

me and the people of Central New York to have the number one library in the Nation. I congratulate Sodus Librarian Carol Garland and her staff for all the hard work that has attributed to Sodus Library being considered the top in the Nation.

CONGRATULATING JACK  
McCROSKEY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jack McCroskey for his exemplary public service to Colorado. Jack, with his foresight and strong leadership, has helped make the metropolitan Denver light-rail transit system a reality. His service in reviving public transportation is deserving of special recognition.

Mr. McCroskey, former Chairman of the Regional Transportation District, has long envisioned a regional transit system throughout the Denver metropolitan area. Today there are six lines in operation and more are expected to be built in the coming years. Initially Mr. McCroskey believed that the system could start small and move forward gradually as the public began to embrace it. In 2004 the public voted to expand the system with a region-wide sales tax increase.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Mr. McCroskey for his great contributions to Colorado. We recognize his leadership and vision in bringing public transportation to the Denver metropolitan area. I am proud to offer a long awaited recognition to Mr. McCroskey for his great accomplishments.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO  
TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFER AS-  
SESSMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 214, the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act of 2005.

The U.S.-Mexico border region presents us with one of our Nation's most challenging sets of policy priorities. We read headlines every day about the issues of migration, national security, illegal drug trafficking, and trade and commerce, all of which are centered on our southern border. However, the nation often forgets about other issues by which we are affected on the border that are complicated by the binational nature of the communities in which we live.

S. 214 will help border communities in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California as they approach an issue that will determine the viability of their communities to prosper indefinitely into the future: water. On the border, the question of water is not only one of negotiating resource allocation between countries, but also one of geography and scarcity. As we

enter a century in which, according to many experts, wars between nations will be fought over water, not oil, S. 214 will offer an essential assessment tool to policymakers making strategic decisions about resource allocation.

Currently, although the U.S. and Mexico share information about surface water and other resources, no bilateral mechanism exists for cooperation and the sharing of information with regards to ground water. This lack of communication makes it difficult to ascertain the limitations and capabilities of those groundwater resources shared between the U.S. and Mexico.

The bill would provide for that mechanism by establishing a United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program to evaluate and model groundwater resources along the border. The program will develop an integrated approach to assess transboundary groundwater resources, prioritizing the aquifers for further analysis, and creating a geographic information system database for each priority aquifer. The bill would expand existing agreements between the U.S. Geological Survey, border states, the research institutes, and U.S. and Mexican authorities to conduct joint scientific investigations and produce scientific reports that will assist technicians and authorities in managing our most precious resource.

Located in the Chihuahu Desert, the vitality of my district of El Paso, Texas depends on the prudent management of our water resources. S. 214 will help us provide sustainable water resources for generations of Americans to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 214.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORA-  
TION SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of Mr. RADANOVICH's legislation to authorize implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement.

Enacting this legislation will allow the San Joaquin River—the second-longest river in California—to once again have the water it needs to support a viable salmon fishery. If enacted, the San Joaquin River will be a living river decades after the Bureau of Reclamation built Friant Dam.

Putting water back into a dry river in California is a very complicated and controversial task. A number of "third parties" have now come forward to express concerns that their own particular interests may in some way be detrimentally affected by this settlement and its proposed legislation, and ask that this legislation be restructured to eliminate or minimize their concerns. It is entirely appropriate that this legislation addresses those concerns. As we consider the implications of enacting this restoration legislation for the San Joaquin River and the need to protect a variety of interests, I am mindful of and remain committed to progress in implementing and funding the December 19, 2000, Trinity River restoration record of decision and the Hoopa Valley

Tribe's comanagement of the decision's important goal of restoring the fishery resources that the United States holds in trust for the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

The San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement legislation is tremendously important for all of California. The settling parties, along with Senator FEINSTEIN, Congressman RADANOVICH, and many other concerned and affected parties have worked long and hard to bring this settlement to Congress all making concessions, and deserve our recognition and appreciation. I will continue to work with my colleagues and do whatever I can to help ensure the enabling legislation is enacted.

H.R. 4954, THE SAFE PORT ACT UN-  
LAWFUL INTERNET GAMBLING  
AND ENFORCEMENT ACT PROVI-  
SIONS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the recent enactment of the Unlawful Internet Gambling and Enforcement Act of 2006. Internet gambling legislation has been a priority for this Congress the last several years. In 2003, I sponsored H.R. 2143, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act and have cosponsored Mr. LEACH's Internet gambling bills in each of the last three Congresses. The Conference Report for H.R. 4954, the SAFE Port Act, which was enacted into law, reflects Mr. LEACH's Internet Gambling Prohibition and Enforcement Act, H.R. 4411.

Five years ago, there were less than 50 Internet gambling sites. Today, there are close to 2,000 sites that will generate upwards of \$5.9 billion this year alone. The legislation that was enacted into law addresses the problem of illegal internet gambling through an enforcement mechanism. The new law does not change the legality of any gambling activity in the United States. The sole purpose of this law is to enforce against activities that are already illegal under the Wire Act and other Federal and State statutes. It enforces illegal gambling by preventing the use of any bank instrument—such as a credit card, check or electronic fund transfer—for Internet gambling.

Though online gambling has been illegal in this country from its inception—under state law, not just federal law—we have had serious problems enforcing these laws. The advantage and the disadvantage of the Internet is that it has no borders. Nothing can stop bets and wagers from being placed using a Web site hosted in another jurisdiction. When that bet or wager causes a violation of our laws, we had no effective means of enforcement until now.

Congress reviewed a number of possibilities to better enforce the law on the books. One enforcement option was to prosecute the gambler. However, enforcement against individual gamblers is a State prerogative under our federalist system. The Federal government has never claimed the authority to prosecute gamblers. And though gambling online is a misdemeanor in most States, it would be impossible for States to effectively enforce this way. The State would have to monitor people's

Internet usage, which raises serious constitutional issues.

Next, Congress considered "notice-and-take-down" measures to combat illegal Internet gambling. The Senate passed bills twice that would have authorized law enforcement to notify computer services when an illegal web site was using their services, and required them to take down or block the illegal site. Time has shown that blocking just about anything on the Internet simply does not work, though take-down orders do work for web sites hosted by domestic companies. So we have retained the notice-and-take-down option in the new law where it has a chance of being effective—for gambling web sites hosted or advertised by Internet companies based in the United States.

But take-down orders, and prosecuting gambling businesses that violate State and Federal laws, are completely ineffective for Web sites hosted offshore. The U.S. legal system cannot reach offshore companies, even though their Web sites can reach U.S. consumers. So the gambling operators deliberately locate in jurisdictions that will not cooperate with the U.S. Here, existing laws reach the end of the rope.

We concluded that the only real option, if we want to enforce our gambling laws in the age of the Internet, is to block the financial transactions that pay for illegal online gambling. Banks and payment systems located in the United States are fully within the reach of Federal law, and U.S. citizens usually have to go through them to send money over the Internet. So requiring payment systems to put in place blocking procedures allows us to effectively and efficiently stop the flow of money, even when the gambling business itself is beyond the long arm of our law. Without the money, gambling simply cannot happen.

We needed to pass this law because it is the only way we can effectively enforce State and Federal gambling laws when offshore Web sites offer illegal services to our residents. This is also why the Department of Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board need to write strong regulations that will not be easily evaded. I am proud to have supported this vital law, and I look forward to working with the regulators to ensure they properly reflect Congress's intent. My only regret is that my friend and colleague JIM LEACH will not be here to assist Congressman GOODLATTE and others in our continued efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDITH H.  
HOPE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Judith H. Hope, an outstanding New Yorker who has devoted herself to public service and to civic and political engagement. Ms. Hope's tremendous contributions to American civic life are being recognized this month by the well-known and widely respected public policy advocacy organization, Citizen Action of New York. At a ceremony on December 6, 2006, Ms. Hope is being honored by Citizen Action with its Progressive Leadership Award. Also being similarly honored are our distin-

guished colleague and the dean of the New York State congressional delegation, the Honorable CHARLES RANGEL, and Mr. Bob Masters, a dedicated leader of the Communications Workers of America.

A lifelong activist devoted to the highest ideals of the Democratic Party, Judith J. Hope has exhibited strong, effective and graceful leadership while holding a series of important positions of leadership in the world of politics and public policy. As a founder of the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee, an organization dedicated to promoting women's candidacies for local and public office, Judith Hope has encouraged and inspired new generations of women to become deeply involved in public policy and the political process. Since its founding in 2001, the Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee has provided crucial financial, educational and political support to hundreds of women, of whom 285 were successfully elected to public office.

Judith Hope became immersed in public service at an early age. Born and raised in Arkansas, she learned critical lessons and insights from her father, the Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives, and her mother, a respected writer and journalist.

After moving to New York, Judith Hope became a civic and community leader and married Thomas A. Twomey, Jr., a Long Island attorney and environmental leader. In the face of tremendous political odds, she was elected Town Supervisor in East Hampton in 1973, the first woman ever to hold that office on Long Island, and the first Democrat to do so in modern history. In 1976, Governor Hugh Carey named her the first woman gubernatorial Appointments Officer in the history of the Empire State. In 1983 and 1985, she was again elected East Hampton Town Supervisor, a position that afforded her national recognition for her innovative and effective policies to preserve open space and environmentally sensitive land. In the political realm, she was elected to the Democratic National Committee in 1989.

Following the election of Mario Cuomo as Governor, Hope became an instrumental figure in the leadership of the New York State Democratic Committee. In 1995, Judith was elected chair of the State committee, becoming the first woman to head a major political party in New York State. She served in that capacity for 7 years and was justly celebrated for her tremendous abilities and effective leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the enormous contributions to our civic and political life made by Judith Hope, a true leader in the finest traditions of our great republic.

HONORING STEWART MANOR  
SCHOOL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stewart Manor School for having received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose stu-

dents achieve at very high levels. Stewart Manor School has high expectations. It ranks in the top 10 percent in the State of New York in math and English scores. Stewart Manor School has proven it has outstanding instruction, teacher training and student achievement.

The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children, and our community and our Nation are enhanced by the contributions of high achieving students like those at Stewart Manor School.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my thanks and recognition to Stewart Manor School.

## SEARCHING FOR VICTORY IN IRAQ

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I recommend to the American public an editorial by former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and request that it be included in the RECORD.

Published in the Weekly Standard on November 28, Mr. Gingrich's piece makes some very important points about the significance and necessity of our victory in Iraq. In comparing our current situation in Iraq to that which George Washington faced during the winter of 1776, Mr. Gingrich concludes that Washington's motto "Victory or Death" is the motto we must apply to Iraq.

As we review the Iraq Study Group's (ISG) recommendations, Mr. Gingrich is wise to urge that we examine them closely and ask questions. Most essentially, we must ask whether or not the suggestions will "make a real contribution in helping us win the war against the fanatical wing of Islam. Or will it be simply one more establishment effort to hide defeat so the American political system can resume its comfortable insider games without having to solve real problems in the larger world?"

As I have argued for some time now, Iraq is a pivotal juncture in the Global War on Terror. Iraq is about the larger global war against Islamofascists that want to destroy America. Like our former Speaker, I realize that our current approach to Iraq is not working. However, we must disregard any ISG recommendations to abandon Iraq or set a timeline for withdrawal, both of which will only serve to inspire violence from our enemies and distrust from our allies. This is not the time, nor the place to try to save political face. A retreat at this time would have consequences beyond what we can imagine. This is the time and the place to decisively win, to work together as Americans, and defeat terrorists on their turf before they can return the fight to ours.

I urge my colleagues and the American people to read Mr. Gingrich's insightful piece.

[From the Weekly Standard, Nov. 28, 2006]

(By Newt Gingrich)

SEARCHING FOR VICTORY IN IRAQ—WHY THE BAKER-HAMILTON COMMISSION OUGHT TO VISIT MOUNT VERNON.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving Callista and I took some friends to Mount Vernon to see the new education center. It is an amazing tribute to George Washington and the creation of America.

We watched a movie about George Washington crossing the Delaware on Christmas