

By reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act in the 109th Congress, we will have more time in the 110th Congress to devote to other ocean issues, including considering the recommendations of the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative.

It is a rare day that I agree with our President, but several months ago he said, "Overfishing is harmful. It's harmful to our country and it's harmful to the world." I agree wholeheartedly and understand that this legislation takes corrective action to curtail overfishing, especially in our most depleted fisheries.

I support the bill, encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

POSTAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, as I noted during the December 8, 2006, debate on H.R. 6407, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, this legislation reflects the final version of H.R. 22, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act as passed by the House and Senate.

H.R. 22 passed the House on July 26, 2005 by a vote of 410–20, and the Senate then passed H.R. 22 with an amendment by Unanimous Consent on February 9, 2006. Given that H.R. 6407 is the blended result of the two Chamber's versions of H.R. 22, I believe it is important to make note of the Committee on Government Reform's report on H.R. 22, 109–66, part I, as reported on April 28, 2005.

This committee report is relevant to understanding the provisions of H.R. 6407, particularly because many of the provisions of H.R. 6407 are unchanged from H.R. 22 as reported by the Government Reform Committee. For those looking for additional legislative history on H.R. 6407, the Government Reform Committee report accompanying H.R. 22, 109–66, part I, will provide useful explanations and information.

HONORING MS. GERMAINE
BROUSSARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 27, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor on behalf of Rep. TOM DAVIS and myself to recognize Ms. Germaine Broussard of McLean, Virginia, for her dedication to sending many cookies and other packages to U.S. troops overseas.

Ms. Broussard is known as the Cookie Lady to those who have benefitted from her kindness. She has already baked and shipped over 51,000 cookies to servicemembers. She has dedicated many hours of her free time and her own resources toward baking cookies to thank U.S. troops.

I am proud to call attention to the dedication of Ms. Broussard. I would also like to share a recent article from *The Stars and Stripes* which describes Ms. Broussard's hard work.

[From the Stars and Stripes, Nov. 21, 2006]

VA. WOMAN COOKING UP EATS GALORE FOR TROOPS

(By Kirsten Brown)

Washington.—When Lt. j.g. Gregory Trach, 34, received an e-mail from Germaine Broussard two years ago asking permission to send cookies to his ship, he thought little of it.

"Thank you for your support of the U.S. military," he responded, then dismissed the request as a thoughtful but meaningless gesture.

A few weeks later, the USS Shreveport received 12 boxes packed with more than 1,800 chocolate chip, peanut butter, oatmeal and sugar cookies. Shocked, Trach sent Broussard a second e-mail: "We thought you were kidding!"

That was Trach's first brush with "the Cookie Lady."

So far, Broussard, 39, has baked and shipped more than 51,000 cookies to servicemembers. The McLean, Va., resident calls her mostly one-woman program "Troop Treats."

It felt like Christmas to Lt. Col. Skip Goodwillie, 45, each time he and his unit opened a box from Broussard. Goodwillie, who is in the Army Reserves, was stationed northeast of Baghdad at Kir Kush military base when he started getting cookies.

"It was just wonderful to have mail call and hear, 'Hey Skip, the Cookie Lady sent us another box,'" Goodwillie said. "It was wonderful for our morale."

The Cookie Lady does get donations, but she pays for most of it out of her own pocket. After her job as a Smith Barney business development associate, Broussard comes home to start mixing batter about 7 p.m. She pulls the last cookies from the oven between 1 and 3 a.m.

"Some people can be a little hesitant about why am I doing this," Broussard said. "I had wanted to do something, but with the Red Cross, you donate money, and they send the box. But our family has always used home-baked cookies, bread, whatever, to be able to say thank you."

Broussard also sends necessities such as travel-sized shampoo, soap, toothpaste, mouthwash and other treats, including DVDs, Cocoa Rice Krispies and cheesecake mix. "It's a small piece of home," she said.

Embedded teddy bears are also part of her effort. Broussard's six "Battle Buddies" bears are dressed in camouflage and she could fill an album with pictures of beaming soldiers posing with their brown battle buddy.

Broussard will soon launch her second holiday project, "Operation Santa's Little Helpers," which enlists children to write cheery cards to the troops. These notes are tucked in red or blue stockings along with presents such as Slinky toys, Silly Putty, playing cards and, of course, candy.

In junior high school, Broussard earned only a "B" in her home economics class. "I don't use a standard one-cup measuring method," she said. "It's just a little of this, little of that. The home ec teacher went crazy. I'd love to go back to that teacher and say, hmm! Wonder who's right now?"

POSTAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ENHANCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as was noted during the December 8, 2006, debate

on H.R. 6407, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, this landmark postal reform legislation reflects the final version of H.R. 22, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act as passed by the House and Senate.

H.R. 22 passed the House on July 26, 2005 by a vote of 410–20, and the Senate then passed H.R. 22 with an amendment by unanimous consent on February 9, 2006. H.R. 6407 represents the combination of the Senate and House versions of H.R. 22. As such, the Committee on Government Reform's Report on H.R. 22, 109–66, Part I, as reported on April 28, 2005 is relevant and necessary to understanding the provisions of H.R. 6407, particularly because many of the provisions of H.R. 6407 are unchanged from H.R. 22 as reported by the Government Reform Committee. For those looking for additional legislative history on H.R. 6407, the Government Reform Committee Report accompanying H.R. 22, 109–66, Part I, will provide useful explanations and information.

TAX RELIEF AND HEALTH CARE
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, allow me to recite from explanatory material prepared for H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.

DIVISION B—MEDICARE AND OTHER
HEALTH PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short title of division

Current law

No provision.

Explanation of provision

This division may be cited as the "Medicare Improvements and Expansion Act of 2006".

TITLE I—MEDICARE IMPROVED QUALITY AND
PROVIDER PAYMENTS

Section 101. Physician payment and quality improvement

Current law

Medicare payments for services of physicians and certain nonphysician practitioners are made on the basis of a fee schedule. The fee schedule assigns relative values to services that reflect physician work (i.e., the time, skill, and intensity it takes to provide the service), practice expenses, and malpractice costs. The relative values are adjusted for geographic variations in costs. The adjusted relative values are then converted into a dollar payment amount by a conversion factor. The conversion factor for 2006 is \$37.8975.

The conversion factor is the same for all services. It is updated each year according to a formula specified in law. The intent of the formula is to place a restraint on overall spending for physicians' services. Several factors enter into the calculation of the formula. These include: (1) the sustainable growth rate (SGR) which is essentially a cumulative target for Medicare spending growth over time (with 1996 serving as the base period); (2) the Medicare economic index (MEI) which measures inflation in the inputs needed to produce physicians services; and (3) the update adjustment factor which modifies the update, which would otherwise be allowed by the MEI, to bring spending in line