monitor our drinking water, dams, and other water management systems; our electricity grids, oil and gas supplies, and pipeline distribution networks; our transportation systems; and other critical manufacturing processes;

Whereas terrorists and others with malicious motives have demonstrated an interest in utilizing cyber means to attack our Nation, and the Department of Homeland Security's mission includes securing the homeland against cyber terrorism and other attacks;

Whereas Internet users and our information infrastructure face an increasing threat of malicious attacks through viruses, worms, Trojans, and unwanted programs such as spyware, adware, hacking tools, and password stealers, that are frequent and fast in propagation, are costly to repair, and disable entire systems;

Whereas according to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, since February 2005, over 90 million records containing personally-identifiable information have been breached, and the overall increase in serious data breaches in both the private and public sectors are threatening the security and well-being of United States citizens;

Whereas consumers face significant financial and personal privacy losses due to identity theft and fraud, as reported in over 686,000 complaints in 2005 to the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Sentinel database; and Internet-related complaints in 2005 accounted for 46 percent of all reported fraud complaints, with monetary losses of over $680,000,000 and a median loss of $350;

Whereas our Nation's youth face increasing threats online such as inappropriate content or child predators, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 34 percent of teens are exposed to unwanted sexually explicit material on the Internet, and with one in seven children having been approached by a child predator online each year;

Whereas national organizations, policymakers, government agencies, private sector companies, nonprofit institutions, schools, academic organizations, consumers, and the media recognize the need to increase awareness of computer security and enhance our level of computer and national security in the United States;

Whereas the National Cyber Security Alliance's mission is to increase awareness of cyber security practices and technologies to home users, students, teachers, and small businesses through educational activities, online resources and checklists, and Public Service Announcements; and

Whereas the National Cyber Security Alliance has designated October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month, which will provide an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about computer security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month; and

(2) will work with Federal agencies, national organizations, businesses, and educational institutions to encourage the development and implementation of existing and future computer security voluntary consensus standards, practices, and technologies in order to enhance the state of computer security in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H. Res. 993, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 993, a resolution to applaud the goals and activities of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Computers and the Internet have been integrated into our daily routine in businesses, schools and homes. These information and communication systems underpin our government, and they increase the productivity of our industries, financial institutions and transportation systems. However, our increasing dependence on computers and computer networks exposes our society to the risks of cyber attacks, destructive viruses, malicious hacking, and identity theft.

This is why the National Cyber Security Alliance, a cooperative effort between government, academia and industry, has organized National Cyber Security Awareness Month for each of the past 3 years and has already begun planning for the next National Cyber Security Awareness Month in October 2007. As is only proper for a cyber security-related effort, there is a central Web site that is available all year round with on-line resources that offer tips and tools to help computer users protect themselves from viruses, worms, hacker attacks, identity theft, spyware and more.

In addition to these on-line resources, during National Cyber Security Awareness Month there are events all over the country on specific cyber security topics aimed at consumers, students, children, parents, small businesses and educational institutions. Attorneys general from 41 States and the District of Columbia have signed on to a resolution like H. Res. 993, supporting National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The National Cyber Security Alliance, in partnership with the Small Business Administration, sponsored a series of workshops to provide people from small businesses and nonprofit organizations with access to cyber security training developed by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology. In total, some sort of event on cyber security took place in 49 States during the month.

Of course, cyber security is not just an issue in October, but year round. National Cyber Security Awareness Month is a chance not only to raise awareness about computer vulnerabilities and threats, but also to inform people about programs that exist throughout the U.S. to educate students, parents, businesspeople, local law enforcement and government employees about cyber security and to attract students into careers in information technology.

For example, the National Science Foundation supports a program at the University of South Carolina in which undergraduates studying computer science and undergraduates training to be teachers team up on summer cyber security projects to get the experience of what actually doing research is like and to explore how the projects might be used to communicate about cyber security to K–12 students and to the general public.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Chairman LUNGREN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Chairman BOEHLERT, Mr. GORDON, Chairman KING and Mr. THOMPSON for introducing this resolution. We applaud the associations, companies, organizations and agencies involved in National Cyber Security Awareness Month for their efforts to help all of us to become more responsible, safer computer users.

I urge my colleagues to support adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. It expresses congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

This resolution, which I cosponsored, is an effort to increase awareness across the Nation of the dangers lurking in cyber space. It is also to educate Americans about the availability of tools and practices to minimize these dangers.

I want to congratulate the National Cyber Security Alliance for originating the idea for this observance and for its efforts to improve cyber security.

The National Cyber Security Alliance is a public/private partnership led by industry. It is focused on improving cyber security for home users, small businesses and educational institutions.

The Alliance seeks to alert computer users to threats such as viruses, hacking attacks and identity theft. Additionally, it provides information to users on best practices and technologies available for countering cyber threats.

Each year, nearly 10 million Americans are affected by identity theft, and it cost businesses almost $56 billion in 2004. I frequently hear from my constituents in Sacramento about their experiences with identity theft and questions on how to avoid being a victim.

Consumer awareness has proven to be an effective weapon against identity theft, especially regarding Internet security. In fact, I received an overwhelmingly positive response when I hosted an information session on preventing identity theft in Sacramento.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month includes a range of special events designed specifically for home users, small businesses and the education community.

To reach its objectives, the Alliance organizes national and regional events. These events range from small business workshops and student assemblies to cyber security boot camps, which would take consumer education to the grass-roots level. The Alliance also makes public service announcements to inform consumers about on-line best practices and to protect their valuable personal data, and it publicizes its on-line resources for computer users. This includes beginner guides, computer security tips and free security scans.

The resolution before the House calls attention to and endorses the commendable efforts of the National Cyber Security Alliance to increase awareness of cyber security throughout the Nation. This is a message we should all heed.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this resolution to my colleagues and ask for their support for its passage by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise today in support the passage of House Resolution 993 to support the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. This year, that month was in October, and while it is now November, I believe it is important to recognize the need for cyber security awareness not just in one month but throughout the entire year.

The Internet and the computers we use on a daily basis have become commonplace in our lives. Over 205 million Americans use the Internet on a regular basis, and that number is growing. Companies, both large and small, increasingly rely on the Internet and information technology systems to manage their business, expand their customer reach and enhance their connection with their supply chain.

With computers becoming less expensive and access to the Internet easier to accomplish, many dangers associated with on-line behavior are becoming more and more common. These threats range from spam, viruses and identity theft to complex computer attacks created by organized crime and terrorist organizations designed to steal personal financial information and create general havoc.

The Internet has become an invaluable tool in educating our children. Almost 90 percent of all youth use the Internet, and the vast majority of those say they use the Internet at school. As more and more children use the Internet, it is important that they are taught to use this tool in a safe, secure and ethical way. This will not only protect their own systems from attack, but will protect their physical safety and help them become good cyber citizens.

Cyber security is also a critical part of our Nation's overall homeland security. In particular, the control systems that control and monitor our drinking water, our dams and other water management systems, our electrical grids, oil and gas supplies, our transportation systems and other critical manufacturing processes are connected to the Internet. It is possible for terrorist organizations to disrupt a number of our critical infrastructure systems and do serious damage to our economy without even entering our country. Clearly, with much of the Nation's critical infrastructure connected to the Internet, appropriate cyber security practices are essential to our overall security.

It is not just terrorists that seek to do harm via computers and the Internet. More and more criminal activity is occurring in borderless cyber space. Through the Internet, international criminals can attack our computers through virus, worms and unwanted programs such as spyware and password stealers that can cause significant financial and personal privacy losses due to identity theft and fraud.

Organizations such as the National Cyber Security Alliance are making it their mission to increase awareness of cyber security practices and technologies to home users, students, teachers and small businesses. These organizations deserve to be recognized for their good work and supported as much as possible to spread the awareness of good cyber security.

This organization's work is paying off. Cyber security awareness is growing. The Department of Homeland Security has recognized its importance by naming finally an Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security and Telecommunications, but there is much more work to be done. More government agencies, private sector companies, academic institutions, consumers and the media have to recognize the importance in establishing appropriate cyber security in their computers and information systems.

We, as a Congress, have a large role to play in encouraging the use of proper cyber security practices and technologies throughout our country. National Cyber Security Awareness Month provides a solid platform from which to improve cyber security awareness in this country, and I am pleased that this Congress is supporting its goals and ideals. As I have said, we have much work to do, but being aware of the need for cyber security is a necessary, essential first step.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for the time.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 993 and the goals and ideals of the National Cyber Security Awareness Month, and I am proud to be one of the original cosponsors of this resolution.

I believe that raising awareness about the need to enhance computer and network security in the U.S. is a valuable tool to protect the identities and data of all Americans.

As the ranking member on the Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security Subcommittee on the Committee on Homeland Security, I have had an opportunity to work on critical issues related to cyber security.

In the past, I have offered a number of amendments to various bills to increase our investment in cyber security research and development at the Department of Homeland Security, and I hope that in the next Congress we will make significant progress in this area.

I believe that we need to pay more attention to the state of cyber security because it affects all of us, from the government and large corporations to small businesses and, of course, to individuals.

Our country's infrastructure relies on secure information networks that ensure the reliable functioning of everything from public finance and control of water systems to the operation of electrical grids and emergency response systems.

For all of us, all Americans, our information infrastructure is an integral

part of our daily life, allowing us to communicate with friends and family, and pay bills and manage our business.

Imagine, if we go to the ATM and our money is gone, and this all leads back to some break in some network. At that point, we are going to realize just how important this is and how this can impact us on a daily basis.

It is the reliance on these information networks, these networks that are so much a part of our lives, and that is why it makes it such a great potential for targeted attacks by people who wish to harm us. And this type of attack would be devastating to our physical safety, as well as the economic security of our country. That is the reason I think that government needs to be a leader in the field of cyber security.

When I was talking to some of my companies about this, they said the simplest thing, about like over 50 percent of the people that use a network system do not use passwords. We should be using passwords. Those who use passwords may use something like the name of our dog or our pet; well, anybody who knows you can guess that or can get that name.

So I went through and I changed my passwords, and I changed Gretsky off of my passwords and everything else. Why? Because we need to. These are very simple, individual things that we can do because if once a person gets into the network, it goes much wider than that and can go into banking institutions and can go into the House of Representatives, et cetera.

□ 1215

So I urge my colleagues to support the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. I hope every small business will take advantage of some of the free information with respect to making our networks safe.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 993, a resolution to applaud the goals and activities of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Information technology is becoming a critical part of our society, from wireless phones and blackberries to electronic medical records, and public trust in the security and reliability of these systems is necessary for the U.S. to realize the economic and societal benefits of new technologies.

Cybersecurity is also an important part of homeland security. The Science Committee has heard testimony from energy, electric power, and telecommunications companies about their dependence on information systems and their concerns about the nation's vulnerability to cyber attacks. The connectedness of the Internet means that each person not only must protect himself in cyberspace but also that each person's cybersecurity efforts contribute to the nation's overall state of cyber and homeland security. Progress is being made, but we as a Nation still have a long way to go.

Cybersecurity has long been a priority of mine, and I am proud to represent New York State, which has long been at the forefront of developing new cybersecurity tools and training people in information security.

In my district, the Air Force's Rome Laboratory is a world leader in cybersecurity research programs to strengthen and protect the systems used by the military, and to develop forensic tools used by law enforcement at all levels. The laboratory also hosts innovative cybersecurity education programs including an annual Cyber Security Boot Camp to train ROTC cadets and civilian undergraduate students from all over the country in cutting edge cybersecurity techniques.

The Cyber Security Boot Camp has also led to the creation of a high school-level course in cybersecurity being taught at Rome Catholic High School in my district. This 20-week elective course will soon be accredited by the New York State Board of Education and can serve as a model for cybersecurity education nationwide.

As part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month, the University of Rochester hosted the 10-day Rochester Security Summit in collaboration with higher education, business and industry partners, and New York State ran a Poster Art Contest, open to all 4th and 5th grade students in the State, for art that illustrated how to use computers and the Internet safely.

I urge my colleagues to support adoption of H. Res. 993.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I urge passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 993.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2005

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1245) to provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1245

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005'' or ''Johanna's Law''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of health care providers and women with respect to gynecologic cancers.

(b) WRITTEN MATERIALS.—Activities under the national campaign under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) maintaining a supply of written materials that provide information to the public on gynecologic cancers; and

(2) distributing the materials to members of the public upon request.

(c) PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Activities under the national campaign under subsection (a) shall, in accordance with applicable law and regulations, include developing and placing, in telecommunications media, public service announcements intended to encourage women to discuss with their physicians their risks of gynecologic cancers. Such announcements shall inform the public on the manner in which the written materials referred to in subsection (b) can be obtained upon request, and shall call attention to early warning signs and risk factors based on the best available medical information.

SEC. 3. REPORT AND STRATEGY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report including the following:

(1) A description of the past and present activities of the Department of Health and Human Services to increase awareness and knowledge of the public with respect to different types of cancer, including gynecologic cancers.

(2) A description of the past and present activities of the Department of Health and Human Services to increase awareness and knowledge of health care providers with respect to different types of cancer, including gynecologic cancers.

(3) For each activity described pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), a description of the following:

(A) The funding for such activity for fiscal year 2006 and the cumulative funding for such activity for previous fiscal years.

(B) The background and history of such activity, including—

(i) the goals of such activity;

(ii) the communications objectives of such activity;

(iii) the identity of each agency within the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for any aspect of the activity; and

(iv) how such activity is or was expected to result in change.

(C) How long the activity lasted or is expected to last.

(D) The outcomes observed and the evaluation methods, if any, that have been, are being, or will be used with respect to such activity.

(E) For each such outcome or evaluation method, a description of the associated results, analyses, and conclusions.

(b) STRATEGY.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT; SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 months after submitting the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop and submit to the Congress a strategy for improving efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of the public and health care providers with respect to different types of cancer, including gynecological cancers.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy under paragraph (1), the Secretary should consult with qualified private sector groups, including nonprofit organizations.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there is authorized to be appropriated $16,500,000 for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005, or Johanna's Law. This bill takes several important steps forward in helping to educate women and their health care providers about the dangers and early warning signs of gynecologic cancers.

Ovarian, cervical, and uterine cancers are grouped together as the major gynecologic cancers. And as members of the Energy and Commerce committee recently learned during consideration of the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, gynecological cancer, specifically cervical cancer, was once the leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. Over the past century, we have made great strides in reducing both the morbidity and the mortality associated with cervical cancer. We also have programs in place, like the CDC's Early Detection program, that provides free screening and referral services for women who cannot afford to pay for screenings themselves.

When experts have compared cervical cancer screening and survival rates of the United States to other industrialized countries, the United States ranks near the top. We do a good job of screening for cancer, and our treatment facilities are in fact the best in the world. With the recent discovery of a new vaccine approach to prevent the transmission of the HPV virus, I am hopeful that one day we will be able to eradicate most if not all cases of cervical cancer.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is much more work to be done on gynecological cancers. Too many women don't know enough about the disease to ask their doctors or go to regular screenings. Too many cases of gynecologic cancers go unidentified or untreated until it is too late. This is the underlying purpose for the legislation before us today. This bill takes the important step of creating a national public service campaign to educate women and their health care providers on gynecologic cancers. The campaign will help to raise awareness of the problem, the warning signs, and remind women to get screened regularly.

Within 6 months of enactment, the legislation will require the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a report to Congress on all education and outreach activities related to gynecologic cancers and other cancers. This information will give Congress and the executive branch the tools to identify what activities are ongoing and what is being done, what is working, and what could be done better.

At this time I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. ISSA, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BURTON, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. DELAURO for their hard work on this important piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act, also named Johanna's Law. It is an important piece of legislation which would provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers.

Gynecologic cancers include cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, and uterine cancer. Gynecologic cancers affect approximately 80,000 American women each year and take nearly 29,000 lives. While diagnosis and treatment methods are becoming more targeted and accurate for gynecologic cancers, most women do not understand the symptoms or signs of gynecologic cancer and, therefore, are frequently diagnosed late. A late diagnosis often makes treatment more difficult and lengthens the need for medical care.

Unfortunately, many women and their physicians are unaware of the symptoms of gynecologic cancers. A recent poll conducted for the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation found that 47 percent of surveyed women could not name any symptoms of gynecologic cancers.

Johanna's Law would increase awareness by directing the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a nationwide campaign to increase women's awareness and knowledge of gynecologic cancers. This campaign would include maintaining and distributing a supply of written materials that provide information to the public about gynecologic cancer. It would also aid in the development of public service announcements intended to encourage women to discuss their risk for gynecologic cancers with their physicians.

Furthermore, this legislation would instruct the Secretary of HHS to take a closer look at both its past and present activities regarding gynecologic cancer awareness and education in hopes of learning what works and what does not, and what needs to be done to help with early detection and treatment of gynecologic cancers.

While we have made significant progress in fighting those cancers, progress such as the newly developed and improved cervical cancer vaccine, one of the biggest threats that remains is the continued need for increased awareness of gynecologic cancers. Quite simply, knowledge is power. Providing women and their doctors with up-to-date information about the causes and symptoms of gynecologic cancers will strengthen and support women's health.

I am proud to support this bipartisan bill to improve women's health, and I applaud the bill's sponsors, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. BURTON for their dedication to women's health.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this important piece of legislation. As we come to the close of the 109th Congress, many have used the term ''do-nothing Congress.'' This bill, certainly on a bipartisan basis, is a ''do-something bill.''

We have in this country for a very long time have had people, women in this case, dying needlessly of undiagnosed cancers. I want to thank Chairman BURTON, Ranking Member JOHN DINGELL, his staff, and particularly my cosponsors, Mr. LEVIN very much in particular, who championed this bill in a previous Congress, and he and I worked together tirelessly with Congressman DAN BURTON, KAY GRANGER and ROSA DELAURO in this Congress to get bipartisan support. This bill has far more than half the Congress as cosponsors. It has been worked out, and we are very hopeful this will still become law in this Congress.

With that, I want to take no more time than to once again say that in this Congress there are some things we did as a bipartisan body that I am very proud of. This is one of them. And I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working so tirelessly to make this a reality.

I rise today to urge support for my bill, H.R. 1245, ''the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005,'' otherwise known as ''Johanna's Law.''

Every seven minutes a woman is diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. In 2005, over 80,000 women were diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer and over 27,000 women died. The most common gynecologic cancers include cancer of the ovaries, cervix and uterus.

Too many women are dying because they were diagnosed too late. Education and early detection are the keys to saving women's lives and reducing these statistics. If diagnosed in the early stages, the 5-year survivability rates are as high as 95 percent.

Gynecologic cancers, when detected early, can often be prevented from becoming fatal. Since all women are at risk—no matter their ethnic background or socioeconomic status—it is critical that we find a way to inform women about the steps they can take to maintain their health.

Due to the private and intimate nature of these cancers, oftentimes women are uncomfortable or embarrassed discussing issues surrounding gynecologic cancers with friends and family. Thus, it is vital that we have a national dialogue to provide accurate and timely information to the public and the medical community.

By simply educating women about these cancers, we have an opportunity to save lives. The messages are simple: learn the symptoms, have an annual exam, know your family history and talk to your doctor. Unfortunately, most women do not know the signs or the symptoms surrounding gynecologic cancers. Thus, we need an aggressive national education and awareness program that brings together the appropriate federal agencies, the medical community, and the private sector. Passage of H.R. 1245 will help make this a reality.

There is a lot of excellent information provided by both the private and government sectors—specifically by the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation and the National Cancer Institute—and I commend their efforts. Tragically, most women and families look at these Web sites or pamphlets after cancer is diagnosed. The information needs to get out before diagnosis of a gynecologic cancer.

Education and awareness is an appropriate federal role. Education, coupled with research on improved diagnostic tools and cures, will lead to reductions in cancer deaths. While science and research are needed for long term success, education and awareness can save lives now. Education empowers women to make the best choices regarding their health care.

Last year, I discovered first-hand how important early diagnosis and education can be. My Legislative Director, Paige Anderson, was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She is one of the lucky ones—she stands here today as a cancer survivor. However, it was not until after diagnosis that she learned about HPV, cervical cancer and the importance of yearly pap smears and pelvic exams. Unfortunately, her story is not unique.

Paige's journey led me to work with Representatives SANDER LEVIN, DAN BURTON, KAY GRANGER, ROSA DELAURO and introduce H.R. 1245, "the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005," which has 257 bipartisan cosponsors.

"Johanna's Law" has afforded me the privilege and honor to meet and work with an amazing group of survivors, patients, doctors and families who have lost loved ones to these awful cancers.

As I've spoken and met with other Members and staff on H.R. 1245, it is surprising how little is known about gynecologic cancers. In fact, most do not know that a pap smear only helps diagnose cervical cancer. This test does not screen for uterine or ovarian cancer. Most do not know that there are early warning symptoms for ovarian cancer. This is why we need H.R. 1245, so we can fill the void that currently exists.

I would like to take this time to thank several people who have been instrumental in passing this bill. I greatly appreciate the time and effort that Chairman BARTON and Ranking Member DINGELL have spent on this bill. We could not have passed this bill without the help of Committee and Leadership staff on both sides of the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1245.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I would now yield 4 minutes to one of the lead cosponsors of this legislation, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Thank you very, very much for yielding. This is an important and somewhat emotional day. More than 4 years ago, Sheryl Silver first told me about her sister Johanna, who died of ovarian cancer in 2000 after a brave and hard fought battle.

Johanna Silver Gordon was an active, health conscious woman who taught high school at Southfield Lathrup High School in my congressional district. She came from a family of doctors and was conscientious about her health, but when she experienced the first symptoms of ovarian cancer, she thought they were gastrointestinal. By the time she was diagnosed, her cancer was in stage 3.

I discovered that Johanna's story was all too common. Each year, 77,000 women are diagnosed with gynecologic cancer, ovarian, cervical, or uterine. Most of them, like Johanna, do not have the information they need to recognize their early symptoms and are unaware that they are at high risk.

With these illnesses, lack of information often costs women their lives. Ovarian cancer, the deadliest of gynecologic cancers, is highly treatable and has survival rates of 80 to 90 percent if detected in stage 1 or 2, but has a survival rate of less than 20 percent if diagnosed late, as it most often is. And of these cancers, only cervical cancer today has a reliable screening test that can be used for asymptomatic women, making public education for women and their primary care physicians even more important.

This legislation, as has been mentioned by my colleagues, would create a national public information campaign to educate women and health care providers about the risk factors and early warning signs of these cancers. It would also require HHS to quickly develop a national strategy for getting the facts out to women at the highest risk and to health care providers that see them when they first develop these symptoms. We strongly believe that HHS's strategy should include public-private partnerships that leverage all the resources available and all the expertise that exists on this subject.

So here we are today, after the tireless work of so many people, and we are voting on Johanna's Law. Tireless work from her family, including her loving sister Sheryl Silver, and her mother, Ann Gonts Silver, who is celebrating her 91st birthday today, and the cancer survivors and family members across the country who rallied to this effort, and the physicians and the organizations that lent invaluable support, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as mentioned, especially DARRELL ISSA, ROSA DELAURO, KAY GRANGER, and DAN BURTON.

And if I might, let me lastly thank Morna Miller. Without her tireless efforts as a member of our staff over the last 3 years in developing this legislation and helping shepherd it to the House today, we would not be here at this moment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support Johanna's Law and strike a blow against gynecologic cancer.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to simply add my support to this bill. I had the great opportunity when I was in the State Senate in North Carolina to learn much about HPV in particular. And while I consider myself a fairly well educated woman in many cases, I knew nothing about the HPV until the organization Women in Government educated those of us in the State legislature about this completely preventable cancer.

We are looking for a way to prevent cancer and to cure cancer in this country and we now have a mechanism for doing that. And whatever we can do to spread the word to women that this particular cancer can be prevented, we need to do.

□ 1230

And so I am a supporter of this legislation and hope that we can do much in this country, State by State, as well as nationally, to educate women and help them understand the perils of many of these diseases and how they can prevent them.

We were able in North Carolina to pass a model piece of legislation. Unfortunately, it has not been passed in all the States, but I hope that more States will pick it up and help educate women about these diseases and how they can be prevented.

So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to another primary sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman DELAURO.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everyone who has made this legislation such a priority in the Congress, Congressmen ISSA and LEVIN for their leadership, as well as Sheryl Silver for her passion and her tenacity. This bipartisan coalition is a testament to the simple fact that when it comes to life and death, life and death issues like cancer, Congress speaks with one voice. It must.

This is a special moment. Whether it is a family member, a friend, or if you are a survivor yourself, each of us knows the deadly toll that gynecological cancer takes. Twenty years ago I found out for myself when, during an unrelated doctor's visit, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. I underwent radiation treatment for 2½ months, and I am proud to say that I have now been cancer-free for 20 years.

But no one should have to depend on luck when it comes to life and death. Right now, almost 21,000 women are diagnosed every year with ovarian cancer, nearly 16,000 of whom will die.

Ovarian cancer claims the lives of nearly three-quarters of women diagnosed simply because the disease is not detected until it has reached an advanced stage. This disease has a 45 percent 5-year survival rate.

The tragedy is that ovarian cancer, like other gynecologic cancers, can be cured if it is detected soon enough. When ovarian cancer is detected in the early stages, 95 percent of women survive longer than 5 years, and most are cured completely. Unfortunately, women have never had a reliable and accurate method of screening for ovarian cancer in the early stages. On top of that, not only do many doctors misdiagnose this disease, but 85 percent of women report they do not know which symptoms to look for.

We have made progress, of course, through research at the NIH, Department of Defense, and with the recent approval of the HPV vaccine. But Johanna's Law recognized something critical, that until we have accurate screening methods, public education is one of the most critical weapons we have toward beating gynecologic cancers like ovarian, cervical and uterine cancer. In creating a Federal campaign to educate women and health care providers alike, as this legislation does, we can take a bold step toward ensuring that women know which symptoms to look for and how to seek help before it is too late.

This legislation has been a long time coming, and to be clear, it represents only a first step. But every inch of progress we make fighting these deadly diseases gets us closer to a cure. And that is a fight that every woman has a stake in, every family has a stake in, a fight the Silver family has dedicated itself to making sure we win.

And so I thank you. I thank you for helping us pass this vital bill and take such an important step forward. I was given a second chance at life. Others should have that same opportunity. It is about time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, of course I rise today in support of H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education bill, also known as Johanna's bill.

This very important bill authorizes an early detection and awareness campaign directed at women and health care providers. Approximately 80,000 women a year will be diagnosed with some form of gynecological cancer, and close to 28,000 women will die from these cancers. Early detection is the key to survival. But so many women and their providers are unaware of symptoms and risk factors.

Unfortunately, there isn't currently a reliable screening test for ovarian cancer. Women need to know the symptoms so that they can be diagnosed early. Studies demonstrate that early detection is the key to survival. When diagnosed early, women have a 90 percent chance of survival. However, that number drops to 50 percent or less when these cancers are diagnosed in the late stages. It is a sobering statistic that over three-fourths of the women with ovarian cancer are not diagnosed until the latter stages, making this the fifth leading cause of cancer death among American women. We need to turn these statistics around.

By creating a national public awareness campaign conducted through the Department of Health and Human Services, this bill helps distribute materials that will provide information to the public. This bill will also help develop public service announcements that encourage women to discuss their risk for gynecologic cancers with their health and care providers and alert them to early warning signs. Finally, HHS will award demonstration grants to nonprofit organizations to develop innovative outreach programs.

I urge Members to pass this important legislation today so that we can begin to improve and save the lives of many women with gynecologic cancers. I am pleased that we are moving forward on this legislation, and I encourage this body to move legislation aimed at mending the SGR for physicians before Congress recesses.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, again I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting this legislation that will increase awareness and knowledge of women with respect to gynecologic cancers. This bill, as we have heard, will increase the survivability of these cancer diagnoses and prevent cancer deaths. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Johanna's law and I thank Representatives LEVIN, ISSA, DELAURO and BURTON and their strong bipartisan coalition for all of their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor today.

This bill honors the memory of Johanna Silver Gordon and the thousands of women who have lost their lives to gynecologic cancer because they were not diagnosed until the late stages of the disease.

This year, more than 80,000 women will be diagnosed with gynecologic cancer, and more than 28,000 women will die from these diseases. However, there is very little awareness about these deadly diseases. According the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, NOCC, only 15 percent of women are familiar with the symptoms of ovarian cancer, and 82 percent have never talked to their doctors about the symptoms and risk factors.

If caught in the early stages of the disease, the five-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is 90 percent. However 75 percent of women are diagnosed in the advanced stages of the disease, when the prognosis is very poor. It is clear that we must do something to increase awareness about this disease and promote early diagnosis. Johanna's law will authorize a national campaign directed at women and their providers to promote early detection of gynecologic cancer and raise awareness about these devastating diseases.

I would like to thank one of my constituents, Barbara O'Brien, a 9 year survivor herself, for her passionate advocacy and her dedication to raising awareness about this incredibly important issue.

Education is a critical first step and this bill will significantly increase awareness. However, we must also continue to pursue the research necessary to find a diagnostic test, better treatments and ultimately a cure for this horrible disease so that succeeding generations will have to turn to the history books to learn that there was ever a disease called ovarian cancer.

I urge support of this important legislation.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act, or "Johanna's Law," a bipartisan, common-sense measure that will help save the lives of thousands of American women each year.

Uterine cancer is the most common form of gynecologic cancer, and ovarian cancer is the deadliest. Unlike cervical cancer, there is no reliable early detection screening test for these cancers. This means that 80,000 women will be diagnosed with gynecologic cancers this year, and almost 30,000 will die because their illnesses were detected too late.

Most women don't recognize the symptoms of gynecologic cancers, and many doctors initially misdiagnose them.

Early detection is the key to successful treatment of gynecologic cancers. We must do better. This bill will help save the lives and improve the health of our Nation's mothers, wives and daughters.

Johanna's Law was named for the sister of one of my constituents from Hallandale, Florida, who lost her life to ovarian cancer. I want to congratulate Sheryl Silver and her family for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to saving the lives of millions of American women.

This bill will authorize millions of dollars in desperately needed funds to help raise awareness and increase knowledge about these cancers that will lead to early detection, effective treatment, and saved lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join 256 of my colleagues as co-sponsors of this important piece of legislation.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1245, a bill to authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of women with respect to gynecologic cancers.

Two months ago marked the seventh annual Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month. I expressed my strong belief that raising public awareness, detecting gynecological cancers early, and educating women to the risk of reproductive tract cancers are powerful methods with which to combat this disease in my September 29, 2006, statement in honor of Gynecological Cancer Awareness Month. Today, we continue the important work to raise public awareness of gynecologic cancers through passage of this bill. We also reaffirm that detecting gynecological cancer early and educating women to the risk of reproductive tract cancers are key methods with which to combat this disease by passing this legislation.

It is important to recognize that H.R. 1245 enjoys the support of 257 members

of this body. The bill has been named in honor of Johanna Silver Gordon, who lost her life to a battle with ovarian cancer which was not diagnosed until it had reached an advanced stage. Today we honor her life and her fight against cancer. We also renew our commitment to legislation to be known as Johanna's Law once enacted that will help save the lives of others who are at risk of gynecologic cancers.

A poll recently released by the Gynecological Cancer Foundation revealed that 45 percent of American women could not name a single symptom common to gynecological cancers. This fact alone suggests more must be done in terms increasing awareness. Education and outreach on gynecological cancers deserves to be a national priority and an ongoing effort of the Department of Health and Human Services.

I urge that this House adopt H.R. 1245, and I urge my colleagues' support for additional and continued action towards increasing research funds and treatment options for those individuals who have been diagnosed with forms of gynecologic cancer.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1245, 'Johanna's Law' or the "Gynecological Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005." I want to thank Chairman NATHAN DEAL and Chairman JOE BARTON, and the Energy and Commerce Committee staff, for bringing this bill to the floor today. I also want to thank my colleagues, Representative DARRYL ISSA and Representative SANDER LEVIN, the lead sponsors of this bill, who have worked so tirelessly for over two years to guide this bill through the legislative process. I want to thank the 257 House Members and 42 Senators, Republican and Democrat, Conservative and Liberal, who co-sponsored this critically needed bi-partisan legislation.

I also want to congratulate Ms. Sheryl Silver, the architect of this bill. Sheryl's sister Johanna Silver Gordon (who this bill is named after) died after her battle with ovarian cancer in 2000; and Sheryl found the will and the strength to turn her personal tragedy into a passionate crusade to help make sure that other women will not die needlessly from gynecological cancers.

And last but by no means least; I want to thank Ms. Kolleen Stacy, a constituent of mine and a dear friend who is currently fighting her own personal battle with ovarian cancer. Kolleen first brought this bill to my attention and once told me that her most fervent wish was to live long enough to see this bill signed into law. Today, thanks to the efforts of so many, we take a huge step forward towards fulfilling Kolleen's dream. And I would say to her that today's debate is a victory for all women, but in my mind, Kolleen, this is your day.

The word "cancer" evokes powerful emotions. Along with many of my colleagues, I know first-hand how devastating cancer can be to the individual who has been diagnosed as well as their family. Ovarian Cancer for example, is the deadliest of the gynecological cancers, and it is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths among women living in the United States. Each year nearly 80,000 women in this country are diagnosed with a new case of gynecological cancer, and an estimated 28,000 die from these diseases. This is a national tragedy, and what makes it even more tragic is the fact that many of those deaths could have been prevented if more women and their doctors knew the risk factors and recognized the early warning signs of ovarian cancer and other gynecological cancers.

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

As there is still no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test for ovarian cancer, like the Pap smear for cervical cancer or the mammogram for breast cancer, early recognition of symptoms is clearly the best way to save a woman's life. Without increased education about ovarian cancer and recognition of women who are at higher risk for developing ovarian cancer, many women and their doctors will continue to ignore or misinterpret the symptoms of the disease. Any woman is at risk for developing a gynecological cancer. We owe it to our mothers, our wives and our daughters to do all we can to both raise awareness of these terrible diseases, and to fund the research necessary to stamp out this kind of cancer once and for all.

Johanna's Law is a giant step forward because for the first time ever, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will have explicit authority to carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of women with respect to gynecological cancers, which shall include: (1) maintaining a supply of written materials to provide information to the public on gynecological cancers; and (2) developing and placing public service announcements to encourage women to discuss their risks of gynecological cancers with their physicians. The bill also requires the Secretary to study current and past outreach and education activities and then to develop a strategy to improve the way we increase awareness and knowledge of both the public and health care providers with respect to different types of cancer, including gynecological cancer.

I personally think we need to do more to attack this problem, but I am confident that with a national Public Service Announcement campaign describing risk factors and symptoms and encouraging women to talk to their doctors about their risk of gynecological cancers, we can and will increase early detection of these deadly cancers; and, when possible, help women reduce their risk of ever contracting them in the first place.

Johanna's Law is a good bill, it is good public policy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge our colleagues in the Senate to act quickly and move this critically needed legislation to the President's desk for his signature. This is literally a matter of life and death.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1245, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOBER TRUTH ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING ACT

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 864) to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 864

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act, or the 'STOP Underage Drinking Act'".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—SENSE OF CONGRESS

Sec. 101. Sense of Congress.

TITLE II—INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE; ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Sec. 201. Interagency coordinating committee on the prevention of underage drinking.
Sec. 202. Annual report on State underage drinking prevention and enforcement activities.
Sec. 203. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Sec. 301. National media campaign to prevent underage drinking.

TITLE IV—INTERVENTIONS

Sec. 401. Community-based coalition enhancement grants to prevent underage drinking.
Sec. 402. Grants directed at preventing and reducing alcohol abuse at institutions of higher education.

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

Sec. 501. Additional research on underage drinking.
Sec. 502. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "alcohol beverage industry" means the brewers, vintners, distillers, importers, distributors, and retail or online outlets that sell or serve beer, wine, and distilled spirits.

(2) The term "school-based prevention" means programs, which are institutionalized, and run by staff members or school-designated persons or organizations in any

grade of school, kindergarten through 12th grade.

(3) The term ''youth'' means persons under the age of 21.

(4) The term ''IOM report'' means the report released in September 2003 by the National Research Council, Institute of Medicine, and entitled ''Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility''.

TITLE I—SENSE OF CONGRESS

SEC. 101. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that:

(1) A multi-faceted effort is needed to more successfully address the problem of underage drinking in the United States. A coordinated approach to prevention, intervention, treatment, enforcement, and research is key to making progress. This Act recognizes the need for a focused national effort, and addresses particulars of the Federal portion of that effort, as well as Federal support for State activities.

(2) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue to conduct research and collect data on the short and long-range impact of alcohol use and abuse upon adolescent brain development and other organ systems.

(3) States and communities, including colleges and universities, are encouraged to adopt comprehensive prevention approaches, including—

(A) evidence-based screening, programs and curricula;

(B) brief intervention strategies;

(C) consistent policy enforcement; and

(D) environmental changes that limit underage access to alcohol.

(4) Public health groups, consumer groups, and the alcohol beverage industry should continue and expand evidence-based efforts to prevent and reduce underage drinking.

(5) The entertainment industries have a powerful impact on youth, and they should use rating systems and marketing codes to reduce the likelihood that underage audiences will be exposed to movies, recordings, or television programs with unsuitable alcohol content.

(6) The National Collegiate Athletic Association, its member colleges and universities, and athletic conferences should affirm a commitment to a policy of discouraging alcohol use among underage students and other young fans.

(7) Alcohol is a unique product and should be regulated differently than other products by the States and Federal Government. States have primary authority to regulate alcohol distribution and sale, and the Federal Government should support and supplement these State efforts. States also have a responsibility to fight youth access to alcohol and reduce underage drinking. Continued State regulation and licensing of the manufacture, importation, sale, distribution, transportation and storage of alcoholic beverages are clearly in the public interest and are critical to promoting responsible consumption, preventing illegal access to alcohol by persons under 21 years of age from commercial and non-commercial sources, maintaining industry integrity and an orderly marketplace, and furthering effective State tax collection.

TITLE II—INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE; ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 201. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE PREVENTION OF UNDERAGE DRINKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the Federal officials specified in subsection (b), shall formally establish and enhance the efforts of the interagency coordinating committee, that began operating in 2004, focusing on underage drinking (referred to in this section as the ''Committee'').

(b) OTHER AGENCIES.—The officials referred to in subsection (a) are the Secretary of Education, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Surgeon General, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, and such other Federal officials as the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines to be appropriate.

(c) CHAIR.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall serve as the chair of the Committee.

(d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall guide policy and program development across the Federal Government with respect to underage drinking, provided, however, that nothing in this Act shall be construed as transferring regulatory or program authority from an Agency to the Coordinating Committee.

(e) CONSULTATIONS.—The Committee shall actively seek the input of and shall consult with all appropriate and interested parties, including States, public health research and interest groups, foundations, and alcohol beverage industry trade associations and companies.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, on behalf of the Committee, shall annually submit to the Congress a report that summarizes—

(A) all programs and policies of Federal agencies designed to prevent and reduce underage drinking;

(B) the extent of progress in preventing and reducing underage drinking nationally;

(C) data that the Secretary shall collect with respect to the information specified in paragraph (2); and

(D) such other information regarding underage drinking as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(2) CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include information on the following:

(A) Patterns and consequences of underage drinking as reported in research and surveys such as, but not limited to Monitoring the Future, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and the Fatality Analysis Reporting System.

(B) Measures of the availability of alcohol from commercial and non-commercial sources to underage populations.

(C) Measures of the exposure of underage populations to messages regarding alcohol in advertising and the entertainment media as reported by the Federal Trade Commission.

(D) Surveillance data, including information on the onset and prevalence of underage drinking, consumption patterns and the means of underage access. The Secretary shall develop a plan to improve the collection, measurement and consistency of reporting Federal underage alcohol data.

(E) Any additional findings resulting from research conducted or supported under section 501.

(F) Evidence-based best practices to prevent and reduce underage drinking and provide treatment services to those youth who need them.

SEC. 202. ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall, with input and collaboration from other appropriate Federal agencies, States, Indian tribes, territories, and public health, consumer, and alcohol beverage industry groups, annually issue a report on each State's performance in enacting, enforcing, and creating laws, regulations, and programs to prevent or reduce underage drinking.

(b) STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop, in consultation with the Committee established in section 201, a set of measures to be used in preparing the report on best practices.

(2) CATEGORIES.—In developing these measures, the Secretary shall consider categories including, but not limited to:

(A) Whether or not the State has comprehensive anti-underage drinking laws such as for the illegal sale, purchase, attempt to purchase, consumption, or possession of alcohol; illegal use of fraudulent ID; illegal furnishing or obtaining of alcohol for an individual under 21 years; the degree of strictness of the penalties for such offenses; and the prevalence of the enforcement of each of these infractions.

(B) Whether or not the State has comprehensive liability statutes such as dram shop, social host and ''house party'' laws; and the prevalence of enforcement of each of these infractions.

(C) Whether or not the State encourages and conducts comprehensive enforcement efforts at retail outlets, such as random compliance checks and shoulder tap programs; and the number of compliance checks within alcohol retail outlets measured against the number of total alcohol retail outlets in each State; and the results of such checks.

(D) Whether or not the State mandates or encourages training on the proper selling and serving of alcohol for all sellers and servers of alcohol as a condition of employment.

(E) Whether or not the State has policies and regulations with regard to direct sales to consumers and home delivery of alcoholic beverages.

(F) Whether or not the State has programs or laws to deter adults from purchasing alcohol for minors; and the number of adults targeted by these programs.

(G) Whether or not the State has programs targeted to youths, parents, and caregivers to deter underage drinking; and the number of individuals served by these programs.

(H) Whether or not the State has enacted graduated drivers licenses and the extent of those provisions.

(I) The amount that the State invests, per youth capita, on the prevention of underage drinking, further broken down by the amount spent on—

(i) compliance check programs in retail outlets, including providing technology to prevent and detect the use of false identification by minors to make alcohol purchases;

(ii) checkpoints and saturation patrols;

(iii) community-based, school-based, and higher-education-based programs to prevent underage drinking;

(iv) underage drinking prevention programs that target youth within the juvenile justice and child welfare systems; and

(v) other State efforts or programs as deemed appropriate.

SEC. 203. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $1,000,000 for fiscal year

2007, and $1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

TITLE III—NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

SEC. 301. NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING.

(a) SCOPE OF THE CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue to fund and oversee the production, broadcasting, and evaluation of the Ad Council's national adult-oriented media public service campaign.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a report to the Congress annually detailing the production, broadcasting, and evaluation of the campaign referred to in subsection (a), and to detail in the report the effectiveness of the campaign in reducing underage drinking, the need for and likely effectiveness of an expanded adult-oriented media campaign, and the feasibility and the likely effectiveness of a national youth-focused media campaign to combat underage drinking.

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the media campaign, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall direct the Ad Council to consult with interested parties including both the alcohol beverage industry and public health and consumer groups. The progress of this consultative process is to be covered in the report under subsection (b).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 and $1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

TITLE IV—INTERVENTIONS

SEC. 401. COMMUNITY-BASED COALITION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in consultation with the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, shall award ''enhancement grants'' to eligible entities to design, test, evaluate and disseminate effective strategies to maximize the effectiveness of community-wide approaches to preventing and reducing underage drinking.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are to—

(1) prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth in communities throughout the United States;

(2) strengthen collaboration among communities, the Federal Government, and State, local, and tribal governments;

(3) enhance intergovernmental cooperation and coordination on the issue of alcohol use among youth;

(4) serve as a catalyst for increased citizen participation and greater collaboration among all sectors and organizations of a community that first demonstrates a long-term commitment to reducing alcohol use among youth;

(5) disseminate to communities timely information regarding state-of-the-art practices and initiatives that have proven to be effective in preventing and reducing alcohol use among youth; and

(6) enhance, not supplant, effective local community initiatives for preventing and reducing alcohol use among youth.

(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring an enhancement grant under this section shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, and in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Administrator may require. Each application shall include—

(1) a complete description of the entity's current underage alcohol use prevention initiatives and how the grant will appropriately enhance the focus on underage drinking issues; or

(2) a complete description of the entity's current initiatives, and how it will use this grant to enhance those initiatives by adding a focus on underage drinking prevention.

(d) USES OF FUNDS.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out the activities described in such entity's application submitted pursuant to subsection (c). Grants under this section shall not exceed $50,000 per year and may not exceed four years.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this section shall be used to supplement, not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available for carrying out the activities described in this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the term ''eligible entity'' means an organization that is currently receiving or has received grant funds under the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997 (21 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.).

(g) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 6 percent of a grant under this section may be expended for administrative expenses.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

SEC. 402. GRANTS DIRECTED AT PREVENTING AND REDUCING ALCOHOL ABUSE AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable the entities to prevent and reduce the rate of underage alcohol consumption including binge drinking among students at institutions of higher education.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. Each application shall include—

(1) a description of how the eligible entity will work to enhance an existing, or where none exists to build a, statewide coalition;

(2) a description of how the eligible entity will target underage students in the State;

(3) a description of how the eligible entity intends to ensure that the statewide coalition is actually implementing the purpose of this Act and moving toward indicators described in section (d);

(4) a list of the members of the statewide coalition or interested parties involved in the work of the eligible entity;

(5) a description of how the eligible entity intends to work with State agencies on substance abuse prevention and education;

(6) the anticipated impact of funds provided under this Act in preventing and reducing the rates of underage alcohol use;

(7) outreach strategies, including ways in which the eligible entity proposes to—

(A) reach out to students and community stakeholders;

(B) promote the purpose of this Act;

(C) address the range of needs of the students and the surrounding communities; and

(D) address community norms for underage students regarding alcohol use; and

(8) such additional information as required by the Secretary.

(c) USES OF FUNDS.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out the activities described in such entity's application submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) ACCOUNTABILITY.—On the date on which the Secretary first publishes a notice in the Federal Register soliciting applications for grants under this section, the Secretary shall include in the notice achievement indicators for the program authorized under this section. The achievement indicators shall be designed—

(1) to measure the impact that the statewide coalitions assisted under this Act are having on the institutions of higher education and the surrounding communities, including changes in the number of incidents of any kind in which students have abused alcohol or consumed alcohol while under the age of 21 (including violations, physical assaults, sexual assaults, reports of intimidation, disruptions of school functions, disruptions of student studies, mental health referrals, illnesses, or deaths);

(2) to measure the quality and accessibility of the programs or information offered by the eligible entity; and

(3) to provide such other measures of program impact as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this Act shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available for carrying out the activities described in this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means a State, institution of higher education, or nonprofit entity.

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(5) STATEWIDE COALITION.—The term ''statewide coalition'' means a coalition that—

(A) includes, but is not limited to—

(i) institutions of higher education within a State; and

(ii) a nonprofit group, a community underage drinking prevention coalition, or another substance abuse prevention group within a State; and

(B) works toward lowering the alcohol abuse rate by targeting underage students at institutions of higher education throughout the State and in the surrounding communities.

(6) SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.—The term ''surrounding community'' means the community—

(A) that surrounds an institution of higher education participating in a statewide coalition;

(B) where the students from the institution of higher education take part in the community; and

(C) where students from the institution of higher education live in off-campus housing.

(g) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of a grant under this section may be expended for administrative expenses.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

SEC. 501. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON UNDERAGE DRINKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall collect data on, and conduct or support research on, underage drinking with respect to the following:

(1) Comprehensive community-based programs or strategies and statewide systems to prevent and reduce underage drinking, across the underage years from early childhood to age 21, including programs funded

and implemented by government entities, public health interest groups and foundations, and alcohol beverage companies and trade associations.

(2) Annually obtain and report more precise information than is currently collected on the scope of the underage drinking problem and patterns exhibited in underage alcohol consumption, including improved knowledge of both the problem and progress in preventing, reducing and treating underage drinking; as well as information on the rate of exposure of youth to advertising and other media messages encouraging and discouraging alcohol consumption.

(3) Compiling information on the involvement of alcohol in unnatural deaths of persons ages 12 to 20 in the United States, including suicides, homicides, and unintentional injuries such as falls, drownings, burns, poisonings, and motor vehicle crash deaths.

(b) CERTAIN MATTERS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out activities toward the following objectives with respect to underage drinking:

(1) Obtaining new epidemiological data within the National Epidemiological Study on Alcoholism and Related Conditions and other national or targeted surveys that identify alcohol use and attitudes about alcohol use during pre- and early adolescence, including harm caused to self or others as a result of adolescent alcohol use such as violence, date rape, risky sexual behavior, and prenatal alcohol exposure.

(2) Developing or identifying successful clinical treatments for youth with alcohol problems.

(c) PEER REVIEW.—Research under section 501 must meet current Federal standards for scientific peer review.

SEC. 502. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 501 $6,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and $6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act. Commonly referred to as the STOP Act, this legislation takes several important measures to address the problem of underage drinking.

Underage drinking is a serious problem in our country that has serious consequences. It is estimated that nearly one-third of children and adolescents between the ages of 12 and 20 use alcohol, which is a higher percentage than those who use tobacco or illicit drugs. Alcohol is a leading contributor to death and injury among adolescents. Over 5,000 young people die every year as a result of injuries that involve drinking.

Not only does underage drinking cause accidents, injuries and death, but it can have a lasting impact on a young person's physical development. Studies have shown that the human brain continues to develop into a young person's early 20s, and that exposure of the developing brain to alcohol may have long-lasting effects on intellectual capabilities and increase the likelihood of alcohol addiction.

The legislation before us today will take several steps to address the problem of underage drinking at the national level. It would also assist States, localities and institutions of higher learning in their efforts to prevent underage drinking. The bill would create a nationwide media campaign to educate youth and parents on the dangers of underage drinking. It would also assist States in collecting data on underage drinking laws and their enforcement around the country, so that States can collaborate and learn from each other about which strategies are most effective at combating this problem. The bill also calls for research to be conducted on the influences and pressures that entice youth to consume alcohol.

I am pleased to recognize Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, the lead sponsor of the bill, Congressman TOM OSBORNE and other Members who have worked so hard on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask unanimous consent that Mr. FLAKE from Arizona be able to control 5 minutes of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act or STOP Underage Drinking Act.

Underage drinking is a serious public health concern in communities throughout our Nation. According to 2004 estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were over 142,000 emergency room visits by youth, age 12 to 20, for unintentional injuries and other health-related concerns caused by alcohol consumption.

This bill builds interagency and community-based coalitions focusing on underage drinking, funds the production, broadcast and evaluation of national media-based public health campaigns about the dangers of underage drinking, and establishes grant programs for preventing and reducing alcohol abuse at institutions of higher education and surrounding communities.

This bill is a great start in moving our Nation towards the goal of decreasing youth access to, and consumption of, alcohol. It has the endorsement of both the alcohol beverage industry and a number of key public health advocates, both committed to the idea that a multifaceted national effort is key to making progress in curbing underage alcohol consumption.

I want to express my appreciation to Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD's office, as well as the many other lead cosponsors of this bill that include Representatives WAMP, OSBORNE and DELAURO. I also want to thank the committee staff; the committee staff have dedicated their time and attention and effort to this bill. And I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me time on this bill.

I am not rising today to debate the merits of trying to prevent underage drinking. What I am here to do is challenge the Federal Government's role in authorizing what amounts, in this bill, to $40 million for two new grant programs, $24 million for a new research initiative, $4 million to establish a new Federal committee, and another $4 million for a public service announcement. This is a total of $72 million over 4 years. And here's the real kicker: There already exist Federal programs that do exactly what this suspension bill intends to do.

My staff and I visited www.thecoolspot.gov this morning. The Cool Spot was created for young teens by the lead U.S. agency supporting research into the causes, prevention and treatment of alcohol programs. It is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, an agency that is estimated to receive over $430 million in fiscal year 2007 and to do exactly what this suspension bill intends to do.

The acting director of this agency justified in House and Senate Appropriations Committee hearings a budget increase of over $2 million for fiscal year 2005 to 2006 by claiming the agency would expand its research into youth alcohol abuse.

But if you think that there needs to be more money, you can visit www.alcoholfreechildren.org, another underage drinking program that receives Federal funding from the Federal Government. Or there's www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov, or www.alcoholpolicy.gov.

Why are we spending $72 million on Federal research and grants to establish duplicative programs? And why are we doing this exactly 1 week after the voters told us that they were tired of wasteful spending?

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot afford to keep adding new authorizations, new Federal programs when we know that we are running deficits and we have a massive debt. Where does it end? Where do we say, you know, having seven or eight or a dozen programs that already do virtually the exact same thing are enough?

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Why are we simply adding another? We can't continue to do this. So I would rise in opposition to this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. I would like to thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 864. As many have pointed out, underage drinking certainly flies under the radar screen, because alcohol is legal, and it is widely accepted. I understand the objection to new spending, a so-called new program.

I think it is important to realize that many programs involving alcohol abuse are already ongoing, and they are funded, but they are not authorized, and there is no oversight. That is what this bill does.

We are not talking about completely new spending on every issue. We are simply trying to rein in and control and to better channel the spending on underage drinking.

Underage drinking costs the citizens of Nebraska $435 million a year. The United States estimate is $53 billion a year. AMA estimates $61 billion. If you can cut that by 10 percent, you are talking about a $5 billion savings. We can do that.

So let us not be a penny wise and a pound foolish on this, which is what I think we may be talking about here. But the cost is measured in more than money. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated the number of underage deaths due to excessive alcohol use at 4,554 a year. That is more than six times the rate of death in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have agonized on this floor over that death rate, and yet we are having six times more young people die every year, and it is sort of something that doesn't capture our attention. An estimated 3 million teenagers are full-blown alcoholics, and several million more have serious drinking problems. Alcohol kills six times more young people than all other illegal drugs combined.

So the Federal Government, in response, spends 25 times more annually to combat youth drug use, which would be cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana, than it does to prevent underage alcohol use, which is $1.8 billion on the drug side versus $71 million on the alcohol side. That doesn't make sense. It is tremendously imbalanced. This is the biggest problem we have as far as our young people, and yet we are spending a drop in the bucket compared to what we are spending on other drugs.

Recent studies have found that heavy exposure of the adolescent brain to alcohol interferes with brain development, which is a real problem, and this is something that has really come to light only in the last 2 or 3 years. It was assumed for a long time that drinking with a 12-year old is the same as drinking if you are 30 years old, but it really is not in terms of what it does to the adolescent brain or the adolescent body, and we need to focus on that.

According to an analysis performed in 2004, the average age in which 12- to 17-year-olds begin drinking is age 13. Now when you start at age 13, that does some stuff to you. Young people tend to binge drink; 92 percent of the alcohol consumed by 12- to 14-year olds is consumed when they are having five or more drinks upon a single occasion; 12- to 14-year-olds, 92 percent of them are binge drinking. They do not drink socially, they drink to get drunk, in most cases. That, again, of course, is a huge problem with our young people.

Young people who began drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence. The STOP Act, which we are talking about here today, includes four major areas of policy development. The first creates an interagency coordinating committee, and that is something that I want to address to Mr. FLAKE, because these programs that he cited, and I agree with him, there are some things that are out there, but they are not coordinated, and as a result we are spending money here and there, but it is not channeled, it is not funneled in the direction that it has to be.

So what we need to do is have this report filed with Congress so we know what works and what doesn't work. What are we spending money on that is not effective. What are we spending money on that is effective. That is the important distinction here.

The STOP Act would authorize a national media campaign against underage drinking, which would be directed at adults. Now, this is important, because the biggest single determinant as to what young people do with underage drinking is the attitude of their parents, and we totally missed that point.

So whatever advertising we do is aimed at kids, it is not at the adults who influence their thinking. So we think that this is a critical component. The bill would also provide additional resources to prevent underage drinking, including alcohol specific grants through the drug-free communities program, and competitive grants that would create statewide coalitions to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse by college and university students.

Currently, we are losing 1,700 college students a year to underage drinking, 1,700. There are roughly 70,000 date rapes in this regard as well.

So I would like to thank Jeremiah Blake on my staff, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WAMP, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WOLF and Senator DEWINE and Senator DODD. I appreciate their hard work and urge passage.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the bill's primary author, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD).

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act is an opportunity for this House to make a historic commitment to the well-being of our children and our Nation.

I extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues, FRANK WOLF, TOM OSBORNE, ZACH WAMP, ROSA DELAURO for their original cosponsorship of my bill. Their commitment and steadfast efforts throughout the years have helped to make possible today's consideration of this significant piece of legislation.

I particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of Congressman OSBORNE. Passage of the STOP Act would be an important part of his legacy as he retires from Congress at the end of this session. Tom, I wish you well, and I thank you for being a champion on behalf of our children.

I also thank Senators DEWINE and DODD for sponsoring the companion bill in the Senate. I thank the public health groups, especially MADD, CAMY, CSPI and CADCA for working with me over 10 years on this critical issue. Their advocacy has raised the level of awareness in Congress and throughout the Nation about our public health crisis of underage drinking, and I commend them for their efforts. I also thank the alcohol beverage industry for its efforts this year in support of the STOP Act.

Mr. Speaker, prior to being elected to public office, I worked for a nonprofit agency which focused on alcohol abuse. At that agency, I witnessed firsthand the many devastating consequences of irresponsible drinking. That experience is what motivated me to find ways to address underage drinking. Initially, my colleagues and I commissioned a landmark study by the Institute of Medicine to determine the extent of the problem in our country.

The IOM study was published in 2003, and its findings were more than alarming. The study found, for example, that in the United States, in any given month, nearly 11 million of our youth between the ages of 12 and 20 drink alcohol. This number includes nearly 1 in 5 of 8th graders, 1 in 3 of 10th graders and half of all 12th graders. It also includes the over 5,000 youth in our Nation under the age of 16, who will take their first drink by the end of today.

Mr. Speaker, the result of these facts is that today alone at least three teenagers will die from drinking and driving, and six more will die from alcohol-related causes such as a homicide, suicide and drowning. To add to these tragic consequences is a recent scientific study that suggests that youth who drink alcohol can lose as much as 10 percent of that which they learn compared to those who don't drink.

When one considers the additional problems associated with drinking before the legal age of 21, like car accidents, violent crime, unsafe sexual activity and teenage pregnancy, one begins to sense the extent and tragic consequences of underage drinking, which,

according to the American Medical Association, costs our country more than $61 billion a year.

Using the Institute of Medicine's study as a guide to help address this crisis, my colleagues and I initiated an interagency council which brought together for the first time Federal agencies with jurisdiction over programs related to underage drinking.

Also, in December 2005, with Federal funds we secured, the Ad Council began airing a national media campaign to educate parents about the dangers of consuming alcohol before the age of 21.

In the 108th Congress, based on the recommendations of the IOM report, my colleagues and I introduced the STOP Act. The STOP Act is the first comprehensive piece of national legislation to address underage drinking in this country. This legislation makes permanent the national anti-underage drinking campaign directed at parents and makes permanent the interagency council to coordinate Federal efforts.

In addition, the STOP Act requires an annual report by the Secretary of HHS on the progress States are making to address underage drinking. H.R. 864 also makes available research grants to find effective strategies to deter childhood drinking and grants to communities and colleges to address this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation must no longer be complacent about underage drinking and its alarming consequences. We must bring this national public health crisis out of the shadow and into the bright light of a national priority.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the passage of H.R. 864, the STOP Act.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership in bringing this bill to the floor, and to the ranking member. I also want to thank the gentleman from Arizona, who is leaving the floor, for being a watch guard, for standing on the wall, because we haven't done enough of that, and we need to do that all the time.

Even though on this particular issue, I would come today and say we need to go forward with investments that will save us billions of dollars in the future. I also want to remind people that this is the illegal use of this legal product.

That hasn't been talked about enough on the floor today, that underage drinking is illegal. When other things are illegal, we pay attention to it. Illegal immigration didn't get enough attention. It is a misdemeanor, so it is not that big a deal. And now we are addressing it because it became a big problem.

This is the illegal use of a legal product, and we need to address it on a national level because you can't hodgepodge and address a national problem that frankly is like a cancer among young people.

I want to reemphasize the binge drinking problem. I don't know if you have taken your family to the beach for spring break, but as my children were growing up, we would go, and I was shocked at what I saw.

When I was young, I sowed wild oats, but I had never seen anything like this where 15- and 16-year-old kids just completely sick and running into telephone poles. I mean, it was not only not funny, it was one of the scariest things I have ever seen. Because these kids get away from their parents, and they binge drink until they are sick. Dozens of them are going to the hospital, and some of them dying. This is a problem, a big problem that needs to be addressed, and we need accurate information.

We don't need the information from the industry. That is what has dominated this debate forever. We need the government to give us the accurate information, cause and effect, advertising leads to. This is an illegal use of a product with our children that is devastating the next generation.

I know moms and dads should raise their children and stay on top of them and keep them, but this problem is getting much worse, and the government needs to do a better job at addressing this problem. I also know we are going against the grain. This is the popular culture. This is iconic, Hollywood promotes it, it is all around us. But I have got to tell you, in a world that is going in the wrong direction, the people that are advocating on this issue, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD with me for 12 years, and FRANK WOLF, and Coach OSBORNE for 6 years, we are going against the grain.

The wind is in our face. We are going in the right direction. The world is going in the wrong direction. The world is going down the tubes with things like this, and we need to stand against it together, united, and invest wisely to frankly save the next generation from some problems. I know it starts at home, but all families are not staying together.

All children are not getting the basics, and they are devastating our culture. Frankly, alcohol leads to a lot of other things when you start drinking at 12-years old. It is a big problem that needs to be addressed. Frankly, the industry has pushed us back and pushed us back.

Coach OSBORNE, thank you for sharing 6 years of your life with all of us here in the House of Representatives. Thank you for your service and thank you for your whole life of helping other people. You are an icon.

□ 1300

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to one of the bill's cosponsors, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, all my colleagues who have worked for so many years to see this bill reach the floor: Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressmen OSBORNE, WOLF and WAMP, as well as our colleagues in the other body, Senators DODD and DEWINE.

This is an important moment, one in which this Congress says ''enough is enough.'' For too long we have looked the other way when it comes to the increasing problem of underage drinking, and the results of our inaction are clear.

Today, the average age kids start drinking is 13; 7 million young people describe themselves as binge drinkers; alcohol plays a role in the three leading causes of death among young people; and studies tell us that the average young person today, not the troubled teen, but the average kid, is engaging in behavior that leads to alcoholism.

Mr. Speaker, the time for action is now. This is a disease that starts when we are young, and it does not get better as we get older. It gets worse. That is why we need this comprehensive bill. To start with, the STOP Act will increase resources for drinking prevention coalitions like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which we already know have had a positive impact on teenagers. This bill supports them.

It will also fund more research and create a committee charged with delivering a record card on the progress we are making and what we can do better. The committee will also give us a better picture of the degree to which this problem is exacerbated by advertisements targeted toward young people.

Lastly, the STOP Act would help us fund a national media campaign directed to adults to make them as aware of the dangers associated with underage drinking as possible. Too often, when it comes to adults, parents think ''not my child,'' and we need to turn that around.

So I urge my colleagues to support the STOP Act. As a Member of Congress and as someone who lost a family member in a drunk driving accident, it is long past time that Congress said with one voice that it is serious about reducing underage drinking in our communities. With this bill, we can and we will.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the greatest natural resource in this country is not the Spotted Owl, it is not the Grand Canyon, it is not the environment, it is our children, and this bill is a preventive bill.

I spent all my life in the criminal justice system before I came to Congress, 22 years on the criminal court in Houston, Texas. I saw about 25,000 people work their way to the courthouse. Many of those people were young people who made bad decisions, first to drink and then to commit a crime like driving. I will relate one of those to you.

A young lady by the name of Lisa, graduating from one of our local high schools, was, as was said earlier, just a regular person, not a troubled child. In

fact, she was an honor student, a National Merit Scholar going to one of the Ivy League colleges upon graduation.

She and her best friend drove to a nearby town, had something to eat to celebrate, and then they decided they needed something to drink, because that was the thing to do, even though both of them were 18-year-olds, under the age to drink.

They did have something to drink. The waiter knew they were underage, but he figured he would get a big tip if he served them, and he did.

They were driving home in Lisa's mother's car. Having too much to drink, she started weaving on one of our farm-to-market roads, crashed in a ditch and killed her best friend in the car, her very best friend, her next-door neighbor. Because of that crime, involuntary manslaughter, drinking and driving and killing somebody under Texas law, it was mandatory that she go to the penitentiary for a period of time.

But in court, when that 5-foot-2 little girl came to court, she said to me, ''Judge Poe, this can't happen to me. This can't happen to me.'' But, you see, that is life's biggest lie, especially among young people. It can happen. It does happen. It destroys lives.

And rather than wait to be reactionary, to so-called punish somebody for committing that crime, we need to educate. We need to make sure that young people understand it is not socially acceptable or legal to drink under the age of 21.

I appreciate this bill. This is a good bill to be sponsored to show that we have a concern about our children. I too want to thank Coach Osborne for dedicating his life to the betterment of young people.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me say to my friend from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) that I agree with his observations and I agree with his concern; but as pointed out by Mr. OSBORNE, I believe that this is a bill that can help solve part of that problem, to give some oversight mechanisms to existing allocations, to give some response back to this Congress about programs that are working and that are not working.

I think the challenge that we all face, and I pledge to him to work with him cooperatively in this effort, is in the appropriations process. And pointing out this is not an appropriations bill, this is an authorization bill, that in the appropriations process, that we try to make sure that our appropriators funnel the money only to those programs that are authorized, such as this one, that will have some oversight and response back to this Congress, so that we can eliminate duplicative programs. I would pledge to him that I would work cooperatively with him in that effort.

But I do believe this is a well-thought-out piece of legislation and one that I would urge this body to adopt.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act. If enacted, this legislation would require Federal, State, local and tribal authorities to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated approach toward mitigating and countering underage consumption of alcoholic beverages. I fully support a multifaceted strategy toward addressing this public health issue. Preventing underage drinking requires strict enforcement of existing laws, comprehensive education to prevent binge drinking, and continued research of the effects of alcohol on the health of adolescents. Combating the problem of underage drinking also requires committed efforts by community leaders, parents, teachers, mentors, policy makers, and others to work to instill an increased sense of responsibility and respect for the law in young people.

I firmly believe that investing in research of the effects alcohol has on minors and raising public awareness among at-risk demographic groups, parents, and educators are two important ways to mitigating and countering underage drinking. As leaders, it is our duty to help improve the health and well-being of the next generation. Doing so will ensure that they have the utmost opportunity to lead productive and prosperous lives. By countering underage drinking, we are allowing young adults to recognize their full potential. Enactment of this legislation would go far toward achieving these goals.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 864, the STOP Underage Drinking Act. First and foremost, I would like to thank the sponsors—Mrs. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. OSBORNE—for their diligence over the years on this issue and am pleased to see their work pay off today. Keeping alcohol out of the hands of America's youth is of the utmost importance and this bill will ensure that the federal government is doing its part, working hand-in-hand with private industry and other public interest groups while strengthening the intent of congress that states have the primary jurisdiction to regulate the sale, production and distribution of alcohol under the 21st amendment.

Alcohol, Mr. Speaker, has always been regarded as a unique product throughout American history. No one would suggest that it is the same as a flat screen television or ball bearings. No, alcohol can have tangible societal costs—from underage drinking, drunken driving deaths, and other issues stemming from overconsumption. Be it through the tax law or the 21st amendment, Congress has never intended alcohol to be just another consumer good—as evidenced by the unique regulatory model put in place after prohibition was repealed. We have always placed this distinction on the product, because of the societal dangers involved—not consumer irresponsibility. Because of these concerns, it is of the utmost importance for us to keep alcohol away from children. We need to prevent abuse in our communities and detach the stigma associated with these challenges so that we can meet them head on.

As we confront underage drinking today and the responsibility issues that go along with them, we must also face the reality that while the federal government is well-suited to coordinate national ad campaigns and other valuable research studies; we must understand that states should and do have the primary jurisdiction to regulate the distribution, production and sale of alcohol under the 21st amendment.

States and their individual regulatory models are our best ally and the people's best ally in the fight against underage drinking. We in Brooklyn do not want Boise's laws and they probably do not want ours either under the guise of Big Brother knows best.

In addition to the programs which are authorized in this bill, I hope this will serve to put groups who look to dismantle our regulatory system on notice that Congress will continue to utilize its bully pulpit to advance best practices and responsibility from the industry and the public.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the sponsors of H.R. 864 and laud their efforts and urge my colleagues to pass this much-needed legislation into law.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you in support of H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act.

I would like to thank Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD for introducing the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act, and I would also like to thank Majority Leader BOEHNER for bringing this measure to the floor.

Protecting our young people from the consequences of underage drinking must be a national priority. In my home state of Arizona, 20 percent of children and teens from 12 to 20 years old regularly drink five or more drinks in one sitting, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services.

State and tribal enforcement efforts and regulations are central in our fight against underage drinking.

This legislation holds the States accountable for enforcing underage drinking laws by mandating that the Department of Health and Human Services issue an annual report card to rate the performance of each State in preventing or reducing underage drinking.

Additionally, this measure requires the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to award grants to design and disseminate strategies to maximize the effectiveness of community-wide approaches to preventing and reducing underage drinking.

The bill would provide $5 million in enhancement grants to the Drug Free Communities program to address the problem of underage drinking. Also, another new program will be funded at $5 million annually to provide competitive grants to states, non-profits, and institutions of higher education to create statewide coalitions to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse by university students.

In my district, I have fought hard to work against substance abuse by supporting funding to combat alcohol and drug abuse. Just this past September, the Navajo Nation received a $98,000 grant from the Department of Justice for breathalyzers. Statistics have shown that about 90 percent of violent crime on the Navajo Nation is alcohol-related, and many of our young people are learning that substance abuse is a way of life.

I am pleased that the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act is

being considered by the full House this afternoon and I look forward to its passage to provide additional tools to prevent underage drinking in Arizona and throughout the Nation.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the STOP Act.

This bill is the result of a lot of hard work by its authors and represents a strong effort to reduce underage drinking.

The diligence put into drafting this bill is reflected by the broad support of this bill by the beer and wine industries.

Many in the industry have worked hard to curb underage drinking for years.

As a result of these efforts, underage drinking has been significantly reduced, evidenced by recent data showing that over 70 percent of youths aged 12–20 do not drink.

I commend the beer and wine industries as a whole in their efforts to decrease underage drinking.

This bill will continue and strengthen these efforts, and I am pleased to support it.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 864, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE INDUSTRY TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 96) recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy and urging the Secretary of Agriculture to establish programs to raise awareness of the importance of the Christmas tree industry, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 96

Whereas Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since the 1850s;

Whereas, by 1900, one in five American families decorated a tree during the Christmas season, while, by 1930, a decorated Christmas tree had become a nearly universal part of the American Christmas celebration;

Whereas 32.8 million households in the United States purchased a live-cut Christmas tree in 2005;

Whereas the placement and decoration of live-cut Christmas trees in town squares across the country have become an American tradition;

Whereas, for generations, American families have traveled hundreds and even thousands of miles to celebrate the Christmas season together around a live-cut Christmas tree;

Whereas 36 million live-cut Christmas trees are produced each year, and 98 percent of these trees are shipped or sold directly from Christmas tree farms;

Whereas North Carolina, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, Virginia, California, and Ohio are the top producers of live-cut Christmas tree, but Christmas trees are grown in all 50 States;

Whereas there are more than 21,000 growers of Christmas trees in the United States, and approximately 100,000 people are employed in the live-cut Christmas tree industry;

Whereas many Christmas tree growers grow trees on a part-time basis to supplement their other farm and non-farm income;

Whereas growing Christmas trees provides wildlife habitat;

Whereas more than a half million acres of land were planted in Christmas trees in 2005;

Whereas 73 million new Christmas trees will be planted in 2006, and, on average, over 1,500 Christmas trees can be planted per acre; and

Whereas the retail value of all Christmas trees harvested in 2005 was $1.4 billion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress recognizes the important contributions of the live-cut Christmas tree industry, Christmas tree growers, and persons employed in the live-cut Christmas tree industry to the United States economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for introducing this resolution. The Christmas tree industry is an important part of the American agricultural industry and is an important part of the rural and forested landscape of Virginia and many other States. One of the leading States in the industry is my own.

Christmas tree growers, like many other family farmers and forest landowners, are stewards of the land. They are bound together by a love of the land and a desire to produce renewable products that enhance people's lives while protecting the environment.

For many family forest landowners, Christmas tree growing provides a source of annual income. While this income is rarely enough to make a living on, it allows family growers to make long-term investments for the management of their woodlands. For many small growers, this income is critical to allowing them to keep their forests green and growing, rather than subdividing or switching to another land use.

According to the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, there are thousands of growers in the Commonwealth who produce more than 1 million trees annually, ranging from commercial operations to choose-and-cut family farms. These trees annually account for nearly $50 million in revenue.

Like other segments of the forest products industry, Christmas tree growers are engaged in a renewable, sustainable activity. They plant millions of new trees every year, 73 million trees that cover over a half million acres to be precise. That is a lot of land protected from development and a lot of new trees helping to clean the air, protect watersheds and improve the environment.

Just as growing Christmas trees helps renew the environment, the annual tradition of bringing home a tree and decorating it helps renew the faith of millions of families as they gather to celebrate Christmas. In the Christmas season, the Christmas tree is a symbol of joy and goodwill, and we are grateful to all who work to provide this American tradition.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota, the ranking member of the committee, for his support in our efforts to move this legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 96. Congresswoman FOXX's resolution recognizes the success and importance of the live-cut Christmas tree industry in the United States, and the economic strength and cultural contribution of this industry makes this resolution worthy of congressional support.

Mr. Speaker, before I recognize other Members, I would like to take a minute to recognize the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) who has served with distinction as chairman of the Agriculture Committee over these last few years.

The Agriculture Committee has always enjoyed a reputation as one of the most bipartisan committees in the Congress, and Chairman GOODLATTE has continued that great tradition of cooperation. Under his direction, the committee has accomplished important things. His leadership led to the passage of historic measures to protect our national forests. He took a strong stand for American agriculture in the face of unreasonable proposals from our trade partners, making it clear that we would prefer no deal to a bad deal. He started the process of writing the new farm bill with a series of field hearings across the Nation and ensured that the many voices of agriculture were heard.

Mr. Speaker, anybody who cares about American agriculture, or for that matter, anybody who eats in this country, should give BOB GOODLATTE their thanks for the outstanding job he has done on the committee. I look forward to working with him as we continue this process on the farm bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his kind words, and I look forward to working with him in a new capacity in the new Congress. He certainly has my commitment that we will continue to work together for the interests of America's farmers and ranchers and agribusinesses in the bipartisan fashion that has been the history of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the author of the legislation, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today as the House considers House Joint Resolution 96, a bill I authored, to recognize the contributions of the live Christmas tree industry to the United States economy. Having been a Christmas tree farmer myself, I can attest to the importance of recognizing this often overlooked farming industry.

My district is one of the largest producers of live-cut Christmas trees in the country. North Carolina has an estimated 50 million Fraser fir Christmas trees growing on over 25,000 acres. Fraser firs represent over 95 percent of all species grown in North Carolina. They are grown in the far western North Carolina counties, including Allegheny, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey.

There are over 1,600 North Carolina growers. The North Carolina Christmas tree industry is ranked second in the Nation in number of trees harvested, producing over 19 percent of the real Christmas trees in the United States.

The North Carolina Fraser fir has been judged the Nation's best through a contest sponsored by the National Christmas Tree Association and chosen for the official White House Christmas tree nine times, more than any other species, in the years 1971, 1973, 1982, 1985, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 2005.

□ 1315

The North Carolina Fraser fir Christmas tree is the most popular Christmas tree in North America and is shipped to every State in the U.S. as well as the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, Japan, and other points all over the world.

The Christmas tree industry supports our economy and environment. Christmas trees are grown in all 50 States with North Carolina, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, Virginia, California, and Ohio being the top Christmas tree-producing States. Nationally, there are more than 21,000 Christmas tree growers and more than 100,000 people employed in the live-cut Christmas tree industry. Thirty-six million of all live-cut Christmas trees are produced each year, and 98 percent are shipped or sold directly from Christmas tree farms. On average over 1,500 Christmas trees are planted per acre, providing an abundant habitat for wildlife.

The retail value of all live Christmas trees harvested in 2005 was $1.4 billion. Live-cut Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since 1850, and by 1900 one in five American families decorated live-cut trees during Christmas. By 1930 the tree had become a nearly universal part of the American Christmas. For generations American families have traveled hundreds and thousands of miles to celebrate the holiday season together at home around the Christmas tree. I think it is difficult to overstate the way that having a live, lit Christmas tree in a room can set a warm and positive tone for a family.

I would like to thank the majority leader, the chairman, and ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture for their assistance in getting this bill to the floor and for their very appropriate remarks today.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure recognizing this important industry not just for its economic impact but also for its cultural contribution to the Christmas holiday.

I also want to thank the growers for their contributions to our economy, our environment, and our Nation's heritage.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a good friend of mine and a good friend of American agriculture, Congresswoman DARLENE HOOLEY from Oregon.

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, when you think of Oregon, the first thing you think of is trees. Therefore, it should be no surprise that my home State, Oregon, is the largest producer of Christmas trees in the Nation. I am proud to say the overwhelming majority are grown in my district. We have hundreds and hundreds of Christmas tree growers.

In the coming weeks it is estimated that Oregon growers will be harvesting 7.8 million Christmas trees, roughly one quarter of the total nationwide. Not only will these trees make their way to homes in America but also homes in Canada, Mexico, Japan, Panama, Costa Rica, Philippines, Taiwan, Guam, as well as many other international destinations.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for bringing this bill to the House floor today. With the holiday season just around the corner, there could not be a more appropriate time for the House of Representatives to recognize the joy the Christmas tree industry brings to homes across our country this time of year. There is no better activity than going with a family to pick out that Christmas tree.

Please support H.J. Resolution 96.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Agriculture Committee for yielding me time to speak about an important industry in my district.

And I want to thank my fellow Member of Congress from North Carolina, VIRGINIA FOXX, for her leadership on this important agricultural issue for our districts, which border each other in the mountains of western North Carolina.

We have got a wonderful industry in my district centered around Avery County, and this resolution today honors those men and women that work so very hard in the Christmas tree growing business. They provide a wonderful service and a wonderful product for Americans all around the country. And coming from a small county in western North Carolina, it is a wonderful privilege.

Outside of western North Carolina this niche industry is often overlooked, but inside of our region it is never under appreciated. There are over 1,600 Christmas tree growers in North Carolina who produce over 19 percent of the real Christmas trees in the United States. Not those fake ones. The real ones. The evergreens. And the Fraser fir, which is grown in western North Carolina, is the most popular Christmas tree in North America and is shipped to every State in the U.S. as well as the Caribbean, Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, Japan, and other points around the globe, from little old counties in western North Carolina, and I do want to pay tribute to the Christmas tree growers and the contribution they make to our country and our States and my district, and it is with great pleasure that I also pay tribute to the small communities in the mountains that work so hard to produce products to send around the country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues' support of this great resolution that will help and honor our industries in western North Carolina.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the Congressman with the privilege to represent Estacada, Oregon—the Christmas Tree Capital of the World—I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Christmas trees are a large part of Oregon's nursery and tree industry. In fact, Oregon leads the Nation in Christmas tree production, with 6.9 million trees sold last year at a value of nearly $108 million to the Oregon economy. In particular, Clackamas County—which I am proud to represent along with Ms. HOOLEY—is the largest producing county in the country with $36.8 million in sales from 17,500 acres of Christmas trees. Across our state, there are almost 1,600 Christmas tree operations, encompassing an area over one and half times the size of Washington, DC and employing close to 10,000 people at total wages of over $32 million.

Oregon farmers began hauling Christmas trees for out-of-state sales by horse and wagon at the turn of the 20th century. It's now the sixth-largest agricultural industry in Oregon, and our crop covers 31 percent of the market. Oregon Christmas trees can be found across the country and across the world.

I thank the gentlelady from North Carolina for offering this resolution. As we head into consideration of the 2007 Farm Bill, it provides an important reminder that the agriculture upon which many of our communities depend is more than corn and cotton. Our federal farm policy should reflect the diversity of American agriculture and ensure a fair playing field for all of our farmers and ranchers.

Already, Oregon nurseries and vineyards, ranchers, and farmers are leading the way, showing how we can craft winning policies that are good for farmers, the land, the environment, consumers, our water supplies, and wildlife. I look forward to the opportunity to work with my friends on the Agriculture Committee, to build on this good work and take it to the next level, and, in true Oregon tradition, create an opportunity to unite citizens throughout the state.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 96, a bill recognizing the American Christmas tree industry, and the important role that it plays in U.S. agriculture.

This resolution is a timely one as we approach the upcoming holiday season. And for my home state of North Carolina, it is also one that reminds us of the tremendous impact that agriculture has on our state's economy. The Christmas tree industry in North Carolina is ranked second in the Nation, with more than 30,000 acres in production that contributes over $100 million to our state's economy.

This resolution reminds us that there are many facets to our Nation's diverse agricultural economy. Agriculture now includes such specialties as aquaculture, trees and ornamental horticulture, landscaping, and turf production. The Christmas tree industry in North Carolina is an example of the growth and development of the industry.

I urge support on House Resolution 96.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 96, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution, as amended, was passed.

The title of the joint resolution was amended so as to read: ''Joint resolution recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 96, the joint resolution just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will now resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6314, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 864, by the yeas and nays.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EXTEND CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 6314.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6314, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 520]

YEAS—393

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (VA)
Sekula Gibbs
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—39

Boozman
Brown (OH)
Burton (IN)
Cardin
Carson
Chandler
Cubin
Davis (TN)
Engel
Evans
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gohmert
Goode
Hefley
Herseth
Higgins
Lewis (KY)
McKinney
Melancon
Millender-McDonald

Moran (KS)
Murtha
Oxley
Pearce
Reynolds
Sanders
Scott (GA)
Shimkus
Slaughter
Spratt
Strickland
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Udall (NM)

□ 1348

Mr. CLYBURN and Mr. EVERETT changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, on November 14, 2006, I missed rollcall vote No. 520 on H.R. 6314 to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law and to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted ''yea'' on H.R. 6314.

SOBER TRUTH ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 864, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 864, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 373, nays 23, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 521]

YEAS—373

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herseth
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (VA)
Sekula Gibbs
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Tauscher
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—23

Barrett (SC)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Feeney
Flake
Foxx
Gutknecht
Hensarling
Herger
Hostettler
Inglis (SC)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
King (IA)
Kolbe
Manzullo
Myrick
Otter
Paul
Pence
Rohrabacher
Taylor (MS)
Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—36

Blumenauer
Boozman
Brown (OH)
Burton (IN)
Cardin
Carson
Chandler
Cubin
Evans
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gohmert
Goode
Hefley
Higgins
Jindal
Lewis (KY)
Marchant
McKinney
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Oxley
Pearce
Sanders
Scott (GA)
Shimkus
Slaughter
Spratt
Strickland
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Udall (NM)

□ 1405

Mr. HERGER and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 520 and 521. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' to both votes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1647

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3501. An Act to amend the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement Act to establish an acquisition fund for the water rights and habitat acquisition program; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 3687. An Act to waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9980. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Bacillus Thuringiensis Modified Cry3A Protein and the Genetic Material Necessary for Its Production in Corn; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0784; FRL-8096-4] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9981. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flumioxazin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0792; FRL-8098-5] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9982. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — NESHAP: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Standards for Hazardous Waste Combustors (Amendment) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2004-0022 FRL-8233-9] (RIN: 2050-AG33) received October 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9983. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Memphis/Shelby County Area Second 10-Year Maintenance Plan for the Carbon Monoxide National Ambient Air Qaulity Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2006-0531-200618(a); FRL-8233-8] received October 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9984. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of California; PM-10; Determination of Attainment for the San Joaquin Valley Nonattainment Area; Determination Regarding Applicability of Certain Clean Air Act Requirements [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0583, FRL-8234-1] received October 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9985. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; State Implementation Plan Revision for American Cyanamid Company, Havre de Grace; Maryland [EPA-R03-OAR-2006 -0607 ; FRL-8233-2] received October 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9986. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Lake County Air Quality Management District, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0839, FRL-8234-9] received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9987. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Louisiana: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [EPA-R06-RCRA-2006-0914; FRL-8241-3] received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9988. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Export Notification; Change to Reporting Requirements [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2005-0058; FRL-8101-3] (RIN: 2070-AJ01) received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9989. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa [EPA-R07-OAR-2006-0836; FRL-8240-6] received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9990. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; 2006 Low Enhanced Vehicle Inspection/Maintenance (I/M) Program [EPA-R06-OAR-2006-0456; FRL-8241-2] received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9991. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan Revision for Colorado; Long-Term Strategy of State Implementation Plan for Class I Visibility Protection [EPA-R08-OAR-2005-CO-0002; FRL-8232-2] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9992. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendment to Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Air Quality Permit Program [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0527; FRL-8236-5] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9993. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendments to Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR) Air Quality Permit Program [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0528; FRL-8236-6] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9994. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Revisions to the Utah Administrative Code; Direct Final Rule [EPA-R08-OAR-2006-0564; FRL-8236-8] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9995. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference for Wyoming [R08-WY-2006-0001; FRL-8236-2] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9996. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Washington: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [FRL-8235-5] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9997. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan, Clark County [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0548a; FRL-8225-5] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9998. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2005-0557e; FRL-8225-7] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9999. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0747; FRL-8231-5] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10000. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Transportation Conformity [EPA-R06-OAR-2005-LA-0003; FRL-8234-8] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10001. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0539; EPA-R05-2006-0610; FRL-8224-3] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10002. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regional Haze Regulations; Revisions to Provisions Governing Alternative to Source-Specific Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) Determinations [EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0076; FRL-8230-4] (RIN: 2060-AN22) received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10003. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Correction [EPA-R07-OAR-2005-MO-0005; FRL-8228-9] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10004. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Alabama: Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R04-OAR-2005-AL-0004-200619a; FRL-8229-8] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10005. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Announcement of the Delegation of Partial Administrative Authority for Implementation of Federal Implementation Plan for the Umatilla Indian Reservation to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation [R10-OAR-2005-TR-0001; FRL-8230-8] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10006. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Designations and Classifications for the 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Early Action Compact Areas With Deferred Effective Dates [EPA-OAR-2003-0083; FRL-8231-1] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10007. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Allocation of Essential Use Allowances for Calendar Year 2006 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0158; FRL-8227-4] (RIN: 2060-AN29) received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10008. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — New Hampshire: Final Approval of Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions [EPA-R01-UST-2006-0622; FRL-8226-5] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10009. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Miscellaneous Coating Manufacturing [EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0178; FRL-8227-5] (RIN: 2060-AM72) received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10010. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Southern California Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (Rana muscosa) (RIN: 1018-AU30) received October 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10011. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endnagered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake (RIN: 1018-AT93) received October 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10012. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Widlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Perdido Key Beach Mouse, Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse, and St. Andrew Beach Mouse (RIN: 1018-AT90) received October 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10013. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Guidelines Establishing Test Procedure for the Analysis of Pollutants; Analytical Methods for Biological Pollutants in Wastewater and Sewage Sludge; Final Rule [EPA-HQ-OW-2004-0014; FRL-8228-1] (RIN: 2040-AE68) received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KOLBE:

H.R. 6321. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain public land near the City of Douglas, Arizona, for use as a shooting range; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY (for herself and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California):

H.R. 6322. A bill to direct the Attorney General to conduct a study on the feasibility of expanding the National Incident-Based Reporting System to identify crime data relating to elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KANJORSKI (for himself and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 6323. A bill to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act to remove the limitation on investments by Federal savings associations in consumer auto loans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LEWIS of California:

H.J. Res. 100. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mrs. LOWEY):

H. Res. 1080. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Bangladesh should immediately drop all pending charges against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. SOLIS, and Ms. LEE):

H. Res. 1081. A resolution expressing the sympathy of House of Representatives to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala and encouraging the Government of Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. DENT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HART):

H. Res. 1082. A resolution condemning the decision by the city of St. Denis, France, to name a street in honor of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the convicted murderer of Philadelphia Police Officer Danny Faulkner; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PALLONE introduced A bill (H.R. 6324) to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105–331; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 63: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 352: Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 515: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 550: Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 944: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1264: Mr. HOLT, Mr. WALSH, Mr. GORDON, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1366: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 1545: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1652: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1671: Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. RADANOVICH.
H.R. 1849: Ms. HARRIS, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. SALAZAR.
H.R. 2076: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 2716: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2719: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2735: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 3042: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 3476: Mr. MCHUGH, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 3579: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. SALAZAR.
H.R. 3628: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3954: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4025: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4188: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 4398: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 4560: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 4609: Mr. DICKS.
H.R. 4767: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 4769: Mr. BOUCHER and Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 4924: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4927: Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 4993: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. JINDAL.
H.R. 5052: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 5148: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 5150: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 5188: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 5238: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 5312: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 5324: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 5390: Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 5471: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 5519: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 5558: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 5680: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 5704: Ms. HART, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. HERSETH.
H.R. 5733: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 5771: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. MCKINNEY.
H.R. 5836: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 5888: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 5894: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5896: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 5920: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 5940: Mr. UPTON and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H.R. 5948: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 5960: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 5965: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 6044: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 6045: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 6064: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 6093: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 6098: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 6100: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 6122: Mr. ROTHMAN and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 6130: Mr. SKELTON.

H.R. 6135: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 6147: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 6168: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 6200: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 6281: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. BERMAN.

H. Con. Res. 340: Mr. BOUCHER.

H. Con. Res. 388: Ms. BERKLEY.

H. Con. Res. 391: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H. Con. Res. 465: Mr. RAMSTAD and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Res. 335: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H. Res. 466: Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WOLF, Ms. HARRIS, and Mrs. MALONEY.

H. Res. 635: Ms. WATSON.

H. Res. 790: Mr. KUCINICH.

H. Res. 822: Mr. BAIRD.

H. Res. 931: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H. Res. 987: Mr. MARKEY.

H. Res. 995: Mr. LEACH.

H. Res. 1005: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. KIND.

H. Res. 1057: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 1063: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

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Senate

The Senate met at 2:15 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Creator and God, You provide us with strength. Lead us in life's battles. Keep us from retreating when we confront overwhelming challenges and painful losses. With Your powerful arm, chase away the forces that seek to confuse and discourage us. Let Your shining glory illuminate the road ahead. In Your kindness and mercy, rescue us from ourselves.

Guide the Members of this body in the path they should walk today. May their thoughts, words, and actions bring You pleasure. Teach them how to make concessions without coercion and to find conciliation without compromise.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, this afternoon we will resume consideration of the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. We will be voting later this afternoon. Once a vote is scheduled, we will notify Senators as to the exact timing of that vote. As it stands now, we are looking at a late afternoon vote as the first vote of the day. If we can expedite floor consideration with a handful of relevant amendments, it is our hope we should be able to finish this important spending bill today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5385, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3585) making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 11, 2007, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Akaka/Obama amendment No. 5128, to provide, with an offset, an additional $2,500,000 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Office of Inspector General.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 5144

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, let me thank Senators HUTCHISON and FEINSTEIN, the managers of this bill, for the opportunity to offer and discuss my amendment to provide emergency agricultural disaster assistance for our farmers and ranchers. Normally, most of my colleagues know I would not offer this amendment on an unrelated measure. Our hand is forced. We are told it is highly unlikely there will be an Agriculture appropriations bill considered separately. We have no alternative but to offer this measure to this legislation.

This amendment will determine whether thousands of farm families will be able to continue next year. We have had 2 years of unusual natural disasters that have affected agriculture across this country. These people need to know whether they can continue in the business of farming and ranching. Their bankers need to know. This legislation is critical to that determination.

For over a year, I, along with many of my Senate colleagues—let me indicate that it is already nearly 20 of my colleagues—have come on a bipartisan basis to cosponsor this bill, including Senator COLEMAN of Minnesota; Senator BEN NELSON of Nebraska; my own colleague, Senator DORGAN of North Dakota; Senator SALAZAR of Colorado; Senator HAGEL of Nebraska; Senator JOHNSON of South Dakota; Senator THUNE of South Dakota; Senator ENZI of Wyoming; Senator BAUCUS of Montana; Senator REID of Nevada; Senator CLINTON; Senator OBAMA; Senator DURBIN; Senator LEAHY; Senator HARKIN; Senator CANTWELL; Senator BURNS of Montana; Senator SCHUMER; and Senator ROBERTS of Kansas. Repeatedly, we have come to the Senate to try to get disaster assistance considered.

Last spring, as part of the hurricane supplemental, the Senate approved an agricultural disaster package for the 2005 crop-year. That measure was dropped in conference due to opposition from the administration and the House leadership. I have taken out the provisions that drew the opposition of the administration. Those direct payments that were an offset to the dramatic runup in energy prices are not in this bill.

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

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The legislation I am offering today is nearly identical to the bipartisan relief provision I introduced on September 20, 2006. My amendment is bipartisan and has 19 cosponsors.

The need for this amendment is compelling. In North Dakota last year, as this picture shows, we faced extraordinary flooding. Over a million acres were prevented from being planted. Hundreds of thousands of acres that were planted were drowned out because of excessive rainfall. There was no disaster assistance for those farmers.

This year, in the irony of ironies, we now have experienced an extraordinary drought. This is a picture from my home county, Burleigh County, where the capital of North Dakota is located. This is a corn crop, but nothing was produced. It is only one of thousands of fields that were not worth harvesting.

This drought has been determined by the USDA meteorologist to be the third worst drought in our Nation's history. Only the Dust Bowl of the 1930s and the prolonged drought of the 1950s compared to what many parts of the country have been facing.

This chart shows the U.S. Drought Monitor. It shows how severe the drought was all across the Midwest and Southeast. Its darkest colors represent exceptional drought. North Dakota and South Dakota were the epicenter of this drought in late July. It has been totally devastating to my part of the country. If assistance is not granted, literally thousands of farm families will be forced off the land. That is a fact.

The independent bankers of my State said to a White House representative who was in my office that if assistance does not come, 5 to 10 percent of their customers in North Dakota will be forced out of business. Mr. President, 34 farm organizations have told Congress that assistance is needed and it is needed now. In addition, we have a letter from the State commissioners of agriculture from all across the country saying that emergency agricultural disaster assistance is a high priority requiring action by Congress this year. It could not be more clear. Assistance is needed. It is needed now.

As I noted last May, the Senate approved disaster assistance, only to be thwarted by the threat of a veto. In June, the Senate Committee on Appropriations once again approved emergency disaster assistance as part of the Agriculture appropriations bill for 2007. Thus far, that bill has failed to come to the Senate.

On numerous occasions, including the last day we were in session before we recessed for the elections, I tried to get the Senate to adopt disaster relief legislation. Again, the effort was stymied.

Today, we have another chance to do what is necessary and what is right. My amendment incorporates many of the provisions already approved by the Senate, but I have made a few modifications to address the objections raised by the administration. The economic assistance provisions help producers offset rising energy costs, and the direct grants to States to assist specialty crop and livestock sectors have been removed. Those provisions, at the insistence of the White House, have been removed.

Also, the administration has stated that we need to wait until harvest is concluded. The harvest is now over for 2006; the losses are real and significant throughout many parts of the country.

The crop and livestock production loss provisions contained in the original legislation were retained and will apply for both the 2005 and 2006 production years. Crop producers will still need to demonstrate a 35-percent loss before they get any assistance. The Livestock Compensation Program will only be made to producers whose operations are in counties designated as disaster areas by the Secretary and who can demonstrate they have suffered a material loss. The legislation also contains additional funding for conservation operations to help restore and rehabilitate drought and livestock losses on grazing land. Scientists have told us this is imperative. Because of the modifications, the cost of providing disaster assistance for 2005 and 2006 has been reduced from $6.7 billion to $4.9 billion—a reduction of nearly $2 billion.

Farmers and ranchers need assistance for the 2005 and 2006 fall disaster losses, and they need it now. If these emergencies are not addressed, literally tens of thousands of farm families and Main Street businesses will suffer, many irreparably. It is time to act and allow the Senate to vote on this amendment.

Mr. President, I conclude by saying I regret having to offer this amendment to this legislation. I have no choice. We have no choice. The over 20 Members of the Senate who have come forward to sponsor this legislation in various variations of the legislation have no choice. If we do not act now, tens of thousands of farm families will not be able to continue. The stakes are high. I urge my colleagues to give favorable consideration to this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senator CONRAD's agriculture disaster assistance amendment and am pleased to be a cosponsor of this important legislative package. The package would provide comprehensive, critical relief dollars for agriculture disaster. It would provide assistance for a drought that has plagued our Nation's family farms, including those in my home State of South Dakota.

Producers in South Dakota have suffered from drought conditions that have rivaled the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. These chronic conditions have already ruined the wheat and corn crop for many producers in the State and resulted in thousands of cattle being sold off prematurely in auction barns. Those who have already sold the factory are left with only a mortgage to pay and no relief in sight.

Senator JOHN THUNE and I jointly traveled across South Dakota this summer to some of the areas hit hardest by this drought. We consistently heard about the astronomically high price for hay and fuel costs for transportation, if a producer could even find forage to purchase. We saw the effects of the drought on corn and soybeans, many of which barely got out of the ground and were stunted by desert-like conditions. Some producers saw yields that measured out to the tenth of the bushel, after being socked with severe fuel and fertilizer costs.

At a stop at the Ft. Pierre Livestock Sale Barn, we met with ranchers who finally had to sell out because of extreme conditions. The Herreid Livestock Sale Barn saw an estimated 2,500 to 3,500 head per week over the summer instead of the usual 200 to 300 cattle per week for that time of year.

I invited USDA Secretary Mike Johanns to travel to South Dakota and see this extensive damage firsthand. The Secretary of Agriculture came to my home State, but, unfortunately, rolled out a grossly inadequate agriculture disaster assistance program. This empty shell game is a glaring example of the ''too little, too late'' approach that this administration has too often employed with agriculture disaster assistance.

The Agriculture Department released only $2 million in Grasslands Reserve Program money and less than $7 million in Emergency Conservation Program funds to South Dakota over the summer. These dollars barely made a dent in the backlog of producers who have applied for these programs, leaving many out in the cold.

While in my home State, the Secretary announced the release of section 32 funds for distribution in our agriculture communities, amounting to $50 million in block grants to drought-impacted States. Although South Dakota has been subject to chronic extreme and exceptional drought conditions, the State received only $4.3 million. It was announced that Texas, however, would be given $16.1 million in assistance.

The administration's disaster relief package provides just a fraction of the dollars that the 2005 disaster relief measure, that my colleagues and I successfully attached to the most recent agriculture appropriations bill, would contain for my home State of South Dakota. Over $100 million would be directed toward producers impacted by devastating conditions, including comprehensive livestock and crop assistance measures.

The agriculture appropriations bill, however, has yet to see the light of day for debate on floor of the U.S. Senate. It is my hope that the majority leadership would allow this bill to be considered with due process.

My colleagues and I also passed agriculture disaster assistance as part of the supplemental spending measure that funded Katrina relief efforts and the war in Iraq. Because of a Presidential veto threat, however, the vast majority of meaningful agriculture disaster assistance was stripped out. The White House said that it would reject money for our troops in Iraq and victims devastated by Hurricane Katrina if that spending package contained a nickel of agriculture disaster relief for our Nation's farm and ranch producers.

Secretary Johanns adopted a ''wait and see'' approach to aiding our rural communities. The Secretary said this summer that he wanted to see how the harvest looked after the combines ran before considering further agriculture disaster aid for this production year. As the worst drought since the Dust Bowl, however, combines haven't run at all in parts of South Dakota. Our Nation's food security demands immediate assistance, not stop-gap measures and delay tactics.

Agriculture disaster is like any other disaster, and producers deserve meaningful relief. The administration continues to dig in their heels on drought assistance for our Nation's producers. Yet, this White House places a priority on rebuilding Iraqi agriculture while crying poor and lack of revenue at home.

The truth is that the administration has the authority to provide more comprehensive drought assistance at the stroke of a pen, if it wants, just as it did in 2002.

I urged President Bush to establish a program that would target those who suffer from actual losses, avoiding the type of waste and abuse that was disclosed with the implementation of the 2002 program. I expressed my interest in working with the Department of Agriculture to develop an effective and timely plan before more producers sold the family farm and were forced out of business. It has become painfully clear that real drought relief is not on this administration's current agenda.

The administration's lack of action on drought assistance underscores a need to pass this drought amendment today. This comprehensive agriculture disaster assistance measure covers 2005 and 2006 losses with a livestock compensation program and resources for crop production losses, and funds are included for impacted sheep producers. Small business assistance grants will also offer critical help. This amendment qualifies agriculture disaster money as an emergency, deserving immediate attention—attention that has so far been denied.

Producers are faced with critical financial decisions, and for many relief was needed frankly, months ago. Because of this drought and the delay in assistance, many producers won't be able to rebuild their herds.

A meaningful agriculture disaster relief package already passed the Senate—it was only because of this administration's veto threat that it was stripped out in conference by leadership.

Today I am pleased to join with my colleagues in offering comprehensive agriculture disaster assistance for 2005 and 2006. I thank Senator CONRAD for offering this important legislation. An agriculture disaster is a natural disaster, like a tornado or a hurricane, and providing relief for our Nation's producers is simply fair and simply just.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague Senator CONRAD for his leadership, my colleague Senator JOHNSON, and so many others, Republicans and Democrats, who have worked together to try to construct a piece of legislation that would provide some disaster help for farmers, and then to try to get it through the Congress and get it to the President's desk for his signature.

This has been a long, tortuous trail. Twice before the Senate has passed disaster relief for family farmers—twice. Both times it went to a conference with the House. I was a conferee on both occasions. I was involved with my colleagues in attaching it to the appropriations bill as it went to a conference. We got to conference. Both times the President threatened to veto the legislation, to block it. And he got the conferees on the House side to require that it be taken out of the conference report. Therefore, this is the third attempt on the floor of the Senate to do this piece of legislation. And it is very important.

Let me talk for a moment about this issue of farming because we all come to work and we wear neckties and suits and take showers at the start of the day. Farmers take showers at the end of the day because their work is hard. They feed cattle. They plow the ground. They grease a tractor. They run a combine. They put up hay. They do all the things that represent very hard work out in the land, and they are economic all-stars.

The ability of the American family farmer to feed more and more people is pretty extraordinary. But they work very hard and they produce a product. If things cooperate, if they get decent weather, enough rain, the disasters don't come, the insects aren't there, then they produce a crop. They produce a kernel of corn, perhaps some wheat, a kernel of barley, some rice. What happens is the wheat gets puffed by a company someplace, after it gets hauled by railroad, and then it gets put in a box and sold as puffed wheat. The farmer gets almost nothing. The railroads take too much, and the box of puffed wheat costs an unbelievable amount of money.

The same is true with crisping rice. It goes into a box called Rice Krispies. The same is true with corn. They flake the corn, put it in a box, and call it corn flakes. The railroads get a lot of money for hauling that corn to market, the people who sell the corn flakes get a lot of profit, and the farmer gets almost nothing. That is what farming has always been about. But they only get the crop in the first place if they do not get wiped out by a natural disaster—whether disease, insects, or so on.

Now, what has happened in the last couple of years, particularly in our part of the country, the Dakotas were called the epicenter of a drought, the epicenter of a drought. So those farmers, who in the spring went out and planted their crops, discovered they did not have any crop growth at all. Nothing came up in those fields.

It is pretty unbelievable to drive by a field that is supposed to be a field of grain and see it look like a moonscape. I drove to Zeeland, ND, one day, a very small town just north of the South Dakota border. And as I drove into that town, to my left was a patch of ground that looked like moonscape—no vegetation at all. There had been no rain there. One hundred ranchers gathered in a small community hall in Zeeland, ND, to talk about what this meant to them. One after another, they stood up to talk about what it means when you don't get rain.

One fellow from another part of our country who had moved back to North Dakota said: I had never, ever understood why they measured rain in hundredths. How much rain did you get? Twenty hundredths, twenty-four hundredths. I never understood before why they measured rain in hundredths until I came to North Dakota, a State with 15 to 17 inches of annual rainfall in an entire year. And then what happens? It stops raining, and you have a drought and nothing grows; or it rains too much, and you get one-third of the annual rainfall in one day. We have had both happen. One happened the year before, in 2005; one happened in 2006.

Some will say: Well, you just come and talk about farming all the time. Family farmers this, family farmers that. There is a writer in North Dakota, a farmer, a rancher, down near Almont, I believe. His name is Rodney Nelson. He asks in some of his prose some very important questions: What is it worth to our country? What is it worth for a young person to know how to plow a field, to grease a tractor? What is it worth for a young person to know how to weld a seam, how to combine a field of grain? What is it worth to have a young person know how to build a lean-to, how to take care of cattle, how to care for livestock? What is it worth to have young people know how to work in the bitter cold and do chores in the morning in the bitter cold, or to be out in the fields when it is unbelievably hot, combining that field of grain? What is that worth? There is only one university in America where those studies are taught, and that is America's family farms.

What is it worth to us? Do we want to save those farmers when they run

through some tough times, when they reach a tough patch? That is what has happened here.

Always before our country has said: Do you know what. When you are out there alone, living under a yard light, and you and your family are trying to make a living and you get hit with a natural disaster, this country is going to help. This country wants to reach out a hand and say: You are not alone. We want to help you.

Well, in the new farm bills, they took out the disaster title. There ought to be one. I intend to offer legislation to put a disaster title back in the farm bills so we are not begging at the end of every session to try to provide some help to farmers who otherwise are going to go broke.

Let me describe, as my colleague has done, this picture of a soybean field in North Dakota. There are not any soybeans there. That is a field that is dead, with barely any green at all. Normally, these soybeans would be lush, filling that piece of ground, and would be a foot tall. But, as you can see, these plants are worthless. There is not much alive in that photograph.

I have talked to farmers who sold off their entire herds. I talked to a young farmer who built a herd of cattle for 3 years. It was his life's goal to take over from his parents. He built his herd for 3 years and was barely making it, and then this drought hit and he had nothing to feed his cattle. If you don't have anything to feed your cattle, those cows are going to market. His cows are gone. He is out of business.

Shown in this picture is a man from my State who was a rancher. His name is Frank Barnick. He is shown walking on a creekbed. It does not look like that. It looks like, again, a moonscape. That is a creekbed that would hold water for his cattle, but it is dry. Frank said this is the worst drought he has ever seen.

These people, Frank and his neighbors and friends, are not asking a lot from this country. They are asking if this country cares whether family farmers are able to live on the land and continue farming. They hope that the answer is yes and that this country understands farmers contribute something very important. Family farmers contribute something very important to this country. A fellow who I thought was a wonderful author, used to write in a book about the nurturing of family values in America. He always described that family values in America came from family farms, the seedbed of family values, and they rolled to small towns and big cities, nurturing the value system and culture along the way.

We have attempted time and time again to get some disaster aid for people who need help. We asked the President, in the middle of the drought this year, to come out and do a drought tour. He was not able to do that. I went back and recalled that President Franklin Delano Roosevelt came out for a drought tour. We don't have a lot of Presidents stop through North Dakota. When they do, we are enormously honored to have them join us and be a part of North Dakota.

I wanted to read you a couple of things that President Roosevelt said. He stopped in Huron, SD, exactly 70 years ago. Then he stopped in North Dakota—both on a drought tour, both on a train—and spoke to people. Here is what he said to our neighbors to the south in Huron, SD, on a drought inspection trip. He said:

> No city in an agricultural country can exist unless the farms are prosperous.

I understand our economy has grown in ways that make this less than an agricultural country, but it certainly has not been the case with respect to agricultural States, where a predominant part of our economic base is still agriculture and family farming.

Here is what else the President said in Huron, SD, 70 years ago, understanding that family farmers were having great trouble during that drought:

> I have come out here to find you with your chins up, looking toward the future with confidence and courage. I am grateful to you for the attitude you are taking.

That is the only way you could ever farm. There isn't anybody who would decide to be a farmer if they didn't look forward to the future with hope. They plant a seed and hope. They hope what they planted will produce a crop. It is the only way farmers can exist.

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt went to North Dakota 70 years ago on a drought tour, here is what he said:

> But, when you come to this water problem through here, you are up against two things. In the first place, you are up against the forces of nature and, secondly, you are up against the fact that man, in his present stage of development, cannot definitely control those forces.

He continued:

> Today, out here, I do not ask you to have courage and faith. You have it. You have demonstrated that through a good many years. I am asking, however, that you keep up that courage and, especially, keep up the faith.
>
> If it is possible for Government to improve conditions in this State, Government will do it.
>
> We hope that Nature is going to open the Heavens. When I came out on the platform this morning and saw a rather dark cloud, I said to myself, ''Maybe it is going to rain.'' Well, it didn't. All I can say is, I hope to goodness it is going to rain, good and plenty.
>
> My friends, I want to tell you that I am glad I came here. I want to tell you I am not going to let up until I can give my best service to solving the problems of North Dakota.

Again, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 70 years ago to family farmers: If it is possible for Government to improve conditions, we will do that. He said to the farmers: You are not alone. We want to help.

Let's say that again today, let the Congress say that to our farmers: You matter. You make a difference to this country's future. Your contribution to our culture and our economy is important. This Congress has not forgotten that. We will remember it today by investing in the future and saying to family farmers: We want you to be able to continue to farm. We don't want you wandering, as you go into spring planting, whether you are going to have the ability to remain on the farm with your family, producing food for a hungry world.

We want to pass a disaster aid package, one that puts this Congress in the same position that Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in 70 years ago, saying, if it is within the capability of this Government to help, we intend to help.

Again, let me compliment my colleague, Senator CONRAD. I am pleased to work with him, as I have for many decades. This is an important amendment to offer now. While this is not the optimum place to offer this amendment, as this appropriations bill deals with different appropriations, we have not had the opportunity to do anything but this because we have not been given the opportunity to move this legislation separately. We offer it hoping for good will and for the support of others.

This is not partisan. It is bipartisan. Republicans and Democrats from farm country understand the importance and the value of doing this kind of legislation that says to family farmers: You matter to this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I join in thanking my colleague from North Dakota for giving me the opportunity to speak about the trials of Minnesota farmers. I join in this bipartisan plea to deal with an issue that is of great importance to many Minnesota farm families.

While my colleagues from North Dakota speak from the other side of the aisle, our call for assistance for our farmers is made with one voice. I particularly thank Senator CONRAD for his leadership on this issue. After last week's election, there was a lot of discussion about how the parties can, and should, work together, how we should find common ground on behalf of the American people. Here is one of our first opportunities to display bipartisanship. Supporters of this disaster assistance package hail from all over the country and from both parties. This amendment is just the sort of bipartisan cooperation that this body should embrace to meet the Nation's needs.

The need for agricultural disaster assistance is great. Minnesota farmers have had to fend for themselves in the face of real natural disaster; first, against record flooding in 2005 and now record drought in 2006. In the sugar sector alone, revenue was reduced by $60 million in Minnesota in 2005, thanks to this natural disaster. In one county, crop loss exceeded $52 million and farmers were prevented from planting over 60,000 acres, thanks to saturated fields. Now with one of the worst droughts ever experienced in the Great

Plains, Minnesota farmers have experienced hundreds of millions of dollars of crop loss in 2006. The pictures that we saw of North Dakota show the same reality that is faced in Minnesota.

It isn't just about statistics. It is about farmers enduring personal struggles. This summer, in Lake Bronson, MN, about 100 farmers showed up, out of a town of 180, to talk about the impact on their lives and families. It is about the farmers calling my office, desperate to save the family farm. I have received letters from scores of Minnesota farmers talking about the impact on their lives, on their families, families that go back through generations of farming today could come to an end because we haven't done something that needs to be done. The producers who will not be coming back to the fields next year as a result of catastrophic weather aren't just losing a family business, many are losing a family tradition.

In June, I came this floor appalled that the Senate would pass an emergency supplemental appropriations bill that offers a helping hand to some Americans and a cold shoulder to others. Since then, the only thing that has changed is that the burden of natural disaster has grown heavier on American farmers with the addition of last summer's record drought.

It isn't that this Congress has refused to pass agricultural disaster assistance. In fact, we provided $1.6 billion in emergency agricultural assistance. Of course, none of my farmers will benefit from this assistance unless they happen to own a farm in one of the Gulf States. Congress still hasn't provided a dime for farmers suffering from natural disasters outside of the gulf region. It would shock many Americans to learn that natural devastation must come in the right package to be worthy of Federal aid. The message being sent is that record flooding and droughts don't count, only hurricanes.

I traveled to the gulf to see the hurricane damage firsthand in order to more fully understand what my fellow Americans who live far from my home in Minnesota are suffering. I have wholeheartedly supported their cause in Congress. At its core, this is an issue about equity and fairness for all regions that are suffering. And to the thousands of Minnesotans whose very livelihoods have been jeopardized and those losing farms due to last year's disastrous weather, withholding assistance is nothing short of cruel.

Some folks in Washington have cited the overall success of agriculture in 2006, the aggregate numbers, as a justification for withholding assistance. Congress didn't look at the overall economy when determining what sort of assistance to send to the gulf after the hurricanes. We didn't cite the Nation's robust GDP growth and lower unemployment rate as reasons not to assist gulf communities whose local economies were devastated by natural disaster, nor should we propose such a false standard for comprehensive agricultural disaster assistance.

Let us seize the opportunity for this body to show Americans that we understand and reflect the character and the heart and soul of America, a big heart that understands that Americans are there with a helping hand for all those deserving of assistance in times of extraordinary need. Let us show America that the Senate will work in a bipartisan spirit to meet their needs.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this critical amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEMINT). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside so that I may call up amendment No. 5123.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would reserve the right to object. This presents us with somewhat of an awkward situation because I have withheld offering my amendment. The only amendment pending is the amendment of the Senator from Hawaii, Mr. AKAKA. But we have been on my amendment. We withheld actually offering it. I would ask my colleague if she would at least allow us to call up my amendment—Senator AKAKA was waiting to speak on the amendment—and then be able to lay that amendment aside?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further objection? The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Reserving the right to object, I also wish to speak to the amendment that is about to be called up by the Senator from North Dakota. In order to maintain continuity, I would hope that I could speak after the Senator from Hawaii, if that is going to be the speaking order. If we are going to go to the Senator from Maine as an intermediary event, that is fine, too. If we are going to continue on this amendment, I would like to participate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Reserving the right to object, I had told the Senator from North Dakota that he could offer the amendment, and then I asked that he set it aside so that Senator COLLINS could offer her amendment, after which we would have a voice vote, but his amendment would still be in order. I did not know that Senator AKAKA was going to speak on it. I ask the Senator from Maine if it would be acceptable to allow the Senator from Hawaii 10 minutes, the Senator from New Hampshire 10 minutes, if that is acceptable, and then the amendment would be set aside and Senator COLLINS and Senator FEINGOLD would be recognized for their amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, that is certainly fine with me. I was trying to follow the direction I got from the chairman and the floor manager when we talked a few minutes ago. But if she wants to pursue this and proceed as she has suggested, I have no objection, and I withdraw my unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Hawaii seek recognition?

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, might I now call up my amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator may offer his amendment.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. REID, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. INOUYE, and Mr. AKAKA, proposes amendment numbered 5144.

Mr. CONRAD. I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order be Senator AKAKA for 10 minutes, Senator GREGG for 10 minutes, after which the amendment would be set aside and Senator COLLINS would be recognized for the Collins-Feingold amendment.

Mr. CONRAD. Reserving the right to object, I would like to be included in that order so that I may be able to respond to whatever the Senator from New Hampshire might say.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, after Senator GREGG, I amend my request to include up to 5 minutes for Senator CONRAD, after which Senator COLLINS would be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I thank my colleague very much for the opportunity to speak at this time. I rise today in support of Senator KENT CONRAD's amendment. I thank Senator CONRAD for his leadership and agreeing to include a provision on behalf of the senior Senator from Hawaii, DAN INOUYE, and myself to H.R. 5385, the Fiscal Year 2007 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Mr. President, I was in Hawaii on October 15, 2006, when we felt a violent tremor, an earthquake measuring 6.7 in magnitude that rocked the Hawaiian Islands, and it set off a series of aftershocks for days afterward.

The earthquake loosened rocks, dirt, and building foundations, and subsequent heavy rains have continued to

undermine the structural integrity of public utilities, buildings, roads, and related infrastructure. In recognition of these damages, President Bush on October 17, 2006, declared the State as a major disaster area. While this declaration enabled some relief from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, a significant amount of damage remains unaddressed.

The farming community was hit particularly hard by the earthquake. The water intakes for the Lower and Upper Hamakua Ditches and the Kohala Ditch on the Big Island were buried by landslides. The earthquake and the many aftershocks also caused the collapse of earthen tunnels and wooden flumes and cracks in dams. These irrigation systems provide the sole source of water for most farmers and other members of rural communities in the region. The Big Island also suffered a collapsed lane on the Hawaii Belt Road on the Hamakua Coast, north of Hilo town.

The provision would add $21 million to address the agriculture damages caused by the October 15th earthquake:

$12 million to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, Emergency Watershed Protection Program for the repair of the Lower Hamakua Ditch and the Waimea Irrigation System/Upper Hamakua Ditch—which were heavily damaged by the earthquake, and are negatively impacting the farming community on the Big Island; $3 million to the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council to repair of the Kohala Ditch system that was also severely damaged by the earthquake; $6 million to the Farm Service Agency, FSA, for its Emergency Conservation Program to repair broken irrigation pipelines and damaged and collapsed water tanks. Of this amount, $2 million will go towards repairing the damages to stone fences on cattle ranches in the Kona and Kohala areas, and another $2 million is needed under the Emergency Loan Program to cover losses of agricultural income.

Mr. President, last week I met with Big Island farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods have been dramatically impacted by the October earthquake. They need water for their farms or they risk losing cattle and crops. The damage done to Hawaii's irrigation systems is too severe to be repaired by the State alone. I promised that I would not abandon these hard-working individuals.

I ask my colleagues to support Senator CONRAD's amendment, which would also help Hawaii's farmers and ranchers recover from last month's earthquake.

Senator INOUYE and I urge our colleagues and ask them for their support. Thank you very much. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, it is my understanding that I have 10 minutes under the order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, there are some things so ironic around here that you just have to smile. We are just coming off this election—and I congratulate my colleagues on the other side for their success with a significant and dramatic win. But if we listen to the rhetoric from them, and certainly from the pundits who analyzed the election, it was obviously about the war in Iraq, but it was also about fiscal discipline.

I don't know how many times I have read from national pundits, from the Washington Post and the New York Times, how the Democratic Party is now the party of fiscal discipline. Yet the first amendment brought to the floor of this Senate—the first amendment—increases the national debt by $4.9 billion. It exceeds the budget by $4.9 billion and claims it is an emergency, on an issue which has already been addressed by this Senate, I think, two, maybe three times, and rejected.

Well, maybe the folks out there who voted and thought they were voting for fiscal discipline when they voted to bring in the other party should take a look at this amendment and ask: Where did this come from? Is this a bill of goods I just got sold?

The first amendment brought up by the other side of the aisle after they win this significant, important, dramatic victory is to ask for $4.9 billion above the budget, throw it on the debt, increase spending. It is, as I said, ironic. It makes you wonder. I wonder where we are headed under this new regime. There is something called a regular appropriations process. In fact, it is very likely that we will get to an agriculture bill, an appropriations bill before we adjourn this session, euphemistically referred to as a lame-duck session. When that bill comes up, if it is the belief, contention, and argument of those in the farm communities who have been affected by what they feel is a bad crop-year—if they believe they need additional funds, that bill will have the opportunity to shift funds around, move funds to those accounts that are needed, and which need additional funding, within the context of the budget, within the limitations of the budget. That is called regular order. But this is not regular order. This is a daytime robbery of the Treasury, a heist, in open daylight, and I give them credit for that.

There is nothing secretive about this. This is just saying we have the votes, so we are going to come to the floor and spend $4.9 billion and add it to the Federal debt and call it an emergency. It is going to stuff the budget. It is not good policy. It is not good fiscal policy. It clearly, in my humble opinion—I may have misread the election. I wasn't up for reelection, but I have certainly read a lot about it, and I participated on the stump enough.

I think it sells the people of this country who voted in the election a bill of goods they didn't think they were buying—in fact, just the opposite. I understand there are some folks on my side of the aisle who also feel compelled to vote for this amendment. I regret that, too, obviously. I hope they will reconsider. In any event, it is an amendment that violates the budget. It is, therefore, subject to a 60-vote point of order. We have 60-vote points of order here in order to try to maintain some semblance of fiscal discipline. This will be our first exercise in trying to maintain that semblance of fiscal discipline in what you might call the new congressional year. It will be a good test for us as a Senate for my colleagues on the other side who are about to become the majority party, and for us on this side, who will become the honorable minority. It will be a good test for us to see if we have the courage to actually initiate fiscal discipline in this new Congress. The opportunity is there. All we need is 41 votes.

Mr. President, 59 people can vote for their constituencies, vote to raise spending, raise the debt, vote to increase spending outside the budget. It will be a good test to see whether there are 41 people here who took the message away from the election that the pundits have told us is the message, that the national Democratic Party told us is the message, and that some of our own folks on our side told us is the message, which is that they expect the Congress to start living within its budgets. It will be a good test of whether at least the working minority heard that message.

At this point, I will make a point of order.

Mr. President, pursuant to the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution, I raise a point of order against the emergency designation in the pending amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I have listened to my colleague with great interest. He is the chairman of the Budget Committee, someone with whom I work closely and have respect for and affection for. But he has talked about this violating the budget. There is no budget. No budget has been passed. My colleagues have been in control, and we have not passed a budget. Let's be square about this. There is no budget.

No. 2, this is not the new Congress; this is a continuation of the old Congress. The old Congress didn't get the job done. Let's be straight about that.

No. 3, the Senator said this has been defeated in the past in the Senate. Wrong. This has passed the Senate. This passed the Senate with 77 votes. It wasn't defeated; it was passed with 77 votes on a bipartisan basis. The package that passed was more generous than this package because the White House raised objection to that package. The White House said it was too much money. The White House said they did not want the direct payments as an offset to the skyrocketing energy prices, so we took those provisions out and saved $1.8 billion. That is the package that is before this body. It is the package that has passed. In fact, in the appropriations process, it passed several

times. In fact, it is waiting in the Agriculture appropriations bill right now.

Unfortunately, that bill, we are told, is not going to be considered. So the only opportunity we have to address the emergency disaster concerns of people all across this country is with this amendment, make no mistake. This amendment is fully bipartisan. We now have 20 cosponsors.

This is an emergency. So pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006, I move to waive section 402 of that concurrent resolution for purposes of the pending amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I must respond briefly to the Senator from North Dakota, whom I also greatly admire and with whom I have enjoyed working. He has always been a responsible and effective Member of this Senate, to say the least.

Let me make the point; he said there is no budget. There is no grand budget, that is true, but there is a budget. That is why he had to waive the Budget Act in order to get to this point. It is a function of the fact that we put in place, as those who follow the arcane nature of this institution know, a set of 302 allocations which are guiding how much money can be spent in the Senate, and that is essentially the budget. It is a pretty aggressive mechanism to put in place. Innumerable budget points of order have been brought under that, some sustained, some not sustained.

As to this amendment, this amendment did fail. It failed on an issue of germaneness. So there is a history here. But more importantly, the essence of the problem of this amendment is it busts the budget. It adds $4.9 billion to the debt. And I would argue that maybe the Senator from North Dakota doesn't feel he is in the new structure, but I believe most people think, in this post-election environment, where the election was so dramatic, that Congress shouldn't be functioning under the old rules of just breaking the budget; we should be living under the discipline, and we are not. That is my point.

If the American people's intent—and I think it was—was to send a message to us as the keepers of their pocketbooks, we are, in my opinion, not living up to that request when the first amendment brought to the floor of the Senate after this election is an amendment to increase spending by $4.9 billion above the budget and add that money to the debt. It is not good policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, this doesn't bust the budget. No, no, no. We have always handled natural disasters in this way, with an emergency designation. That is the rule, that is the precedent, that is what we have done before, and that is what we should do now. This is not breaking the budget. That is just not the case. The Senator knows it is not the case.

This is a circumstance, as we have dealt with every natural disaster in the past: We make a determination whether an emergency exists. Clearly it does. We have been struck by the third worst drought in our Nation's history. This provision passed this body with 77 votes.

The people who are out there expect the Congress, expect the Senate to respond to the needs of the American people. We have a need for security. We have a need, an absolute need, for a return to fiscal responsibility. We also have a need to deal with natural disasters when they strike the American family. This is a set of disasters almost unprecedented in our history. The people who have been hit by them deserve a response. That is what this amendment seeks to do.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The Senator has a minute and a half remaining.

Mr. CONRAD. Does the Senator from New Hampshire want to continue?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: It has come to my attention that this language is not only increasing the appropriations, it may also have authorizing language in it. Is this amendment subject to rule XVI?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. This amendment does constitute legislation on an appropriations bill.

Mr. GREGG. I wish to speak to the other side. I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we recognize the Senator would be within his rights to make a motion under rule XVI. I say to the Senator, we hope he will not do that. We hope we will have a chance for a vote on the Senate floor on this question. I say to my colleagues, if we don't get a vote now, we are not going to stop until we do get a vote.

I say to my colleague, it is certainly reasonable to bring a challenge under the Budget Act and to require a supermajority vote, but I hope very much that the Senator will not use rule XVI on a matter of this importance to so many people across the country. I implore the Senator not to invoke rule XVI.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be laid aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is laid aside.

The Senator from Maine is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 5123

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator FEINGOLD, I call up amendment No. 5123 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. GREGG, proposes an amendment numbered 5123.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To extend the Office of the Inspector General for Iraq until 80 percent of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund has been expended)

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. Section 3001(o) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108–106; 117 Stat. 1238; 5 U.S.C. App., note to section 8G of Public Law 95–452), as amended by section 1054(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364), is amended to read as follows:

''(o) TERMINATION.—(1)(A) The Office of the Inspector General shall terminate 10 months after 80 percent of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund have been expended.

''(B) For purposes of calculating the termination of the Office of the Inspector General under this subsection, any United States funds appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2006 for the reconstruction of Iraq, irrespective of the designation of such funds, shall be deemed to be amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.

''(2) The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction shall, prior to the termination of the Office of the Special Inspector General under paragraph (1), prepare a final forensic audit report on all funds deemed to be amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.''.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators JOHN MCCAIN, BILL NELSON, and JUDD GREGG be added as cosponsors to the amendment.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, this amendment, which the Senator from Wisconsin and I have offered, would ensure continuing vigorous, aggressive oversight of American tax dollars in Iraq by repealing the premature termination date for the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. This office will be prematurely terminated by provisions that were recently enacted as part of the conference report on the Defense authorization bill. Our amendment will restore the special IG's termination date to its previous schedule of 10 months after 80 percent of the funds for the Iraqi reconstruction projects have been expended.

The special IG has been very effective, and the important work of this watchdog must continue as long as American funds are being used for Iraq reconstruction. We should not terminate this mandate to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse by some arbitrary and premature date. In fact, it is inconceivable to me that we would terminate this office which has played such a vital role in spotlighting waste, fraud, and abuse and has more than proven its worth.

The Office of the Special Inspector General has saved the American taxpayers literally millions of dollars. In fact, when one looks at the combined impact of the audits, the investigations, the cost avoidances, and other savings, the potential financial impact of this office has been nearly $2 billion. Yet the office has cost the American taxpayers only $73 million since it was created. So $2 billion in savings, in cost avoidances, versus a cost of only $73 million. This means that for every dollar the special inspector general has spent, there has been a financial impact of $25—an impressive ratio.

There is no question that the inspector general's office has been extremely effective. Its work has led to convictions, to indictments, to the recovery of funds, and to improvement in contracting. It was the inspector general who told us about cost overruns on contracts—Halliburton contracts, for example. It was the inspector general who highlighted shoddy construction of health clinics, of a special police station. It was the inspector general who made recommendations that have improved contracting oversight and procedures in Iraq.

We are talking about billions and billions of dollars. It makes absolutely no sense at all for this office, which has been such an effective watchdog, to be brought to a premature end.

Some people say: Why can't you just have the regular IG from the Department of Defense or the Department of State or USAID undertake this work? I think in many ways the question answers itself. There are many departments and agencies that are involved in the Iraqi reconstruction projects. We need to have a special IG who has the authority to follow the money no matter from what agency or department it originated. Also, the special IG has proven its worth time and again. The special IG is in Iraq even as we speak and has had a team on the ground in harm's way. Also, the DOD IG's office has not had a team on the ground in Iraq auditing, inspecting, and investigating on an ongoing basis.

I am very pleased to join with the Senator from Wisconsin who has been such a leader in this area, who originated the idea of having a special inspector general in the first place, and I was very pleased to partner with him in that effort years ago.

Let's correct this mistake right off so that the office doesn't have to start shutting down its operations in anticipation of the termination date next October. We can remedy this mistake right now, and we should do so.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of amendment 5123 offered by Senators COLLINS and FEINGOLD. This bipartisan amendment would extend the life of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, SIGIR, and restore the bipartisan agreement made regarding the termination of the SIGIR in the Senate-passed fiscal year 2007 Defense authorization bill.

The Collins-Feingold amendment is necessary to undo the damage of a veiled provision inserted in the fiscal year 2007 Defense authorization conference report by the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee that terminates the SIGIR by an artificial date that has no basis in the progress of reconstruction projects.

This amendment will sustain the valuable work of the special IG to monitor, audit, and inspect funds made available for assistance for Iraq in both the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund and in other important accounts, which totals nearly $32 billion.

The amendment will restore the formula for calculating the SIGIR's termination to 10 months after 80 percent of the funds appropriated for Iraq reconstruction have been expended. While I strongly support this amendment, I believe the SIGIR's authority should extend as long as necessary to ensure that the billions of dollars appropriated for Iraq's reconstruction be granted adequate oversight.

It is important that the special IG auditors continue their work as long as taxpayer funds are being spent on reconstruction efforts. Thus aspects of this amendment—including the 80 percent expended trigger and the exclusion of future Iraq reconstruction appropriations will need to be revisited in the coming months. I intend to work with other Senators to ensure that all future Iraq reconstruction funds are subject to the continued oversight of the SIGIR.

Wasteful spending and profiteering are especially offensive in wartime, and our soldiers and the American people deserve more oversight of how their tax dollars are being spent in Iraq, not less oversight.

The special inspector general's work to date has been enormously valuable to the executive branch, to Congress, and to American taxpayers. The SIGIR has completed more than 55 audit reports, issued more than 165 recommendations, and seized more than $13 million in assets. What the SIGIR has uncovered proves the need for the work of this office to continue.

The SIGIR's investigations have sent American reconstruction officials to jail on bribery and conspiracy charges, exposed numerous instances of colossal mismanagement in construction projects, and uncovered case after case of waste, fraud, and abuse at the taxpayers' expense. In fewer than 3 years, the special IG's operations have resulted in savings to the U.S. Government and the taxpayers of more than $24 million and uncovered considerable wasteful or fraudulent spending.

The Collins-Feingold amendment will abolish the artificial and arbitrary termination date inserted by one Member of the other body and extend the SIGIR's charter with the recognition that the office has performed crucial work, with much more remaining to be done.

I appreciate the work of Senators COLLINS and FEINGOLD in offering this commonsense amendment and urge its adoption by the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the Senator from Maine has been a wonderful leader on this issue. It is always a pleasure to work with her. I am also pleased to be working with Senator LIEBERMAN and a number of other distinguished Members on this effort as well. It is truly the kind of bipartisan work not only the American people have called for with these elections but the American people deserve, and I hope it is a sign of things to come.

As Senator COLLINS noted, this is an important bill. I have worked hard with a few of my colleagues to create the SIGIR several years ago and I am very proud of what we have accomplished.

To go back to how this started, this is all the way back to October 2003. We all remember the famous $87 billion bill that became famous for other reasons. But included in the bill was the creation of the original inspector general as a part of the Coalition Provisional Authority. I was pleased we got it in there, but I obviously wasn't certain it would work out and that it would be done well, but in fact that is exactly what happened. Regardless of your view of the wisdom of the Iraq war, we were able to come together and say: In any event, the taxpayers' dollars for reconstruction should be monitored and evaluated; there should be accountability.

Well, thanks to the appointment of Stuart Bowen, who is the inspector general, that is exactly what has happened. The agency has worked extremely well. As Senator COLLINS indicated, they go out into the field in Iraq

in a way that other agencies have not done to do very effective reports.

Now, these reports are troubling, many of them. They indicate things aren't working well in a lot of places and a whole lot of money has to be spent on security rather than on reconstruction. Nonetheless, they are doing the taxpayers a service. We have run into a problem because the Iraq war, of course, has been far less successful than people expected, and this whole situation has continued much longer than was originally anticipated. So not only did we create it in October 2003, I had offered an amendment in June 2004 to extend it, and then again in 2005 with the help of Senator COLLINS and then again this year in 2006. And unfortunately, after we had agreed to extend it because not all of the dollars had been expended, a provision was added in the House in conference that basically cuts this off artificially. It goes against the whole assumption, which is that this agency should continue to do its work until 80 percent—10 months after 80 percent of the funds have been expended. That is the formula. We now estimate that work cannot be done until approximately the end of 2009, given how long it is going to take to expend this money. To cut this off prematurely in October of 2007 is to simply undo the good work of this agency.

So I am pleased Senator COLLINS and I were able to add an amendment to the recent Defense authorization bill that expanded oversight authority. We actually expanded its jurisdiction so it could monitor and audit United States taxpayers' dollars being used for Iraq reconstruction regardless of the type of account. So that actually involves another $11 billion in accounts that need to be evaluated and the taxpayers are going to get what they deserve. This is the problem with the provision that cuts this off prematurely. This is no time to terminate the office that has done so much to protect taxpayer dollars in Iraq. Our work on the Defense authorization bill provided the Senate with an estimated additional $11 billion in oversight responsibility and that makes SIGIR's total oversight responsibility approximately $32 billion.

Now, for people listening, what kind of money is $32 billion? I understand that roughly the entire foreign aid that we give to all of the countries in the world in one year is only $20 billion. This is $32 billion, just for reconstruction in Iraq. Surely there needs to be accountability for this, and we need to give this important office the time to do its work and to make sure the money isn't subject to waste, fraud, or abuse.

I am delighted we are working together, Senator COLLINS and I and others, and I do hope we can simply reverse this unfortunate error in the House version of the conference report and that we can restore this office to its full form.

I yield the floor.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I again want to commend the Senator from Wisconsin for his leadership on this issue. It has been a great pleasure to work with him. I mentioned we have 24 cosponsors of the amendment. I did want to acknowledge that Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator COLEMAN have played important roles in drafting this bill, and both the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator WARNER and Senator LEVIN, are cosponsors as well.

Finally, I want to thank the two floor managers, Senator HUTCHISON and Senator FEINSTEIN, for working with us on this bill. Senator FEINSTEIN is also a cosponsor of it, and I very much appreciate Senator HUTCHISON assisting us to bring this to the floor. So I say thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. President, if there is no further debate on the amendment, I ask that the amendment be brought to a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment?

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 5123) was agreed to.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5144

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I have been advised that the other side may intend to raise rule XVI against my amendment. I would ask them before they make that judgment, it would be entirely in order for me to offer my amendment to the Vietnam PNTR legislation. And if we are going to get treated this way, then I reserve my right to offer the amendment on the Vietnam PNTR. That will assure that the Vietnam PNTR will not get done during this week. So if others are going to treat us that way, they should be prepared for me to play hardball, too.

I have been very patient. I have operated under the regular rules repeatedly. But if others are going to give us short shrift, if they are going to tell the farmers and the ranchers who have suffered disaster that they don't even get a vote, then I am prepared to play hardball, too.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is the Conrad amendment.

Mr. SANTORUM. My understanding is that this amendment, as the Senator from North Dakota just talked about, is an amendment dealing with agriculture. This is a military construction bill that is before us. The Senator from North Dakota said we might want to raise a germaneness question, which is rule XVI, and that would be treating the Senator from North Dakota and others who support this legislation improperly. I would make the point that the reason rule XVI is there is to make sure we don't have amendments that are offered to appropriations bills that are not germane. I think it is a great stretch to suggest an emergency supplemental for agriculture is germane to military construction. That is not treating my colleague any way other than how every other colleague is treated here on a whole variety of different issues.

There are lots of opportunities we all would love to have to offer amendments to appropriations bills we don't take because it is not germane, and we don't do it as a result of that. That is the way in which the Senate operates under some semblance of order. It doesn't necessarily operate as seamlessly as we would like, but this is one of the rules we have kept intact and used because we want to try to keep to the subject at hand, particularly on the issue of appropriations.

So throw on top of that what I can tell you in my State and in lots of other States and in lots of other races around the country is the cry of deficit spending, which was heard loudly and clearly and echoed, by the way, by both sides of the aisle, of how we were going to have much more fiscal responsibility, and here we are with the first amendment with nearly $5 billion in emergency spending on a military construction bill having nothing to do with military construction. It may be bipartisan but, as far as I am concerned, that is no excuse. This is not what I think the message from the electorate was, that we need to have a whole bunch of new spending nongermane to the matter at hand.

So while I understand the need—and we have farmers in my State who have suffered through floods earlier this year and I am sure will be impacted by this, but it is absolutely essential that we take this issue seriously, and I intend to do that.

So at this point I am going to suspend and ask for a quorum call and I will be back in a minute. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANTORUM. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I understand the Chair has reviewed the amendment, amendment No. 5144, and I now raise a point of order against the amendment. But first, before I do that, I understand the Chair is currently reviewing this amendment, so I am going to suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I thank my colleagues.

Let me be very clear. Senators have a right to invoke rule XVI. But let's be clear. This is how emergency disasters have been dealt with year after year after year in this body. What I am seeking to do is to get a vote. The farmers and ranchers of this country deserve a vote. Now, they can deny the vote, at least temporarily, but if they think that is the end of the story, they are wrong. We are going to be back. And, look: If my colleagues are going to invoke rule XVI on this measure, when the underlying legislation has passed this body with 77 votes, and by that device prevent a vote, then things are going to get very tough around here. I know the rules of the Senate. If Members think they can ramrod things and deny farmers and ranchers in this country a vote on desperately needed disaster assistance, then this Senate is going to slow way down. My colleagues can use their rights and I will use mine. Let there be no doubt about what the result will be. This place is going to have a hard time functioning if there is not comity, if there is not fairness, and if people are denied a vote repeatedly. That is what is occurring.

The precedent is clear in this Senate. Virtually every disaster package has been legislation on an appropriations bill. Rule XVI was not invoked because it was recognized that is one of the few ways to achieve the result.

The Senator has the right to invoke rule XVI. This Senator has a right to object to unanimous consent agreements, to put the legislation on Vietnam PNTR, and to move to seek a vote. It is only fair the farmers and ranchers of this country, who have been devastated, get a vote. Let the Members vote. That is what the people were saying in this election. They want a process that is fair and that gets results for the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent this amendment be set aside until we have the withdrawal of the previous motion.

Mr. CONRAD. I object.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I note that the majority leader is on the Senate floor. I am prepared to speak for just about 5 minutes, if that is acceptable. I thank the majority leader, and I thank the Senator from North Dakota.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER and Mrs. FEINSTEIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 4051 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

QUORUM CALL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1 Leg.]

Akaka	Dorgan	Menendez
Alexander	Durbin	Mikulski
Allard	Ensign	Murkowski
Allen	Enzi	Murray
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson, Florida
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson, Nebraska
Bennett	Frist	Obama
Bingaman	Graham	Pryor
Bond	Grassley	Reed, Rhode Island
Boxer	Gregg	Reid, Nevada
Brownback	Hagel	Roberts
Bunning	Harkin	Rockefeller
Burns	Hatch	Salazar
Burr	Hutchison	Santorum
Byrd	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Cantwell	Inouye	Schumer
Carper	Isakson	Sessions
Chambliss	Jeffords	Shelby
Clinton	Johnson	Smith
Coburn	Kerry	Snowe
Cochran	Kohl	Specter
Coleman	Kyl	Stabenow
Collins	Landrieu	Stevens
Conrad	Lautenberg	Sununu
Cornyn	Leahy	Talent
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Vitter
Dayton	Lincoln	Voinovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	Wyden
Dodd	Martinez	
Dole	McCain	
Domenici	McConnell	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). A quorum is not present.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the presence of absent Senators, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion of the Senator from Tennessee.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from Rhode Island, (Mr. CHAFEE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 264 Leg.]

YEAS—95

Akaka	Dorgan	McConnell
Alexander	Durbin	Menendez
Allard	Ensign	Mikulski
Baucus	Enzi	Murkowski
Bayh	Feingold	Murray
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Frist	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Graham	Obama
Boxer	Grassley	Pryor
Brownback	Gregg	Reed
Bunning	Hagel	Reid
Burns	Harkin	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rockefeller
Byrd	Hutchison	Salazar
Cantwell	Inhofe	Santorum
Carper	Inouye	Sarbanes
Chambliss	Isakson	Schumer
Clinton	Jeffords	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson	Shelby
Cochran	Kerry	Smith
Coleman	Kohl	Snowe
Collins	Kyl	Specter
Conrad	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Stevens
Craig	Leahy	Sununu
Crapo	Levin	Talent
Dayton	Lieberman	Thune
DeMint	Lincoln	Vitter
DeWine	Lott	Voinovich
Dodd	Lugar	Warner
Dole	Martinez	Wyden
Domenici	McCain	

NAYS—1

Allen

NOT VOTING—4

Biden	Kennedy
Chafee	Thomas

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BOND. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

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

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

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 5142 to the Military Construction-Veteran Affairs bill be called up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY], for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. JEFFORDS, proposes an amendment numbered 5142.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To make available $18,000,000 for the provision of additional mental health services through Vet Centers to veterans who served in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan)

On page 106, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 229. Of the amount appropriated by this title, up to $18,000,000 may be available for necessary expenses, including salaries and expenses, for the provision of additional mental health services through centers for readjustment counseling and related mental health services for veterans under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code (commonly referred to as ''Vet Centers''), to veterans who served in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I thank the managers of the bill for accepting this amendment. I do this as Senator KENNEDY's cosponsor, along with Senators AKAKA, BOXER, and JEFFORDS.

What we have found is that all of the vet centers around the country are enormously overburdened in trying to be able to take care of returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, particularly those with PTSD mental health issues. The staffing, unfortunately, is not up to what it needs to be. Demand has doubled. So we have an obligation, which I think everybody accepts, to try to make certain we do what is necessary for those who have served as they return.

This amendment would add money that is offset; it comes out of the fund within the bill itself. I am grateful to both Senators FEINSTEIN and HUTCHISON for their willingness to accept it. This will provide quality care in our vet centers. We had a study in the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the House which found that the number of returning veterans requesting services has doubled.

One in four vet centers that have been surveyed around the country have been forced to actually limit services or establish waiting lists for critically needed services. So I think this will help us meet a need, and I am grateful for my colleagues being willing to accept it.

It is our obligation to do everything possible to ensure that veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan can make the transition home successfully.

''Welcome home'' must be more than something we say to our veterans. It must be measured in actions taken, not just words spoken.

Today, I am offering an amendment to increase funding for the VA vet centers to provide critically needed services to our returning veterans.

The VA vet centers provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Our veterans earned these benefits through their service to country, and we must fulfill Nation's commitment to them by providing the highest quality services possible. Unfortunately, a recent report reveals that VA vet centers need additional funding in order to provide the trained professionals necessary to offer quality mental health services.

The vet center program was established to assist Vietnam-era veterans who were experiencing readjustment problems. In 1991, Congress extended the eligibility to veterans who served during other periods of armed hostilities after the Vietnam era. The goal of the centers is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services to help veterans successfully readjust to civilian life. Services include individual counseling, group counseling, marital and family counseling, bereavement counseling, medical referrals, assistance in applying for VA benefits, and employment counseling.

A recent report by the House Veterans Affairs Committee Democratic staff found that in 9 months, between October 2005 and June 2006, the number of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who turned to vet centers for post traumatic stress disorder services doubled.

The increased demand for services is beginning to affect access to quality care. In fact, one in four vet centers surveyed has been forced to limit services or establish waiting lists for critically needed services. After serving this Nation and fighting for our country, our veterans should not have to fight for critical adjustment services.

In November of 2004, VA Secretary Nicholson approved a mental health strategic plan, acknowledging gaps in mental health services due to the surge in demand from veterans of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Congress provided approximately $100 million to fund the VA mental health strategic plan. However, a recent GAO report shows that the VA has diverted or failed to utilize money that was intended for staffing at vet centers and has not provided a full accounting of what has happened to the funding. The GAO is expected to issue a full report on these funding gaps later this year, but the preliminary results indicate a possible misuse of mental health dollars.

One-third of the veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan come to the VA with mental health concerns. We have seen the cases of PTSD rise sharply along with the need for readjustment care when veterans return home. It is imperative that our vet centers have enough trained professionals to offer quality mental health services. There are 207 vet centers across the country. They are currently unable to deal with the increasing demand for mental health services. Each of these centers needs additional funding to hire sufficient staff to deal with the recent influx of patients. y

John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, recently said, ''The resources are not there in the VA Vet Centers.'' Mr. Rowan went on to say that ''Not only is the mental health and well-being of veterans being placed at risk, the Vet Centers themselves are at risk. Because of significantly increased work loads, some centers have introduced waiting lists. Accommodating the ever-increasing demand for readjustment counseling is taking a heavy toll on already overworked staff.'' We need to do more to help our veterans.

My amendment would provide $18 million to hire additional mental health staff at VA vet centers. This amount was recommended by the Vietnam Veterans of America to allow the VA to hire the appropriate staff needed to deal with the influx of veterans who need help. The Vietnam Veterans of America and the National Military Family Association support my amendment.

Our soldiers have sacrificed greatly for their country, and we owe them the best care when they return. Many wounds of war are not visible, which makes it that much more important that vet centers have all the resources they need to serve those veterans who are suffering in any way. I ask all my colleagues to support this amendment to provide appropriate funding to staff our vet centers.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last Saturday, all across the country, we honored our Nation's veterans, and we renewed our commitment to care for them, in the way Abraham Lincoln advised us in his Second Inaugural Address: ''to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.''

From the very beginning of America, brave men and women have sacrificed their lives or suffered wounds while serving our country. We owe each of them a debt of gratitude that we can never truly repay, and we must honor them and support them whenever we can.

In doing so, we must take great care to remember that not all wounds are visible and that, when we call upon our best and brightest, we often send their precious minds, as well as their bodies, into harm's way. The continuing current missions in Iraq and Afghanistan have been especially demanding of, and damaging to, our troops.

A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and conducted by a medical research team at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research surveyed soldiers and Marines returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations yielded disturbing results. According to the survey, post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, substance abuse, or other mental health disorders may afflict nearly 1 in 5 service members returning from Iraq and more than 1 in ten returning from Afghanistan.

The Veterans Health Administration estimates that a large percentage of the veterans of Iraq or Afghanistan who have sought VA care have exhibited symptoms of one or more mental disorders and have sought treatment from veterans centers. Last month, the Washington Post reported that, as of the end of June, the VA treated a third

of the more than 184,000 veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq for these symptoms. Nearly half of those treated were diagnosed as possible victims of post-traumatic stress disorder.

According to the Post, the VA's estimate represents a tenfold increase in the number of cases treated in only 18 months, and the number is likely to increase as our forces continue to serve multiple tours of duty in hostile areas. The number may be further increased by ongoing medical outreach programs conducted by the military to increase service members' awareness of the indications and implications of the types of psychological trauma associated with combat deployments.

As their awareness grows, many more veterans will likely seek mental health treatment, and veterans groups are deeply concerned that the VA is already straining to meet the increased demand. All too frequently we read reports of reduced services, staff shortages, and long waits for minimal or intermittent care.

In August, the Washington Post reported the example of a veteran of Iraq who receives only 30 minutes of treatment a month for post-traumatic stress disorder. In October, the Post reported that another veteran of Iraq was told he would have to wait 2½ months for an appointment at a VA facility to treat his sleep disorder.

We need to be sure that our veterans receive the care they deserve, and that the VA has the capacity to provide adequately specialized services to every veteran who needs counseling or treatment. We can't allow the heavy demands of our commitments overseas to impair the quality of assistance that our veterans actually receive. The more we ask of our brave men and women, the more we must provide them in return.

The Kerry amendment will help the Veterans' Administration to better address the surge in mental health needs of our veterans and help to provide a higher standard of medical care to them in a more productive and efficient manner. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Our veterans need and deserve this support. We owe them nothing less in light of the intense dangers and stresses they have faced and endured so courageously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am looking for the chairman on this bill. I know she has no objections. I request a voice vote on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Massachusetts.

The amendment (No. 5142) was agreed to.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, unfortunately, the Republican leader just left the floor. We were about to be in a position to resolve this matter. I ask the leader's staff to ask the leader to return to the floor so we can resolve this.

Maybe for the interest of my colleagues, I will try to reflect on where we are. I had offered an amendment for disaster aid for farmers and ranchers. The chairman of the Budget Committee, within his rights, raised a budget point of order against my amendment. It was then suggested that rule XVI would be raised as well. We have had, over the last several hours, a series of discussions to find a way to resolve this matter. At this hour, it appears the best way to resolve it is to have a commitment that we would go to the Agriculture Appropriations bill tomorrow and try to do that in a tight timeframe of limited amendments, and that I would have a chance to offer the amendment at that time and other Senators' rights would be reserved, and that I would withdraw my amendment from this bill with the understanding that we would go to the Agriculture Appropriations bill tomorrow. That is what we had tentatively agreed to. I think we just have to have the leader indicate publicly that that is his understanding as well. Then we can break the gridlock here and proceed to finish Military Construction.

While we are waiting, I might indicate how much I appreciate the patience of the chairman and the ranking member of the Military Construction bill and their very constructive efforts to try to find a way out of this. I for one deeply appreciate it. I also very much appreciate the work of both the majority leader, Senator FRIST, who has made his best efforts to try to resolve this matter, and our own leader, Senator REID, for his assistance as well. Certainly a special thanks goes to Senator BENNETT and ranking member Senator KOHL for their constructive efforts and their agreement to go to their bill tomorrow. I also thank Senator DORGAN, my colleague, for his efforts to try to move this matter along.

With that, I yield the floor and hope that we have a chance to hear from the majority leader, so we can start the process to unwind this and reach a conclusion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, while the Senator who was talking is still on the floor, let me say if a unanimous consent request is propounded that is consistent with what he has said, I would have to object. I want to make sure everybody knows this.

We have a bill, Energy and Water, authored by this Senator and Senator REID, soon to be majority leader. It is our bill, Energy and Water. We want to make sure that during these operative days we are going to get some work done and that this bill gets in line to be taken up. We are not asking for any special privileges, but if you are going to propound it the way you have, then I am going to ask that House bill 5427, which is Energy and Water, be put in order behind the Agriculture bill, to be taken up after it. Otherwise, I would object, until we sit down and talk and make sure that H.R. 5427 gets some position in the Senate before we are gone and find no way to take it up. Those in leadership know I have been talking to the leaders and others. So I am not bringing anything up that is brand new. In these times, you don't know what is going to come up. This is the best way to bring it up and nobody can say you didn't bring it up. I am bringing it up to whoever is supposed to have things brought up to them. I hope that is enough. The distinguished leader is here. I wanted to put that in the RECORD so nobody had a misunderstanding.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I notice the majority leader has returned to the floor. I tried to recount for our colleagues the status of our discussion, and the understanding that we had reached, that I would withdraw my amendment from this bill with the understanding that we would go to the Agriculture Appropriations bill tomorrow and have a chance to offer it there. All Senators' rights would be reserved. That is the status of it. I just ask if that is the majority leader's understanding. If it is, I will then be willing to withdraw my amendment from the Military Construction bill and we can conclude that.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in the last hour or so we have had numerous discussions on the floor, as our colleagues have observed, and many participated in the discussion. My understanding and the general agreement that we have is to go to the Agriculture Appropriations bill tomorrow. That does facilitate the progress we need to make on the current bill that is on the floor, which I hope and expect to be able to finish tonight. If that is the case, we plan on going to the Agriculture bill tomorrow. All rights will be reserved for all Senators, of course. We don't have an agreement, but that is the intention. The disaster ag relief bill is very important and has been talked about by Republicans and Democrats and we expect to debate it tomorrow. It is a more appropriate place for this amendment. So I think this is a good understanding.

Other bills, such as Energy and Water, we want to come to very soon. We have a number of appropriation bills—10 of them—out there. I have not talked to the Democratic leader specifically about the Energy and Water bill. I am not sure if the chairman has, but it is a bill that I hope we will be able to go to quickly, as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, might I say to the distinguished leader, if it is being asked of the Senate that we concur by unanimous consent that the arrangement to bring up Agriculture in the method and manner described, if that is going to be a UC, then I have to object because I want to be treated fairly on a comparable bill.

If nothing else other than a simple sentence is added that says when the Agriculture bill is completed that the next bill to be taken up would be H.R. 5427, the Energy and Water appropriations bill, if that is part of the UC, I have no objection.

Mr. FRIST. I don't think there is a formal UC on the floor, but I have to object to that only because as leader, I am going to have every chairman coming out putting bills in order. I want to be able to keep that flexibility a bit, just as we have today, because if we don't reach some sort of agreement working together, we are not going to finish even the first MILCON bill on the floor of the Senate.

What I can say is what I intend to do tomorrow—again without any UC; I guess we can write up something—is complete this bill that is on the floor tonight and then tomorrow go to the Agriculture bill, finish that bill, and then very high on the list would be Energy and Water.

What I don't want to do is get in the overall sequencing of bills when I don't know how long this bill is going to take—hopefully tonight—or the Agriculture bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, might I inquire—first, I thank the leader for his words, which appear to be accommodating and perhaps efficient at this moment. I am not sure, but I want to ask another question.

Mr. FRIST. I hope so.

Mr. DOMENICI. The leader is aware of an Agriculture amendment that has rather broad support that we discussed today in the meetings and other Democrats have discussed with me which has to do with how manure and the like from cows and pigs is defined under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. I want to offer that amendment on the Agriculture bill. Nothing is going to preclude that in what we have talked about, is it?

Mr. FRIST. No, all rights will be preserved for Senators as we go on the Agriculture bill tomorrow. My understanding is the Senator from North Dakota will withdraw—in fact, why don't we go ahead and do that. The pending amendment will be withdrawn, and we will proceed with the MILCON bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

AMENDMENT NO. 5144, WITHDRAWN

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for being very constructive. I thank my friend from New Mexico for his zealous guarding of the rights of his chairmanship of his committee. I certainly recognize that position.

I think we have made significant progress. We can move to the Agriculture appropriations bill tomorrow. That is the place this amendment ought to be. I only offered it on this bill because we had no prospect of going to the Agriculture appropriations bill any time this year without this agreement.

I thank the majority leader. I thank very much the chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, the very able Senator from Utah. I thank the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. KOHL. I very much thank the chairman of this committee, the Senator from Texas, and the Senator from California, the ranking member, who have been so constructive today. And again, special thanks to my colleague Senator DORGAN for his assistance throughout.

I withdraw my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I commend the two Senators from North Dakota. We have worked well together. I think we have come to the right accommodation. He has been a gentleman to work with, and I appreciate it.

I am now going to start clearing amendments with voice votes. They have been cleared on both sides of the aisle. We have a couple of other small issues that need to be cleared. I hope by the time I finish, we can go to final passage.

I ask Senator BROWNBACK to come to the floor to work out his issue because we are about to go to final passage.

AMENDMENT NO. 5122

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5122 offered by Senator STEVENS and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. STEVENS, proposes an amendment numbered 5122.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide that, of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army, $7,500,000 may be available for the lease of not more than 300 additional housing units in the vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska)

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. (a) Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading ''FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY'', $7,500,000 may be available for the lease of not more than 300 additional housing units in the vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska. Such funds may not be available for the construction or purchase of such units.

(b)(1) The total cost of a unit leased under subsection (a), including the cost of utilities, maintenance, and operation, may not exceed $25,000 per year.

(2) A lease entered into under subsection (a) may not exceed 5 years in duration or include an option to extend the lease beyond the 5-year period beginning on the date the lease commences.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5122) was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5125

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5125 offered by Senator REED.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. REED, proposes an amendment numbered 5125.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide that, of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps, $3,410,000 shall be available for the replacement of a vehicle bridge at Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island, and to provide an offset)

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. (a) Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading ''MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS'', $3,410,000 may be available for the replacement of a vehicle bridge at Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island.

(b) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading ''MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS'' and available for the Hazardous Material Storage Facility at Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island, is hereby reduced by $3,410,000.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5125) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5131, AS MODIFIED

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5131 offered by Senator THUNE, and I send a modification to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. THUNE, proposes an amendment numbered 5131, as modified.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase by $750,000 the amount appropriated or otherwise made available for Military Construction, Air Force and available for the Air Force Financial Management Center, and to provide an offset)

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. (a) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading ''MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE'' is hereby increased by $750,000.

(b) Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading ''MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE'', as increased by subsection (a), $750,000 may be available for the Air Force Financial Management Center.

(c) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading ''NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM'' is hereby reduced by $750,000.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I have no objection to amendment No. 5131, as modified.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5131), as modified, was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, beg your pardon, if this is by voice vote, I suggest we have a voice vote.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Amendment No. 5125 has been already approved; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There was no objection to the amendment, and it was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5126

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5126 offered by Senator FEINSTEIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mrs. FEINSTEIN, proposes an amendment numbered 5126.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To repeal the requirement for the Secretary of the Interior to cease the plan to exterminate the deer and elk population on Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands, California)

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. Subsection (c) of section 1077 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364) is hereby repealed.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? There being no further debate, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5126) was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5127

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5127 offered by Senator FEINSTEIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mrs. FEINSTEIN, proposes an amendment numbered 5127.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a report on actions taken by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to test veterans for vestibular damage)

On page 106, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following new section:

SEC. 229. Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the actions taken by the Secretary to test veterans for vestibular damage.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5127) was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5129

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5129 offered by Senator CRAIG.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. CRAIG, proposes an amendment numbered 5129.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase to $10,000,000 the threshold for major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs)

On page 106, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following new section:

SEC. 229. (a) INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.—Section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$7,000,000'' and inserting ''$10,000,000''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2006, and shall apply with respect to fiscal years beginning on or after that date.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5129) was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5135

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5135 offered by Senator HUTCHISON. I ask unanimous consent that Senators CRAIG and ALLARD be added as cosponsors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for herself, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. ALLARD, proposes an amendment numbered 5135.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To authorize Department of Veterans Affairs to continue major medical facility projects and leases which have funds previously appropriated)

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. 229. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is authorized to carry out major medical facility projects and leases for which any funds have been appropriated under this Act or any other Act. Further, for major medical facility projects authorized under Public Law 108–170, the Secretary may carry out contracts through September 30, 2007, including land purchase on projects for which Phase I design has been authorized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5135) was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5141

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5141.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] proposes an amendment numbered 5141.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the amount of a military construction project)

At the appropriate place insert the following:

''SEC. 126. (a) the amount available for 'Military Construction, Air Force' is hereby reduced by $25,400,000 for 'Basic Expeditionary Airmen Training Facility, Lackland AFB, Texas.'

''(b) The amount available for 'Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005' is hereby increased by $25,400,000.''

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5141) was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5128, AS MODIFIED

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5128 offered by Senator AKAKA, and I send a modification to the amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

Without objection, the amendment is so modified.

The amendment (No. 5128), as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide, with an offset, an additional $2,500,000 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Office of Inspector General)

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. ____. (a) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The amount appropriated by this title under the heading ''OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'' is hereby increased by $2,500,000.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount appropriated by this title under the heading ''CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS'' is hereby reduced by $2,500,000.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment, as modified, is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5128), as modified, was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5130, AS MODIFIED

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5130 offered by Senator THUNE, and I send a modification to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. THUNE, proposes an amendment numbered 5130, as modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the business plan of the Veterans Integrated Service Network 23 for the implementation of a Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Wagner, South Dakota, to include an evaluation and an analysis of the prospect of colocating such clinic with the Wagner Indian Health Service unit in Wagner, South Dakota)

On page 106, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 229. (a) COLOCATION OF COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC WITH WAGNER INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE UNIT, WAGNER, SOUTH DAKOTA.—No amount appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs by this title may be obligated or expended to implement a business plan of Veterans Integrated Service Network 23 (VISN 23) for the implementation a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Wagner, South Dakota, unless such business plan contains an evaluation and an analysis of the prospect of colocating such Community Based Outpatient Clinic with the Wagner Indian Health Service unit in Wagner, South Dakota.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS FOR EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES AT WAGNER INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE UNIT.—Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs by this title under the heading ''MEDICAL FACILITIES'', at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs up to $500,000 may be available for emergency room services at the Wagner Indian Health Service unit pending implementation of a business plan meeting the requirements in subsection (a).

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5130), as modified, was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5138, AS MODIFIED

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5138 offered by Senator OBAMA, and I send a modification to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. OBAMA, proposes an amendment numbered 5138, as modified.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a report on the costs of the Comprehensive Service Programs for homeless veterans)

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) STUDY ON COSTS OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a study of costs associated with the Comprehensive Service Programs authorized by sections 2011 and 2012 of title 38 United States Code.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the study required by subsection (a). The report shall set forth the following:

(1) The number of authorized and operational transitional housing beds and service centers under the programs referred to in subsection (a) in fiscal year 2006, and the number of such beds and centers in each State and in each Congressional District during such fiscal year.

(2) The cost in fiscal year 2006 of grants under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, to authorized and operational transitional housing beds and service centers under the programs referred to in that subsection.

(3) The cost in fiscal year 2006 of per diem payments under section 2012 of title 38 United States Code, to authorized and operational transitional housing beds and service centers under the programs referred to in that subsection.

(5) The number of applications received, scored as qualified, and awarded pursuant to the Capital Grant Notice of Funds Availability published on April 20, 2006.

(6) The range of per diem payment rates, the average per diem payment rate, and the median per diem payment rate paid to recipients of grants under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, in fiscal year 2006.

(7) The number and percentage of total recipients of grants under section 2011 of title 38 United States Code, in fiscal year 2006 being paid under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under section 1741(a)(1)(A) of that title for fiscal year 2006.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5138), as modified, was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5146

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5146 offered by Senator COCHRAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. COCHRAN, for himself, and Mr. LOTT, proposes an amendment numbered 5146.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide that of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 7 of title I of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps, and available for the replacement of a Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, $13,400,000 may be available for the construction of an additional Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at such center)

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 7 of title I of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–148) under the heading ''MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS'' and available for the replacement of a Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, $13,400,000 may be available for the construction of an additional Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5146) was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, we are now down to two amendments that we are still clearing with the proper committees and one more that is still not yet agreed to.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I understand the chairman and ranking member are trying to work out the final amendments on this bill, and they have both done an excellent job in putting the Military Construction bill together for the Nation. But also, while my colleague from Idaho is on the floor, Senator CRAIG, who is leading on the authorization side, I wanted to come to the floor on behalf of the people of Louisiana and the gulf coast, really, to thank the chair and ranking member for putting in this MILCON bill, the Military Construction appropriations bill, a full authorization for the veterans hospital that was destroyed or heavily damaged in Hurricane Katrina, and then, of course, flooded again in Hurricane Rita. Four hundred thousand veterans from Louisiana rely on this hospital, as well as hundreds of thousands from the gulf coast: Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama.

We have worked very hard to reestablish the veterans infrastructure along the gulf coast. This has been extremely problematic because of some tensions between several committees. But the good work of Senator HUTCHISON from Texas and Senator FEINSTEIN from California and, of course, Senator CRAIG's good help and support has helped us to get this authorization done in this way. We are extremely grateful. It may be the first public-private partnership in the Nation, or one of the earliest. We think it is going to be an excellent model of health care, not only for our veterans but a real economic anchor, if you will, for the revitalization of New Orleans and the gulf coast. We are looking forward to doing an excellent job with this money for the taxpayer and for the veterans, who have come to rely on this hospital and the services we provide as a lifeline, literally. Now they look at it as more than just a place to go for health care; they look at it as a flag that will be raised in the devastated part of New Orleans to rebuild this great city and region. It has really become a symbol of hope, not just for veterans, which it always is, and their families, but now it has become a symbol of hope for our whole community.

So I just wanted, while that is being worked out and other things are being worked out, to take this time to thank them and to tell them how grateful we are in Louisiana and those in the New Orleans area for their help and support and for their confidence in moving this project forward. As a member of the committee, I have been very pleased to work on this and have it accomplished in this way.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I want to announce for our colleagues that it is our intention in the next 15 minutes to finish this bill and go to final passage. We are intending to voice-vote final passage. However, we are still working out two amendments: an amendment by Senator REID and an amendment by Senator ALLEN. I cannot say for sure that there will not be a record vote on one of those amendments, but we are trying to avoid that. I will just say the disposition of the Reid and Allen amendments will be the last measures in this bill to be agreed to, and we will then go to final passage.

I would just tell my colleagues we are hoping not to have any more roll-call votes, but it is not totally clear yet. I hope to be able to finish this by 7 o'clock. I will report back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THUNE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5143

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 5143 by Senator ALLEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for Mr. ALLEN, proposes an amendment numbered 5143.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I urge passage of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 5143) was agreed to.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY PROJECT

Mr. BAUCUS. Is the distinguished Senator from California aware of the need for a new veterans cemetery in Yellowstone County in Montana?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I am aware that there is a need for more veterans cemeteries nationwide. I would be very interested in hearing about the situation in Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. In Montana, we have the highest percentage of veterans per capita of any State in the country. Yellowstone County has 17.5 percent of all of the State's veterans, and when added to the surrounding counties, the greater Yellowstone area includes 25 percent of the State's veterans. The other national cemetery in the area—the Little Bighorn National Cemetery—is full. Eastern Montana faces a severe shortage in burial locations for Veterans.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. What is being done to address this need?

Mr. BAUCUS. On November 7 of this year the voters of Yellowstone County in my home State of Montana overwhelmingly approved a mill levy to provide $250,000 to the opening phase of the construction of the new Yellowstone County National Veterans Cemetery. However, the local mill levy only provides part of the funding needed and is to be used in conjunction with anticipated Federal funding as well as

private donations because the first phase of the project has a preliminary cost estimate of over $1 million for roads, irrigation, and site improvements. Federal funds are needed for the project to begin. This funding is very important to Montana because we are out of burial space for our veterans. This new cemetery would provide burial spaces for our veterans for the next 20 to 30 years.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I applaud the initiative of the residents of Yellowstone County, and I can assure the distinguished Senator from Montana that I will work in conference on this bill to include language in the Statement of Managers directing the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to review the status and progress of the Yellowstone County National Veterans Cemetery project and report his findings back to Congress.

Mr. BAUCUS. I deeply appreciate the commitment of my distinguished colleague from California to the State of Montana's veterans.

CHILD CARE CENTER AT BEALE AIR FORCE BASE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to discuss an issue of critical importance to the military families at Beale Air Force Base in Yuba City, CA.

The Child Development Center, CDC, at Beale Air Force Base is in dire need of refurbishment. While the Beale community has gone to great lengths to ensure that the dependents of military personnel at Beale have a safe place to be cared for and to learn, the reality is that the existing CDC is woefully inadequate.

The existing structure which is approximately 40 years old is worn, outdated, and far too small. In fact, I understand that for over the past 5 years, the waiting list for placing students in the facility has not dropped below 100 children.

To make matters worse, the CDC may even pose a potential health risk to children. Old and worn carpet cannot be replaced because doing so would expose the children to asbestos. This is unacceptable.

Our men and women who are serving our country simply should not have to worry that their children are being exposed to hazardous material. We owe them far more than that.

The Air Force has reached the conclusion that it will take $14 million to refurbish the Beale CDC. It is my understanding that funding to upgrade the CDC is included in the fiscal year Defense plan for 2008. It is extremely important that this funding for the CDC be included in the President's budget request for 2008.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I share my home State colleague's concern for the Child Development Center at Beale. As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, I, too, believe that it is critical to fund the CDC at Beale. The Air Force has included $14 million in its Future Years Defense Plan for fiscal year 2008, which clearly indicates the Air Force intends to include this project for funding in the President's budget request. I strongly urge the Air Force to retain this project in its projection for funding in next year's request.

FUNDING FOR BLINDED VETERANS' SERVICES

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, as we consider legislation to fund the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2007, I want to briefly discuss the importance of providing adequate funding for blinded veterans' services.

Visual impairment or blindness is an increasingly frequent injury among our fighting men and women. In my visits to military hospitals, I have seen firsthand the impact that these severe eye injuries can have on the lives of our young men and women in uniform. While none of them ever complains, the sacrifice they have made for their country is starkly evident, and we owe it to them to ensure they are taken care of when they return home.

The good news is that VA's Blind Rehabilitative Service is a global leader in providing comprehensive blind rehabilitation to America's blinded veterans, and the care available from the Nation's 10 Blind Rehabilitation Centers is dependable and effective. The bad news is that, while these 10 rehabilitation centers provide inpatient care effectively and efficiently, that is not always the case at other VA medical centers across the country.

The VA Medical Center in Denver, CO, treats approximately 900 blinded veterans, many of whom require rehabilitative services that the Denver facility cannot provide. Instead, those men and women must travel to Tucson, AZ, or even farther to the American Lake Blind Center in Washington State to receive the care they have earned. The problem is not limited to my State of Colorado; VA's own analysis in April 2005 found that 78 VA medical centers currently do not have any basic existing outpatient blind rehabilitative services.

I am glad that, in its budget request for fiscal year 2007, the VA provided an increase in its line item for blind services of $5.4 million over last year. However, I am concerned that with growing medical costs and the rising numbers of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe eye injuries, such an increase is not enough.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center recently reported to the Veterans Health Administration that, between March 2003 and April 2006, 16 percent of all service members evacuated from the war in Iraq had eye injuries, and of the 1,800 service members wounded with traumatic brain jury, 19 percent experienced post trauma visual Syndrome, PTVS, with neurological visual impairments requiring long-term specialized care. It is clear from these figures that the VA workload with respect to low-vision and blinded veterans is going to increase in coming years, on top of the already aging population of veterans with blindness.

The strong report language contained in this legislation, which directs the VA to begin implementing a plan to expand more outpatient blind rehabilitation services and training and directs the VA to report back to Congress on the status of these efforts, is a good start. I am grateful to Chairwoman HUTCHISON and Ranking Member FEINSTEIN and their staffs for their work in this area and hope we can work together to build on these efforts to ensure adequate funding for blinded veterans' services in years to come.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator SALAZAR for his dedication to our Nation's veterans and to the effort to provide comprehensive care to blinded veterans in particular. I certainly understand the devastating impact that severe eye injuries have on the lives of service men and women returning from combat and agree we must work to ensure that our efforts in Congress keep pace with the rising costs of providing care to these men and women and with the growing numbers of service members returning home in need of such care.

The language contained in this report is strong, and I am confident it will help to push the VA in the right direction as we strive to provide care for blinded veterans in the most comprehensive and efficient way possible. I remain committed to that effort and to working with my colleagues in both parties to see that blinded veterans receive the best services our government can provide.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, again, I thank the chair and the ranking member for their leadership on this legislation and look forward to working closely with both of them on behalf of our Nation's blinded veterans.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I support the Smith and Burns amendments and take just a few minutes to address both issues which are truly an emergency.

First, Mr. Smith has filed an amendment to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act for 1 year. Without a one year extension, the 780 counties that benefit from the Act will face difficult funding decisions regarding the next school year. This act expired September 30th of this year and the last payment is in the process of being made. Without this funding, school districts will have to decide what programs should be cut in order to make ends meet. For many districts this will include the decision of which schools to keep open and which schools to close. We are about to experience an emergency in our schools if funding is not addressed.

The act has been an enormous success in achieving and even surpassing the goals of Congress. This act has restored programs for students in rural schools and prevented the closure of numerous isolated rural schools. It has been a primary funding mechanism to provide rural school students with educational opportunities comparable to

suburban and urban students. Over 4,400 rural schools receive funds because of this act.

Next, the act has allowed rural county road districts and county road departments to address the severe maintenance backlog. Snow removal has been restored for citizens, tourists, and school buses. Bridges have been upgraded and replaced and culverts that are hazardous to fish passage have been upgraded and replaced.

The legacy of this act over the last few years is positive and substantial. This law should be extended so it can continue to benefit the forest counties, their schools, and continue to contribute to improving the health of our national forests.

If we do not work to reauthorize this act, all of the progress of the last years will be lost. Schools in timber dependant communities will lose a substantial part of their funding. These school districts will have to start making tough budget decisions such as keeping or canceling after school programs, sports programs, music programs, and trying to determine what is the basic educational needs of our children. Next, counties will have to reprioritize road maintenance so that only the essential services of the county are met because that is all they will be able to afford.

Thirty of our colleagues, have joined Senator Wyden and me in recognizing the importance of the reauthorization of this Act by cosponsoring S. 267.

Next, Mr. Burns' has filed an amendment addressing wildfire suppression funding. As we all know, this has been an extraordinary year with 89,524 fires on 9.5 million acres of land across the country to date. Indeed, this has been the worst fire season on record in terms of acres burned. By way of comparison, the 10-year average projection for fiscal year 2006 was 60,726 fires on 4.9 million acres, or about half of what is likely to burn for this year.

Due to the severity of this year's fire season, the Forest Service and Department of the Interior, DOI, will exhaust their appropriated funds for wildfire suppression before the end of this fiscal year which will force them to borrow from nonfire program accounts. Additional funds are needed to repay these borrowed funds or these agencies will face serious disruptions to critical programs. When borrowing from non-fire program accounts occurs, it causes numerous project delays and cancellations, strained relationships with state and local agency partners, and disruptions in essential program management efforts. Frequently, these cancellations and delays increase costs and the time needed to complete the projects. Again, we need to address this emergency before it causes significant havoc for our public lands.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, in July the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2007 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. As a member of the committee, I supported this measure, and it is now being considered by the full Senate.

The bill provides a total of $94.3 billion in spending, including funding to make a number of critical upgrades to our military infrastructure. As a member of the appropriations subcommittee that has oversight on military construction, I was able to use my position to ensure that $23.4 million was included for three military construction projects in South Dakota.

Investing in our military infrastructure ensures that our military personnel have the tools they need to perform their mission. This bill provides $7.5 million to construct a new base civil engineer maintenance complex for the South Dakota Air National Guard at Joe Foss Field. This funding is necessary because the current complex is undersized and inadequate. The new facility will help the 114th Fighter Wing maintain a combat-ready force of civil engineers.

In addition to this infrastructure upgrade, Ellsworth Air Force Base will receive $3 million to install an urgently needed base water well. Likewise, a new Armed Forces Reserve Center will be constructed in Sioux Falls. Currently Army Reserve and Navy Reserve operations are housed in leased facilities that are over 40 years old. The new center will consolidate all operations into a new complex.

The bill also includes nearly $78 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is $6.45 billion above last year's funding level. This amount includes $28.7 billion for medical services—an increase of $3 billion from last year.

Most importantly, the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected President Bush's budget proposal to implement a $250 annual enrollment fee and increased pharmacy copayments for category 7 and 8 veterans. These fees are designed to generate revenue in order to help offset VA expenditures. In reality, they may force veterans to seek health care elsewhere because they cannot afford either the annual enrollment fees or the increased copayment costs.

Rather than relying on budget proposals aimed at driving veterans out of the VA in order to save money, I am pleased that the Senate opposed President Bush's proposal. I firmly believe that we should provide adequate funding to ensure all those who have defended our country receive the health care they have earned and deserve.

Mr. President, I continue to have deep concerns about the spending priorities of the Bush administration, but I do believe this bill will help provide our service members with top-notch military facilities. And while we can always do more for our veterans, this bill is a step in the right direction toward honoring our commitment to all those who served.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill because of its commitment to VA health care as well as its support of vital and necessary military facilities in the State of Colorado.

I am pleased that this bill increases funding to essential programs that maintain and improve the quality of life for our veterans. It important to note that this is the sixth consecutive year that Congress has increased funding for veterans health care programs. This year the committee recommends that Veterans Health Administration be appropriated at $32.67 billon, which is a $3.32 billion increase over last year's level.

Furthermore, I would like to commend the committee for maintaining their commitment to Capital Asset Realignment Enhanced Services, CARES, process. CARES is the most comprehensive analysis of the VA's health care infrastructure that has ever been conducted and is important in prioritizing the VA's budget. Specifically, I am especially pleased with the committee's recommendation of $52 million for a replacement hospital in Denver, CO.

The current Denver VA hospital was built more than 50 years ago and medical technology has far surpassed what the builders of the Denver VA originally envisioned. While I cannot say enough about the care and service our veterans receive at the current facility, many changes and improvements can and should be made, and a new facility is the only way to accomplish these goals.

The construction plans present credible proof that a new Fitzsimons facility will increase healthcare quality and quantity for our veterans. It is my hope, and it is a likely one, that a new hospital will also serve as a regional beacon for modern veteran medical care science and will fill an important void for the large number of veterans in Colorado.

I would like to acknowledge the recommendation of $161 million for the National Cemetery Administration, which saw an increase of $4.1 million over the fiscal year 2006 level. Specifically, I am pleased the committee recognizes the need for a VA cemetery in the Pikes Peak region of southern Colorado. This area is home to over 125,000 veterans, and would be well served by a national cemetery.

Additionally, I support portions of this appropriations bill that recommend $50.1 million for necessary military construction improvements at Fort Carson, and an additional $130.6 million for projects in Colorado.

Specifically at Fort Carson, this bill recommends funds for the completion of phase 2 of the airfield arrival/departure complex as well as funds for the Special Operations Complex. Fort Carson, known as the Mountain Post, plays an essential role for the Army.

I am also pleased at the committee's recommendation that directs the U.S. Air Force to submit a master infrastructure recapitalization plan for the

U.S. Air Force Academy facilities. This plan will begin the process of updating and improving necessary infrastructure concerns. As the Academy enters its sixth decade of operation, these important improvements will better enable the Academy to fulfill its mission of education, training and equipping cadets.

Other projects in Colorado funded by this bill includes funds for the Space Test and Evaluation Facility at Schriever Air Force Base, continued construction at the Pueblo Chemical Weapons Depot, $10.7 million for a consolidated fuels facility at Buckley AFB and $7 million for the Air National Guard F–16 Fighter Squadron Operations Center, also at Buckley AFB. These projects are vital to the continued success of our military at all levels.

I urge the Senate to expeditiously pass this bill in order to send it to the President's desk as soon as possible. I would also like to thank Chairwoman HUTCHISON for her leadership and diligence on this committee over the years and look forward to continuing to work with her in the future.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today to address the Senate concerning the legislation before us, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007. This bill is particularly important in this time of ongoing war, structural changes in the force, and an aging veteran population. The committee has worked to produce a bill that, while imperfect, addresses many of the issues that challenge our armed services and veterans, and I thank them for their work.

America remains at war, a war that continues to unite Americans in pursuit of a common goal—to defeat terrorism. Americans have and will continue to make sacrifices for this war. Our service men and women in particular are truly on the front lines in this war, separated from their families, risking their lives, and working extraordinarily long hours under the most difficult conditions to accomplish the ambitious but necessary task their country has set for them.

It is important that we understand the context of this year's military construction legislation. Three processes are playing out simultaneously that require reasoned and appropriate congressional action on this bill. First, America's struggle for peace in Iraq continues. Second, our largest service, the Army, is undertaking significant structural changes and redeploying thousands of troops. Third, the recent round of base realignment and closure that streamlined the defense infrastructure is now being implemented. These three issues have defined the requirements of the legislation before us. The committee has recognized the challenges and outlined military construction spending that, in large part, meets them.

I am pleased to note that the Appropriations Committee has met the spending level requested by the administration for the Department of Veterans Affairs. This is particularly important in light of the growing numbers of young veterans who look to the VA for care. To date more than 184,000 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have sought care through the VA. Of that number, 30,000 have been found to exhibit symptoms similar to post-traumatic stress or PTSD, and I applaud the committee's support for PTSD programs and funding. This legislation also provides $32.7 billion for the Veterans Health Administration for fiscal year 2007, nearly equivalent to the President's request.

I commend the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for her willingness to work with the Senate Armed Services Committee, SASC, to ensure this bill generally funds MILCON projects consistent with the authorizing committee's views. The chairman has always made a considerable effort to work with the authorizers to mitigate differences in the defense funding and authorizing bills.

In particular, I appreciate the chairman's efforts to remove an unrequested and unauthorized MILCON project for Lackland Air Force Base after I brought my concerns to her attention. That project was not requested by the administration, nor is it listed in the Air Force's Unfunded Priority List, UPL. It was added only after the Air Force Chief of Staff sought the funding outside the regular process, without the concurrence of DOD or OMB and without any notification to or feedback from the authorizing committees.

When the authoring committees finally learned about this project, we had already completed committee markups and passed Defense authorization bills in both chambers. The authorizing committees refused to add an out-of-scope provision into the final conference report to authorize this Air Force earmark, and as such, the chairman has since agreed to remove it from the pending bill in a manager's amendment on the Senate floor.

I wanted to spend time on the Senate floor to highlight this Air Force MILCON earmark because it demonstrates how authorizers and appropriators can and should work together. While ideally the provision would never have been included in the bill since it wasn't requested, the chairman was more than willing to listen to my concerns as an authorizer, and she acted most appropriately by agreeing to remove the earmark. Again, I thank Senator HUTCHISON for her steadfast leadership and accommodation of the authorization committees' wishes.

Unfortunately, the bill before us is not entirely free of earmarks. I am concerned that, while this bill is some $434 million below the administration's request, it nonetheless recommends almost $90 million in unrequested spending that is directed at unauthorized projects. While I recognize that many of the earmarks added to this legislation may sound worthwhile, they do not belong in the bill or its report. Needless to say, it is distressing that in this time of fiscal constraints, lawmakers continue to earmark military funds while underfunding the President's overall request.

Let me mention a few examples of money earmarked in the committee report for specific projects that were not requested by the Department of Defense: $1.5 million for a general instruction building in Fort Lewis, WA; $1.5 million for officer's quarters in Ravenna, OH; $1.5 million for a dining facility at Camp Roberts in San Miguel, CA; $3.4 million for an Aviation Readiness Center at Helena Regional Airport, MT; $1.4 million for an engine shop in Fort Worth, TX; $900,000 for an information technology complex at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; and $2.0 million for a regional training institute in West Virginia.

Almost all the earmarked money will go to the States represented by members of the committee. These examples are only part of the nearly $60 million in unrequested earmarks that siphon funds away from important programs needed for enhancing our warfighting capability. This means that the armed services have come to us with urgent needs, and we have responded by giving them less than what they asked for while requiring that they spend it to suit our parochial needs rather than military necessity.

The problems facing our active and retired veterans, whether in the form of force structure or modernization or enhancing quality of life benefits, are properly addressed in a deliberative budget process. However, we should think twice before diverting money away from military necessities to fund home State projects. The American taxpayer expects more of us, as do our brave service men and women who are fighting this war on global terrorism on our behalf.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, we are now ready to go to final passage. I ask for a voice vote on passage.

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

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 5385), as amended, was passed.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the title amendment be agreed to.

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

The title was amended so as to read:

An Act making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I think that finalizes the bill, the Military Construction appropriations bill and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill for 2007. I thank all of my colleagues for their cooperation and patience, especially my colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN, my ranking member who has been such a great colleague to work with on this bill. Her staff and my staff have done an incredible job. I appreciate this opportunity and look forward to going to conference and having our military personnel be housed and have the equipment that is in the Military Construction bill which they so readily deserve.

Especially, I have to say that funding the veterans and their needs is a special privilege for all of us because we have young men and women coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan as we speak with injuries that we want to assure are cared for and healed, and where necessary that we have the rehabilitation which they so richly deserve.

I think we have done a good job of covering these needs. I am very pleased that we have taken one more step to finalize this bill.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, if I might, I thank the chairman, my friend, the Senator from Texas. We usually have a very easy time with this bill. There are usually not many amendments to this bill. But perhaps because this is the first vehicle to move a number of items, they seemed to come up this afternoon. I think the chairman has shown great leadership and flexibility. Sometimes they go together and sometimes they do not, but she has possessed both today.

I am very grateful, and the Democratic side is very grateful for it as well. This is a good bill. It is a bipartisan bill. It takes good care of veterans. It eliminates the problem of financing that we had last year. Overall, it is an excellent bill. I am very proud to have worked with the chairman. I thank her.

I thank the majority staff. And, of course, I thank my staff, of which Christina Evans is sitting on my left, and B.G. Wright and Chad Schulken back in the box.

It has been a good day. At least we have accomplished a substantial bill.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT KAMPHA B. SOURIVONG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I ask that the Senate join me in paying tribute to SGT Kampha Sourivong, who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting freedom. Sergeant Sourivong, of Iowa City, IA, was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, Army National Guard, based out of Iowa Falls, IA. He was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom with the unit in September 2005 and arrived in Iraq in early May 2006. He died at the age of 20, on September 30, 2006, in Al Asad, Iraq, when his military vehicle encountered small arms fire.

Sergeant Sourivong will be posthumously awarded the following awards and decorations for his heroic service: the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilization device, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

My thoughts and prayers have been with Sergeant Sourivong's parents, Patty and Maliphone Sourivong, his brother and sister, and all those other family and friends who are grieving the loss of this young man. The Sourivong family described Kampha as ''a very caring person'' who ''had a lot of friends, loved his family, loved his brother and loved his sister'' and someone who ''would give the shirt off his back to someone in need.''

I am grateful for the sacrifice that both Sergeant Sourivong and his family have made. Our Nation will forever be in their debt. While the tragic loss of this young American is deeply saddening, he will be remembered proudly as the hero that he was.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSWOMAN HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in recent weeks, many of our thoughts have been turned to Helen Chenoweth-Hage, her memory, and her family.

As you know, Helen was laid to rest in October after a tragic automobile accident took her life. We honor and remember this remarkable woman, and I feel privileged to share with you some of my memories and thoughts about her and the time that we served together in the U.S. House of Representatives.

There will never be another public servant in Idaho like Helen. I served alongside her in the House of Representatives and worked on many issues with her, from fighting Federal mandates in north Idaho to fighting for our military at Mountain Home Air Force Base and Gowen Field in Boise. She stood firm in her convictions and beliefs, honoring the promises she made to those who put her in office. Helen knew, without a doubt, what she believed in, and she lived those beliefs in word and deed unwaveringly.

She worked very hard to make sure she had an understanding of what was at stake. When she started her congressional career in 1995, she read every piece of legislation that was coming up for a vote on the House floor. She felt she owed it to those who sent her to Congress. She surprised more than a few committee chairmen by showing up at hearings being held by committees she didn't serve on, simply because of her desire to know more and understand an issue.

One of her most-oft repeated matras was ''Love many, trust few, and paddle your own canoe.'' And that is exactly what she did—she was not someone who would check the wind before deciding what to do. She listened, asked questions, read documents, studied the issues, and talked with experts and plain folks. She took all that information she gathered and then made her decision. At her center was a very principled, gracious woman—one who was strong in her beliefs and kind to all those around her, regardless of theirs. In many ways, she mirrored the principled center many of us admire about President Ronald Reagan.

Idahoans have lost a true champion for smaller government and personal freedoms. Helen brought Idaho into the national spotlight. She stood tough on the issues and spoke out often, even after she left the House of Representatives in 2001. She could always be counted on to call out hypocrisy in government and placed her reputation on the line many times to hold to her beliefs on what was best for Idahoans.

Perhaps the best way to remember Helen is to quote her own words in an interview done with Reason Magazine in October 2000. When the reporter asked how she would like to be remembered, this is what she said:

> That I have been true to real Republican principles. It's been people like Tom Coburn, Mark Sanford, and myself who have constantly said, 'Let's not forget who we are and why we are here.' And that is to protect individual rights, American sovereignty, and private property. If there is not a force of law and justice to protect private property, then we have lost the basis of our freedoms.

She said something else in that interview that strikes a resonant chord with me, in particular. When asked what the greatest threat to American Liberty was, she said:

> Too much federal and state government. The lack of respect of people working in government for individuals. An idea that certain people who occupy powerful positions in the administration can make better decisions about an individual and their life choices than can that individual.

Helen will always be remembered as a champion of the individual—the rugged, self-reliant American that is in all of us—and I thank her for that.

BOB DOLE ON GEORGE MCGOVERN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, civility is alive and well in the great State of South Dakota.

During the recess, there was an extraordinary, bipartisan celebration honoring our former colleague, Senator George McGovern. The occasion was the dedication of the George and Eleanor McGovern Library at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD.

The dedication brought together former President Bill Clinton, former majority leader Bob Dole, former majority leader Tom Daschle, Senator JOHN THUNE, Representative STEPHANIE HERSETH, Governor Mike Rounds, and 5,000 of Senator McGovern's closest friends and admirers.

Governor Rounds noted that Senator McGovern was a ''patriot'' and that ''all of us gathered here today have a whole lot more in common than what divides us as Americans.'' Senator THUNE noted that his father always voted for George McGovern, even as the children urged him to vote Republican, because George was a decorated WWII fighter pilot. Perhaps it was Senator Dole, with his characteristic humor, who best captured the significance of Senator McGovern's inspiring career.

I ask unanimous consent that the remarks of Senator Dole be printed in the RECORD.

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

Thank you very much for that generous introduction, and for the honor of receiving the first McGovern Prize for Leadership and Public Service. It is something that I will cherish, not least of all because of its namesakes who have set the standard—in friendship as well as in leadership. This week's events remind us once again that George McGovern is a uniter and not a divider. Who else could bring together Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Al Neuharth, Tom Daschle, John Thune, and Peter, Paul and Mary?

As you know, at times George and I have had our political differences. Though not the differences you might think. For example, here at Wesleyan he was twice elected president of his class. I have yet to be elected president of anything—though I'm thinking of running against Bill Clinton for president of the Senate spouses.

For me tonight is both an opportunity to salute an old friend, and to repay an old debt. You see, three years ago George came to the dedication of the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. What he said about me then more than made up for what he said about me when I ran for President in 1980, 1988 and 1996. So I figured the least I could do was to return the favor, and make up for what I said about him, when he ran for President in 1968—and 1972—and 1984.

I've long since accommodated myself to a career pitching Pepsi and other stimulants. And George has happily resigned himself to the fact that the only presidents in South Dakota are on Mount Rushmore. At our stage of life we both adhere to the wisdom of W.C. Fields, who expressed his philosophy as follows: If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again. Then give up. No use being a damn fool about it.

Of course, in all that truly matters, George has never given up. Neither has his beloved Eleanor. Sixty-six years after they enrolled as undergraduates on this campus, sixty-three years after they declared their marriage vows, the McGoverns of Mitchell are still making a difference, still living every day in the spirit of this school's motto: sacrifice or service.

Having been both a candidate and a candidate's spouse, I speak from experience when I say that for spouses it isn't sacrifice or service, it's sacrifice and service. But then Eleanor McGovern has always been a leader and humanitarian in her own right. What ever else you can say about us, it's pretty clear that both George and I married above ourselves.

That's not all we have in common. ''There is a wholesomeness about life in a rural state. . .life tends to be more authentic and less artificial.'' The words are George's but the sentiment applies as much to Russell, Kansas as to Mitchell, South Dakota. We both can attest to the fact that small towns nurture large dreams, and a generosity unbounded as the Great Plains. Generosity is what this evening's all about—the generosity of donors, and of those who seek their donations. I want to congratulate Ambassador Kimmelman and President Duffett as well as the trustees and the campaign committee and every single individual whose generosity has helped to realize a dream called the McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service.

Since we're all being so generous, maybe george would let me borrow his fundraising team. We could use your help at KU. I can't imagine a more appropriate tribute to the McGoverns than a library, and not just because George taught here at Wesleyan before he put classroom theory to the test in a public career that spans half a century. In fact, he and Eleanor are both educators at heart. They understand, for they personify, the essential truth of education—that so long as books are kept open, then minds can never be closed. In years to come, this place will be an incubator of informed Citizenship. What more could any teacher ask for?

Generosity takes many forms. In the case of the McGoverns, it means a lifetime of principled service, and a personal decency that transcends any party label. I'm tempted to say it transcends generations as well. It has been said by this state's second most famous son, Tom Brokaw, that George and I belong to the greatest generation. Actually, we were fairly average americans, who suddenly found ourselves caught up in the historical whirlwind—a tornado as random and devastating as any that slashed across the prairies of my youth.

If we were prepared for the curve balls that came our way, it was only because of the values passed on to us by pioneers and parents who had confronted more than their share of challenges. When hard times engulfed the American farmer like a Kansas dust storm, we clung all the tighter to our neighbors. I don't know about George, but my own commitment to feeding the hungry is rooted in those distant days when millions of Americans struggled to put food on the table. Hunger is bipartisan. So is compassion.

It wasn't only economic democracy that was called into question during those bleak years. Also on the line was the idea—enshrined in places like Mitchell and Russell—that every life is precious because every human is created with a plan and a purpose. The great test of our time was moral as well as military. It was met by 16 million citizen soldiers, backed by millions more on the home front. All of them heroes in the age old struggle for popular government.

The word hero gets thrown around a lot. It's a lot easier to be a hero if someone is shooting at you, as happened to me on an Italian hillside—or attempting to shoot down your plane, as George will recall from 35 missions with his fellow B–24 bomber pilots. Nor was it any accident that he named his plane the Dakota Queen—for the young bride to whom he would return after the war, with a Distinguished Flying Cross pinned to his uniform. When in another context George said, ''Come home, America,'' I think it was that America to which he referred—a country that in every generation has produced heroes, and is, in turn, a land fit for heroes to come home to.

In this America we fight as one, though we vote and pray and speak as many. One of the unfortunate aspects of modern politics is our tendency to label, dehumanize and even demonize opponents who are, after all, opponents—not enemies. George McGovern is a leader, not a label. The man we honor this evening is a proud liberal who nevertheless found much to admire in such common sense conservatives as Bob Taft and Barry Goldwater. A Methodist preacher's son, raised in a republican household, he cast his first vote for Henry Wallace. As a young activist he was spellbound by the eloquence of Adlai Stevenson. But in later years he would praise my hero, Dwight Eisenhower, for his statesmanship and restraint while in the White House.

George got to Congress ahead of me. By the time we served in the Senate, it's a safe bet that our votes usually cancelled each other out. As fate would have it, I was Republican national chairman in 1972, the year George ran against President Nixon. In politics, as earlier, I tried to be a good soldier. but there are times when party loyalty asks too much. More than once I returned speech drafts objecting to the official line against the Democratic nominee for President. By election day, I think I had upset more people around the White House than George did. enough, anyway, so that I became expendable once the votes were counted.

Come to think of it, George, there's another thing we have in common. We were both left unemployed by the Nixon White House.

If ever a candidate was entitled to nurse a grudge, it was George McGovern. Except no man I know is less inclined to waste time or energy in holding grudges. His generosity of spirit extended to the man who defeated him in 1972. I will never forget a day in June, 1993, when we buried Pat Nixon in the rose gardens at the Nixon Library and birthplace. After the formal service concluded, we were invited inside—away from the prying eye of television—so that President Nixon could deliver a tribute of his own to his wife of fifty-three years. Among other things, he spoke of the joys of grandparenting, describing what happened when their youngest granddaughter, Jennie, asked Mrs. Nixon how she wished to be addressed.

After rejecting ''grandmother'' as too formal, and ''grandma'' as a bit too elderly for her liking, Pat suggested to the little girl that she call her ''Ma.'' Jennie then put the same question to her famous grandfather. To which he replied, ''Oh, you can call me anything, Jennie, because I've been called everything.'' At that moment I wasn't the only person in the room who was struggling to control his emotions. Not twenty feet from Nixon stood George, dabbing at his eyes with a handkerchief.

Later that day, a reporter approached him, curious to know why he was there. George

replied that he had always admired Mrs. Nixon, and wished to honor her memory. The reporter persisted. Why should he honor the wife of the man whose alleged dirty tricks may have denied him the White House?

And you know what George told him? In what may be the classiest remark I've ever heard, George looked him straight in the eye and said, ''You can't keep on campaigning forever.''

Four years later I had my own taste of defeat, following a hard fought campaign as President Ford's running mate. When it was over, I got some bracing advice from Hubert Humphrey—yet another proud son of South Dakota who knew what it felt like to lose a close one. Hubert, like George, had a gift for bipartisan friendship that made him a genuinely beloved figure in the Senate. We worked closely on issues dealing with agriculture and nutrition. He was promoting Minnesota dairy farmers, and I was pushing Kansas wheat, but we shared a common vision—the same vision with which George McGovern gave life to President Kennedy's Food for Peace Program—with which he inspired school lunch programs and food stamps and which, even now, underlies his dream of a world in which no child goes to bed hungry.

George and Eleanor call this the third freedom. They have even set a deadline of 2030 by which they hope to banish hunger around the globe. To some this may seem impossibly visionary. Not to the McGoverns. ''People call me an idealist,'' Woodrow Wilson once said. ''Well, that is how I know I am an American.''

Is it idealistic to insist, as George and I do, that school children deserve not only a square lunch, but breakfast as well? Is it idealistic to demand that the children of low income and working families have the same access to basic nutrition as their well-heeled classmates? Is it idealistic to want to share American's bounty with hungry children in other lands—to feed their bodies out of our abundance, to demonstrate that the freedom we cherish is not the freedom to starve, but the freedom to soar.

Is that idealistic—or just plain American? Here in the Heartland our ideals and our interests are inseparable. To us freedom is a theory, a mere abstraction, unless it improves the quality of life for those who are set free. Earlier I mentioned Mount Rushmore. One of the four Presidents enshrined there is Theodore Roosevelt. One hundred years ago TR professed horror when told of Americans who, when traveling abroad, apologetically asked their foreign hosts to refrain from judging the United States based on its politicians.

But they must judge his country by the actions of its politicians, said TR. Was that idealistic? Or was it simply the old rugged faith in the ability of so-called ordinary men and women to govern themselves? It is easy to be cynical about modern day politics. But the easy course will never fix what is broken. In America, government is nothing if it is not self-government. For in the mirror of democracy we see reflected back to us both our noblest, and our meanest, attributes. It is the purpose of this college to promote the best that we can be. It is the goal of the McGovern Center to foster service before self. And it is the hope of America that our politics can be as decent as our people—that civility need never be confused with weakness—nor compromise with surrender.

When we come home to this America, we will fulfill the promise of our birth. We will create a legacy to inspire generations yet unborn. And we will uphold the McGovern tradition of idealistic leadership—for that is how we know we are Americans.

Thank you very much.

HEROICS OF ALAN JOHNSTON

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize with the highest esteem Mr. Alan Johnston of Windsor, ME, for the tremendous courage and enormous valor he demonstrated in Iraq in 2004 that helped save many lives.

CPT Aaron P. Hill of the U.S. Marine Corps recounted in a witness statement that Alan Johnston's heroic actions on August 7, 2004, had he been in military uniform, would have earned him a medal. Mr. Johnston, a civilian contractor who was overseeing construction of two medical clinics in Iraq, acted swiftly and selflessly to rescue others during a suicide attack on the headquarters facility at the Al Kasik Military Base located approximately 35 miles northwest of Mosul, Iraq.

Captain Hill was part of a unit advising Iraqi soldiers in Northern Iraq. He credits Mr. Johnston with saving a number of lives after insurgents drove two water trucks packed with as many as 8,000 pounds of explosives to the headquarters building. The blasts from this insurgent attack lasted over 90 minutes and destroyed the 2-level headquarters building, resulting in 14 deaths and an estimated 40 severely to critically injured people.

Acting without hesitation, Mr. Johnston sounded the alarm, throwing those around him to the floor, saving many lives. In the devastation that followed, acting with total disregard to his own safety, Mr. Johnston emerged from the wreckage and began to assist in evacuating and treating the survivors. Despite the continuing barrage of mortars and rockets, Mr. Johnston continued to offer help with his medical expertise, calm demeanor, and steadfast devotion to helping his fellow man.

Mr. Johnston not only reduced casualties and treated the wounded but restored critical support systems, including power and water. He also helped to find ways to feed the thousands of Iraqi soldiers dependent on the American military for support.

Alan Johnston, a 6-year veteran of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and an emergency medical technician for nearly 18 years, suffered injuries to his head and leg but treated himself and remained at the base in Iraq for 3 months after the attack. He left Iraq in December of 2004 and underwent another series of leg surgeries once he returned to the United States.

As a result of Captain Hill's eyewitness account of Alan Johnston's actions, last month I had the solemn privilege of pinning the Defense of Freedom Medal on Mr. Johnston's lapel at a medal ceremony held at my Augusta, ME, office with Mr. Johnston's family present, officially acknowledging these courageous actions. This award is a rare and unique commendation issued only to civilians and is equivalent to the Purple Heart awarded to military service men and women.

But what is most remarkable is that this occasion marked the first time a civilian, private contractor was awarded this particular medal. Mr. Johnston's lifesaving response to serve and sacrifice on behalf of others was something he chose to do. It was not his duty. It was not his responsibility it was his goodwill and American patriotism that drove him to put his life at risk in order to assist and save others. There is only one word that sufficiently describes this exemplary Mainer, and that word is hero. I was extremely proud to present him with the Defense of Freedom Medal.

Mr. Johnston's awe-inspiring willingness to think of others ahead of himself will forever be remembered by those whose lives he touched and saved that day. The courageous commitment and valiant care demonstrated by Alan Johnston of Windsor, ME, exemplifies the very best of what it means to be a Mainer and an American

TRIBUTE TO ROB McCLINTIC

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of my longtime friend and staff member, Rob McClintic. After 23 years of work in the U.S. Congress, Rob has decided to retire from the Senate.

Rob started with my office on March 13, 1998, while I was still in the U.S. House of Representatives. When I won the election to the Senate in 2000, I couldn't imagine not bringing Rob to work in the Senate with me.

Rob is often the first contact with my constituents and visitors. As a staff assistant, Rob has been tasked with answering phone calls from constituents and greeting visitors. Everyone who works in Congress knows that answering phones is an extremely important job and can be tremendously challenging. This is one of the main ways that Senators and Representatives hear how their constituents are feeling on important issues. Rob has at busy times answered well over 100 or more phone calls a day. In 23 years on the Hill, Rob surely has answered over 600,000 phone calls. This is, needless to say, a tremendous feat.

Rob is also responsible for giving tours of the Capitol building and for setting up other tours around Washington, DC. His knowledge of the history of the Capitol is outstanding. He knows every corner of the Capitol and provides a personal touch on each and every tour. Rob not only just gave tours, he made sure that the visitors from Michigan enjoyed their stay in DC, and experienced the history of Congress.

Prior to working for me, Rob worked for Congressman Phil Sharp from Indiana, Rob's home State, from April 1983 through January 1995 and Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio from August 1995 through February 1998.

Upon leaving the Senate, Rob will be moving back to his home State of Indiana to be closer to friends and family. I know his family is proud of him and will welcome him home with open arms.

I also know that Rob's friendly demeanor and unparalleled professionalism will be dearly missed here in Washington, DC. Rob McClintic is irreplaceable.

Mr. President, I am sad because I am losing my trusted and valued staffer who has worked with me for nearly a decade, but I am happy to see a dear friend move on to new challenges, and I wish him the best of luck.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN U.S. FOREST SERVICE FIREFIGHTERS FROM CALIFORNIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I have a very heavy heart as I pay tribute to five fallen U.S. Forest Service firefighters from California. It is an honor to talk about their heroic deeds, but it is heartbreaking.

These five heroes died in the line of duty while protecting families and homes in the Esperanza Fire west of Palm Springs. We deeply mourn the loss of Engine Captain Mark Loutzenhiser, Fire Engine Operator Jess McLean, Assistant Fire Engine Operator Jason McKay, Firefighter Daniel Hoover-Najera, and Firefighter Pablo Cerda.

Mark Loutzenhiser was 44 years old and had 21 years of firefighting service. He was a certified emergency management technician, EMT. He had previously worked as a hotshot crewman for the Vista Grande Hot Shots and also as a volunteer firefighter for Riverside County. He majored in fire science at Mount San Jacinto College. He was a longtime resident of Idyllwild, CA, and was a wonderful supporter and coach for the youth sports program. He is survived by his wife Maria Loutzenhiser.

Jess McLean was 27 years old and had 7 years of firefighting service. He had been a hotshot for 3 years with the Vista Grande Hot Shots. He graduated from Banning High School in 1997 and attended fire science classes at Crafton Hills College. He was a resident of Beaumont, CA. He is survived by his wife Karen McLean and his mother Cecelia McLean.

Jason McKay was 27 years old and had 5 years of Forest Service experience and 4 years as a volunteer firefighter in Adelanto. He also served on the Mojave Greens Type II crew. He was a certified EMT and earned an associate's degree in fire science. He was a resident of Phelan, CA. He is survived by his mother Bonnie J. McKay and his father Robert McKay.

Daniel Hoover-Najera was 20 years old and in his second season of firefighting. He worked on the Tahquitz Type II crew in 2005 and was a seasonal employee in 2006. He graduated from San Jacinto Mountain View High School in 2004. He was a resident of San Jacinto, CA. He is survived by his mother Gloria Ayala and his father Timothy Hoover.

Pablo Cerda was 23 years old and in his second season with the Forest Service. He was previously of the Tahquitz Type II crew. He graduated from Los Amigos High School in Santa Ana in 2001 and attended Fire Academy of Riverside Community College. He was a resident of Fountain Valley, CA. He is survived by his father Pablo Cerda, Sr.

These five U.S. Forest Service firefighters on Engine Crew 57 on the San Jacinto Ranger District were dispatched early on the morning of Thursday, October 26 to fight the Esperanza fire. As the fire blazed out of control, they bravely fought it when they were overrun by flames.

Mark, Jess, Jason, Daniel, and Pablo are true examples of why we call firefighters heroes. They bravely and selflessly risked their lives time and time again trying to protect California. No more could be asked of anyone. Tragically, they have fallen in one of these battles. We know why their friends, family, and colleagues are so proud of them and so devastated by their loss. Their loss reverberates throughout California and our Nation.

I send my sincere condolences to their families, their communities, and all of the firefighters who had the honor of serving with Mark, Jess, Jason, Daniel, and Pablo over the years.

These firefighters are extraordinary heroes. And we will not rest until we have found those responsible for this horrific crime.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, as the session winds down I have been thinking back over the year. As always, there has been a lot more activity than action, but we are making progress on the people's business.

But not everything we do here is legislative in nature. Senator PRYOR and I had the opportunity to chair the National Prayer Breakfast in February, a nonofficial, nonpartisan, and nondenominational gathering of people from all over the world who are seeking better ways to connect with each other and find strength beyond ourselves. Many of our colleagues in the House and Senate participated. For their reference and for the benefit of other interested readers of this RECORD, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of a transcript of the event, including a very interesting talk by U2 lead singer and humanitarian Bono, be printed in the RECORD.

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

Senator Mark Pryor: Good morning. Thank you very much for being here. I am Senator Mark Pryor, from Arkansas, and I am one of the co-chairs of this event along with my very good friend Senator Norm Coleman of Minnesota. We are so grateful that you have come from every state in the Union, and from 160 nations around the world. To start us out on an uplifting and prayerful note, I am happy to introduce Karen Mason from Little Rock, Arkansas. She has a song to share today about gratitude, and it expresses how we all are feeling today.

Mrs. Karen Mason: Psalm 100 says that protocol for coming into the presence of our heavenly King is to enter into His gates with thanksgiving, to come into His presence with gratitude, with a heart of gratefulness, and this song is my song of gratitude to my heavenly King.

(Song.) (Applause.)

Senator Norm Coleman: Good morning, folks, I am Senator Norm Coleman, from the state of Minnesota, and before we enjoy our breakfast and more fellowship around the tables, I would like to introduce our head table's special guests and say a few words of grace. To my far left, Karen Mason, and the four women from Point of Grace, who will be introduced later in the program. Next to them is Senator David Vitter from Louisiana, then we have Senator Barack Obama, Illinois' new senator. Next to him is someone who we will introduce more fully later, for now one word will suffice—Bono. Next to him is my wife Laurie, whose love and support has brought me to this moment. On the other end, we have Congressman Lincoln Davis from Tennessee. Next to him we have Representative Tom Osborne of Nebraska, we will just call him Coach. Next to him is Senator Ken Salazar from Colorado. Then we have Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison from the great state of Texas. Next, a former main speaker at this event, Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, and next, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Michael Mullen. Finally, the spouse of my co-chair, Jill Pryor.

Let us pray to bless the food, which I will do in a moment. But first I would like to recite the most holy prayer in Judaism which is called the Shema, and I have prayed it since I was a little boy.

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Elohaynu, Adonai Echad—Hear O Israel, Adonai is your God, Adonai is your God. Barukh Shem k'vod malkhuto l'olam va-ed—Blessed is the Name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever. V-ahavta et Adonai Elohecha—you shall love the Lord your God—b-chol l'vavcha u-v-chol naf'sh'cha u-v-chol m'odecha—with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

We gather under the shelter of encouragement of Your love today, to return thanks, to seek unity, to help the suffering, and to work for peace. Almighty God, we thank You for this food for our bodies and our hearts which we are receiving this morning. Bless all who prepared it. Lord, change us, and send us out of here different people than we were when we walked in. Amein.

Enjoy the food and the fellowship around the table.

(Breakfast.)

Senator Coleman: We are going to begin the program. I am happy to introduce my good friend Mark Pryor. He is a Democrat from a red state.

Senator Pryor: And my good friend Norm Coleman who is a Republican from a blue state and maybe that is why we get along so well. (Laughter.)

Senator Coleman: We came to Washington together, and one of the first things we heard from our senior colleagues was Harry Truman's advice: If you want a friend in Washington, buy a dog. The hardest thing in public life is not making decisions, it is finding people you can trust to guide you and encourage you to do the right thing.

Senator Pryor: And that is a real challenge, because with every senator, every congressman, and every other leader who is here, we got to where we are because of our friends. Someone described public service as being like cutting flowers from a garden and

putting them in a vase—they look great, but before too long they need some nourishment.

Senator Coleman: And for me that is what this breakfast and our weekly breakfast group in the Senate is all about—putting back in what the job takes out. You should already know by now that what you are experiencing is a very big public version of what we experience privately on a personal scale every week in the Senate and in the House. People from all kinds of backgrounds come together to share a meal, deepen our relations, pray to God for His guidance and blessings, and look for the inspiration to live our faith more completely. We would also like to provide a special welcome to four heads of state who have honored us with their presence. President Miro Jovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius, Prime Minister Said Musa of Belize, and King Abdullah bin al-Hussein II of Jordan. (Applause.)

Senator Pryor: We hope that this breakfast is an encouragement to you to do similar things where you live. I want to read a few verses from the gospel of John, chapter 21. It says:

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, ''Friends, haven't you any fish?''

''No,'' they answered.

He said, ''Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.'' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Jesus said to them, ''Bring some of the fish you have just caught.''

Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, ''Come and have breakfast.''

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ''Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?''

''Yes, Lord,'' he said, ''you know that I love you.''

Jesus said, ''Feed my lambs.''

Again Jesus said, ''Simon son of John, do you truly love me?''

He answered, ''Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.''

And Jesus said, ''Take care of my sheep.''

The third time he said to him, ''Simon son of John, do you love me?''

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, ''Do you love me?'' He said, ''Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.''

Jesus said, ''Feed my sheep.''

That is the spirit in which we meet together today.

Senator Coleman: I am a tennis player, but not a very good one. I read somewhere that when you hit a tennis ball, it is only on the racket for a tenth of a second. The rest is all backswing and follow-through. The prayer breakfast is like that. We are here for just a moment, but the months and years of work that went into this event is the backswing, and hopefully there will be years of fruitful follow-through.

Listen to the words of Psalm 100. May this be your affirmation today as well.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

Senator Pryor: Amen to that. Norm, it has been a great pleasure and joy for me to work with you on this prayer breakfast, and seeing all these people it makes me feel like we can do anything. What about next week we go in the office and fix the federal budget deficit? (Laughter.)

Senator Coleman: You know, Mark, miracles do happen. One of my favorite quotes was from David Ben-Gurion, first Prime Minister of Israel, who said, ''Anybody who doesn't believe in miracles is not a realist.'' (Laughter.)

Senator Pryor: Now to kick off the main part of the program, I am going to introduce our second musical selection. You've noticed we have music this morning. When Moses led Israel out of Egypt, he also led them in song. King David is recorded as writing and singing many, many songs. The apostles of the first century are recorded on many different occasions as singing songs. Music is an important way in which we can express our faith. Point of Grace is four young women with a passion for conveying the character of God through music. This is a song about prayer and friendship that expresses the heart of why we gather today. Ladies and gentlemen, Point of Grace.

[Point of Grace woman]: Thank you so much, Senator Pryor, for inviting us to be here today. It is a great honor, to be here with all of you to celebrate not only our faith but the great friendship that we all share. This is called ''Circle of Friends.''

(Song.)

Senator Barack Obama: Good morning. Mr. President, Madam First Lady, our speaker today, Bono, for the outstanding work you are doing. Thank you all for being here. I offer a reading from the letters to the Romans, chapter 12, verses 3 through 12:

''For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourselves more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.''

Praise be to God.

Senator David Vitter: Good morning. I am David Vitter of Louisiana.

Senator Ken Salazar: Good morning. I am Ken Salazar from Colorado.

Senator Vitter: Ken and I both came to the U.S. Senate last year.

Senator Salazar: We came from different regions of the country, different parties, and different perspectives on some issues, but we were both drawn to the Senate prayer breakfast.

Senator Vitter: It is a truly wonderful refuge from the bitter partisanship and win-at-any-cost atmosphere that, unfortunately, we so often face outside that prayer circle.

Senator Salazar: As I said, Senator Vitter and I are members of the United States Senate breakfast. At that breakfast we pray together, Democrats and Republicans alike, and put aside what are sometimes very divisive and bitter political and policy differences. There we focus on our common humanity and our faith in God. And like many of my Republican and Democratic colleagues in the U.S. Senate and those of you in this distinguished audience today, I grew up in a family and a community with a deep and abiding faith, and with a desire to translate our values into the service of our neighbors and into the betterment of our nation and our world. My own faith begins with my family. My family founded one of the first settlements in the New World, and named that city Santa Fe, the City of Holy Faith, in New Mexico. Over the more than four centuries since that time, my family has sacrificed and endured through war, poverty, death and discrimination. Yet during those four centuries, we have survived because of our faith that all of God's children have within their minds and their hearts the ability to create a more perfect and better world with the freedom and intellect endowed upon us by our Creator.

As Jesus said in the book of John:

''If anyone says 'I love God' and hates his neighbor, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.''

Let us pledge today to redouble our efforts to mend the rifts that too often exist between religious traditions, nations and political parties. Let us remember the love of neighbor and love of God are linked by an unbreakable bond, and that our lives and our work should be motivated by love and compassion for our fellow man.

In closing I would like to share with you a prayer that is very close to my heart, one that was created and given by Cesar Chavez, the founder of the United Farm Workers of America. There he says, ''Let the spirit flourish and grow, so that we will never tire of the struggle. Let us remember those who have died for justice, for they have given us life. Help us love even those who hate us, so that we can change the world.''

In conclusion, a part of a prayer that my family has handed down over the centuries goes as follows: Infinitas gracias damos, por tus grandes beneficios que asi sin hacer servicio, nos das mas que merecemos. This means, in general, ''We thank you infinitely, oh God, for all the great blessings that you have given us.''

And today, God, we pray that you would continue to unite our nation and our world.

Senator Vitter: I guess my family are newcomers to this country compared to Ken's. We came from France to Louisiana in the latter 1800s, but we share the same deep, rich Catholic faith. At the Senate prayer breakfast I have talked about the very Catholic concept of grace. It is God's blessing given from above, unearned, undeserved. It is a very un-Washington concept that we are not in control. And prayer breakfasts have also deepened my sense of the power of prayer. Amazing things can happen when we truly acknowledge that we are not in control and ask for God's grace, however unearned and undeserved.

These parts of my faith meant a lot to me this year, as we were hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in my home state of Louisiana and on the Gulf Coast. What better example of humans not being in control. And they sustain me today as we face the often overwhelming challenge of rebuilding, and the even more worrisome thought that the country has forgotten or moved on. So I call on that power of prayer this morning. I ask for your real prayer commitment to the people of the Gulf Coast. We all ask for God's grace, that He touch us, bless us, awaken us to this and other great ongoing national challenges. And I pray that we meet and not forget this test of our national character here at home.

U.S. Representative Lincoln Davis: Mr. President, First Lady, speakers, and musicians, on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and my congressional co-chair of the prayer breakfast, we welcome you today. I want to give you a brief history. In 1942 the prayer breakfast groups were inaugurated in both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Later, in 1953, members of the Senate and House prayer groups gathered together with President Eisenhower for prayer and worship, to seek divine guidance for national leadership and to reaffirm faith and dependence on God. This gathering became known as the Presidential Prayer Breakfast until 1970, when the name was changed to the National Prayer Breakfast in order to put more emphasis on the gathering rather than the individuals involved. In my mind this was a fitting thing to do. And today, 64 years later, on the 54th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer, we gather again to celebrate the glory of faith. I am amazed at the amount of people who are here from outside of our country, at this wonderful event, highlighting the global nature of faith.

I would like to thank all the members of Congress and both the House and Senate who are here today. This last year has been a wonderful time for me every Thursday morning as we gather in the House restaurant, and I have served as co-chairman with the wonderful fellow, Coach, named Congressman Tom Osborne. It has been a delight, and as we gather each morning, as members of Congress share their lives, their story about their family and their faith journey, it is one of the best moments that we have.

When I first came to Congress in January of 2003, I quickly found that the weekly prayer breakfast, where I would join with my colleagues giving thanks to the Lord and ask for guidance in our work for the country, was my favorite hour of the week. For this reason I have always looked forward to the prayer breakfasts. However, I truly believe that any amount of time we spend in prayer are the best moments of our life, and it helps us to continue with our faith. Thank you for joining us this morning. My good friend, Tom Osborne.

U.S. Representative Tom Osborne: Thanks very much, Lincoln. Mr. President and First Lady, it is good to be with you this morning. I see a lot of politicians out there, and it reminds me of this event I went to not long ago. There were these three politicians, and one guy said to them: okay, let's get to the bottom of this thing—let's suppose you guys are laid out in your coffins and people are walking by and they're talking about you, what one thing would you want them to say about you? The first politician said, I'd want somebody to walk by and look down and say: this was an honest man. The second politician said, I'd want somebody to walk by and look down and say: this was a great family man. The third politician said, yeah, I'd want somebody to walk by and look down and say: I think he's still moving. (Laughter.)

Sometimes—at this time of the morning, that is about the way you feel.

Lincoln covered the House prayer breakfast very well. Each Thursday, 30 to 40 of us meet together, and the speakers are always members of Congress. The interesting thing is, people share their lives and talk about their families and their hopes and their aspirations and their struggles, it seems that the labels begin to come off—Republican, Democrat, liberal, conservative, and on and on. You begin to see the person behind the mask and you begin to see people as they really are. Every time I have come away from that breakfast, I have had a great appreciation and usually a genuine love for that person as I have heard them talk about their life.

It has been an unwavering tradition that the only speakers we have are members of Congress. But we were notified one day that King Abdullah was going to come from Jordan, and, we have had a senator or two come by but we have never had a king before, so we didn't know what to do. We said, we had better ask him to speak. And so he spoke, and it was really an interesting morning, because he talked about his country, he talked about things that were going on in the world, he talked about the Koran, and then he talked about Jesus. It was really a very meaningful time, because at that point I began to realize that this person that we often put in a box, and this person that often is so clearly identified with a particular ideology, cuts across so many areas. And I know that is why so many of you are here today from so many countries, because of an interest in this particular topic.

Lincoln and I wanted to thank you and welcome you this morning, and we certainly hope that you will experience God's presence here as we meet today, and that the world will be a better place for our having been here. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Senator Joseph Lieberman: Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, your majesty King Abdullah, ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, it is with great gratitude and joy that I greet you all, of different faiths but all brothers and sisters in a shared faith in God. In the language and spirit of the Hebrew Bible, ''B'rukhim ha-baim b'Shem Adonai''—Blessed be those who have come in the name of the Lord.

I am greatly honored to have been asked this morning to offer prayer for our national leaders. I pray that God will open my lips so that my mouth may declare his praise.

In Genesis 2:7 it is written that God formed the man of dust from the ground, and he blew into his nostrils the soul of life, and man became a living being. In 1776, God moved the founding generation of Americans to breathe a soul into their new land and make it a living nation, when they acknowledged the self-evident truth that there is a Creator, and that he created us all equal, and that we are all endowed by our Creator with unalienable rights, including among them the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that governments are formed to secure those rights. That declaration gave America not only its independence but its purpose. And it was not just a national purpose but a global purpose, because God's endowment of those rights was truly not just to Americans but to all the men, women and children of His creation. So I pray this morning that God will bless America, and each American, as we work to advance our faith-based purposes; to unite all of God's children here at home and throughout the world; to support the causes of freedom, opportunity, unity and hope, and defeat the evils of oppression, poverty, illness, hatred and fear.

We pray, Lord, that you will hold our president and his family and all national leaders in your hands, and protect them and us as they lead us forward to achieve the humane and universal mission you have given us, so that together we may come to the day when the mountains will be made low and the valleys will be raised up, when the crooked places will be made straight and the rough places smooth. For on that day, which we all pray and work for, the earth will surely be full of the glory of God. Amen. (Applause.)

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison: I am Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison from Texas. Mr. President, First Lady Laura, King Abdullah, Heads of State, and all distinguished visitors from around the world and from our wonderful country. As religious, community and political leaders, we deal with the most difficult problems our people face. Complete success frequently proves illusive, and the victories we do achieve often come with setbacks and failures. A passage that renews my energy and restores my focus is Second Corinthians chapter 4, verses 16 to 18:

''Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.'' (Applause.)

Admiral Michael G. Mullen: Good morning, Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, other distinguished Heads of State, and distinguished visitors. I am Admiral Mike Mullen, I am the Chief of Naval Operations and this morning I represent the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I am honored to be here and to have this opportunity. I have been asked to say a few words about myself which I don't do well but I will give it a shot. I like to describe myself as a husband and father, an American, a sailor in the United States Navy, and a naval officer, in that order. I have been married for 35 years to my partner for life, Deborah, and we are very proud of our two sons, Jack and Michael, currently serving on active duty in the Navy. I am originally from Los Angeles, son of hard-working parents who moved out west after the Depression in search of a better life. They found it there and gave it to me. I hold their memories dear. Born and raised a Catholic, I also hold my faith dear. I know its enormous power, have seen it with my own eyes during countless visits with soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen employed in harm's way. Just like the power of prayer, faith can move mountains. This morning I ask you to join me. I would like to offer a prayer for our world's leaders.

Father in heaven, we gather in prayer today to ask your blessing over the lives and decisions of those who lead nations around the world. It is a time of great challenge and great adversity. Theirs is an especially mighty task and a deeply noble calling. For upon the shoulders of our leaders rests the hopes and the dreams of billions of people. From the pen and from the podium, they direct the future not only of this generation but of generations yet unborn. May you guide them in that pursuit, oh Lord, and give them strength. Help them serve with integrity and with compassion. Help them choose love over hate, courage over fear, principle over expediency. Let them find new and even better ways to be providers and peace makers. Let them be guided from the wisdom found in Romans 12, which tells us, ''Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God. Let love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.''

In the sight of all, oh Lord, let our leaders be noble and learn from your example. Let them realize that to be right with you is to be right. And finally, from this sailor to the One who made the seas, be pleased to guide the ships of state to safe harbor. In the face of storms and shoals and fainting hearts, we trust you with everything we have, everything we are, and everything we hope to be. You not only chart our course, you help us hold the tiller. You brave the waves and calm the waters. You really are Emmanuel, God with us. May that truth be known today to those who lead our nations. With grateful hearts we pray, Amen.

Senator Coleman: There are a lot of Catholics on this program. Mr. President, I

thought they were all on the Supreme Court. (Laughter.)

In my day, I have introduced the president, I once introduced Dr. Billy Graham, but as a former roadie for the 60s rock band Ten Years After, this ranks right up there as one of the high points of my introducing career. Mark and I were joking about this earlier, this kind of makes us the rhetorical warm-up act for U2. (Laughter.)

Our message today comes from a person who has gotten the attention of the world by walking with God, talking about things that matter, and letting his light shine. He is an extraordinary musician, charismatic leader, and is unabashedly, uniquely himself. We have an expression that a celebrity is a person who is famous for being famous. But our speaker this morning is known around the world as a person of conscience, a person of influence, but most of all, a person of faith. His organization is called DATA—Debt, AIDS, Trade in Africa. They are working to bring people, organizations, leaders and politicians together to make a unified effort to change the future of Africa.

He has come to challenge us, to reach across the boundaries, to care for the poor and to walk the talk of our faith. Ladies and gentlemen, Bono. (Applause.)

Bono: Thank you very much. Thank you Mr. President, First Lady, King Abdullah, other heads of state, distinguished guests. Please join me in praying that I don't say something we will all regret. That was for the FCC.

If you are wondering what I am doing here at a prayer breakfast, well so am I. I am certainly not here as a man of the cloth, unless that cloth is leather. And I am certainly not here because I am a rock star, which leaves only one possible explanation: I have got a messianic complex. It is true. And to anyone who knows me, it is hardly a revelation.

I am the first to admit that there is something unnatural, something even unseemly about rock stars mounting the pulpit and preaching at presidents, then disappearing to their villas in the south of France. Talk about a fish out of water. It was weird enough to have Jesse Helms come to a rock show. But, this is really weird, isn't it?

One of the things I love about this country is the separation of Church and State—although I have to say in inviting me here both Church and State have been separated from something else completely: their mind!

Mr. President, are you sure about this? It is very humbling, and I will try to keep my homily brief. But be warned: I am Irish.

I would like to talk about the laws of man, here in this city, where those laws are written. I would like to talk about higher laws. It would be great to assume that one serves the other, that the laws of man serve these higher laws, but of course they don't always. I presume, in a way, that that is why you are all here. I presume the reason for this gathering is that all of us here—Muslims, Jews, Christians—are searching our souls for how to better serve our family, our community, our nation, our God. And some of us are not very good examples, despite what Norm says.

I am certainly searching, and that, I suppose, is what led me here. Yes, it is odd, having a rock star at the breakfast. But maybe it is odder for me than for you, because, you see, I have avoided religious people most of my life. Maybe it has something to do with my having a father who was a Protestant and a mother who was a Catholic in a country where the line between the two was, quite literally, often a battle line; where the line between Church and State was, at the very least, a little blurry and hard to see.

I remember how my mother would bring us to chapel on Sundays and my father used to wait outside. One of the things that I picked up from my father and my mother was the sense that religion often gets in the way of God. For me, at least, it got in the way, seeing what religious people, in the name of God, did to my native land. And even in this country, seeing God's second-hand car salesmen on the TV cable channels offering indulgences for cash. In fact, all over the world, seeing the self-righteous roll down like a mighty stream from certain corners of the religious establishment. I must confess, I changed the channel. I wanted my MTV.

So, even though I was a believer, and perhaps because I was a believer, I was cynical—not about God, but about God's politics.

In 1997, a couple of eccentric septuagenarian British Christians went and ruined my shtick, my reproachfulness. They did it by describing the Millennium, the year 2000, as a Jubilee year; as an opportunity to cancel the chronic debts of the world's poorest people. They had the audacity to renew the Lord's call and were joined by Pope John Paul II, who, from an Irish half-Catholic's point of view, may have had a little more of a direct line to the Almighty, to declare the Year of Jubilee.

So Jubilee. Why Jubilee? What was this Year of Jubilee, this year of our Lord's favor? I had always read the Scriptures, actually, even the obscure stuff. There it was in Leviticus 25:35:

''If your brother becomes poor, and cannot maintain himself, you shall maintain him. You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit.''

Jubilee is such an important idea that Jesus begins his ministry with this. Jesus is a young man, he has met with the rabbis, he has impressed everybody, people are talking. The elders say, he is a clever guy, this Jesus, but, he has not done much, yet. He has not spoken in public before. When he does, his first words are from Isaiah: ''The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor.'' And Jesus proclaims the year of the Lord's favor, the year of Jubilee in Luke 4:18. What he was really talking about was an era of grace, and we are still in it.

So fast-forward 2,000 years. That same thought—grace—is now incarnate in a movement of all kinds of people. It was not a bless-me club, it was not a holy huddle. These religious guys were willing to get out in the streets, get their boots dirty, wave the placards, follow their convictions with actions, making it really hard for people like me to keep our distance—ruining my shtick. I almost started to like these church people.

But then my cynicism got another helping hand. It was what Colin Powell, a five-star general, called the greatest W.M.D. of them all: a tiny little virus called A.I.D.S. And the religious community, in large part, missed it. The ones that did not miss it could only see it as divine retribution for bad behavior—even on children? Even if the fastest-growing group of HIV infections were married, faithful women?

Ah, there they go, I thought to myself. Judgmentalism is back. But in truth, I was wrong again. The Church was slow but the Church got busy on this the leprosy of our age. Love was on the move. Mercy was on the move. God was on the move. Moving people of all kinds to work with others they had never met, never would have cared to meet. We had conservative church groups hanging out with spokesmen from the gay community, all singing off the same hymn sheet on AIDS. See, miracles do happen. And we had hip-hop stars and country stars. This is what happens when God gets on the move. Crazy, crazy stuff happens. Popes were seen wearing sunglasses! Jesse Helms had a ghetto blaster now! Evidence of the Spirit moving—it was breathtaking. It literally stopped the world in its tracks.

When churches started demonstrating on debt, governments listened—and acted. When churches started organizing, petitioning, and even that most unholy of acts today, God forbid, lobbying on AIDS and global health, governments listened—and acted. I am here today in all humility to say: you changed minds, you changed policy, and you changed the world. So thank you. (Applause.)

Check Judaism. Check Islam. Check pretty much anyone. God may well be with us in our mansions on the hill. I hope so. He may well be with us in all manner of controversial stuff. Maybe, maybe not. But the one thing we can all agree on—all faiths, all ideologies—is that God is with the vulnerable and poor. God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house. God is in the silence of a mother who has infected her child with a virus that will end both their lives. God is in the cries heard under the rubble of war. God is in the debris of wasted opportunity and lives, and God is with us if we are with them. (Applause.)

''If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger and the speaking of wickedness, and if you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness and your gloom will become like midday, and the Lord will continually guide you and satisfy your desire even in scorched places.''

It is not a coincidence that in the Scriptures poverty is mentioned more than 2,100 times. It is not an accident. That is a lot of air time. The only time Jesus Christ is judgmental is on the subject of the poor, Matthew 25:40: ''As you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.''

As I say, good news to the poor. Here is some good news for you, Mr. President. After 9–11, we were told America would have no time for the world's poor. We were told America would be taken up with its own problems of safety. And while it is true that these are dangerous times, America has not drawn the blinds and double-locked the doors. In fact, you have doubled aid to Africa. You have tripled funding for global health. And Mr. President, your emergency plan for AIDS relief and support of the Global Fund—yours' and Congress'—have put 700,000 people onto life-saving anti-retroviral drugs and provided eight million bed nets to protect children from malaria. (Applause.)

Outstanding human achievements. Counterintuitive, I think you will admit, but historic. You should be very, very proud. But here is the bad news: There is so much more to do. There is a gigantic chasm between the scale of the emergency and the scale of the response.

And finally—getting to higher levels, higher callings—this is not about charity in the end, is it? It is about justice, the good news yet to come. I just want to repeat that: This is not about charity, it is about justice. And that is too bad. Because we are good at charity. Americans as well as the Irish are good at charity. We like to give and we give a lot, even those who cannot afford it. But justice is a higher standard. Africa makes a fool of our idea of justice; it makes a farce of our idea of equality. It mocks our pieties, it doubts our concern, and it questions our commitment. 6,500 Africans are still dying every day of preventable, treatable disease, for lack of drugs we can buy at any drugstore. This is not about charity; this is about justice and equality. Because there is no way we can look at what is happening in Africa and, if we are honest, conclude that deep down, we would let it happen anywhere else, if we really accepted that Africans are equal to us. And I say that humbled in the company of a man with an African father.

Look at what happened in Southeast Asia with the Tsunami. 150,000 lives lost to the

greatest misnomer of all misnomers, Mother Nature. Well, in Africa, 150,000 lives are lost every month—a tsunami every month. And it is a completely avoidable catastrophe.

It is annoying, but justice and equality are mates, aren't they? Justice always wants to hang out with equality. And equality is a real pain.

You think of these Jewish sheep-herders going to meet with the Pharaoh, mud on their shoes, and the Pharaoh goes, ''Equal? Equal?'' And they say, ''Yeah, that is what it says here in the Book—we are all made in the image of God, sir.'' Eventually the Pharaoh says, ''Look, I can accept that. I can accept the Jews—but not the blacks. Not the women. Not the gays. Not the Irish. No way.'' So on we go with the journey of equality. On we go in the pursuit of justice.

We hear that call in the ONE Campaign, a growing movement of more than two million Americans—five million by the next election, I can promise you—united in the belief that where you live should no longer determine whether you live.

We hear that call even more powerfully today, when we mourn the loss of Coretta Scott King, mother of a movement for equality, one that changed the world but is only really getting started, because these issues are as alive as they ever were; they just change shape and they cross the seas.

Preventing the poorest of the poor from selling their products while we sing the virtues of the free market—that is not charity, that is a justice issue. Holding children to ransom for the debts of their grandparents—that is not charity, that is a justice issue. Withholding life-saving medicines out of deference to the Office of Patents—that is not charity, that is a justice issue. And while the law is what we say it is, God is not silent on the subject. That is why I say there are laws of the land and then there is a higher standard. And we can hire experts to write them so they benefit us, so that these laws say that it is okay to protect our agriculture but it is not okay for African farmers to protect their agriculture, to earn a living. As the laws of man are written, that is what they say. But God will not accept that. Mine will not. Will yours?

I close this morning on very thin ice, probably. This is a dangerous idea I have put on the table here: my God versus your God, their God versus our God, versus no God. It is very easy in these times to see religion as a force for division rather than unity. And Washington is a town that knows something of division. But the reason I am here, and the reason I keep coming back, is because Washington is a town that is proving it can come together on behalf of what the Scriptures call ''the least of these.'' It is not a Republican idea, it is not a Democratic idea, it is not even, with all due respect, an American idea, nor is it unique to any one faith.

''Do to others as you would have them do to you.'' Jesus says that.

''Righteousness is this: that one should give away wealth out of love for Him to the near of kin and to the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer and the beggars and for the emancipation of the captives.'' The Koran says that.

''Thus sayeth the Lord: Bring the homeless poor into your house. When you see the naked, cover him. Then your light will break out like the dawn and your recovery will spring forth speedily; then the Lord will be your rear guard.'' The Jewish Scripture says that. Isaiah 58 again. It is a very powerful incentive: The Lord will watch your back. Sounds like a good deal to me, especially right now. (Applause.)

A number of years ago, I met a wise man who changed my life, in countless ways, big and small. I was always seeking the Lord's blessing. I would be saying, look, I have got a new song, look after it. I have a family, and I am going away on tour, please look after them. I have this crazy idea, could I have a blessing on it. And this wise man asked me to stop. He said stop asking God to bless what you are doing. Get involved in what God is doing, because it is already blessed.

Let's get involved in what God is doing. God, as I say, is always with the poor. That is what God is doing, and that is what He is calling us to do.

I was amazed when I first got to this country and I learned how much some churchgoers tithe: up to ten percent of the family budget. How does that compare with the federal budget, the budget for the entire American family? How much of that goes to the poorest people in the world? It is less than one percent of the federal budget.

Mr. President, Congress, people of faith, people of America, I want to suggest to you today that you see the flow of effective foreign assistance as tithing, which to be truly meaningful will mean an additional one percent of the federal budget tithed to the poor. And what is that one percent that we are asking for in the ONE campaign? It is not merely a number on a balance reader pulled out of the air. One percent is the girl in Africa who gets to go to school, thanks to you. One percent is the AIDS patient who gets her medicine, thanks to you. One percent is the African entrepreneur who can start a small family business, thanks to you. One percent is not redecorating presidential palaces. One percent must not be—or do not give it—money down a rat hole. This one percent is digging waterholes to provide clean water, like I saw with Bill Frist in Uganda. That is what we are asking for. (Applause.)

One percent is a new partnership with Africa, not paternalism towards Africa, where increased assistance flows toward improved governance and initiatives with proven track records and away from the boondoggles and white elephants that we have seen before.

America gives less than one percent now. We are asking for an extra one percent to change the world, to transform millions of lives—and I say this to the military men now not just transform hundreds of thousands of communities, indeed millions, but transform the way they see us, which might be smart in these dangerous times. One percent is national security. One percent is enlightened economic self-interest, and a better, safer world rolled into one. Sounds to me that in this town of deals and compromises, one percent is the best bargain around.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Senator Pryor: Thank you.

You may know, friends, that the National Prayer Breakfast came into being as a way to support and encourage the president and his family. Back in the 1950s, newly elected Dwight Eisenhower declared to a close friend in the Senate, ''I live in the loneliest house in the world.'' President Eisenhower was invited to be part of a small, private Senate breakfast group which is still meeting today. At some point one of the people in that group declared, ''It sure would be an encouragement to the nation to know we are meeting like this.'' And so the first National Prayer Breakfast was held. The model of leaders meeting in private to share their lives, their testimony, and to pray has spread, and this is spreading to scores of nations around the world.

This morning we are honored to have our first couple with us. Mrs. Bush, we want to express the comfort and reassurance we have felt from your loving personality. Thank you. (Applause.)

And now, Mr. President, we want you to know that we all pray for you. The awesome burdens you carry are beyond anything any of us can even imagine. We thank you for being a man of real faith and of prayer. It is evident that this is a deep, personal faith. And I want to thank you for encouraging people of faith to take a larger role in our society. I remember the story of the people coming around Moses, to hold up his arms as he led the people. We have come here today to do that for you.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to introduce the President of the United States.

President George W. Bush: Thank you all. (Applause.)

Thanks for the warm welcome. Laura and I are delighted to be here. This lovely personality said this morning: keep your remarks short. (Laughter.)

I appreciate this prayer breakfast a lot, and I appreciate the spirit in which it was formed. Ike said he was living in the loneliest house in America—but what he forgot to say is: the rent is pretty good. (Laughter.)

It is great to be here with distinguished guests from all around the world. Your Majesty and Prime Ministers and former Prime Ministers, friends with whom I have the honor to work, you are welcome here. I appreciate the fact that people from different walks of life, different faiths have joined us. Yet I believe we share one thing in common: We are united in our dedication to peace and tolerance and humility before the Almighty. (Applause.)

I want to thank Senators Pryor and Coleman for putting on this breakfast. I appreciate Senator Frist, Representative Blunt, Representative Pelosi, other members of the United States Congress who have joined us on the dais and who are here for this breakfast. I thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. Get back to work. Laughter.)

I find it interesting that the music is from Arkansas. (Laughter.) I am glad it is, because they know how to sing down there. (Laughter.)

I was trying to figure out what to say about Bono, and a story jumped to mind about this really good Texas preacher. And he got going in a sermon and a fellow jumped up in the back and said, ''Use me, Lord, use me.'' The preacher ignored him and finished his sermon. The next Sunday, the preacher gets up and is cranking on another sermon when the guy jumps up again and says, ''Use me, Lord, use me.'' After the service, the preacher walked up to him and said, ''If you're serious, I'd like for you to paint the pews.'' Next Sunday, he's preaching, the guy stands up and says, ''Use me, Lord, use me, but only in an advisory capacity.'' (Laughter.)

So I have gotten to know Bono. (Laughter.) He is a doer. The thing about this good citizen of the world is that he has used his position to get things done. You are an amazing guy, Bono. God bless you. (Applause.)

It is fitting we have a National Prayer Breakfast, because our nation is a nation of prayer. In America, we do not prescribe any prayer. We welcome all prayer. We are a nation founded by men and women who came to these shores seeking to worship the Almighty freely. From these prayerful beginnings God has greatly blessed the American people, and through our prayers we give thanks to the true source of our blessings.

Americans remain a prayerful people today. I know this firsthand. I cannot tell you the number of times while traveling out there in our country, people walk up, total strangers, and say, Mr. President, I am praying for you and your family. It is one of the great blessings of the presidency, and one of the most wonderful gifts a person can give any of us who have the responsibility to govern justly. So I thank my fellow citizens for their gracious prayers and wonderful gifts.

Every day, millions of Americans pray for the safety of our troops, for the protection of innocent life, and for the peace we all hope for. Americans continue to pray for the recovery of the wounded, and to pray for the Almighty's comfort on those who have lost a loved one. We give thanks daily for the brave and decent men and women who wear our nation's uniform, and we thank their families as well.

In this country we recognize prayer is a gift from God to every human being. It is a gift that allows us to come before our Maker with heartfelt requests and our deepest hopes. Prayer reminds us of our place in God's creation. It reminds us that when we bow our heads or fall to our knees, we are all equal and precious in the eyes of the Almighty.

In prayer, we are reminded that we are never alone in our personal trials or individual suffering. In prayer, we offer our thanksgiving and praise, recognizing our lives, our talents and all that we own ultimately flow from the Creator. And in these moments of our deepest gratitude, the Almighty reminds us that for those to whom much has been given, much is required.

In prayer, we open ourselves to God's priority, especially His charge to feed the hungry, to reach out to the poor, to bring aid to the widow or the orphan. By surrendering our will to God's will, we learn to serve His eternal purposes. Through prayer, our faith is strengthened, our hearts are humbled and our lives are transformed. Prayer encourages us to go out into the world and serve.

In our country we recognize our fellow citizens are free to profess any faith they choose, or no faith at all. You are equally American if you are a Jew or a Christian or Muslim. You are equally American if you choose not to have faith. It is important America never forget the great freedom to worship as you so choose. (Applause.)

What I have found in our country, that whatever our faith, millions of Americans answer the universal call to love your neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself. Over the past five years we have been inspired by the ways that millions of Americans have answered that call. In the face of terrorist attacks and devastating natural disasters here and around the world, the American people have shown their faith in action again and again. After Katrina, volunteers from churches and mosques and synagogues and other faith-based and community groups opened up their hearts and their homes to the displaced. We saw an outpouring of compassion after the earthquake in Pakistan and the tsunami that devastated entire communities. We live up to God's calling when we provide help for HIV/AIDS victims on the continent of Africa and around the world. In millions of acts of kindness, we have seen the good heart of America.

The true strength of this country is not in our military might or in the size of our wallet, it is in the hearts and souls of the American people. (Applause.)

I was struck by the comment of a fellow who was rescued from the Gulf Coast and given shelter. He said, ''I didn't think there was so much love in the world.''

This morning we come together to recognize the source of that great love. We come together before the Almighty in prayer, to reflect on God's will, to seek His aid, and to respond to His grace.

I want to thank you for the fine tradition you continue here today. I pray that our nation will always have the humility to commend our cares to Providence and trust in the goodness of His plans.

May God bless you all. (Applause.)

Senator Coleman: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Pryor said that we all pray for you and we want to reiterate that. We know that prayer changes people and prayer changes history, and we send you and the First Lady off with our love and gratitude for spending time with us this morning. We promise to pray like all depends on our prayers. God bless the President and his wife.

We are now going to have a concluding song.

(Song.) [''Waiting in the Wings.''] (Applause.)

Senator Coleman: Ladies and gentlemen, Point of Grace.

Senator Pryor: It has been a great morning, hasn't it? (Applause.)

One of the highlights of the year of preparation for this prayer breakfast was for Norm and me to place a phone call to Dr. Billy Graham. And, as most of you know, he was deeply involved, and has been deeply involved, in many prayer breakfasts, especially the early ones. In years past he has been very involved in the National Prayer Breakfast and has helped us develop this model over the last 54 years.

Senator Coleman: We were asking if Dr. Graham could be with us this morning to say our closing prayer but he said that his health would not allow him to travel. But he wanted us all to greet you in the name of the Lord and he said that he would be right here with us praying. He is a national treasure, and we know his prayers have been answered today. We ask that God would sustain him and continue to give him voice to bring our nation and our world together.

And now we have a very special moment to conclude in prayer. When we began to put this breakfast together beginning almost a year ago, our prayer was that it not just be another annual event, but that it address the deepest needs of the world that are unique to this moment in time and history. In the messages we have heard from Bono and the President, we have touched the heart of the world situation today. In addition, we would like all to welcome to the podium a very distinguished guest, a courageous leader in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East, King Abdullah bin al-Hussein II of Jordan. Your Majesty, please join us up here. (Applause.)

King Abdullah bin al-Hussein II: Bismillah Ar-Rahman Ar-Rahim—In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

My friend Bono, Senator Coleman, Senator Pryor, all of you, thank you very much for the honor to stand with you today, as a brother with people of faith, to reaffirm our common values and beliefs. The principles that we gather to recognize today are grounded in the firmest of foundations, our scriptural heritage.

For Muslims, the essence of the Koran is its opening chapter, Al-Fatiha, each of whose verses echoes the teachings of the Torah and the Gospels. The Koran begins, ''In the name of God, the Infinitely Good, the All-Merciful.'' This reflects the famous verse of the Psalms, ''We will remember the name of our Lord.'' The next line of the Koran, ''Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds'' reminds us of the words of the Psalm, ''Let every thing that has breath praise the Lord.'' The following line, ''the Infinitely Good, the All-Merciful,'' reaffirms the Psalm ''gracious is the Lord and righteous.'' Yes, our God is merciful. The Koran then confirms that God is master of the day of judgment, as does the Good Book: ''He has prepared his throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness.''

The last three lines of the Fatiha are supplication. ''Thee we worship and Thee we ask for help. Guide us upon the straight path, the path of those on whom is Thy grace, not those upon whom is anger nor those who are astray.'' This recalls the final words that Jesus—may peace and blessings be upon him—taught us in the Lord's Prayer: ''And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.''

I now ask you all to join in a special prayer for the Middle East, that not one more generation will grow up knowing conflict and injustice, nor suffer from poverty or oppression; that not one more family will lose a loved one to war and bitterness; and that together, Muslim, Jew and Christian, we can create a new future for the Holy Land, a future of hope, a future of promise, a future of peace.

Let us remember the words of Amos, the words that Dr. Martin Luther King urged for all peoples and all time: ''Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.'' Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Senator Pryor: Let us pray. Lord, we are grateful for your presence among us. You made us and you love us, so to be in your presence is what our lives are all about. We stand as people from all walks of life, many backgrounds and traditions, as a circle of friends. We know your love waits in the wings, and we ask you to bring it onto the world stage. We grieve for our fellow human beings who suffer the pain and hardship and bereavement of war and disease. We pray especially for the children. May they somehow escape the destruction, the mental scars that would lead them to want to make war in their own adulthood. Lord, as your servant the King has asked, we pray for the peace of the Middle East. We pray that you would restrain the forces of evil, and raise up and propel forward the leaders of peace.

Senator Coleman: Lord, we pray for the people of Africa. We pray that we would each individually in our roles as leaders allow our hearts to be broken by the things that break the heart of the Lord. May we join together in medical solutions and financial solutions and economic solutions which rescue that continent from the problems that it has. We thank you for the joy and faith of the African people. May their example of grace in the face of suffering inspire us all. And Lord, that which we pray for, give us the strength to work for. And together may we say the ancient benediction from the Torah: The Lord bless you and keep you.

Senator Pryor: The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Senators Coleman and Pryor: The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. And all of God's people together said: Amen.

Senator Coleman: Thank you all for coming and go in peace. (Applause.)

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF JEROLD L. HARRIS

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today I wish to publicly recognize Jerold L. Harris, president and CEO of U.S. AgBank, FCB, in Wichita, KS. Jerold will retire in January 2007 following a 43-year career in the Farm Credit System.

Jerold is a native of South Dakota, growing up near Denby. He attended high school in Gordon, NE, just across the State line. After receiving a bachelor's degree in agricultural business from Colorado State University in 1963, he went to work for the Farm Credit System, where he has served agriculture and rural America ever since.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jerold has demonstrated a positive leadership style based on cooperation, mutual respect, and trust. His focus has always been on working toward solutions that serve all of agriculture. He exemplifies a statement he often quotes, ''There is no limit to progress when people work together.'' Jerold has certainly demonstrated this throughout his career.

One particular achievement stands out during Jerold's 43 years of service. In January 2002, the Western Farm Credit Bank in Sacramento, CA, entered into a joint management agreement with the Farm Credit Bank of Wichita, KS. The board of directors named Jerold as president and chief executive officer. Under this agreement, Jerold combined the operations of these two banks while developing and implementing a merger strategy that resulted in the merger of the two banks and the formation of U.S. AgBank, FCB, effective October 1, 2003. A milestone was achieved with the unanimous approval of the merger by all voting stockholders. Following the merger, Jerold quickly leveraged the operational and financial strengths of the previous organizations and achieved the cost savings anticipated in the joint management agreement and merger. He focused the new organization on supporting associations in their objective of service to farmers and ranchers. He capitalized on the synergies created by the merger, increasing patronage and lowering costs to associations affiliated with U.S. AgBank. Significant credit goes to Jerold for establishing a culture within the new district that is based on trust and mutual respect between the bank and associations. Today, U.S. AgBank covers all or parts of 11 States and has total assets of almost $20 billion.

While leading U.S. AgBank, or one of its predecessor institutions, Jerold implemented utilization of continuous improvement strategies that resulted in streamlined Bank operations, improved effectiveness of services provided to associations, and reduced costs. He improved competitive pricing and established effective asset/liability management, new loan products, sophisticated profitability measurement, and cost accounting systems. A correspondent lending function, focused on the purchase of large loan participations, was developed under his leadership. He also led the formation of AgVantis, Inc., a technology service provider for Farm Credit System institutions. Direct lender agricultural credit associations and Federal land credit associations were formed and patronage programs that resulted in payment of significant amounts of patronage to Associations were implemented on his watch.

There is an old saying that a true warrior must be tested under fire. Many of you will remember the 1980s as a very difficult time for agriculture. From 1986 thru 1990, Jerold was the chief executive officer of the jointly managed Ninth District Federal Land Bank Association and Ninth District Production Credit Association. These entities were formed from the merger of 40 farm credit associations during that difficult agricultural lending climate. Jerold was successful in establishing an effective management structure for the new associations and achieved financial stability by significantly reducing risk and nonearning assets and focusing the organization on customer service. As agricultural conditions improved, Jerold developed and implemented a reorganization plan for the two associations, resulting in the establishment of six new production credit associations and eight new Federal land bank associations. While the 1980s may not be remembered by many in agriculture as a time of great reward, Jerold demonstrated the same ability to work with people and achieve great things in the difficult times, as he did when agriculture was more prosperous.

During his career, Jerold held numerous leadership positions of progressively increasing responsibility and impact in the Farm Credit System. Jerold has served as a loan officer, an appraiser, a recruiter and a trainer, a supervisor and a manager, a leader and a follower, but always with the same dedication and sense of purpose. He mentored a long list of people who continue to serve Farm Credit and agriculture today, many of whom are in senior positions all around the Farm Credit System.

But Jerold's service was not only on the local or district level, he also served on numerous national or system-wide boards and leadership groups. Jerold served 15 years as a member of the Farm Credit System Presidents Planning Committee, during 3 of which he served as chairman. Jerold also served 11 years on the board of directors of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, with 3 of those years as chairman. He also serves on the board of directors of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, NCFC, and is a member of the NCFC Executive Council.

Jerold is a familiar face here in Washington, DC. He has represented the Farm Credit System by testifying before the Senate and House Agriculture Committees of the U.S. Congress on numerous occasions. Jerold has always believed in honoring one's responsibilities locally but has also shown that it is possible to support initiatives that will provide benefits for the ''greater good'' of agriculture as well as those system borrowers and owners he served. His honesty and integrity, keen intelligence, and an understanding of people has earned him the respect of his peers, workers, the boards he has served, and the farmers and ranchers he has represented and served.

Jerold's tireless efforts to improve agriculture and rural America will be truly missed. His countless contributions and leadership, including his steady voice of reason, helped ensure access to credit for both those who were and many who were not Farm Credit System borrowers. His accomplishments speak volumes about his dedication to agriculture and the people who work in agriculture.

Jerold and his wife Janet are looking forward to his retirement as an opportunity to see old friends, travel to new places, and do a little fishing. It is a great pleasure for me to share his impressive record of service with my colleagues in the Senate, and I hope this U.S. Senate record will stand as an inspiration to others.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTA TILL-RETZ

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today, I wish to pay tribute to a very special Iowan, Roberta Till-Retz, who is retiring this month after more than two and a half decades as a scholar and leader at the University of Iowa Labor Center.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that ''the arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice.'' I would add, however, that it doesn't bend all by itself. It does so because of the dedication, passion, and tireless strivings of people like Roberta Till-Retz.

In addition to her work as an instructor at the University of Iowa Labor Center, Roberta has worn many other hats. She has been a prolific author, a respected scholar, an enormously popular teacher, a mentor to up-and-coming union activists, and a valued consultant to the labor community, not just in Iowa but nationally.

One key to Roberta's success is that she is both a student of organized labor and also a deeply experienced veteran of the labor movement. Over the years, she has served as executive director of the Iowa Federation of Labor's Iowa Labor History Oral Project, as vice president of the United Association for Labor Education, and as book review editor for the Labor Studies Journal.

Here in Washington, we are daily witness to the persuasion of power. By contrast, Roberta's trademark is the power of persuasion, the passion of her advocacy. She is deeply committed to social and economic justice, and that is what drives her dedication to unions and collective bargaining. The lesson she has taught to thousands of students down through the years is that it was organized labor that fought for and won the minimum wage, the 40-hour workweek, safe workplace standards, workman's compensation, decent pensions, and health insurance. And out of those victories emerged the great middle class in this country.

So I salute Roberta Till-Retz for a job brilliantly done. As long as I have known her, she has always had a tank full of enthusiasm and a heart full of dreams, so I am sure that she will continue to contribute powerfully to the family of organized labor in Iowa and nationally.

Our beloved late colleague, Senator Paul Wellstone, said that ''the future belongs to those with passion.'' By that standard, Roberta has a very bright future. And I wish her the very best.●

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT STEPHEN CRAYNER

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I congratulate a remarkable young Hoosier and fellow Eagle Scout, Stephen Crayner.

Since becoming an Eagle Scout on April 22, 2004, an extraordinary achievement in itself, Stephen has continued to work diligently to improve himself and his community, eventually earning all 121 merit badges offered by the Boy Scouts. This dedication has earned him the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout with Three Silver Palms.

During my time in the Scouting program, I learned many important lessons about leadership, organization, and community spirit. For the troop to be a successful unit, each member must learn to take initiative and offer ideas and energy. He must also develop the ability to work in a team environment, and therefore accept the challenge of compromise and negotiation. Finally, the activities and the efforts of the Scouting program reflect a commitment to community involvement. Stephen's mastery of these lessons will serve him well in the years ahead.

I also appreciate this opportunity to congratulate the members of Stephen's family who have played such a large role in his many accomplishments. Stephen's father David served as Scoutmaster, and his mother Libby has volunteered extensively to support the troop. It is telling that Stephen's two older brothers, William and Benjamin, have also earned their Eagle.

I am hopeful that each of you will join me in congratulating Stephen for all of his remarkable accomplishments and in wishing him continuing success as he pursues new and exciting challenges.●

IN HONOR OF MR. STAN MINKINOW

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Stan Minkinow of Huntsville, AL. Mr. Minkinow is an American patriot whose life epitomizes the American dream. He immigrated to this country under the Lodge Act, which provided a pathway for eastern European refugees to earn American citizenship through honorable service in the U.S. military. Today we see the result of that legislation in Mr. Minkinow and his lifetime of service to this Nation and a family legacy of selfless service.

Mr. Minkinow was born in Lodz, Poland, in 1932. Mr. Minkinow and his family hid from the Gestapo until betrayed and forced to the Warsaw Ghetto. Mr. Minkinow and his parents survived the severe deprivations of ghetto life and accomplished a daring escape. The family survived the war, only to confront postwar life under the harsh control of a Soviet-controlled authoritarian regime.

Mr. Minkinow's journey to U.S. citizenship began in a German village in 1951 where he saw a U.S. Army recruiting film at a train station. Ready for adventure, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he became a member of the elite, newly created Special Forces training at Fort Bragg, NC. After marrying Doris, a local girl, the Army sent Sergeant Minkinow back to Germany where he became an American Cold Warrior serving on the frontlines. He served with the 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz from 1955 to 1958.

Ambition and achievement are hallmarks of so many of our immigrant population and Mr. Kinkinow is no exception. He completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry. After a tour in Korea, he completed Army flight school at Fort Rucker, AL, and became an Army aviator. Mr. Minkinow settled his family in Enterprise, AL, while he twice fought for his country in Vietnam. Cited by the Army for valor in combat and service, Mr. Minkinow possesses numerous medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and the Air Medal.

After completing a distinguished 27-year Army career, Mr. Minkinow retired to Huntsville, AL, where he has become a prominent local businessman known for his generosity for local causes and charities. Mr. Minkinow frequently shares his Holocaust experiences with children at local schools, and gave a presentation on his childhood wartime experiences to a class at the National Defense University in Washington, DC.

Stan and Doris have three adult children in whom they instilled a profound pride of citizenship and an urgent calling to serve the Nation. All three children have served in the Armed Forces. Their oldest daughter and her husband together served for over 28 years in the Army. Their son is a graduate of the Air Force Academy and retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Alabama Air National Guard. Their youngest daughter and her husband will soon retire from the Army as colonels in the Judge Advocate General's Corps with a combined service of 46 years.

I applaud Mr. Minkinow and his fellow veterans for their steadfast devotion to this Nation and his many years of service. From a child, wide-eyed with fright in the streets of Nazi ghettos, to his brave escape from the Soviet fist and subsequent faithful service as a soldier and later as a businessman, Mr. Minkinow epitomizes how this great country is made even greater by such talented immigrants. We are a stronger country today because of men like Stan and the contributions of his family. I am pleased, to bring this example of Alabama patriotism to the Nation's attention as we continue to celebrate those who have served, our veterans, who have assured our freedom and prosperity.●

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 and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S.435. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

S. 1131. An act to authorize the exchange of certain Federal land within the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

S. 1140. An act to designate the State Route 1 Bridge in the State of Delaware as the ''Senator William V. Roth, Jr. Bridge''.

S. 3880. An act to provide the Department of Justice the necessary authority to apprehend, prosecute, and convict individuals committing animal enterprise terror.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 409) to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1129) to authorize the exchange of certain land in the State of Colorado.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2464. An act to revise a provision relating to a repayment obligation of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation under the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 5:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 6121. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize a program relating to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S.819. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3085) to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 4047. A bill to prohibit the issuance of transportation security cards to individuals who have been convicted of certain crimes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6121. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize a program relating to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4051. A bill to provide sufficient resources to permit electronic surveillance of United States persons for foreign intelligence purposes to be conducted pursuant to individualized court-based orders for calls originating in the United States, to provide additional resources to enhance oversight and streamline the procedures of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to ensure review of the Terrorist Surveillance Program by the United States Supreme Court, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–9011. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Agency's actions between April 1, 2006 and September 30, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9012. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–508, ''July Local Supplemental Other Type Appropriations Approval Temporary Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9013. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–507, ''Neighborhood Investment Amendment Temporary Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9014. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–506, ''Deed Transfer and Recordation Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2006'' received on November 13, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9015. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–505, ''Uniform Disclaimers of Property Interests Revision Act of 2006'' received on November 13, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9016. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–504, ''Domestic Violence Amendment Act of 2006'' received on November 13, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9017. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–503, ''District of Columbia Poverty Lawyer Loan Assistance Repayment Program Act of 2006'' received on November 13, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9018. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–493, ''Health Insurance Coverage for Habilitative Services for Children Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9019. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–492, ''Library Procurement Amendment Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9020. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–523, ''Digital Inclusion Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9021. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–509, ''Anti-Tagging and Anti-Vandalism Amendment Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9022. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–502, ''Crispus Attucks Park Indemnification Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9023. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–496, ''Square 2910 Residential Development Stimulus Temporary Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9024. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–495, ''Wisconsin Avenue Bridge Project and Noise Control Temporary Amendment Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9025. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16–494, ''Separation Pay, Term of Office and Voluntary Retirement Modifications for Chief of Police Charles H. Ramsey Amendment Act of 2006'' received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9026. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's semiannual report for the period April 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9027. A communication from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, the October 2006 Quarterly Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9028. A communication from the Secretary, United States Commission of Fine Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's strategic plan for the period 2006 to 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9029. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Absence and Leave; SES Annual Leave'' (RIN3206–AK72) received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9030. A communication from the Executive Director, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the findings of the Office's tenth financial audit; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9031. A communication from the General Counsel, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulations Implementing the Freedom of Information Act'' (29 CFR Part 2201) received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9032. A communication from the Secretary, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Commissioner (Chairman), received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9033. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, its report for Fiscal Year 2005 on Veterans employment in the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–9034. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, a report relative to corrections that need to be made in previously submitted documents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–9035. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Embutramide into Schedule III'' (Docket No. DEA–269F) received on November 6, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–9036. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Illinois State Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–9037. A communication from the Administrator, United States Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the three-year update of the Administration's Strategic Plan; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–430. A resolution adopted by the Senate of Pennsylvania relative to the Federal Aviation Administration's proposed air traffic diversion plan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognizes the Federal Aviation Administration's plan to divert substantial air traffic from the Philadelphia International Airport over Delaware County, Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Philadelphia International Airport air traffic presently travels over the Delaware River, with minimal impact on air pollution and noise pollution and minimal danger of catastrophic aircraft disaster to residents of Delaware County communities; and

Whereas, Delaware County comprises 49 municipalities and has an approximate population of 550,000 people; and

Whereas, Delaware County is the fourth most populous county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, diverting Philadelphia International Airport air traffic over Delaware County potentially increases air and noise pollution by 925% in residential areas, subjects residents to the danger of falling debris as a result of an aircraft disaster and threatens hundreds of wildlife species inhabiting the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge; and

Whereas, over 4,000 residents of Delaware County have signed petitions objecting to the Federal Aviation Administration's plan to divert air traffic over their homes and schools; and

Whereas, the Federal Aviation Administration has not fully provided residents and government officials an opportunity to offer meaningful comment or input on its plan to change flight patterns over Delaware County; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call on the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct at least three public hearings throughout Delaware County to properly inform residents and government officials of the Federal Aviation Administration's proposed air traffic diversion plan, to explore the health, safety and impact on quality of life by diverting air traffic over a densely populated residential area, to afford residents and government officials an opportunity to provide meaningful comment on the plan and to obtain additional input on the environmental impact of its flight diversion plan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and to the Federal Aviation Administration's Eastern Region Air Traffic Division, 1 Aviation Plaza, Jamaica, NY 11434–4809.

POM–431. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives relative to the Federal Aviation Administration's proposed air traffic diversion plan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 836

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognizes the Federal Aviation Administration's plan to divert substantial air traffic from the Philadelphia International Airport over Delaware County, Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Philadelphia International Airport air traffic presently travels over the Delaware River, with minimal impact on air pollution and noise pollution and minimal danger of catastrophic aircraft disaster to residents of Delaware County communities; and

Whereas, Delaware County comprises 49 municipalities and has an approximate population of 550,000 people; and

Whereas, Delaware County is the fourth most populous county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, diverting Philadelphia International Airport air traffic over Delaware County potentially increases air and noise pollution by 925% in residential areas, subjects residents to the danger of falling debris as a result of an aircraft disaster and threatens hundreds of wildlife species inhabiting the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge; and

Whereas, over 4,000 residents of Delaware County have signed petitions objecting to the Federal Aviation Administration's plan to divert air traffic over their homes and schools; and

Whereas, the Federal Aviation Administration has not fully provided residents and government officials an opportunity to offer meaningful comment or input on its plan to change flight patterns over Delaware County; therefore, Now, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call on the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct at least three public hearings throughout Delaware County to properly inform residents and government officials of the Federal Aviation Administration's proposed air traffic diversion plan, to explore the health, safety and impact on quality of life by diverting air traffic over a densely populated residential area, to afford residents and government officials an opportunity to provide meaningful comment on the plan and to obtain additional input on the environmental impact of its flight diversion plan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and to the Federal Aviation Administration's Eastern Region Air Traffic Division, 1 Aviation Plaza, Jamaica, NY 11434–4809.

POM–432. A joint resolution adopted by the California Legislature relative to amending the Federal Railroad Safety Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, the transportation of freight and passengers by railroad has been an integral part of California's economic infrastructure for nearly 150 years, and remains central to a vibrant economy that Californians hope to continue to enjoy in the 21st century; and

Whereas, the regulation of railroad operations is a major objective of California government in order to ensure and promote the health and safety of California's communities and its residents; and

Whereas, there has been a significant increase in the past 10 years in the number of derailments and accidents on California railways, resulting in injuries, death, and damage within communities where railways exist, and leading to growing attention and concern throughout the country; and

Whereas, the Federal Railroad Safety Act was intended to promote safety in every area of railroad operations and reduce railroad-related accidents and incidents, and has sharply restricted the authority of California and the other states to address rail safety issues, through a broad preemption of state laws; and

Whereas, the Federal Railroad Safety Act nevertheless was intended to provide for cooperative state and federal activity to prevent accidents and reduce their severity when they do occur, including allowing states to act where federal officials have not, providing concurrent state safety jurisdiction over railroads at essentially local safety hazards within states, and authorizing delegations of authority to state officials by the Federal Railway Administration; and

Whereas, Federal courts have consistently failed to find local safety hazards that would permit California to effectively regulate railway safety so as to anticipate and prevent accidents; and

Whereas, the Federal Railroad Administration has failed to institute the necessary rulemakings to develop safety regulations that fully protect California's communities and their residents from railroad derailments, hazardous materials spills, and highway-rail crossing accidents that result in injuries, death, and damage within communities where railways exist; and where the Federal Railroad Administration has exercised jurisdiction, it has precluded states from providing the public with greater safety protections and from reducing the number and severity of railroad derailments, hazardous materials spills, and highway-rail crossing accidents within their jurisdictions; and

Whereas, the Federal government has failed to develop comprehensive plans to protect the public health and safety and to effectively fund railway safety programs; and

Whereas, California has a history of working with the Federal Railroad Administration in coordinating inspections, and has established and funded extensive railway safety programs; and

Whereas, there now exists a clear need to amend federal law in order to empower California officials to protect the public health and safety and to continue to build on the cooperation between California and federal rail safety officials; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the President and the Congress of the United States to amend the Federal Railroad Safety Act to increase the authority of state and local governments to enact railroad safety regulations providing greater protection for their residents from railroad derailments, hazardous materials spills, and highway-rail crossing accidents, so long as the state enactments, rules, or regulations do not conflict with federal law and do not impose an unreasonable burden on interstate commerce; and be it further

Resolved, That the Federal Railroad Administration is urged to work cooperatively with California and the railroad corporations by increasing its staff and funding, and by delegating additional authority to California officials to promulgate and enforce standards relating to railway track, operations, and equipment that will prevent and reduce the severity of accidents, derailments, and hazardous materials spills; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–433. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives relative to urging the Pennsylvania

Congressional Delegation to support legislation calling for Federal approval of the extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 676

Whereas, the Lewis and Clark Expedition was conceptualized by President Thomas Jefferson, who appointed his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, to lead the expedition; and

Whereas, Meriwether Lewis spent the early months of 1803 in southeastern Pennsylvania, where he trained with the official Surveyor of the United States, Andrew Ellicott, in Lancaster County and received instruction in celestial navigation; was tutored in botany by Benjamin Smith Barton, professor of natural history and botany at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; gained knowledge of latitude and longitude, botany and fossils from University of Pennsylvania's vice-provost and professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, Robert Patterson; received advice on health standards to maintain on the trail, diet and internal cleansing from Dr. Benjamin Rush, professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Institute of Medicine and Clinical Practice; and studied paleontology and anatomy with Caspar Wistar, another noted Philadelphian; and

Whereas, Meriwether Lewis purchased more than 3,500 pounds of equipment and merchandise from 28 Philadelphia merchants and artisan manufacturers providing life necessities for the 28-month venture, including portable shelter, clothing, illumination, Indian trading goods, weapons, powder and ball, health maintenance items, emergency food, navigational and cartographic instruments, construction tools and packing boxes, and all was loaded in a Conestoga wagon along with supplies requisitioned at the United States Arsenal, also known as Schuylkill Arsenal, for shipment to Pittsburgh; and

Whereas, renowned Philadelphia clock and gun maker Isaiah Lukens provided Meriwether Lewis with a compressed air rifle he made which became a showpiece of the expedition: the stock of the pneumatic rifle served as an air reservoir to shoot its .31 caliber bullet, producing no smoke and little noise and using no black powder, an astounding innovation during an era when ''keep your powder dry'' was a hallmark admonition to outdoorsmen; and

Whereas, after obtaining more equipment, including his iron frame boat, from the United States Army Arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, and hiring a wagon and horses in Fredericktown, Maryland, Meriwether Lewis traveled with his second wagon through Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and finally reached Redstone Old Fort (now Brownsville, Fayette County); and

Whereas, Meriwether Lewis arrived in Pittsburgh on July 15, 1803, where he received a letter from President Thomas Jefferson informing him that the United States had acquired the Louisiana Purchase from France; and

Whereas, on August 31, 1803, Meriwether Lewis departed Pittsburgh at 10 a.m. in a pirogue and a 55-foot masted keelboat built either by Captain John Walker at the Bayard's boat yard in Elizabeth, or by Eliphalet Beebe at a boatyard operated by John Tarascon and James Berthoud on land owned by William Greenough, near what is now the north end of the Liberty Bridge in Pittsburgh; and

Whereas, after launching the crafts with a party of 11 men, Meriwether Lewis traveled three miles down the Ohio River to Brunot Island where he demonstrated his air rifle, and then proceeded downriver to McKees Rock, where the water had fallen so low that the crew was forced to raise the boat for 30 yards; and

Whereas, Meriwether Lewis and his party continued downriver until the pirogue began to leak, forcing him to purchase a canoe at Georgetown, Beaver County, before continuing to Wheeling, West Virginia, where supplies from Pittsburgh were loaded; and

Whereas, on October 15, 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark met in Louisville, Kentucky, and continued their expedition west with their Corps of Discovery on a quest to find and map a transcontinental water route to the Pacific Ocean; and

Whereas, the expedition reached the Pacific Ocean in November 1805 and built Fort Clatsop on the south side of the Columbia River in Oregon; and

Whereas, Meriwether Lewis returned in April 1807 to Philadelphia where he commissioned John James Barralet to paint a likeness of the Great Falls of the Missouri; arranged for noted horticulturist William Hamilton to propagate seeds gathered in the West at the renowned greenhouses adjacent to Hamilton's residence, The Woodlands; sat for a portrait painted by Charles Willson Peale; worked with preeminent ornithologist Alexander Wilson, who arranged the painting of four birds the Corps of Discovery found in the West—Lewis's woodpecker, Clark's nutcracker, the western tanager and the black-billed magpie; and

Whereas, the expedition led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark ''from sea to shining sea'' mapped a western route and resulted in the discovery of hundreds of species new to science and collection of natural history specimens; and

Whereas, the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia houses 226 of these original plant specimens, still mounted on the original sheets of linen paper and labeled in the handwriting of Meriwether Lewis; and

Whereas, a journal kept by Meriwether Lewis during the expedition, contained in 18 small notebooks, was edited by Philadelphia literary figure Nicholas Biddle, with the final revision completed by Paul Allen before its publication by the Philadelphia firm of Bradford and Inskeep in 1814 as ''History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark to the Sources of the Missouri, Thence Across the Rocky Mountains and Down the River Columbia to the Pacific Ocean''; original journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are held by the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia; and

Whereas, while the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail currently begins at Camp River Dubois near Hartford, Illinois, and continues through 11 states, ending in Oregon, the significant representation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and many Pennsylvanians in the planning and preparations which launched the Lewis and Clark search for the Gateway to the West and in the expansion of knowledge from the expedition which is recognized as a foundation of our American heritage is not included in the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania joins the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in supporting the recognition of a continuous Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail which would include nine additional eastern states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee and the District of Columbia and would complete the story of the expedition and expose a broader base of Americans to the educational and cultural aspects of the expedition; Now, therefore be, it

Resolved, (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to support legislation calling for Federal approval of the extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation.

POM–434. A resolution adopted by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives relative to urging the President and Congress of the United States to enact bills that would add denatonium benzoate to antifreeze containing ethylene glycol; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 835

Whereas, each year a number of adults intentionally ingest antifreeze to commit suicide; and

Whereas, each year a number of children are accidentally exposed to antifreeze left unattended or in open containers; and

Whereas, pets and other animals can die from ingesting antifreeze that has leaked, spilled or been left in improperly secured containers in a garage or driveway; and

Whereas, the National Safety Council, the American Medical Association and the American Association of Poison Control Centers have noted that the addition of a nontoxic bittering agent can make antifreeze so unpalatable that adults, children and animals will reject these products upon tasting them, preventing injury and death; and

Whereas, legislation, in the form of S. 1110 and H.R. 2567, has been introduced in the 109th Congress to require the inclusion of denatonium benzoate at a minimum of 30 parts per million as a bittering agent to any engine coolant or antifreeze that contains more than 10% ethylene glycol; and

Whereas, the Doris Day Animal League, the Humane Society of the United States, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, the Pet Food Institute, the United States Conference of Mayors, the Consumer Specialty Products Association and the retail antifreeze industry have endorsed the proposed legislation with the goal of protecting consumers and animals and

Whereas, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania supports protecting the health and safety of adults, children and animals through the inclusion of a bittering agent in ethylene glycol-based antifreeze; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and Congress of the United States to protect adults, children and animals by enacting legislation, S. 1110 or H.R. 2567, to require the addition of denatonium benzoate to antifreeze containing ethylene glycol; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives urge the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to protect adults, children and animals by supporting enactment of this legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives urge the President of the United States to advance this legislation to protect adults, children and animals; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM–435. A joint resolution adopted by the California Legislature relative to urging the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt federal regulations limiting emissions from marine vessels, locomotives, and aircraft; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, California is a global gateway for trade, with more than 40 percent of all of the goods imported to the United States entering through California's ports; and

Whereas, growth in the movement of goods through California's ports is projected to double or triple over the next 25 years; and

Whereas, toxic diesel air pollution from goods movement sources, such as marine vessels and locomotives, will increase in the face of this growth, unless more protective control actions are undertaken; and

Whereas,the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and agency of the United Nations, has established initial smog-forming NO_x emissions limitations and fuel sulfur specifications for oceangoing vessels, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has adopted emission standards for new locomotives, new trucks, and some vessels; and

Whereas, current international and federal standards governing air pollution from port-related sources are not sufficient to support attainment of federal health-based air quality standards in areas with growing emissions from port-related sources; and

Whereas, rules adopted by the EPA and the IMO have not adequately reduced emissions from sources associated with the ports; and

Whereas, the EPA has not regulated emissions from foreign flag vessels. The vast majority of oceangoing vessels calling on local ports, over 90 percent, are foreign flagged; and

Whereas, the EPA stated that it will consider adopting emission standards for foreign flag vessels in 2007; and

Whereas, the IMO emissions and fuel standards for foreign flag vessels are particularly weak. IMO smog-forming NO_x standards for new ''Category 3'' vessels will achieve only a 6-percent reduction in emissions. IMO fuel rules allow extraordinarily high levels of sulfur content; and

Whereas, Federal emission standards for locomotives are relatively lenient. Even the newest locomotives must only achieve a 57-percent reduction in NO_x emissions. In contrast, most onroad and stationary sources are controlled to over 90 percent. EPA has stated it intends to adopt more stringent locomotive emission standards in 2006; and

Whereas, port-related sources emit substantial and growing quantities of smog-forming nitrogen oxides and other air contaminants; and

Whereas, locomotives and marine vessels emit diesel exhaust, a toxic air contaminant; and

Whereas, diesel emissions are responsible for 70 percent of the cancer risk from air toxics emissions in California; and

Whereas, the EPA has stated that diesel exhaust is likely to be carcinogenic for humans; and

Whereas, part or all of 474 counties in 32 states are classified nonattainment for either failing to meet the new eight-hour federal ozone standard or for causing a downwind county to fail to meet that standard; and

Whereas, one hundred fifty-nine million people nationwide live in areas that do not meet the new eight-hour federal ozone standard; and

Whereas, all areas of the country could benefit from the reduction in emissions of toxic air contaminants from locomotives, and many areas would benefit from reduction in those emissions from marine vessels; and

Whereas, emissions from mobile sources, including locomotives, marine vessels, and aircraft, are preventing California from achieving state and federal clean air standards; and

Whereas, the EPA has authority to adopt regulations establishing emissions standards for marine vessels, locomotives, and aircraft; and

Whereas, Federal law mandates that the state adopt rules to attain national ambient air quality standards, but limits state and local authority to adopt certain regulations establishing emissions standards for aircraft, new locomotives, and new locomotive engines; and

Whereas, Federal regulations define new locomotives and new locomotive engines to include remanufactured locomotives and engines so as to restrict state authority to adopt some regulations establishing emissions standards for these older locomotives; and

Whereas, locomotives have extremely long useful lives and older locomotives emit air contaminants at relatively high rates; and

Whereas, State and local governments seeking to control emissions from marine vessels have faced arguments by vessel operators that state and local governments lack authority to adopt laws establishing emission limits for foreign flag vessels; and

Whereas, stringent regulations in California have reduced emissions by over 90 percent from most significant stationary sources and from motor vehicles and other mobile sources under the jurisdiction of state and local authorities in California, but locomotives, marine vessels, and aircraft have been controlled far less stringently by the Federal government, and have not achieved their fair share of emission reductions needed to meet State and Federal clean air standards; and

Whereas, until locomotives, marine vessels, and aircraft are required to achieve their fair share of emission reductions, other mobile sources such as passenger cars, buses, and commercial trucks, as well as stationary sources, including large and small businesses in California will have to make up the difference; and

Whereas, the ports have developed ambitious programs and plans but, to date, they have not rolled back emissions or even arrested emissions growth. Both the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach have developed emission control programs and plans that will help mitigate air quality impacts, but the fact remains that the ports continue to be sources of singularly large and growing quantities of diesel emissions; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the Administrator of the EPA urging the administrator to adopt Federal regulations limiting emissions from marine vessels, locomotives, and aircraft in order to achieve healthful air quality in California and other areas with air quality problems; and be it further

Resolved, That those Federal regulations mandate use and improvement of state-of-the-art emission control and prevention technologies at the earliest feasible date, be comparably stringent to State and local air pollution control requirements so that operators of locomotives, marine vessels, and aircraft contribute their fair share to support air quality attainment plans, and implement Congress' intent that State and local air quality authorities be allowed to adopt rules establishing emissions standards for remanufactured locomotives; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature respectfully encourages the EPA to pursue more protective regulations and incentive programs to reduce substantially the emissions from marine vessels, including domestic and foreign flagged vessels, locomotives, and aircraft, with the level of emissions sufficiently reduced to help regions polluted by trade-related diesel emissions attain Federal health-based standards by the dates required by the Clean Air Act, Federal regulations, and corresponding State implementation plans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the United States Environmental Protections Agency, to the United States Coast Guard, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM–436. A resolution adopted by the Massachusetts State Senate relative to memorializing the fiftieth anniversary of the 1965 Hungarian Revolution for Freedom and Democracy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, following World War II, the Soviet Union occupied Hungary and forced an anti-democratic and brutal government upon the people of Hungary; and

Whereas, on October 23, 1956, Hungarian freedom fighters, the Time magazine 1956 ''Man of the Year'', took up arms in Hungary to establish a democratic government and free the people of Hungary from oppression by ending the political and economic domination by the communist government and the Soviet Union; and

Whereas, the people of Hungary fought valiantly but alone, and in the course of the uprising thousands gave their lives, thousands were imprisoned, and over 150,000 escaped, many to the United States, including Massachusetts; and

Whereas, in 1956, the brave Hungarians were the first to rebel against the totalitarian and oppressive communist government and their sacrifices exposed the weaknesses of the communist system; and

Whereas, the Hungarians in 1989 were again instrumental in the collapse of communism as they dismantled the Iron Curtain and allowed the East Germans to leave Eastern Europe through Hungary, actions that eventually led to the fall of the Berlin Wall; and

Whereas, the sacrifices of the Hungarians in 1956 were not in vain, as they ultimately led to the collapse of most of the communist systems of the world and freedom for hundreds of millions of people; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts Senate supports the current efforts of people of all nations to assert the right of self-determination and other basic human rights for which the Hungarian people bravely fought in 1956; and

Whereas, October 23, 2006, is the 50th anniversary of the ultimately successful uprising of the people of Hungary, which still serves as an example that sacrifices must be made for the freedom and democracy; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Massachusetts Senate commends the people of Hungary for their sacrifices for freedom and democracy, and joins in celebrating October 23, 2006, as ''Hungarian Freedom Fighters' Day'' in the Commonwealth; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to Honorary Consul Gabor Garai, to each member of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, the Honorable George H. Walker, United States Ambassador to Hungary, and the Honorable Andras Simonyi, the Ambassador of Hungary to the United States.

POM–437. A resolution adopted by the Michigan Senate relative to urging Congress

to support the National Cancer Institute's plan to eliminate suffering and death from cancer by the year 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

Whereas, each year more than 1.4 million Americans are diagnosed with cancer. One out of every two men and one out of every three women will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes. In 1971, Congress began the battle against cancer with enactment of the National Cancer Act and creation of the National Cancer Institute within the National Institutes of Health. The foundation laid by their foresight puts the nation in position to aggressively enter the final stages of the fight against cancer. Sixty designated cancer research centers have been established across the country by the National Cancer Institute. These centers have the capacity to share knowledge with each other and solve problems in real time through advances in computer technology as well as work collaboratively with researchers in other disciplines, such as engineering, to develop the technologies needed to fight cancer; and

Whereas, scientific research on the human genome and proteins have led to breakthroughs in our understanding of the molecular changes that cause cancer and differences between the same cancers in different patients. This understanding makes it possible to design therapies that target the cancer and bypass healthy tissues that will eliminate the suffering caused by collateral damage to normal tissues from chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Therapies can also be modified to account for the cancer's response to a given treatment in individual patients. Doctors believe it is within their grasp to cure or manage cancer similar to other chronic diseases that a person can live with and not necessarily die from; and

Whereas, concurrent advances in imaging technologies and knowledge networking mean scientists and doctors will be able to see and assess the impact of treatment within days and not have to wait months or years to know the outcome. Imaging technologies now show not only the physical size, shape, and location of cancer tissue, but can also show the function of the tissue. Thus, doctors may apply a treatment targeting the abnormal cells that make up the cancer tissue and be able to see within 24 to 48 hours whether the treatment is altering function in the expected way. Knowledge networking through computers in real time means scientists and doctors working across the country at the 60 centers sponsored by the National Cancer Institute can share what they have learned. This will be particularly valuable with rare forms of cancer as doctors will pool their experience with patients being treated in different centers; and

Whereas, tremendous advances in the treatment and cure of cancer have been achievcd in the past 35 years, and this nation has never shied away from bold goals to advance science and technology. The director of the National Cancer Institute has shown great leadership, enthusiasm, and optimism for being able to harness what we know and catapult the scientific and clinical communities forward through the final stage of the battle against cancer; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize Congress to support the National Cancer Institute's plan to eliminate suffering and death from cancer by the year 2015; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–438. A joint resolution adopted by the California Legislature relative to urging Congress and the President to enact the Microbicide Development Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, microbicides are a promising new prevention tool that could slow down the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and around the world; and

Whereas, women and girls are the new face of HIV/AIDS and account for almost one-half of the 37 million adults living with HIV and AIDS worldwide as of 2005, and approximately 7,000 women are infected with HIV each day; and

Whereas, in California, women comprise about 8 percent of all reported AIDS cases, yet are the fastest growing population with AIDS, and sex with an HIV-infected male is the most common route of transmission; and

Whereas, AIDS is now the number one cause of death among African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34 years; and

Whereas, the United States has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases of any industrialized nation, with more than 19 million new STD infections every year; and

Whereas, it is estimated that by age 25 one-half of all sexually active people in the United States can expect to be infected with a STD; and

Whereas, HIV and AIDS result in direct medical costs of more than $15 billion per year and the pandemic undermines our economy and security; and

Whereas, microbicides may be formulated as gels, creams, or rings to inactivate, block, or otherwise interfere with the transmission of the pathogens that cause AIDS and other STDs, allowing women to protect themselves from disease; and

Whereas, unlike current HIV prevention methods, microbicides would allow women to both conceive children and protect themselves from HIV and STDs; and

Whereas, the microbicide field has achieved an extraordinary amount of scientific momentum, with several first-generation candidates now in large scale human trials around the world; and

Whereas, microbicides are a classic public health good, for which the social benefits are high but the economic incentive to private investment is low and, like other public health goods such as vaccines, public funding must fill the gap; and

Whereas, the federal government needs to make a strong commitment to microbicides research and development, and while three agencies—the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)—have played important roles, further strong, well-coordinated, and visible public sector leadership is essential for the promise of microbicides to be fully realized; and

Whereas, in 2005, NIH spent less than 2 percent of its HIV/AIDS research budget on microbicides, and that funding level is inadequate; and

Whereas, HIV and STD prevention strategies must recognize women's unique needs and vulnerabilities if women are to have a genuine opportunity to protect themselves, and their best opinion is the rapid development of new HIV prevention techniques such as microbicides; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature memorializes the United States Congress and the President and the United States to enact the Microbicide Development Act (S. 550 and H.R. 3854), which would amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate the development of microbicides for preventing the transmission of HIV and other diseases, and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–439. A joint resolution adopted by the California Legislature relative to urging Congress to place a statue of former President Ronald Reagan next to the statue of Father Junipero Serra in the Congressional collection representing California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, by act of the Congress of the United States, each state is invited to provide two statues of distinguished citizens for display in the United States Capitol; and

Whereas, California, in years past, provided two statues of notable citizens that have been displayed in the United States Capitol since 1931; and

Whereas, one of the those statues is of Thomas Starr King, known as ''the orator who saved the nation.'' He spoke out fervently in favor of the union during the Civil War and is credited with saving California from becoming a separate republic; and

Whereas, Thomas Starr King can best be memorialized by locating his statute in a place of honor in the Capitol of California where citizens and visitors can enjoy it and be reminded of his significant historical impact upon our state; and

Whereas, California has a citizen, Ronald Wilson Reagan, who is exceptionally worthy of national commemoration. He stands alone in California history as beloved actor, President of the Screen Actors Guild, two-term Governor of California, and two-term President of the United States; and

Whereas, affectionately known as the ''Great Communicator,'' Ronald Wilson Reagan served as the 40th President of the United States and was the first Governor of California to be elected President of the United States; and

Whereas, the people of California wish to place a statue of Ronald Wilson Reagan in Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol, with the statue being provided by the citizens of California through the efforts of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation; and

Whereas, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation shall select a commission to represent the state in selecting the sculptor or sculptors to sculpt the statue and obtain the necessary funds to carry out this resolution; and

Whereas, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation shall be responsible for all of the following:

(a) Forming a commission to select the sculptor or sculptors.

(b) Paying the sculptor or sculptors to carve or cast the statue.

(c) Creating a pedestal and desired inscription.

(d) Transporting the statue and pedestal to the United States Capitol.

(e) Removing and transporting the replaced statue of Thomas Starr King back to the California State Capitol.

(f) Temporarily erecting the new statue of Ronald Wilson Reagan in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol for the unveiling ceremony.

(g) Paying the expenses related to the unveiling ceremony and any other expenses

that the commission may find necessary to incur in implementing this resolution; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to place a statute of Ronald Wilson Reagan alongside the statute of Father Junipero Serra in the Congressional collection representing the State of California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM–440. A resolution adopted by the Tompkins County Legislature of the State of New York relative to urging the federal government to commence a humane, orderly, and comprehensive withdrawal of United States military personnel and bases from Iraq; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM–441. A resolution adopted by the Lauderdale Lakes City Commission of the State of Florida relative to opposing the enactment of the Communications, Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM–442. A resolution adopted by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners of the State of Michigan relative to urging full federal funding to complete construction and ensure permanent operation and maintenance of both electrical barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. INHOFE:

S. 4048. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 4049. A bill to provide for the redeployment of United States forces from Iraq by July 1, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 4050. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 East Thompson Street in Thomaston, Georgia, as the ''Sergeant First Class Robert Lee 'Bobby' Hollar, Jr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 4051. A bill to provide sufficient resources to permit electronic surveillance of United States persons for foreign intelligence purposes to be conducted pursuant to individualized court-based orders for calls originating in the United States, to provide additional resources to enhance oversight and streamline the procedures of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to ensure review of the Terrorist Surveillance Program by the United States Supreme Court, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 612. A resolution designating the week of February 5 through February 9, 2007, as ''National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. Res. 613. A resolution honoring the life and work of William Wilberforce and commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 382

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 713

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 713, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make higher education more affordable, and for other purposes.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to allow Congress, State legislatures, and regulatory agencies to determine appropriate laws, rules, and regulations to address the problems of weight gain, obesity, and health conditions associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 919

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 919, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance competition among and between rail carriers in order to ensure efficient rail service and reasonable rail rates, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1172, a bill to provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1508, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the deduction for college tuition expenses and to expand such deduction to include expenses for books.

S. 1779

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 1948

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2235, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 2465

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2465, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 2747

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2747, a bill to enhance energy efficiency and conserve oil and natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3238, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

S. 3654

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a credit against income tax, or, in the alternative, a special depreciation allowance, for reuse and recycling property, to provide for tax-exempt financing of recycling equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 3696

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3696, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that extorts money from State and local governments, and the Federal Government, and inhibits such governments' constitutional actions under the first, tenth, and fourteenth amendments.

S. 3718

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3718, a bill to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and pool and spa drainage systems, by establishing a swimming pool safety grant program administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to encourage States to improve their pool and spa safety laws and to educate the public about pool and spa safety, and for other purposes.

S. 3744

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3744, a bill to establish the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Program.

S. 3791

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3791, a bill to require the provision of information to parents and adults concerning bacterial meningitis and the availability of a vaccination with respect to such disease.

S. 3795

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3795, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

S. 3910

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3910, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept the donation of a bust depicting Sojourner Truth and to display the bust in a suitable location in the Capitol.

S. 3913

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3913, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to eliminate funding shortfalls for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for fiscal year 2007.

S. 3991

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3991, a bill to provide emergency agricultural disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 4014

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4014, a bill to endorse further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to facilitate the timely admission of Albania, Croatia, Georgia, and Macedonia to NATO, and for other purposes.

S. 4042

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4042, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit disruptions of funerals of members or former members of the Armed Forces.

S. 4046

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 4046, a bill to extend oversight and accountability related to United States reconstruction funds and efforts in Iraq by extending the termination date of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

S. CON. RES. 101

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 101, a concurrent resolution condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

AMENDMENT NO. 5123

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5123 proposed to H.R. 5385, an act making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5124

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5124 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5385, an act making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5126

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5126 proposed to H.R. 5385, an act making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5128

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5128 proposed to H.R. 5385, an act making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5135

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5135 proposed to H.R. 5385, an act making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 4048. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, which receives 25 percent of its budget from the U.S., has used U.S. taxpayer money in turn to encourage and support higher taxes on the U.S. taxpayer, in addition to its support of U.N. global tax schemes.

The OECD has endorsed and encouraged higher taxes, new taxes, and global taxes no fewer than 24 times in reports with titles such as ''Towards Global Tax Cooperation,'' in which the OECD identifies 35 nations guilty of ''harmful tax competition.''

They have advocated that the U.S. adopt a costly and bureaucratic value added tax, a 40-cent increase in the gas tax, a carbon tax, a fertilizer tax, ending the deductibility of State and local taxes from Federal taxes, new taxes at the State level, and a host of other new and innovative taxes on U.S. citizens.

It is not only the recommending of higher taxes which concerns us; the ultimate concern is the movement towards undermining U.S. sovereignty. Ecogroups such as the Friends of the Earth want the OECD to declare that dam-building for flood control and electronic power is unacceptable as ''sustainable energy.'' In May, 2005 the OECD ministers endorsed a proposal at the U.N. to create a system of global taxes.

The OECD has stated explicitly that low-tax policies ''unfairly erode the tax bases of other countries and distort the location of capital and services.'' What we have here are Paris-based bureaucrats seeking to protect high-tax welfare states from the free market.

That is why the OECD goes on to say that free-market tax competition ''may hamper the application of progressive tax rates and the achievement of redistributive goals.'' Clearly, free market tax competition makes it harder to implement socialistic welfare states. The free market evidently hasn't been fair to socialistic welfare states. Well, it's a good thing that they have the OECD and nearly $100 million in U.S. taxpayer money to protect them.

Noted economist Walter Williams clearly sees the direction in which this is headed when he says that ''the bottom line agenda for the OECD is to establish a tax cartel where nations get together and collude on taxes.'' Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill seconded that when he said that he was ''troubled by the underlying premise that low tax rates are somehow suspect and by the notion that any country should interfere in any other country's'' tax policy. And John Bolton argues that the OECD's approach ''represents a kind of worldwide centralization of governments and interest groups.'' Who do you think bears the costs for all this? Mr. Bolton answers and you probably guessed it—the United States.

America's proud history of independence was driven in no small part by the desire for sovereignty over taxation powers. In this context, it makes no sense to relegate our sovereignty over tax policy, in any way, to international bureaucrats.

It is very simple. U.S. taxpayers are being forced to fund a bunch of international bureaucrats who write, speak, organize, and advocate in support of higher taxes, global taxes, and the gradual erosion of American sovereignty over its domestic fiscal policies. I think that most Americans would be outraged to learn that they are forced to subsidize these types of activities with their tax dollars. I think that they shouldn't have to any longer. That's why I am introducing legislation today to remove the United State's contributions to the OECD. I ask you to join me in doing so, as the following individuals and their respective organizations have joined in helping us to combat un-American policies emanating from the OECD in the past: Andrew F. Quinlan, President, Center for Freedom and Prosperity Foundation; Daniel J. Mitchell, Senior Fellow, The Heritage Foundation; Veronique de Rugy, Research Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; John Berthoud, President, National Taxpayers Union; Grover Norquist, President. Americans for Tax Reform; Tom Giovanetti, President, Institute for Policy Innovation; Karen Kerrigan, President and CEO, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council; Doug Bandow, Vice President of Policy, Citizen Outreach; Roland Boucher, Chairman, United Californians for Tax Reform; Daniel Clifton, Executive Director, American Shareholders Association; Rick Durham, President, Tennessee Tax Revolt, Inc.; Richard Falknor, Executive Vice President, Maryland Taxpayers Association; Kerri Houston, Vice President of Policy, Frontiers of Freedom; David A. Keene, Chairman, American Conservative Union; Matt Kibbe, President and CEO, FreedomWorks; Thomas P. Kilgannon, President, Freedom Alliance; Michelle Korsmo, Vice President, Americans for Prosperity Foundation; Charles W. Jarvis, Chairman, USA Next; James L. Martin, President, 60 Plus Association; Chuck Muth, President, Citizen Outreach; Karl Peterjohn, Executive Director, Kansas Taxpayers Network; George Pieler, Senior Fellow, Institute for Policy Innovation; John Pugsley, Chairman, The Sovereign Society; Don Racheter, President, Public Interest Institute; Amy Ridenour, President, The National Center for Public Policy Research; Terrence Scanlon, President, Capital Research Center; Thomas Schatz, President, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; Bill Sizemore, Executive Director, Oregon Taxpayers United; David M. Stanley, Chairman, Iowans for Tax Relief; David M Strom, President, Taxpayers League of Minnesota; Henry L. Thaxton, Director, West Virginians Against Government Waste; Pat Toomey, President, Club for Growth; Lewis K. Uhler, President, National Tax Limitation Committee; and Paul M. Weyrich, National Chairman, Coalitions for America.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 4051. A bill to provide sufficient resources to permit electronic surveillance of United States persons for foreign intelligence purposes to be conducted pursuant to individualized court-based orders for calls originating in the United States, to provide additional resources to enhance oversight and streamline the procedures of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to ensure review of the Terrorist Surveillance Program by the United States Supreme Court, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to introduce legislation which I have captioned as the ''Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Oversight and Resource Enactment Act of 2006.'' This is a modification of legislation which had been introduced by the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and myself and passed out of the Judiciary Committee.

If it is in accordance with the rules, I ask that this bill be held at the desk.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide for oversight on the administration's electronic surveillance program which has been in effect for many years and which was publicly disclosed in mid-December last year. We now are at a state where the provisions of earlier legislation which I introduced, which would call for judicial review by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, are no longer necessary. Events have overtaken the situation, with litigation having been started in a number of district courts, and a decision has come out of the U.S. district court in Detroit. The issue is now on appeal to the Sixth Circuit, and there is no longer any need to provide for a referral to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court because the matter is now in litigation and will be carried through on the appellate process.

The legislation which I am introducing tracks the Feinstein-Specter bill in that it provides additional resources to the administration. It expands the time when the administration can get approval for an electronic surveillance that has already been accomplished. With these additional resources, I am advised that the NSA will be in a position to have individual warrants for all calls which originate in the United States and go overseas. The bill does not touch the calls which originate overseas and come through checkpoints or transmission in the United States and go back overseas, where both the point of origin and the point of conclusion is overseas. And, we do not deal with calls which originate overseas and come into the United States.

The President has contended that notwithstanding the provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that it is the exclusive way to get a wiretap warrant, he has article II power. And, there will be a test of that in the court system, which is now underway. That test will involve what the courts have said is the balancing test: the invasion of privacy versus the value for law enforcement and for national security. So that as to calls to repeat—when they originate overseas and come into the United States, that will be the issue which will remain to be tested.

This proposal does not deal with the existing language that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is the exclusive remedy, nor does it deal with any assertion about the article II power of the President.

It has been my view, expressed on the floor on a number of occasions, that the article II power is what it is, congressional power is what it is, and if there is genuine article II power, then it supersedes an act of Congress because the Constitution trumps an act of Congress. This legislation does not deal with those issues which had created what I thought was a needless controversy.

The bill further provides that there will be review by the Supreme Court of the United States. I think there doubtless would be review by the Supreme Court as a matter of course, but in order not to take any chance on that, Congress has the authority to mandate review with the Supreme Court, and this bill does that.

In addition, the legislation provides for expedited review so that there will be a judicial determination as to the constitutionality of what the President has done with respect to the calls originating overseas and ending in the United States. I think this bill is a significant advance in protecting civil liberties by having individualized warrants on calls which originate in the United States and which go overseas.

We have had this electronic surveillance in existence for a long time. The effort which I have made has been to have it subjected to judicial review, and it is my hope that this stripped-down legislation, which does enhance civil liberties by providing for individual warrants on calls originating in the United States and expedited review in the Federal courts and expedited review by the Supreme Court, would be acceptable.

We have time yet in this session this year to legislate on this important subject.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. SPECTER. I yield.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Through the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I was trying, as the Senator from Pennsylvania spoke, to figure out exactly what bill it is he is speaking of. I gather this is his bill, not our bill, on which he is adding some of our bill's provisions, but he leaves out the critical part, which is reinforcing the exclusive authority of FISA; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the exclusive authority of FISA remains. This bill does not touch that. FISA is now the law of the land, and FISA says that it is the exclusive remedy for wiretapping. This legislation which I am introducing does not alter that, so it remains as provided in FISA that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is the exclusive remedy for wiretapping.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. If I may, a second question: Will this bill allow the President to use his plenary authority to wiretap outside of FISA, first, and secondly, will it allow for program authority for wiretaps?

Mr. SPECTER. It does not deal with program authority at all. That was in the original legislation that I introduced as a way of getting the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to review the program. But this does not deal with that, and it does not give the President any enhanced authority at all to conduct warrantless wiretaps. The bill doesn't deal with that.

Whatever authority the President has under article II, he has. What this bill does is submit for expedited review by the Supreme Court a determination as to whether the President has article II power to have a warrantless wiretap with a call that originates overseas and ends in the United States.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Again, through the Chair, if the Senator will put up with this for a moment more, is that to handle the switching issue, or would this apply to all calls coming in from outside the United States are exempt?

Mr. SPECTER. To repeat, the bill I am introducing does not touch that point. The bill I am introducing leaves the status quo on that point, and that is where some contend that it is illegal to have a wiretap where the call originates outside the United States and comes inside. The contention is made that it's governed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and is, therefore, illegal. The President has a different argument. He is asserting article II power as Commander in Chief, and he says that his article II power, constitutional power, supersedes or trumps a statute. Whether he is right or wrong depends upon a judicial interpretation. Only the court can weigh, as the existing law is in this area, whether the importance of national security outweighs the invasion of privacy, and that determination is reserved for the Federal courts.

We are now having that determination in the Detroit case, ACLU v. NSA, where the district judge says it is unconstitutional and the Sixth Circuit now has taken the case. They have issued a stay, in effect, but they will take up the case on the merits.

Once the litigation is this far advanced, we are not now in the situation we were in last December when the Judiciary Committee, as the Senator from California knows, had four hearings and I had a bill to submit to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. That is bypassed now. Events have overtaken it.

This will provide for judicial review. It is my thought—and the Senator from California and I have talked about this again and again and have worked on her bill which I supported, voted out of committee 10 to 8 with 2 Republicans and 8 Democrats—this will expedite a determination as to whether all those calls originating overseas and coming in are or are not constitutionally tapped. And, it will help out with what the Senator from California has been the leader on—and that is to have individualized warrants for calls originating in the United States. That is a big advance on civil liberties if those calls are not tapped without a warrant.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Senator. He has been a very distinguished chairman of the committee. This is an issue in which, as a member of the Intelligence Committee and Judiciary Committee, I have had an intense interest. The Senator from Pennsylvania recognizes that. I appreciate that.

I am unsure whether this bill is for the purpose of judicial review of the President's article II authority—I think I understand what the Senator is doing. He is essentially exempting all those calls which come into the United States, not calls from point A to point B in the United States. I think that bears further discussion, but I trust no action will be taken on this bill in this session but that the Senator from Pennsylvania is submitting it as a marker for next year.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, it would be my hope that we could act on it this session. I say that, subject to review by the Senator from California and by other Members and by the House of Representatives. The Senator from California and I and others have thought about this issue long and hard. This bill is a real effort to try to accommodate all of the concerns the Senator from California has raised. That is to maintain the status of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act as the exclusive way to wiretap. That stands.

There is no statement about the authority of the President under article II, which had been objected to before. As I say, whatever the constitutional authority is, it is, regardless of what the bill says, but this bill says nothing about that. It says nothing.

The Senator from California and I have wanted to have individualized warrants wherever we could get them, and now the Senator from California took the lead on this. She has had access to this program, where I have not, because she is on the Intelligence Committee. It is anomalous that the chairman of the Judiciary Committee would not know the program, but I respect the division which gives that intelligence to the oversight committee. But she and I both wanted to have individualized warrants everywhere if we could get them. And, now we know we can get them on calls originating in the United States if we add the resources that were in the legislation crafted initially by the Senator from California, which I joined, which passed out of committee and onto the floor. And it does not deal with the ones overseas into the United States. Whatever authority the President has on that, he is going to have to assert in Federal court and satisfy ultimately the Supreme Court that he has that article II power. My view is the sooner we have this determination, the better off we are.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the chairman. I would like to look very closely

at this bill. I am very reluctant to move right now. You have mentioned the case percolating up through the courts now. I am really unsure why passage of this bill now would achieve anything. It seems to me it would be better to wait and see what the court does. I would appreciate your response to that.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I am glad to respond, and I thank the Senator from California for the question. It would achieve individualized review of warrants on calls originating in the United States, and there are a lot of them. How many there are, I don't know, but the NSA officials have told us that if we give them the additional resources, which was suggested originally by the Senator from California and which I concur in on the Feinstein-Specter bill, that they could have individualized warrants. And, I think that would be a big step forward on civil rights.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Except what you are doing is effectively exempting, then, a call from outside into the United States because of the change in technology.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, my bill does not exempt them. My bill just doesn't deal with them. Some say that FISA controls them and, therefore, they are illegal. The President says: No, he has article II power. And the only way that controversy can be resolved is in a Federal court, which will weigh them. And the Federal court in Detroit weighed them and said it was unconstitutional. And the Sixth Circuit has said they will review it. In the meantime, the program stands. But as the program stands, all of these warrantless wiretaps are going on and on and on. And we go one step further. We make sure the Supreme Court will take the case. We also have power in the Congress to expedite the review, set a timetable to get it done faster.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I will be very interested to look at the bill, and I thank you very much for this dialog. And this completes my questions. Thank you.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Senator from California for the colloquy which has further explained the bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 612—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5 THROUGH FEBRUARY 9, 2007, AS ''NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK''

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 612

Whereas 1 in 3 female teens in a dating relationship have feared for their physical safety;

Whereas 1 in 2 teens in serious relationships have compromised their beliefs to please their partner;

Whereas nearly 1 in 5 teens who have been in a serious relationship said their boyfriend or girlfriend would threaten to hurt themselves or their partner if there was a breakup;

Whereas 1 in 5 teens in a serious relationship report they have been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 teens have been in a relationship where their partner verbally abuses them;

Whereas 13 percent of Hispanic teens reported that hitting a partner was permissible;

Whereas 29 percent of girls who have been in a relationship said they have been pressured to have sex or engage in sex they did not want;

Whereas nearly 50 percent of girls worry that their partner would break up with them if they did not agree to engage in sex;

Whereas Native American women experience higher rates of interpersonal violence than any other population group;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims who are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult revictimization;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to increase if the pattern has been established in adolescence;

Whereas 81 percent of parents surveyed either believe dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue; and

Whereas the establishment of the National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week will benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socio-economic status, race, or sex; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 5 through February 9, 2007, as ''National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week''; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States, high schools, law enforcement, State and local officials, and interested groups, to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 613—HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF WILLIAM WILBERFORECE AND COMMEMORATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE IN GREAT BRITAIN

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committe on the Judiciary:

Whereas William Wilberforce, born August 25, 1759, used his position as a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons to stop the slave trade in Great Britain, proclaiming, ''I [will] never rest until I have effected [slavery's] abolition.'';

Whereas William Wilberforce displayed remarkable perserverance in answering the call of social justice and fought the slave trade in Great Britain and slavery itself for 46 years, despite the national and personal financial interests aligned against him, the public criticism and slander he endured, and the stress and pain placed on his family;

Whereas William Wilberforce rested his political career on the ideals of stewardship, respect for the rights of others, advancing the views of others, and promoting the happiness of others, and proclaimed, ''Let every one . . . regulate his conduct by the golden rule . . . and the path of duty will be clear before him.'';

Whereas William Wilberforce defended the rights of slaves who had no voice in the legislature of Great Britain and committed himself to sweeping social reform in his country;

Whereas William Wilberforce joined with Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Thomas Clarkson, Olaudah Equiano, Harriet Martineau, Hannah More, and other great abolitionists in Great Britain;

Whereas William Wilberforce inspired abolitionists in the United States, including William Lloyd Garrison, John Greenleaf Whittier, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Harriet Beecher Stowe;

Whereas William Wilberforce also influenced John Quincy Adams, James Monroe, John Jay, Abraham Lincoln, and Benjamin Franklin, along with many leaders in the African-American community, among them William Wells Brown, Paul Cuffe, and Benjamin Hughes;

Whereas Frederick Douglass said, ''it was the faithful, persistent and enduring enthusiasm of . . . William Wilberforce . . . and [his] noble co-workers, that finally thawed the British heart into sympathy for the slave, and moved the strong arm of the government in mercy to put an end to his bondage.''; and

Whereas March 25, 2007 marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and work of William Wilberforce; and

(2) commemorates the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain and its impact on similar efforts in the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5137. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5138. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra.

SA 5139. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5140. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5141. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, supra.

SA 5142. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra.

SA 5143. Mr. ALLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra.

SA 5144. Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr . BAUCUS, Mr. REID, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr.

DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. INOUYE, and Mr. AKAKA) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5385, supra.

SA 5145. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4920 submitted by Mr. BURNS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5146. Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra.

SA 5147. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5148. Mrs. DOLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5137. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mrs. MIKULSKI, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. AKAKA Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Releated Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL CARE AND SERVICES FOR VETERANS OF FUTURE CONFLICTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS FOR WHICH EVIDENCE IS INSUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH A SERVICE-CONNECTION.—Paragraph (1) of section 1710(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(F) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a veteran who served on active duty as described in subparagraph (D) during a period of war specified in that subparagraph, or after the date specified in that subparagraph, is also eligible for—

''(i) a mental health evaluation to be provided by the Secretary not later than 30 days after the date of the request of the veteran for such evaluation; and

''(ii) hospital care, medical services, nursing home care, and family and marital counseling for any mental health condition identified pursuant to such evaluation, notwithstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that such condition is attributable to such service.''.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) CAUSATION.—Paragraph (2)(B) of such section is amended by striking ''or (E)'' and inserting ''(E), or (F)''.

(2) DURATION AFTER SERVICE.—Paragraph (3) of such section is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) in the case of a veteran described in paragraph (1)(F)—

''(i) with respect to the evaluation described in clause (i) of that paragraph, after a period of 5 years beginning on the date of the veteran's discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service; and

''(ii) with respect to the care, services, and counseling described in clause (ii) of that paragraph, after a period of 2 years beginning on the date of the commencement of the provision of such care, services, and counseling to the veteran.''.

SA 5138. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) STUDY ON COSTS OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a study of costs associated with the Comprehensive Service Programs authorized by sections 2011 and 2012 of title 38 United States Code.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the study required by subsection (a). The report shall set forth the following:

(1) The number of authorized and operational transitional housing beds and service centers under the programs referred to in subsection (a) in fiscal year 2006, and the number of such beds and centers in each State and in each Congressional District during such fiscal year.

(2) The cost in fiscal year 2006 of grants under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, to authorized and operational transitional housing beds and service centers under the programs referred to in that subsection.

(3) The cost in fiscal year 2006 of per diem payments under section 2012 of title 38 United States Code, to authorized and operational transitional housing beds and service centers under the programs referred to in that subsection.

(4) An estimate of the costs in each of fiscal years 2007, 2012, and 2017 associated with an increase in the number of operational transitional housing beds under the programs referred to in that subsection to each of 10,000, 20,000, and 30,000 beds, and a description of the methodology used for making such estimates.

(5) The number of applications received, scored as qualified, and awarded pursuant to the Capital Grant Notice of Funds Availability published on April 20, 2006.

(6) The range of per diem payment rates, the average per diem payment rate, and the median per diem payment rate paid to recipients of grants under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, in fiscal year 2006.

(7) The number and percentage of total recipients of grants under section 2011 of title 38 United States Code, in fiscal year 2006 being paid under section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under section 1741(a)(1)(A) of that title for fiscal year 2006.

SA 5139. Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mrs. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU,) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 106, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following new section:

SEC. 229. Effective as of October 1, 2006, the authority provided by section 2064 of title 38, United States Code, shall continue in effect until September 30, 2007.

SA 5140. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, add the following:

SEC. ____. (a) TERMINATION UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF CONTRACTS FOR CELLULAR PHONE SERVICES.—

(1) INCLUSION OF CONTRACTS UNDER TERMINATION AUTHORITY.—Subsection (b) of section 305 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 535) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) CONTRACTS FOR CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), a contract for a cellular phone used, or intended to be used, by a servicemember or a servicemember's dependent for a personal or business purpose if—

''(i) the contract is executed by or on behalf of a person who thereafter and during the term of the contract enters into military service under call or order specifying a period of not less than 90 days (or who enters military service under a call or order specifying a period of 90 days or less and who, without a break in service, receives orders extending the period of military service to a period not less than 90 days);

''(ii) the servicemember, while in military service, executes the contract and thereafter receives military orders for a permanent change of station outside of the continental United States or to deploy with a military unit for a period of not less than 90 days; or

''(iii) the servicemember, while in military service, executes the contract and thereafter receives military orders for a permanent change of station to a location within the continental United States where the contract cannot be transferred at the same rate, terms, and quality of service.

''(B) APPLICABILITY TO DEPENDENTS.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply with respect to a contract, or portion of a contract, for a cellular phone used, or intended to be used, by a servicemember's dependent only if the dependent—

''(i) relocates in accompanying the servicemember in the performance of the military service, or in a permanent change of station or deployment, described in that subparagraph; or

''(ii) otherwise relocates as a consequence of such military service or change of station or deployment.

''(C) APPLICABILITY TO GROUP PLANS.—If a servicemember or a dependent to whom this paragraph applies is not the primary account holder under a contract described in subparagraph (A), that subparagraph shall apply only to the extent of the obligations of the servicemember or dependent, as the case may be, in the contract.''.

(2) MANNER OF TERMINATION.—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) in the case of a contract for a cellular phone, by delivery by the contractee of written notice of such termination, and a copy of the servicemember's military orders, to the contractor or to the contractor's agent.''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF TERMINATION.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) CONTRACT FOR CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE.—In the case of a contract for a cellular phone described in subsection (b)(3), termination of the contract under subsection (a) is effective on the day on which the requirements of subsection (c) are met for such termination.''.

(4) ARREARAGES.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(A) by striking ''(e) ARREARAGES AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND LIABILITIES.—Rents or lease amounts'' and inserting the following:

''(e) ARREARAGES AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND LIABILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Rents or lease amounts'';

(B) by designating the second sentence as paragraph (2), indenting such paragraph 4 ems from the left margin, and inserting before ''In the case of the lease'' the following:

''(2) LEASE CHARGES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.—''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(3) TERMINATION CHARGES FOR CELLULAR PHONE CONTRACTS.—In the case of a contract for a cellular phone, the contractor may not impose an early termination charge, but may request the return of equipment provided to the contractee as part of the contract which would normally remain the property of the contractee at the end of the contract term if the contractee is given the option of paying a pro-rated amount to retain such equipment based on the original retail price of such equipment, the amount previously paid for such equipment by the contractee, and the time remaining on the contract.

''(4) REACTIVATION FEES.—In the event a contractor and contractee jointly agree to treat the termination of a contract for a cellular phone under this section as a suspension of such contract, the contractor may not impose any fee for reactivation of service under such contract at the completion of suspension of such contract.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a)(1)(B) of such section is amended by striking ''or (2)(B)'' and inserting '', (2)(B), (3)(A)(ii), or (3)(A)(iii)''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 305. TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL OR MOTOR VEHICLE LEASES OR CONTRACTS FOR CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE.''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 305 and inserting the following new item:

''Sec. 305. Termination of residential or motor vehicle leases or contracts for cellular phone service.''.

SA 5141. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

''SEC. 126. (a) The amount available for 'Military Construction, Air Force' is hereby reduced by $25,400,000 for 'Basic Expeditionary Airmen Training Facility, Lackland AFB, Texas'.

''(b) The amount available for 'Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005' is hereby increased by $25,400,000.''

SA 5142. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 106, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 229. Of the amount appropriated by this title, up to $18,000,000 may be available for necessary expenses, including salaries and expenses, for the provision of additional mental health services through centers for readjustment counseling and related mental health services for veterans under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code (commonly referred to as ''Vet Centers''), to veterans who served in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan.

SA 5143. Mr. ALLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 110, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

TITLE V—DIGITAL AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2006''.

SEC. 502. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

Section 5 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3704) is amended by inserting the following after subsection (f):

''(g) MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTION DIGITAL AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, shall establish a Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Program to assist eligible institutions in acquiring, and augmenting their use of, digital and wireless networking technologies to improve the quality and delivery of educational services at eligible institutions.

''(2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An eligible institution may use a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract awarded under this subsection—

''(A) to acquire equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software, digital network technology, wireless technology, and infrastructure to further the objective of the Program described in paragraph (1);

''(B) to develop and provide training, education, and professional development programs, including faculty development, to increase the use of, and usefulness of, digital and wireless networking technology;

''(C) to provide teacher education, including the provision of preservice teacher training and in-service professional development at eligible institutions, library and media specialist training, and preschool and teacher aid certification to individuals who seek to acquire or enhance technology skills in order to use digital and wireless networking technology in the classroom or instructional process, including instruction in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology subjects; and

''(D) to foster the use of digital and wireless networking technology to improve research and education, including scientific, mathematics, engineering, and technology instruction.

''(3) APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this subsection, an eligible institution shall submit an application to the Under Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Under Secretary may require. Such application, at a minimum, shall include a description of how the funds will be used, including a description of any digital and wireless networking technology to be acquired, and a description of how the institution will ensure that digital and wireless networking will be made accessible to, and employed by, students, faculty, and administrators. The Under Secretary, consistent with subparagraph (B), shall establish procedures to review such applications. The Under Secretary shall publish the application requirements and review criteria in the Federal Register, along with a statement describing the availability of funds.

''(B) REVIEW PANELS.—Each application submitted under this subsection by an eligible institution shall be reviewed by a panel of individuals selected by the Under Secretary to judge the quality and merit of the proposal, including the extent to which the eligible institution can effectively and successfully utilize the proposed grant, cooperative agreement, or contract to carry out the program described in paragraph (1). The Under Secretary shall ensure that the review panels include representatives of minority serving institutions and others who are knowledgeable about eligible institutions and digital and wireless networking technology. The Under Secretary shall ensure that no individual assigned under this subsection to review any application has a conflict of interest with regard to that application. The Under Secretary shall take into consideration the recommendations of the review panel in determining whether to award a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract to an eligible institution.

''(C) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Under Secretary may not award a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract to an eligible institution under this subsection unless such institution agrees that, with respect to the costs incurred by the institution in carrying out the program for which the grant, cooperative agreement, or contract was awarded, such institution shall make available, directly, or through donations from public or private entities, non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to one-quarter of the grant, cooperative agreement, or contract awarded by the Under Secretary, or $500,000, whichever is the lesser amount. The Under Secretary shall waive the matching requirement for any institution or consortium with no endowment, or an endowment that has a current dollar value lower than $50,000,000.

''(D) AWARDS.—

''(i) LIMITATION.—An eligible institution that receives a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this subsection that

exceeds $2,500,000 shall not be eligible to receive another grant, cooperative agreement, or contract.

''(ii) CONSORTIA.—Grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts may only be awarded to eligible institutions. Eligible institutions may seek funding under this subsection for consortia which may include other eligible institutions, a State or a State educational agency, local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, community-based organizations, national nonprofit organizations, or businesses, including minority businesses.

''(iii) PLANNING GRANTS.—The Under Secretary may provide funds to develop strategic plans to implement such grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts.

''(iv) INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to eligible institutions, the Under Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that awards are made to all types of institutions eligible for assistance under this subsection.

''(v) NEED.—In awarding funds under this subsection, the Under Secretary shall give priority to the institution with the greatest demonstrated need for assistance.

''(E) ANNUAL REPORT AND EVALUATION.—

''(i) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED FROM RECIPIENTS.—Each institution that receives a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract awarded under this subsection shall provide an annual report to the Under Secretary on its use of the grant, cooperative agreement, or contract.

''(ii) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Under Secretary shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Public Administration to conduct periodic assessments of the program. The Assessments shall be conducted once every 3 years during the 10-year period following the enactment of this subsection. The assessments shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in improving the education and training of students, faculty and staff at eligible institutions that have been awarded grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts under the program; an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program in improving access to, and familiarity with, digital and wireless networking technology for students, faculty, and staff at all eligible institutions; an evaluation of the procedures established under subparagraph (A); and recommendations for improving the program, including recommendations concerning the continuing need for Federal support. In carrying out its assessments, the National Academy of Public Administration shall review the reports submitted to the Under Secretary under clause (i).

''(iii) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of each independent assessment carried out under clause (ii), the Under Secretary shall transmit the assessment to Congress along with a summary of the Under Secretary's plans, if any, to implement the recommendations of the National Academy of Public Administration.

''(F) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(i) DIGITAL AND WIRELESS NETWORKING TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'digital and wireless networking technology' means computer and communications equipment and software that facilitates the transmission of information in a digital format.

''(ii) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term 'eligible institution' means an institution that is—

''(I) a historically Black college or university that is a part B institution, as defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)), or an institution described in section 326(e)(1) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1));

''(II) a Hispanic-serving institution, as defined in section 502(a)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5));

''(III) a tribally controlled college or university, as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3));

''(IV) an Alaska Native-serving institution under section 317(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)); or

''(V) a Native Hawaiian-serving institution under section 317(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)).

''(iii) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

''(iv) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'local educational agency' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

''(v) MINORITY BUSINESS.—The term 'minority business' includes HUBZone small business concerns (as defined in section 3(p) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p)).

''(vi) MINORITY INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'minority individual' means an American Indian, Alaskan Native, Black (not of Hispanic origin), Hispanic (including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban and Central or South American origin), or Pacific Islander individual.

''(vii) STATE.—The term 'State' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

''(viii) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'State educational agency' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).''.

SEC. 503. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce to carry out section 5(g) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

SA 5144. Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. REID, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. INOUYE, and Mr. AKAKA) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 110, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

TITLE V—EMERGENCY FARM RELIEF

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Emergency Farm Relief Act of 2006''.

SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADDITIONAL COVERAGE.—The term ''additional coverage'' has the meaning given the term in section 502(b)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(1)).

(2) DISASTER COUNTY.—The term ''disaster county'' means—

(A) a county included in the geographic area covered by a natural disaster declaration; and

(B) each county contiguous to a county described in subparagraph (A).

(3) HURRICANE-AFFECTED COUNTY.—The term ''hurricane-affected county'' means—

(A) a county included in the geographic area covered by a natural disaster declaration related to Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, Hurricane Wilma, or a related condition; and

(B) each county contiguous to a county described in subparagraph (A).

(4) INSURABLE COMMODITY.—The term ''insurable commodity'' means an agricultural commodity (excluding livestock) for which the producers on a farm are eligible to obtain a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

(5) LIVESTOCK.—The term ''livestock'' includes—

(A) cattle (including dairy cattle);

(B) bison;

(C) sheep;

(D) swine; and

(E) other livestock, as determined by the Secretary.

(6) NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATION.—The term ''natural disaster declaration'' means a natural disaster declared by the Secretary during calendar year 2005 or 2006 under section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)).

(7) NONINSURABLE COMMODITY.—The term ''noninsurable commodity'' means a crop for which the producers on a farm are eligible to obtain assistance under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

Subtitle A—Agricultural Production Losses

SEC. 511. CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make emergency financial assistance authorized under this section available to producers on a farm that have incurred qualifying losses described in subsection (c).

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall make assistance available under this section in the same manner as provided under section 815 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–387; 114 Stat. 1549A–55), including using the same loss thresholds for quantity and economic losses as were used in administering that section, except that the payment rate shall be 50 percent of the established price, instead of 65 percent.

(2) NONINSURED PRODUCERS.—For producers on a farm that were eligible to acquire crop insurance for the applicable production loss and failed to do so or failed to submit an application for the noninsured assistance program for the loss, the Secretary shall make assistance in accordance with paragraph (1), except that the payment rate shall be 35 percent of the established price, instead of 50 percent.

(c) QUALIFYING LOSSES.—Assistance under this section shall be made available to producers on farms, other than producers of sugar beets, that incurred qualifying quantity or quality losses for the 2005 or 2006 crop due to damaging weather or any related condition (including losses due to crop diseases, insects, and delayed harvest), as determined by the Secretary.

(d) QUALITY LOSSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any payment received under subsection (b), the Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make payments to producers on a

farm described in subsection (a) that incurred a quality loss for the 2005 or 2006 crop, or both, of a commodity in an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

(A) the payment quantity determined under paragraph (2);

(B)(i) in the case of an insurable commodity, the coverage level elected by the insured under the policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.); or

(ii) in the case of a noninsurable commodity, the applicable coverage level for the payment quantity determined under paragraph (2); by

(C) 50 percent of the payment rate determined under paragraph (3).

(2) PAYMENT QUANTITY.—For the purpose of paragraph (1)(A), the payment quantity for quality losses for a crop of a commodity on a farm shall equal the lesser of—

(A) the actual production of the crop affected by a quality loss of the commodity on the farm; or

(B)(i) in the case of an insurable commodity, the actual production history for the commodity by the producers on the farm under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.); or

(ii) in the case of a noninsurable commodity, the established yield for the crop for the producers on the farm under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333).

(3) PAYMENT RATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of paragraph (1)(B), the payment rate for quality losses for a crop of a commodity on a farm shall be equal to the difference between (as determined by the applicable State committee of the Farm Service Agency)—

(i) the per unit market value that the units of the crop affected by the quality loss would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss; and

(ii) the per unit market value of the units of the crop affected by the quality loss.

(B) FACTORS.—In determining the payment rate for quality losses for a crop of a commodity on a farm, the applicable State committee of the Farm Service Agency shall take into account—

(i) the average local market quality discounts that purchasers applied to the commodity during the first 2 months following the normal harvest period for the commodity;

(ii) the loan rate and repayment rate established for the commodity under the marketing loan program established for the commodity under subtitle B of title I of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 7931 et seq.);

(iii) the market value of the commodity if sold into a secondary market; and

(iv) other factors determined appropriate by the committee.

(4) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For producers on a farm to be eligible to obtain a payment for a quality loss for a crop under this subsection—

(i) the amount obtained by multiplying the per unit loss determined under paragraph (1) by the number of units affected by the quality loss shall be reduced by the amount of any indemnification received by the producers on the farm for quality loss adjustment for the commodity under a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.); and

(ii) the remainder shall be at least 25 percent of the value that all affected production of the crop would have had if the crop had not suffered a quality loss.

(B) INELIGIBILITY.—If the amount of a quality loss payment for a commodity for the producers on a farm determined under this paragraph is equal to or less than zero, the producers on the farm shall be ineligible for assistance for the commodity under this subsection.

(5) ELIGIBLE PRODUCTION.—The Secretary shall carry out this subsection in a fair and equitable manner for all eligible production, including the production of fruits and vegetables, other specialty crops, and field crops.

(e) TIMING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall make payments to producers on a farm for a crop under this section not later than 60 days after the date the producers on the farm submit to the Secretary a completed application for the payments.

(2) INTEREST.—If the Secretary does not make payments to the producers on a farm by the date described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall pay to the producers on a farm interest on the payments at a rate equal to the current (as of the sign-up deadline established by the Secretary) market yield on outstanding, marketable obligations of the United States with maturities of 30 years.

SEC. 512. LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE.

(a) LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION PROGRAM.—

(1) USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUNDS.—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall use funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out the 2002 Livestock Compensation Program announced by the Secretary on October 10, 2002 (67 Fed. Reg. 63070), to provide compensation for livestock losses during calendar years 2005 and 2006 for losses due to a disaster, as determined by the Secretary, except that the payment rate shall be 75 percent of the payment rate established for the 2002 Livestock Compensation Program.

(2) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—In carrying out the program described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide assistance to any applicant for livestock losses during calendar year 2005 or 2006, or both, that—

(A)(i) conducts a livestock operation that is located in a disaster county, including any applicant conducting a livestock operation with eligible livestock (within the meaning of the livestock assistance program under section 101(b) of division B of Public Law 108–324 (118 Stat. 1234)); or

(ii) produces an animal described in section 10806(a)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (21 U.S.C. 321d(a)(1));

(B) demonstrates to the Secretary that the applicant suffered a material loss of pasture or hay production, or experienced substantially increased feed costs, due to damaging weather or a related condition during the calendar year, as determined by the Secretary; and

(C) meets all other eligibility requirements established by the Secretary for the program.

(3) MITIGATION.—In determining the eligibility for or amount of payments for which a producer is eligible under the livestock compensation program, the Secretary shall not penalize a producer that takes actions (recognizing disaster conditions) that reduce the average number of livestock the producer owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided.

(b) LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make livestock indemnity payments to producers on farms that have incurred livestock losses during calendar years 2005 and 2006 for losses that occurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act (including wildfire disaster losses in the State of Texas and other States) due to a disaster, as determined by the Secretary, including losses due to hurricanes, floods, anthrax, and wildfires.

(2) PAYMENT RATES.—Indemnity payments to a producer on a farm under paragraph (1) shall be made at a rate of not less than 30 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) EWE LAMB REPLACEMENT AND RETENTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use $13,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make payments under the Ewe Lamb Replacement and Retention Payment Program under part 784 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) for each qualifying ewe lamb retained or purchased during the period beginning on January 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2006.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER ASSISTANCE.—A producer that receives assistance under this subsection shall not be eligible to receive assistance under subsection (a).

SEC. 513. FLOODED CROP AND GRAZING LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall compensate eligible owners of flooded crop and grazing land in—

(1) the Devils Lake basin; and

(2) the McHugh, Lake Laretta, and Rose Lake closed drainage areas of the State of North Dakota.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive compensation under this section, an owner shall own land described in subsection (a) that, during the 2 crop years preceding receipt of compensation, was rendered incapable of use for the production of an agricultural commodity or for grazing purposes (in a manner consistent with the historical use of the land) as the result of flooding, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Land described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) land that has been flooded;

(B) land that has been rendered inaccessible due to flooding; and

(C) a reasonable buffer strip adjoining the flooded land, as determined by the Secretary.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may establish—

(A) reasonable minimum acreage levels for individual parcels of land for which owners may receive compensation under this section; and

(B) the location and area of adjoining flooded land for which owners may receive compensation under this section.

(c) SIGN-UP.—The Secretary shall establish a sign-up program for eligible owners to apply for compensation from the Secretary under this section.

(d) COMPENSATION PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the rate of an annual compensation payment under this section shall be equal to 90 percent of the average annual per acre rental payment rate (at the time of entry into the contract) for comparable crop or grazing land that has not been flooded and remains in production in the county where the flooded land is located, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) REDUCTION.—An annual compensation payment under this section shall be reduced by the amount of any conservation program rental payments or Federal agricultural commodity program payments received by the owner for the land during any crop year for which compensation is received under this section.

(3) EXCLUSION.—During any year in which an owner receives compensation for flooded land under this section, the owner shall not

be eligible to participate in or receive benefits for the flooded land under—

(A) the Federal crop insurance program established under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.);

(B) the noninsured crop assistance program established under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333); or

(C) any Federal agricultural crop disaster assistance program.

(e) RELATIONSHIP TO AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PROGRAMS.—The Secretary, by regulation, shall provide for the preservation of cropland base, allotment history, and payment yields applicable to land described in subsection (a) that was rendered incapable of use for the production of an agricultural commodity or for grazing purposes as the result of flooding.

(f) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An owner that receives compensation under this section for flooded land shall take such actions as are necessary to not degrade any wildlife habitat on the land that has naturally developed as a result of the flooding.

(2) RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—To encourage owners that receive compensation for flooded land to allow public access to and use of the land for recreational activities, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may—

(A) offer an eligible owner additional compensation; and

(B) provide compensation for additional acreage under this section.

(g) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use $6,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this section.

(2) PRO-RATED PAYMENTS.—In a case in which the amount made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year is insufficient to compensate all eligible owners under this section, the Secretary shall pro-rate payments for that fiscal year on a per acre basis.

SEC. 514. SUGAR BEET DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use $24,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide assistance to sugar beet producers that suffered production losses (including quality losses) for the 2005 or 2006 crop year.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall make payments under subsection (a) in the same manner as payments were made under section 208 of the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–7; 117 Stat. 544), including using the same indemnity benefits as were used in carrying out that section.

(c) HAWAII.—The Secretary shall use $6,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to assist sugarcane growers in Hawaii by making a payment in that amount to an agricultural transportation cooperative in Hawaii, the members of which are eligible to obtain a loan under section 156(a) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(a)).

SEC. 515. BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS HERD INDEMNIFICATION.

The Secretary shall use $2,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to indemnify producers that suffered losses to herds of cattle due to bovine tuberculosis during calendar year 2005.

SEC. 516. NONINSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 196(c) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) LOSS ASSESSMENT FOR GRAZING.—The Secretary shall permit the use of 1 claims adjustor certified by the Secretary to assess the quantity of loss on the acreage or allotment of a producer devoted to grazing for livestock under this section.''.

SEC. 517. REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS.

The amount of any payment for which a producer is eligible under this subtitle shall be reduced by any amount received by the producer for the same loss or any similar loss under—

(1) the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–148; 119 Stat. 2680);

(2) an agricultural disaster assistance provision contained in the announcement of the Secretary on January 26, 2006, or August 29, 2006;

(3) the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109-234; 120 Stat. 418); or

(4) the Livestock Assistance Grant Program announced by the Secretary on August 29, 2006.

Subtitle B—Small Business Economic Loss Grant Program

SEC. 521. SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC LOSS GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED STATE.—In this section, the term ''qualified State'' means a State in which at least 50 percent of the counties of the State were declared to be primary agricultural disaster areas by the Secretary in at least 2 of crop years 2004, 2005, and 2006.

(b) GRANTS TO QUALIFIED STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use $300,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make grants to State departments of agriculture or comparable State agencies in qualified States.

(2) AMOUNT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall allocate grants among qualified States described in paragraph (1) based on the average value of agricultural sector production in the qualified State, determined as a percentage of the gross domestic product of the qualified State.

(B) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The minimum amount of a grant under this subsection shall be $3,000,000.

(3) REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a qualified State shall agree to carry out an expedited disaster assistance program to provide direct payments to qualified small businesses in accordance with subsection (c).

(c) DIRECT PAYMENTS TO QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out an expedited disaster assistance program described in subsection (b)(3), a qualified State shall provide direct payments to eligible small businesses in the qualified State that suffered material economic losses in at least 2 of crop years 2004, 2005, and 2006 as a direct result of weather-related agricultural losses to the crop or livestock production sectors of the qualified State, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a direct payment under paragraph (1), a small business shall—

(i) have less than $5,000,000 in average annual gross income from all business activities, at least 75 percent of which shall be directly related to production agriculture or agriculture support industries, as determined by the Secretary;

(ii) verify the amount of economic loss attributable to weather-related agricultural losses using such documentation as the Secretary and the head of the qualified State agency may require;

(iii) have suffered losses attributable to weather-related agricultural disasters that equal at least 50 percent of the total economic loss of the small business for each year a grant is requested; and

(iv) demonstrate that the grant will materially improve the likelihood the business will—

(I) recover from the disaster; and

(II) continue to service and support production agriculture.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A direct payment to small business under this subsection shall—

(A) be limited to not more than 2 years of documented losses;

(B) be in an amount of not more than 75 percent of the documented average economic loss attributable to weather-related agriculture disasters for each eligible year in the qualified State; and

(C) not exceed $80,000 per grant per year.

(4) INSUFFICIENT FUNDING.—If the grant funds received by a qualified State agency under subsection (b) are insufficient to fund the direct payments of the qualified State agency under this subsection, the qualified State agency may apply a proportional reduction to all of the direct payments.

Subtitle C—Conservation

SEC. 531. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall use an additional $30,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out emergency measures, including wildfire recovery efforts in Montana and other States, identified by the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency as of the date of enactment of this Act through the emergency conservation program established under title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.).

SEC. 532. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall use an additional $70,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out emergency measures identified by the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service as of the date of enactment of this Act through the emergency watershed protection program established under section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203).

SEC. 533. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall use an additional $200,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out emergency measures identified by the Secretary through the environmental quality incentives program established under chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.), of which not less than $50,000,000 shall be used to carry out wildfire recovery efforts (including in Montana and other States).

Subtitle D—Farm Service Agency

SEC. 541. FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

The Secretary shall use $20,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to hire additional County Farm Service Agency personnel—

(1) to expedite the implementation of, and delivery under, the agricultural disaster and economic assistance programs under this title; and

(2) as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out other agriculture and disaster assistance programs.

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous

SEC. 551. CONTRACT WAIVER.

In carrying out section 101(a)(5) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricane Disasters Assistance Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–324; 118 Stat. 1233), the Secretary shall not require participation in a

crop insurance pilot program relating to forage.

SEC. 552. FUNDING.

The Secretary shall use the funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this title, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 553. REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this title.

(b) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of the regulations and administration of this title shall be made without regard to—

(1) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the Statement of Policy of the Secretary of Agriculture effective July 24, 1971 (36 Fed. Reg. 13804), relating to notices of proposed rulemaking and public participation in rulemaking; and

(3) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act'').

(c) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall use the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 554. EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

(a) EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall use an additional $12,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out emergency measures on the Big Island in the State of Hawaii (referred to in this section as the ''Big Island'') through the emergency watershed protection program established under section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203), of which $7,000,000 shall be used to repair the Lower Hamakua Ditch and $5,000,000 shall be used to repair the Waimea Irrigation System/Upper Hamakua Ditch.

(b) EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use an additional $6,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to repair broken irrigation pipelines and damaged and collapsed water tanks on the Big Island through the emergency conservation program established under title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.), of which $2,000,000 shall be used to repair stone fences on cattle ranches in the Kona and Kohala areas and $2,000,000 shall be used to provide emergency loans for losses of agricultural income due to the earthquake of October 15, 2006.

(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—The Secretary may use an additional $2,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation through the emergency conservation program established under title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) to repair or replace historical stone fences on ranches on the Big Island damaged by the earthquake on October 15, 2006.

(c) KOHALA DITCH SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall use $3,000,000 of funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to provide a grant to the Big Island Resource Conservation and Development Council, Incorporated, to repair the Kohala Ditch system.

Subtitle F—Emergency Designation

SEC. 561. EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.

The amounts provided under this title are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

SA 5145. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to SA 4920 submitted by Mr. BURNS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 500 note; Public Law 106–393) is amended in sections 101(a), 102(b)(2), 103(b)(1), 203(a)(1), 207(a), 208, 303, and 401 by striking ''2006'' and inserting ''2007''.

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LANDS.—Section 208 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 500 note; Public Law 106–393) is amended in the second sentence by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2008''.

(2) COUNTY PROJECTS.—Section 303 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 500 note; Public Law 106–393) is amended in the second sentence by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2008''.

(c) REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 500 note; Public Law 106–393), any payment authorized under section 102 or 103 of that Act for fiscal year 2007 shall be equal to the amount of the payment authorized under the applicable section of that Act for fiscal year 2006, reduced by 10 percent.

(d) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The amount made available under this section and the amendments made by this section is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of S. Con. Res. 83 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2007, as made applicable in the Senate by section 7035 of Public Law 109–234.

SA 5146. Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 7 of title I of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–148) under the heading ''MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS'' and available for the replacement of a Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, $13,400,000 may be available for the construction of an additional Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi.

SA 5147. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 106, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 229. Of the amount appropriated by this title under the heading ''DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION'', up to $500,000 may be available for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an independent study on the community health resources in the 14-county catchment area of the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Walla Walla, Washington, including the capacity of the private health care facilities in such catchment area to serve veterans that currently receive inpatient care at such clinic.

SA 5148. Mrs. DOLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. Section 2836(c)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105–85; 111 Stat. 2005) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) The Secretary may convey, without consideration, to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property (including improvements thereon), known as Tract No. 404–1, consisting of approximately 137 acres located at Fort Bragg for support of the construction of public school structures that may be used by the Harnett County School Board for the education of—

''(A) members of the Armed Forces stationed at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base and their dependents; and

''(B) children who reside in the County.'' .

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at 11 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to consider pending nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at 10 a.m. to consider the nominations of the Honorable James H. Bilbray to be Governor, U.S. Postal Service, Thurgood Marshall Jr. to be Governor, U.S. Postal Service, and the Honorable Dan G. Blair to be Chairman, Postal Rate Commission.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on ''Competition in Sports Programming and Distribution: Are Consumers Winning?'' on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 9 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: Roger Noll, Professor, Economics Department, Stanford University, Stanford, CA; Jeffrey Pash, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the National Football League, New York, NY; Daniel M. Fawcett, Executive Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs and Programming Acquisition, DIRECTV, Inc., Washington, DC; Landel Hobbs, Chief Operating Officer, Time Warner, New York, NY.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on ''Judicial Nominations'' on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 2 p.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: The Honorable Arlen Specter, United States Senator [R–PA].

Panel II: Thomas Michael Hardiman to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third District.

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., for a hearing entitled ''Failure to Identify Company Owners Impedes Law Enforcement.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MCCAIN's legislative fellow, Navy LCDR Damien Christopher, be granted floor privileges during the debate and any votes concerning H.R. 5384, as well as any related amendments.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

RECOMMITTAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. FRIST. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that Executive Calendar No. 995, the nomination of John Peyton, be recommitted to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4051) to provide sufficient resources to permit electronic surveillance of United States persons for foreign intelligence purposes to be conducted pursuant to individualized court-issued orders, to enhance oversight and streamline the procedures of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to ensure review of the Terrorist Surveillance Program by the United States Supreme Court, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 4047

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4047) to prohibit the issuance of transportation security cards to individuals who have been convicted of certain crimes.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Banking member of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, appoints Marsha Katz, of Montana, vice David Podoff, as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 109–22

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on November 14, 2006, by the President of the United States:

Treaty with Malaysia on Mutual Legal Assistance, Treaty Document No. 109–22.

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty between the United States of America and Malaysia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed on July 28, 2006, at Kuala Lumpur. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should enhance our ability to investigate and prosecute a wide variety of crimes. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Under the Treaty, the Parties agree to assist each other by, among other things: providing evidence (such as testimony, documents, items, or things) obtained voluntarily or, where necessary, by compulsion; arranging for persons, including persons in custody, to travel to the other country to provide evidence; serving documents executing searches and seizures; locating and identifying persons, items, or places; examining objects and sites; freezing and forfeiting assets or property; and identifying or tracing proceeds of crime.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *November 14, 2006*.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and that there then be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we did complete our work on the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. Tomorrow afternoon, we hope to begin the Agriculture appropriations bill. We are also continuing our efforts to reach an agreement for the consideration of the U.S.-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act. We do expect votes in the afternoon, so Senators should plan their schedules accordingly. This week, we will also need to pass a short-term continuing resolution when received from the House.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2:15 P.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:49 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at 2:15 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate November 14, 2006:

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271:

To be lieutenant commander

RICARDO M. ALONSO, 0000
DIRK N. AMES, 0000
THOMAS B. BAILEY, 0000
AGUSTUS J. BANNAN, 0000
MATTHEW P. BARKER, 0000
CHE J. BARNES, 0000
IAN A. BASTEK, 0000
MICHAEL W. BATCHELDER, 0000
MICHAEL E. BENNETT, 0000
ADAM G. BENTLEY, 0000
KENNETH E. BLAIR, 0000
AMY L. BLOYD, 0000
JED R. BOBA, 0000
KENNETH J. BODA, 0000
SCOTT G. BORGERSON, 0000
CAMILLA B. BOSANQUET, 0000
DONALD C. BOYER, 0000
DAVID L. BRADLEY, 0000
RANDY L. BRADLEY, 0000
NELSON J. BRANDT, 0000
MATTHEW T. BROWN, 0000
JAMES W. BUNN, 0000
JOANN F. BURDIAN, 0000
KAREN S. CAGLE, 0000
RICHARD F. CALVERT, 0000
ANDREW T. CAMPEN, 0000
MICHAEL J. CAPELLI, 0000
WILLIE L. CARMICHAEL, 0000
SCOTT S. CASAD, 0000
RENE X. CASAREZ, 0000
CHRISTOPHER R. CEDERHOLM, 0000
JOHN R. COLE, 0000
TEALI G. COLEY, 0000
ROBERT C. COMPHER, 0000
DANIEL A. CONNOLLY, 0000
CHAD W. COOPER, 0000
NATHAN E. COULTER, 0000
GREGORY L. CRETTOL, 0000
CORNELIUS E. CUMMINGS, 0000
SHAWN E. DECKER, 0000
MICHAEL E. DELURY, 0000
JOHN T. DEWEY, 0000
STEVEN J. DOHMAN, 0000
JEFFREY T. DOLAN, 0000
KEITH M. DONOHUE, 0000
ERIC D. DREY, 0000
JEROME E. DUBAY, 0000
BRENT N. DURBIN, 0000
REINO G. ECKLORD, 0000
ARTHUR J. EDWARDS, 0000
DAMON C. EDWARDS, 0000
JEFFREY ELDRIDGE, 0000
RAHSHAAN ENGRUM, 0000
JANET D. ESPINOYOUNG, 0000
MATTHEW R. FARNEN, 0000
FRANCESANN B. FAZIO, 0000
SARAH K. FELGER, 0000
CHRISTINE FERN, 0000
KEVIN B. FERRIE, 0000
JASON B. FLENNOY, 0000
TED R. FOWLES, 0000
JOSEPH FRANKLIN, 0000
MICHAEL E. FRAWLEY, 0000
CHRISTOPHER R. FRIESE, 0000
GLENN J. GALMAN, 0000
PAMELA P. GARCIA, 0000
ROBERT G. GARDALI, 0000
CHRISTOFER L. GERMAN, 0000
TANYA L. GILES, 0000
PETRE S. GILLIAM, 0000
ERROL M. GLENN, 0000
MICHAEL J. GOLDSCHMIDT, 0000
DAVID V. GOMEZ, 0000
RICHARD GONZALEZ, 0000
MICHAEL D. GOOD, 0000
HANS C. GOVERTSEN, 0000
ROBERT T. GRIFFIN, 0000
CHARLES M. GUERRERO, 0000
FAY J. GUERRERO, 0000
TIM A. GUNTER, 0000
ROBERT E. HART, 0000
HEATH A. HARTLEY, 0000
JAMES F. HEDRICK, 0000
JONATHAN N. HELLBERG, 0000
JOHN HENNIGAN, 0000
SCOTT C. HERMAN, 0000
MICHAEL L. HERRING, 0000
ANNA W. HICKEY, 0000
DARREN A. HOPPER, 0000
CHRISTY L. HOWARD, 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. HUBERTY, 0000
JOEL A. HUGGINS, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. HULSER, 0000
TANGELA F. HUMMONS, 0000
AUSTIN R. IVES, 0000
DAVID M. JOHNSTON, 0000
DANIEL C. JONES, 0000
PETER B. JONES, 0000
JONATHAN P. JORGENSEN, 0000
WARREN D. JUDGE, 0000
KERRY G. KARWAN, 0000
SEAN R. KATZ, 0000
JARED E. KING, 0000
LONNIE T. KISHIYAMA, 0000
BRADLEY J. KLIMEK, 0000
BRIAN G. KNAPP, 0000
MICHAEL S. KRAUSE, 0000
CHARLES F. KUEBLER, 0000
KURT R. KUPERSMITH, 0000
KEN KUSANO, 0000
PAUL E. LAFOND, 0000
ANDREW A. LAWRENCE, 0000
ERIN M. LEDFORD, 0000
CHRISTIAN A. LEE, 0000
BRIAN J. LEFEBVRE, 0000
JACQUELINE M. LEVERICH, 0000
ANDREW H. LIGHT, 0000
LEXIA M. LITTLEJOHN, 0000
CHAD A. LONG, 0000
KEVIN P. LYNN, 0000
SIMON A. MAPLE, 0000
ERIC D. MASSON, 0000
JOSEPH S. MASTERSON, 0000
HEATHER A. MCCAFFERTY, 0000
JOHN F. MCCARTHY, 0000
RUDY S. MCGWIN, 0000
EMILY S. MCINTYRE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER A. MCMUNN, 0000
ELIZABETH A. MCNAMARA, 0000
MICHAEL J. MCNEIL, 0000
RANDY F. MEADOR, 0000
JOSE E. MEDINA, 0000
DWAYNE L. MEEKINS, 0000
MATTHEW W. MERRIMAN, 0000
ANDREW D. MEVERDEN, 0000
TIMOTHY G. MEYERS, 0000
TODD S. MIKOLOP, 0000
KENNETH V. MILLS, 0000
RICHARD W. MINNICH, 0000
MARCUS A. MITCHELL, 0000
KIRK W. MONTGOMERY, 0000
DONALD P. MONTORO, 0000
ALAN H. MOORE, 0000
ELLIS H. MOOSE, 0000
ANNE M. MORRISSEY, 0000
KENNETH T. NAGIE, 0000
JOHN A. NATALE, 0000
DAVID R. NEEL, 0000
KENNETH E. NELSON, 0000
CRAIG D. NEUBECKER, 0000
DOUGLAS D. NORSTROM, 0000
DAVID J. OBERMEIER, 0000
SEAN J. OBRIEN, 0000
TIMOTHY K. OBRIEN, 0000
REBECCA E. ORE, 0000
ANTHONY K. PALMER, 0000
LUIS C. PARRALES, 0000
TIMOTHY A. PASEK, 0000
SCOTT W. PEABODY, 0000
LUKE A. PERCIAK, 0000
PATRICK F. PESCHKA, 0000
JUSTIN D. PETERS, 0000
SANDRA J. PETERSON, 0000
DOUGLAS C. PETRUSA, 0000
HARPER L. PHILLIPS, 0000
TRACY O. PHILLIPS, 0000
SCOTT S. PHY, 0000
FRANK A. PIERCE, 0000
KEITH J. PIERRE, 0000
SHANNON M. PITTS, 0000
EDWARD H. PORNER, 0000
JEFFREY M. POTENSKY, 0000
ALISA L. PRASKOVICH, 0000
PAUL T. PRIEBE, 0000
STEVEN E. RAMASSINI, 0000
JOSHUA T. RAMEY, 0000
JACOB J. RAMOS, 0000
JASON H. RAMSDELL, 0000
TRAVIS J. RASMUSSEN, 0000
ERIC A. REETER, 0000
JAMES P. REID, 0000
SEAN P. ROCHE, 0000
RODRIGO G. ROJAS, 0000
CHRISTOPHER A. ROSE, 0000
CONSTANCE F. RUCKSTUHL, 0000
MATTHEW A. RUDICK, 0000
BELINDA C. SAVAGE, 0000
DAVID J. SCHELL, 0000
CLINT B. SCHLEGEL, 0000
GREGORY J. SCHULTZ, 0000
ANITA M. SCOTT, 0000
HOLLY L. SHAFFNER, 0000
DAVID M. SHERRY, 0000
DANIEL J. SILVESTRO, 0000
JENNIFER L. SINCLAIR, 0000
LORING A. SMALL, 0000
DEREK L. SMITH, 0000
ERIC A. SMITH, 0000
SHAD S. SOLDANO, 0000
JAMES W. SPITLER, 0000
DOUGLAS K. STARK, 0000
JOHN M. STONE, 0000
BENJAMIN F. STRICKLAND, 0000
DENNIS R. SVATOS, 0000
VASILIOS TASIKAS, 0000
ROMUALDUS M. TENBERGE JR, 0000
BRADLEY K. TERRILL, 0000
JAMES P. THOMPSON, 0000
SOLOMON C. THOMPSON, 0000
RUSSELL R. TORGERSON, 0000
ANDRE P. TOWNER, 0000
TERRY A. TREXLER, 0000
CHRISTOPHER A. TRIBOLET, 0000
CLINTON A. TROCCHIO, 0000
MICHAEL A. TURDO, 0000
BRYAN J. ULLMER, 0000
TINA J. URBAN, 0000
JAMES A. VALENTINE, 0000
DANIEL W. VANBUSKIRK, 0000
EVA J. VANCAMP, 0000
STEVEN P. WALSH, 0000
WILBORNE E. WATSON, 0000
TYSON S. WEINERT, 0000
BRENDA M. WHITE, 0000
DIANA J. WICKMAN, 0000
MOLLY A. WIKE, 0000
NATHANIEL R. WILLIAMS, 0000
SOLOMON J. WILLIAMS, 0000
TARIK L. WILLIAMS, 0000
KEVIN M. WILSON, 0000
JOHN W. WINTER, 0000
ANDREW J. WRIGHT, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

NEVANNA I. KOICHEFF, 0000
WATARU ODOMO, 0000
PATRICK M. SHERER, 0000
JEFFREY WEISER, 0000

To be major

OBIE A. AUSTIN, 0000
GARY BARKER, 0000
KAREN BARKER, 0000
RITA BOBBROLLINS, 0000
EDWARD S. CARROLL, 0000
CECILIA M. CORRADO, 0000
OTICE Z. HELMER, 0000
JAMAL JANANIA, 0000
HENRY J. KLEIN, 0000
KURTIS G. KOBES, 0000
WILLIAM A. MACNAUGHTON, 0000
DANUTA MAJKRUSZYNSKI, 0000
STANLEY MOODY, 0000
SHAWN T. NESBO, 0000
BRADDEN R. PYRON, 0000
CHRISTOPHER RYAN, 0000
PERLITA K. TAM, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be colonel

DEBRA L. COHEN, 0000
PETER S. GOLDBERG, 0000
SCOTT J. STCLAIR, 0000
DAVID H. TURK, 0000
TRACEY L. ZANDER, 0000

To be lieutenant colonel

PAUL G. ANDREWS, 0000
KEVIN K. BERRY, 0000
JAMES H. BOOZELL, 0000
TYLER L. BOSCO, 0000
PATRICK J. CHRISTIAN, 0000
PETER L. CONNELLY, 0000
CHARLES F. CORSON, 0000
ESME M. DAVIS, 0000
STEVEN A. DAVIS, 0000
ALAN D. ECKERSLEY, 0000
GUY R. EDMONDSON, 0000
PHILIP A. ESTEBAN, 0000
RAFAEL GARCIA, 0000
ROBERT A. GARY, 0000
KERRYE GLASS, 0000
LARRY C. HAYES, 0000
PAUL R. JONES, 0000
ROBERT E. KOCH, 0000
DAVID A. KONOP, 0000
ODELL C. LEWIS, 0000
KEVIN C. LOGAN, 0000
FRANCINE D. MARTIN, 0000
MICHAEL E. MASON, 0000
ROBERT B. MAURIO, 0000
MICHIYO J. MONTAGUE, 0000
KEITH A. MORRISON, 0000
KEITH NEWSOME, 0000
BILLY J. POWELL, 0000
JORGE RANGEL, 0000
DAVID M. ROBERSON, 0000
RONNEL L. ROUSE, 0000
MICHAEL E. SANDS, 0000
KARL A. SCHWARTZ, 0000
RICHARD A. SHAW, 0000
PRATYA SIRIWAT, 0000
EDWARD R. SMALLWOOD, 0000
DAWN M. SMITH, 0000
CYNTHIA K. SUMMERS, 0000
JOHN H. WAGNER, 0000
JOHN M. WALKER, 0000
DIANE K. WATERS, 0000
JAMES L. WELLS, 0000

HARRY W. WHIPPLE, 0000
BRIAN C. WRIGHT, 0000
HARRY O. YATES, 0000

To be major

JAMES ADAMS, 0000
JEFFREY A. AGEE, 0000
JEFFREY W. ALLEN, 0000
JOSE A. BALLESTER, 0000
DANNY BANKS, 0000
MARK J. BENEDICT, 0000
KENNETH A. BLAYLOCK, 0000
SHAWN N. BROWER, 0000
STEPHEN CAMPBELL, 0000
GORDON R. CRAWFORD, 0000
SHAWN B. CZEHOWSKI, 0000
JEAN M. DAVIS, 0000
JOSEPH DCOSTA, 0000
ROLAND E. DIGGS, 0000
JEROME C. DUFFY, 0000
KRISTOFFER B. FALE, 0000
PIERRE L. FENRICK, 0000
DARRYL L. GILLIAM, 0000
BRUCE S. GRIFFIN, 0000
MATTHEW HACKATHORN, 0000
JOHN A. HAGAN, 0000
DWIGHT A. HALL, 0000
JEANETTE L. HANKINS, 0000
LULA B. HARTEVANS, 0000
CHRISTOPHER L. HARTLEY, 0000
CONRAD E. HARVEY, 0000
PETER J. HEBERT, 0000
SCOTT C. HENSLEY, 0000
JEFFREY T. HOOVER, 0000
DEAN A. HUARD, 0000
BRUCE JENKINS, 0000
DAVID A. JOHNSON, 0000
RONALD D. JOHNSON, 0000
LEON JONES, 0000
ERIC W. KAEMPFER, 0000
LAUREN KULINSKI, 0000
FLOYD S. LIDDICK, 0000
CURTIS LINDESAY, 0000
RAJESH LOBRECHT, 0000
JOSE P. LOPEZ, 0000
PAUL E. MADSEN, 0000
MATTHEW B. MCGREEVY, 0000
DAVID P. MCHENRY, 0000
CHRISTINA MOORE, 0000
WILLIAM D. MOORE, 0000
KEVIN R. NAIG, 0000
WILLIAM S. OLIVA, 0000
HANS F. OTTESEN, 0000
RANDALL C. PAGE, 0000
JOSEPH A. PAPENFUS, 0000
EDWARD L. PEARCE, 0000
ISAAC B. PEAY, 0000
CURTIS PHELPS, 0000
ERIK K. POOLE, 0000
ROBERT T. QUINNETT, 0000
GEORGE H. RENFRO, 0000
LARRY J. ROBERTS, 0000
JOHN G. ROGERS, 0000
ROBERT SCHMIDT, 0000
NANCY R. SERMONS, 0000
ANNETTE S. SHORMAN, 0000
ANTHONY W. SIPPERT, 0000
JAMES E. SMALLIDGE, 0000
LAWRENCE E. SMITH, 0000
LONNIE S. SPANGLER, 0000
JOSHUA T. STEVENS, 0000
DONALD W. SULLIVAN, 0000
PETER J. TATE, 0000
MICHAEL F. TREVETT, 0000
MICHAEL N. TURNER, 0000
MARY C. VOWELL, 0000
REGINALD A. WARREN, 0000
KEITH WASHINGTON, 0000
ROBERT D. WILLIAMS, 0000
KYLE J. ZABLOCKI, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

NORMAN F. ALLEN, 0000
STEPHEN J. BERG, 0000
THOMAS D. COOK, 0000
ROBERT J. COTELL, 0000
RICHARD J. GALVIN, 0000
JAMES F. GARRETT, 0000
CHARLES D. HAYES, JR., 0000
WILLIAM R. KERN, 0000
JAMES D. KEY, 0000
CHERYL R. LEWIS, 0000
CRAIG A. MEREDITH, 0000
JEFFERY R. NANCE, 0000
STUART W. RISCH, 0000
EDWARD J. SHEERAN, 0000
SAMUEL J. SMITH, JR., 0000
PAUL H. TURNEY, 0000
DARIA P. WOLLSCHLAEGER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL R. ABERLE, 0000
BRUCE S. ADKINS, 0000
THOMAS W. AHRENDT, 0000
JOHN T. AKERS, 0000
PAUL L. ALBERTI, JR., 0000
CLINT L. ALDAY, 0000
PHILLIP W. ALEXANDER, 0000
ERIC S. ALFORD, 0000
FRED W. ALLEN, 0000
JOHN W. ALTEBAUMER, JR., 0000
DANIEL U. ALVAREZ, 0000
BRIAN E. ALVIN, 0000
ARTHUR B. ANDERSON, 0000
JAMES O. ANDERSON, 0000
WESLEY R. ANDERSON, 0000
THOMAS J. ANDREA, 0000
JOHN K. ANDREW II, 0000
PATRICIA M. ANSLOW, 0000
MARK A. ANSPACH, 0000
MARTIN R. APPRICH, 0000
BILL R. AQUINO, 0000
JEFFREY T. ARCHER, 0000
NORBERT E. ARCHIBEQUE, 0000
JULIA E. ARTHUR, 0000
KRIS ATTARIAN, 0000
CHARLES H. AUCOIN, 0000
ARTHUR G. AUSTIN, JR., 0000
SUSAN H. BAGLEY, 0000
ANDREW S. BALDY, 0000
THOMAS A. BALL, 0000
ROBERT E. BANKS, 0000
WILLIAM P. BANKS, JR., 0000
JOHN J. BARANOWSKI, 0000
KENNETH BARNETT, 0000
ROBERT A. BARRETT, 0000
AARON T. BARRIER, 0000
BRIAN B. BARRONTINE, 0000
JAMES D. BARTOLACCI, 0000
JOHN K. BARTOLOTTO, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. BATES, 0000
DERRICK J. BATISTE, 0000
DIANE M. BATTAGLIA, 0000
MATHEW M. BAUDEK, 0000
ROBERT L. BAUMGARDNER, 0000
DON B. BEARD, 0000
ROBERT D. BENJAMIN, 0000
DONALD A. BENNETT, 0000
MICHAEL J. BENNETT, 0000
MARVIN BENTON, 0000
JOSHUA P. BERISFORD, 0000
GREY D. BERRIER II, 0000
JET G. BIBLER, 0000
BRUCE R. BIDDLE, 0000
PAUL D. BISCHOFF, 0000
CARLOS BLANCHARD, 0000
STEVEN E. BLANTON, 0000
CHARLES F. BLASCHKE III, 0000
DEBRA J. BLAYLOCK, 0000
JOHN H. BOCK, JR., 0000
THOMAS E. BOLAND, 0000
FRED C. BOLTON, 0000
PATRICK L. BOUCHER, 0000
JANSON D. BOYLES, 0000
ROBERT L. BRADSHAW, 0000
WILLIAM S. BRANNAN, JR., 0000
ROY C. BROCK, JR., 0000
DONALD W. BROOKS, 0000
JOHN J. BROSSART, 0000
JEFFERY L. BROTHERTON, 0000
CLIFFORD A. BROWN, 0000
DAVID L. BROWN, 0000
EDWARD L. BROWN, 0000
MATTHEW J. BROWN, 0000
PAUL P. BRYANT, 0000
TONY A. BRYANT, 0000
STEVEN J. BUETHE, 0000
JAMES R. BUGGY, 0000
BRUCE L. BULDHAUPT, 0000
JAMES BULLION, 0000
THOMAS P. BUMP, 0000
JOE L. BURCH, 0000
ROBERT J. BURCH, 0000
WAYNE L. BURD, 0000
EDWARD G. BURLEY, 0000
MALCOLM S. BURR II, 0000
JON M. BYROM, 0000
DENNIS J. CAHILL, 0000
THOMAS B. CAIN, 0000
MARK A. CALABRESE, 0000
DENNIS M. CAMERON, 0000
SCOTT A. CAMPBELL, 0000
MARK K. CARLSON, 0000
PATRICIA A. CARLSON, 0000
KLEMENT J. CARON, 0000
BRIAN R. CARPENTER, 0000
DARREN H. CARPENTER, 0000
SCOTTIE D. CARPENTER, 0000
ROY D. CARRINGTON, 0000
CHARLES A. CARSON, 0000
RANDAL S. CARTER, 0000
JORGE L. CASTRO, 0000
BRIAN J. CATALANO, 0000
THOMAS L. CATHEY, 0000
WAYNE M. CAVENDER, JR., 0000
JOSE E. CEPEDA, 0000
CLIFFORD B. CHICK, 0000
NICHOLAS CHIMIENTI, 0000
CARL L. CHURCHILL, JR., 0000
PHILLIP M. CHURN, 0000
RONALD P. CLAEYS, 0000
MICHAEL H. CLANCY, 0000
ROBERT A. CLARK, 0000
JERRY A. CLINKSCALES, 0000
CYNTHIA M. COATES, 0000
BILLY F. COBB, 0000
DUANE L. COFFEY, JR., 0000
JAMES A. COHN, 0000
PATRICIA D. COLE, 0000
RICHARD D. COLE, 0000
ROBERT S. COLEMAN, 0000
JAMES W. CONAWAY, 0000
DAVID J. CONBOY, 0000
JOHN W. CONLEY, 0000
VICKY J. CONNELL, 0000
JEFFREY A. CONNELLY, 0000
RUSSELL G. CONRAD, 0000
CHRISTINA K. CONSTANT, 0000
CHRISTINE D. COOK, 0000
LOUIS L. COOLEY, 0000
JEFFREY D. COONS, 0000
BENJAMIN J. CORELL, 0000
DONALD S. COTNEY, 0000
BRIAN W. COTTER, 0000
WALTER D. COUNTS III, 0000
JOY L. CRAFT, 0000
PAUL A. CRAFT, 0000
MARK G. CRISCI, 0000
GARY D. CROSS, 0000
PETER L. CROTEAU, 0000
JAMES H. CROUT, JR., 0000
ROBERT E. CROWLEY, 0000
LARRY M. CRUZ, 0000
KURT S. CRYTZER, 0000
STEPHEN K. CURDA, 0000
MARSHA G. CURTIS, 0000
JERRY R. CUSIC, 0000
JONATHAN A. DAHMS, 0000
SAMUEL B. DALMAN, 0000
STEPHEN R. DALZELL, 0000
DENNIS C. DAVENPORT, 0000
RANDALL E. DAVIS, 0000
STEPHANIE E. DAWSON, 0000
AARON R. DEAN II, 0000
TIMOTHY R. DEHAAS, 0000
DARRYL E. DENNIS, 0000
IVAN E. DENTON, 0000
WILLIAM M. DERRICK, 0000
DENNIS W. DEVERY, 0000
MICHAEL DILLARD, 0000
BRYAN M. DION, 0000
MICHAEL P. DITTAMO, 0000
JOHN P. DONOVAN, JR., 0000
OLEN L. DORNEY, 0000
STUART K. DRIESBACH, 0000
RAPHAEL S. DUCKWORTH, 0000
ERNEST L. DUNCAN, 0000
JERRY D. DUNCAN, 0000
DOUGLAS W. DUNKLIN, 0000
DANIEL A. DUPONT, 0000
PATRICK R. DWYER, 0000
MARK G. DYKES, 0000
SAMUEL I. EDGE, 0000
GEORGE L. EDMONDS, 0000
DAVID M. EDWARDS, 0000
DEAN E. EKMAN, 0000
ALLAN W. ELLIOTT, 0000
ANDREA R. ELLIS, 0000
ROBERT E. EMBREY, 0000
HAROLD W. EMICK III, 0000
VERN C. ERICKSON, 0000
MICHAEL ERTMAN, 0000
FRANCISCO A. ESPAILLAT, 0000
MICHAEL R. EVANS, 0000
SCOTT D. EVANS, 0000
JEFFREY J. FAJNOR, 0000
STEPHEN J. FALCONE, 0000
PAUL A. FANNING, 0000
ROBERT M. FELLAND, 0000
MORRISON J. FENNER, 0000
TIMOTHY W. FERGUSON, 0000
MICHAEL P. FERRIS, JR., 0000
DARREL D. FEUCHT, 0000
PATRICIA C. FIGURES, 0000
JOHN D. FINK, 0000
KELLY A. FISHER, 0000
FITZ-JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, 0000
STEVEN J. FORD, 0000
WILLIAM H. FORD, 0000
PATRICK C. FORTENBERRY, 0000
MICHAEL D. FORTUNE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. FOWLER, 0000
MIKE FULFORD, 0000
QUINTIN H. FULGHAM, 0000
LARRY L. FULLER, 0000
DARYLL F. FUST, 0000
HUMBERTO E. GALARRAGA, 0000
MICHAEL F. GALLAGHER, 0000
DAVID A. GALLOWAY, 0000
RAYMOND E. GALLUCCI, JR., 0000
EDWARD C. GARDNER, 0000
JULIE K. GARDNER, 0000
DARYL R. GARNER, 0000
LAWRENCE J. GARNER, 0000
HOWARD B. GARTLAND, 0000
KAREN D. GATTIS, 0000
STEVEN M. GEISEN, 0000
FLOYD R. GIFFORD II, 0000
THOMAS M. GILHOOL, 0000
ROBERT J. GINGRAS, 0000
SUSAN GLENNLEE, 0000
TERESA A. GODLASKY, 0000
STEVEN J. GOFF, 0000
PAMELA S. GONCE, 0000
WALTER L. GOODWATER, 0000
SUZANNE GORDY, 0000
STEPHEN K. GOTO, 0000
JANMICHAEL S. GRAINE, 0000
JOHN H. GRASSO, 0000
DARRELL K. GREEN, 0000
JOHN R. GREEN, 0000
MARK R. GREENWOOD, 0000
KEVIN R. GRIESE, 0000
RALPH H. GROOVER III, 0000
FRANK GROSSKREUZ, 0000
ANGELITO L. GUTIERREZ, 0000
KEVIN G. GUTKNECHT, 0000
MARK P. HABERSHAW, 0000
MICHAEL W. HAERR, 0000
BRETT W. HAEUSSLER, 0000
BRETT M. HALE, 0000

JAMES R. HALL, 0000
ROY A. HALL, 0000
WILLIAM A. HALL, 0000
LAWRENCE E. HANNAN, 0000
ALLEN P. HARGIS, 0000
ELLEN L. HARING, 0000
ROBERT A. HARINGTON, 0000
CHARLES K. HARRIS, 0000
HARLAN D. HARRIS, 0000
WILLIAM M. HARRISON, 0000
RAYMOND C. HARTBARGER, 0000
DORI A. HASH, 0000
STEPHEN W. HEARN, 0000
MICHAEL J. HEFTY, 0000
JOHN J. HELLER, 0000
MARK G. HENDRICK, 0000
DARRYL W. HENSLEY, 0000
THOMAS F. HESLIN, JR., 0000
PAUL D. HESTAND, 0000
CORNELIUS K. HETHERINGTON, 0000
DANIEL J. HILL, 0000
RICHARD B. HOCHMAN, 0000
MARK J. HODD, 0000
JOSEPH P. HOFFMAN, 0000
DON R. HOFFMEISTER, 0000
STEPHEN R. HOGAN, 0000
DAVID J. HOGUE, 0000
GUY M. HOLLINGSWORTH, 0000
BRUCE E. HOLLOMAN, 0000
WAYNE L. HONEYCUTT, 0000
ROBIN S. HOOD, 0000
ROY D. HOUSE, 0000
ANTHONY HOWARD, 0000
JAMES T. HRDLICKA, 0000
ALAN C. HUFFINES, 0000
MARCUS K. HUGHES, 0000
FRIEDBERT J. HUMPHREY, 0000
WILLARD J. HUMPHRIES, 0000
ANTHONY J. HUNTER, 0000
PERCY G. HURTADO II, 0000
TIMOTHY A. HYBART, 0000
JOHNNY H. ISAAK, 0000
GEORGE K. ISHIKATA, 0000
BARTLEY J. IVES, 0000
LEE N. JACOBS, 0000
JEFFERY A. JAHNKE, 0000
LORIE T. JAVIER, 0000
JAMES L. JAWORSKI, 0000
JEROME F. JOCHEM, 0000
ERIC JOHNSON, 0000
GORDON R. JOHNSON, JR., 0000
CHRISTOPHER H. JONES, 0000
DOUGLAS JONES, 0000
MICHAEL J. JONES, 0000
RONALD L. JONES, 0000
THOMAS A. JONES, 0000
CATHERINE F. JORGENSEN, 0000
WILLIAM J. KALINOWSKI, 0000
GARY G. K. KAMAUOHA, 0000
KEVIN B. KEENAN, 0000
RICHARD F. KEENE, 0000
CHARLES D. KEITH, JR., 0000
DANIEL A. KENKEL, 0000
JAMES T. KENYON, JR., 0000
CORNELIUS J. KEOHANE, 0000
ERIC D. KERSKA, 0000
JERRY A. KIDRICK, 0000
VAN L. KINCHEN, 0000
ANTHONY L. KING, 0000
JOHN F. KING, 0000
RODERICK A. KING, 0000
ROBERT L. KIRBY, 0000
STEPHEN C. KISER, 0000
BRIAN G. KLEIN, 0000
TERRY L. KLINKER II, 0000
ROBERT D. KNAPP, 0000
DOUGLAS D. KOLSTOE, 0000
JOHN M. KRAEMER, 0000
TERRY G. KRSNAK, 0000
JOHN C. KUTTAS, 0000
CAROL A. LAAGE, 0000
CRAIG E. LAMBERT, 0000
ALAN M. LANE, 0000
RONALD J. LANE, 0000
BARRY M. LARRAIN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER A. LAUCHNER, 0000
JERRY W. LAW, 0000
KEVIN A. LAWRENCE, 0000
JOHN R. LEDDEN, 0000
SEAN K. W. LEE, 0000
DAVID H. LENT, 0000
MICHAEL A. LEONARDO, 0000
WESLEY J. LEWIS, 0000
JOHN R. LIGON, 0000
ROBERT W. LINDEMANN, 0000
DONALD G. LOCKARD, 0000
LYNN E. LOCKLEAR, 0000
JANET M. LOEFSTEDT, 0000
MARK A. LONDON, 0000
JAMES C. LORD, 0000
JAMES M. LOWMAN, 0000
ROBERTA A. LUBA, 0000
TIMOTHY J. LUCHNER, 0000
JAIME LUGO, 0000
MARK A. LUMPKIN, 0000
KATHRYN K. LUNA, 0000
ROBERT S. LYMAN, 0000
ROBERT K. LYTLE, 0000
GARY W. MACHINA, 0000
STERLING D. MACLEOD, 0000
JAMES A. MACMILLAN, 0000
KELLY C. MACNEALY, 0000
DAVID L. MADISON, 0000
MARK G. MALANKA, 0000
DONNA M. MALLET, 0000
DEBORAH L. MALONE, 0000
CHARLES T. MANSFIELD, 0000
ROLAND J. MANUEL, 0000
TIMOTHY G. MARLAR, 0000
MAIRI A. MARQUART, 0000
GREGORY M. MARTIN, 0000
STEVEN C. MARTINKA, 0000
MICHAEL J. MARX, 0000
JEFFREY M. MASCOLL, 0000
MICHAEL E. MASON, 0000
PIERRE E. MASSAR, 0000
ELIZABETH C. MASTERS, 0000
CURTIS A. MATCHETT, 0000
HORACE R. MATTHEWS, JR., 0000
DAREL C. MAXFIELD, 0000
CHARLES T. MAY, 0000
ROSEMARIE D. MCCABE, 0000
BILLY D. MCCARROLL, 0000
PHILLIP L. MCCLUSKEY, 0000
JOHN M. MCCOLLUM, 0000
HARRY S. MCCORKLE, 0000
DENNIS F. MCFADDEN, 0000
CRAIG M. MCGALLIARD, 0000
PHILIP S. MCGRATH, JR., 0000
EDWARD B. MCKEE, 0000
LAURA J. MCKNIGHT, 0000
MARK E. MCLAUGHLIN, 0000
MICHAEL R. MCLAUGHLIN, 0000
MARK F. MCMULLEN, 0000
MICHAEL B. MCNAMARA, 0000
DAVID M. MCVEY, 0000
RICHARD A. MEADOR, 0000
DAVID J. MEDEIROS, 0000
MITCHELL K. MEDIGOVICH, 0000
MICHELE A. MELTON, 0000
JOHN G. MELVILLE, 0000
VINCENT F. MERCADANTE, 0000
WILL G. MERRILL III, 0000
KARL L. MERRITT, 0000
DAVID B. MEYERS, 0000
PAUL R. MEYERS, 0000
STEVEN E. MILES, 0000
DONALD E. MILLER, 0000
GREGORY A. MILLER, 0000
JOHNNY R. MILLER, 0000
MARVIN G. MILLER, 0000
SAMUEL K. MILLETT, 0000
TIMOTHY MITCHELL, JR., 0000
DANIEL MONRREAL, 0000
JUDITH E. MONTOYA, 0000
JAMES M. MOODY, 0000
DONALD J. MOORE, 0000
RICHARD J. MOORE, 0000
TERRY F. MOORER, 0000
ANTONIO L. MORALES, 0000
BETANCOURT S. MORALES, 0000
LOIS MORALES, 0000
LAWRENCE D. MORELAND, 0000
AUSTIN T. MORGAN, 0000
ROBERT C. MOSCATI, 0000
MARK E. MUCCIARONE, 0000
CARL T. MURRAY, 0000
THOMAS T. MURRAY, 0000
RICHARD C. NAGLE, 0000
MICHAEL D. NAVRKAL, 0000
RANDOLPH F. NEAL, 0000
MARK P. NELSON, 0000
PETER S. NELSON, 0000
THRESAJAN NELSON, 0000
TRACY A. NELSON, 0000
CHRISTIE L. NIXON, 0000
JOSEPH F. NOONAN, JR., 0000
NANCY E. NOWOTNY, 0000
JOHN R. OATHOUT, 0000
WILLIAM S. OLIVA, 0000
JULI T. OLSON, 0000
WARREN C. OLSON, 0000
LEROY A. ONTIBEROS, 0000
JAY M. ORBIK, 0000
RUBEN ORDONEZ, 0000
PAUL A. ORECK, 0000
RICHARD L. OTT, 0000
MAURICE A. OTTINGER, 0000
PHILLIP M. OWENS, 0000
STEPHEN B. OWENS, 0000
DAVID E. PAINTER, 0000
KIRK A. PALAN, 0000
RAYMOND W. PALMA, 0000
SCOTT F. PARADIS, 0000
GINA M. PARKER, 0000
RAYMOND D. PARKER, JR., 0000
MITCHELL G. PASSINI, 0000
BOBBY C. PATRICK, 0000
TIMOTHY S. PAUL, 0000
WILLIAM B. PEARRE, 0000
STEVEN R. PEARSON, 0000
DANIEL J. PERROTTA, 0000
BRIAN D. PERRY, 0000
WALESKA PIZARRO, 0000
DAVID T. POLLARD, 0000
JOHNNIE H. POPE, JR., 0000
JOHN B. POSEY, 0000
PAUL T. POST, 0000
DANIEL J. POWERS, 0000
VON C. PRESNELL, 0000
JOSEPH A. PRICE, 0000
JOHN M. PRINE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. PROSSER, 0000
THOMAS J. PURPLE, JR., 0000
MICHAEL R. RADCLIFF, 0000
JORGE RANGEL, 0000
JAY M. RASMUSSEN, 0000
CLAIR J. READ, 0000
BOBBY K. REDMAN, 0000
BRIAN C. REDMON, 0000
MEREDITH S. REED, JR., 0000
STEPHEN J. REEDBERRY, 0000
JERRY L. REES, 0000
DAVID M. REINERT, 0000
WAYNE M. REISETTER, 0000
SCOTT A. REVAL, 0000
DENNIS E. RICE, 0000
JOSEPH R. RICE, 0000
ROBERT A. RIGSBY, 0000
GREGORY D. RILEY, 0000
KENNETH E. RING, JR., 0000
LARRY ROBINSON, 0000
STEPHEN A. ROBINSON, 0000
HOMER C. ROGERS, JR., 0000
WILLIAM ROLLERSON, JR., 0000
MARCELO ROLON, 0000
A. C. ROPER, JR., 0000
CHAD M. ROTZIEN, 0000
ELIZABETH RUCKWIED, 0000
LANNIE D. RUNCK, 0000
GARY D. RUSSELL, 0000
DONALD G. RUTHERFORD, 0000
EDWARD M. RYAN, JR., 0000
PATRICIA E. RYAN, 0000
SEAN A. RYAN, 0000
TIMOTHY A. RYAN, 0000
ALISON I. RYSCAVAGE, 0000
ALDEN F. SADDLEMIRE, 0000
DANIEL T. SAILER, 0000
WALTER M. SALMON, 0000
STEVEN A. SANCHEZ, 0000
STEPHEN G. SANDERS, 0000
DANIEL L. SAUCIER, 0000
ROBERT A. D. SAUERS, 0000
MICHAEL J. SAUTER, 0000
JAMES B. SAYERS, 0000
RALPH G. SCHEFFERT, 0000
WILLIAM P. SCHERER, 0000
JOHN W. SCHROEDER, 0000
HARRY J. SCHUTE, JR., 0000
WILLIAM J. SCHUTZ, JR., 0000
JONATHAN G. SCOTT, 0000
KENNETH A. SCOTT, 0000
MARTIN D. SEIFER, 0000
TRACY L. SETTLE, 0000
ARTHUR F. SHAFFERMAN, 0000
KEITH A. SHARPLES, 0000
RICHARD D. SHATTO, 0000
TIMOTHY A. SHEARER, 0000
TIMOTHY J. SHERIFF, 0000
BRIAN S. SIECK, 0000
LESTER SIMPSON, 0000
LARRY R. SIMS, 0000
BENNETT E. SINGER, 0000
RICHARD B. SINGER IV, 0000
WAYNE P. SINIBALDI, 0000
GLENN M. SKAWSKI, 0000
DEBORAH S. SKILLMAN, 0000
RONALD A. SLAATHAUG, 0000
PAUL H. SLINKERD III, 0000
EDWARD R. SMALLWOOD, 0000
CHARLES E. SMITH, 0000
GREGORY B. SMITH, 0000
DOUGLAS SNYDER, 0000
CAROL R. SOLESBEE, 0000
CATHERINE D. SOPHER, 0000
NANCY A. SOUZA, 0000
ROBERT A. SPANO, 0000
THOMAS G. SPRAGUE, 0000
GARY L. SPRY, 0000
RICHARD C. STAATS, 0000
THOMAS H. STATON, 0000
DANIEL R. STEFANOWICH, 0000
LISA D. STEWART, 0000
MARK A. STOCKSTELL, 0000
JAMES E. STOKES, 0000
WILLIAM L. STOPPEL, 0000
JOHN P. STOREY, 0000
DARLETTE P. STOWERS, 0000
WILLIAM L. STROUD, 0000
MICHAEL C. SUDIA, 0000
CLARK H. SUMMERS, 0000
LEAH R. SUNDQUIST, 0000
BRYAN E. SUNTHEIMER, 0000
LESLIE N. SWARTZ, 0000
SCOTT A. SYME, 0000
STEPHEN D. TABLEMAN, 0000
BARRY K. TAYLOR, 0000
CHRISTOPHER D. TAYLOR, 0000
JOHN H. TAYLOR, 0000
JULIA S. TAYLOR, 0000
KEITH H. TAYLOR, 0000
PETER J. TETRICK, 0000
PAUL G. THIBODEAU, 0000
LINDA A. THOMAS, 0000
GARY A. THOMPSON, 0000
ROBERT A. THOMPSON, 0000
VINCENT E. THOMPSON, 0000
STEPHEN L. THORSTED, 0000
RICHARD J. TORRES, 0000
FRANCK T. G. TRAINOR, 0000
MICHAEL P. TRUELOVE, 0000
LORA L. TUCKER, 0000
MICHAEL D. TURELLO, 0000
BRADLEY TURNER, 0000
HAROLD W. TURNER, 0000
ARTHUR F. TURNIER, 0000
BRYAN A. TUTKO, 0000
ROCKY J. TYLER, 0000
LUIS E. UMANAWILLIAMS, 0000
SUZANNE VALENTINGUZMAN, 0000
LORENZO J. VALENZUELA, 0000
JOHN W. VANDELOOP, 0000
BENNIE R. VAUGHAN, 0000
EDWARD G. VAUGHN, 0000
KENNETH R. VAUGHN, 0000
CHARLES R. VEIT, 0000
PETER J. VERSTEEG, 0000
RODOLFO VILLARREAL, JR., 0000
JOHN E. VITZTHUM, 0000
RICHARD L. VONSTEUBEN, JR., 0000

JEFFREY G. VORCE, 0000
STANLEY D. WAGSTAFF, 0000
ROBERTA B. WALKER, 0000
WILLIAM J. WALKER, 0000
MICHELE E. WALLACE, 0000
TERRENCE M. WALSH, 0000
SEAN D. WARD, 0000
THOMAS U. WASHINGTON, 0000
ALIKA G. WATTS, 0000
JAMES J. WEAVER, 0000
ROBERT D. WEBER, 0000
MARK A. WEEKS, 0000
THOMAS J. WEISS, 0000
SHAWN A. WELCH, 0000
KENNETH R. WELLONS, 0000
MICHAEL P. WHETSTON, 0000
ANITA A. WHITE, 0000
LARRY A. WILCOX, 0000
GREGORY L. WILCOXON, 0000
BILL WILLIAMS III, 0000
CARL WILLIAMS, JR., 0000
JEFFREY S. WILLIAMS, 0000
JOAN M. WILLIAMS, 0000
DONALD M. WINDHAM, 0000
SCOTT M. WINEGAR, 0000
LAURA B. WISCH, 0000
PHILIP W. WOJTALEWICZ, 0000
DAVID C. WOOD, 0000
JERRY L. WOOD, 0000
BRUCE D. WOOLPERT, 0000
KEVIN D. WRIGHT, 0000
JONATHAN W. WUNG, 0000
STACEY T. YAMADA, 0000
GARY S. YAPLE, 0000
ROGER D. YEARWOOD, 0000
DAVID A. YOUNGBERG, JR., 0000
STEPHEN J. ZEMPOLICH, 0000
MICHAEL R. ZERBONIA, 0000
RICHARD D. ZIERATH, 0000
JEFFREY J. ZIOL, 0000
CHARLES R. ZIPPERER, 0000
MARC L. ZUFFA, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBIN B. ALLEN, 0000
SCOTT A. ANGER, 0000
JOEL J. BERNER, 0000
GEORGE P. BLACK, 0000
KURT J. BOHN, 0000
ANTHONY G. BROWN, 0000
JOSEPH D. CERRETO, 0000
MITCHELL R. CHITWOOD, 0000
MICHAEL J. COUGHLIN, 0000
JAMES E. HARDIN, JR., 0000
JULIE K. HASDORFF, 0000
WILLIAM G. HASKIN, 0000
OLIVER F. JOHNSON, 0000
GARY A. LOXLEY, 0000
STEVEN G. MAHON, 0000
THOMAS C. MCLURKIN, 0000
BRUCE A. PAGEL, 0000
STEPHEN J. PRICE, 0000
DANIEL A. RICE, 0000
ROBERT R. RIGSBY, 0000
RONALD B. ROBINSON, 0000
SCOTT F. ROMANS, 0000
STEVEN A. ROSSO, 0000
JAMES M. SAWYERS, 0000
WILLIAM E. SCULLY, JR., 0000
JOHN J. SIEMIETKOWSKI, 0000
ROBERT C. SLAUGHTER II, 0000
GREGORY J. SUROVIC, 0000
ALEXANDER TAYLOR, 0000
CRAIG T. TREBILCOCK, 0000
ARTHUR D. WELLMAN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

JOHN G. ALVAREZ, 0000
DAVID A. BITTERMAN, 0000
MARILYN D. BREW, 0000
MITCHELL E. BREW, 0000
DENNIS C. BROWN, 0000
MARC L. CAOUETTE, 0000
VINCENT C. CARNAZZA, JR., 0000
CHRISTOPHER M. CASTLE, 0000
CARL A. CASTRO, 0000
DANIEL V. CHAPA, JR., 0000
LAWRENCE B. CONNELL, 0000
MARCUS W. CRONK, 0000
MUSTAPHA DEBBOUN, 0000
GREGORY D. EVANS, 0000
JOHN M. GAAL, 0000
MARY E. GARR, 0000
KAREN M. KELLEY, 0000
BERTHONY LADOUCEUR, 0000
TERRY J. LANTZ, 0000
SAMUEL G. MACK, JR., 0000
GREGORY A. MALVIN, 0000
RODGER K. MARTIN, 0000
CLEM D. MCDUFFIE, 0000
THERESA L. MOSER, 0000
MURIEL A. MOSLEY, 0000
DAVETTE L. MURRAY, 0000
DANIEL P. ORRICO, 0000
CHRISTOPHER V. ROAN, 0000
GORDON R. ROBERTS, 0000
JUDITH D. ROBINSON, 0000
LINDA C. ROSS, 0000
DEBRA M. STEWART, 0000
ALAN K. STONE, 0000
JACK K. TROWBRIDGE, 0000
JAMES T. WALSH, 0000
DONNA S. WHITTAKER, 0000
TRACY O. WYATT, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

JEFFREY S. ASHLEY, 0000
JUDITH A. BOCK, 0000
JENNIFER M. ECTOR, 0000
SHERI L. FERGUSON, 0000
ANNA R. IUNGERICH, 0000
CAROLYN M. JOLITZ, 0000
LISA M. LATENDRESSE, 0000
PATRICIA M. LEROUX, 0000
RITZA REESE, 0000
YOLANDA RUIZISALES, 0000
BRUCE A. SCHONEBOOM, 0000
KIMBERLY K. SMITH, 0000
DEBRA A. SPENCER, 0000
SHARON L. STERLING, 0000
DELLA W. STEWART, 0000
COLLEEN A. TAKAHASHI, 0000
HEIDI A. WARRINGTON, 0000
THOMAS G. WINTHROP, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be captain

HARRY T. WHELAN, 0000

To be commander

WILLIAM K. BOTT, 0000
ERIC L. STALLWORTH, 0000

To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL C. DEWALT, 0000
ROMIRO MUNOZ, 0000
WILLIAM G. RHEA III, 0000

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

KENNETH Y. TOMLINSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS. (REAPPOINTMENT).

KENNETH Y. TOMLINSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2007. (REAPPOINTMENT).

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

ELIZABETH DOUGHERTY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2007, VICE EDWARD J. FITZMAURICE, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

ELIZABETH DOUGHERTY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2010. (REAPPOINTMENT).

PETER W. TREDICK, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2009, VICE READ VAN DE WATER, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PAUL DE CAMP, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE TAMMY DEE MCCUTCHEN, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

ARLENE HOLEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2010, VICE ROBERT H. BEATTY, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

RICHARD STICKLER, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH, VICE DAVID D. LAURISKI, RESIGNED, TO WHICH POSITION HE WAS APPOINTED DURING THE LAST RECESS OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STEVEN G. BRADBURY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JACK LANDMAN GOLDSMITH III, RESIGNED.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on November 14, 2006, withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

PETER W. TREDICK, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2007, VICE EDWARD J. FITZMAURICE, JR., TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MARCH 27, 2006.

ELIZABETH DOUGHERTY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2009, VICE READ VAN DE WATER, TERM EXPIRING, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MAY 25, 2006.

PETER W. TREDICK, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2010. (REAPPOINTMENT), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 18, 2006.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF DR. JAMES DAVID THOMAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Dr. James David Thomas, from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for his lifelong contributions to his community and to his fellow citizens. Dr. Thomas will be remembered as a loving and caring husband, father and physician. He died at the age of 87.

Dr. Thomas served his community and nation in WWII as a physician for the United States Army. After his tour of duty, Dr. Thomas returned to the City of Denton where he was actively involved in the medical community. His dedication led him to be one of the founding members of the Medical Surgical Clinic in Denton. As a member of the American Medical Association, the Texas Medical Association and a Charter member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Dr. Thomas ensured that families in the Denton community had a qualified and committed physician to care for their general health.

Dr. Thomas was involved with several organizations throughout the Denton community including serving the Denton ISD school board as well as the Denton Parks and Recreation Board. He was also a longtime member of the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon and elder.

It was an honor to have worked with Dr. James David Thomas as a doctor and a privilege to represent him in Congress. I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service and dedication will always be appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO AWILDA CORDERO

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Ms. Awilda Cordero of Bronx, NY, for her goodwill and assistance to the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts.

Ms. Cordero is president of the Bronx-based community service organization Emergency Rights, Inc. She took it upon herself to organize a group of eight volunteers amidst the dangerous and tragic conditions created by Katrina and inspired her urban Bronx neighborhood to open its heart and give to those more needy. Leaving for Louisiana in a tractor-trailer stocked with donations, Ms. Cordero and her fellow heroes were left to secure their own room and board upon arrival and protect themselves against the impending disaster. They hosted a distribution of all essential goods from a small church with the help of locally enlisted prison inmates prior to their hurried and final evacuation.

Ms. Cordero is an exemplary spirit whose story touches those far outside her native New York City. She merits our acknowledgment and gratitude and inspires faith that all of our citizens will one day be able to lend help and hope to each other in their most dire times of need.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I join to praise and thank Ms. Cordero for her benevolent efforts.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARGARET MARY LEE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and recognition of my good friend Margaret Mary Lee. Her service for the community of Cleveland and the Democratic Party represents the very best of the hardworking values that are the backbone of America's working class.

Family, worker's rights, education, and community were central to her life. A mother of 11, grandmother of 22, and great-grandmother of 11, Margaret was committed to the concept of family and community. Longtime supporters and friends of mine, Margaret and her family stood staunchly behind the Democratic Party and my candidacy from the beginning. Her late husband Eddie was the Secretary General of the Teamster Local 407. The Lee family was a pillar of the union movement in Cleveland. Both Eddie and Margaret stood up for workers through the Local 407 where they graciously gave countless hours of their lives. to organizing and bringing together members of the community to empower workers. Her endless energy and sharp mind were an indestructible asset to the labor community. Margaret had a unique ability to inspire others.

In addition to the labor movement and worker's rights, Margaret was also very concerned with the issue of education. Her volunteer efforts for Montessori schools helped perpetuate positive programs for urban students. Margaret believed very strongly in her community and investing her time and helping not only her children but also those of the community by dedicating herself to promoting education. This commitment continues even after her death as memorial contributions are suggested to be donated to the Ruffing Montessori. Her presence as a matriarch of the community will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory and recognizing the accomplishments of Margaret Mary Lee as a woman who stood for true American values and may her legacy live on in the recognition of the good work that she did.

TRIBUTE TO TIMOTHY BATES AS HE RECEIVES THE WILLIAM CRAWFORD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce as they honor a special member of our community and my friend of many years, Timothy Bates. Tonight, Tim will be honored with the prestigious William Crawford Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his contributions, which have not only improved the quality of life in the region, but have also enriched the lives of his neighbors.

William Crawford, the former president and general manager of the Southeastern Connecticut Broadcasting Company, was not only a dedicated member of the Chamber, he was well known for his philanthropic efforts on behalf of his community. It is in this spirit that the William Crawford Distinguished Service Award is bestowed. Tim, an attorney with the esteemed law firm of Robinson & Cole, has made a difference in his community through both his professional and volunteer efforts—exemplifying the very best of what we believe a community member should be.

In a career that has spanned more than three decades, Tim has focused his career on land use, real estate, and municipal law—an area of critical importance to small communities like those found in Connecticut. He is a member and past chairman of the Planning and Zoning Section of the Connecticut Bar Association as well as the state chair of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. Tim's expertise is often sought our by fellow bar members as well as by local planning and zoning officials. He has also made presentations to the American Planning Association on right to farm, nonconforming uses, and review of recent Supreme Court cases regarding land use law, Communities struggle to balance the competing interests of expansion and growth with maintaining the unique character of the region. Tim's work and expertise in these areas have proven invaluable to cities and towns throughout eastern Connecticut.

Beyond his professional commitments, Tim has also devoted countless hours to local service organizations. He has been a member and continues to serve on the Board of Directors for such organizations as Connecticut Legal Services, the Garde Arts Center, the Mystic Community Center, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut and Family Services of Southeastern Connecticut. Tim and his wife, Deborah, also volunteer every summer as counselors in Pioneer Camp at Camp Wightman in North Stonington, Connecticut. Through his efforts on behalf of these and many other organizations, Tim has quietly touched the lives of thousands. I have often

said that our communities would not be the same without the efforts of volunteers and this is certainly true of the generosity, compassion, and philanthropy Tim has demonstrated over a lifetime of good work.

Tim does all this together with Debbie and their children, strengthening his family and community. These are special, warm people with an infectious spirit that cannot help but do good wherever they live. That is why I still cherish our work together.

I cannot think of an individual who better exemplifies the spirit of the William Crawford Distinguished Service Award. I am proud to stand today to join Deborah, his children, Nathaniel, David, and Catherine, as well as the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, family, friends and colleagues in extending my heart-felt congratulations to my good friend Timothy Bates on this very special occasion. His many contributions, both professional and volunteer, have left an indelible mark on the communities and families of eastern Connecticut and a legacy that will inspire many for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO BAILEY DOUBERLEY OF DADE CITY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to honor a gifted student and boundless volunteer who has proven that anyone can be an asset to their community, no matter their age.

A fourth generation Floridian, Bailey Lesten Douberley is the 8-year-old son of Chad Douberley and his wife, Susan Larkin-Douberley, of Dade City. Although a third grade student at Centennial elementary school, Bailey takes math and language classes at the fourth grade level. In addition to being a talented student, he is also an active member of First Baptist Church in Dade City.

With the President's push for increased charitable involvement, Bailey is a prime example of establishing your course at a young age. By channeling much of his energy into efforts to help others, Bailey serves as a shining example of service for his entire community.

At the recent Welcome Home Troops event held for Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery, Bailey was on hand to move tables, hang signs, arrange chairs and assist in any way needed. Bailey is a frequent helper at the monthly car shows in Dade City and annually volunteers with his mother at both the Sparklebration and Kumquat festivals. Bailey is particularly active at local benefit functions such as the Patrick Cooper benefit dinner and the Josh Cooley benefit dinner and is always on hand to assist at the annual fundraiser, Academy at the Farm weekend rodeo event.

The holiday season is especially busy for this tireless volunteer. During the Thanksgiving holiday, Bailey helps pack baskets for needy families and during the Christmas holiday, he lends a hand to the Toys for Tots program and the Shoebox program, sending care packages to U.S. troops.

Aside from his busy schedule, Bailey finds time to play little league baseball and is a member of the Recreation and Travel ''Bulls'' ice hockey team, the progressive 4–H Club and Pack 301 Boy Scouts.

On behalf of Dade City and its residents, I applaud Bailey for his efforts and I encourage others, young and old, to follow his lead and answer the call to volunteer. I am proud to represent this young man and many more like him who give back so much to the community

CASTLE ROCK YOUNG MARINES

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the Castle Rock Young Marines for their support of our World War II veterans.

The Young Marines is open to all youth ages 8 through completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school. Since the Young Marines' humble beginnings, in 1958, with one unit and a handful of boys, the organization has grown to over 240 units with 10,000 youth and 3,000 adult volunteers in 46 States, the District of Columbia, Germany, Japan and affiliates in a host of other countries.

On Veteran's Day, the Nation's Marine Corps Museum held their grand opening celebration. The Castle Rock Marines from Colorado had heard that the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II would not be attending due to financial reasons. These young marines organized various fundraisers in order to pay for the Navajo Talkers to attend not only the opening ceremony of the Nation's Marine Corps Museum but other important events in the Capital area.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Castle Rock Young Marines for their support of this unique set of World War II veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 519, H.R. 5602, To Authorize the Extension of Nondiscrimatory Treatment (Normal Trade Relations Treatment) to the Products of Vietnam. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 TIMOTHY RAY BRENEMAN TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Timothy Ray Breneman, 36, who died while serving our Nation in Germany.

Prior to joining the Army, Timothy spent his childhood living in Ormond Beach, Florida where he was active at Christ Presbyterian Church. Timothy graduated from Mainland High School and attended Daytona Beach Community College where he studied art and photography.

In 1994, Timothy enlisted to become an Army Ranger. He was later assigned to the 1st Armored Division's 12th Combat Aviation Brigade at Illesheim Army Field in Germany where he became a senior instructor pilot. His colleagues remember him for his skill and professional demeanor. His family recalls his wonderful sense of humor and one who took pride in his service.

We should all remember Timothy's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy that Chief Warrant Officer Timothy Ray Breneman leaves behind. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

We must recognize that Timothy's widow, Teresa, is also a distinguished member of our U.S. military where she serves as a Judge Advocate General officer in Germany.

To Timothy's wife, Teresa; his parents, Ray and Flo; and his entire family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Timothy Ray Breneman's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our Nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to commemorate the Defense Language Institute's 65th anniversary, and to honor its generations of distinguished faculty and students, without whom the freedom and security we enjoy would not be possible.

On November 1, 1941 the DLI (then, nameless and clandestine) commenced its first class in San Francisco, not in a classroom or, much less, at a university. Rather, the crown-jewel of American language instruction and our greatest asset to national security was born in an abandoned airplane hangar.

Sixty students, most of whom were second-generation Japanese-Americans, along with four instructors, undertook an unprecedented exercise: to formally train in the language and customs of our enemies for the purposes of translation and intelligence gathering. Their resulting successes in the Pacific theater paved the way for the modern DLI—an academically accredited foreign language training institution—the largest in the world—which enjoys the prestige and renown of a world-class university.

Prominent DLI alumni include Air Force Colonel William Fife, a graduate of the Institute's Russian basic course who pioneered airborne reconnaissance during the Cold War. Glenn Nordin, also a graduate of the Russian basic course as well as the Vietnamese advisor course, served as a translator for the

Washington-Moscow hotline, as a deputy chief at the National Security Agency and as Executive Secretary of the Director of Central Intelligence Language Committee. And, more recently, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Rick Francona, who served as personal interpreter and advisor to General Norman Schwarzkopf during Operation Desert Storm.

The DLI's Foreign Language Center is well situated at the Presidio of Monterey Presidio. Its proximity to the San Francisco Bay Area and the Central Coast make the Institute a natural destination for native-speaking language instructors of the highest caliber. In turn, DLI has greatly enriched our community by creating a locus of culture and learning.

The foreign language training the Defense Language Institute has imparted to ''the best and brightest'' of our U.S. Armed Forces has proven to be one of our Nation's best national security weapons. On March 5, 2005, General John P. Abizaid, the commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), said, ''This ability to cross the cultural divide is not an Army issue. It is a national issue. We have to be able to deal with the people in the rest of the world as the globe shrinks in terms of communication and problem solving and sharing. So this notion of . . . training and educating people here in the U.S., of having the institutions that do it . . . is just so essential.''

''What will win the global war on terrorism will be people that can cross the cultural divide, reach out to those who want our help, and figure out how to make it happen so [those people] can help themselves. That is how we will win this thing,'' continued Gen. Abizaid. ''So we ignore the DLIs and other institutions of military education at our own peril. I very much ask [this] committee to continue to keep those places functioning, because they are national treasures.''

General Abizaid's sentiments resonate to the very foundations of the Institute and fill its halls with purpose and resolve. Cross cultural understanding coupled with the ability to communicate with our friends and enemies in their own languages will promote U.S. national security, economic and foreign policy interests, making the U.S. the leader of the global community.

I am very pleased to join the Secretary of the Army, Francis H. Harvey, the Commandant of DLI, Colonel Tucker B. Mansager, and other distinguished guests to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Defense Language Institute. Monterey is proud of its rich association with DLI and we all look forward to its future success and continued growth.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANMOL S. MAHAL, MD., PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Anmol Singh Mahal, who has been named president of the California Medical Association (CMA). He is the first person of Indian origin to head the 35,000-member organization.

Dr. Mahal is a board-certified internist in solo practice in gastroenterology and internal medicine in Fremont, California. He came to the United States 33 years ago after receiving his medical degree from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India. He completed his internship in internal medicine at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark, New Jersey and completed a fellowship in gastroenterology at the Stanford University Medical Center.

He is a founding member and past president of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin of Northern California. Prior to being named President of the California Medical Association, Dr. Mahal served one term as the Chair of the CMA Board of Trustees and two terms as Vice Chair. He has been a member of the CMA Board since 1997 and is a commissioner for the state Emergency Medical Services Commission.

Dr. Mahal has served CMA on multiple committees including Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee on Culturally and Linguistically Competent Physicians, and as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee on Minority Physician Issues. He is currently a member of CMA's Committee on the Medical Board of California, and the Ethnic Medical Organization Section Executive Board.

In addition to his activities at the state and local levels, Dr. Mahal has served as Chief of Staff of the Washington Hospital Healthcare System in Fremont, California and a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Outpatient Surgery Center in Fremont. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine.

I join Dr. Mahal's colleagues, friends and admirers in wishing him every success as he takes the helm of leadership as President of the California Medical Association.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY 2ND LIEUTENANT JOHNNY CRAVER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Army 2nd Lieutenant Johnny Craver from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. Second Lt. Craver died Friday 13, 2006 with two other soldiers south of Baghdad when a roadside bomb detonated next to the Bradley Fighting Vehicle he was commanding.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Army 2nd Lieutenant Johnny Craver's life today. After a miraculous recovery from an automobile accident during his teenage years, 2nd Lt. Craver told his mother at the young age of 17 that he was going to join the armed forces. While serving as a Ranger and later, a Ranger instructor, 2nd Lt. Craver was stationed in Hawaii, Alaska, and Washington, DC, before being deployed to Iraq. He was 37 years old.

In 2005, 2nd Lt. Carver trained for and participated in the 2005 Best Ranger Competition on TV. When his partner twisted an ankle climbing a steep hill, Craver never faltered, and carried his partner's 80-pound backpack, in addition to his own, to reach the top of the hill.

A natural leader, 2nd Lt. Craver was near completion of his Master's degree in business administration. He leaves behind a loving wife, Natalie, and their three children, Savannah, Caelen, and Emma. When told he was a hero, 2nd Lt. Craver would always reply, ''I'm not a hero, I'm just doing my job.''

It was my honor to represent Army 2nd Lieutenant Johnny Craver, and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his honorable service was greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO HAN BEOL JANG

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Han Beol Jang of Woodside, New York. I wish to recognize Han Beol for his Poetry, Gold Award win in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards of 2006 contest, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. The Alliance was established to promote artistic development and expression in middle and high school students throughout the nation in cooperation with schools. This year's competition recognized the work of over 1,400 students and invited award recipients to a workshop hosted in New York designed to introduce students to the professional world of art.

Mr. Speaker, I join to wish Han Beol best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

IN HONOR OF ARCHBISHOP FOUAD TWAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Archbishop Fouad Twal and his accomplishments in working toward peace and ecumenical acceptance of all people. Archbishop Twal has served the Catholic Church for over 40 years in Tunisia, Honduras, Germany, Peru, Jordan, Palestine, the Vatican, and Jerusalem. His recent assignment in Jerusalem has led him to the distinguished positions as the Coadjutor Archbishop for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the President of the Bethlehem University.

Archbishop Twal's distinguished career as a vessel of peace through the Roman Catholic Church began in 1966 when he was ordained. Rising through the ranks with remarkable swiftness, he received his Licentiate in Canon Law from the renowned Ecclesiastical Pontifical Academy. With a rich history of public service in peace efforts in the Middle East, he has served the Latin Patriarchate Parishes in Palestine and Jordan, as Archbishop of Tunisia, and in the Council of Political Affairs for the State Secretariat of the Vatican. This outstanding background was merely preparation for his appointment as Coadjutor Archbishop for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem by His

Holiness Pope Benedict XVI in 2005. There, he represents the Church's peace efforts in the war-torn region.

In addressing efforts for peace in the Holy Land, Archbishop Twal steadfastly advocates a necessity for justice. In a land inundated by strife, conflict, and bloodshed, he envisions the Church as a ''voice of peace and forgiveness.'' It is this voice of reason, faith, and compassion that Archbishop Twal uses in building bridges instead of burning them. Instead of seeing the world in terms of Christians, Jews, and Muslims, Archbishop Twal has proclaimed, ''the Holy City is the mother of all the faithful children of Abraham.'' By giving respect to all groups involved in the struggle, he has commanded vast admiration from a variety of organizations representing differing viewpoints that are all interested in peace through justice.

Much like his intellectual predecessors, Archbishop Twal has found that a nonviolent, faith-based approach to addressing even the most embittered situations of political strife is the most effective means by which to ensure a lasting, sustainable peace. As the President of Bethlehem University, he has continued to champion the peaceful Christian message through higher education, despite repeated military threats to shut the facility down by force. It is with this unwavering dedication to peaceful Christian values, combined with keen political insight, that Archbishop Twal continues to forge a reputation as a man of hope, peace, and understanding.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Archbishop Twal's continued and unrelenting commitment and resounding efforts to promoting peace through understanding, acceptance, and justice. His work for peace through justice stands as a beacon of guidance for the global peace movement as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE ''DOC'' GUNTHER AS HE RETIRES FROM THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the career of the Honorable George ''Doc'' Gunther, State Senator from Connecticut's 21st Senate Assembly District—an elected office which he has held for a stunning twenty terms—forty years! During his remarkable tenure, ''Doc'' has represented his constituents and the State of Connecticut with both integrity and dignity. Currently the longest serving member of the General Assembly, I have no doubt that his passionate, vocal advocacy will be missed by his colleagues as well as the staff—the General Assembly will not be the same without him.

Throughout his legislative career, ''Doc'' has been an active advocate in many areas. He has served on the Public Health Committee since he was first elected and has spent more than thirty years as a member of the Regulation Review Committee. Growing up on the Long Island Sound, the environmental health of this natural jewel has always been a priority for ''Doc.'' He has authored several pieces of landmark legislation aimed at protecting the Sound and was instrumental in the establishment of the Bi-State Long Island Sound Marine Resources Committee of which he currently serves as State Chair. ''Doc'' also served for eleven years as the State Chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council, the largest bipartisan membership association of state legislators, and has spent more than twenty-six years as an active member and Connecticut's Legislative Commissioner for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. His knowledge of the Long Island Sound, as an economic resource and fishery habitat, has been an invaluable tool in the fight to protect the Sound from industrialization and pollution.

There are few in the Stratford community or in Hartford's Legislative Office Building that do not know ''Doc.'' He is unafraid to voice his opinion and has always fought hard for those issues which are important to him and his constituents. Stratford, Connecticut, the community which ''Doc'' has represented for the last four decades, is home to the American Shakespeare Festival Theater which, unfortunately, fell into disrepair in recent years. Knowing what this cultural and historic landmark meant to the Town of Stratford and its residents, ''Doc'' spearheaded the effort by the Stratford delegation to secure half a million dollars towards the efforts to restore the Theater to its original glory.

''Doc'' has also been a leader in the effort to create the Connecticut Air and Space Museum which is located at the former site of the Stratford Army Engine Plant. The museum is a tribute to the rich history of the Connecticut aviation industry—especially the contributions of the Vought F4U Corsair used during World War II. These are just two examples of the tenacity and leadership ''Doc'' has shown throughout his tenure in the General Assembly.

Though we come from differing political backgrounds, I have been proud to work with ''Doc'' for so many years. He is a force to be reckoned with and has been an outstanding public servant. It is an honor for me to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to George ''Doc'' Gunther, not only for his decades of dedicated service to public life, but for the many invaluable contributions he has made to the Town of Stratford and the State of Connecticut. His good work has left an indelible mark on our community and will benefit our state for generations to come. I wish him, his wife, Priscilla, his three children, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING WWII VETERAN AND POW STEVE RAYMOND OF LECANTO, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a Prisoner of War from World War II, Steve Raymond of Lecanto, Florida. While serving as a volunteer in the Army Air Corps in the Philippines, Mr. Raymond was among 78,000 American and Filipino soldiers captured by the enemy and forced to participate in what became known as the Bataan Death March.

Mr. Raymond has written a book, ''Too Dead to Die: A Memoir of Bataan and Beyond,'' about his experience as a POW. This first-hand account recreates his experiences from daily journals that he kept while imprisoned by the Japanese. It also details his memories of the sixty mile force-march along the Bataan Peninsula to a prison camp known as Camp O'Donnell.

During the Bataan Death March, many of the prisoners were beaten, beheaded, tortured and left to die along the side of the path. For those not executed along the way, the entire group went without food, and many contracted malaria and dysentery.

Once at Camp O'Donnell, the 9,000 remaining prisoners were forced to drink from one water fountain, tortured and beaten, and were kept from learning anything about the outside world or how the war was progressing.

Mr. Raymond was kept prisoner in the Philippines for a year and a half, and then moved to Japan. While a prisoner in Japan, he was forced to work in a steel mill. Other POWs took were put to work as stevedores, coal and copper and bauxite miners, and in aircraft manufacturing plants and shipyards.

Following the surrender of the Japanese in 1945, Mr. Raymond was hospitalized for nearly a year to recover from his malnutrition and disease. After his recovery, Mr. Raymond enrolled at the University of Missouri and graduated with Bachelor of Journalism and Master of Arts degrees. He then entered into a long and successful career as a newspaperman, eventually retiring from the Tampa Tribune in 1978.

Mr. Speaker, veterans of the Bataan Death March like Steve Raymond should be recognized for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. With fewer than a hundred or so of these brave prisoners of war still alive, it is incumbent on all Americans to hear their stories and preserve their memories. Steve Raymond should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BEACON COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor a school in my district for their excellence in physical fitness. The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recognized Beacon Country Day School as a state champion in physical fitness far Category I schools.

The winner of this award is the school with the highest percentage of students performing above the 85th percentile in various physical assessments. The test included various endurance challenges to measure the overall physical fitness of the individuals.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the students of Beacon Country Day School as repeat winners of the President's physical fitness award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 518, S. 819, The Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS ROGERS TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to PFC Nicholas Rogers, 27, who died while serving our Nation in Iraq.

Prior to joining the Army, Nicholas spent his childhood living in Deltona, Florida where he was a Boy Scout. Nicholas graduated from Deltona High School where he played the drums and had a special appreciation of all things Star Wars.

After earning an emergency medical technician certificate from Daytona Beach Community College, Nicholas followed his father's footsteps into public service. Nicholas enlisted in the military to gain experience to pursue his dream of becoming an emergency room nurse. He was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division unit out of Fort Drum, NY which was deployed to Baghdad. His colleagues remember a compassionate individual who cared deeply for others while his family recalls his uncanny ability to make people laugh.

We should all remember Nicholas's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy that PFC Nicholas Rogers leaves behind. He is buried in Deltona, FL.

To Nicholas's wife, Kelly; their daughter, Jocelyn; their unborn daughter; his parents, Robert and Penny; and his entire family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of PFC Nicholas Rogers's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our Nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF ANNA CABALLERO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Anna Caballero. Anna first moved to Salinas in 1982 and started a law office specifically to provide excellent legal representation for working people. She promptly became active in town, and due to her immense enthusiasm she was quickly recognized as a community leader. She served on the city council for 7 years, including 4 years as Vice Mayor. In 1998 Anna was elected as the first female Mayor in the 126-year history of the city of Salinas, and has hence served 4 terms.

During her tenure as city Mayor, Anna was a driving force in improving life for the people of Salinas. Some of her most successful projects were the diversification of Salinas's economic base, improving the affordability of local housing, the redevelopment of historic downtown Salinas, and ensuring the permanent funding of the Salinas library. The key to her success was her innate ability to sit people down, get straight to the issue and have them reach a consensus. Furthermore, Anna used her talents to streamline the Mayor's office and develop partnerships with neighborhoods, parent groups, labor groups, school districts, local businesses and the greater Salinas community.

Anna's accomplishments in the community have not gone unnoticed. In 1996, Anna was honored with the "Athena" award for "entrepreneurial excellence" by the Salinas Area Chamber of Commerce, the most prestigious honor the Chamber can bestow upon a fellow businessperson. In 2000, the Monterey Country Lawyers Association granted Anna the Justice Ribbon Award, the Association's highest award for members who bring distinction to the legal profession through commitment to public service.

Anna has continued to reach out to the community. She is an avid volunteer coach for local baseball and soccer teams. She works with the Mexican-American Women's National Association, "MANA", to raise scholarship money for young women continuing to higher education. Anna is also an Executive Director of the non-profit Partners for Peace, dedicated to developing multi-disciplinary partnerships, which share community resources to bring about community change.

Mr. Speaker, I rise once more to applaud Anna Caballero's many accomplishments. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate her on her successful career, and express my sincere gratitude for her commitment to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF TONY DAYSOG

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tony Daysog for his 10 years of faithful service to the city of Alameda, California as Councilmember and Vice Mayor.

Mr. Daysog was first elected to the Alameda City Council on November 5, 1996 and served as a Councilmember from December 17, 1996 until December 1998. He served as Vice Mayor from December 2002 until December 2005.

During his tenure, Tony Daysog served on numerous agencies, including the League of California Cities, the Airport Noise Operations Committee, the Alameda County Private Industry Council, the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, and the Associated Community Action Program Government Board. He also has served as a member of the Economic Development Commission and was a member of the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority overseeing the redevelopment of the Alameda Naval Air Station.

Mr. Daysog has been active in the preservation of the City of Alameda's neighborhoods and a strong advocate for the planning and safety of Alameda's communities. He aggressively championed traffic planning and is a strong advocate of mass transit. He brought forward the issue of bus zones, red curbs and access to transportation.

He introduced the idea of domestic partners' eligibility for property transfer tax exemptions and the requirement for a competitive bid process for all bonds and debt issued by the city of Alameda.

During his 10 years as a member of the Alameda City Council, Mr. Daysog never missed a regularly scheduled Council meeting. On December 19, 2006, the City will express its appreciation for Tony Daysog's exemplary commitment for the benefit of the City of Alameda.

I join the City in thanking Mr. Daysog for his years of service and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

IN CELEBRATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEWISVILLE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the First Baptist Church of Lewisville's 125th anniversary in the 26th district of Texas. The Church has been a pillar of leadership and worship in the Lewisville community.

The rich history of First Baptist Church of Lewisville began with just 13 members in 1869, and has continued to thrive and grow into the prominent worship community that it is today. Under the dedicated leadership of Senior Pastor Dr. Stephen Hatfield, it serves the needs of its members by offering both traditional and more informal worship services, student ministries, and Bible Study classes for all ages.

The First Baptist Church of Lewisville plans to commemorate this momentous occasion with a celebration worship service, followed by a Gospel Gathering Music Celebration.

I am honored to have the First Baptist Church of Lewisville in my district. I am confident that the First Baptist Church of Lewisville will continue to foster stewardship and faith among the citizens of our community for another 125 years.

TRIBUTE TO TAINA VASQUEZ

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Taina Vasquez of the Bronx, New York. I wish to recognize Taina for her

Personal Essay Memoir, Silver Award win in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2006 contest, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance was established to promote artistic development and expression in middle and high school students throughout the Nation in cooperation with schools. This year's competition recognized the work of over 1,400 students and invited award recipients to a workshop hosted in New York designed to introduce students to the professional world of art.

Mr. Speaker, I join to wish Taina best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and the valiant contribution of the Hungarian people to those efforts. A true expression of democracy, public dissidence, and the spirit of the voice of the people, the nationwide revolt stands today, a half a century later, as a strong, albeit bitter reminder of both the oppression of the former Soviet Union and more importantly the strength and resolve of the Hungarian people in their desire for freedom.

On October 23, 1956, brave students demanding their intellectual freedoms stormed the Radio Building in the Budapest Parliament. Immediately, they were suppressed when the Soviet State Security Police began firing upon these unarmed civilians. News of the attack spread quickly and led to a public uproar in Budapest, where outraged citizens organized immediately to take up arms and defend their natural rights of justice, liberty, and sovereignty. At the forefront of the 12-day struggle for control of the capital and the rest of the country was Gen. Pàl Malèter. As the leader of the infantry in Budapest, he courageously went against his orders and, upon meeting with the insurgents, lent his support to their fight for freedom. With the strategic support of Malèter, the outlook of the revolutionary freedom fighters was optimistic. A cease-fire was reached between revolutionary and Soviet forces, and provisional government councils were set up to usher in the new era of peaceful democracy.

The Soviet forces, however, under pressure from the international community to assert its control by uprooting any possible seed of democracy, moved quickly to crush the movement through deadly means. They violated the cease fire by opening fire on crowds of civilians and bombarding the city with artillery tanks. What started as a peaceful democratic independence movement ended in bloodshed with the murder of thousands of civilians through an illegitimate surprise invasion. On November 3, during more cease-fire negotiations, the Soviet military kidnapped Pàl Malèter and the Hungarian delegation, charged them with treason and promptly ordered their execution. With the leadership of the revolution arrested, the Soviet military simply invaded again, and took over the city.

The hope for independence, self-rule, and democracy is one that can never be extinguished in any society. The Hungarian people, in the democratic spirit, banded together to fight like many before them for the basic human right of peaceful self-governance. They did not fail. Today, we see Hungary as a regional success story for democracy, the free market, and civil society. This eventual, if delayed, victory shows us though the road to democracy is not always an easy one, the spirit of people will ultimately prevail in the inexorable march toward democracy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the values of freedom, independence, and democracy that the Hungarian people demanded 50 years ago. The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 stands as a reminder of the undying desire of any society to be free from forces of hegemony.

TRIBUTE TO LATICRETE INTERNATIONAL, INC. AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to join the Bethany community and the Rothberg family in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Laticrete International, Inc., a worldwide manufacturer and marketer of material and methods for the installation of ceramic tile and stone. Throughout their 50-year history, Laticrete has been the leader in innovative technologies for such installation systems. Their impressive history of vision and leadership, coupled with their dedication to quality products, has made them one of the most successful businesses in our community.

Founded in 1956 by Henry M. Rothberg, a chemical engineer by trade, Latricrete came into being when he brought the improvements of chemistry to the normal Portland cement based installation systems for tile and stone. It was while managing a family tile, terrazzo and marble installation company that the problems inherent to installing these materials with the traditional "full mortar bed" became more and more evident to Henry. He decided to dedicate himself to research into alternate methods of installing ceramic tile and stone. While consulting with the Chemical Division of the U.S. Rubber Company, he developed a unique compound that had all the properties of natural rubber—elasticity, water resistance and durability, plus the properties necessary to make it viable to the construction industry—resistance to frost and heat damage, the ability to mix with Portland cement and remain plastic for adequate working time and the ability to be stored in full or partial containers for extended periods of time without deterioration or spoilage. The new latex was introduced to the market as "LATICRETE." It has been upon these pioneering efforts that all modern adhesives utilizing the Adhesive Mortar Method have been built.

The innovative products of Laticrete have been used in some of the most recognizable national treasures in the world. Here in the United States, Laticrete products were used in the construction of such monuments as the St. Louis Arch, the Detroit Renaissance Center, the Sears Tower, and Washington, DC's Metro System. Laticrete products can also be found in the Basilica of Our Lady Peace of the Ivory Coast in Africa, the Petronas Twin Tower of Kuala Lumpur, Tele Diffusion de France in Paris, and the National Mosque of Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia. What began as one man's vision of improving a product has become an international leader in the industry—that is what Yankee ingenuity is all about.

Perhaps what is most special about Laticrete is that it has become a family business that has been passed on to the next generation. In 2003 David Rothberg was named chairman and CEO, replacing his father as head of the company. I have had the pleasure of meeting David and have had the opportunity to tour the Laticrete facility in Bethany. Their tireless commitment to quality and vision is not only impressive, it is inspiring.

I am honored to take this moment and recognize the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Henry Rothberg as well as David Rothberg and the entire Laticrete family for their many invaluable contributions to the industry.

My heartfelt congratulations to them as they celebrate this very special anniversary. I have no doubt that Laticrete will continue in its success for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING WWII PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT LEO HANSON OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Leo C. Hanson, a native of the Buffalo, NY, area who served with honor and distinction during World War II. Drafted into the United States Army on January 6, 1940, Mr. Hanson earned the Purple Heart for wounds received in battle.

Discharged on June 16, 1945, Mr. Hanson completed his military service holding the rank of staff sergeant. Since then he has continued to support his fellow soldiers by working with veterans' service organizations. Mr. Hanson is a lifetime member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

His unit served under Gen. George Patton, one of the most famous American generals of all time. A tank commander, Mr. Hanson served in the Algeria and French Morocco campaigns in Northern Africa. He also served in Normandy, Sicily, Northern France and Rhineland. His Purple Heart was bestowed for wounds to his arm received at Omaha Beach, and to his leg while in Normandy. Despite these injuries, Mr. Hanson continued to engage the enemy in battle and fight for the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, soldiers like Leo C. Hanson should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to have presented Mr. Hanson with his long overdue Purple Heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor a school in my district for their academic excellence in being named a Blue Ribbon School.

The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; or schools whose students regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

St. Thomas More Parish School met the criteria for this award because it ranks in the top 10 percent of the nation in ITBS scores. This is the first time this Catholic school has received this honor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the students of St. Thomas More Parish School as recipients of the No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 517, H.R. 3085, To amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL ANGELO VACCARO TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Corporal Angelo Vaccaro, 23, who died in a heroic effort to aid his fellow comrades while serving our Nation in Afghanistan.

Prior to joining the Army, Angelo was born in the Bronx, NY, and spent his childhood living in Deltona, Florida, attending Timbercrest Elementary, Galaxy Middle and Deltona High schools. His dream was to become a physician's assistant. His mother remembers him affectionately as someone who liked to make people smile and laugh.

Angelo enlisted in the Army in March 2004 and was assigned and deployed to Afghanistan with Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, out of Fort Drum, NY. He was the head medic for his unit and took pride in serving our country.

We should all remember Angelo's heroic courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy that Corporal Angelo Vaccaro leaves behind. He is buried in Deltona, Florida.

To Angelo's wife, Dana; his parents, Ray and Linda; and his entire family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Corporal Angelo Vaccaro's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our Nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES CLARK AS ''FRIEND OF YOUTH'' HONOR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Clark for his commitment to the students, faculty, and alumni of Trinity High School of Euless, Texas, where he has served as Lead Custodian for over 14 years. I also congratulate Mr. Clark on being recognized as a true ''Friend of Youth'' by the Mid-Cities Optimist Club in the 26th District of Texas.

Mr. Clark began working for the Hurst-Euless-Bedford School District as a night custodian, and began his own custodial business to provide for his son's college education. After his son graduated from college, Mr. Clark closed his business and took a position as Lead Custodian to make a difference in other students' lives.

A caring and honorable man, Mr. Clark serves as a role model and mentor for all those who pass through Trinity High School. He supports the school by attending students' athletic and fine arts events. When students visit years after graduation, they continue to seek out ''Uncle Charles.''

Mr. Clark has been honored with the H–E–B School District's ''Extra Mile Award,'' given to school district support personnel who go above and beyond what their job requires of them.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated his boyhood home in Mississippi, Mr. Clark organized a collection drive at the school for water and cleaning supplies, and delivered them personally to Mississippi. Mr. Clark and his wife Ellen of 37 years have raised a deeply spiritual, loving family in Fort Worth, Texas since 1967.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent a man so selfless and dedicated to serving youth as Mr. Charles Clark. Congratulations to Mr. Clark for being recognized as a ''Friend of Youth'' by the Mid-Cities Optimist Club.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN PICCARELLA

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Stephen Piccarella of Jackson Heights, New York. I wish to recognize Stephen for his Short Story, Silver Award win in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2006 contest, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance was established to promote artistic development and expression in middle and high school students throughout the Nation in cooperation with schools. This year's competition recognized the work of over 1,400 students and invited award recipients to a workshop hosted in New York designed to introduce students to the professional world of art.

Mr. Speaker, I join to wish Stephen best wishes and good fortune in his future projects.

IN HONOR OF THE COMMISSION ON CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ACTION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Commission on Catholic Community Action's 25th Anniversary of the Peace and Justice Awards Dinner.

Established in 1969, the Commission on Catholic Community Action continuously pursues their mission to protect and promote human dignity, with a special focus on poor and disenfranchised groups. Seeking to empower the voiceless, CCCA achieves their goals through education, consciousness-raising, organization, mobilization, and advocating for change.

CCCA also promotes peace and justice through the Annual Peace and Justice Awards Dinner. For a quarter of a century, the dinner has been an opportunity to reward the people of the Cleveland community who have dedicated their lives to the causes of peace and justice for all. These men, women, and organizations play a pivotal role in the rebirth of Cleveland. I would like to join CCCA in recognizing this year's recipients: Duane Drotar, Lida Roman (posthumously), the Christ Child Society, Sr. Mary Louise Trivson, S.N.D., and the Women's Re-Entry Network.

In addition, keynote speakers at these events have educated the public on issues such as racial discrimination and interfaith understanding. Generating community awareness throughout Cleveland, the CCCA has provided participants with a new appreciation for celebrating multicultural diversity within the city. Speaking at the Awards Dinner this year is Sr. Mary Sujita Kallupurakkathu, S.N.D., sharing her experiences of working with the poor.

Congratulations to the CCCA on their constant pursuit of peace and justice. We can conceive of peace as not simply the absence of violence but the presence of the capacity for a higher evolution of human awareness, of

respect, trust, and integrity. We can conceive of peace as a tool to tap the infinite capabilities of humanity to transform consciousness and conditions that impel or compel violence at a personal, group, or national level, toward creating understanding, compassion, and love.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring the Commission on Catholic Community Action, as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their Annual Peace and Justice Awards Dinner.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL MELE AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family and friends in wishing Michael Mele the very best as he celebrates a remarkable milestone—his 100th birthday! Marking a century of hard work and dedication, today's celebration will give Michael, or Ozi Mike as he is affectionately known by family and close friends, and his loved ones the opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments he has achieved throughout his life as well as how he has touched all of their lives,

A gifted vocalist, dedicated husband and father, devoted parishioner, army veteran, and professional technician, Michael is a man of many talents that he has shared with hundreds over the course of his life. Born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, Michael has led a fascinating life. Upon graduating from high school, he studied voice for ten years during which time he became an accomplished tenor. Michael sang in productions of such classics as The Barber of Seville and Pagliacci and, though the relocation of the production to California prevented him from taking the part, he even won a lead role opposite Betty Grable in the movie musical Down Argentine Way, During his time with the theater, Michael also won roles in several New York productions, including An American Comedy and The Family Portrait.

After marrying his wife, Carmel, in 1942, the couple raised two children, sons Michael and Robert. He served in the United States Army during World War II where he received training as a dental technician, a profession in which he was employed until he was hired by Winchester/Olin as a lab technician, retiring in 1971. Throughout his life, Michael has held a unique devotion to his faith and his church. Michael shared his gift for singing with a variety of Catholic churches throughout New Haven. He directed glee clubs, choirs, and sang as a soloist at St. Ann's, St. Rose's, St. Brendan's, St. Donato's, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hamden. In fact, his lifetime of dedicated efforts were recognized by the Church when Archbishop Daniel Cronin awarded him the prestigious Saint Joseph Award—the archdiocesan medal of appreciation for outstanding parishioners,

An active and inspiring retiree, Michael has continued to dedicate his time to his church as well as a new found passion for horse-riding. What began—at age seventy-seven—with a gift certificate for riding lessons and later—at age eighty—a saddle, has blossomed into a beloved hobby. In fact, for a decade after he began riding, he spent his summers at the Bitter Root ranch in the mountains of northwest Wyoming. At 100 years old, Michael is a living treasure—he still rides, drives a car, maintains his own home, attends daily Mass, serves on the altar, and is finishing his twenty-sixth year as a fourth grade religious education teacher. He is even working on his autobiography which I have no doubt will be a real page-turner!

Today, as Michael celebrates his 100th birthday, I have no doubt that he will look back in wonder at the fascinating events that have brought him to this moment. In the last century he has witnessed some of the most important moments in world history and, through his own efforts, has left an indelible mark on the lives of all those who have known him. It is my privilege to rise today to join his sons Michael and Robert, as well as the many family and friends who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Michael Mele on his 100th birthday. This is a very special day for all of those fortunate enough to know Michael. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

RECOGNIZING WWII VETERAN AND POW RAY KNISLEY, JR. OF CHIEFLAND, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a Prisoner of War from World War II, Ray Knisley, Jr. Born in Massachusetts, Mr. Knisley served in the U.S. Army and was captured by the Nazi Army.

Mr. Knisley served as a medical aid man with the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. While encamped near the German border of Alsace Lorraine on New Year's Eve, 1944, his entire unit was overrun and he was taken prisoner. For the next several months, Mr. Knisley was transferred between several prisoner camps, finally being rescued by the Russian Army on April 28, 1945.

Following World War II, Mr. Knisley raised his family in Massachusetts. He and his wife have five children, nine grand children and six great grand children. In 1985 Mr. Knisley moved to West Palm Beach, where he worked as a volunteer at the local Veterans Affairs Hospital for twenty years. He specialized in working with fellow prisoners of war; eventually assisting more than two hundred former POWs receive a one hundred percent disability rating. He recently moved to Chiefland about a year ago.

Mr. Speaker, prisoners of war like Ray Knisley, Jr. should be recognized for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. With thousands of World War II veterans passing a way each year, it is incumbent on all Americans to hear their stories and preserve their memories. Ray Knisley, Jr. should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLOW CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor a school in my district for their academic excellence in being named a Blue Ribbon School.

The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; or schools whose students regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the top 10 percent of the Nation on nationally-normed tests.

To receive this recognition, Willow Creek Elementary School has had in each of the past three years over 90 percent of its' students perform at ''Proficient'' or ''Advanced'' levels in math and reading. Willow Creek also received this prestigious honor in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the students of Willow Creek Elementary School as recipients of the No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT GRAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Robert Allen Gray who passed away after 90 glorious years on Friday, September 22, 2006.

Mr. Gray will forever be remembered by family and friends as a man of integrity and strong values. In his lifetime, he experienced many of the major events in the last century, including the Great Depression and as a soldier in the United States Army during World War II.

In his civilian life, Mr. Gray was an engineer. He was interested in working on cars as well as watching the Indianapolis 500. Mr. Gray's enthusiasm for engineering was closely followed by a passion for gardening. His love of nature was given to him by his father, a florist. Mr. Gray has passed this passion on to his children and grandchildren.

As a family man, Mr. Gray will always be remembered as affectionate and caring. He was the caregiver for many of his elderly aunts and helped his wife as she struggled with Alzheimer's disease. As a father, Mr. Gray was committed to teaching his children and grandchildren the importance of respecting and caring for others.

I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May this man, whose displays of compassion and love touched the hearts of so many, be an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY LEICH

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Kimberly Leich of the Bronx, New York. I wish to recognize Kimberly for her Science Fiction/Fantasy, Gold Award win in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2006 contest, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance was established to promote artistic development and expression in middle and high school students throughout the Nation in cooperation with schools. This year's competition recognized the work of over 1,400 students and invited award recipients to a workshop hosted in New York designed to introduce students to the professional world of art.

Mr. Speaker, I join to wish Kimberly best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

IN HONOR OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, Abraham Lincoln Post Thirteen, and to celebrate the commitment of this dedicated group of patriotic women to charity for our veterans and Nation.

The Abraham Lincoln Post Thirteen is the oldest chapter in the State of Ohio, and has maintained their dedication to honoring and supporting veterans throughout the years. The group ensures that American veterans receive the benefits and support they deserve for representing our great Nation. The women welcome new veterans from current wars, as well as bring much needed light into the lives of senior veterans. These women make regular visits to veteran's wards of a local hospital to take the Nation's former defenders to breakfast and religious services. In recent years, the Ladies Auxiliary's great work has raised enough money to dedicate a stone in the Western Reserve National Cemetery. This stone is a noble commemorative monument to the deceased veterans of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, as well as the women of the Ladies' Auxiliary who have loyally supported all the servicemen and women of the United States Armed Services.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing the wonderful work and dedication of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans on this momentous anniversary. The chapter members are proud of their Polish heritage, culture, and we share in their 75 years of accomplishments. I am confident that the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary will continue their commitment to work for the veterans and country well in to the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF NIKA MAPLES THE 2007 TEXAS SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nika Maples for being recognized as the 2007 Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year. She is an English teacher at Fossil Ridge High School in the Keller Independent School District in Fort Worth, Texas.

After suffering a stroke at the young age of 20, Nika has dedicated her life to making a difference in the lives of others. She began by teaching illiterate adults how to read and write. Nika has volunteered abroad in Japan, Thailand, and Germany to teach English as a Second Language.

As a 10th grade English teacher, Nika gives her students the confidence to reach their fullest potential. Her unique life experiences have encouraged an enthusiasm for teaching, and reaffirmed her commitment to make learning come alive in the classroom. Nika demonstrates how students should embrace life and live a life of abundance every day. She was also honored as the Keller I.S.D. Secondary Teacher of the Year for the 2005–2006 school year.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent such a dedicated and passionate teacher in the 26th District of Texas. Nika Maples serves as a role model not only for her students, but for all teachers around the Nation who share her devotion to helping others.

HONORING MR. JERRY TIDWELL OF GRANBURY, TEXAS FOR HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Jerry Tidwell of Granbury, Texas for his recent election as president of the National Newspaper Association (NNA).

Whether it is serving as the publisher of the Hood County News or president of NNA, Mr. Tidwell's 36 years of dedicated service to the newspaper business and the local community are proof of the positive impact one person can have on others.

As a humble man whose actions speak louder than words, Jerry Tidwell is the kind of person that sets an inspiring example for us all to follow. He doesn't enjoy the attention much, but let me add my voice to the chorus of those who respect his steady leadership. Put simply, Jerry Tidwell is the very best Texas has to offer and it is an honor to represent him in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we need more leaders like Jerry Tidwell in our midst that truly make a difference in their community, state, and country. At this time, I ask Members to join me in offering our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for continued success to a great newspaperman and friend—Mr. Jerry Tidwell of Granbury, Texas.

We wish him well and hope that he can enjoy this time with fellow colleagues, family, and friends.

He has earned it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 517 through 519. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on 517 and 518 and "no" on 519.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONDA MANUFACTURING OF ALABAMA IN LINCOLN, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the hard working people of Honda Manufacturing of Alabama in Lincoln, Alabama, who are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the opening of their Lincoln plant on November 14, 2006.

In 2001, the Honda Motor Company chose Lincoln as the site of their new plant. Over the past five years Honda Manufacturing of Alabama has grown from an original capital investment of $400 million and employment of 2,000 associates to the current 4,500 associates and over $1.2 billion in capital investment today.

Honda has helped transform Talladega County's economy, as well bring a positive impact on local school and community philanthropic activities.

As further testament to the hard working Alabamians employed at Honda, on November 3rd the plant produced its millionth vehicle. The celebration of that milestone included a small ceremony at the plant involving associates to mark the special occasion.

I salute the people of Honda Manufacturing of Alabama for reaching these important milestones, and congratulate the entire company on their plant's fifth anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CITY OF MILTON, GEORGIA

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the mayor, city council and citizens of the newly created city of Milton in Georgia. In accordance with a bill passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, the community of Milton will be

officially incorporated as a city in December 2006.

What a wonderful and gratifying time this is for the people of Milton. They worked tirelessly to make this day a reality and have chosen to honor Mr. Joe Lockwood as the first mayor of their new city.

Milton is a pastoral, involved and respectful community. They have seized the opportunity to have a direct impact on their future. This achievement also comes with many new responsibilities. I am confident that the citizens will successfully embrace these new challenges. It is my honor to represent this new Georgia municipality.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the privilege of bringing the recognition of this House of Representatives as we congratulate the people of Milton, Georgia and wish them the very best during this exciting transition.

THE AMISH SCHOOL SHOOTING OF THE LITTLE GIRLS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in the 16th Century, during the period of religious reformation in Europe, the Mennonite faith was formed. Due to problems within the religion, a man named Jacob Amman separated himself, and a group of followers, from the Mennonite faith and established the Amish. Facing religious persecution for their beliefs, the Amish fled Europe in the 18th Century. They came to settle in America, primarily in the rich farmlands of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana.

During the last 300 years, the Amish have maintained a peaceful existence among these farmlands, holding steadfast onto their beliefs of old, and not conforming to modem-day society. They live a simplistic life without the everyday modern conveniences we have all become accustom to. They do not use electricity, telephones, computers, or television, and they do not own automobiles. The Amish are governed by a set of unwritten rules known as the ''Ordnung.'' These rules establish the protocol and acceptable behavior for an Amish community and vary in each community. For example, the Ordnung in a particular community may forbid ever deviating from conservative, dark, heavy forms of clothes, even during the summer months, whereas other communities Ordnungs may relax the dress code during the summer heat. In general, the Amish avoid anything that would be considered ''hochmut,'' meaning proud or arrogant, and choose to live their lives in ''demut,'' humility, and ''gelassenheit,'' submission.

The most important part of an Amish community is the family. Each family has an average of seven children. While it is considered ''God's Will'' to how many children one family will have, it is also vital that there be enough children to help run the family farm. Amish children attend school, usually in a one-room school house run by the Amish community. Most Amish children do not receive anything higher than an 8th grade education. The belief is that the education level is sufficient enough to adapt the children into their future adult Amish life.

Amish communities, although surrounded by modern society, are generally untouched by violence plaguing today's world. They do not read newspapers, which depict the crimes of modern society. They do not own televisions, which run continual news coverage of random acts of violence occurring throughout modern society. Their lives could be deemed innocent and idealistic, sheltered to the evils of society.

All that changed on Monday, October 2, 2006. On this warm, sunny, fall Pennsylvania day, Charles Carl Roberts IV came home from his night shift as a milk delivery man, walked his children to school, and kissed them goodbye. He went home and wrote four notes: one to his wife and one to each of his three children. Arming himself with a handgun, a shotgun, a rifle, and more than 600 rounds of ammunition, Roberts drove to the quiet Amish community of Nickel Mines.

Mr. Speaker, Roberts, with malice aforethought, and a heart fatally bent on mischief, calmly walked into that one room Amish schoolhouse and took it, and the children, hostage. Roberts ordered all of the Amish boys and the adults from the room. He then tied up 10 little girls, as they stood against the chalkboard. For the next hour, these little girls were trapped with this sadistic monster, who had vile intentions for their innocence.

It is unclear what triggered Roberts to start shooting after the initial hour. Perhaps it was the police presence, perhaps he was haunted by past sins, or perhaps he was just evil. Regardless of his reason, Roberts opened fire on these 10 little girls, at point blank range, before turning the gun on himself. When the smoke had cleared, Anna Mae Stoltzfus, Marian Fisher, Naomi Rose Ebersol, and sisters, Mary Liz and Lena Miller, had not survived Roberts' violent rampage. Young girls—young victims.

Anna Mae, Marian, Naomi Rose, Mary Liz, and Lena had their whole lives ahead of them. Lives full of love, family, and new beginnings as they matured into adulthood. Lives that were brutally, viciously, and tragically cut short by Charles Carl Roberts IV, a man too coward to take just his own life, so he took 5 little girls with him. The Good Book says that it is better for a person to be thrown into the sea than to harm a child.

In the days that followed Roberts' violent rampage, questions immediately arose to why a hard working husband and father would commit such a crime against the innocent. In a note written to his wife moments before he entered the school, Roberts stated several reasons for the school siege: his anger at God for the death of his infant daughter in 1997, his haunted memories of molesting two child female relatives 20 years previously, and his thoughts of molesting children again. So to quell that anger and the demons within, he took his life. Too bad he took the lives of little girls as well.

The devastation which befell the Amish community of Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania could have destroyed a community unaccustomed to such violence. Yet, the Amish were determined to overcome this unimaginable tragedy. In acts of tremendous kindness, generosity, and forgiveness, the Amish community not only tended to the families of the slain little girls, but to the killer's family as well. Within hours of the attack, members of the Amish community spoke out about the killings, stating that in the midst of this tragedy, they forgave Roberts. They also visited his wife and children to offer comfort and aid. Perhaps, in an even greater act of mercy, the Amish asked that a portion of the funds collected for the families of these girls, be donated to the Roberts family. Mr. Speaker, it is true generosity and mercy to comfort and care for the family of the evil who brutally murdered five children in your community.

Sadly, the tragedy which occurred in a little Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania is not isolated. Barely a week before, in September, an armed gunman took six female students hostage in Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado. During those horrific hours held prisoner inside a classroom, Duane Morrison subjected the girls to brutal sexual assaults. As police proceeded to enter the classroom, Morrison executed a 16 year old student and then the criminal took his own life. The Nickel Mines tragedy 5 days later was eerily reminiscent of the devastation which took place at Platte Canyon High School. The Platte Canyon tragedy was reminiscent of the Columbine Massacre, which had taken place in Colorado 7 years earlier.

As a father of 4, 3 of whom are girls, and a grandfather of 5, 3 of whom are girls as well, the death of a child is a parent's worst fear. No parent should experience such a heartbreaking loss. The worse thing that can happen to a parent is to lose a child before their time. It is the worse thing that can happen to a community; and it is the worse thing that can happen to a nation.

These school tragedies reinforce the need for adequate school safety and security throughout this country. A school no longer exists as a safe haven for children, but rather has become a violent battleground that demands our intercession. A school is an environment of learning and enrichment, not fear and brutality. We must strive to do everything within our ability to ensure the safety and well-being of our most precious commodity—our children. We need to strive to protect schools from outside intruders and inside rampages. School safety must be a priority—without it, children have very little places left to feel safe.

That's Just the Way It Is.

TRIBUTE TO ESSEX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Essex National Heritage Area and to congratulate the Essex National Heritage Commission on their outstanding work.

I can still remember when Tom Leonard came down to Congress in September of 1995 to testify in support of legislation that Senator KENNEDY and I had filed to create the Essex National Heritage Area.

One of the most poignant moments in Tom's testimony was when he laid out his vision for a true public private partnership to preserve the rich history of Essex County.

During his testimony Tom said, ''Let me stress this point about cooperation. The legislation that is before you today anticipates a true partnership between the private and public sectors. We are not seeking federal handouts and controls.''

During the last 10 years that vision has ensured that the historical treasures in Essex County will survive for future generations.

As you all know, over two-thirds of the money used for the Essex National Heritage Commission's work is from private sources.

The Congress also plays a significant role in the important work of the ENHC, providing over $8.6 million in funding to date.

Over the last 7 years, ENHC has provided over $1.3 million for 195 projects in 33 communities in Essex County.

In my district, the ENHC has made a number of grants to Lawrence, Haverhill, Andover, and Methuen to preserve and educate residents about our rich history.

ENHC also organizes and funds a number of other programs including their groundbreaking History in the Making program and Essex Heritage Explorers.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishments of the ENHC, we must also plan for the future.

In Congress, we have filed legislation to extend the authorization and increase the cap on the amount of federal money the Essex National Heritage Area can receive.

This legislation is crucial for ENHC to be able to continue the important preservation and educational work they do.

I would like to congratulate the staff and volunteers of the Essex National Heritage Commission on 10 years of outstanding work and thank them for preserving our national heritage.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MAGGIE KATIE BROWN KIDD

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in the life of my constituent Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd. On December 8, 2006, Mrs. Kidd will celebrate her 102nd birthday. Many family members and friends will recognize this momentous occasion with a party on November 24, 2006.

Maggie Brown was the eleventh and youngest child born to William (Doc) and Lucy Brown. At an early age, Maggie learned the values of hard work and success as a laborer on her parents' farm, and continued in that tradition as an adult. She married Willie (Dock) Kidd, III on November 30, 1940, and raised two children, John and Rosalyn. Mrs. Brown is also a grandmother to four, and a great-grandmother to three children.

Mrs. Kidd believes her faith in God has contributed to her good health and longevity. Her family describes her as a loving and selfless member of the community. When she had little to offer, Mrs. Kidd shared anyway. She is a principled and honorable woman, and I am proud to represent her in the 13th Congressional District of Georgia.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life of Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd, by wishing her a very happy 102nd birthday.

CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of Carroll Campbell, a great statesman, a passionate voice for economic development in South Carolina, and a good friend. He served the 4th District of South Carolina as a Representative in this body from 1979–1986, and I am honored to serve in the same seat. He also served the state of South Carolina in the State House and Senate, and as Governor from 1987–1995, I am honored to have the opportunity to introduce this bill to name the courthouse to be constructed in Greenville, South Carolina as the "Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. United States Courthouse."

As a Representative for the 4th District of South Carolina, Campbell was a rising star from the start, gaining early seats on the Appropriations and Ways & Means Committees in the 95th to 99th Congresses. He also participated with Lee Atwater in South Carolina's first presidential primary, helping California Governor Ronald Reagan ultimately win the nomination.

As two-term governor, Campbell demonstrated his leadership in difficult and uncertain times for the State of South Carolina, He was a trusted voice in the evacuation preceding Hurricane Hugo, and a self-giving leader in the recovery and rebuilding in its aftermath. He is also responsible for attracting prestigious international firms to South Carolina, including BMW, which is in the 4th District.

In 2001, Campbell announced in an open letter that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and said his wife Iris and his two sons had joined in the battle. The people of South Carolina were saddened, and joined in prayer for his health and perseverance. The disease claimed his life December 7, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. by naming the courthouse to be constructed in Greenville, South Carolina as the "Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. United States Courthouse."

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION URGING BANGLADESHI GOVERNMENT TO DROP JOURNALIST'S SEDITION CHARGES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution with Congresswoman NITA LOWEY (D–NY) calling "on the Government of Bangladesh to drop sedition charges pending against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury. We introduce this resolution today to coincide with beginning of Mr. Choudhury's sedition trial. Mr. Choudhury faces these charges because of his belief in an interfaith dialogue between Jews and Muslims and articles he published critical of Islamic extremism. Under Bangladeshi law, sedition is a crime punishable by death.

Mr. Choudhury is a journalist in Bangladesh known for his views on expanding dialogue between Muslims and Jews, developing ties with Israel, and criticizing the rise of Islamist parties in Bangladesh. Mr. Choudhury was detained in November 2003 at Zia International Airport in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on his way to board a flight bound for Tel Aviv, Israel, to participate in the annual Hebrew Writers Conference. Mr. Choudhury's passport was seized, along with considerable sums of money and several personal items. On that same day, police raided his home and newspaper, seizing files, computers, and other valuables.

Since Bangladeshi law prohibits travel to Israel, Mr. Choudhury was first cited for a minor passport violation. He subsequently was charged with sedition, accused of espionage as an Israeli spy, and incarcerated for 17 months. He was subjected to harsh interrogation techniques, and received no treatment for a debilitating case of glaucoma.

Despite public pledges from senior Bangladeshi government officials that all pending legal action against Mr. Choudhury would be dropped, the government pressed forward on its prosecution of Choudhury for sedition. Mr. Choudhury won PEN USA's "Freedom to Write Award," and was presented with the American Jewish Committee's prestigious "Moral Courage Award" in absentia in Washington DC. Mr. Choudhury's newspaper offices were bombed by Islamic extremists in July, and he was attacked by a mob in his office on October 5. Then a judge with alleged ties to an Islamic extremist group ruled that Mr. Choudhury must stand trial for sedition.

For his message of moderation and interfaith dialogue, Shoaib Choudhury is facing unjust criminal charges in an effort to silence him. Congress must send a clear message: we cannot allow moderate voices in the Muslim world to be silenced.

The resolution I introduce today calls on the Government of Bangladesh to drop all charges against Shoaib Choudhury, return his passport and possessions, and end his harassment I want to thank Congresswoman NITA LOWEY for being the lead co-sponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with her and my other colleagues on this important human rights initiative.

A TRIBUTE TO ED BONNETTE

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Bonnette, a man who was "instrumental in lowering the national voting age to 18.

Ed served as the New Jersey Chair for the Let US Vote 18 (LUV 18) Committee at the age of 20. His efforts, combined with the efforts of LUV 18 members in 10 other states, made it possible for the 26th Amendment to the Constitution to be ratified in 1971.

The Let US Vote 18 Committee had placed referendums on New Jersey ballots throughout the 1960s, without success. In 1970, members of this group took their case before the Supreme Court. The Court agreed that the voting age must be lowered for Federal elections to

comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. States soon realized it would be impractical to have separate voting systems for Federal and State elections, and subsequently moved to change the law. The 26th Amendment was the fastest yet to be certified, with Ohio's ratification making it official. In July of 1971, less than 100 days after the process began, President Richard M. Nixon officially signed the 26th Amendment into law, officially lowering the voting age to 18.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ed Bonnette today for all that he has done for the First Congressional District of New Jersey and our country. Ed's service is worthy of admiration, and I applaud him for his efforts.

HONORING SOFIA GUZMAN GARCIA

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sofia Guzman Garcia of my hometown of Canutillo, TX, who passed away July 29, 2006, on her 74th birthday.

Sofia Guzman Garcia was born on July 29, 1932, and was a 1950 graduate of El Paso High School. Later, she worked for the Borderland Farmers Cooperative Association for two decades. She was also a dedicated volunteer for numerous community causes and a tireless campaigner for her husband and sons as they sought elected office.

Mrs. Garcia worked on behalf of the people of Canutillo throughout her life, playing a pivotal role in strengthening the Canutillo Independent School District, local churches, and other community institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a great woman, Sofia Guzman Garcia.

TRIBUTE TO THE ENERGY AND MINERALS FIELD INSTITUTE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Energy and Minerals Field Institute (EMFI), an organization affiliated with the Colorado School of Mines that provides policy makers, elected officials and their staff with direct and in-depth information about energy resources and production in the western United States.

A number of staff in my office have had the opportunity to participate in the informative field tours the EMFI provides. Through the EMFI, they and the many other participants from state and federal agencies, Congressional committees, Native American Tribes, and other offices have had the chance to travel to locations where energy, resources, and minerals are developed, extracted and produced. On such trips, participants have descended into active molybdenum, gold and coal mines, watched oil and gas drill rigs in action, explored wind turbine technological development at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and witnessed new water projects under construction. The information acquired through direct contact with these activities has greatly enhanced my staff's knowledge of resource development, as well as their understanding of the positive and negative impacts these resources can have on local communities and the nation as a whole.

The professional and knowledgeable staff, including Director Gary Baughman, Tom Sladek, Jim Proud, and other consultants and support personnel, put together outstanding programs and tours year after year. As an added plus, participants are also provided extensive roadside geologic tutorials by Mr. John Rold, former Colorado State Geologist and Director of the Colorado Geologic Survey; educating program participants on everything from rockslides and fractures to the energy industry and anecdotes about life in general.

The Energy and Minerals Field Institute was established in 1978 as the ''Energy Field Institute'' to create a forum for exploring interactions between regional energy development in the West and federal policies. ''Western Energy: Opportunities, Problems, and Policy Issues'' was the first field program, cosponsored by the Colorado School of Mines and Resources for the Future. Participants consisted of federal officials from Colorado.

In 1980, a new July program was added, directed toward representatives of the regional and national media. With the inclusion of nonfuel minerals in 1981, the EMFI was renamed to its present title. In 1985, participation in the July program was expanded to include secondary level teachers, business leaders, government personnel, and staff and students from the Colorado School of Mines. This diversity of disciplines and professions created an exciting educational atmosphere in which many perspectives on the various issues were represented.

With the continued success of the traditional ''Government Program'' in August and the growth of the ''Interdisciplinary Program'' in July, it was decided in 1985 to make the itineraries of both trips identical. This approach provided similar educational opportunities for all participants and made logistical planning more efficient.

In addition to the summer field sessions, the EMFI also conducted an annual Washington Workshop. This conference was designed to familiarize EMFI alumni and invited guests with topical issues related to Western resource development. The EMFI also published a newsletter entitled ''Field Notes'' twice each year to keep its alumni and supporters informed of recent events.

However, due to funding difficulties in 1996, the EMFI was forced to discontinue its major summer field programs, the Washington Workshop, and ''Field Notes.'' It continued to conduct customized field programs for corporate clients, specific government organizations, and delegations from other countries.

In 2003, the Colorado Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) provided funding to reactivate the Colorado Energy Research Institute (CERI), which is administered by the Colorado School of Mines. With funding from CERI, and with in-kind contributions from the Colorado School of Mines, sufficient funding was provided to reestablish the EMFI Field Program.

The small but steady source of grant dollars from CERI and the Colorado School of Mines, as well as additional financial support from federal agencies, have allowed the EMFI to conduct a single Field Program each summer. It is hoped that the successful conduct of these field programs, coupled with the creation of additional EMFI alumni, will generate sufficient interest and financial support to enable the EMFI to recreate all of its previous outreach programs and become financially independent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the work of the Energy and Minerals Field Institute. The practical knowledge and invaluable experiences gained by program participants will undoubtedly help shape important energy, natural resource, and environmental policy for years to come.

HONORING THE H. LEE MOFFITT CANCER AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute as it marks its 20th anniversary of work to treat patients with cancer and to conduct cutting edge research into the causes and cures of this terrible disease.

The Center was established through the vision and tireless work of H. Lee Moffitt, then a member of the Florida House of Representatives. As a cancer survivor himself, he recognized the unmet need for cancer treatment and research in the Tampa Bay area and the entire state of Florida. Five years of hard work by Lee Moffitt to secure the funding for the center led to its groundbreaking in 1983 and the first patient walked through its doors three-and-a-half years later. That patient, David Sheppard, is alive today as a result of the care he received at Moffitt in October 1986.

Today, a staff of more than 3,400 people continues to save lives every day and supports research that one day will unlock the mystery of this disease. They are led by Dr. William S. Dalton, the CEO and Center Director, and Dr. W. Jack Pledger, the Deputy Center Director, who oversee a world class team that collaborates on research projects with facilities all across the world. They receive invaluable support from the Board of Directors and its Chairman Senator CONNIE MACK and the Board of Advisors and its Chairman Sam Donaldson.

Moffitt's stated mission is ''To be the leader in scientific discovery and translation into compassionate care, cures, and prevention of cancer for our community and the world.'' The center does that by offering 14 patient care programs in a facility designated a prestigious Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute.

The center, now almost five times the size of the original facility, also houses state-of-the-art labs that allow researchers to delve into the science of cancer, right down to the genomic level. As a result, the doctors and staff are learning to treat cancer on a patient-by-patient basis by determining the best course of treatment for each patient based on their genetic makeup.

The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute is not only a superb medical

resource for the community I represent, but it is truly a national and international asset in our ongoing war on cancer. Following my remarks, I would like to include for the benefit of my colleagues, a recent column by Ernest Hooper of The St. Petersburg Times which talks about the early days at Moffitt and the life-changing experience of its first patient David Sheppard.

Mr. Speaker, The Moffitt Cancer Center is an outstanding example of a public and private partnership that serves all of mankind. Its staff battles cancer and saves lives every day and for that thousands of cancer survivors are eternally grateful. Thousands if not millions more will one day also benefit from the ongoing research activities there as they identify new cures and one day preventative medicine that will fight the scourge of cancer.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Oct. 30, 2006]

20 GOOD YEARS OF MOFFITT

(By Ernest Hooper)

The restless night is still fresh in David Sheppard's mind.

The difficulties of his rare bone marrow blood disease grew more intense. His doctors had scheduled him for admission to the hospital that afternoon, but because he became more ill overnight, they told him to rush over that morning.

They didn't send him to just any hospital, however. They sent him to a bright, new treatment facility. It seemed more like a mall, Sheppard said. It didn't have any antiseptic, medicinal odors.

''It was this big, beautiful place,'' Sheppard recalled Friday. ''It was nice to have this nice, new facility.''

That's how Sheppard, husband, father and Wharton High assistant principal, became the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute's first patient on Oct. 27, 1986.

Sheppard and Julie Y. Djeu, Moffitt's first researcher, were scheduled to join employees in a 20th anniversary celebration Saturday night at Saddlebrook Resort. The center's first physician, Dr. Richard Karl, was not able to attend, but recognizing some of the center's firsts was a neat way to commemorate the anniversary.

For Sheppard, it was an opportunity to show his appreciation. He raves about the helpful and kind Moffitt staff.

''I'm very grateful that they were there 20 years, ago,'' he said. ''A lot of people have received good treatment there. I was just the first one to walk through the door.'' Sheppard, who graduated from King High, told Moffitt officials he ''wouldn't be here today without the lifesaving care I got that very first day.'' He actually continued to get treatment from a Moffitt oncologist and hematologist after that first visit.

In a sense, he gives back as a 13–year school district veteran.

Sheppard is pleased to help shepherd the lives of our young people. Over the years, he's even dealt with some students who were facing their own battles with cancer. Sheppard said he doesn't necessarily offer any specific counsel or share his story, but he certainly listens with a sympathetic ear.

''I had done some tutoring and I just decided to stick with it,'' Sheppard said. ''I also was looking at options for careers that I might be able to handle because of my disease. I couldn't consider being a Navy pilot or a firefighter.''

Maybe he didn't turn into a Top Gun fighter, but Sheppard still is flying high. After all, if it wasn't for Moffitt, he might not be celebrating turning 37 today.

Happy Birthday, David Sheppard. Happy Birthday, Moffitt.

That's all I'm saying.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR J. PALMER GAILLARD, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, former mayor of Charleston, J. Palmer Gaillard, Jr., died July 28, 2006, leaving a legacy of public service that will always be cherished. He served as mayor of South Carolina's most historic city from 1959 to 1975.

He was married to the former Lucy Foster Gaillard of Charleston for 57 years, who preceded him in death on October 6, 2001. Surviving are three sons, J Palmer Gaillard III and his wife Henrietta Freedman Gaillard, W. Foster Gaillard and his wife Susan Street Gaillard, and Thomas H. Gaillard, all of Charleston, SC; 5 grandchildren, John P. Gaillard IV, M.D. and his wife Lori, Emmie Gaillard Hershey and her husband Clay, Mary Loize Gaillard, Susan Huguenin Gaillard and W. Foster Gaillard, Jr.; and 3 great grandchildren, Clay W. Hershey, Jr., Thomas Gaillard Hershey, and Alston M. Gaillard.

The following op-ed was published in tribute in The Post and Courier, August 3, 2006. The author is prominent Charleston attorney and author, Robert N. Rosen. We share the same experience in that Mayor Gaillard's race was my first participation in politics at the behest of my mother, Wray G. Wilson, who had me deliver precinct voter call lists on election day for the mayor when I was 12 years old.

''WE NEED A CHANGE'': J. PALMER GAILLARD'S LEGACY FOR CHARLESTON

(By Robert Rosen)

My earliest recollection of participating in politics is the Gaillard-Morrison race for mayor of Charleston. I was 12 years old. At the behest of my father, Morris D. Rosen, I handed out a piece of paper (it would be an exaggeration to call it ''campaign literature'') called a ''ticket'' with a big headline that read ''We Need a Change'' and a picture of the ballot led by the young, dynamic reform candidate, J. Palmer Gaillard, Jr. It was 1959. Gaillard campaigned, like all opponents of incumbents, for ''change.''

After his election, Gaillard, as mayor, was a blend of hard-headed, no-nonsense conservatism (he was a notorious penny-pincher when it came to the city budget) and flexible pragmatism. He realized in the early 1960s that the old peninsula city of Charleston which ended at Mount Pleasant Street and the edges of the Ashley and Cooper rivers could not remain economically viable, and he aggressively pursued annexation of the West Ashley district to the city.

Mayor Gaillard made many other important contributions to the city of Charleston, but none compare to his leadership in the transition from an era of segregation and Jim Crow to integration and racial equality.

When he became mayor, Charleston was a segregated city with all that implies—segregated restaurants, schools, buses and public restrooms. Gaillard's views on the issues were conventional. Segregation was then the Southern way of life. He reflected the opinions and beliefs of his friends, neighbors and supporters.

But when the Civil Rights movement came to Charleston in the 1960s—the sit-down movement at King Street lunch counters, Civil Rights marches, demonstrations (peaceful and not so peaceful), and the Medical University Hospital strike—Palmer Gaillard guided the city through various crises over 15 years with a steady and fair hand.

He believed, first and foremost, in the rule of law. He did not wink at violence or intimidation. When told that the federal courts would order the integration of city facilities—the first municipal facilities in South Carolina—the only question he asked his lawyers (among them, my father) was, ''What is the law?'' He immediately instructed his lawyers to obey the law, which meant acquiescence in integration, something the majority of white Charlestonians adamantly opposed.

''The Charleston hospital strike of 1969 made national headlines. Black hospital workers marched and agitated to protest racial discrimination and poor working conditions at the Medical University. Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young and Ralph Abernathy all came to Charleston. The National Guard was called out to maintain the peace. ''The strike of hospital workers in Charleston, S.C., has become the country's tensest civil rights struggle,'' The New York Times editorialized in the first of three editorials on the subject. Ralph Abernathy later wrote of his stay in the Charleston jails, ''I remembered the Birmingham jail and considered myself fortunate.''

Palmer Gaillard and his Police Chief John Conroy (dubbed ''Mr. Cool'' by the local press) kept the peace and allowed the protestors to protest, which was their right. The crisis passed. The strike was resolved. The peace was preserved. No one was killed. No Southern demagogues stood in doorways or made fools of themselves on national television like George Wallace in Alabama or Lester Maddox in Georgia.

Gaillard was the quintessential Charleston conservative. But he was a leader. He appointed Richard E. Fields the first black judge in South Carolina since Reconstruction to the Charleston Municipal Court. On Palmer Gaillard's watch, segregation peacefully gave way to integration in the most Southern of cities, where both secession and the Civil War began.

When Palmer Gaillard campaigned on the theme ''We Need a Change,'' he certainly did not mean a revolution in Southern racial mores, laws and customs. But those who correctly demanded change found in him the right man to preside over that historic change: an honest, forthright, law abiding, hard-headed Huguenot, and one of the great mayors of the city of Charleston.

SECTION 1036(C) OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT, HR 5122

HON. VIC SNYDER

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, press statements by the chairman imply that section 1036(C) accomplishes something for veterans with disabilities, but this one-sentence provision says nothing about veterans. Even though the Paralyzed Veterans of America did a visit to the island and concluded Santa Rosa Island is not appropriate for hunting for people with disabilities, the provision stayed in the defense bill. No language in section 1036(C) does anything to offset the high fees associated with individuals hunting this privately owned herd. No language in section 1036(C)

affects the responsibilities of the owner of the deer and elk to have them removed by the timelines set forth in the court settlements.

This provision should not have been inserted in this bill, but it is clear from the plain language of this one sentence that it only impacts one alternative method for removal of the herds, not the 2011 deadline for removal of all the deer and elk.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber yesterday, November 13, 2006. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 517 and 518 and "no" on rollcall vote 519.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am recorded as "not voting" on rollcall vote 519 on November 13, 2006. However, I intended to vote "aye" and believed I had done so during the rollcall vote. I support H.R. 5602 and the extension of Normal Trade Relations Treatment to the products of Vietnam.

A TRIBUTE TO T. JEFFREY BANGSBERG

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and a true Minnesota hero, Jeffrey Bangsberg.

Jeff will be retiring from full-time work this month, and it is fitting that we recognize the accomplishments this great Minnesotan has achieved and the perseverance and courage he has shown in the face of extraordinary challenges.

Jeff suffered a spinal cord injury 30 years ago. While this injury left him in a wheelchair, he never gave up and became a tremendous advocate for expanding access to health care and other critical services for people with disabilities and the elderly.

Since 1991, Jeff has brought his insight, passion and experience to a variety of important issues, including improving Social Security and the Medicare and Medicaid programs, especially for people living with disabilities.

I have worked closely with Jeff for 26 years on a wide range of legislative initiatives in both the Minnesota State Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. Jeff was instrumental in the creation and implementation of groundbreaking legislation, including the first personal care attendant program in Minnesota, Metro Mobility, Medicaid for Employed Persons with Disabilities, and the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act.

All of these monumental achievements are the result of Jeff's great heart and his passion for helping others. Over the years, Minnesota governors have appointed Jeff to several councils and commissions, including the Minnesota State Council on Disability, the Minnesota State Rehabilitation Council, the Minnesota Health Care Commission and countless advisory committees for the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health. He was also a presidential appointee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

And in addition to all of these important commitments, Jeff also found time to serve as Government Relations Director for the Minnesota HomeCare Association. In this capacity, Jeff has effectively promoted home care services for seniors and people with disabilities at the local, state and federal levels. Because of his work, countless people are living independently and with dignity.

Jeff is truly an extraordinary person, not only for his ability to overcome obstacles, but also in his dedication to knocking down barriers for others. Jeff understands that we all win when all Americans are empowered to live up to their full potential.

As Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus, I have been grateful for Jeff's invaluable counsel, expertise and friendship over the years. While I could spend hours listing the many accomplishments of this tremendous individual, I can sum it all up by saying Jeff Bangsberg truly represents the best and the brightest, and I am honored to call him my friend.

Congratulations, Jeff, on your well-deserved retirement, and best wishes to you and your wonderful wife, Anita.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WILLIAM M. KELSO

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. William M. Kelso for his distinguished career in historical archaeology and for his contributions to the historical record of the United States of America.

From his early professional beginnings as Assistant Field Archaeologist, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 1964 to his current position as Director of Archaeology, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeology Project, he has consistently demonstrated his earnest desire to further advance the research and support of archaeology in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America. During the 1970s Dr. Kelso served as Virginia's first state archaeologist and established programs and innovative methods and techniques that are currently in use. The broad range of his achievements include his role as Resident Archaeologist, Monticello home of Thomas Jefferson located in Albemarle County, Virginia, and later Director of Archaeology, Monticello, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, Inc. Further credentials include his role as Lecturer at the University of Virginia and later Adjunct Professor of the College of William and Mary.

Perhaps his most notable contribution was when he served, as Director of Archaeology for the APVA Jamestown Rediscovery project, where his leadership was instrumental in discovering the remains of the English 1607 James Fort. This historic site is the first permanent English settlement in British North America and led to the establishment of English Common law and the first form of representative government in the New World. The archaeological evidence includes structural remains as well as accompanying artifacts representing seventeenth century material culture that documented the location of the fort.

Additionally, he served as Historical Archaeologist for the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and has extensive scholarly publications to his credit as well, that are widely circulated in academia both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Kelso has promoted the knowledge and awareness of history and archaeology among the general public. He deserves national recognition for his monumental contributions to our nation's history as the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown approaches in 2007.

Thanks to Dr. Kelso, a more accurate story can now be told regarding the arrival and ultimate survival of the first English settlers to land on the soil of Jamestown, Virginia, including the roles of Native Americans and the later arrival of African Americans. This extraordinary effort is largely a gift from Dr. William M. Kelso, who through his dedication, diligence, skill and grit, has illuminated the truth.

IN MEMORY OF DON PRUNER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, Don Pruner, who died suddenly last week.

Don Pruner is remembered by many for being a shrewd businessman who brought professional emergency medical services to eastern Ventura County, California, my home for more than 40 years, and paramedics to all of Ventura County. I remember as well his love of fishing, his hearty laugh, and our shared love of antique autos.

I met Don and his wife, Jackie, at a Christmas party in 1969. We've been friends ever since. Don was an eternal teenager who loved life to its fullest while exuding the maturity of a loving husband and father who knew the pulse of the community and how he could fulfill its needs.

Don bought Conejo Ambulance Service in 1963. He expanded the business by working 24 hours, 7 days a week, and driving a 1958 Pontiac Ambulance, hiring off-duty firefighters and sheriff's deputies to make the runs with him. Eventually, the business evolved under Don and Jackie's guidance into Pruner Health Services.

Don's success as a businessman was matched by his success as a human being. Don Pruner has countless friends and a wonderful, loving family. A native Southern Californian, he never strayed from his roots.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in remembering Don Pruner as a health care pioneer in Ventura County, California, as a good friend, a loving family man, and a lover of life. In addition, I know they join me in extending our condolences to Jackie and their three children and all who called Don a friend.

Godspeed, Don.

IN RECOGNITION OF CORPORAL BRADFORD HOWARD PAYNE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Corporal Bradford Howard Payne, 24, of Montgomery, Alabama, died on October 6, 2006 in Iraq. Corporal Payne was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and according to initial reports was killed in combat operations against enemy forces. His survivors include his wife Erin; and his mother and father Carol and W.H. Payne of Pike Road, Alabama.

Corporal Payne was a loving husband and was on his third deployment remaining patriotic and wanting to serve his country. Like all soldiers, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Corporal Payne died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on November 13, 2006:

H.R. 3085, To amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes (Rollcall Vote 517). On the motion to suspend the Rules and Agree to Senate Amendment, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

S. 819, Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act (Rollcall Vote 518). On the motion to suspend the Rules and Pass, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 5602, To Authorize the Extension of Nondiscriminatory Treatment (Normal Trade Relations Treatment) to the Products of Vietnam (Rollcall Vote 519). On the motion to suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE LOVARC ORGANIZATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize LOVARC, an organization dedicated to helping Americans with disabilities find employment and live fulfilling lives. LOVARC was established in 1964 as a non-profit organization with the goal of helping those with disability. Its dedication to helping those in need is laudable and should be recognized by the United States Congress.

In 1995, LOVARC was awarded a contract for two dining facilities, the Breakers and the Beachcomber, at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Since that time, LOVARC has won the Hennessey Award for the best dining facility in Space Command seven times. This is an outstanding accomplishment, and I am proud that they have served the people of the 23rd District through their work at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

I am pleased to recognize the administrators, volunteers, and employees of this organization. Their efforts have resulted in the creation of jobs for many in my district, and for that I am grateful. Many Americans with disabilities now enjoy better lives due to this organization's service. I am proud of their work with the military and wish them a wonderful future in service to our community.

THE AMBASSADORS REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL OF AMERICAN AMBASSADORS

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following statement by Joseph Verner Reed, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

REMARKS ON UNITED NATIONS DAY'S 61ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

(Tuesday October 24, 2006)

Today October 24, 2006 the United Nations celebrates its 61st birthday.

BORN OF WAR

The United Nations was created in large part by the efforts of the United States. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's vision and dedication laid the framework. The President even coined its name.

Former United States Secretary of State Cordell Hull won the Nobel Peace Prize, mainly for his efforts in building the institution. President Harry S Truman supported President Roosevelt's vision with equal devotion, and in 1945, the vision became a reality.

The United Nations has succeeded most obviously in preventing the horror of a third world war, encouraging multinational dialogues and the development of international law, and providing a forum for governmental and non-governmental entities.

It is active in peacekeeping, disarmament, economic development, environmental preservation, education and disease prevention. United Nations groups like UNICEF, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency have produced a long list of achievements, along with the inevitable stumble now and then.

It is less commonly known that the United Nations also handles international labor standards, international aviation safety provisions, international mail flow issues and international copyright laws, all of which significantly benefit Americans.

In the words of former United States Ambassador to the United Nations and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, "If you have ever traveled on an international airline or shipping line, or placed a phone call overseas, or received mail from outside the country, or been thankful for an accurate weather report—then you have been served directly or indirectly by one part or another of the United Nations system."

MORE HELPFUL TO UNITED STATES

Many within America view the United Nations with great suspicion, primarily because they see a significant threat to U.S. sovereignty.

They would do well to heed the words of former United States Senator Arthur Vandenberg, a Republican who supported the formation of the world body: "Though we cooperate wholeheartedly with the United Nations for peace and security, we remain the captains of our own souls."

The veto power of the United States in the Security Council alone ensures that the United Nations does not act arbitrarily to harm U.S. interests. And when looked at historically, the United Nations has served interests of the United States far more than it has harmed them.

Among other examples, the United Nations supported the dispatch of forces to Korea in 1950 and the incursion into Kuwait to expel Iraqi forces in 1991.

After September 11, 2001, it also moved swiftly to join the battle against terrorism, supporting the attack on Afghanistan and passing Resolution 1373, which "required nations to interdict arms flows and financial transfers to suspected terrorist groups, report on terrorists' movements and update national legislation to fight them."

When the United Nations speaks in a clear voice, it represents the greatest source of international legitimacy possible.

When the Security Council passes a Resolution it is not only legally binding, but it is widely respected. To solve global challenges requires a close partnership between the United States and the United Nations.

As President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "With all the defects . . . the United Nations still represents man's best organized hope to substitute the conference table for the battlefield."

Indeed, to attack the United Nations is to criticize the conference table. The United Nations is only as effective as the countries around that table. If we hope to strengthen the World Organization's effectiveness, the United States must play a leading role in reform efforts.

It is an honor and privilege to present the message of Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan to the People of Connecticut.

TRIBUTE TO E. RONALD DURAND, JR.

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to E. Ronald Durand, Jr., a longtime friend and true patriot who passed away on September 20, 2006.

I first met Ron Durand in the late 1960s when we were both students at the University of Notre Dame Law School. Ron had entered law school after serving 6 years in the United States Marine Corps. Rising to the rank of captain, Ron's service included a tour of duty as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, where he was highly decorated and flew many rescue missions.

During our time together in law school Ron was a true leader—soft-spoken but strong. He and his wife Liz were close friends to me and my wife Rosemary and we remained in contact in the years that followed. During his professional career, Ron achieved much as an entrepreneur and as an airport executive. He was a true renaissance man.

With all his varied accomplishments, Ron Durand was first and foremost a true American patriot, exemplified by his heroic service in Vietnam. Ron's love of country, however, went beyond his military duty. He truly cared about our country and always maintained an acute and detailed knowledge, awareness and interest in national and international matters.

Ron Durand was admired, respected and loved by all who had the privilege of knowing him. It is fitting and appropriate that he will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors on November 22. No one is more deserving.

May he rest in peace. Go Irish.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES D. ROGERS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor COL James D. Rogers for his outstanding service in the United States Army during the Vietnam war.

COL James D. Rogers went above the call of duty in his service as senior advisor to the 11th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion on Operation ''Harvest Moon'' in the Thang Binh District. On December 8, 1965, the entire battalion came under attack with heavy casualties on the Ranger side.

The Battalion's executive officer was killed, the command group radio operator was wounded, and CPT Dzu Thua Nguyen, the commander of the 11th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, was wounded in both legs. During this battle is when Colonel Rogers displayed extreme bravery in fighting off the enemy, tending to the wounded during the withdrawal, and safeguarding their lives while air support was being called in.

He remained behind, and carried Captain Dzu on his back to safety over dangerous, cane-filled terrain in which he wounded his foot by stepping on a punji stake. Despite this injury, he kept on going, and carried Captain Dzu to the safety of the reserve company where he and his assistant senior advisor, LT Jan Senecal, worked with the battalion in repelling further attacks. Six months after that heroic display in the face of absolute danger, Colonel Rogers was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his valor on May 18, 1966.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to have had this time to recognize the bravery and dedication of COL James D. Rogers to his fellow soldiers and to the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL DE LA GARZA

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Paul de la Garza, a passionate, dedicated journalist whose stories have sparked critical changes at Tampa's James A. Haley VA Medical Center and elsewhere. Paul's passing last month is a tremendous loss to his colleagues at the St. Petersburg Times and the entire Tampa Bay community.

Paul's inspiring work ethic developed at an early age. From humble beginnings in Port Isabel, TX, Paul worked his way through elementary school, high school and college and fought his way into the newsroom. Paul cultivated his love for journalism at the University of Texas at Austin where he served as reporter and editor of the student newspaper, earning a job offer in the Associated Press's Chicago bureau.

Paul first came to the Tampa Bay area in 1992 to work for the St. Petersburg Times, writing police news stories, a column and helping to edit the Tampa section. He went on to work at the Chicago Tribune as a metro reporter, then a foreign correspondent and Mexico City bureau chief.

The St. Petersburg Times welcomed Paul's return in 2000, and since then, his breaking news stories have helped to expose problems in veterans health care services at Haley, as well as shedding light onto operations at Tampa's MacDill Air Force Base.

Paul's relentless pursuit of sources, his ability to befriend people from all walks of life, and his passion for revealing the truth, made him a superb journalist. But Paul will also be remembered for his compassion for others, his brave battle against Hodgkin's disease, and his intense love of family.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Paul's family. May his wife and children find comfort in the many people that Paul inspired and the legacy he leaves behind.

HONORING DR. HARVEY FEIGENBAUM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Indiana's leading scientist and scholars, Dr. Harvey Feigenbaum, the recipient of the 2006 Builders of Israel award, which was presented to him at the annual Indiana-Israel Dinner of State on November 4, 2006.

The Builders of Israel award is given each year to a worthy recipient or recipients who demonstrate exceptional support of the Israel Bonds investment program, which helps strengthen Israel's economy, as well as for the recipient's personal contributions to the enrichment of American and Jewish life in Indiana and abroad. Since 1951, The State of Israel Bonds/Development Corporation for Israel has issued securities in the name of the government of Israel for the development of every aspect of Israel's economy, including agriculture, commerce and industry. Over the years Israel Bonds has secured more than $26 million in investment capital, and throughout its history, the State of Israel has maintained a perfect record of payment of the principal and interest on the securities it has issued. From humble beginnings, Israel Bonds have gone from a fledgling idea, to a powerful legacy of achievement; in the process becoming the financial bedrock upon which the modern State of Israel is built.

This simple concept of investment in people and communities is also the bedrock upon which Dr. Harvey Feigenbaum built his life. Born and raised in Indiana, Dr. Feigenbaum received his Bachelor of Science and Doctorate of Medicine degrees from Indiana University where he continued his academic career as a distinguished professor of medicine at Indiana University's School of Medicine. In addition to authoring or co-authoring over two-hundred fifty scientific articles during his career, Dr. Feigenbaum's pioneering work in cardiac ultrasound, or echocardiography, resulted in the development of ultrasound as a critical diagnostic tool in the battle against heart disease. Dr. Feigenbaum continues to push the boundaries of research into echocardiography, and I understand his most recent research has greatly aided in the refinement of echocardiogram imaging techniques and the creation of a hand-held ultrasound system. Dr. Feigenbaum's work with ultrasound is so well respected by his peers in the scientific community that if you look at the qualifications of many, if not most, of the world leaders in echocardiography, you should not be surprised to see that they were trained directly or indirectly by Dr. Feigenbaum. Yet even with all the demands of his teaching schedule and his research, Dr. Feigenbaum has always found time to give back to his community and his profession, including founding the American Society of Echocardiography in 1975—which now has more than 6,000 members—and serving as the organization's first president.

Last year, Dr. Feigenbaum's achievement earned him the American Heart Association's highest honor, the Distinguished Scientist Award, an award Dr. Feigenbaum so richly deserved.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Feigenbaum's conscientious good works as a citizen, scientist, and scholar represent the best tradition of selfless public service, civic stewardship and commitment to others and are deserving of our highest commendation. His service to the people of the United States, to the people of Israel and to my Hoosier friends and neighbors has truly helped to make our world a better place, and I ask all of my colleagues to take a moment and join me now to congratulate and commend Dr. Harvey Feigenbaum, for receiving the 2006 Builders of Israel award.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 5385, Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S10889–S10939

Measures Introduced: Four bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4048–4051, and S. Res. 612–613. **Page S10924**

Measures Passed:

Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations: Senate passed H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, after taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S10889–S10908

Adopted:

Collins/Feingold Amendment No. 5123, to extend the Office of the Inspector General for Iraq until 80 percent of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund has been expended. **Pages S10895–97**

Kerry/Kennedy Amendment No. 5142, to make available $18,000,000 for the provision of additional mental health services through Vet Centers to veterans who served in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan. **Pages S19898–S10900**

Hutchison (for Stevens) Amendment No. 5122, to provide that, of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army, $7,500,000 may be available for the lease of not more than 300 additional housing units in the vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska. **Page S10901**

Hutchison (for Reed) Amendment No. 5125, to provide that, of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps, $3,410,000 shall be available for the replacement of a vehicle bridge at Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island, and to provide an offset. **Page S10901**

Hutchison (for Thune) Modified Amendment No. 5131, to increase by $750,000 the amount appropriated or otherwise made available for Military Construction, Air Force and available for the Air Force Financial Management Center, and to provide an offset. **Pages S10901–02**

Hutchison (for Feinstein) Amendment No. 5126, to repeal the requirement for the Secretary of the Interior to cease the plan to exterminate the deer and elk population on Santa Rosa Island, Channel Islands, California. **Page S10902**

Hutchison (for Feinstein) Amendment No. 5127, to require a report on actions taken by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to test veterans for vestibular damage. **Page S10902**

Hutchison (for Craig) Amendment No. 5129, to increase to $10,000,000 the threshold for major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S10902**

Hutchison Amendment No. 5135, to authorize Department of Veterans Affairs to continue major medical facility projects and leases which have funds previously appropriated. **Page S10902**

Hutchison Amendment No. 5141, to amend the amount of a military construction project.

Pages S10902–03

Akaka/Obama Modified Amendment No. 5128, to provide, with an offset, an additional $2,500,000 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Office of the Inspector General. **Pages S10889, S10903**

Hutchison (for Thune) Modified Amendment No. 5130, to require the business plan of the Veterans Integrated Service Network 23 for the implementation of a Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Wagner, South Dakota, to include an evaluation and an analysis of the prospect of colocating such clinic with the Wagner Indian Health Service unit in Wagner, South Dakota. **Page S10903**

Hutchison (for Obama) Modified Amendment No. 5138, to require a report on the costs of the Comprehensive Service Programs for homeless veterans. **Page S10903**

Hutchison (for Cochran/Lott) Amendment No. 5146, to provide that of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by chapter 7 of title 1 of the Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps, and available for the replacement of a Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi, $13,400,000 may be available for the construction of an additional Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at such center. **Pages S10903–04**

Hutchison (for Allen) Amendment No. 5143, to establish a digital and wireless network technology program. **Page S10904**

Withdrawn:

Conrad Amendment No. 5144, to provide emergency agricultural disaster assistance. **Pages S10889–95, S10897–98, S10900–01**

Prior to the withdrawal, Senator Gregg raised a point of order under section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, as made effective by Public Law 109–234 against the amendment, following which, Senator Conrad made a motion to waive the applicable section. **Page S10894**

During consideration of this measure today, the Senate also took the following action:

By 95 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 264), Senate agreed to the motion to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the attendance of absent Senators. **Page S10898**

Removal of Injunction of Secrecy: The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Treaty with Malaysia on Mutual Legal Assistance (Treaty Doc. No. 109–22).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed. **Page S10935**

Nomination—Recommitted: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of John Peyton, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation be recommitted to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. **Page S10935**

Appointments:

Social Security Advisory Board: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, appointed Marsha Katz, of Montana, vice David Podoff, as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board. **Page S10935**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors. (Reappointment).

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2007.

Elizabeth Dougherty, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2007.

Elizabeth Dougherty, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2010.

Peter W. Tredick, of California, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2009.

Paul De Camp, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Arlene Holen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2010.

Richard Stickler, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health (Recess Appointment).

Steven G. Bradbury, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy. **Pages S10936–39**

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Peter W. Tredick, of California, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2007, which was sent to the Senate on March 27, 2006.

Elizabeth Dougherty, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2009, which was sent to the Senate on May 25, 2006.

Peter W. Tredick, of California, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2010, which was sent to the Senate on July 18, 2006. **Page S10939**

Messages From the House: **Pages S10918–19**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S10919**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S10919**

Executive Communications: **Pages S10919–20**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S10920–24**

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S10924–25

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S10925–28

Additional Statements: Pages S10916–18

Amendments Submitted: Pages S10928–34

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S10934–35

Privileges of the Floor: Page S10935

Quorum Calls: One quorum call was taken today. (Total—1) Page S10898

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—260) Page S10898

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2:15 p.m., and adjourned at 7:49 p.m., until 2:15 p.m., on Wednesday, November 15, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S10935.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michele A. Davis, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Robert F. Hoyt, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, and Paul Cherecwich, Jr., of Utah, and Deborah L. Wince-Smith, of Virginia, each to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, all of the Department of the Treasury, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James H. Bilbray, of Nevada, who was introduced by Representative Bilbray, and Thurgood Marshall, Jr., of Virginia, who was introduced by Representative Jim Moran of Virginia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, and Dan G. Blair, to be Chairman, Postal Rate Commission, who was introduced by Senator Bond, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

TAX LAWS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing to examine the issue of states incorporating new, non-publicly traded companies in the United States each year without obtaining the identity of corporate owners, and its impact on law enforcement investigations into persons misusing U.S. shell corporations for money laundering, tax evasion, terrorist financing, or other crimes, and a GAO report entitled ''Company Formations: Minimal Ownership Information Is Collected and Available'', receiving testimony from Stuart G. Nash, Associate Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice; K. Steven Burgess, Director, Examination, and Robert Northcutt, Acting Director of the Abusive Transactions Office, both of the Small Business/Self-Employed Division, Internal Revenue Service, and Jamal El-Hindi, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, all of the Department of the Treasury; Yvonne Jones, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment Team, Government Accountability Office; Richard J. Geisenberger, Delaware Assistant Secretary of State, Dover; Scott W. Anderson, Nevada Deputy Secretary of State for Commercial Recordings, Carson City; and Laurie Flynn, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Boston.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

SPORTS PROGRAMMING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee held a hearing to examine competition in sports programming and broadcasting, focusing on the goals of the program access statute and fostering competition to the incumbent cable operators, receiving testimony from Roger Noll, Stanford University Department of Economics, Stanford, California; Jeffrey Pash, National Football League, and Landel C. Hobbs, Time Warner Cable, both of New York, New York; and Daniel M. Fawcett, DIRECTV, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Thomas M. Hardiman, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Specter and Santorum, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 3 public bills, H.R. 6321–6323; 1 private bill, H.R. 6324; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 100; and H. Res. 1080–1082, were introduced. **Page H8640**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8640–41**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:29 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m. **Page H8614**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Amending title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law and to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program: H.R. 6314, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law and to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 393 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 520; **Pages H8617–21, H8637–38**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month: H. Res. 993, to express the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month; **Pages H8621–24**

Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005: H.R. 1245, amended, to provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers; **Pages H8624–28**

Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act: H.R. 864, amended, to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 373 yeas to 23 nays, Roll No. 521; and **Pages H8628–35, H8638**

Recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy and urging the Secretary of Agriculture to establish programs to raise awareness of the importance of the Christmas tree industry: H.J. Res. 96, amended, to recognize the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy and urging the Secretary of Agriculture to establish programs to raise awareness of the importance of the Christmas tree industry. **Pages H8635–37**

Agreed to amend title so as to read: "Recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy.". **Page H8637**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 4:47 p.m. **Page H8638**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H8616.

Senate Referrals: S. 3501 and S. 3687 were referred to the Committee on Resources. **Page H8638**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings today and appear on pages H8637–38 and H8638. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

OVERSIGHT—HAGUE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations held an oversight hearing on the Hague Convention on International Adoptions: Status and the Framework for Implementation. Testimony was heard from Catherine Barry, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Overseas Citizens Service, Department of State; Lori Scialabba, Associate Director, Refuge, Asylum and International Operations Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; Dana Andrews, Licensing Administrator, Division of Child Care, Department of Human Services, State of Colorado; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, PROCESS AND PROCEDURE PROJECT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held an oversight hearing on the Administrative Law, Process and Procedure Project for the 21st Century. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress: Mort Rosenberg, Specialist in American Public Law; Curtis Copeland, Specialist in American National Government; and T. J. Halstead, Legislative Attorney, American Law Division.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to resume hearings to examine the progress of the Capitol Visitor Center construction, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the current situation and U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, 11:30 a.m., SH–216.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the current situation and U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; to be followed by a closed session in SH–219, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the December 2005 report from the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's status, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider the nomination of Alex A. Beehler, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency, 11 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine current challenges and new ideas to safeguard consumers relating to food safety, 3 p.m., SD–430.

House

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the current situation and military operations in Iraq, 2:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight, hearing entitled ''The Secure Border Initiative: Ensuring Effective Implementation and Financial Accountability of SBInet,'' 3 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, oversight hearing on North Korea's Nuclear Test: Next Steps, 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 5304, Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement Act, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, oversight hearing entitled ''The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act: Are We Fulfilling the Promise We Made to Cold War Veterans When We Created the Program?'' (Part IV) 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2:15 p.m., Wednesday, November 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, November 15

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of suspensions as follows: (1) H.R. 5585—Financial Netting Improvements Act of 2006; and (2) H.J. Res. __Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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