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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2007, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2007

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 9, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN T. SALAZAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God Almighty, source of consolation and wisdom, we need to approach Your awesome presence with humility, trusting in Your goodness.

It is with great admiration and affection that Members of the House of Representatives and staff here on Capitol Hill lift up before You today the Honorable JO ANN DAVIS, who represented the First District of Virginia and served in this Chamber with grace and distinction.

Her faith in You, Lord, was manifest in many ways. Her faithfulness to sworn duty, her leadership in the House Prayer Breakfast, and her perseverance in suffering have provided great witness to You as the source of her strength and peace.

Now that You have taken her to Yourself, reward Your servant JO ANN for her public service, for her love of family and friends, as well as her kind courtesy to colleagues and staff alike. May You, our redeeming Lord, grant eternal rest to her and to all who have served in this noble institution with hearts fixed on serving others in 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 gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR JORDANNE MURRAY, KATRINA MCCORKLE, LEANNA THOMAS, AARON SMITH, BRADLEY SCHULTZ, LINDSEY STAHL, AND TYLER PETERSON.

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, as we see with Representative DAVIS, in any instant a spark turns cool. The State of Wisconsin and the city of Crandon are in mourning today over the tragic loss of seven of their beloved children whose lives were lost in a violent outrage following a young lovers' quarrel.

Lost forever, but never to be forgotten, will be these beloved children, so

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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dearly treasured by all who knew and loved them: Jordanne Murray, Katrina McCorkle, Leanna Thomas, Aaron Smith, Bradley Schultz, Lindsey Stahl, and Tyler Peterson.

On behalf of all people in northeast Wisconsin and beyond, please know that we share your grief. And to all family and friends of those who remain on this saddest of days, we mourn with you.

For some things there can never be a reason why.

I ask for a moment of silence.

A ROBUST ECONOMY

(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, September marked the 49th consecutive month of job growth in the United States with the creation of 110,000 new jobs. Revised reports show an increase, not a decline, in jobs for August, which makes 8.4 million new jobs created since August 2003. This sets the record for the longest period of uninterrupted job growth in our history. This achievement comes as the stock market has hit a record high and the unemployment rate remains low at 4.7 percent.

The success of our economy is a product of pro-growth policies inspired by the Home Builders Association that respect the needs of American businesses and taxpayers. However, the most important contributor to these positive trends is the entrepreneurial spirit of Americans who are investing in our economy, building successful companies, and trading on the global market. We should support these efforts by keeping taxes low and enforcing fiscal responsibility here in Congress.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th. My deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and staff of Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE JO ANN DAVIS OF VIRGINIA

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Representative JO ANN DAVIS with whom I served as she served as chairperson and I as ranking member on our subcommittee in Government Reform.

It was always a pleasure to work with her. And while we didn't always agree on every issue that came before us, we always agreed that we would be civil and that we would work in tandem for the best interests of the people of this country.

So I'm going to miss her. I extend my personal condolences to her family and would just like for her to know that it was indeed a pleasure working with her.

SCHIP EXPANSION

(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, Congress's SCHIP legislation is seriously flawed. It takes a bipartisan program that was working well and turns it into a huge new entitlement.

It is a bold step towards government expansion into socialized medicine. According to the Congressional Budget Office, 2 million children who are already covered by private insurance will switch to the SCHIP program under the proposed expansion. This is more than one in three of the projected new enrollees.

In plain terms, this means we are providing incentives for people to drop their health insurance in favor of government-funded health care. And many of the people who will be dropping their health insurance will be making as much as \$60,000.

This doesn't make sense. The government has no business luring Americans onto the Federal health care rolls and making them dependent on the government to provide health care.

Call it what you want, but this \$35 billion expansion is not just about getting health care for kids. It is the early stages of a massive socialized health system that slowly erodes individual control in favor of government control of your health care. We don't need to be doing that.

AMERICAN TROOPS IN IRAQ

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I just returned on a codel from Baghdad, among other places, with four other Members, a bipartisan trip. I am proud to report that our troops are doing a marvelous job under the circumstances in which they have been placed.

To ride in a C-130 with American soldiers going into combat, seeing their faces and realizing that they were going into harm's way was very, very emotional; to ride in a Humvee with soldiers who faced an enemy that they didn't know who it was because friends and enemy look alike; and to be in the streets of Baghdad.

I was buoyed by the enthusiasm of our troops but know they are going to need help over the years with veterans benefits. We were in Landstuhl, Germany hospital today with a soldier who lost his leg on Friday. Continuing injuries will cause a continuing commitment from the American people and a continuing commitment to make sure that Iran does not exercise undue influence.

Prime Minister Maliki reasserted his desire to provide defense for his own country with help from America with equipment and not to have Iran interfere. I wasn't as extremely enthusiastic

about what I saw in the country of Iraq, which has been ravaged, or their government, which needs much improvement.

But our troops are beyond reproach and they need our support.

GOOD NEWS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I too today stand to pay tribute to our colleague JO ANN DAVIS and to express my condolences to her family, her friends, and her staff. She will be missed in this body.

I also rise today to have a little bit to say about the economic news that is coming out. We have a Presidential debate on the issue tonight.

The bipartisan Congressional Budget Office has released a reported today; and according to the CBO, the Republican tax cuts going back to 2003, the tax cuts started then have fueled our growing economy and they are responsible for shrinking the Federal deficit, this time by 35 percent. What incredible economic news.

We also find out that Americans paid a record \$2.5 trillion in taxes in 2007 and Federal receipts have climbed since when? Since the 2003 tax reductions were put in place. And it has fueled the largest 4-year revenue increase in U.S. history.

Madam Speaker, it is good news on the economic front. I highlight this good news to my colleagues and encourage them to read the CBO report.

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 after 6:30 p.m. today.

EXTENDING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT OF 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1124) to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

On page 2, after line 11, insert:

SEC. 2. MEANS TESTING.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3(c)(2) of the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 1324; Public Law 106-98) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) is from a family with a taxable annual income of less than \$1,000,000.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5(c)(2) of the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 1328; Public Law 106-98) is amended by striking “through (F)” and inserting “through (G)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, the Honorable, and I wanted to say Representative and I will say Representative, Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kindness in yielding to me, the chairman of our subcommittee who has strongly supported the bill before us, H.R. 1124, and has expeditiously on every occasion moved this bill forward. We especially appreciate it, as the bill is at the end point of its authorization.

□ 1415

I want to also thank Ranking Member MARCHANT for his help and support of this bill; Chairman WAXMAN, who, as ranking member and now as Chair, has strongly supported this bill; Ranking Member TOM DAVIS, who, as Chair of the full committee, now as ranking member, has co-sponsored the bill from the beginning with me and was instrumental in its passage initially.

I want to thank in the Senate Senators VOINOVICH and SUSAN COLLINS, and of course the Chair of the full committee, Chairman LIEBERMAN. These have been the chief advocates in the Senate, and they would have passed the bill exactly as it came to them.

I think I need only say to the House, which has overwhelmingly supported this bill, that that support has been vindicated; that the President of the United States has increased the budget by \$2 million, that he doesn't do lightly, and I think it's because of the payoff, payback of the investment. The increase in college attendance over 5 years, massive increase; the 646 universities and colleges in 47 States and the District of Columbia where these students are now going, many of them would have not attended college at all. I want to thank Don Graham, the publisher of The Washington Post, for his work in encouraging millions in pri-

vate dollars as a complementary program to this program, his is the College Access Program, which is essential to the success of this program because its guidance of students seeking to go to college, and indeed financial aid, have been important to the success of this bill.

This is here because of a Senate amendment which we reluctantly accepted simply to get the bill through. The Senate defeated another amendment that would have destroyed the bill because it would have allowed money to go to private as well as public college. Our only point is to give residents the same access to the State university system as everybody else who graduates from high school has.

We appreciate that the Senate has passed the bill now unanimously. And we ask the House to repeat its overwhelming support of the bill when the bill was here only a few months ago.

Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1124, the bill that will reauthorize the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 and extend the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant Program, DCTAG, for an additional 5 years, and to thank the House for a bill that has afforded higher education to many students who would otherwise not have received it. I especially thank Chairman HENRY WAXMAN and Chairman DANNY K. DAVIS for facilitating early consideration of this non-controversial bill on suspension. A very special thanks is particularly due to committee Ranking Member and co-author TOM DAVIS for his strong and indispensable leadership on this legislation when he was chair of the full Committee and for his continued strong support of DCTAG.

This legislation is already returning unusually large dividends for the Federal investment. DCTAG has increased the college attendance of D.C. students by an astonishing 100 percent over 5 years. For the 2005–2006 school year, almost 5,000 students received funding from DCTAG to enroll in 646 universities and colleges in 47 States, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Most of these students are the first in their families to attend college. These documented results represent the City's most important progress toward developing a workforce that can meet the increasing education requirements for employment at average wages in the region. Importantly, this legislation has been instrumental in reversing the steady flight of taxpayers in the District of Columbia, many of whom left the District in order to gain access to the lower-cost State colleges and universities in the region.

DCTAG acts as a proxy and a substitute for a State university system for the District, which has an open admissions State university, the University of the District of Columbia, but unlike every State, has no unified system of several colleges and universities. UDC, supported entirely by the City and tuitions, is itself so indispensable to the City that I used the opportunity provided by the CAA to achieve funded Historically Black College status that the City had long sought for UDC. As a result, UDC has received an attractive annual HBCU payment since 1999. However, this bill provides higher education access to young people here equivalent to opportunities

available in all the States, rather than only one university, and increases the number of choices necessary to meet today's D.C. student population. Maryland and Virginia, for example each provide more than 30 different college options to residents. DCTAG provides up to \$10,000 annually, which covers state college tuition at most public colleges, or provides up to \$2,500 annually to attend private institutions in the City and region.

DCTAG has enjoyed strong bipartisan support since it was created in 1999. The President has shown his confidence in the program by including \$35 million for DCTAG in his FY08 budget request. The D.C. State Education Office deserves special credit for working diligently and successfully since the bill was enacted to maintain solid administration of the program. The District has even moved ahead of the curve to foreclose any future funding shortfalls by engaging in careful planning and calculations, measuring expected demand and costs, and has made adjustments in offerings accordingly. We are particularly grateful to business leaders in the region, led by Donald Graham, Chairman of The Washington Post who was instrumental in helping to convince Congress of the necessity for the bill. However, Mr. Graham and the business leaders did not stop there. They established the College Access Program, CAP, which provides additional financial support. More important, CAP provides essential guidance and encouragement to students as they reach the critical time decision for college. We are also grateful to CAP for supplying a support network that has helped the District's TAG program receive excellent retention rates. For example, of the 1,091 DCTAG Freshman in 2001–2002, 73 percent returned as sophomores. Of that, 79 percent returned as juniors, 82 percent as seniors and 77 percent of the seniors graduated. CAP's 100 percent private funding by business leaders, most from the region, not the City, is nothing less than a vote of confidence in DCTAG that I believe is warranted by the legislation's documented results.

It is difficult to think of congressional legislation that has brought such immediate and positive results or that is more appreciated by D.C. residents. To be sure, our D.C. homebuyer and business tax credits, unique to the District and reauthorized again last year, have had similar measurable and documented effects on increasing home ownership and keeping taxpaying residents and businesses in a City without a State tax base that instead must itself carry many State costs. However, if there are to be homeowners and taxpayers in District of Columbia in the 21st century, many more of them must have college training. The economy of this Federal city will always be tied to Federal jobs. The stability of the Federal sector here has been indispensable to many aspects of the City's economy, but too few of the public and private sector jobs go to D.C. residents. For example, the District continues to be a virtual job machine for the region. The District created 8,500 jobs in the last 12 months, but its unemployment rate remains almost twice the rate in this region. This disparity represents an education and training mismatch that must be eliminated to assume a decent future for the City's young residents.

H.R. 1124 is one of the District's top priorities this year because of the program's proven benefits to the economy of the City and region, and especially to the City's students and

families who have been willing to make the necessary sacrifices to meet the cost of large annual increases in State tuition nationwide, despite the modest family incomes of most of our students. This immensely successful and popular higher education program has proven itself. It would be difficult to think of a program that has returned so much to the City and the Federal Government for modest Federal funding. Of any measure, H.R. 1124 deserves continuing support.

I appreciate the strong bipartisan support and the support of the President that this vital Federal educational assistance program has received, and ask for the continued support. I believe the results fostered by the program have earned the support and I strongly urge its approval.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1124, legislation I introduced earlier this year to extend the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Program through 2012.

This past May, the House approved the bill overwhelmingly and sent it to the Senate. Last month, after adding an amendment to exclude families who make more than \$1 million a year from participating in the program, the Senate passed the bill 96-0. The amended legislation is now pending before the House. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Prior to the creation of this program in 1999, residents of the Nation's capital did not have the luxury afforded to high school graduates everywhere else in the country, the chance to attend public colleges and universities at in-State tuition rates. This program levels the playing field by allowing District graduates to attend public colleges and universities at in-State tuition rates.

The success of the Tuition Assistance Program is overwhelming and indisputable. College enrollment of public high school graduates in the District has doubled in the 7 years since the program was created from 30 percent to 60 percent, with 5,300 District graduates currently participating in the program. Few, if any other, federally funded initiatives can claim this level of success.

The program has always received broad bipartisan support. Both Houses of Congress unanimously passed authorizing legislation for the program in 1999, and again in 2005. And the President has always supported full funding for the program in his annual budget request to Congress.

The proven success of the program and the District's unique status make our choice simple. Congress should continue to support this legislation to provide higher education opportunities to high school graduates in the Nation's capital. I can't tell you how many parents told me, "We would have moved to the suburbs if the program didn't exist."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support a level playing field

for high school graduates in the District. It's the right thing to do; it's the smart thing to do.

I would also, at this point, like to thank, on the Republican staff, Mason Allinger, Howard Denes and David Marin for their hard work in bringing it to this moment.

I've traveled a long road with the District of Columbia Access Act, from March 1, 1999, when it was introduced, until the present day.

That road took us through the predecessor subcommittee that I chaired at the time, to the full Government Reform Committee, to the House and Senate floor, and then to the White House, where then-President Clinton signed the measure on November 12, 1999.

In all of its legislative approvals the College Access Act, now known as the Tuition Assistance Grant Program, was passed unanimously, by voice vote. President Clinton had included sufficient money in his Budget Submission that year, and a Statement of Administration Policy endorsed the approach we had taken in authorizing use of those funds.

I am deeply proud of our hard, bipartisan effort in enacting this measure and in re-authorizing it 2 years ago.

My thanks to ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who was ranking member of the District of Columbia Subcommittee in 1999, and who has worked tirelessly to enhance this legislation ever since.

I would also like to thank my then-counterpart in the Senate, GEORGE VOINOVICH, for his continuing support, and Senators WARNER and DURBIN, for working with us to improve this legislation.

The 5-year re-authorizing legislation before you today will enable District residents to continue to attend colleges and universities at in-state rates. President Bush, in his Budget Submission for fiscal year 2008, has included sufficient funds to make this happen.

Then-Mayor Anthony Williams, and now D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, have both strongly supported this law as being very important for District high school graduates. As documented to this subcommittee, the graduation rate for public school students in the city has doubled since this law went into effect. We have incentivized staying in school.

This law is a classic "leveling of the playing field". No city or county in the country is required to supplement its in-state rate with local funds, and neither should the taxpayers in the Nation's capital be saddled with this burden. Neither should the city be penalized for its own success in administering this program.

Back on March 4, 1999, when I introduced this bill, I went to nearby Eastern High School with Ms. NORTON. I was deeply moved by the reaction of the students. I will never forget how so many took our hands, looked into our eyes, and thanked us for introducing the original bill.

I'm proud of all we have been able to do in the Nation's capital since 1995, when the city was literally bankrupt. Economic development, public safety, the real estate market, and so many other aspects of city life have changed for the better.

But nothing has given me more satisfaction than working to improve educational opportunity. Fighting for equal educational opportunity is one of the reasons I entered public life.

We need a healthy city to have a healthy Washington region.

Re-authorizing this law, which has expanded higher educational choices, is an enormous leap forward.

It is a strong part of our vision for the future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to commend Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and Representative TOM DAVIS for their continued work and collaboration on the development of this legislation.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1124, the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999. It will reauthorize funding for the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) program which will help promote higher education for high school graduates in the District of Columbia.

DCTAG provides grants for District high school students to attend public colleges and universities nationwide at in-State tuition rates. The bill provides smaller grants for District students to attend private institutions in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and to attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities, HBCUs, nationwide.

The impact of this legislation on the community and in the lives of the students who receive the grant cannot be minimized. DCTAG reaches students and communities where there is little hope of being able to obtain a college education. This is particularly true for many of the students that participate in DCTAG; 58 percent of the students that participate in the program come from low-income households. Furthermore, students that participate in the program are attending educational institutions that are known to nurture students of color. Five of the top 10 private schools these students attend are Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Hampton University, Morehouse College, Virginia Union University, and St. Augustine's College and Bennett College.

While students from all races participate in the program and attend over 270,000 institutions in 47 States, including nationally recognized public institutions like the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, the University of Illinois at both Chicago and Champaign-Urbana, the University of California Berkeley, and the Ohio State University, this program serves a community that is lacking resources, especially for students of color from low-income households.

On March 22, 2007, the Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia held a hearing on DCTAG. During the hearing, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, parents of DCTAG students, and former DCTAG scholars testified to the benefits of the program. DCTAG has helped thousands of D.C. residents achieve their dream of attending college. If not for DCTAG, many of these students would not be able to afford

the rising cost of a college education. The DCTAG program helps to turn dreams into realities.

Madam Speaker, again I want to commend ranking minority member, Representative TOM DAVIS, and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton for introducing this legislation.

I want to end by suggesting that, given the fact that there is only one public institution of higher learning in the District of Columbia, that many of these young people would never have the opportunity to attend traditional State colleges and universities were it not for the DCTAG program. I urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Let me thank my colleague from Illinois for helping to shepherd this through today, and of course my friend from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) who has been there from the beginning. This legislation at the very beginning had some tough sledding moving it through both Houses of the Congress. And also our thanks to Don Graham, who is really the father of this. The idea originated with him and he brought it to our attention early on in our congressional careers, and we are able to move it forward. But he brought a lot of bipartisan support from the business community to bear.

I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1124.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHARLES H. HENDRIX POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3518) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the "Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3518

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

SECTION 1. CHARLES H. HENDRIX POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to

be a reference to the "Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3518, which names the postal facility in Cantonment, Florida, after Charles H. Hendrix.

H.R. 3518, which was introduced by Representative JEFF MILLER on September 10, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Florida congressional delegation.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Charles Hendrix is the former Postmaster of the Cantonment Post Office and worked there for 37 years. He retired from the postal service in 1986. Mr. Hendrix was a charter member of the Molino Volunteer Fire Department where he served as fire chief and a member of the Cantonment Rotary Club since 1962. He was a prominent and respected resident of the Cantonment and Molino communities in Florida.

□ 1430

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative JEFF MILLER, for introducing this legislation, and I urge its swift passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, community leader and family man. It is fitting that H.R. 3518 requests the designation of the post office in Cantonment, Florida, as the Charles H. Hendrix Post Office. Mr. Hendrix retired from the postal service after 37 years of service. Starting his career as a mail carrier and ultimately serving as the post master of the Cantonment post office, he was the type of employee that exemplifies loyalty and dedication.

A life-long resident of Molino, Florida, Mr. Hendrix over the years served his community in many ways. He was a member of the Highland Baptist Church his entire life, where he served as Sunday School superintendent. He

was church treasurer and chairman of the board of deacons at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Cantonment Rotary Club since 1962.

He served one year as president and was an active member of the club service committee. He was also a charter member of the Molino Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as fire chief, assistant fire chief, and later as secretary of the fire department's board of directors, once again showing his dedication and service to others in the community.

Because of Mr. Hendrix's service to the community, he is remembered with appreciation as a man of great integrity and willingness to help others. It is for these reasons that we name the Cantonment, Florida post office for Charles Harold Hendrix.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3518, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A Bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the 'Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER AARON WEAVER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3530) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 Highway 41 North in Inverness, Florida, as the "Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3530

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

SECTION 1. CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER AARON WEAVER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 Highway 41 North in Inverness, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 3530, which names a postal facility in Inverness, Florida, after Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver.

H.R. 3530, which was introduced by Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE on September 14, 2007, was reported from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on September 20, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Florida congressional delegation.

Madam Speaker, Chief Warrant Officer Aaron A. Weaver was killed on January 8, 2004, while on board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter when it crashed during a Medevac mission in Fallujah, Iraq. He was assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Chief Warrant Officer Weaver's job in Iraq was to fly observation helicopters, monitor the enemy and send the information he gathered back to headquarters. He was on a Black Hawk helicopter en route to Baghdad for a check-up when the craft was shot down by enemy fire. Eight soldiers besides Chief Warrant Officer Weaver were killed. Chief Warrant Officer Weaver survived the October 1993 battle of Mogadishu in Somalia, but did not survive his tour in Iraq. He was a committed soldier and leader who served his country with honor and distinction.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, for introducing this legislation and urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida, the author of this legislation, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 3530, which will rename the post office on Highway 41 in Inverness, Florida, after Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver.

Aaron was a resident of my district from Floral City who gave his life for his country while serving in Iraq. After graduating from Citrus High School in 1989, Aaron Weaver joined the Army. Aaron's grandfather served in World War II and the Korean War, and his fa-

ther was a very proud marine. Following in the family tradition, Aaron and his two brothers joined the military as well.

As a member of the elite Army Rangers in 1993, Aaron Weaver received the Bronze Star with valor for extreme courage for saving another soldier's life in the battle of Mogadishu in Somalia. Weaver's actions that day and the battle in Mogadishu were portrayed in the book and film "Black Hawk Down."

Aaron Weaver also fought another battle. He was diagnosed with testicular cancer, but would not let that get in the way of his mission to serve his country. The cancer could have easily been his way out of Iraq, but instead, Aaron urged his officers to let him enter the combat zone. In Iraq, Aaron served as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and arranged to have his medical checkups for cancer while he was there. Aaron was actually on his way to a checkup not long before his tour of duty in Iraq was to end when his helicopter crashed on January 8, 2004, in southern Fallujah.

I hope that in the simple act of renaming this post office that we will memorialize Aaron's incredible story. Aaron Weaver epitomized courage and patriotism. We must never forget his great sacrifice to our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a remarkable soldier, and another true American hero, Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver, who at the age of 32 paid the ultimate price while in defense of his country.

On January 8, 2004, he was on his way to have his blood work tested for cancer when the Black Hawk he was riding was shot down, killing all on board. As was noted before, Aaron was a testicular cancer survivor. He was still being treated when his unit was called to active duty in Iraq. He could have stayed at Fort Bragg, but that wasn't like him. His father said, He wanted to go to Iraq. When you're in a close group like that, you don't want your friends to leave you behind.

As an Army Ranger, Weaver survived the October 1993 battle of Mogadishu in Somalia that was recounted in the book and film "Black Hawk Down." His heroism in saving a friend's life was also featured in that documentary on the battle. Not only was Chief Warrant Officer Weaver a fighter, he was a husband, a father, and a son. He was proud to serve his Nation. And with gratitude for his bravery and sacrifice to his country, I would urge all members to join me in supporting H.R. 3530.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3530.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING MARTHA COFFIN WRIGHT ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER BIRTH AND HER INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 588) recognizing Martha Coffin Wright on the 200th anniversary of her birth and her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 588

Whereas, Martha Coffin Wright, sister of Lucretia Coffin Mott, was one of five organizers of the First Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848;

Whereas from this convention came the "Declaration of Sentiments", an appeal for basic rights for women, modeled on the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas when Martha Wright helped to plan the Seneca Falls Convention, she was six months pregnant with her seventh child, epitomizing the personal strength and dedication of the participants of the women's rights movement;

Whereas the sites associated with the First Woman's Rights Convention are preserved in the Women's Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, New York;

Whereas after the Seneca Falls Convention, Martha Wright participated in many State and national women's rights conventions in various capacities, often serving as president;

Whereas during the antebellum years, Martha Wright was active in the abolition movement, attended the founding meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia in 1833, and later presided over numerous anti-slavery meetings;

Whereas Martha Wright's home in Auburn, New York, was part of the Underground Railroad; and

Whereas slavery was abolished in 1865 with the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, and women's suffrage was achieved in 1920 with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 200th birthday of Martha Coffin Wright;

(2) recognizes the induction of Martha Coffin Wright into the National Women's Hall of Fame; and

(3) honors the accomplishments of Martha Coffin Wright in her fight for equal rights for all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he might consume to the author of this legislation, Representative MICHAEL ARCURI from New York.

Mr. ARCURI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of suffragette and abolitionist Martha Coffin Wright. Martha Coffin was born in Massachusetts on Christmas Day 1806, the youngest child of Thomas and Anna Coffin. After her father's death from typhus in 1815, Martha's mother assumed the responsibilities of the family's business, setting an example of an independent, self-reliant woman that would shape Martha's views about the role of women in society. In 1824 Martha Coffin married Peter Pelham. Soon the couple moved to a frontier fort in Florida where Martha would give birth to her first daughter. Tragically, Peter died 2 years later in 1826 leaving Martha a 19-year-old widow with an infant child. To support herself and her daughter, she moved to Auburn, New York, to teach painting and writing at a Quaker school for girls. Soon after relocating to Auburn, she met and married a law student named David Wright with whom she would have six more children. In July of 1848, Martha's older sister, Lucretia Coffin Mott, a prominent Quaker preacher visited Martha's home in Auburn. During the visit, Martha, Lucretia, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton met to plan the Seneca Falls Convention at which 68 women and 32 men would sign the Declaration of Sentiments. This revolutionary document, modeled on the Declaration of Independence, stated that all men and women are created equal. It would be another 72 years before the 19th amendment gave American women the right to vote.

In the years following the Seneca Falls Convention, Martha Coffin Wright was also active in the abolition movement. With her sister, Lucretia, she attended the founding meeting of the American antislavery society in Philadelphia in 1833 and later presided over numerous antislavery meetings, including two in upstate New York, in early 1861 that were disrupted by angry anti-abolitionist mobs. Martha bravely opened her home in Auburn to the Underground Railroad in Auburn where she harbored fugitive slaves. In 1863 Martha and other women's rights activists formed the Women's National Loyal League to carry petitions for the abolition of slavery which would finally be achieved in 1865 with the ratification of the 13th amendment.

After the Civil War, Martha was also instrumental in the formation of the American Equal Rights Association, which attempted to merge the issues of black suffrage and women's suffrage; and in early 1874 she was elected president of the National Woman Suffrage Association. In December 1874, Martha took ill with typhoid pneumonia and died in Boston on January 4, 1865, at the age of 68.

Madam Speaker, Martha Coffin Wright's dedication and commitment should inspire all of us. I am proud to represent the region of upstate New York where Martha Coffin Wright and countless others fought tirelessly for equal rights for all. I am proud to represent the people of Seneca Falls, New York, who established the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1969 to honor the contributions of great American women with a permanent home. I was honored to attend the induction of Martha Coffin Wright into the Hall of Fame this past weekend.

I am proud to represent the birthplace of the women's rights movement, the importance of which was recognized by Congress in 1980 with the creation of the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to once again join me in honoring the contributions of Martha Coffin Wright and reaffirming the historical significance of Seneca Falls, New York with a voice vote in favor of House Resolution 588 recognizing the achievement of a truly great American, Martha Coffin Wright.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York for introducing this bill.

Martha Coffin Wright was the quintessential women's rights pioneer long before most women entertained the notion. She, along with her sister, Lucretia, spent their entire lives fighting for basic rights for women. She had a strong, independent mother who served as a powerful role model. In 1848, Mrs. Wright decided, along with others, to hold a convention in Seneca Falls to discuss the need for substantial women's rights. The significance of that first convention was recognized by Congress in 1980 when Women's Rights National Historical Park was created. The bronze statue to Mrs. Wright at the park shows that at the time of the convention she was 6 months pregnant while she participated in the convention.

□ 1445

This was particularly remarkable at a time in history when women didn't often go in public as an activist, much less when they were pregnant.

After the Seneca Falls Convention, Mrs. Wright served as president and in other leadership positions in many other women's rights conventions. Martha Wright was also a fervent abo-

litionist, and her home in Auburn, New York, was a station on the Underground Railroad. She often allowed fugitive slaves to sleep in her kitchen.

Martha Coffin Wright was truly a woman whose significant accomplishments and contributions to both women's rights and civil rights set her apart as a leader and pioneer. Because of these, I rise today to recognize Martha Coffin Wright on the 200th anniversary of her birth and induction into the National Women's Hall of fame.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 588, a bill that recognizes Martha Coffin Wright on the 200th anniversary of her birth and her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame. H. Res. 588, which has 55 cosponsors, was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ARCURI) on July 31, 2007. H. Res. 588 was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 4, 2007, by a voice vote.

Madam Speaker, Martha Coffin Wright was the youngest of eight children, and her sister Lucretia Coffin Mott was the second oldest. The two sisters worked tireless hours as activists for women's rights. Mrs. Wright participated in many State and national women's rights conventions in various capacities, often serving as president. She was also active in the abolition movement.

With her sister, Mrs. Mott, Mrs. Wright attended the founding meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia in 1833. Later, she presided over many anti-slavery meetings which were often disrupted by angry anti-abolitionist mobs. She used her home in Auburn, New York, as a station on the Underground Railroad to help runaway slaves gain their freedom. Mrs. Wright was a good friend and supporter of Harriet Tubman.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ARCURI) for seeking to honor the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Wright and remind us all of what she and other people like her taught, a lesson that we remember even to this day, and that is the primary right that we actually have is the right to struggle. Those who would dare to struggle would dare to be victorious.

Madam Speaker, again, I commend my colleague from New York (Mr. ARCURI) for his introduction of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 588.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE WARNER ROBINS LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM FROM WARNER ROBINS, GEORGIA, ON WINNING THE 2007 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 630) congratulating the Warner Robins Little League Baseball Team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2007 Little League World Series Championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 630

Whereas on Sunday, August 26, 2007, the Warner Robins Little League Baseball Team from Warner Robins, Georgia, defeated the Tokyo Kitasuna Little League Team by a score of 3-2 to win the 2007 Little League World Series Championship at Williamsport, Pennsylvania;

Whereas although Warner Robins had taken one loss in the series, they did not give up, and the Warner Robins team battled back from behind to win the Championship game;

Whereas this is the second straight year that a team from the State of Georgia has won the world title;

Whereas the 2007 Warner Robins Little League World Championship Team consists of players Hunt Smith, Taylor Lay, David Umphreyville, Jr., Nick Martens, Zane Conlon, Micah Wells, Dalton Carriker, Kendall Scott, Clint Wynn, Payton Purvis, Hunter Jackson, and Keaton Allen;

Whereas the 2007 Warner Robins Little League World Championship Team is led by Manager Mickey Lay, Coach Mike Smith, Team Mother Robin Smith, and President Roman Jones;

Whereas the championship victory of the Warner Robins Little League Baseball Team sets an example of sportsmanship, dedication, and a "never give up" spirit for men and women all across the country; and

Whereas the achievement of the Warner Robins Little League Baseball Team is the cause of enormous pride for the Nation, the State of Georgia, and the city of Warner Robins: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Warner Robins Little League Baseball Team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2007 Little League World Series Championship; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Clerk of the House transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the City of Warner Robins and each player, manager, and coach of the Warner Robins Little League Baseball Team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of H. Res. 630, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL).

Mr. MARSHALL. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Madam Speaker, it is a real pleasure today to be here to recognize the achievement of the Warner Robins Little League team in winning the Little League World Series. An awful lot of people in Congress, including myself, watch those games, and it was a joy to do so and sort of relive my childhood, since baseball was my sport when I was a kid. I couldn't play baseball like those kids play baseball, but I still played baseball. It is truly the national pastime, and I would say to the kids that were so successful at this particular venture, and all other kids that play sports, that sports are a very important thing in your lives and you should try and do as well as you can when you're playing a game, be good sports, recognize that you're not always going to win, certainly treat the losers as the Warner Robins team did the Tokyo team, and then carry that same sort of spirit throughout our life, the same kind of drive, the interest in perfection, the commitment to doing your absolute best, and apply that in your school work, in the work that you eventually engage in as your vocation.

Don't get fixated on sports. Sports is a great, great thing for kids, and all kids should play sports. Don't be couch potatoes. Don't be just sitting there in front of a computer and playing computer games. Play sports, stay healthy, but then take what you learn on the field and apply it every single day. If you do that, you will wind up being successful in life.

Madam Speaker, I would like to basically read the resolution. It congratulates the Warner Robins Little League baseball team from Warner Robins, Georgia, in my district, on winning the 2007 Little League World Series Championship. This occurred on August 26, 2007, when the Warner Robins Little League team defeated the Tokyo Little League team by a score of 3-2 in a very exciting game.

Madam Speaker, I want to specifically congratulate the team players: Hunt Smith; Taylor Lay; David Umphreyville, Jr.; Nick Martens; Zane Conlon; Micah Wells; Dalton Carriker; Kendall Scott; Clint Wynn; Payton Purvis; Hunter Jackson; and Keaton Allen; and also the Manager, Mickey Lay; Coach, Mike Smith; Team Mother, Robin Smith; and President, Roman Jones.

I want to congratulate also the parents. It is an awfully big commitment for parents to make to see your kids through these kinds of athletic activities. Very, very few kids get to have the experience of winning a championship like this, but all kids are benefited from participating in sports.

Madam Speaker, the resolution goes on to resolve that the House of Representatives congratulates the Warner Robins Little League baseball team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2007 Little League World Series Championship, and respectfully requests that the Clerk of the House transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the City of Warner Robins and to each player, manager and coach of the Warner Robins Little League baseball team.

To the extent that the Clerk needs help doing that, I am happy to offer my assistance.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of this resolution to congratulate the Warner Robins, Georgia, All Stars for winning the Little League World Championship in August in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The achievements on the field, Dalton Carriker smacked a 2-1 curve ball from Junsho Kiuchi of Japan over the right field wall to give the Georgia team a 3-2 walk-off victory before 31,000 fans, were, of course, remarkable.

Madam Speaker, what happened right after that was even more remarkable and speaks even higher of the players and coaches involved in this great victory. In fact, these boys taught a lesson that we here in Washington would do well to consider. When the Georgia boys saw the Japanese boys slump to the ground in defeat, they rushed to their sides, gave them hugs and physically and emotionally lifted their spirits. They knew the Japanese players were opponents, not enemies. They knew that good, worthy opponents are a blessing. Without opponents who push us, we never put forth our best effort, and our victories are empty and meaningless and trite.

The winning pitcher for Georgia, Kendall Scott, summed it up best as to why his team reacted as it did, and, little did he know, why programs such as Little League and other youth sports are so valuable to the character of America's youth: "They don't disrespect," Scott said. "They are very disciplined, and they are some of the nicest kids you'll ever meet. Just seeing them fall down and cry, you just couldn't let them do that. You gotta pick them up."

Madam Speaker, when these young men write their "What I did on my summer vacation" essays this fall, they will have a dazzling story to tell. They took on the world and won. But, better yet, they taught the world a lesson, that victories can come after the game as well as during it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, realizing that I will not have an opportunity to call the Chicago Cubs champions this year, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 630, a bill that congratulates the Warner Robins Little League baseball team. H. Res. 630, which has 55 cosponsors, was introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) on September 4, 2007. H. Res. 630 was reported from the Oversight Committee on October 4, 2007, by a voice vote.

Madam Speaker, Georgia's Warner Robins Little League team beat Tokyo 3-2, to claim the world championship title on August 26, 2007. This is the second year in a row that a Georgia team has won the Little League Baseball World Series Championship game.

Dalton Carriker hit a dramatic home run in the bottom of the eighth inning to beat the Japanese baseball team for the championship. Carriker said, "I felt like I was flying, like Peter Pan. I didn't know what I was doing." This was a stunning home run that gave the United States its third straight Little League Championship.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) for congratulating the Warner Robins Little League baseball team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2007 Little League World Series. I know that oftentimes individuals wonder why these things are done and what relevance they are, but the reality is that as young people grow to function with each other and learn the value of teamwork and learn what it means to win not just a game of baseball, but what it means to win in the game of life, all of the things that it takes to be successful as a Little League baseball team, those same principles can be applied to everyday life.

When we congratulate these young people, we are also encouraging other young people. I would love to see a Little League baseball team on every square mile, in every neighborhood, in every block, so that as many young people as possible would get the opportunity to experience what the youngsters from Warner Robins, Georgia, have been able to experience.

Madam Speaker, again, I commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) for his introduction of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 630.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

CELEBRATING 90TH BIRTHDAY OF REV. THEODORE M. HESBURGH, C.S.C.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 687) celebrating the 90th birthday of Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, and honoring his contributions to higher education, the Catholic Church, and the advancement of the humanitarian mission, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 687

Whereas Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., was born on May 25, 1917, in Syracuse, New York;

Whereas, on June 24, 1943, Father Hesburgh began his service to the Catholic Church as an ordained priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross;

Whereas, from 1952 to 1987, Father Hesburgh served as the president of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana;

Whereas, throughout his tenure as president of the University of Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh sought to redefine the contemporary Catholic university as a place where both the moral and intellectual dimensions of scholarly inquiry are vigorously pursued;

Whereas, under his leadership, in 1972 the University of Notre Dame became a coeducational institution;

Whereas Father Hesburgh has held 16 presidential appointments under 9 administrations;

Whereas, throughout his life, Father Hesburgh has been a champion of civil rights, tirelessly seeking the peaceful resolution of international conflicts and encouraging a profound respect for all humanity;

Whereas, in pursuit of those objectives, Father Hesburgh has served on numerous boards and commissions, including terms as chair of the Overseas Development Council, chair of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, a member of President Ford's Presidential Clemency Board, and a representative of the Vatican at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna;

Whereas Father Hesburgh was a founding member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights and served as chair of the commission from 1969 to 1972;

Whereas, through his global humanitarian efforts, Father Hesburgh was a catalyst for the creation of the Center of Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame Law School and contributed to the establishment of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies on the University of Notre Dame campus;

Whereas Father Hesburgh has been a persistent advocate for the responsible stewardship of atomic energy, and has united internationally renowned scientists, scholars, and spiritual leaders to promote policies that reduce the likelihood of nuclear conflict;

Whereas Father Hesburgh served as ambassador to the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the first Catholic priest to perform a formal diplomatic role for the United States Government;

Whereas, in 2000, Father Hesburgh became the first person in higher education to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal;

Whereas Father Hesburgh has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, as well as numerous awards from education groups, including the Alexander Meiklejohn Award from the American Association of University Professors, the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from the National Catholic Education Association, and 150 honorary degrees, the most ever awarded to a single individual;

Whereas, on May 25, 2007, Father Hesburgh celebrated his 90th birthday; and

Whereas Father Hesburgh has led a life of distinguished public service and deep faith: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., for his contributions to the United States civil rights movement, his tireless work to prevent nuclear conflict around the world, and his efforts to secure the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY).

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution honoring Father Ted Hesburgh, a man who has made significant contributions to the lives of many Americans, and a man who, as the president emeritus of my alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, has had a profound impact on my own life.

I introduced H. Res. 687 on September 27 along with 103 original cosponsors. I am pleased to stand here today with my colleagues to express Congress's strong appreciation for a selfless giant whose great work continues even to this day.

As president of Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh worked to redefine the Catholic university as a place for students to learn more about their faith, while also engaging in rigorous intellectual debate.

Under his leadership, Notre Dame opened its door to women for the first time in 1972. My wife, Jill, was proud to be a member of that first class of women to graduate from the university.

In addition to his contributions to the Catholic Church and the University of Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh has worked tirelessly in service to the American people as a champion for social justice and the peaceful resolution of conflicts across the globe.

He has been a persistent voice for change here at home. He has held 16 Presidential appointments under nine different administrations, from Eisenhower to Clinton. He served as a founding member and later the Chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights where he fought for true equality in America and opposed attempts to use force to break up protests on college campuses.

He has also served on the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy and as a member of President Ford's Presidential Clemency Board.

Madam Speaker, Father Hesburgh has also been a strong advocate for international policy reform. He has championed the responsible use of nuclear energy, represented the Vatican at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, and formally represented the United States at the 1979 U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

Father Ted, as he is known around South Bend and Notre Dame, has traveled across the globe working to find peaceful resolutions to international conflicts. As recently as 1999, when Father Hesburgh was 82 years old, he conducted a fact-finding tour of refugee camps in Kosovo for the United Nations.

Father Hesburgh has also led efforts to assist the poorest of the poor in the developing world, serving as the chairman of the Overseas Development Council where he led fund-raising efforts that helped prevent mass starvation in Cambodia as a result of the brutal policies of the Khmer Rouge.

In 2000, Father Hesburgh was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. He was the first person from higher education to ever receive the award. He has also been the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, along with numerous awards from educational institutions, including 150 honorary degrees, the most ever awarded to a single individual.

Madam Speaker, these awards serve as a testament to Father Ted's lifelong commitment to humanity and the true national significance of his work. But first and foremost, Madam Speaker, Father Ted always says, "I am a priest."

Father Hesburgh is a committed educator, a spiritual leader, an author, an advocate for peace, and a strong voice for equality and opportunity in America. Today, in recognition for all that Rev. Theodore Hesburgh has done for this country, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of H. Res. 687 to honor the life and contributions of a great American.

Madam Speaker, one thing of great enjoyment to me is that our colleague on the other side, my good friend Mark Souder, is also a graduate of our university.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague who represents the University of Notre Dame. Unfortunately, I only come about 5 miles away as we circle around and share Elkhart County. It is great that we have six Domers in Congress. My colleague is actually a double Domer, which is a great honor.

Before I go into my remarks, I want to share something I remember from campus when I was there. The story on campus was: Do you know the difference between God and President Hesburgh? And the answer is: God is everywhere; President Hesburgh is everywhere but Notre Dame. And the reason was, this is what we are honoring him here for today. He went throughout the entire world, not only raising money for Notre Dame, but working to serve justice, working to serve various causes around the world.

I rise today in strong support of this resolution by Congressman DONNELLY to honor Rev. Theodore Hesburgh for his contributions to the civil rights movement in America, his tireless work to reduce the threat of nuclear conflict, and for seeking peaceful resolution to international conflict.

Father Hesburgh, who served as the president of the University of Notre Dame from 1952 to 1987, holds the world record for honorary degrees received at more than 150. He has been honored for his contributions to education, to athletics, to peace, as well as national and international issues.

He has earned these degrees, these honors, this praise with his thoughtful approach to many of the most daunting challenges of our time. In the late 1970s, he served on a commission appointed by President Carter to study immigration reform. His commission found that securing our borders should be the first step toward an immigration policy that is thoughtful and beneficial to us and our neighbors. How fresh that sounds for a recommendation he issued three decades ago.

His biography on the Notre Dame University Web site says: "Justice has been the focus of many of his outside involvements." He was a charter member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, created in 1957; and he served as its chairman from 1969 to 1972, when he was replaced by President Nixon after criticizing the President's civil rights record.

He has argued that nuclear weapons present "the greatest moral challenge of all time." He says nuclear weapons undercut the key just-war principles of discrimination, avoiding killing innocent civilians, and proportionality, using only the force necessary to achieve justifiable defense. While not everyone here may agree with these views, they are thoughtful, inspired by the will to do and represent good and representative of a man who holds peace and goodwill towards men as his central tenets.

The title of his autobiography says it all: "God, Country, Notre Dame."

Hopefully, those three will never be separated; but if they are, he has the order: God, country, and Notre Dame.

I would like to finish with one personal story. The only time I really got to spend with Father Hesburgh, I was head of the executive lecture series at the graduate School of Business at Notre Dame. He asked us to invite David Rockefeller in. He had served for many years on the Chase Manhattan board, and the Rockefellers had never contributed to Notre Dame. When we went to the airport, I saw one of the things my colleague mentioned, and that he was a priest first. He saw he had a few minutes, and so he went and did his prayers right on the airport runway. He made sure that every day he met his duties as a priest first and foremost.

My privilege that afternoon, after he spoke to the business school and the graduate students, was to accompany David Rockefeller, the executive vice president of Chase Manhattan, and Father Hesburgh for one simple reason: my job was when President Hesburgh gave me the signal, was to get the Vice President away so Father Hesburgh could do the close because in his heart this man will go to his grave knowing he built the university.

He took Notre Dame from a good university to a great international university, and that means you have to do many different things: one was fund-raising, making friends with leaders around the world, then making sure that they saw his dream in South Bend, actually Notre Dame, Indiana, is a separate town, but that they saw the dream of the Fathers of the Holy Cross to build the university there. While they built that university, President Hesburgh was really the transition figure that took it to the university it is today.

So we thank him in the international region and for his civil rights commitment, and for building the University of Notre Dame into the great university it is today.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Res. 687, a resolution amended in committee, which recognizes Rev. Ted Hesburgh for his contributions to the civil rights movement in America, his tireless work to reduce the threat of nuclear conflict, and for seeking the peaceful resolution of international conflict.

H. Res. 687, has 103 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative JOE DONNELLY on September 27, 2007. H. Res. 687, was reported from the Oversight Committee on October 4, as amended, by voice vote.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh is president emeritus of the

University of Notre Dame. He retired from active service as the 15th president of the university in 1987. During his 35 years as an educator, he oversaw the growth of the university and the admission of women to the undergraduate program. Rev. Hesburgh's public service was recognized when he received the Congressional Gold Medal in July of 2000. The leadership of the Senate and the House of Representatives gathered in the rotunda of the Capitol as President William Clinton presented Rev. Hesburgh with the Congressional Gold Medal. Rev. Hesburgh has held 16 Presidential appointments pertaining to many social issues.

Living 90 miles from Notre Dame, it was as if Father Hesburgh was the pied piper for Notre Dame University. During his tenure in office, young people, especially from throughout the entire Midwest, clamored for a spot at Notre Dame. High school students, especially those at many of the top Catholic schools throughout the country, their greatest hope was to get an opportunity to go to Notre Dame. And so I am pleased to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to a man who is difficult to describe. Yes, he was an educator. Yes, he was a priest. Yes, he was Catholic; but he was so many things until there is no way that you can pigeonhole him. You can only say here is a great American who has contributed significantly to the development of the world order. And so I urge passage of this resolution.

Madam 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 687, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution recognizing Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., for his contributions to the civil rights movement in the United States, his tireless work to reduce the threat of nuclear conflict, and his efforts to secure the peaceful resolution of international conflicts."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

COMMENDING GREEN BAY PACKERS QUARTERBACK BRETT FAVRE FOR ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECORD FOR MOST CAREER TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 697) commending Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre for establishing a

National Football League record for most career touchdown passes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 697

Whereas on September 30, 2007, Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre established a National Football League (NFL) record by throwing his 421st touchdown pass;

Whereas in addition to the career touchdown mark, Brett Favre also holds the NFL record for greatest number of wins by a starting quarterback and the NFL record for playing in the most consecutive games as a starting quarterback;

Whereas Brett Favre is the only 3-time winner of the NFL's Most Valuable Player Award;

Whereas Brett Favre's 16 consecutive years of dedicated service with the Green Bay Packers has enhanced the lives of the people of Northeast Wisconsin and exemplified the Wisconsin work ethic;

Whereas Brett Favre's contributions to his community have extended beyond the football field;

Whereas Brett Favre was born in Gulf Port, Mississippi, was raised in Kiln, Mississippi, and attended the University of Southern Mississippi;

Whereas Brett Favre's loyalties to his home State of Mississippi and adopted State of Wisconsin are reflected in his participation in and organization of numerous charitable activities in those States, including the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation, the Special Olympics, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America;

Whereas the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation aids disadvantaged children in Wisconsin and Mississippi and has raised more than \$1,000,000 for people affected by Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi;

Whereas Brett Favre and his wife, Deanna Favre, co-founded the Deanna Favre Hope Foundation, which provides assistance to women in need affected by breast cancer; and

Whereas Brett Favre has demonstrated that hard work and single-mindedness of purpose can bring success, and epitomizes the words of NFL Hall of Fame Coach Vince Lombardi: "People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre for establishing a National Football League record for most career touchdown passes;

(2) recognizes Brett Favre for his outstanding community service in Wisconsin and Mississippi and his 16 consecutive years of dedicated service with the Green Bay Packers, a community-owned organization; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to Brett Favre, to the Green Bay Packers organization, and to the Commissioner of the National Football League.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the author of this legislation, Representative STEVE KAGEN.

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague.

Madam Speaker, Green Bay, Wisconsin, the Green Bay Packers and quarterback Brett Favre have a great deal in common. They're hardworking, dedicated to the community and believe in competing with, not against, one another to bring out the very best performance possible for each and every athlete and every time on the field.

Today, the United States House of Representatives offers its praise to Brett Favre, to his family, to the Green Bay Packers and to the people of Wisconsin who together own the most storied team in professional sports.

In fact, the Green Bay Packers, unlike any other corporate entity in America, can never be offshored because the team is owned by the people living in Green Bay and Wisconsin.

There are three things our Nation can learn from the success of Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers. First, the team competes with one another to bring out the very best performance from every athlete.

Secondly, Brett, like successful Olympic speed skating champions that I've come to know, does his personal best every single day, in practice and on the field. If one does one's personal best each and every day, no one can criticize you.

And lastly, the two words that form our American competitive spirit: "move up." Don't settle for second place. Shoot for the gold and settle for the silver, but at all times, never, never stop trying to move up. And remember, we know from our experiences that everybody falls. We all have failures. But it's not how far you fall; it's how high you bounce back.

Compete with one another. Do your personal best every day and move up. These three ideas tell the story of the Green Bay Packers and their quarterback Brett Favre. They reflect the spirit of the people in both Wisconsin and in Mississippi, and they will continue to be lived out by Brett Favre during his career in professional sports and beyond.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the accomplishments of the Green Bay Packers, the hardworking people of Green Bay and the people of Wisconsin and our future Hall of Fame quarterback Brett Favre.

If I may read the resolution, which reads, H. Res. 697, "Commending Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre for establishing a National Football

League record for most career touchdown passes, and for other purposes.

"Whereas on September 30, 2007, Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre established a National Football League (NFL) record by throwing his 421st touchdown pass;

"Whereas in addition to the career touchdown mark, Brett Favre also holds the NFL record for greatest number of wins by a starting quarterback and the NFL record for playing in the most consecutive games as a starting quarterback;

"Whereas Brett Favre is the only 3-time winner of the NFL's Most Valuable Player Award;

"Whereas Brett Favre's 16 consecutive years of dedicated service with the Green Bay Packers has enhanced the lives of the people of Northeast Wisconsin and exemplified the Wisconsin work ethic;

"Whereas Brett Favre's contributions to his community have extended beyond the football field;

"Whereas Brett Favre was born in Gulfport, Mississippi, was raised in Kiln, Mississippi, and attended the University of Southern Mississippi;

"Whereas Brett Favre's loyalties to his home State of Mississippi and adopted State of Wisconsin are reflected in his participation in and organization of numerous charitable activities in those States, including the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation, the Special Olympics, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America;

"Whereas the Brett Favre Fourward Foundation aids disadvantaged children in Wisconsin and Mississippi and has raised more than \$1,000,000 for people affected by Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi;

"Whereas Brett Favre and his wife, Deanna Favre, co-founded the Deanna Favre Hope Foundation, which provides assistance to women in need affected by breast cancer; and

"Whereas Brett Favre has demonstrated that hard work and single-mindedness of purpose can bring success, and epitomizes the words of NFL Hall of Fame Coach Vince Lombardi: 'People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society.'; Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

"(1) commends Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre for establishing a National Football League record for most career touchdown passes;

"(2) recognizes Brett Favre for his outstanding community service in Wisconsin and Mississippi and his 16 consecutive years of dedicated service with the Green Bay Packers, a community-owned organization; and

"(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to Brett Favre, to the Green Bay Packers organization, and to the Commissioner of the National Football League."

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

We're going to be saying lots of nice things about Brett Favre this afternoon, but I want to make sure that he understands the most important thing. In my fantasy football team, the Domers, he's my starting quarterback this weekend. I need a lot of points. I don't want this going to his head that we're passing this congressional resolution.

In my little hometown of 700 of Grabill outside Fort Wayne, Indiana, when it was created, a man named Ben Neuenschwander brought a German over named Fred Marolf, and then Fred broke off, and up at the county line he formed a cheese company. And after many years and just a few miles from my hometown, they moved up to where all the cheeseheads go, to Wisconsin.

County Line Cheese today is one of the more famous cheese companies in America. And I don't know whether they make the actual cheeseheads that you Wisconsinites wear, but they certainly make a lot of the cheese.

That's kind of been my tie to the cheeseheads, because growing up near a plant, you could get the green curds and all that type of stuff. I followed the Green Bay Packers growing up, and they had Bart Starr and Fuzzy Thurston in the line and Jim Taylor, of course Paul Hornung, the Notre Dame great, and you kind of wondered whether Green Bay fans were going to be like Cub fans and all they did was talk about the past. Then along comes Brett Favre.

So let me rise today in support of this resolution to Brett Favre of the Green Bay Packers for breaking the world record on career touchdown passes, and the way he handled this with Dan Marino was just amazing for the country to watch as they both praised each other.

He adds to his record also for the most passes attempted, the most passes completed and, most importantly of all, the most games won as a starting quarterback.

It's only fitting that Favre continue his run on the NFL record books because he's always been a man ahead of his time. He started on his high school baseball team as an eighth grader. He started at seven different positions, including offensive and defensive line, as a ninth grader on a varsity football team.

In 1987, he arrived at Southern Miss, and at age 17, was listed as the seventh-string for the Golden Eagles. Midway through the third game of that season, he had become the starter. He would not relinquish that spot until he graduated 4 years later. He would lead stunning upsets of Florida State and, as a senior, Alabama.

Two years later, Ron Wolf was hired as general manager of the Green Bay Packers. In his first speech to Packer fans, Wolf revealed that the Packers' next quarterback was a guy they'd

never heard of, a guy who had languished as a third-string signal caller of the Atlanta Falcons, a guy named Brett Favre. He traded a running back you've never heard of to Atlanta for Favre, and the rest is history.

Well, maybe not all the rest. The Packers are 5-1 this year, and Favre, at 38, is off to his best start in years. Teammates say he's in the best shape of his career; coaches say he is making the best decisions of his career.

Could he do it again? Could he win his second Super Bowl? American cheeseheads hope so. For those of us Colts fans, we hope he does well in the final game but doesn't win.

Madam Speaker, I yield back.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

Mr. STUPAK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it's my pleasure to join Mr. KAGEN in offering this resolution, and I want the RECORD to reflect that my friend and colleague Mr. KAGEN is the second-biggest Packer fan in Congress. Being from the upper peninsula of Michigan, all of us UPers are known as Packer fans. Actually, Green Bay is only just over an hour's drive from my home, where the Detroit Lions are more than 10 hours away from home, so we are all Packer fans in northern Michigan.

On Sunday, September 30, with a 16-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Greg Jennings, Green Bay Packer Brett Favre broke Dan Marino's career touchdown pass record with 421 touchdown passes.

Playing in his 17th season in the NFL, Brett Favre has consistently shown Packer fans and the Nation that hard work, dedication and determination lead to continued success.

The fact that Brett Favre threw the record-breaking touchdown in Minnesota against a tough divisional rival shows that his hard work and determination does pay off.

Throughout his career, Brett Favre has proven that his perseverance and love of the game have helped him overcome adversity and succeed at such a high level.

Most importantly, Brett Favre has remained humble while leading the Packers to four wins and only one loss so far this season. I realize my good friend Mr. SOUDER has already given the Packers their fifth win. That will come this Sunday against the Washington Redskins. After his record-breaking performance, Brett Favre said the last thing on his mind was the record. That truly sums up how this individual approaches the game. It's not for personal glory but for team pride and continuing on their winning ways.

Favre's teammates and coaches credit his work in the off-season and between games as the reason the three-time NFL Most Valuable Player has remained successful.

Favre's leadership has helped the Packers to start off the year on top of the division.

Favre has been a leader off the field as well. This resolution honors Brett and Deanna Favre's work supporting the Special Olympics, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club of America, breast cancer patients and those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

In a year plagued with sports scandals, Brett Favre sets a positive example for all Americans that there is still honesty and dignity in sports.

I'm proud to join with all my colleagues and the Members of the House of Representatives to salute Brett Favre's continued success on and off the field, and I look forward to another MVP year.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I can assure everybody that the Chicago Bears have a great deal of respect for Brett Favre, and I don't intend to get into Central Division football, but I do rise in strong support of this resolution, a bill that commends Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre for establishing a National Football League record.

Football is an American pastime, and even people who don't know a great deal about the game oftentimes get caught up in what takes place, what goes on and what is happening. And so when one can rise to the top of the list in his profession, throw more passes than anybody else has ever thrown, thrill more audiences than perhaps anyone else thrilled, keep people coming and enjoying and interacting and being proud of not only the areas that they come from but proud of the contribution that one makes not only on the field but off the field, all of the charitable groups and organizations of which Brett and his family are a part of, gives us further reason to commend Representative STEVE KAGEN for his introduction of this legislation.

I certainly would urge its passage.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre upon his achievement of throwing his 421st NFL touchdown and breaking the all-time NFL record for touchdown passes.

From my days as Harvard quarterback, I can say firsthand that I have a deep appreciation for the sport of football and for the strength and dedication it takes not only as an athlete, but as a team leader as well. While growing up in western Wisconsin, I spent countless Sunday afternoons watching the Green Bay Packers through both good and bad seasons. I have watched Brett Favre grow from his first season as a Packer, to a Super Bowl MVP, and to a well respected legend.

Throughout the sports community, Brett Favre is a symbol of stamina, leadership, toughness, and sportsmanship. Not only has Brett Favre broken the NFL record for touchdown passes, he holds the records for most number of wins by starting quarterback, most consecutive games as a starting quarterback, and the only three-time winner of the NFL's Most Valuable Player Award. During his 16 years on the Green Bay Packers, Brett Favre

has led the team to two Super Bowls and given Wisconsin a good reason to look forward to winter.

Brett Favre is more than an outstanding athlete; he is a dedicated humanitarian who has demonstrated leadership both on and off the field. The Brett Favre Fourward Foundation has donated more than \$1.5 million for disadvantaged and disabled children in Wisconsin and Mississippi. When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi coast, Brett Favre played a leading role in rallying fundraising and aid for his home state. After his wife, Deanna, was diagnosed with breast cancer, the Favres founded the Deanna Favre Hope Foundation to provide support to uninsured or underinsured women living with this terrible disease.

I believe NFL Hall of Fame Coach Vince Lombardi captured it best when he said: "Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

On behalf of the residents of the state of Wisconsin, I would like to congratulate Brett Favre on his many accomplishments, including his 421st touchdown pass, and to wish him the best of luck for the rest of the season.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 697.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

LANCE CORPORAL DAVID K. FRIBLEY POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3308) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, as the "Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3308

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

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL DAVID K. FRIBLEY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 3308, which names a postal facility in Atwood, Indiana, after Lance Corporal David K. Fribley.

H.R. 3308, which was introduced by Representative Mark Souder on August 1, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Indiana congressional delegation.

Madam Speaker, Marine Lance Corporal David K. Fribley was killed in action on March 23, 2003, near Nasiriyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Mr. Fribley earned a degree from Indiana State University in recreation and sports management. He was working at a retirement home in Fort Myers, Florida, a job he loved, when the terrorist attacks occurred on September 11, 2001. Mr. Fribley joined the Marines. He wrote in a letter to his parents: "Right now, I'm sure I'm where God wants me to be."

Lance Corporal Fribley served his country with honor and distinction. He gave the ultimate sacrifice, and America is eternally grateful.

I commend my colleague, Representative MARK SOUDER, for introducing this legislation and urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

There are probably no things more upsetting to Members of Congress than to know that the difficult decisions we have made here have resulted in the deaths of young men and women in battle.

Lance Corporal David Fribley was actually the first Hoosier killed in action in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of the good things that we have seen in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee has been a number of post offices and various things being named after these young patriots.

I was earlier at a dedication of a football field in Warsaw, Indiana, named Fribley Field, where the community went together and put together a statue and a number of things in tribute for him and his family and renamed the

field and redid the field so that kids could continue to play athletics as he did in Warsaw.

He is actually from Atwood. His parents are Gary and Linda. He has a brother, Steve, and a sister, Ann.

Atwood is a very small town, not that Warsaw is all that big, in the big scheme of things, but Atwood is a very small town, similar to the one I grew up in, probably about 500 people or thereabouts, between 500 and 1,000, at most. It is on U.S. 30. Many people may go by it. Be careful if you do, there is usually often a policeman there who tries to catch people in a speed trap. The town is just a little ways away.

But this is a big moment for Atwood. One of their stars that came out went to Warsaw High School; and even though he went to Warsaw High School, he was known as an Atwood boy. Warsaw is a large consolidated high school in the area, and all the small towns know their individuals there.

Vicky Romine, the postmaster in Atwood, requested this from our office and said, because he was an Atwood boy, they wanted to name their post office after him. The three county commissioners in Kosciusko County, Brad Jackson, Ronald Truex and Bob Conley, all sent letters of support to rename this post office after Lance Corporal David Fribley.

He graduated from high school in 1996, where he was an all-conference football player and a track and field star. He was on the track and field team at Indiana State from 1996 to 1998 and placed sixth in the shot put at the 1998 Missouri Valley Conference Indoor and Outdoor Championships. He went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in recreational-business administration from Indiana State University.

After college he moved to Fort Myers, Florida, where he began organizing activities for retirees at the Shell Point Retirement Community until September 11, 2001. Right after 9/11, he joined the Marine Corps, saying, "The greatest gift one can give another is the gift of service. The following is my gift to you and others. With all the strength of my fellow marines, we shall always provide you with the comforting feeling of safety that you have each day."

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In 2003, he was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On March 23, 2003, he died during a battle near Nasiriyah. He became the first Hoosier killed in action in support of Iraqi Operation Freedom.

Corporal Fribley was always ready to pitch in, friends and family say. When an uncle took sick, he mowed his aunt's lawn. When a cousin wanted to attend Indiana State, he took her to the sprawling campus, showed her shortcuts and introduced her around.

One of his fraternity brothers at Indiana State said: "David was one of those

simple, gentle people. You could ask him to do anything, and he would stop what he was doing and help you. He was one of those people that I trusted with everything. I could go to him with a problem. I could go to him with an issue, and he would always come through."

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of this legislation and yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3308.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE PHOENIX MERCURY FOR WINNING THE 2007 WNBA CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 654) congratulating the Phoenix Mercury for winning the 2007 Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 654

Whereas, on September 16, 2007, the Phoenix Mercury won the 2007 Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Championship after cruising to victory over the defending champion Detroit Shock with a strong final score of 108 to 92 in the fifth and deciding game of the series;

Whereas this is the Mercury's first WNBA Championship since the team's formation in 1997 as one of the WNBA's original 8 teams;

Whereas the Mercury is the first team to win the WNBA Championship on the road;

Whereas, after only 2 seasons as head coach, the superb leadership and up-tempo style of Coach Paul Westhead guided the Mercury to this Championship;

Whereas, after only 2 years in the WNBA, Cappie Pondexter scored 26 points in the final game of the series and was chosen as the Most Valuable Player for the WNBA Finals;

Whereas Cappie Pondexter was ably assisted by Penny Taylor, who scored 30 points, and Diana Taurasi, who scored 17 points, in addition to outstanding efforts from teammates Tangela Smith, Kelly Miller, Kelly Mazzante, Kelly Schumacher, Belinda Snell, Olympia Scott, Jennifer Derevjaniuk, and Jennifer Lacy;

Whereas this impressive win makes Coach Paul Westhead the first coach in history to capture both the NBA Championship and WNBA Championship;

Whereas the Mercury entered the WNBA Playoffs with their best record in franchise history at 23-11 and after 6 years of having missed inclusion in the Playoffs;

Whereas there was no doubt who was taking control of the final game as the Mercury led by as many as 14 points in the first quarter, posted an impressive record by shooting

73.3 percent for the first quarter, and led by as many as 18 points in the second quarter; and

Whereas the city of Phoenix joins the Phoenix Mercury owner, Robert Sarver, in taking enormous pride in the accomplishment of this outstanding team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the Phoenix Mercury and Coach Paul Westhead for winning the 2007 Women's National Basketball Association Championship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 654, a bill that congratulates the Phoenix Mercury basketball team for winning the 2007 Women's National Basketball Association Championship.

H. Res. 654, which has 53 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative ED PASTOR on September 17, 2007. H. Res. 654 was reported from the Oversight Committee on October 4, 2007, by voice vote.

On September 16, 2007, the Phoenix Mercury beat the Detroit Shock 108-92 to win the Women's National Basketball Association Championship. This was the first national championship for the Phoenix Mercury basketball team.

The Phoenix Mercury team was led by three aggressive players, Ms. Cappie Pondexter, Ms. Penny Taylor and Ms. Diana Taurasi, who scored 73 points of the team's 108 points to dominate the Detroit Shock team.

I commend my colleague, Representative PASTOR, for congratulating the Phoenix Mercury basketball team for winning the 2007 Women's National Basketball Association Championship. I urge swift passage of this legislation and would just like to extend personal congratulations to Ms. Cappie Pondexter, who lived in the community where I lived, attended school there, and, of course, went on to become a great female basketball player.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of the resolution to congratulate the Phoenix Mercury for bringing the first professional

basketball title ever to the Valley of the Sun.

The Mercury became the first team in WNBA history to clinch the league title on the road when it defeated the Detroit Shock in Detroit on September 16 to win the championship series 3-2. The Mercury relied on a variety of stars, from point guard Cappie Pondexter to former Connecticut star Diana Taurasi. Penny Taylor, Kelly Miller and Tangela Smith also averaged in double figures as the Mercury set the league scoring record for the second straight year.

I remember back in the 1960s when I was in college and things were a tad more sexist. You had half-court basketball. It has sure changed today when you watch the women in the WNBA outshoot and do things that most males wouldn't dream of being able to do. It has truly emerged as an increasingly popular sport and impressive sport.

It is no coincidence that all the high scoring occurred under the watch of Coach Paul Westhead, a Shakespearean scholar who taught actual classes while serving as a men's basketball coach. He devised a style 20 years ago as coach at Loyola Marymount that made the Los Angeles school the epicenter and really the founder of the high-scoring. I shouldn't have said that quite that way because there were others who did run-and-gun basketball, but Loyola Marymount was the first team that regularly scored more than 100 points. He took that show to George Mason University in Northern Virginia before returning to the pro game as an assistant a few years later.

In 2005, he resurfaced in Phoenix and helped turn a middle-of-the-pack team into a champion. At 68, with titles in both the NBA and WNBA to his credit, he has resigned, but not before helping to bring a trophy to a city that has long waited for one.

Congratulations to Coach Westhead and to all the Mercury and its fans.

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Phoenix Mercury on becoming the 2007 winner of the Women's National Basketball Association Championship on September 16, 2007, in the final game of a five-game series that Phoenix won by an impressive 108-92 score.

This is the first championship for the Phoenix Mercury, and the first title won by a road team in the league's history. The event also places the Mercury Coach, Paul Westhead, in the unique position of being the first coach to ever lead a team to a championship in both the National Basketball Association and the WNBA courts.

The WNBA started 11 years ago. Since that time, its fan base has continued to grow each year as more and more sports enthusiasts have become appreciative of the athletic talents of women. This year's victory game, in which the Mercury posted a 73.3 shooting percentage in the first quarter, clearly shows that women have rightfully earned a spot in the limelight of this sport.

The magic events of the September 16th game created an impressive run of records

that are truly deserving of recognition. Therefore, I am very proud of to have sponsored this resolution honoring the Phoenix Mercury, a superb team that has combined hard-work, sportsmanship, raw talent, and a will to win into a modern day success story—a success that was aided by great coaching and a strong front office organization led by owner Robert Sarver. I am most certainly wishing them all the best as they continue to bring outstanding basketball in the future to fans worldwide.

As Coach Westhead recently quoted when referencing this victory and which serves as a thoughtful reminder to all walks of life, "Isn't it amazing how much can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit?"

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 654.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHILDREN'S GASOLINE BURN PREVENTION ACT

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 814) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations mandating child-resistant closures on all portable gasoline containers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 814

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 "Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. CHILD-RESISTANT PORTABLE GASOLINE CONTAINERS.

(a) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY RULE.—The provision of subsection (b) shall be considered to be a consumer product safety rule issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Effective 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, each portable gasoline container manufactured on or after that date for sale in the United States shall conform to the child-resistance requirements for closures on portable gasoline containers specified in the standard ASTM F2517-05, issued by ASTM International.

(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this Act, the term "portable gasoline container" means any portable gasoline container intended for use by consumers.

(d) REVISION OF RULE.—If, after the enactment of this Act, ASTM International proposes to revise the child resistance requirements of ASTM F2517-05, ASTM International shall notify the Consumer Product Safety Commission of the proposed revision and the proposed revision shall be incorporated in the consumer product safety rule under subsection (a) unless, within 60 days of such notice, the Commission notifies

ASTM International that the Commission has determined that such revision does not carry out the purposes of subsection (b).

(e) IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.—Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply with respect to the issuance of any regulations by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to implement the requirements of this section, and sections 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act shall not apply to such issuance.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall transmit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on—

(1) the degree of industry compliance with the standard promulgated under subsection (a);

(2) any enforcement actions brought by the Commission to enforce such standard; and

(3) incidents involving children interacting with portable gasoline containers (including both those that are and are not in compliance with the standard promulgated under subsection (a)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this is the first of four consumer protection bills on floor of the House of Representatives that the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection reported on July 30, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce subsequently reported on September 27.

The final versions of these bills have all been crafted in a thoroughly bipartisan manner and in close consultation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The committee staff, both majority and minority, should be commended for the hard work they put into these bills to ensure that they are thoughtful, careful, and bipartisan pieces of legislation.

H.R. 814, the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act, was introduced by Congressman DENNIS MOORE and Congressman SPENCER BACHUS.

□ 1545

It requires child-resistant caps on gasoline cans, whether they are sold with or without gasoline. Currently, the law only requires such safety caps on cans sold with gasoline in the can. The absence of a requirement for child-resistant caps on empty gasoline cans makes no sense, and this bill addresses this dangerous inconsistency.

At subcommittee, we passed an amendment in the nature of a substitute which reflected arcane and

technical changes to the bill as recommended by the staff of the CPSC. As a consequence, the bill, as amended, employs the regulatory model used for automatic garage door openers to formulate safety requirements, which has proven to be a very successful regulatory model over the years for the CPSC.

This is a good bill, Madam Speaker, and I want to commend our colleagues, Mr. MOORE and Mr. BACHUS, for their bipartisan work. I urge a "yes" vote.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, it's a great opportunity to see you in the Speaker's chair today.

I would like to commend, obviously, Congressman MOORE for his dedication and his determination to move H.R. 814, the Gasoline Burn Prevention Act. He has been, Madam Speaker, and as my colleague knows, the chairman of the committee has been tireless in his efforts to ensure portable gasoline containers are fitted with child-resistant caps, and that is simply what this legislation does. This bill mandates that all portable gas cans sold in this country be equipped with child-resistant caps.

I'd like to note, however, that mandating the standard is not a substitute for preventing access to gasoline. In fact, all prepackaged gas containers are required to be sold with child-resistant caps. And empty gas containers, which this legislation addresses, are now sold with such caps as a matter of compliance with a voluntary industry standard. Let me repeat. The industry has complied with this on a volunteer basis. The very standard that this bill adopts, industry has voluntarily complied with and set up themselves or in compliance with State environmental laws requiring child-resistant and spill-resistant caps.

As a consequence, I'm just a bit concerned about this legislation. Not, obviously, because of its substance, but simply because of the precedents that we have here, Congress, how we will treat industry who voluntarily step out, set their standards, comply with it and do it themselves. So when the industry is in compliance and did so voluntarily, why does the United States Federal Government need to get involved? Requirements of the Consumer Product Safety Act establish the CPSC should only promulgate a standard when no industry or other standard exists, or when an existing standard is inadequate or is not being complied with at large. But, again, industry in compliance; did so voluntarily. So why does the United States Government have to step in?

I'm concerned that we'll send a message to industry that even when you do things correctly, you adopt the standards voluntarily, and you comply with them, Congress will not hesitate to intercede, turning an industry standard into a commission rule while bypassing the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act.

Now, think about that. They adopt the standards, they comply with it, they do it themselves; Congress still intervenes and adopts what the industry put as a standard as part of a bill here. If turning industry standards into agency rules becomes regular practice around here, it could severely diminish the willingness of industry to develop standards on their own because, be careful what you ask for. The industry will say to themselves, lo and behold, we work hard, we developed this voluntarily, this standard, bingo. They come back and they might take the standard, and not only take the standard, but the standard plus one, plus two, plus three.

So I worry that these additional layers of regulation liability, and of course there's liability when the Federal Government steps in, on the manufacturing industry, particularly when the industry complies, simply complies with the industry standards, are unnecessary in many cases, and often contribute to the loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs because of the concern about liability.

Now, having said all that, Madam Speaker, expressing my concerns of the unintended precedent, I obviously support this bill because the bill, in effect, is a reasonable effort that may, perhaps will, reduce danger to children. And so for that, Madam Speaker, I commend Congressman MOORE. I just think it establishes a precedent that we, on this committee, Commerce, Consumer Protection and Trade, have to be careful about.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I want to assure everybody that, in spite of the polemics, this is a bipartisan bill, and we do have bipartisan agreement.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 814, the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act.

While they say that good things come to those who wait, victims of a gasoline burn due to non-child-resistant gasoline container closures and their families would disagree. This is the fourth Congress in which I have introduced this measure. For the past two, I have been joined by my friend and colleague from Alabama, Representative SPENCER BACHUS. Our children have waited long enough for this common sense consumer protection.

The 1973 Poison Packaging Prevention Act requires items containing dangerous or poisonous materials, such as pill bottles, to be sold with child-resistant caps. Gasoline cans, however, are exempt from this requirement because they are sold empty, even though they are designed solely to contain one very hazardous, highly flammable liquid. H.R. 814 would simply amend section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058), to include child-resistance standards for closures on all portable gasoline containers.

Allowing these cans to be sold with simple twist-off caps is dangerous and causes tragic accidents when children come into contact with them. Unfortunately, these accidents occur all too frequently. In 2003, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, re-

leased a report estimating that in a single year; more than 1,200 children under the age of five were treated in emergency rooms for injuries resulting from unsecured gas cans, either through fires or inhalation of fumes. Using a different data set, the CPSC confirmed 19 deaths over eleven years due to children interacting with gas cans.

H.R. 814 has been endorsed by the American Society of Testing and Materials' Task Group of Standards for Flammable Liquid Containers, the World Burn Foundation, the National Safety Council, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Fire Protection Association, Public Citizen, and the Office of the Kansas State Fire Marshal.

In addition, H.R. 814 would not cost the taxpayers any money and is strongly bipartisan.

During the 109th Congress, the Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act garnered 119 cosponsors, 14 of whom were Republicans. This Congress, it is again a strongly bipartisan bill.

Thank you again, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to vote on this proposal in the full House. I hope that we can work together to enact this simple, common-sense measure that will protect young children, and help put their parents' minds at ease with regard to gasoline cans stored in garages, basements, and back porches. The Consumer Product Safety Commission must be allowed to adequately protect consumers and ensure public safety. This measure will help do that.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 814, a commonsense bill that will protect children from severe harm.

The Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act will resolve a long-standing loophole in Federal law. For more than 30 years, we have required that household hazardous materials be sold in child resistant containers. Gasoline cans were exempt from this requirement for one simple reason. They are sold empty. They do not hold any hazardous material when they are purchased.

This is a meaningless distinction—the sole purpose of these cans is to hold gasoline, a highly flammable and dangerous material. This bill will require that companies sell cans that children can't open.

I worked with my colleague DENNIS MOORE to introduce a similar bill last Congress, after I learned about young children who were killed or permanently injured in fires that began when the children accidentally opened a gas can. Stephen Diaz, a California boy, is just one example. He opened a gas can in his family garage and knocked it over. The fumes ignited, and he was burned over half of his body. This fire, and many others, could and should have been prevented.

I am pleased that the bill has been reintroduced this Congress and is on the floor today. The Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act is a simple but important piece of legislation that I urge my colleagues to support.

Mr. RUSH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 814, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DANNY KEYSAR CHILD PRODUCT SAFETY NOTIFICATION ACT

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1699) to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to require certain manufacturers to provide consumer product registration forms to facilitate recalls of durable infant and toddler products.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1699

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 “Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death among children, and for every such injury that is fatal, approximately 18 children are hospitalized and 1,250 are treated by emergency departments for such injuries that are nonfatal.

(2) According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, an average of 50 children under the age of 5 die each year in incidents associated with nursery products, and about 16 of these deaths each year are associated with cribs.

(3) In 2003, an estimated 60,700 children under the age of 5 were treated in United States hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with nursery products, and there were 10,700 injuries to children under the age of 5 years associated with strollers alone.

(4) Of the 397 recalls issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission in fiscal year 2005, 109 (or 27 percent) were children’s products. Children’s products were recalled, on average, over 2 times per week, and accounted for 19,635,627 individual units.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(2) **DURABLE INFANT OR TODDLER PRODUCT.**—The term “durable infant or toddler product”—

(A) means a durable product intended for use, or that may be reasonably expected to be used, by children under the age of 5 years; and

(B) shall include—

- (i) full-size cribs and nonfull-size cribs;
- (ii) toddler beds;
- (iii) high chairs, booster chairs, and hook-on chairs;
- (iv) bath seats;
- (v) gates and other enclosures for confining a child;
- (vi) play yards;
- (vii) stationary activity centers;
- (viii) infant carriers;
- (ix) strollers;
- (x) walkers;
- (xi) swings; and
- (xii) bassinets and cradles.

SEC. 4. CONSUMER PRODUCT REGISTRATION FORMS.

(a) **RULEMAKING.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall, pursuant to its authority under section 16(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065(b)), promulgate a final consumer product safety rule to require manufacturers of durable infant or toddler products—

(1) to provide consumers with a postage-paid consumer registration form with each such product;

(2) to maintain a record of the names, addresses, email addresses, and other contact information of consumers who register their ownership of such products with the manufacturer in order to improve the effectiveness of manufacturer campaigns to recall such products; and

(3) to permanently place the manufacturer name and contact information, model name and number, and the date of manufacture on each durable infant or toddler product.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION FORM.**—The registration form required to be provided to consumers under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include spaces for a consumer to provide their name, address, telephone number, and email address;

(2) include space sufficiently large to permit easy, legible recording of all desired information;

(3) be attached to the surface of each durable infant or toddler product so that, as a practical matter, the consumer must notice and handle the form after purchasing the product;

(4) include the manufacturer’s name, model name and number for the product, and the date of manufacture;

(5) include a message explaining the purpose of the registration and designed to encourage consumers to complete the registration;

(6) include an option for consumers to register through the Internet; and

(7) include a statement that information provided by the consumer shall not be used for any purpose other than to facilitate a recall of or safety alert regarding that product.

In issuing regulations under this section, the Commission may prescribe the exact text and format of the required registration form.

(c) **RECORD KEEPING AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—The standard required under this section shall require each manufacturer of a durable infant or toddler product to maintain a record of registrants for each product manufactured that includes all of the information provided by each consumer registered, and to use such information to notify such consumers in the event of a voluntary or involuntary recall of or safety alert regarding such product. Each manufacturer shall maintain such a record for a period of not less than 6 years after the date of manufacture of the product. Consumer information collected by a manufacturer under this Act may not be used by the manufacturer, nor disseminated by such manufacturer to any other party, for any purpose other than notification to such consumer in the event of a product recall or safety alert.

(d) **STUDY.**—The Commission shall conduct a study at such time as it considers appropriate on the effectiveness of the consumer registration forms in facilitating product recalls. Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall report its findings to Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1699, the Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Act was introduced by the vice chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. UPTON, a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. The bill is named after 16-month-old Danny Keysar, who tragically and senselessly died when his defective portable crib collapsed and strangled him to death. Unbeknownst to Danny’s poor parents and caregiver, the crib was subject to a voluntary recall 5 years earlier.

H.R. 1699 directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to require manufacturers of certain nursery products to create a voluntary registry to facilitate the efficacy of recall of those products when they occur. Under the bill, when a consumer buys one of 12 types of everyday durable nursery products as defined by statute, such as cribs, high chairs, bath seats and strollers, the manufacturer must provide the consumer with a postage-paid postcard. Parents will have the option to fill out the postcard and register with the manufacturer by mail or, alternatively, by e-mail so that they can be immediately notified if the product is the subject of a recall. The information on these postcards cannot be used for marketing or any other purpose than to notify consumers of the recall. It’s worth noting, Madam Speaker, that this registry is based on an existing successful program for child car seats maintained by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

It’s also worth noting that this bill is extremely timely, given the recent recall of infant cribs made by the company Simplicity, because of the strangulation hazard the defective cribs posed to young toddlers. Moreover, numerous press reports have recently cited just how ineffective product recalls can be. Unfortunately, parents are often unaware of defective recall products, and they remain in homes posing danger to children, as was the case with Danny Keysar. Indeed, in recent years, the CPSC has increasingly issued expanded recalls of products that have already been the subject of recalls, because the Commission continues to be vigilant and to receive injury reports on defective products. H.R. 1699 will go a long way towards remedying this problem and empowering parents to become aware of infant product recalls immediately after they are our initiated.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of the Members of the House to vote for this excellent bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, this bill aims to improve

the recall process of children's products such as toys and furniture by requiring the inclusion of a product safety registration card with each product at the point of sale. The program is modeled on the car seat registration program mandated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, better known as NHTSA.

Now, my colleagues, this legislation creates a new mechanism for keeping consumers informed of child product recalls. To the extent we can improve the recall process, we should, and we think it's a good idea. Parents should know as soon as possible, if they own a product that's dangerous to their child's safety.

Children have been injured by the continued use of a recalled product simply because the parents were simply unaware of the product's dangerous nature. Our hope is that this registration program will render these type of accidents preventable.

Now, my colleagues, of course children's products are often passed along to other friends or family members once their child is grown, outgrows its use. We all know that. We put it up in the attic, then we hear a friend at church says they have a new child and we bring down this particular product. So many products are donated to charity outlets for resale, or sold at second-hand stores, online or at yard sales. No registration program will reach these parents in the event of a recall. They'll have to depend upon media.

This legislation will attempt to reach these legacy owners by permanently marking each product with the manufacturer's name, model number and other information used in consumer product recalls. A parent can simply research the item on the Internet or call the manufacturer to verify a product's safety if he or she gets this product either in a yard sale or it's given to them by a friend. This is good.

To the extent this measure improves notification to parents of potentially dangerous products, all of us should support this bill. At the same time, we all know that nothing is more important to a child's safety than vigilant parental supervision. I hope the good intentions of this legislation proves effective for both the consumers who purchase the products and the companies who will have to maintain these databases.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of this legislation along with Congressman UPTON, the gentlewoman from Illinois, the vice chairman of the subcommittee, my friend, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I'd first like to thank the chairman of the Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection subcommittee, Mr. RUSH, for his support and help.

I also want to thank Mr. STEARNS for his support of the legislation, as well

as full committee Chairman DINGELL and Ranking Member BARTON.

□ 1600

It is clear that our system for recalling dangerous products is simply broken. It is failing American families. The recall system relies on the media to pick up the story and spread the word, but many times the stories are not picked up and the news does not reach the owners of defective products. In fact, some estimate that the recall effectiveness rate for products under jurisdiction of the Consumer Product Safety Commission is a mere 16 percent. Notification targeted to owners of the product is rare, and many parents remain unaware of the dangers.

And that's why I rise in strong support of H.R. 1699, the Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act, which I was proud to introduce with my good friend from Michigan, Congressman UPTON. This bill will begin to close the significant gaps in the recall system by requiring that durable children's products such as cribs and strollers and high chairs come with a postage-paid postcard that parents or caregivers can mail in to be notified if a product is recalled for safety reasons.

This legislation is a commonsense solution to a very real and pervasive problem. Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death among children. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, an estimated 64,700 children under the age of 5 were treated in emergency rooms across the country for injuries associated with nursery products in 2003 at a cost of \$2.5 billion, and that figure has almost certainly risen in the last 4 years. And even more tragically, an average of 50 children under the age of 5 die each year in incidents associated with nursery products, and about 16 of these deaths each year are associated with cribs.

And this bill is a tribute to one such child. On May 12, 1998, 16-month-old Danny Keysar was strangled to death at his licensed day care facility when a portable crib collapsed, turning the horizontal side rail into a V-shaped wedge that squeezed his throat and strangled him. Imagine what Danny's parents must have felt when they learned that the crib that killed their son, a Playskool Travel-Lite crib, had been recalled by the government and the manufacturer 5 years earlier.

And, sadly, Danny's parents aren't alone. More than 1.5 million portable cribs like the one that killed Danny were made with a similar design by different manufacturers. The crib that took Danny's life had already killed four children. A 10-month-old New Jersey baby became the sixth child to be strangled to death by the Playskool crib just 3 months after Danny died.

Despite the recall, neither the day care center nor State inspectors who had been to the facility just a week before Danny's death knew that recalled products were being used there. And

they are not to blame. It was not the State agency's mandate to inspect for recalled materials; and unless someone who worked in the center happened to catch the recall story on the news, there was virtually no way to know that the cribs they used were death traps. And, by the way, Illinois did change its law.

But in case anyone might think this was an isolated incident, think again. In 2005 children's products were recalled on average two times a week. Just over 2 weeks ago, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued the largest recall of full-sized cribs in the agency's history, recalling almost a million of the Nation's most popular cribs because of design flaws that have already killed at least three more children. And a week later, Kolcraft, the company that manufactured the Playskool crib that killed Danny Keysar, recalled 425,000 infant play yards following the death of a 10-month-old child.

Congress needs to act to make sure that these kinds of senseless tragedies don't occur again. When Danny's parents, Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, learned that the crib that had killed their son had been recalled in 1993, they turned their grief into action and founded Kids in Danger, a Chicago-based nonprofit that is dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. It is because of their dedication that we are here today, and I am honored to represent them here today and thank them for their work. I hope with the passage of this legislation no more parents will have to endure what they did.

I believe that H.R. 1699, which allows people to send in a card or e-mail to make sure that the manufacturer will let them know, just as is done with car seats in the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration, a provision that has been so successful that there has been a tenfold increase in recalls and recall repair rates have gone up by 56 percent, that at a cost of a handful of pennies per card, this legislation will save lives of children.

I would appreciate support.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense piece of legislation. It takes a giant step toward protecting our Nation's most important asset: our children.

I urge Members of this body to pass this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COHEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1699, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRODUCT SAFETY CIVIL PENALTIES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2474) to provide for an increased maximum civil penalty for violations under the Consumer Product Safety Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2474

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 "Product Safety Civil Penalties Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTIES OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION.

(a) INITIAL INCREASE IN MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(1) TEMPORARY INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the dollar amounts specified for maximum civil penalties specified in section 20(a)(1) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2069(a)(1)), section 5(c)(1) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, and section 5(e)(1) of the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1194(e)(1)), the maximum civil penalties for any violation specified in such sections shall be \$5,000,000, beginning on the date that is the earlier of the date on which final regulations are issued under section 3(b) or 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall cease to be in effect on the date on which the amendments made by subsection (b)(1) shall take effect.

(b) PERMANENT INCREASE IN MAXIMUM CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT.—Section 20(a)(1) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2069(a)(1)) is amended by striking "\$1,250,000" both places it appears and inserting "\$10,000,000".

(B) FEDERAL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ACT.—Section 5(c)(1) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (15 U.S.C. 1264(c)(1)) is amended by striking "\$1,250,000" both places it appears and inserting "\$10,000,000".

(C) FLAMMABLE FABRICS ACT.—Section 5(e)(1) of the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1194(e)(1)) is amended by striking "\$1,250,000" and inserting "\$10,000,000".

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the earlier of—

(A) the date on which final regulations are issued pursuant to section 3(b); or

(B) 360 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF PENALTIES BY THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION.

(a) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—

(1) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT.—Section 20(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2069(b)) is amended—

(A) by inserting "the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation, including" after "shall consider";

(B) by striking "products distributed, and" and inserting "products distributed,;" and

(C) by inserting "and such other factors as appropriate" before the period.

(2) FEDERAL HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES ACT.—Section 5(c)(3) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (15 U.S.C. 1264(c)(3)) is amended—

(A) by inserting "the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation, including" after "shall consider";

(B) by striking "substance distributed, and" and inserting "substance distributed,;" and

(C) by inserting "and such other factors as appropriate" before the period.

(3) FLAMMABLE FABRICS ACT.—Section 5(e)(2) of the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1194(e)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking "nature and number" and inserting "nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity";

(B) by striking "absence of injury, and" and inserting "absence of injury,;" and

(C) by inserting "and such other factors as appropriate" before the period.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and in accordance with the procedures of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the Commission shall issue a final regulation providing its interpretation of the penalty factors described in section 20(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2069(b)), section 5(c)(3) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (15 U.S.C. 1264(c)(3)), and section 5(e)(2) of the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1194(e)(2)), as amended by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am the author of the third consumer protection bill that we are considering on the House floor this afternoon, H.R. 2474, the Product Safety Civil Penalties Improvement Act, which raises the cap on civil penalties that the Consumer Product Safety Commission can impose from \$1.83 million to \$10 million. Furthermore, the new cap will be phased in through two steps. It rises to \$5 million as soon as the CPSC issues its new interpretive guidelines or one year after reenactment, whichever occurs first. Mr. Speaker, the cap will subsequently rise to its full \$10 million one year after this initial increase. This new cap figure and two-step process is the product of careful negotiations and compromise with the minority.

Furthermore, the bill, as amended in this subcommittee, renders the factors used in assessing the amount of penalties more expansive and flexible, and it further makes clear that the current list of factors is not exclusive. This flexibility will allow the commission to take into account factors such as whether the manufacturer is a recidivist or a first-time offender when imposing these civil penalties. In this regard CPSC is required to promulgate interpretive rules on these penalty factors within 360 days.

Mr. Speaker, passage of H.R. 2474 is badly needed. For too long the CPSC

has only been able to slap violators on the wrist with a puny civil penalties cap of \$1.8 million. Under current law, section 15(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act requires every manufacturer, every distributor, or retailer of a consumer product to notify the CPSC immediately upon information that reasonably supports the conclusion that a given product, one, violates a safety standard promulgated by the CPSC; two, contains a defect that could pose a substantial hazard; or, three, otherwise creates an unreasonable risk of injury or death.

Unfortunately, for many large companies, a civil penalty of \$1.83 million is a mere drop in the bucket and does not always provide substantial and sufficient incentive for companies to report problems to the commission. The cost of civil penalties may be outweighed by the cost of compliance with the prohibitions and requirements of the law. For instance, at our June 6 hearing before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, we heard testimony that the \$750,000 fine assessed by the CPSC against Wal-Mart for failing to report a defect in fitness machines represented 1 minute, 33 seconds' worth of sales for the retail giant.

While most companies try to do the right thing and report injuries in a timely manner to the CPSC, H.R. 2474 gives the commission a bigger hammer to crack down on bad corporate behavior that leads to defective and dangerous products on the market.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote from my colleagues on this bipartisan piece of legislation.

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. This is a straightforward bill, and we support it on this side. Of the four consumer product safety bills that we have on the floor, we feel this is the one that is the most straightforward and, obviously, we support and we speak in favor of it.

My colleagues, go back to 1972. The House passed the Consumer Product Safety Act. At that time the penalty was simply \$500,000. Now let's leap ahead. Adjusted for inflation, what is that equivalent in today's dollars? About \$2.5 million. However, the original penalty maximum in the CPSA was not indexed to inflation; so \$500,000 as years went by up to 1990 was a pretty paltry amount over this period of time. And then in 1990 it was indexed to inflation so that the current civil penalty maximum is \$1.825 million.

The chairman would indicate that is a small incentive for companies out there. I submit that the penalty is not the big product for companies. It's bad PR. If you are a Wal-Mart and you have a product that is defective or you are a toy manufacturer, the penalty is going to be a deterrent, but the big deterrent is you won't be able to sell that product if those products have to be recalled and everybody knows that your

company has manufactured a defective product.

I support the ability of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to penalize those who willfully, willfully violate the act. At the same time, we are not sure whether the effect of an increase in potential penalties to as much as \$10 million will have the desired effect.

I can support this measure, however, because there are three key factors when you look at this bill. First, the increase in the penalty maximum will be phased in, thanks to the chairman and his staff and our staff working together. Two, this measure amends the CPSC to include specific penalty assessment factors. And, three, the measure directs the CPSC to promulgate rules interpreting these factors and delineates how the commission will assess the fines.

My colleagues, this last factor in particular is important to our business community. Interpretive rules are necessary to provide guidance, clarity, and some predictability to regulate industries. Additionally, interpretive guidelines will provide a constant framework within which the CPSC may act. \$10 million is too great an amount to not act responsibly, I agree with the chairman. That is a deterrent, and consistently imposing such fines is important.

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But again, I point out that the larger deterrent for corporations is the fact that the publicity will be damaging to their sale of future products.

So, I would commend the chairman for his leadership in updating the CPSC on this matter, again, for his staff working with us to create, I think, a bipartisan work product that all of us, both Democrats and Republican, can support.

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, this, again, is another example of commonsense legislation, bipartisan cooperation that is aimed at improving and enhancing the flow of commerce between consumers and manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation takes a giant, giant step toward improving the overall product safety, product recall phenomenon that exists to stream the system that exists.

I urge passage of this outstanding piece of legislation.

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 Illinois (Mr. RUSH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2474, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL AND SPA SAFETY ACT

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1721) 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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1721

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 “Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Federal swimming pool and spa drain cover standard.

Sec. 4. State swimming pool safety grant program.

Sec. 5. Minimum State law requirements.

Sec. 6. Education program.

Sec. 7. Definitions.

Sec. 8. CPSC report.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) of injury-related deaths, drowning is the second leading cause of death in children aged 1 to 14 in the United States;

(2) there are approximately 260 drowning deaths of children younger than age 5 each year in swimming pools, and an estimated 2,725 children are treated annually in hospital emergency rooms for pool submersion injuries, mostly in residential pools;

(3) many children die due to pool and spa drowning and entrapment, such as Virginia Graeme Baker, who at age 7 drowned by entrapment in a residential spa, and Preston de Ibern, who at age 5 nearly drowned and was left permanently brain damaged, finally succumbing to his catastrophic healthcare issues when he was 12 years old;

(4) adult supervision at all aquatic venues is a critical safety factor in preventing children from drowning; and

(5) research studies show that the installation and proper use of barriers or fencing, as well as additional layers of protection, could substantially reduce the number of childhood residential swimming pool drownings and near drownings.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA DRAIN COVER STANDARD.

(a) **CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY RULE.**—The provisions of subsection (b) shall be considered to be a consumer product safety rule issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058).

(b) **DRAIN COVER STANDARD.**—Effective 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each swimming pool or spa drain cover manufactured, distributed, or entered into commerce in the United States shall conform to the entrapment protection standards of the ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 performance standard.

(c) **REVISION OF RULE.**—If, after the enactment of this Act, ANSI proposes to revise the entrapment protection requirements of ASME/

ANSI A112.19.8, ANSI shall notify the Consumer Product Safety Commission of the proposed revision and the proposed revision shall be incorporated in the consumer product safety rule under subsection (a) unless, within 60 days of such notice, the Commission notifies ANSI that the Commission has determined that such revision does not carry out the purposes of subsection (b).

(d) **IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.**—Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply with respect to the issuance of any regulations by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to implement the requirements of this section, and sections 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act shall not apply to such issuance.

SEC. 4. STATE SWIMMING POOL SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of appropriations authorized by subsection (e), the Commission shall establish a grant program to provide assistance to eligible States.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible for a grant under the program, a State shall—

(1) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commission that it has a State statute, or that, after the date of enactment of this Act, it has enacted a statute, or amended an existing statute, that provides for the enforcement of a law that—

(A) except as provided in section 5(a)(1)(A)(i), applies to all swimming pools in the State; and

(B) meets the minimum State law requirements of section 5; and

(2) submit an application to the Commission at such time, in such form, and containing such additional information as the Commission may require.

(c) **AMOUNT OF GRANT.**—The Commission shall determine the amount of a grant awarded under this Act, and shall consider—

(1) the population and relative enforcement needs of each qualifying State; and

(2) allocation of grant funds in a manner designed to provide the maximum benefit from the program in terms of protecting children from drowning or entrapment, and, in making that allocation, shall give priority to States that have not received a grant under this Act in a preceding fiscal year.

(d) **USE OF GRANT FUNDS.**—A State receiving a grant under this section shall use—

(1) at least 50 percent of amount made available to hire and train enforcement personnel for implementation and enforcement of standards under the State swimming pool and spa safety law; and

(2) the remainder—

(A) to educate pool construction and installation companies and pool service companies about the standards;

(B) to educate pool owners, pool operators, and other members of the public about the standards under the swimming pool and spa safety law and about the prevention of drowning or entrapment of children using swimming pools and spas; and

(C) to defray administrative costs associated with such training and education programs.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 \$5,000,000 to carry out this section, such sums to remain available until expended.

SEC. 5. MINIMUM STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **SAFETY STANDARDS.**—A State meets the minimum State law requirements of this section if—

(A) the State requires by statute—

(i) the enclosure of all outdoor residential pools and spas by barriers to entry that will effectively prevent small children from gaining unsupervised and unfettered access to the pool or spa;

(ii) that all pools and spas be equipped with devices and systems designed to prevent entrapment by pool or spa drains;

(iii) that pools and spas built more than 1 year after the date of enactment of such statute have—

- (I) more than 1 drain per circulation pump;
- (II) 1 or more unblockable drains per circulation pump; or
- (III) no main drain; and
- (iv) every swimming pool and spa that has a main drain, other than an unblockable drain, be equipped with a drain cover that meets the consumer product safety standard established by section 3; and

(B) the State meets such additional State law requirements for pools and spas as the Commission may establish after public notice and a 30-day public comment period.

(2) **USE OF MINIMUM STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS.**—The Commission—

(A) shall use the minimum State law requirements under paragraph (1) solely for the purpose of determining the eligibility of a State for a grant under section 4 of this Act; and

(B) may not enforce any requirement under paragraph (1) except for the purpose of determining the eligibility of a State for a grant under section 4 of this Act.

(3) **REQUIREMENTS TO REFLECT NATIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND COMMISSION GUIDELINES.**—In establishing minimum State law requirements under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) consider current or revised national performance standards on pool and spa barrier protection and entrapment prevention; and

(B) ensure that any such requirements are consistent with the guidelines contained in the Commission's publication 362, entitled "Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools", the Commission's publication entitled "Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer", and any other pool safety guidelines established by the Commission.

(b) **STANDARDS.**—Nothing in this section prevents the Commission from promulgating standards regulating pool and spa safety or from relying on an applicable national performance standard.

(c) **BASIC ACCESS-RELATED SAFETY DEVICES AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED.**—In establishing minimum State law requirements for swimming pools and spas under subsection (a)(1), the Commission shall consider the following requirements:

(1) **COVERS.**—A safety pool cover.

(2) **GATES.**—A gate with direct access to the swimming pool that is equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device.

(3) **DOORS.**—Any door with direct access to the swimming pool that is equipped with an audible alert device or alarm which sounds when the door is opened.

(4) **POOL ALARM.**—A device designed to provide rapid detection of an entry into the water of a swimming pool or spa.

(d) **ENTRAPMENT, ENTANGLEMENT, AND EVISCERATION PREVENTION STANDARDS TO BE REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In establishing additional minimum State law requirements for swimming pools and spas under subsection (a)(1), the Commission shall require, at a minimum, 1 or more of the following (except for pools constructed without a single main drain):

(A) **SAFETY VACUUM RELEASE SYSTEM.**—A safety vacuum release system which ceases operation of the pump, reverses the circulation flow, or otherwise provides a vacuum release at a suction outlet when a blockage is detected, that has been tested by an independent third party and found to conform to ASME/ANSI standard A112.19.17 or ASTM standard F2387.

(B) **SUCTION-LIMITING VENT SYSTEM.**—A suction-limiting vent system with a tamper-resistant atmospheric opening.

(C) **GRAVITY DRAINAGE SYSTEM.**—A gravity drainage system that utilizes a collector tank.

(D) **AUTOMATIC PUMP SHUT-OFF SYSTEM.**—An automatic pump shut-off system.

(E) **OTHER SYSTEMS.**—Any other system determined by the Commission to be equally effective as, or better than, the systems described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of this paragraph at preventing or eliminating the risk of injury or death associated with pool drainage systems.

(2) **APPLICABLE STANDARDS.**—Any device or system described in subparagraphs (B) through (E) of paragraph (1) shall meet the requirements of any ASME/ANSI or ASTM performance standard if there is such a standard for such a device or system, or any applicable consumer product safety standard.

SEC. 6. EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall establish and carry out an education program to inform the public of methods to prevent drowning and entrapment in swimming pools, spas, and ornamental pools. In carrying out the program, the Commission shall develop—

(1) educational materials designed for pool manufacturers, pool service companies, and pool supply retail outlets;

(2) educational materials designed for pool owners and operators;

(3) educational materials designed for ornamental pool owners and operators, including municipalities; and

(4) a national media campaign to promote awareness of pool and spa safety.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 \$5,000,000 to carry out the education program authorized by subsection (a).

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ASME/ANSI STANDARD.**—The term "ASME/ANSI standard" means a safety standard accredited by the American National Standards Institute and published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

(2) **ASTM STANDARD.**—The term "ASTM standard" means a safety standard issued by ASTM International, formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials.

(3) **BARRIER.**—The term "barrier", with respect to a swimming pool, means a fence, dwelling wall, or nondwelling wall, or any combination thereof, which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool, especially access from the residence or from the yard outside the barrier. In the case where a wall of a dwelling that contains a door or window serves as part of the barrier, all doors and windows providing direct access from the home to the pool must be equipped with an exit alarm that has a minimum sound pressure rating of 85 dB A at 10 feet. Alarms should meet the requirements of UL 2017 General-Purpose Signaling Devices and Systems, section 77. All doors providing direct access from the home to the pool must be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor. The term "barrier" means, with respect to a portable hot tub, a lockable cover.

(4) **COMMISSION.**—The term "Commission" means the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(5) **MAIN DRAIN.**—The term "main drain" means a submerged suction outlet typically located at the bottom of a pool or spa to conduct water to a re-circulating pump.

(6) **ORNAMENTAL POOL.**—The term "ornamental pool" means a man-made structure designed to contain water such as a decorative fountain or reflecting pool in the ground, partially in the ground, or in a building, intended primarily for aesthetic value and not intended for swimming or wading.

(7) **SAFETY VACUUM RELEASE SYSTEM.**—The term "safety vacuum release system" means a vacuum release system capable of providing vacuum release at a suction outlet caused by a high vacuum occurrence due to a suction outlet flow blockage.

(8) **UNBLOCKABLE DRAIN.**—The term "unblockable drain" means a drain of any size and shape that a human body cannot sufficiently block to create a suction entrapment hazard.

(9) **SWIMMING POOL; SPA.**—The term "swimming pool" or "spa" means any outdoor or indoor structure intended for swimming or recreational bathing, including in-ground and above-ground structures, and includes hot tubs, spas, portable spas, and non-portable wading pools.

SEC. 8. CPSC REPORT.

Within 1 year after the close of each fiscal year for which grants are made under section 4, the Commission shall submit a report to the Congress evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program authorized by that section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the fourth and final consumer protection bill on the floor today is H.R. 1721, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, introduced by Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Congressman FRANK WOLF.

H.R. 1721 requires pools and spa drains with specified anti-entrapment standards, establishes a CPSC-administered grant program to encourage the States to enact pool and spa safety reforms, and develops a national drowning prevention education program.

Given the numerous tragic and preventable deaths of young children who have drowned in swimming pools, fountains and spas as a result of faulty drains, this bill is overdue and worthy of passage under the suspension of the rules.

The bill is named after Virginia Graeme Baker, the beautiful little girl whose tragic death drove her mother, Nancy Baker, to tirelessly fight for this legislation.

As amended in the subcommittee, H.R. 1721 requires a specified barrier around residential pools and imposes security and safety requirements on the home, such as self-closing, self-latching doors in order to qualify for Federal funds. Moreover, the bill authorizes an annual appropriation of \$5 million over 5 years. At the subcommittee level, we chose this level of funding because of the simple reality that the Consumer Product Safety Commission has experienced with grant programs, and the Commission's overall budget currently is only \$67

million. As such, we want to ensure that this program is run effectively and does not overshadow the other worthy and equally important programs under the watch of the CPSC.

This is another bipartisan, carefully crafted bill, and is yet another example of the bipartisan cooperation we currently achieve in the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection.

I want to commend the majority and minority staff for working together to produce thoughtful, quality pieces of legislation. And I want to thank my friend from Florida, the ranking member of this subcommittee, Mr. STEARNS, for his continued bipartisan cooperation.

This bill, along with the three previous bills we have just considered on the floor, is a good start, but there is more to be done to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission and its underlying organic statute to protect American consumers.

The recent barrage of high-profile recalls of toys manufactured in China highlights the need for Congress to decisively act and strengthen our laws that protect our children from dangerous products. I am currently working on a reform package that will do just that.

I hope that my colleague, Mr. STEARNS, and I, along with Chairman DINGELL and Ranking Member BARTON, can continue our cooperative effort to produce a piece of legislation that we can proudly bring to the House floor with the same bipartisan support exemplified by the bills that we have on the floor today.

With that, I urge a resounding "yes" vote.

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this bill, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, as the chairman mentioned, simply aims to prevent tragic drowning and entrapment accidents that of course are entirely preventable with the addition of some simple equipment at a modest cost. I think we all agree. What we have here I believe is significantly different and significantly improved over what was initially referred to our committee. So, again, in a bipartisan fashion, I think we've improved the bill. So I commend the chairman for including some of the modifications that we suggested and some of the modifications that came from his staff.

My colleagues, this legislation has two distinct components: one, it adopts an industry standard on drain covers; and two, it establishes a grant program administered by the Commission designed to provide incentives to States to change their State laws regarding pool safety demands. These incentives, through these grants, the States will change their laws.

I fully support the intent of this measure, and I will, therefore, support the drain cover standard. I would like

to reiterate the concern I expressed during consideration of the bill earlier, that of turning voluntary industry standards into commission rules. Without repeating what I said earlier on one of the previous bills, I again simply caution my colleagues about the unintended precedents our actions today may put in place.

Further, I would like to express my reservation about the pool safety grant program and its effect on a States' rights to regulate property and safety within its own borders. This piece of Federal legislation mandates that States adopt specific safety standards and no other. Mr. Speaker, there are 38 States with pool safety laws on the books today. None of these States, my colleagues, including my home State of Florida and the State of California, probably the two States with the most swimming pools and the most stringent pool safety laws, will be eligible for the \$25 million in grant funds unless they change their existing laws, making this essentially a 12-State grant program.

The laws mandated by this legislation are overly prescriptive and may even weaken the safety laws of some States. Some of us may disagree on this, but that's what we could possibly consider. Holding Federal tax dollars over the heads of State lawmakers to urge them to change in their States their laws to a proscribed standard may not have any effect. We hope it does. If a State opts to change its laws, a change will unfortunately and indiscriminately raise the cost of compliance for all pool owners, regardless of whether they have children or not.

I note that the Commission itself expressed concern about the grant program. The CPSC does not have experience in ministering any grant program, and Mr. Speaker, it's not staffed to do so.

Now, notwithstanding those concerns that I have just expressed, I voice my support for this bill today and for its author, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, who did a very strong, persevering job on this. It came through committee when I was chairman and we tried to make changes. I appreciate her patience, and I look forward to supporting her, and I commend her for her perseverance.

We are going to support the bill because it will undoubtedly improve swimming pool safety by requiring that all drain covers sold in the United States be made in accordance with standards to prevent entrapment. This is very good. These horrific entrapment accidents are entirely preventable. It is my hope that this legislation will result in such prevention and avoidance.

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the coauthor of this outstanding piece of legislation, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1721, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and

Spa Safety Act. I want to particularly thank Chairman BOBBY RUSH, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, and Chairman JOHN DINGELL of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for their incredible leadership and support on this legislation.

Additionally, I would like to thank Ranking Member BARTON, Congressman WOLF and Congressman RAMSTAD for their steadfast support of this legislation, as well as Ranking Member STEARNS, my fellow Floridian. I also want to thank Safe Kids Worldwide for always being such a wonderful resource as this legislation became a reality.

On June 15, 2002, the beautiful Graeme Baker, whose picture is in front of me, attended a pool party with her entire family; her mother, Nancy, and her four sisters. Everyone was having a great time swimming, when all of a sudden one of Nancy's daughters came running to tell her that Graeme was in the spa. Nancy ran to the edge of the spa, and all she saw was dark and bubbling water. Her daughter, frantically crying and pointing into the tub, insisted that Graeme was there. Nancy jumped into the spa and saw Graeme with her eyes pinched closed, her hair and limbs moving, with the current of water from all the jets on the side. Graeme was entrapped by the powerful suction of the drain spa and could not free herself. Nancy pulled and pulled with all her strength to help her daughter. It eventually took the strength of two adults to free Graeme from the spa. Sadly, it was too late; Graeme passed away in the hospital that afternoon.

Following Graeme's death, Nancy and her father-in-law, former Secretary of State James Baker, became and still are tireless advocates for children's pool and spa safety.

When I met Nancy, I was immediately taken by her tragic story of the loss of her daughter. As a fellow mother of twins, I was most affected by Nancy's incredible desire to ensure that what happened to Graeme did not happen to any other child. She has channeled all of her energy into raising the issue of pool and spa safety to a national audience. Her passion is an inspiration to me, and I am proud to sponsor this legislation in her daughter's name.

The Baker family tragedy is a painful example of the need for national pool and spa safety legislation. We must implement national standards to replace the haphazard safety measures that allowed Graeme, and hundreds of children like her, to be lost in such nightmare scenarios.

I am a mother of three young children, and I have talked about them on the floor many times relating to various pieces of legislation. And as any mother of young children will tell you, supervision does lapse. Supervision, when children are around water, is imperative. But as a mom of twins, as a mom of a 4-year-old, I can tell you that

there are times when even the best parent, even the most vigilant parent lets a child slip out from under their view and they accidentally fall in the water. That has happened countless times.

Let me just tell you what most parents' view in a survey was of supervising their children around water. While 94 percent of people report that they always actively supervise their children while swimming, closer examination indicates that parents often participate in a variety of distracting behaviors. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, one in five parents believes that a lifeguard is the main person responsible for supervising children in the water. Lifeguards are a key safety measure, but they supervise an average of 25 swimmers per lifeguard. They also report that 55 percent of parents thought there were circumstances in which it was okay for a child to swim without a buddy. Within this category, 31 percent said it was okay to leave a child unsupervised if he or she swam with a buddy; 29 percent thought it was okay if the child was an excellent swimmer; 23 percent thought it was okay if the child had several years of swimming lessons. I could stand here all day, and I would still not be able to adequately emphasize that parents must adequately supervise their children whenever they are in or near water.

□ 1630

But we all know that supervision lapses. That is what this bill is designed to do. It is designed to encourage States to adopt swimming pool safety laws to ensure that suction drain entrapment, which occurs when a child passes over a swimming pool drain that has suction so strong that it holds them to the drain under water and either entangles their hair or even disembowels the child, that we can prevent this. Drowning is the second leading cause of preventable death in children 1 to 14 years old in this entire country. And even cold-weather States have hundreds of drownings every single year.

We can stop this. We can encourage States through funding and through education programs to adopt swimming pool and spa safety laws. I urge the United States House of Representatives to adopt this legislation so that we can make sure that we end or dramatically reduce, at the very least, the likelihood of young children drowning needlessly in a swimming pool or spa.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) for 3 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1721, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. I would like to thank my colleague from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for her incredible efforts, her tireless leadership on this important legislation. But for her efforts, this leg-

islation wouldn't be on the floor before us today.

Mr. Speaker, this past July, a truly horrendous tragedy changed the life of my young constituent forever. Eight-year-old Abigail Taylor was swimming in a local club's swimming pool when she became entrapped by the pool's drain system. This brave young girl, and her family, fought with everything they had for her survival. She has now endured numerous surgeries and is faced with permanent disabilities that no child should ever have to suffer.

While it is too late to protect young Abigail Taylor from her cruel debilitating injuries, it is not too late to protect millions of other children who use swimming pools and spas. No child should ever be disemboweled by a swimming pool drain.

Mr. Speaker, Members, that is what we are talking about here. That is what happens to these children. They are disemboweled by the suction from these swimming pool drains.

This important legislation will establish a new consumer product safety standard, as has been explained previously by Mr. RUSH, whose leadership I also deeply appreciate, as well as Mr. STEARNS and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. The standards will require each swimming pool or spa drain cover to conform to the entrapment protection standards of the American National Standards Institute and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, obviously two organizations with direct expertise. And these are very reasonable, not onerous, standards, very reasonable standards for industry which will protect our children in swimming pools.

Mr. Speaker, let me just conclude by saying one drain entrapment is one too many. One precious little 8-year-old girl losing part of her small intestine is too much suffering to comprehend. Too much suffering to comprehend. It is time to take action to ensure our children are protected when children are sent to swimming pools by their parents or are there with their parents. Every parent should have a reasonable probability, a reasonable belief that their children will be safe in that pool. It is time to pass this critical legislation on behalf of Abigail Taylor and the millions of children who deserve to be safe in our pools. Let's pass this life-saving legislation without further delay.

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS, a member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank our committee chairman for bringing this bill to the floor and all the people who have worked so hard on this legislation over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to rise in support today of H.R. 1721, the Virginia

Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. During the Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee markup, it occurred to me because of some things that had happened back in my district that there was an additional danger that was not being addressed in the hearings we had leading up to this legislation. So during the subcommittee process, I introduced an amendment that was inspired by the tragic accident that occurred in an ornamental pool back in my district back in Fort Worth, Texas. In June of 2004, three children and one adult drowned at the Fort Worth Water Gardens: Myron Dukes, age 39; his daughter, Lauren, age 8; his son, Christopher, 13; and a family friend, Juanitrice Deadmon, age 11. On that tragic day, one child accidentally fell into the ornamental pool and the other three jumped in trying to save the child. Compounding the tragedy, the water was unusually deep due to a recirculating pump malfunction and recent heavy rains.

Mr. Speaker, let me quote to you and the House from the Fort Worth Star Telegram about that event. Fort Worth Star Telegram June 17, 2004:

"The victims were among the thousands of visitors attending the National Baptist Congress at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

"The pastor, Gerald Dew, said he was told that the children went to the Water Gardens to play because the swimming pool at the Fort Worth Plaza Hotel where they were staying was closed for maintenance.

"One of the children slipped, which started a chain reaction.

"Bike patrol officer Tony Maldonado, who was one of the first officers to arrive at the swimming pool, said he jumped in and the force 'literally sucked the socks off of my feet.'"

From the Fort Worth Star Telegram 2004.

While this tragedy happened in Fort Worth, the visitors were from Chicago and were constituents of my subcommittee chairman and friend, Congressman RUSH. I know that both of our cities, Fort Worth, Texas, and Chicago, Illinois, grieved about this loss.

Mr. Speaker, let me quote to you from an online report from the CBS affiliate in Chicago, Chicago.com, on the reopening of the Water Gardens last spring. This is from March 20, 2007: "The park of artistic pools and fountains closed following the June 2004 drownings of the four from Chicago, who were in Fort Worth for a religious convention. Since then, more than \$3 million in modifications to improve the park's safety have been made.

"The renovations from the past month don't take away from the mystique,' Mayor Michael Moncrief said during the ceremonies.

"Now, the depth of the Active Pool, where the drownings occurred, has been restricted to less than 2 feet. Other renovations include new pumps and pump system, switches, electrical

work, lights and additional handrails, as well as a larger and easier-to-clean drain system around the park's perimeter."

Mr. Speaker, as with many things in life, awareness and education can save lives. And this disaster, this disaster that happened in my district in Fort Worth, must not be repeated. More education regarding the unseen dangers hidden in ornamental pools is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, almost every single community in this country has an ornamental pool. We have quite a few here at the Capitol. While 36 States have pool safety programs, not all of these States have an ornamental pool safety program, and therefore they likely do not educate their constituency on the dangers that ornamental pools can represent. Ornamental pools often greatly enhance communities, but they can also pose a great threat to communities if the owners and operators are not educated as to the potential danger.

Through my amendment in this bill, there will be a wider public education campaign to alert consumers to the safety hazards associated and the requirements for proper maintenance of ornamental pools. The bill, which requires the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and drainage systems, establishes a swimming pool safety grant program to be administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

This legislation also encourages States to strengthen pool and spa safety laws and increase public education and outreach to consumers. I believe the inclusions of ornamental pools in this bill is an important component of this legislation.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H.R. 1721, the Pool and Spa Safety Act. It has been my pleasure to work with Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ during the last two sessions of Congress to bring this legislation to the floor. I applaud Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her dedication and fully support the congressional efforts to protect our children from swimming pool accidents.

Every summer we hear the tragic stories of young children involved in harrowing pool accidents. Though pool season is winding down for the year we must push forward and enact legislation to protect our children in the summers to come.

It's tragic that over the last 20 years, we have lost at least 33 children under the age of 14 as a result of pool and spa entrapment. Entrapment occurs when part of a child's body becomes attached to a drain as a result of the powerful suction of a pool or spa's water circulation system. Death or serious injury can occur when the force of the suction overpowers the child's ability to disengage from the drain.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, drowning is the leading cause of accidental injury-related death for children under 4 and the second leading cause of acci-

dental injury-related death of children under 14. However, these figures are very likely understated because law enforcement do not always note "entrapment" when reporting a drowning.

In the hundreds of tragic drowning cases across the country each year, simple pool safety precautions could help save these precious lives. But it's important to remember that this legislation is not a federal mandate. Instead, it will encourage states to adopt comprehensive pool safety precautions that will substantially reduce the dangers of accidental drowning, body part entrapment, and hair entanglement. It will also promote swimming pool and spa safety.

We can prevent these tragedies and save our children. I urge the support for the Pool and Spa Safety Act, H.R. 1721.

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

Mr. RUSH. 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 Illinois (Mr. RUSH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1721, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY RESOURCE CENTERS ACT OF 2007

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2553) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at United States diplomatic and consular missions to provide information about American culture, society, and history, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2553

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 "Public Diplomacy Resource Centers Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LIBRARIES.—Section 1(b)(3) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(F) provide for the establishment of new and the maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at or in connection with United States diplomatic and consular missions."

(b) OPERATION OF LIBRARIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that libraries and resource centers established and maintained in accordance with subparagraph (F) of section 1(b)(3) of the State Department Basic Authorities

Act of 1956 (as added by section 2(a)(3) of this Act) are open to the general public to the greatest extent practicable, subject to policies and procedures established by the Secretary to ensure the safety and security of United States diplomatic and consular missions and of United States officers, employees, and personnel posted at such missions at which such libraries are located.

(2) JOHNNY GRANT FILM SERIES.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that such libraries and resource centers schedule public showings of American films that showcase American culture, society, values, and history. Such public showings shall be known as the "Johnny Grant Film Series".

(c) RECEIPT OF DONATIONS.—The Secretary of State may accept donations that are made to the libraries and resource centers authorized under this Act if the Secretary determines that such receipt will not result in any cost to the Federal Government.

(d) ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy (authorized under section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553)) shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report containing and evaluation of the functions and effectiveness of the libraries and resource centers that are authorized under this Act.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts that are otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State to carry out purposes similar to those required under this Act, there are authorized to the Secretary of State such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I would like to thank Chairman LANTOS, as well as my friend Mr. BILIRAKIS as, I think, acting in place of the ranking member (Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN) for helping me to move this bill to the floor.

I am proud to be the author of H.R. 2553, the Public Diplomacy Resource Centers Act of 2007. This bill is designed to provide our diplomats abroad with additional tools to show the world the best of American society. In the 110th Congress, the Committee on Foreign Affairs is working to help redeem the status and prestige that the United States has lost around the world in recent years.

While U.S. foreign policy clearly is a key factor in how we are viewed

abroad, other factors are also critical to how the United States is viewed around the world. An important point of regaining our rightful leadership role is to find more effective ways to let the world know who we are as Americans and what we stand for.

One of the most effective elements of American public policy is the array of libraries and information resource centers around the globe. The facilities run by our State Department provide people in foreign countries the ability to freely access information about the United States, about their own societies, and about science and the arts. For years, these resources have been a testament to the principle that the greatest tool we have against tyranny is the truth.

But as we face this moment of tighter budgets, I am afraid that our public diplomacy libraries and resource centers are not getting the support they need.

That is why I have introduced this bill. The bill would not seek to disrupt the efforts that the State Department has under way to organize and run its resource centers. Rather, it would seek to put these efforts on a more stable footing by creating a clear funding stream for the State Department libraries and resource centers abroad.

Furthermore, the bill would establish the Johnny Grant film series as part of the State Department's public diplomacy effort. Johnny Grant is a legendary friend of American entertainment and is known as the honorary mayor of Hollywood for his continued efforts on behalf of the American entertainment industries. He is also an ardent proponent of the power of American film to convey the universal values of freedom and opportunity to others around the world. As of this year, he will have made his 60th trip abroad to entertain our troops.

□ 1645

By the way, he traveled with Bob Hope often. The Johnny Grant Film Series would provide the United States Government with the opportunity to show the world the optimism and promise of America as portrayed in our classic films.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank both my chairman, TOM LANTOS, as well as my cosponsor, the ranking member, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for their extraordinary efforts to help me move this legislation forward. I would also like to specifically thank David Abramowitz and Lynne Weil of the majority staff, and Doug Anderson and Sam Stratman of the Republican staff for the kind consideration they showed to me and my staff as we sought to move this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2553, the Public Diplomacy Resource Centers Act of 2007. Every year, thou-

sands of people living overseas visit an American Cultural Center or one of dozens of American Corners that are maintained by our State Department. Those libraries and cultural outposts are indispensable tools in our public diplomacy efforts around the world. They help foreign audiences better understand our Nation, our people, our government, and our society.

The bill before us today will strengthen this American outreach by establishing a new film series and by requiring a report to Congress analyzing the effectiveness of libraries and resource centers. Also, by providing specific statutory authority for the establishment and maintenance of these centers, this bill will create an annual appropriations line item, which will allow Congress to oversee these activities in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California, my good friend, Ambassador WATSON, and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, my good friend, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, for introducing this measure, which deserves our support.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2553, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998 AMENDMENTS

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2185) to amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems, to reauthorize such Act through fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2185

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Subsection (a) of section 802 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1), (6), and (7), by striking “tropical forests” each place it appears and inserting “tropical forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (7) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) Coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems provide a wide range of benefits to mankind by—

“(A) harboring more species per unit area than any other marine habitat, providing the basis for developing pharmaceutical products and fostering a growing marine tourism sector;

“(B) providing a major source of food and jobs for hundreds of millions of coastal residents; and

“(C) serving as natural storm barriers, thus protecting vulnerable shorelines and communities from storm waves and erosion.”; and

(4) in paragraph (4) (as redesignated)—

(A) by inserting “and coral reef and associated coastal marine ecosystems” after “forest resources”; and

(B) by inserting “and coral reef and associated coastal marine ecosystem exploitation” after “tropical deforestation”.

(b) PURPOSES.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1), (3), and (4), by striking “tropical forests” each place it appears and inserting “tropical forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “tropical forests” the first and third place it appears and inserting “tropical forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems”; and

(B) by striking “tropical forests” the second place it appears and inserting “areas”; and

(C) by inserting at the end before the semicolon the following: “and unsustainable coral reef and associated coastal marine ecosystem exploitation”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 803 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “Committee on International Relations” and inserting “Committee on Foreign Affairs”; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (9);

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “TROPICAL FOREST” and inserting “TROPICAL FOREST OR CORAL REEF OR ASSOCIATED COASTAL MARINE ECOSYSTEM”;

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “tropical forest” and inserting “tropical forest or coral reef or associated coastal marine ecosystem”; and

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “tropical forest” and inserting “tropical forest or coral reef or associated coastal marine ecosystem”; and

(ii) by striking “tropical forests” and inserting “tropical forests or coral reefs or associated coastal marine ecosystems”;

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) CONSERVATION AGREEMENT.—The term ‘Conservation Agreement’ or ‘Agreement’ means a Conservation Agreement provided for in section 809.

“(5) CONSERVATION FACILITY.—The term ‘Conservation Facility’ or ‘Facility’ means the Conservation Facility established in the Department of the Treasury by section 804.

“(6) CONSERVATION FUND.—The term ‘Conservation Fund’ or ‘Fund’ means a Conservation Fund provided for in section 810.

“(7) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

“(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals), Alcyonacea (soft corals), Gorgonacea (horny corals), Stolonifera (organpipe corals and

others), and Coenothecalia (blue coral), of the class Anthozoa; and

“(B) all species of the order Hydrocorallina (fire corals and hydrocorals) of the class Hydrozoa.

“(8) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’ means any reef or shoal composed primarily of corals.”.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FACILITY.

Section 804 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431b) is amended by striking “Tropical Forest Facility” and inserting “Conservation Facility”.

SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.

Section 805(a) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431c(a)) is amended by striking “tropical forest” and inserting “tropical forest or coral reef or associated coastal marine ecosystem”.

SEC. 5. REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES AS A RESULT OF CONCESSIONAL LOANS UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

(a) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Subsection (c)(2) of section 806 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d) is amended by striking “Tropical Forest Fund” and inserting “Conservation Fund”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (d)(6) of such section is amended by striking “fiscal year 2007” and inserting “each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010”.

(c) USE OF FUNDS TO CONDUCT PROGRAM AUDITS, EVALUATIONS, MONITORING, AND ADMINISTRATION.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(e) USE OF FUNDS TO CONDUCT PROGRAM AUDITS, EVALUATIONS, MONITORING, AND ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this part for a fiscal year, up to \$300,000 is authorized to be made available to carry out audits, evaluations, monitoring, and administration of programs under this part, including personnel costs associated with such audits, evaluations, monitoring, and administration.”

SEC. 6. REDUCTION OF DEBT OWED TO THE UNITED STATES AS A RESULT OF CREDITS EXTENDED UNDER TITLE I OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1954.

Section 807(c)(2) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431e(c)(2)) is amended by striking “Tropical Forest Fund” and inserting “Conservation Fund”.

SEC. 7. UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION ON OVERSIGHT BODIES FOR GRANTS FROM DEBT-FOR-NATURE SWAPS AND DEBT-BUYBACKS.

Section 808(a)(5) of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431f(a)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION ON THE ADMINISTERING BODY.—One or more individuals appointed by the United States Government may serve in an official capacity on the administering body that oversees the implementation of grants arising from this debt-for-nature swap or debt buy-back regardless of whether the United States is a party to any agreement between the eligible purchaser and the government of the beneficiary country.”.

SEC. 8. CONSERVATION AGREEMENT.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 809 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431g) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) AUTHORITY.—” and all that follows through “The Secretary of State” and inserting “(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State”;

(2) by striking “Tropical Forest Agreement” and inserting “Conservation Agreement”;

(3) by striking paragraph (2).

(b) ADMINISTERING BODY.—Subsection (c)(2)(A) of such section is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting at the end before the semicolon the following: “to serve in an official capacity”; and

(2) in clause (iii)(III), by inserting “or marine” after “forestry”.

(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the tropical forests” and inserting “tropical forests or coral reefs or associated coastal marine ecosystems”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and water” after “land”;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking “tropical forest”;

(4) in paragraph (6), by striking “living in or near a tropical forest in a manner consistent with protecting such tropical forest” and inserting “dependent on a tropical forest or coral reef or associated coastal marine ecosystem in a manner consistent with protecting and conserving such resources”.

(d) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Subsection (e)(1)(A) of such section is amended by inserting “marine,” after “forestry”.

(e) REVIEW OF LARGER GRANTS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(f) REVIEW OF LARGER GRANTS.—Any grant of more than \$250,000 from a Fund shall be approved by the Government of the United States and the government of the beneficiary country.”.

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended by striking “TROPICAL FOREST” and inserting “CONSERVATION”.

SEC. 9. CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 810 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431h) is amended—

(1) by striking “Tropical Forest Agreement” and inserting “Conservation Agreement”;

(2) by striking “Tropical Forest Fund” and inserting “Conservation Fund”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “terms as conditions” and inserting “terms and conditions”;

(2) in the heading, by striking “TROPICAL FOREST” and inserting “CONSERVATION”.

SEC. 10. BOARD.

Section 811 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431i) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 11. ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.

Section 813 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431k) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”;

(2) by striking “December 31” and inserting “April 15”;

(3) by striking “fiscal year” each place it appears and inserting “calendar year”;

(4) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 12. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) PART HEADING.—The heading of part V of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended by striking “TROPICAL FORESTS” and inserting “TROPICAL FORESTS OR CORAL REEFS OR ASSOCIATED COASTAL MARINE ECOSYSTEMS”.

(b) SHORT TITLE.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 801 of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) is amended by striking “Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998” and inserting “Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2007”.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, regulation, document, or other record of the

United States to the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2007.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF UNOBLIGATED OR UNEXPENDED FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated to carry out the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act) that are unobligated or unexpended as of the date of the enactment of this Act may be used to carry out the Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2007.

(c) REDESIGNATION.—Part V of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.) is amended by redesignating sections 812 and 813 as sections 811 and 812, respectively.

(d) OTHER AMENDMENTS.—Section 703(a)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2430b(a)(5)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “or, as appropriate in exceptional circumstances,” and inserting “or”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or an arrangement under the structural adjustment facility or enhanced structural adjustment facility, or in exceptional circumstances, a Fund monitored program or its equivalent,” and inserting “an arrangement under the structural adjustment facility or enhanced structural adjustment facility, a Fund monitored program, or is implementing sound macroeconomic policies.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the Tropical Forest Conservation Act Reauthorization bill and urge my colleagues to do so as well. I would particularly like to recognize the efforts of Congressman MARK KIRK, the sponsor of H.R. 2185. Congressman KIRK is a long-time champion of this innovative debt-for-conservation program. Mr. KIRK's legislation extends and expands a vitally important environmental initiative launched during the Clinton administration.

Mr. Speaker, over the past 9 years this program has resulted in 12 Tropical Forest Conservation Act agreements in Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America. These agreements have provided \$135 million to help conserve 50 million acres of tropical forests. The Tropical Forest Conservation Act has become one of the most effective foreign policy tools that the executive branch has at its disposal to encourage developing states to take action to protect and preserve tropical forests.

The program has been a tremendous success. It has provided needed funding to actively pursue debt swaps, buybacks, and debt restructuring with developing nations in return for concrete expenditures aimed at protecting vital natural resources. This mechanism inspires more prompt debt servicing and gives foreign governments a greater sense of responsibility for preserving the global heritage.

H.R. 2185 would expand the program in a very significant way by extending its debt-relief-for-conservation mechanism to expenditures aimed at protecting coral reefs and sensitive marine environments. Coral reefs and coastal marine environments provide a host of benefits to humankind. They harbor a major share of the world's marine biological diversity, and act as vital nurseries and seeding grounds for many sensitive deep sea species. They also provide the foundation for economic, social and recreational activities of immeasurable value.

Mr. Speaker, coral reefs are extremely sensitive treasures. However, the shocking reports of wide-scale coral bleaching that has occurred around the globe in recent years should serve as a wake-up call for all of us. Urgent action is needed to mitigate the contributions that human activities are making to this problem.

H.R. 2185 provides just the kind of creative, targeted and mutually beneficial assistance that is clearly required to tackle this important ecological threat. H.R. 2185 will also enable more key countries to participate in the program. Currently, in order to qualify for the Act's mutually beneficial mechanism, a country must have an IMF agreement in place. Under the new language, eligibility would also extend to nations that are implementing sound macroeconomic policies.

Mr. Speaker, the executive branch has partnered with us in crafting this reauthorization, and has expressed its interest in seeing it pass this year. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill H.R. 2185, which would reauthorize and amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998. As the total territory of the world's tropical forests continue to decline, programs such as that created by the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 are an important component of international efforts to slow and hopefully reverse the decline at the start of the new century.

Under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, a country with a tropical forest within its borders may seek an agreement with the United States whereby some of the debts it may owe us can instead be utilized to support activities that maintain those tropical forests. The bill would reauthorize this important conservation program

through fiscal year 2010. The bill also amends the program in order to make coral reefs eligible for coverage under the program as well.

This is an important response to the increasing evidence of decline in the world coral reefs, which, along with tropical forests, are a vital environmental resource. It is important that we preserve such underwater treasures, not just for future generations to enjoy, but to ensure the sustainability of our world's fragile ecology.

Mr. Speaker, enactment of this bill would authorize a continuation of these important conservation efforts for the next 3 fiscal years. I support this measure and urge my colleagues as well to support this measure.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise today in support of H.R. 2185, a resolution that I introduced with my good friend Congressman MARK KIRK and the bipartisan support of 30 other cosponsors.

I would like to first extend my appreciation for the hard work and efforts made by all parties who worked to craft this important bipartisan piece of legislation. Congressman KIRK and I worked closely with the Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, the World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Office of Management and Budget, and Departments of State and Treasury on this bill. I thank each of these bodies for their input, cooperation and support.

This innovative program allows eligible developing countries to utilize all funds spent on tropical forest preservation toward foreign debt payments to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2185 builds on the already successful and sound economic and conservation law, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, TFCA, of 1998.

For 7 years, the program created by that act has simultaneously accomplished two key goals: providing relief for the burden of debt on developing countries and promoting increased international tropical forest conservation.

The program's achievements speak for themselves. Since its inception, 12 "debt-for nature swaps" have been signed in developing countries in Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, generating \$135 million in debt relief for these countries and conserving some 50 million acres of tropical forests.

Our legislation reauthorizes and expands this program.

By reauthorizing the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, the House is continuing to strengthen the indigenous economies and civil society of developing countries while protecting both the world's forests and endangered marine habitats.

Additionally, by continuing to protect our rainforests we are protecting future medicinal storehouses. The medicinal value of these rainforests cannot be underestimated. Today some 120 prescription drugs sold worldwide today are derived directly from rainforest plants. By conserving our rainforests, we are providing possible cures for life-threatening diseases.

By expanding this legislation, we are improving on an already responsible, sensible and successful initiative to conserve more ecosystems and relieve more countries' debt.

One of the most significant expansions we made to the Tropical Forest Conservation Act

in this bill extends the program to apply to all forests, coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems. Including coral reefs and related marine areas under the scope of TFCA will encourage the conservation of these endangered marine environments.

Coral reef ecosystems throughout the world face numerous threats and even possible extinction. Threats to coral reef, in turn, threaten the species and livelihoods that depend on them. Coral reef offers protections from storms, wave damage, and erosion and also provides various economic opportunities from fishing to ecotourism.

By providing incentives for developing nations to conserve their coral resources, we are in effect protecting coastal landscape's and maintaining coastal quality of water of some of the most important coral reef ecosystems in the world.

Another important alteration we made to the legislation expands the programs eligibility to additional countries. Current law forbids governments of beneficiary countries to be grant recipients unless there are "exceptional circumstances." However, for many countries their governments are the sole managers of their ecosystems, thereby preventing them from receiving the funds. By increasing the Treasury Department's authority to provide funds to governments of beneficiary countries, our legislation extends the programs' eligibility to even more developing countries.

A final significant change we made to the program authorizes additional funding for audits and evaluation and allows these funds to be used for monitoring and administration. Increasing the funding amount allows the Treasury Department to better monitor all deals and improve oversight over the entire program.

Top notch strategies and technologies needed to conserve and protect our international ecosystems can be found right here in the United States. In my State of Florida, several institutions have long been at the forefront of efforts to preserve these marine habitats.

The Florida Aquarium, a non-profit education and research institution in Tampa, has developed cutting edge technologies and protocols for coral conservation including how to safely introduce cultural coral into wild reefs. Until the museum pioneered this technology, there was no viable solution to "quickly" rebuild destroyed and dying reefs. Developing countries participating in our debt relief initiative could greatly benefit from the museum's technology and expertise, and I strongly encourage these countries to seek out the museum as a resource in their efforts to rehabilitate coral.

The Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, located outside of my district in Fort Pierce, does equally outstanding work to investigate the causes of and prevent coral reef degradation and deforestation. Dr. Brian Lapointe of the Center for Coastal Research at Harbor Branch has spent the majority of his career studying threats to the marine ecosystems in island nations such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Martinique and St. Lucia. He has successfully assisted these countries by helping them understand the effects of human impact on coral reef.

Dr. Lapointe and others at Harbor Branch Oceanographic have tirelessly worked to educate communities on rehabilitation strategies and future conservation techniques. People like Brian Lapointe and institutions like Harbor

Branch Oceanographic can help countries that get assistance through the Tropical Forest Conservation Act program to restore and protect valuable and irreplaceable coral reefs and other marine ecosystems.

This bill is a win-win-win situation. With the passage of this bill, Congress can further alleviate debt in developing countries, provide long-term sustainable financing for environmental conservation and protection for important world ecosystems, and advance medicinal research and increase United States assistance to developing countries and further our credibility overseas. Reauthorizing the Tropical Forest Conservation Act provides numerous benefits to developing nations, to the United States, and to our planet.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, as we reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, we take an important and critical new step to help the world preserve and restore its natural resources and vital ecosystems. This reauthorization will continue our efforts to preserve the world's forests, coral reefs, and associated coastal marine ecosystems. The Tropical Forest Conservation Act will create an invaluable debt-for-nature exchange that not only benefits the global economy, but also the global environment.

Protecting our natural resources is a daunting responsibility, and coral reefs present unique challenges to protect and rebuild. They are fragile, slow-growing, and easily damaged by passing ships, changes in temperature, or severe weather. Despite these challenges, they are an integral part of our environment. Corals support economies, protect coastlines, and act as ecosystems for thousands of species of sea life. They may also provide information for the development of new drugs or understandings of human disease.

The Florida Aquarium, a non-profit education and research institution in Tampa, has extensive experience in developing cutting edge technologies and protocols for coral conservation, including how to safely introduce cultured coral onto wild reefs. This facility has pioneered the methods and technology needed to confidently direct a coral health certificate program wherein aquacultured corals are certified as safe for introduction into the wild. Until the Florida Aquarium developed this certification technique for artificially aquacultured coral, there was no acceptable solution for doing so. This made rebuilding reefs time-consuming and expensive, and often led to the destruction of the wild coral that scientists were trying to restore. Today, the Florida Aquarium continues to lead the scientific community as the only institution in the world that can certify aquacultured coral for wild reefs.

Mr. Speaker, developing countries participating in our debt relief initiative could greatly benefit from the Florida Aquarium's technology and expertise. I strongly encourage the coral initiatives under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act to seek out the Florida Aquarium as a resource in rehabilitating coral reefs world wide. I am proud to support this important legislation in its effort to preserve our natural resources.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2185, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect tropical forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems, to reauthorize such Act through fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT RELATING TO REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 405) expressing the strong support of the House of Representatives for implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 405

Whereas, in recognition that any future efforts for a solution of the Cyprus problem need to be carefully prepared, President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan met on February 28, 2006, in Paris, and reiterated that, "the resumption of the negotiating process within the framework of the Secretary General's Good Offices must be timely and based on careful preparation";

Whereas on July 8, 2006, President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat, agreed, under the auspices of United Nations Under Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari, to a set of principles to begin a process of bi-communal discussions;

Whereas the set of principles agreed to are—

(1) commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;

(2) recognition of the fact that the status quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation would have negative consequences for the Turkish and Greek Cypriots;

(3) commitment to the proposition that a comprehensive settlement is both desirable and possible, and should not be further delayed;

(4) agreement to begin a process immediately, involving bi-communal discussion of issues that affect the day-to-day life of the people and concurrently those that concern substantive issues, both of which will contribute to a comprehensive settlement; and

(5) commitment to ensure that the "right atmosphere" prevails for this process to be

successful; in that connection, confidence-building measures are essential, both in terms of improving the atmosphere and improving the life of all Turkish and Greek Cypriots; and also in that connection, an end must be put to the so-called "blame game";

Whereas, according to the agreement, technical committees and working groups would be set up to examine and discuss issues that affect day-to-day life of the people of Cyprus and concurrently those that concern substantive issues, thus contributing to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem;

Whereas on March 27, 2007, the United Nations Security Council in a statement on Cyprus indicated that, "the members of the Security Council urge both communities to work with the United Nations to implement the 8 July 2006 agreement, in particular through the immediate creation of bi-communal working groups and technical committees in order to prepare the ground for full-fledged negotiations leading to a comprehensive and durable settlement";

Whereas the United States has long supported fostering the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, and within a process that is led by the United Nations, thereby consistent with the intended aim of the July 8, 2006, agreement, and as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas several meetings have been held between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot members of the coordination committee, consulting on the implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement, but no technical committees or working groups have been set up;

Whereas on June 15, 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1758 which "expresses full support for the July 8, 2006 process, notes with concern the lack of progress, and calls upon all parties to immediately engage constructively with the United Nations efforts, as described in Under Secretary General Gambari's letter of 15 November 2006, to demonstrate measurable progress in order to allow fully fledged negotiations to begin"; and

Whereas on September 5, 2007, President Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat "agreed on the need for the earliest start of the [Gambari] process" and to "continue their contact through the UN and to meet again when appropriate": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support for the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions; and

(2) calls upon the United States Government to fully support the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement in its entirety and without deviation from that process.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first thank our colleague from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for introducing this important resolution. For years, the United Nations has attempted to reduce the potential for conflict on Cyprus and to heal and reunify that long-divided island.

Last year, Under Secretary of the United Nations Ibrahim Gambari potentially made progress towards resolving this issue. Thanks to his efforts, the Greek and Turkish Cypriots signed an agreement on July 8, 2006, that sets out principles forming the basis for a future permanent agreement.

Mr. Speaker, these important principles include, first and foremost, recognition that the status quo, with a divided island, is unacceptable. They also include a commitment to unification based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation; a commitment to form intercommunal working groups aimed at achieving confidence-building measures to improve daily lives on both sides of the island; and a commitment to promote a positive atmosphere that would allow negotiations to thrive.

All of us hope that the July 8, 2006, agreement between the Greek and the Turkish Cypriot communities will prove to be an important step on the road to reunification of Cyprus as a bizonal, bicomunal federation. The pace of the progress must accelerate. To date, it has been, at best, halting. But both parties have at least renewed their pledge to work towards a negotiated agreement.

Mr. Speaker, U.N. Security Council Resolution 1758 expresses full support for the July 8, 2006, agreement. I hope the Members of this body will reinforce that message by backing this bill, and thereby backing the unification of Cyprus. The resolution before us, H. Res. 405, expresses its support for the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement, and it calls on the administration to support it as well.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, the people of Cyprus deserve our encouragement and our support in their efforts to prepare for new talks aimed at reunification, and that is exactly what this resolution seeks to do. I strongly support it, and I encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from California for her strong support of H. Res. 405. I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 405, which expresses the strong support of the U.S. House of Representatives for the immediate implementa-

tion of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between President Papadopoulos of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot community leader, Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat.

More than 33 years after the invasion and occupation of Cyprus by Turkish troops, the country remains divided and has the longest running peace-keeping force in the history of the United Nations. It is important that there is forward movement on properly preparing the grounds for serious negotiations that will lead to sustainable and lasting peace.

The international community has helped shepherd an agreement on a process, the Gambari process, that points the way forward to comprehensive negotiations that will lead to the reunification of the island, its people, institutions and economy in a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

The United Nations Security Council, the European Union, and the United States have all played key roles in trying to bring a lasting and fair resolution to the division of the island.

On July 8, 2006, President Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat agreed, under the auspices of the United Nations, to the establishment of technical committees and working groups to examine the issues affecting the daily lives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot people, as well as issues of substance.

H. Res. 405 recognizes the fact that the status quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation would have negative consequences for the Turkish and Greek Cypriots. It also reinforces the proposition that a comprehensive settlement is both desirable and possible and should not be further delayed.

In an effort to jump-start the July 8 agreement, President Papadopoulos invited Mr. Talat to a meeting that took place this year on September 5. The two leaders agreed on the need for the earliest start of the Gambari process and to continue their contact through the U.N. and to meet again when appropriate.

As a member of the European Union, the Republic of Cyprus has proven itself a committed and influential partner in Europe. Despite its forced division, Cyprus's successful social and economic integration into the European Union is a testament to its focus and dedication to democratic values and regional cooperation.

In addition, Cyprus has a long history of working cooperatively with the United States on issues of international defense and security and continues to do so in the global war on terror. Cyprus is also a good friend to this country. In the summer of 2006, Cyprus served as the principal transit for 15,000 Americans evacuating Lebanon. Our citizens were provided with food, shelter, and medical care.

It is now time for Congress to demonstrate its strong support of efforts toward the reunification of Cyprus by passing H. Res. 405, calling for the immediate implementation of the July 8

agreement in its entirety and without deviation from the process.

H. Res. 405 gives a strong message of support for a reunified Cyprus under a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with a single sovereignty, single international personality, and single citizenship with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots.

I wish to thank Chairman LANTOS and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN and all of my colleagues who have co-sponsored H. Res. 405. I thank them for recognizing what a significant step this great representative body is taking by telling the world community that the sad and tragic division of Cyprus should be no longer.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentlewoman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution of which I am a proud co-sponsor. In the summer of 2006, we witnessed a major breakthrough in the troubled history of this divided island. After years of conflict, both sides committed themselves to the reunification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality. By agreeing to these principles, they recognize the status quo is unacceptable and that continuing it only hurts both the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities.

In connection with this agreement, we are all pleased to see the Cypriot Government take a number of confidence-building measures, demolishing walls and even providing free health care to Turkish Cypriots.

This summer, my family and I traveled to Cyprus and had the pleasure of enjoying the legendary Cypriot hospitality. While I enjoyed the beauty and serenity of the island, I was most struck by the openness and warmth of the people there, who treated my family and me with the greatest regard. It is cruel that such a warm and hospitable people should continue to be subjected to this conflict.

We were simply appalled by the state of the "green line" area. It is a blot on an otherwise breathtaking country. It is time that the Turkish troops remove themselves from this island so that, at our next visit, Cyprus will once again be a peaceful and unified island free of occupation.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for both sides to come together to execute the July 2006 agreement. The principles have been laid out and all that we need now is implementation. I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 405, which expresses strong support for the implementation of the July 8, 2006 agreement between the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot

leader. Since the invasion of Cyprus over 30 years ago, the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities have been divided. There have been over 13 million crossings by Greek and Turkish Cypriots into each other's communities without incident. The reunification of Cyprus would improve relations between the communities, commerce, and the everyday lives of Cypriots on the island. It is in the best interest of the Cypriot people, the United States and our allies, Greece and Turkey, to urge the immediate implementation of the July 8th agreement. Both parties must abide by U.N. Security Council Resolutions and move forward with the reunification of Cyprus. I'd like to thank Congressman BILIRAKIS for introducing this resolution and I would urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 405, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPANDING STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 651) recognizing the warm friendship and expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil, commending Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs, and recognizing the importance of the March 9, 2007, United States-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels cooperation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 651

Whereas following the oil shock of the early 1970s, Brazil chose to reduce its energy vulnerability by choosing sugar-based ethanol to diversify its energy sector and power its automobiles;

Whereas with large private and public investments and support from the World Bank, Brazil greatly expanded the amount of sugarcane it produced and began large-scale construction of alcohol distilleries to process sugar into ethanol;

Whereas decades of state investment have helped Brazil become the world's largest consumer and producer of ethanol from sugar cane;

Whereas ethanol supplies 40 percent of the motor fuel used in Brazil and is extremely competitive with gasoline;

Whereas the transition towards biofuels will have a positive impact on the environment and will help reduce greenhouse gases;

Whereas by the end of 2006, 80 percent of new car sales in Brazil were flex-fuel, mean-

ing that they can run on ethanol, gasoline, or any mixture of both;

Whereas Brazil stands out as the leading example of a country that has diversified its energy supply and become a net exporter of energy, in large part by increasing its use and production of alternative energy sources, including ethanol;

Whereas putting the United States on a path toward ending its addiction to oil, as Brazil has done, by investing in clean alternative energy sources is essential in protecting United States national security, the environment, and the stability of the United States economy;

Whereas, on March 9, 2007, the United States and Brazil—the world's two largest ethanol producing countries—signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote greater cooperation on ethanol and biofuels in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the United States-Brazil MOU involves technology-sharing between the United States and Brazil, feasibility studies and technical assistance to build domestic biofuels industries in third countries, and multilateral efforts to advance the global development of biofuels;

Whereas the first countries targeted for United States-Brazilian technical assistance are the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, and St. Kitts and Nevis;

Whereas United States President George W. Bush and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva have met twice in 2007 as visible examples of the expanding warm relations and close ties between the United States and Brazil;

Whereas the United States and Brazil are the two largest and most diverse democracies in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas Brazil—through its leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) in Haiti and other achievements—has emerged as a regional leader in the Western Hemisphere; and

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that the United States looks to Brazil as a "regional leader and a global partner": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the United States and Brazil have arrived at the point of a strategic confluence of interests and urges President George W. Bush to continue to deepen the bilateral relationship between the two countries;

(2) recognizes Brazil's role as a leader in the Western Hemisphere and commends its leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) in Haiti;

(3) commends Brazil for successfully diversifying its energy resources and reducing its dependence on oil;

(4) strongly supports the March 9, 2007, United States-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels as a major step forward in bilateral relations, hemispheric integration, and energy diversification;

(5) commends joint efforts by the United States and Brazil for their commitment to use expertise to provide technical assistance for biofuels industries in third countries, currently including the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, and St. Kitts and Nevis; and

(6) encourages United States and Brazilian officials to quickly identify additional countries in the Western Hemisphere to receive technical assistance related to biofuels.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would first like to thank our colleagues, Congressman ELIOT ENGEL and DAN BURTON, for introducing this important resolution. Their leadership on Brazil-related matters is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, Brazil has the largest economy, population, and land mass in South America. It is the fifth most populous country in the world, and its economy is the 11th largest. It is high time we recognize, as this resolution does, the expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil.

We in America are finally waking up not only to Brazil's importance, but to how natural this relationship should be. Brazil is also the right country with which to cooperate on alternative energy sources.

This resolution commends Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs and recognizes the importance of the March 9, 2007, U.S.-Brazil memorandum of understanding on biofuels cooperation.

The agreement promotes greater cooperation on ethanol and biofuels between the world's two largest ethanol-producing countries. Brazil has become the world's largest consumer and producer of ethanol from sugar cane. By the end of 2006, 80 percent of new-car sales in Brazil were flex-fuel, meaning they can run on a mixture of ethanol and gasoline.

Furthermore, ethanol supplies 40 percent of the motor fuel used in Brazil and is extremely competitive with gasoline. We as Americans can learn a great deal from Brazil and they from us as we try to reduce their dependence on oil and diversify our energy resources. The U.S. and Brazil are providing technical assistance to build biofuels industries in Third World countries, including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, St. Kitts, and Nevis.

It is also important to note that Brazil, through its leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and other achievements, has emerged as a regional leader in the Western Hemisphere, a role this resolution recognizes for Brazil.

Brazil's leadership in the Americas and throughout the world signals the emergence of a vital partner and friend to the United States. That is why I

strongly urge all Members to support this important resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, early this year, the U.S. and Brazil signed a memorandum of understanding on biofuels cooperation. This document symbolizes not only a shared interest in reducing energy vulnerability, but also a growing relationship between our two countries based on the common goal of regional stability and prosperity throughout the Western Hemisphere.

I am pleased to learn of the progress made under the United States-Brazil memorandum of understanding and applaud the proactive efforts being taken by both of our countries in confronting the constraints of oil dependence.

As Hugo Chavez continues to exploit Venezuela's oil supply to spread his propaganda across the Western Hemisphere, it is essential that the U.S. and Brazil continue to lead the way in diminishing our historical dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy our energy needs.

Additionally, while I appreciate the growing and valuable role of Brazil as a strategic partner, we must remain vigilant of Brazil's own activities.

As the U.S. continues to work to promote freedom and democracy in the hemisphere, we continue to face challenges by the likes of Venezuela's Chavez and Bolivia's Morales, under the tyrannical influences of Castro.

We must be cognizant of the fact that President da Silva was in fact a founding member of the Foro de Sao Paulo, which plays host to these men and promoter to their increasingly anti-American rhetoric throughout the region.

Brazil has a history of noncompliance with the IAEA obligations and an expressed interest in pursuing future enrichment programs.

This mixed with the increasing of rogue regimes, like Iran and Syria, to make inroads into the unstable political, economic and social worlds of Latin America requires the U.S. be vigilant in our assessment of Brazil and the region as a whole.

As biofuels cooperation allows our two countries to work increasingly closely together, I am hopeful that continued success in bilateral relations, hemispheric integration, and energy diversification will help to mitigate these challenges.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

□ 1715

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman for her leadership and my good friend and colleague Mr. BILI-

RAKIS for their support of this legislation.

Let me commend Congressman ENGEL and Congressman BURTON, both chairman and ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, and the chairman of the full committee, Mr. LANTOS, and the ranking member of the committee.

This is an important step that celements and further enhances the relationship between Brazil and the United States, the largest economy, population land mass in South America.

But it's even more important to reinforce the strategic relationship that we are establishing between Brazil and the United States, the friendship that we are establishing, and to have both countries wake up to the importance of our relationship to each other and for it to be a natural relationship.

Brazil is also the right country in which to cooperate with alternative energy sources. It has an enormously diverse population and a very large Afro-Brazilian population. In fact, it is the largest African population in South America.

I would hope that as we move forward on this legislation that we emphasize the successful relationship between Brazil and the United States as we work towards alternative fuels. This is a good partnership. It is a good legislative initiative, and I congratulate the sponsors and look forward to working with them on expanding our relationship between the United States and Brazil.

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

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 651, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DENOUNCING THE PRACTICES OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, "HONOR" KILLINGS, ACID BURNING, DOWRY DEATHS AND OTHER GENDER-BASED PERSECUTIONS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 32) denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 32

Whereas human rights violations against women occur around the world and are not limited to times of war, and have been committed for political gain, personal advantage, ethnic hatred, and in the name of deities and fundamentalist religious zeal;

Whereas, in many parts of the world, there is a culture of violence and discrimination which denies women rights equal to those of men and which legitimizes the exploitation of women for personal gratification, political purposes, and financial gain;

Whereas despite the fact that in 1998, the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda set a precedent in international law by establishing and prosecuting rape and sexual violence in times of violent conflict as war crimes and crimes against humanity, the rape of women continues to be used as an instrument of armed conflict in the 21st century;

Whereas former Bangladeshi Prime-Minister Sheikh Hasina acknowledged that every year in Bangladesh up to 200 women are horribly disfigured by acid attacks by their spurned husbands or suitors, leaving many of them blind, deaf, or dead;

Whereas according to Amnesty International, 6,000 women are subjected to genital mutilation each day in North Africa, and 135,000,000 women, in at least 46 other countries, have undergone female genital mutilation worldwide;

Whereas Time Magazine reports that about 25,000 women in India each year are doused with gasoline, set on fire, and burned to death because their marriage dowries are deemed too small, and four out of five of these attacks are not reported to or recorded by law enforcement agencies;

Whereas in many societies baby girls are denied food, drowned, suffocated, abandoned, or their spines are broken simply because they are born girls;

Whereas in China, where the male-child is traditionally prized above the female, the "one-child" state policy has multiplied the rate of abandonment, sex-selective and forced abortion and female infanticide, and yielded a skewed population demographic;

Whereas Chinese demographics have exacerbated the abduction, trafficking, and sale of Asian women and girls for the purposes of sex slavery and forced marriage;

Whereas Amnesty International estimates that this year, more than 15,000 women will be sold as sexual slaves in China;

Whereas, according to World Bank figures, at least one in five women and girls around the world has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas the 2002 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe estimates that the leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 14 through 44 is the violence to which they are subjected in their own homes, and in the Russian Federation alone, every day 36,000 women are beaten by their husbands or partners;

Whereas in the United States, every day four women die as a result of domestic violence, every year more than half a million women are battered, every year 4,000,000 women are physically abused by their husbands or domestic partners, one-third of American women report physical or sexual abuse by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, over 324,000 pregnant women are victims of intimate partner violence annually, the majority of welfare recipients have experienced domestic violence as adults, and domestic violence causes

100,000 days of hospitalization, 30,000 emergency room visits, and 40,000 visits to a doctor each year;

Whereas, the theme for the 2007 United Nations International Women's Day was "Ending Impunity for Violence Against Women and Girls";

Whereas UNAIDS asserts that the best way to prevent HIV is to raise the status of women because a woman's vulnerability to HIV infection is in direct proportion to her lack of control over the risks of infection;

Whereas the inequalities between women and men have persisted and major obstacles remain, with serious consequences for the well-being of all people;

Whereas the situation of women is exacerbated by the extreme poverty that affects the lives of the majority of the world's people, in particular women and children;

Whereas families rely on mothers and wives for emotional support, labor, and income needed to raise healthy children and care for other relatives;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, nearly 70 percent of the people who live in abject poverty are women and women perform two-thirds of the world's work, earn less than five percent of its income, and own less than one percent of its property;

Whereas democracy, political stability, and economic development are linked to the welfare of women and children, yet the United Nations estimates that three of every four illiterate adults in the world are women and two-thirds of children denied primary education are girls;

Whereas the exclusion of women from the political process in many countries makes them even more vulnerable to abuse;

Whereas as long as women and girls are undervalued, overworked, and subjected to violence in and out of their homes, the potential of the human family to create a peaceful, prosperous world will not be realized; and

Whereas the leadership of women is strongly linked to social justice, economic prosperity, political stability, peaceful relations, and a healthy population: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives—

(A) denounces the barbaric practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and crimes;

(B) asserts that women are not chattel, should not be trafficked, exploited, or sold for services, and should not be denied the right to education, to ownership of property, or to participate in full, economic, social and political life;

(C) demands the cessation of these barbaric practices and the dismantling of social and institutional mechanisms which perpetuate systematic discrimination against women and girls;

(D) calls on all governments to pass enforceable laws banning these practices, prosecute any individuals who persecute or violate women and girls with these acts, and pass measures to empower women and girls and afford them equal access to educational, social, and economic opportunities; and

(E) calls on the President and fellow donor countries to promote the rights, health, and empowerment of women in every aspect of their foreign assistance to developing countries, and discourage continued acts of violence against women and the impunity that often accompanies these acts; and

(2) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) participation, protection, recognition, health, and equality of women and girls are

crucial to achieving a just, moral, and peaceful society; and

(B) regardless of religion, geography, or form of government, women should not be denied their human rights, and those rights must be defended and enforced when they are abridged, challenged, or violated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society.

Allow me to thank Chairman LANTOS and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for working with my staff and working collaboratively to bring forward this legislation that really is a statement of our committee.

Let me also thank the staff who worked on this bill. The full committee: Kristin Wells, Pearl-Alice Marsh, Joan Condon and Yleem Poblete. I also thank the members of my staff: Yohannes Tsehai, Nina Besser and Samia Elshakie.

It is very important as we move forward in making this statement that we recognize that we are attempting to save lives.

May I share with my colleagues the loneliness of being a woman anywhere in the world where they're not protected against brutality, dowry killings, honor killings, and that they have no refuge and no opportunity to address their grievances in their own Nation.

Might I show you some of the dastardly pictures, horrific that they are, showing how women are burned, how women are scarred, and how women are beaten all over the world.

It is time for the United States to join in making a very pronounced statement because women are lonely, and they need the statement or the support of women and this Congress.

I would like to thank the chairman of the Foreign Affairs, as I indicated, my good friend and colleague, Con-

gressman LANTOS, again, and as well the ranking member.

In recent decades, women have made crucial strides toward equality. Our daughters now have a wide range of options and opportunities, and they can look forward to a life full of promise. Despite this important progress, women and girls throughout the world, including here in our own Nation, continue to face gender-based persecutions.

In many parts of the world, a culture of violence and discrimination persists, denying women rights equal to those of men, and legitimizing the exploitation of women for personal gratification, political purposes and financial gain. My legislation strongly denounces such practices and reaffirms the societal values of the independence of women.

Human rights violations against women and girls know no borders. They take place throughout the world on six continents. Statistics are shocking. In North Africa, 6,000 women are genitally mutilated each day. Over 7,000 women in India are killed by their families and in-laws in disputes over dowries annually. A woman in Pakistan was raped by a person in the military, and no one was willing to address her grievances.

More than 15,000 women will be sold as sexual slaves in China this year. Two hundred women in Bangladesh are horribly disfigured when their spurned husbands or suitors burn them with acid each year, according to the Bangladeshi Prime Minister.

The 2002 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe estimates that the leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 14 to 44 is the violence they are subjected to in their own homes. In the Russian Federation alone, every day 36,000 women are beaten by their husbands or partners. Even here in the United States, a woman is raped every six minutes, and a woman is battered every 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, these practices are contrary to international law. In 1998, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda issued a groundbreaking verdict with the successful prosecution of rape as a tool of genocide. Further prosecutions under the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia solidified rape as a crime of war and as the basis for prosecution for torture. Despite these ever-evolving legal traditions, the rape of women continues to be used as an instrument of armed conflict in the 21st century.

I'm very proud of the Foreign Affairs Committee because we work in a bipartisan manner, and therefore, this legislation was able to come out of the committee in a bipartisan manner. And so, as we look to be of help, this is an important forward step in acknowledging the brutality towards women around the world.

In addition to rape, another persistent form of gender-based persecution is female genital mutilation. Despite existing laws forbidding this practice, this tradition is often embedded

in cultural, religious and nonmedical practices, making it more difficult to overcome. Such traditions legitimize the exploitation of women for personal gratification and political gain.

The situation faced by women worldwide is intricately tied to a number of other issues that we have addressed in recent months in the committee. Women and children are particularly affected by extreme poverty, which exacerbates the obstacles they face. Nearly 70 percent of those living in abject poverty are women, according to the United Nations. And while women perform two-thirds of the world's work, they earn less than 5 percent of all income, and they own less than 1 percent of all property. The United Nations estimates that three of every four illiterate adults in the world are women, and two-thirds of children denied primary education are girls.

I ask my colleagues to support H. Res. 32.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, my good friend and colleague Congressman LANTOS, for his support and his leadership on this important issue. I have been pleased to work with the Committee on this legislation, and I would to thank the Committee staff for their work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, in recent decades, women have made crucial strides toward equality. Our daughters now have a wide range of options and opportunities, and they can look forward to a life full of promise. Despite this important progress, women and girls throughout the world, including here in our own nation, continue to face gender-based persecutions. In many parts of the world, a culture of violence and discrimination persists, denying women rights equal to those of men, and legitimizing the exploitation of women for personal gratification, political purposes and financial gain. My legislation strongly denounces such practices, and reaffirms the societal value of the independence of women.

Human rights violations against women and girls know no borders. They take place throughout the world, on six continents. The statistics are shocking. In North Africa, 6,000 women are genitally mutilated each day. Over 7,000 women in India are killed by their families and in-laws in disputes over dowries annually. More than 15,000 women will be sold as sexual slaves in China this year. 200 women in Bangladesh are horribly disfigured when their spurned husbands or suitors burn them with acids each year, according to former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The 2002 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe estimates that the leading cause of death worldwide among women ages 14–44 is the violence they are subjected to in their own homes. In the Russian Federation alone, every day 36,000 women are beat-

en by their husbands or partners. Even here, in United States, a woman is raped every six minutes, and a woman is battered every 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, these practices are contrary to international law. In 1998, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) issued a groundbreaking verdict with the successful prosecution of rape as a tool of genocide. Further prosecutions under the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) solidified rape as a crime of war and as the basis for prosecution for torture. Despite these ever evolving legal traditions, the rape of women continues to be used as an instrument of armed conflict in the 21st century.

In addition to rape, another persistent form of gender-based persecution is female genital mutilation. Despite existing laws forbidding this practice, this tradition is often embedded in cultural, religious, and non-medical practices, making it more difficult to overcome. Such traditions legitimize the exploitation of women for personal gratification and political gain.

The situation faced by women worldwide is intricately tied to a number of other issues that we have addressed in recent months in this Committee. Women and children are particularly affected by extreme poverty, which exacerbates the obstacles they face. Nearly 70 percent of those living in abject poverty are women, according to the United Nations, and, while women perform 2/3 of the world's work, they earn less than 5 percent of all income, and they own less than 1 percent of all property. The United Nations estimates that three out of every four illiterate adults in the world are women, and that two-thirds of children denied primary education are girls.

Mr. Speaker, democracy, political stability, and economic development are linked to the welfare of women and children. This Congress has announced its commitment to all three of these admirable goals, and I firmly believe that if we are truly dedicated to building and supporting stable, open, and prosperous societies throughout the world, we must work to eliminate these practices of serious persecution and discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, the time is long since passed for us to strongly declare that women are not chattel, should not be trafficked, nor sold for services, and must not be denied the right to own property. The fundamental rights to freedom of worship, expression, association, conscience and pursuit of happiness ought never to be threatened by violence, oppression, slavery, or manipulation.

My legislation denounces the barbaric practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions. It demands the cessation of these barbaric practices and condemns the perpetrators. Regardless of religion, geography, or form of government, women should not be denied equal rights, which should be defended when their rights are abridged, challenged, or violated.

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, I strongly urge you to join me in supporting this extremely important legislation.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I'm pleased to rise in support of H. Res. 32, which denounces violence

against women and recognizes that women's rights are, indeed, human rights.

I also would like to thank Chairman LANTOS and the sponsor of this resolution, my good friend and my chairwoman, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, for agreeing to modify the introduced text such that it strikes all references to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. By striking these references and refocusing our attention on the challenges to human dignity that an alarming number of women are forced to endure around the world, H. Res. 32 is now a much stronger, bipartisan resolution which can be universally embraced.

H. Res. 32 recognizes that democracy, political stability, public health and economic development are linked to the welfare of women and children. Two-thirds of the world's work is performed by women, yet women still earn less than 5 percent of its income, own less than 1 percent of its property, and make up nearly 70 percent of the people living in poverty unfortunately.

The lack of legal standing of women in many societies makes them especially susceptible to poverty, exploitation, abuse and, inevitably, infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

Yet as women serve as the provider and educator for their families in many traditional societies, their exploitation threatens the prosperity of their entire family and community. As such, the resolution calls upon governments to address the entrenched gender inequalities which threaten development, as well as national security.

It also calls on governments to criminalize such atrocious practices as female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burnings, dowry deaths, and other gender-based crimes.

This resolution does not seek to bestow upon women any special privilege. It simply recognizes the fact that no matter where one lives, and no matter what their race, religion or culture, we are all human beings who deserve the opportunity to live in dignity and free from oppression or abuse based solely on our gender.

I urge unanimous support of H. Res. 32.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I am prepared to close at this time.

Let me thank my very generous friend Mr. BILIRAKIS from Florida for expressing the negotiations that occurred in the Foreign Affairs Committee and the spirit in which we work in that committee by coming together in a bipartisan way to make such an important statement today.

In closing, I would like to indicate that democracy, political stability, and economic development are linked to the welfare of our women and children. This Congress has announced its commitment to all three of these admirable goals, and I firmly believe that if

we are truly dedicated to building and supporting stable, open and prosperous societies throughout the world, we must work to eliminate these practices of serious persecution and discrimination.

The distinguished gentleman from Florida has indicated that we're doing this together. The time has long since passed for us to strongly declare that women are not chattel, should not be trafficked, and not sold for services and must not be denied the right to own property. The fundamental rights to freedom of worship, expression, association, conscience and pursuit of happiness ought never to be threatened by violence, oppression, slavery or manipulation.

My legislation denounces the barbaric practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions. It gives women hope around the world. It demands a cessation of these barbaric practices and condemns the perpetrators.

I'm delighted to be supported by Amnesty International; the United Nations Women's Fund; the CARE, Council on American-Islamic Relations, equal rights advocates; and NOW.

I'm also delighted to be able to have this Congress express that regardless of religion, geography or form of government, women should not be denied equal rights, should have the opportunity to be defended when their rights are abridged, challenged or violated.

So, in the spirit of protecting the women around the world from the violence that they experience and suffer every day from the trafficking and from the inhumane treatment, I ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support H. Res. 32.

Amnesty International USA commends Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee and the U.S. House of Representatives for authoring and considering H. Res. 32 to denounce the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths and other gender-based persecution and to urge participation, protection, recognition and independence of women.

Violence against women is a human rights scandal. At least one out of every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. In Europe, domestic violence is the major cause of death and disability for women aged 16 to 44. In the United States, a woman is raped every 6 minutes; a woman is battered every 15 seconds.

Rape of women is widespread in armed conflicts such as in Colombia and Darfur. Trafficking of women has become a global phenomenon where victims are sexually exploited, forced into labor and subjected to abuse.

Murders of women in Guatemala, Russia, India, and other countries often go uninvestigated and unpunished. The experience or threat of violence affects the lives of women everywhere, cutting across boundaries of wealth, race and culture. In the home and in the community, in times of war and peace, women are beaten, raped, mutilated, and killed with impunity.

The U.S. government should move forward in ratifying the Treaty for the Rights of

Women (CEDAW)—the most complete international agreement on basic human rights for women. The United States played an important role in drafting the Treaty, which 185 nations have ratified as of October 2007. As the leading superpower, U.S. ratification would lend weight to the Treaty and provide valuable support to women seeking reforms in countries around the world.

Amnesty International USA encourages members of the U.S. House of Representatives to move quickly towards passage of H. Res. 32 and encourages all members of the legislative body to actively work to stop violence against women throughout the world.

TO THE HONORABLE SHEILA JACKSON LEE: The U.S. National Committee for UNIFEM is in full support of H. Res. 32 which denounces the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. Since 1976, UNIFEM (the women's fund at the UN) has provided financial and technical assistance to innovative programs focusing on ending gender-based violence including initiatives to eliminate FGM, dowry murders and domestic violence. In 1996, the UN General Assembly established the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women. Managed by UNIFEM, the Trust Fund is the only multilateral grant-making mechanism that supports local, national and regional efforts to combat violence. While the Trust Fund has provided over \$13 million to 226 projects in over 100 countries, the need for stricter laws, education and advocacy efforts to end gender-based violence persist.

The U.S. National Committee for UNIFEM is one of 16 national committees that support UNIFEM. We work to increase the visibility of UNIFEM in the U.S. and promote campaigns and events to support UNIFEM's four strategic areas: reducing women's poverty, ending gender-based violence, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and supporting women's leadership. We are devoted to working toward a world where women and girls live free from violence, poverty and inequality. With Congress's support of this bill, we can ensure that we come one step closer to this goal. We applaud your efforts.

Sincerely,

CAROL POTEAT BUCHANAN,
President, U.S. National Committee
for UNIFEM.

COUNCIL ON
AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, October 8, 2007.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN JACKSON LEE: The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) expresses its support for H. Res. 32, denouncing female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor killings," acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based human rights violations against women.

CAIR joins in calling for an end to such barbaric practices.

Perpetrators of these barbaric acts claim any number of philosophical, political or religious justifications. CAIR, drawing on our faith's admonition to establish justice, stands with those who reject such justifications.

CAIR, America's largest Muslim civil liberties group, has 33 offices, chapters and af-

filiates nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

Sincerely,

NIHAD AWAD,
Executive Director.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in support of House Resolution 32 the Denouncement to the Suppression of Women.

Thousands of women a year fall victim to societies that deem them unworthy and in turn suffer at the hands of discrimination and violence. We must recognize that this violence is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women and it must be eliminated. Too many women are continuously tortured, beaten, mutilated and assaulted by husbands, fathers, and complete strangers without hope for support or promise of a safe haven to run to.

Domestic violence is the major cause of death and disability for women aged 16 to 44, accounting for more death and ill-health than cancer or traffic accidents. More than 60 million women are "missing" from the world today as a result of sex-selective abortions and female infanticide. The World Health Organization has reported that up to 70 per cent of female murder victims are killed by their male partners.

As Americans, citizens striving to preserve human life and oppose the discrimination of any person, we must move to impair these malevolent occurrences in full force.

United, we must denounce these demeaning practices and fervently demand an end to this persecution and a commitment to preserving the rights of female populations all over the world. No longer can we stand silent while thousands of women fall victim to cultural prejudice and international trafficking. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

The preservation of female rights must be a priority to this the 110th Congress as we continue to work towards ensuring democratic ideals worldwide.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 32, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. 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 motion will be postponed.

□ 1730

WAR PROFITEERING PREVENTION
ACT OF 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 400) to prohibit profiteering and fraud relating to military action, relief, and reconstruction efforts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 400

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 "War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF PROFITEERING.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1040. War profiteering and fraud

"(a) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, in any matter involving a contract with, or the provision of goods or services to, the United States or a provisional authority, in connection with a mission of the United States Government overseas, knowingly—

"(1)(A) executes or attempts to execute a scheme or artifice to defraud the United States or that authority; or

"(B) materially overvalues any good or service with the intent to defraud the United States or that authority;

shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both; or

"(2) in connection with the contract or the provision of those goods or services—

"(A) falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact;

"(B) makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations; or

"(C) makes or uses any materially false writing or document knowing the same to contain any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry;

shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

"(b) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—There is extraterritorial Federal jurisdiction over an offense under this section.

"(c) VENUE.—A prosecution for an offense under this section may be brought—

"(1) as authorized by chapter 211 of this title;

"(2) in any district where any act in furtherance of the offense took place; or

"(3) in any district where any party to the contract or provider of goods or services is located."

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"1040. War profiteering and fraud."

(b) CRIMINAL FORFEITURE.—Section 982(a)(2)(B) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "or 1030" and inserting "1030, or 1040".

(c) MONEY LAUNDERING.—Section 1956(c)(7)(D) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting "section 1040 (relating to war profiteering and fraud)," after "liquidating agent of financial institution)."

(d) RICO.—Section 1961(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting "section 1040 (relating to war profiteering and fraud)," after "in connection with access devices)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Reconstruction fraud has run rampant during the engagement of the U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The United States has devoted more than \$50 billion to relief and reconstruction activities there, and at least \$8.8 billion cannot be accounted for.

Some of the reports of excessive profiteering are simply appalling. For example, one contractor was hired to build the Baghdad Police College, a facility to house and train more than 4,000 police recruits. After spending \$72 million of U.S. taxpayer money, the contractor delivered an engineering nightmare with so many plumbing problems that auditors from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction said that during the visit a substance dripped from the ceiling onto an assessment team member's shirt.

It's not only construction. There are widely reported stories of contractors double-charging taxpayers for sodas and overcharging the government 600 percent for fuel shipments.

Another report has a company running convoys of empty trucks back and forth across an insurgent-laden desert, pointlessly risking the lives of soldiers and drivers so the company could charge the taxpayer for phantom deliveries. Truckers referred to their cargo as sailboat fuel.

Inspector Generals have opened hundreds of investigations into fraud and waste in Iraq and Kuwait and Afghanistan involving illegal kickbacks, bid-rigging, embezzlement and fraudulent overbilling.

The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction has more than 70 open and active investigations in contracting fraud and abuse in the war. In addition, private whistleblowers have filed numerous civil claims involving Iraq fraud under the False Claims Act.

Despite the breadth of all of these investigations and civil claims, the Department of Justice has chosen to pursue a relatively small number of cases. To promote a more vigorous Department of Justice prosecution of reconstruction fraud, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) has introduced H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007.

Although there are anti-fraud laws to protect against waste of U.S. taxpayers' money at home, no law specifically prohibits war profiteering or expressly confers jurisdiction of U.S.

courts to hear the fraud cases when our forces and reconstruction efforts are deployed overseas.

To clarify the full reach of the U.S. jurisdiction to appropriately punish this conduct wherever it may occur, H.R. 400 would criminalize overcharging taxpayers to profit excessively with the intent to defraud the United States Government or any provisional authority, such as the former Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq.

This crime would be a felony, with criminal penalties up to \$1 million in fines and up to 20 years in prison. In addition to prohibiting fraud, H.R. 400 also criminalizes false statements in providing goods and services in connection with the war or reconstruction effort. This crime would also be a felony, subject to criminal penalties up to \$1 million and up to 10 years in prison.

The bill before us makes a few technical changes to the bill that was reported out of committee. Among them is a deletion of a provision providing for an alternative fund of twice the gross profits or other proceeds of the crime.

This alternative fund essentially duplicates and would possibly displace a stronger current provision in the law, section 3571(d) of title 18 of the U.S. code, which applies to all crimes.

But also note that the bill explicitly provides for an extraterritorial jurisdiction. The inclusion of this provision is meant to make it abundantly clear that this statute reaches war profiteering crimes wherever they may occur. However, it is not intended and should not be interpreted to undermine the extraterritorial reach of any other Federal criminal statute.

H.R. 400 sends a resounding warning, which I hope would be heard and taken to heart by all relief and reconstruction contractors doing business with the U.S. Government or any provisional authority operating under our control, that is, that contracting fraud not only undercuts our missions overseas, it is illegal. If you engage in it, you can expect to be vigorously prosecuted.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007. If a contractor in Iraq decides to engage in the corrupt business practice of overbilling the U.S. military to maximize his profits, he will now face 20 years in a Federal prison cell and a fine of \$1 million.

Those bad apples who defraud the American taxpayer must be held accountable, regardless of whether the sleazy, fraudulent practice occurred in the United States, Afghanistan, or Iraq. This is especially true when the

fraud relates to our military and reconstruction activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, because such schemes could directly harm our country's global war against terrorism.

Moreover, corruption by a handful of individuals who are ostensibly engaged in supporting our military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan unfairly tarnishes the reputation of the many honorable military and civilian contractors, the overwhelming majority of whom risk their lives daily and professionally perform their duties.

Fortunately, according to the testimony of Stuart Bowen, Jr., the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, most contractors are good apples, and the incidence of corruption within the U.S. reconstruction program constitutes a small component of the overall American financial contribution to Iraq's reconstruction.

These cases often require extensive investigative resources and documentation. Having to gather such evidence in a dangerous setting like Iraq or Afghanistan makes it difficult to build a successful criminal case.

Nevertheless, the U.S. Government has brought many successful prosecutions, and it will likely bring more. For example, Philip Bloom was sentenced earlier this year to 46 months in prison as a result of his scheme to defraud the Coalition Provisional Authority by rigging contract bids in excess of \$8.6 million.

In addition, Robert Stein, the former Coalition Provisional Authority comptroller and funding officer, was sentenced to 9 years in prison earlier this year. He was prosecuted and convicted of funneling numerous contracts to Bloom in exchange for kickbacks and bribes. Overall, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction has opened over 300 criminal and civil investigations, leading to 10 arrests, five persons indicted, five convicted, and two imprisoned. The Inspector General continues to work on 79 live investigations, and these investigations may involve one or more targets. Twenty-eight of these investigations are currently being prosecuted by the Department of Justice, 23 of these are criminal cases, and five are civil.

In short, this legislation creates a new crime with a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, which is double the existing crime of fraud against the government, and deservedly so.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 400.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a statement from Stuart W. Bowen, Jr., Special In-

spector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

STATEMENT OF STUART W. BOWEN JR., SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION, BEFORE THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

WAR PROFITEERING AND OTHER CONTRACTOR CRIMES COMMITTED OVERSEAS

(Tuesday, June 19, 2007, Washington, DC)

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Forbes, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to address you today on the work of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

To ensure accurate context, permit me to outline several points essential to understanding the challenges of investigating and prosecuting fraud in Iraq.

First, corruption within the Iraqi government, indeed within the fabric of Iraqi society, is a serious problem that inhibits progress on many fronts in Iraq. This is widely recognized by the Government of Iraq and the international community. In our quarterly reports, SIGIR has called Iraq's endemic corruption problem a "second insurgency."

I returned last month from my 16th trip to Iraq and, during my visit, I met with the Commissioner of Public Integrity, who heads the institution created by the CPA to increase accountability for public corruption in Iraq—and the President of the Board of Supreme Audit, the analogue to the Government Accountability Office, which has existed in Iraq for many decades. The Iraqi anti-corruption authorities again emphasized to me the widespread nature of the problem of corruption, which stretches across the government, afflicting virtually every ministry. And they outlined for me the difficulties they face in implementing their respective anti-corruption mandates.

The CPI Commissioner told me that he currently has 2,000 cases involving \$5 billion in alleged corruption. And the President of the Board of Supreme Audit has hundreds of audits ongoing. In virtually every case, he is uncovering a lack of accountability. Let me emphasize that the CPI and the BSA oversee Iraqi money—not U.S. money—that is missing or has been stolen from Iraqi programs.

During my visit, I was informed about political interference with the work of Iraqi investigators and prosecutors. For example, I learned that Ministers and former Ministers are exempt from prosecution unless the assent of the Prime Minister is obtained; and each Minister is entitled, under an Iraqi criminal code provision, to immunize selectively ministry employees from being held accountable for corruption.

Iraq must make progress on rule of law enforcement, in general, and corruption, in particular; political interference with fighting corruption remains a problem, undermining the effectiveness of the developing rule of law system and consequently eroding the Iraqi people's confidence in their government.

Iraq is a sovereign state. The role of the United States thus is to encourage the development of an efficient Iraqi justice system. We do this for its own sake and for the sake of maintaining and building upon the efforts made, at great cost in blood and treasure, by Americans and Iraqis since the liberation of Iraq.

SIGIR's specific role in this process has been to review the effectiveness of United States efforts to improve the rule of law system and to build up the corruption-fighting capacity of the Iraqi government.

On July 28, 2006, SIGIR released a survey on this subject and found that American efforts were funded at a very modest level, given the scope of the problem, receiving about \$65 million (about three-tenths of 1 percent of our total reconstruction spending). My auditors found that American efforts have not been sufficiently coordinated and focused and that more adequate leadership and organization was needed. The U.S. Embassy has responded to some of these concerns since the review was released. SIGIR will soon release another review on the issue, updating our previous report.

SIGIR has a continuing investigative responsibility to detect and investigate malfeasance in American relief and reconstruction programs in Iraq. As part of this effort, we have developed good working-level and leadership-level relationships with the CPI and the BSA. We coordinate with these Iraqi agencies whenever we come across evidence of potential wrongdoing by Iraqis. SIGIR, of course, concentrates its law enforcement efforts on American targets and works with the Department of Justice in their effective prosecution.

My second point is that the incidence of corruption within the U.S. reconstruction program—judging from those cases that we have uncovered thus far—appears to constitute a relatively small component of the overall American financial contribution to Iraq's reconstruction. Based on the work of our 18 career investigators on SIGIR staff, I believe that losses to American taxpayers from fraud within reconstruction programs will likely amount to a relatively small component of the overall investment in Iraq, totaling in the tens of millions (rather than hundreds of millions or billions, as is sometimes imagined). However, the fact that the fraud we have detected is relatively small (to date) does not diminish the aggressiveness with which SIGIR pursues allegations of fraud in Iraq. We have found egregious incidents of fraud. And in partnership with the Department of Justice, SIGIR has produced clear results in prosecutions and convictions.

For example, in January, two individuals were sentenced to prison as a result of SIGIR investigations. In early February, indictments were announced of five more individuals, resulting from SIGIR investigations. To date, SIGIR has opened over 300 cases, and we have over 70 ongoing investigations. Thirty-two of those cases are under prosecution at the Department of Justice.

We believe that the publicity our enforcement actions have received has helped to deter misconduct in the U.S. reconstruction program. And we also believe that enforcement will be an increasingly important part of SIGIR's mission over the next 18 months. Moreover, in the course of this year, we expect to produce concrete investigative results as significant current cases come to fruition.

SIGIR remains committed to a robust, deterrent presence in Iraq as long as our temporary organization exists. Today, I have five investigators on the ground in Iraq investigating fraud. Although there are other law enforcement agencies fighting fraud in Iraq, SIGIR has maintained over the past 3 years the largest contingent of fraud investigators in Iraq. My investigators travel the country under dangerous conditions, pursuing leads, interviewing witnesses, and piecing together evidence on a wide variety of cases. Their work also takes them to other countries in the region. Of note, SIGIR is currently reducing its overall personnel "footprint" in Baghdad in conjunction with the reduction in spending of appropriated dollars on Iraq reconstruction.

One of the most important aspects of our investigative efforts is the development of

task-force relationships with other agencies involved in oversight in Iraq, including may colleagues from the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation. SIGIR has 16 investigators in Arlington, and we are participating in the new Joint Operations Center located at the FBI to coordinate and enhance fraud investigations in Iraq.

SIGIR's first task force was the Special Investigative Task Force for Iraq Reconstruction (SPITFIRE), and it combined the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Homeland Security, Immigrations and Customs enforcement office, the FBI and the Department of State Office of Inspector General. That task force was able to effectively pursue the Bloom-Stein conspiracy that my auditors uncovered in Hillah, Iraq—a very egregious kickback and bribery scheme involving over \$10 million in reconstruction funds that Philip Bloom, the contractor, and Robert Stein, the Coalition Provisional Authority comptroller for that region, engineered for their own criminal ends. SPITFIRE continues its work today; and we continue to pursue a number of leads that arose from the Bloom-Stein case.

The other major task-force initiative that SIGIR has initiated with the FBI is the International Contract Corruption Task Force (ICCTF). ICCTF prompted the creation of the Joint Operations Center mentioned above, which is producing the effective collection and coordination of investigative leads and source development. Although I am not at liberty to discuss details of these cases, I am very pleased with the very significant progress the JOC investigators have made, news of which I expect to be forthcoming later this year.

Along with SIGIR, the ICCTF includes the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigative Division's Major Procurement Fraud Unit, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the FBI, and the inspectors general of the Department of State and the Agency for International Development.

SIGIR is also part of the DOJ National Procurement Fraud Task Force. We continue to work closely with DOJ in the investigation and prosecution of our cases.

Finally, to coordinate efforts in oversight in Iraq, I formed the Iraq Inspector Generals' Council, IIGC, 3 years ago, which brings together every agency with oversight authority in Iraq for a meeting every quarter. The IIGC exists to deconflict and coordinate the member agencies' oversight efforts in Iraq.

SIGIR is not limiting its efforts just to addressing contractor misconduct through the criminal justice system. We also refer cases to the U.S. government's administrative debarment and suspension processes. To date, the competent oversight authorities have, through established rules that preserve due process, suspended 17 companies and individuals, debarred ten, and have another nine pending debarments.

To date, SIGIR has produced 13 quarterly reports, 86 audit reports, and 90 inspection reports. Our auditors and inspectors regularly refer investigative leads to our investigators some of which have developed into very significant cases. The Bloom-Stein case is just one example.

SIGIR's three lessons-learned reports produced to date have provided recommendations on policies designed to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness for the Iraq program and for future reconstruction and stabilization operations. The reports have prompted the introduction of reform measures in the Congress that will improve contracting processes. SIGIR is at work on a lessons-learned capping report, which will be

produced at the end of this year. It is my hope that our lessons learned reports will prompt reforms that will improve the capacity of law enforcement to deter crime.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to H.R. 400, Representative Abercrombie's bill entitled the "War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007," our position is essentially what it was when we were asked to reflect on its counterpart at a Senate hearing this past March. SIGIR remains a strong proponent of legislation that would strengthen efforts to punish fraud or abuse in contracting programs in Iraq or elsewhere. We look forward to working with the Department of Justice to enforce H.R. 400, should it become law. We are, however, unaware of instances where the Justice Department was unable to prosecute, under existing law, on the facts we developed in our investigations.

One of our responsibilities in Iraq is to encourage efficiency in the reconstruction effort. In that role, we have prompted management to seek the widest possible participation by business enterprises (especially Iraqi firms) in reconstruction. The security risks in Iraq are self-evident, and thus the risks to any business enterprise operating in such an environment are mammoth. International companies likely will not get into the business of reconstruction in Iraq without incentives that render the risk-taking worthwhile. This reality should figure in the development of legislation that affects contracting in Iraq or similarly insecure environments.

Whether H.R. 400 becomes law, SIGIR will continue to aggressively pursue investigations, provide robust oversight through audits and inspections, and will press for more efforts to improve contract administration, quality assurance, and quality control. It is my hope that our continuing efforts will help promote an aim we all share—a reconstruction program that is administered and executed honestly, and is as well-managed and efficient as possible under very challenging circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for your time and attention to these important matters, and I look forward to answering your questions.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I want to pay a special thank you, a big mahalo, to Mr. SCOTT and to the Judiciary Committee for their hard work. I am very grateful to the ranking members, the Republicans and Democrats. We cannot resolve this without seeing to it that we have a bipartisan approach on this.

I am particularly grateful to Senator PAT LEAHY, who is the Judiciary Chairman in the Senate, for entrusting this bill to our care here in the House and allowing me to introduce it as a companion bill to the one that has passed in the Senate. I am very hopeful that we can get a vote in the Senate and move this to the President's desk.

When the wrong computer equipment arrived in Iraq, the contractor ordered it dumped into a mammoth burn pit and placed an order for replacements, rather than sending it back. The government paid for both the wrong computers and the replacements. The contractor collected a fee for each, thanks to a cost-plus contract.

Halliburton had drivers driving empty trucks between bases in Iraq, unnecessarily exposing the drivers to danger, because the company was paid by the trip, not by the amount of material hauled or a flat fee; \$186 million

was spent over 2 years to build 142 health care centers, yet only 15 have been completed and only eight are open. According to testimony, the contractor lacked qualified engineers, hired incompetent subcontractors, failed to supervise construction work, and failed to enforce quality control.

A large U.S. construction company was paid tens of millions of dollars to repair Iraq's schools. Many of the schools were never touched, and several that were repaired, and I say that in quotes, were left in shambles, one filled with unflushed sewage.

At least 10 companies with billions of dollars in contracts have already been forced to pay up to \$300 million in penalties to resolve allegations of bid-rigging, fraud, gross overcharging, delivery of faulty military parts and environmental damage, \$300 million in penalties. Some of these same companies have faced such allegations during past military operations in other countries, but have had no problem receiving new contracts in Iraq.

Despite millions of dollars in payments to U.S. companies, key pieces of Iraq's infrastructure, power plants, telephone exchanges, sewage and sanitation systems, have either not been repaired or have been fixed so poorly that they still don't function.

How has this been allowed to happen? The United States Government directly and through the late Coalition Provisional Authority have outsourced the war in Iraq like no other in our history, spending more than \$50 billion on private contractors to provide food, water, gasoline and other supplies, guard bases, drive trucks, and many other activities in support of our troops.

But consistent with the administration's overall attitude toward spending public money with private companies, little or no thought was given to contract oversight or accountability. As a result, some of these contractors have declared the U.S. occupation of Iraq open season on the taxpayer. Cleaning up this mess has been hampered by the fact that while anti-fraud laws protect against the waste or theft of U.S. taxpayers in the United States, there have been no statutes prohibiting sleazy business practices by American companies overseas.

As we have learned in the investigation of the Blackwater USA contract, the Coalition Provisional Authority issued order number 17, which specifically exempted U.S. contractors from Iraqi law.

In fact, one contractor was found guilty of 37 counts of fraud, including false billing, and was ordered to pay more than \$10 million in damages, but the decision was overturned because the contracts were let through the Coalition Provisional Authority, and it was found that U.S. laws against fraud did not apply.

Despite the fact that the Coalition Provisional Authority was created by the Bush administration under the Department of Defense; despite the fact

that L. Paul Bremer, the overseer in Iraq, subsequent to the initial attack on Iraq, had an office literally across the hall from Secretary Rumsfeld, the Coalition Provisional Authority was not considered part of the U.S. Government, and, therefore, U.S. laws were unenforceable.

These practices are a flagrant abuse of the public's trust and the public's money during a time of war and cannot be allowed to continue. H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007, will, one, criminalize war profiteering defined as contract fraud or overcharging for goods and services in connection with the mission of the United States Government overseas; two, violations of law will be a felony and punishable up to 20 years in prison and fines up to \$1 million or twice the illegal profits of the crime; three, jurisdiction for such cases, no matter where the alleged crimes are committed, will be in the United States Federal court.

H.R. 400 was heard and considered by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security and ordered reported to the full Judiciary Committee by a voice vote on August 1. Among the many significant consequences of the decision to invade and occupy Iraq marked by a complete dismissal of the need for intelligent planning and stunning incompetence in the conduct of the war, this problem has received too little attention from the news media, the public, and the Congress.

□ 1745

Most of the cases of fraud, questionable business practices and outright corruption have been uncovered and investigated through the efforts of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, Mr. Stuart Bowen, Jr. Mr. Bowen and his super staff both here in the U.S. and on the ground in Iraq have provided oversight and insight under the most difficult conditions imaginable for billions of American taxpayer dollars intended to rebuild Iraq and support our troops in combat. They deserve our gratitude. They deserve the gratitude of the Congress and the Nation for a tough job well done.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, together with H.R. 2740, legislation passed by this House last week to expand the reach of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to private civilian security operatives in the region are two important steps this Congress is taking to clean up the mess in Iraq.

H.R. 400, in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the War Profiteering Prevention Act will help end the open season declared on American taxpayers.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this bill, not because I oppose punishing war profiteers or punishing corruption

in contracting. I think these are critical, important laudable goals.

I oppose this bill because creating a new law "involving a contract or the provision of goods or services to the United States" is a matter which must be considered in relation to the existing Federal acquisition systems, which this bill is not. Any attempt to legislate without considering the current system can have disastrous, albeit unintended, consequences which in this case include serious criminal penalties.

As others have said today, we all agree that fraud against the United States undermines national security and there must be severe penalties for it. And of course we all agree corruption of any kind is unacceptable. Our committee in the last Congress held several hearings on contracting in Iraq and the difficulties that were faced there. And if the current law is inadequate to punish wrongdoers for these offenses, Congress should act.

But taking up this bill in this way at this time proves to me that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are caring about passing a bill so that they can take political potshots at contractors. Hundreds of contractors' lives have been lost over in Iraq, and I think the widows and the mothers of these sons and daughters who have been killed in Iraq would be, I think, chagrined to hear their sons referred to as profiteers. In many cases the contractors are more in harm's way than our troops. They don't get the body armor. Many of them don't operate in the Green Zone or on bases. This is, in fact, a substitute, a proxy, if you will, because the majority can't put together a plan to end the war in Iraq so we go after contracting in Iraq. I think there are some things we could do, but I don't think this bill is the appropriate way to get through it. The words in this case don't make sense. It's not good law. What you care about is contractor bashing, consequences be damned.

It is hard to get good companies to do business in Iraq. It is dangerous, it is expensive, it has all kinds of contingencies, and a lot of the best companies say we don't want to have anything to do with.

The relationship between the government and the contractor is an arms-length business one, with many laws outlining how this relationship should proceed. Adding additional language to the criminal code regarding certain aspects of this relationship will have unintended consequences which have to be considered before moving this legislation forward.

For example, the bill makes it a crime to materially overvalue a good or service. Under the Truth in Negotiation Act, a detailed process is already set out in which to address claims of defective pricing in Federal contracts. To those who don't know this government contract lingo, this might sound like fraudulent behavior.

But defective pricing occurs when a company's contract price is signifi-

cantly increased because the company submitted pricing data that was not accurate, complete and current. That's 10 U.S.C. 2306(a). In these cases, the government is generally entitled to a price reduction to remedy any overcharge by the submission of defective pricing data.

The government takes seriously overpayments based on defective pricing and aggressively pursues contractors found to have engaged in these practices, in some cases including debarment. A contractor's liability can extend beyond the repayment of any overcharges, and under current law, can include fraud claims against the contractor.

But under H.R. 400, would an overzealous prosecutor be able to go after a company with a defective pricing claim against it as materially overvaluing a good or service? Maybe. Maybe not. But we, on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee with jurisdiction over Federal procurement should have the opportunity to consider this language and its impact on the Federal acquisition system.

The interrelationship of procurement law and the criminal law can be complicated. We have to be careful not to criminalize procurement management matters just because you can. Careful study is required to separate criminal behavior from management issues.

I see other problems as well. Allowing a Federal prosecutor to enter post hoc determinations on whether a contract provides appropriate value to the government would have a chilling effect on a contracting officer's decision-making.

Contractors would be discouraged from providing innovative solutions to government problems for fear that their solutions would subject them to charges of material overvaluation if the solution didn't work out as planned.

Competition would be discouraged, which is the cornerstone of getting the best price and value because prospective contractors could be subjected to harsh penalties at the whim of a prosecutor who probably doesn't understand the acquisition system.

In fixed price contracts, the price which the government buys would likely increase because contractors would have to include the possibility of these penalties in their pricing, costing the taxpayers money.

In commercial contracts the market dictates what is a fair value, not a post hoc prosecutor's determination whether the government got appropriate value from the contract.

I support strong penalties for war profiteering. I support strong penalties for corruption. I do not support H.R. 400 because I don't believe it has been given appropriate consideration by this House and numerous unintended consequences.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, just to point out that the standard in the bill on page 2, line 10, it says

that you have to execute or attempt to execute a scheme or artifice to defraud the United States or materially overvalues any good or service with the intent to defraud. That's a very high standard, not just overcharging, but overcharging with the intent to defraud or, in the second part, tries to cover up the deed. Those are high standards, and people will know that they're committing a crime when, in fact, they do that.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I find it very unfortunate that my good friend from Virginia has taken a position that the bill in any way encourages the whims of prosecutors. As Mr. SCOTT has pointed out, the standard is very high and applies to any contract, whether it's in the United States or overseas. There is nothing applied to the contracts overseas that is not applied to a contract here in the United States when it comes to the question of fraud or overcharging or deliberate deception with regard to the contract. That standard has to be met in any court and has to come before any judge meeting such a standard. There is no differentiation whatsoever.

The reason the bill is here, and the reason we're bringing the legislation, is the courts have ruled that there is, at best, an ambiguous situation, if not an outright gap between the capacity for prosecution of such a crime, should the standard for the crime be sustained by a prosecutorial investigation, and what is possible in Iraq. It can't be prosecuted in Iraq, and the courts found that it wasn't. We did not have legislation sufficiently clear in the United States in order to prosecute it. Thus, far from arbitrary or capricious prosecution, we have the opportunity for arbitrary defrauding of the United States taxpayer with no consequences. That's why the legislation is here.

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

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume, and then I will turn and yield 30 seconds to Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. I will go ahead and respond as Mr. DAVIS is gathering his thoughts.

One of the concerns Mr. DAVIS raised was what if there was some inadvertent overpricing by a contractor based on a mistake and later went back and corrected it. My reading of the bill is that person wouldn't be prosecuted because there's a three-prong standard. First, you have to knowingly, materially overvalue goods or service with the intent to defraud. And the intent-to-defraud prong would not be met under the analogy or the example Mr. DAVIS gave because "intent to defraud" is a term of art which requires that the actor possesses the specific intent to cheat the government. And you would not have that element of the crime proven if you had inadvertent overpricing based on a mistake.

Now, it doesn't mean you may not have what he's concerned about, an overzealous prosecutor try to prosecute someone without having the prongs or the factual basis for it. We can ask the prosecutor from the Duke case what happens when you're overzealous in your prosecutions. But I believe under that particular example that person wouldn't be prosecuted.

However, before I yield to Mr. DAVIS, let me just say, he does have a great deal of experience dealing with Government reform issues as the ranking member and represents a lot of government employees. And so I certainly am empathetic to his concerns that perhaps his committee might have had some insight into this bill that was worth looking at.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I think the key here is that this legislation is needed. You have defective pricing legislation. You have Qui Tam actions. You have the Procurement Integrity Act. The language in this bill that concerns me is not the fact that its intent to defraud; that's in a lot of legislation. It's materially overvalues any good. And I can't find any precedent for that in the federal acquisition regulations. I can't find any precedent in terms of what this means and how a prosecutor could take this from materially overvaluing any good. That is a very subjective measurement. There are a lot of unintended consequences. And I suspect this bill will pass today, although not with my vote. But I hope we can improve it if we're going to make this actual law.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very important piece of legislation.

Let me take this opportunity to compliment my friend from Hawaii for introducing it and for bringing it to the floor. Mr. ABERCROMBIE is indeed to be commended for this work.

What this does is merely closes some loopholes that are presently in the United States law. Defrauding the Federal taxpayer should be a felony, and it is subject to considerable years in prison and a fine up to \$1 million or twice the illegal profits of the crime.

When we're in a war situation, you want people to work hard. We expect a great deal from those in uniform. And we expect those who are supplying and building and reconstructing in the war-torn area to also play by the rules as we demand of those young men and young women in our United States military.

So this bill does the right thing. It goes after the war profiteering, that is the overcharging in order to defraud or profit excessively from the war. And this bill also confers jurisdiction with-

in the Federal courts to hear and try such cases. It's the right thing. It's the right action for us to take in this Congress.

I, again, compliment the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), and I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume and am prepared to yield back as we have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill. We agree on a bipartisan basis that when a corrupt contractor overbills our U.S. military, it rips off the taxpayers, it hurts our national security, and it unfairly stains the reputation of the many honorable military and civilian contractors who risk their lives every day and do a professional and honest job.

□ 1800

This bill appropriately says that if you plan on overbilling or ripping off the U.S. military in terms of these contracts to do reconstruction work or military-related work in Iraq or Afghanistan, you are going to be sitting in a prison cell for 20 years and you are going to pay a fine of \$1 million. We think that is an appropriate message to accept in light of this problem. And I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" on H.R. 400.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Florida for his support for the bill. And as he has indicated when my distinguished colleague from Virginia pointed out all of the different acts that apply, one of the major problems was that there is no jurisdiction to actually prosecute those claims without this legislation. The standard is high. There is an intent to defraud.

I would hope that the House would pass the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 400, the "War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007." I support this bill because it strengthens the tools available to Federal law enforcement to combat contracting fraud during times of war, military action, or relief or reconstruction activities.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 400 creates a new criminal offense in title 18 of the United States Code for fraudulent acts involving contracts or the provision of goods and services in connection with war, military actions, and relief or reconstruction activities. This new offense provides a significant new tool for federal law enforcement, as well as creating a strong deterrent to those who would contemplate exploiting the exigencies of war, military actions, relief or reconstruction activities to commit fraud and profit thereby.

The new offense may be committed in two ways: (1) By committing fraud or (2) by making a materially false statement. The fraud provisions would make it a crime to execute or attempt to execute a scheme or artifice to defraud the United States or to materially overvalue any good or service with the specific intent to defraud. These provisions are designed

to prohibit schemes to defraud the United States, including efforts to exploit "cost plus" or "no-bid" contracts by materially overvaluing goods or services with the specific intent to defraud.

These provisions are not intended to prohibit or punish contractors providing goods or services in the normal course of business, and the legislation specifically requires that violators may only be criminally liable if they materially overvalue any good or service "with the specific intent to defraud." This provision is intended to ensure that no contractor will be prosecuted under this offense for mere negligence or mistaken conduct.

The material false statement provisions would make it a crime to: (1) falsify, conceal, or cover up by any trick, scheme or device a material fact; (2) make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations; or (3) make or use any materially false writing or document knowing they contain a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement. This language is consistent with other material false statement provisions under Federal law, such as sections 1001 and 1035 of title 18 of the U.S. Code. The new offense also requires that conduct be done knowingly and willfully to constitute a criminal violation.

The new offense would require that the fraud or material false statement be in connection with any war, military action, or relief or reconstruction activities. This would include circumstances where war was declared, or where the executive branch was engaged in any military action with or without congressional authorization. This would also include relief or reconstruction activities, whether or not a war or military action was undertaken. This new offense is intended to deter fraud and material false statements committed in connection with any of these exigencies.

The new offense also requires that the conduct be subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. This term is to be interpreted broadly consistent with the jurisdictional scope of the federal material false statement statute, 18 U.S.C. § 1001. In addition, the new offense explicitly provides extraterritorial jurisdiction and is intended to extend jurisdiction for this offense to the full extent of U.S. law. This provision has been included to ensure that offenses occurring outside the United States, even by non-U.S. nationals, may be prosecuted. Furthermore, consistent with other federal fraud provisions, the U.S. Government need not be a victim or suffer a loss from this offense provided the conduct meets the other elements of the offense. The bill also establishes venue for the offense as authorized by existing federal statutes (see 18 U.S.C. §§ 3231–3244) including extradition, or in any district where any act in further of the offense took place, or where any party to the contract or the provider of goods or services is located.

Violations of the fraud provisions in this bill would be punishable by imprisonment for up to 20 years, and violations of the material false statement provisions would be punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years. All violations of this new offense would be subject to fines of up to \$1,000,000 or twice the gross profits or other proceeds of the offense. The offense provides for criminal and civil forfeiture of any unlawful proceeds, and makes the new offense a predicate crime for money laundering (18 U.S.C. § 1956(c)(7)) and for racketeering offenses (18 U.S.C. § 1961(1)).

Let us strengthen the tools available to federal law enforcement to combat contracting fraud during times of war, military action, or relief or reconstruction activities. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 400, the "War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007."

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007. I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation, introduced by my colleague from Hawaii NEIL ABERCROMBIE. This bill would prohibit profiteering and fraud relating to contracts executed by the United States Government or a provisional authority for the provision of goods and services in support of U.S. missions overseas. This long overdue legislation will help correct the unconscionable and unpatriotic defrauding of the United States government, our armed services, and American taxpayers. Unfortunately, the problem of contractor fraud has proliferated in the past 4 years.

The United States has spent over \$50 billion on contracts thus far in Iraq to provide for support services, security, infrastructure construction, and reconstruction work. Much of this spending has been under no-bid or cost-plus contracts. As a result of inadequate planning, control, enforcement, and prosecution, the free-spending, former Coalition Provisional Authority could not account for \$8.8 billion of that money. Allegations about rampant waste, over-billing, and outright fraud have been reported time and time again, but no action has been taken to correct this waste of taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, current law does not explicitly extend extraterritorial jurisdiction for contract fraud on contracts executed by the U.S. Government or any provisional authority supporting a U.S. mission abroad. As a result, numerous instances of fraud have been committed and inspectors general have initiated hundreds of investigations of alleged fraudulent practices, including illegal kickbacks, bid-rigging, embezzlement, faulty construction, and fraudulent over-billing.

We need to toughen the laws which apply to individuals and corporations who have placed personal profit and greed over the interests of American taxpayers and our men and women serving in the armed services. While most private contractors are not overcharging the government and are providing good value with their goods and services, others are engaged in fraud and waste, costing the American taxpayers billions of dollars that could be spent on domestic needs, including funds that could have gone to our underfunded schools, health clinics, infrastructure, and environmental programs.

Even when the government does act to enforce fraud statutes on the books, it has been stymied by the inadequacy of current law. The infamous case against Custer Battles, an American contractor in Iraq found to have committed 37 acts of fraud, is a case in point. Custer Battles was one of a few contractors that was actually prosecuted and was ordered to pay \$10 million in damages. However, it was allowed to walk away scot-free when a federal judge overturned the verdict on a technicality. The court found that United States fraud law did not apply to this contractor since the contract went through the Coalition Provisional Authority which the court held was not part of the United States government. The incompetence of this administration not only

permitted fraud against the U.S. but allowed the perpetrator to escape punishment.

To successfully prosecute these individuals and corporations, H.R. 400 provides clear and unambiguous legal authority to criminalize this unconscionable behavior on the part of greedy, corrupt contractors and provides a mechanism for successful prosecution. We are talking about prosecuting contractors who willfully and intentionally defraud the government, not those who merely make a business mistake. We should have no sympathy or leniency for those who purposely defraud taxpayers.

This is not a partisan issue. As Americans, we should all stand together to put an end to greed and corruption in our government programs, which hurts the troops on the ground, undermines the efforts of our armed forces, enriches the greedy and corrupt, and steals from the American taxpayer. This must end, H.R. 400 is a major step to bring accountability to the contracting process.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as part of our ongoing efforts to end the war in Iraq, H.R. 400 is an important step in standing up against those who defraud our troops or improperly profit at the expense of our troops. We must be vigilant in prosecuting war profiteers, using every tool available. The President should use his legal authority to cancel contracts with those that defraud the government and be aggressive in seeking to recover lost funds. If he is unwilling to do so, Congress will hold him accountable.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and believe it is important to clarify overseas contract fraud involving U.S. taxpayer dollars is a crime that will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted.

Contractors have labored in Iraq under incredibly severe circumstances; most have worked honestly and in good faith, and some have even given their lives trying to improve the lives of Iraqi citizens. During 18 trips to Iraq I have seen firsthand the incredible work contractors have done—building schools, repairing power plants, and working with the Iraqi people to restore critical infrastructure.

Unfortunately, a few bad actors have operated greedily and dishonestly and in the end have defrauded not only the Iraqi people the contracts were intended to assist, but have also defrauded their own American government. Perhaps worst of all, the criminal actions of a select few have tarnished the image and integrity of the United States.

This legislation will create a new criminal fraud offense to prohibit fraudulent acts involving the provision of goods or services in connection with a mission of the United States Government overseas. It also makes this new offense a predicate crime for criminal forfeiture, as well as for Federal money laundering and racketeering offenses. It is my hope this legislation will provide more clarity regarding crimes committed abroad, and not less. Ranking Member TOM DAVIS has identified several important criticisms of this legislation, and I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle will seriously consider and address those as this bill moves forward.

Way back in 1988, I voted for the Major Fraud Act, which creates criminal penalties of up to \$1 million in fines and 10 years imprisonment for anyone who knowingly defrauds the U.S. government. There are numerous other statutes, such as the Criminal False

Claims Act and the Anti-Kickback Act, which criminalize acts of fraud.

Working with then-Government Reform Committee Chairman TOM DAVIS, the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, which I chaired from 1999 to 2006, had several hearings on contracting concerns in Iraq. During the hearings, several DoD witnesses with oversight responsibility for contracting in Iraq testified about the challenges of coordinating the tremendous task of rebuilding Iraq. While I recognize the tremendous task and difficult challenges associated with the reconstruction of Iraq, the bottom line is the Coalition Provisional Authority was under-staffed and overburdened.

I appreciate this legislation being brought to the floor and hope it will provide needed clarity about the United States' intention to prosecute those who defraud our government.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. 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 Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 400, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. 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 motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JO ANN DAVIS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 717) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 717

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Jo Ann Davis, a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair may postpone further consideration of House Resolution

717 as necessary to accommodate voting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we come to the floor tonight to honor the memory of our colleague and friend, the Honorable JO ANN DAVIS, who lost her 2-year battle with breast cancer this past Saturday. She was not only our House colleague; she was our Virginia colleague who represented the First District of Virginia, a district which she proudly called "America's First District" because of our country's roots at Jamestown and the many significant events in history which occurred there.

JO ANN DAVIS also could have had a first next to her name because she was the first Republican woman elected to Congress from Virginia in 2000 to succeed our late colleague Herb Bateman. But that historic aspect of her career in Congress was not important to her. Representing her constituents and being the best Member of Congress she could be for the people of her district, that was what was most important to her.

Her career in elected office spanned 10 short years, from her first election in 1997 to the Virginia House of Delegates to her four elected terms in the House beginning in the year 2000.

But over that decade she made her mark as a deeply caring and very hard-working public servant who believed in common sense and conservative ideals. In remembering JO ANN's work in Congress, there are several thoughts I would like to share.

She battled to the end with courage and grace in her fight against breast cancer. When she was first diagnosed in 2005 with the insidious disease, she announced it publicly to encourage other women to beware of the disease. Her bravery and personal strength were a source of inspiration to many. She was a person of honesty, integrity, and very strong moral conviction in representing her district and living her life. And she had a very strong commitment to the Lord. She was a dedicated and tenacious fighter for her beliefs, and the importance of her faith was obvious in the way she cared for and treated others and in the way she did her job.

She was a tireless and passionate advocate for the First District in Virginia, working to protect the military interests in her district and Navy shipbuilding in Newport News. She co-founded the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus as she worked to provide for the defense of our Nation.

But as important as that work was for JO ANN, protecting the interests of men and women in uniform, their fami-

lies, and veterans was priority number one.

She also worked hard for other local interests, such as the removal of the "ghost fleet" of obsolete, environmentally hazardous ships from the James River; better regulation of the amount of trash coming into Virginia; and protecting the resources of the Chesapeake Bay.

This House and this Nation will miss JO ANN DAVIS and her dedication to public service. I want to express my sincere condolences to her staff, both in Washington and in her district, who can be proud of their work by her side for the people of America's First District. JO ANN DAVIS had an outstanding staff, and I want to thank the staff.

I also want to join with my colleagues in expressing profound sympathy to JO ANN's husband, Chuck; and their two sons, Christopher and Charles; and a granddaughter.

In remembering JO ANN DAVIS and her life of service to others, I am reminded of the words of Scripture where it says: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a news article and editorial from the Newport News Daily Press about our late colleague, the Honorable JO ANN DAVIS.

[From the dailypress.com, Oct. 8, 2007]

THE UNLIKELY POLITICIAN—THE SELF-DESCRIBED COUNTRY GAL PREFERRED HORSES TO THE CAPITOL HILL PARTY CIRCUIT

(By David Lerman)

She was, by her own admission, an unlikely politician.

Virginia Rep. Jo Ann Davis, who died of breast cancer Saturday at age 57, was more at ease with her beloved horses on her Gloucester farm than the cocktail party circuit on Capitol Hill.

The self-described country gal and former real estate agent fell into a congressional career almost by accident. It took church connections, perseverance and the sudden withdrawal of the leading Republican Party favorite to propel Davis to the office she first won in 2000.

"I could have cared less about politics," she recalled in a 2003 interview. "I did not know there was a Republican Party committee in Virginia."

But since becoming Virginia's first female Republican member of Congress, Davis learned her role quickly and, many agreed, managed to make the 1st District House seat her own.

When obsolete, environmentally hazardous ships started mushrooming in the James River off Fort Eustis, Davis fought for federal funding to speed up their removal—and made significant progress.

When state and local officials complained about the barrage of trash coming into Virginia landfills from other states and littering state highways, Davis pushed for legislation to limit interstate waste.

While that effort stalled, she won approval of a measure establishing a series of random safety inspections for waste haulers.

When military personnel and federal employees complained of inadequate benefits, Davis won passage of legislation increasing the life insurance benefits paid to survivors of military members killed on duty.

And when Pentagon budgets forecast a steady decline in the size of the Navy's fleet, Davis sounded the alarm.

A staunch advocate for the thousands of shipyard workers in her district, she co-founded the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus and pushed legislation, albeit unsuccessfully, mandating a larger fleet.

"At a time when people have such a negative impression of Washington, Jo Ann Davis was a refreshing reminder that there are people here who do their best for their constituents," said Christopher Connelly, her chief of staff.

"A lot of the issues she worked on were local issues. She didn't get lost in the Washington glamour."

While seldom a major player on national policy matters, Davis won respect from Republicans and Democrats alike for her ability to delve into local concerns and to stay true to her beliefs.

"While we had different political loyalties, we had no differences in our efforts to work together for the Hampton Roads area," said Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, D-Newport News.

Davis' rise to political power was as unconventional as it was unlikely.

Unlike her predecessor in office, the late Rep. Herbert H. Bateman, Davis lacked the traditional credentials and years of political grooming that typically foreshadow a congressional career.

No prestigious university or law-school degree appeared on her resume.

The daughter of a Hampton city bus driver, Davis came from modest roots that stood in contrast to those of many of her wealthier colleagues in Congress.

After graduating from Hampton Roads Business College in 1971, she went to work as an executive secretary for a real estate firm before becoming a stay-at-home mom.

She later got her real estate license and opened Davis Management Co. in 1988, followed by Jo Ann Davis Realty in 1990.

All the while, Davis was becoming a deeply religious person.

When her mother-in-law suffered a fatal heart attack, Davis has said, she had a born-again experience and then joined the Assembly of God church.

Through her church, Davis met Brenda Pogge, a fellow real estate agent and local GOP activist, who encouraged her to enter politics and invited her to her first Republican mass meeting.

"She was my sister in the faith," Pogge said. "She was my friend, my boss and then my congresswoman. Jo Ann was such a role model."

In 1997, at Pogge's steady urging, Davis reluctantly agreed to challenge a 15-year Democratic incumbent in the General Assembly and won, despite being outspent roughly 3 to 1.

In 2000, when Bateman announced his retirement and then died in office, Davis launched her upstart campaign for Congress.

The odds seemed stacked against her because of formidable opposition for the Republican nomination, led by former Newport News Mayor Barry DuVal.

But when DuVal withdrew from the race, Davis had an opening. She faced a grueling five-way party primary but emerged victorious with 35 percent of the vote.

Her general election victory was then little in doubt because of the 1st District's strong Republican tilt. She easily won re-election repeatedly, as she did last year.

Because of her faith, Davis has said, she remained an outspoken conservative voice on social issues.

She co-sponsored a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and took a purist position on abortion, opposing it even in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life is endangered.

"It's just who I am," she once said. "I believe what I believe. I didn't know I was called a right-winger."

If there was a historic aspect to Davis' career, it was in her becoming the first Republican woman to win a House seat from Virginia. Former Rep. Leslie Byrne of Fairfax was the first Democratic woman.

But Davis bristled at such gender-based distinctions, which she regarded as irrelevant. "It shouldn't matter if you're male or female," she once said. "I'm just a member of Congress, like they are."

"No different."

[From the *dailypress.com*, Oct. 9, 2007]

JO ANN DAVIS—A CAREER SPENT MAKING FRIENDS, WORKING HARD AND DOING HER DUTY

Rep. Jo Ann Davis died on Saturday as the new edition of Time magazine appeared in mailboxes around Hampton Roads. "Breast Cancer is Spreading Around the World," the cover headline read.

Cancer. The scourge of our times. And it has run up a wretched score in the 1st Congressional District. Davis' predecessor, Rep. Herbert Bateman, fought lung cancer and prostate cancer before succumbing in 2000.

Davis confronted her illness bravely and with little regard for the odds, just as she had approached politics.

Del. Shirley Cooper, the redoubtable Democrat from York County, held her seat in the General Assembly for 15 years until an outspent Davis came along in 1997 and snatched it away from her. That was an impressive win.

Three years later, Davis went one better. The 1st District congressional seat, open after Bateman's death, drew five contenders for the Republican nomination, including one who self-financed his bid to the tune of \$1 million.

For her part, Davis amassed around \$45,000 and won handily. Now, that tells you something.

Davis enjoyed a 10-year political career, a brief span in relative terms, but memorable for what it lacked. "Jo Ann knew no enemies," Brenda Pogge said, in an interview on Sunday. "She was just emotionally and spiritually strong."

Democrats also said as much. Not long after Davis arrived in Washington, Rep. Bobby Scott started quietly telling people that he admired Davis for her independence and readiness to do the work. There was nothing flashy, no attention-gathering histrionics so common to the profession, just diligence and commitment.

And empathy. The 1st District naturally draws its representatives into military affairs, including such arcane matters such as defense contracting and Pentagon appropriations. But for Davis the military was first and fundamentally about people—the soldiers, the families, the veterans—and what had to be done to provide for their interests.

There's a legacy there. Something to admire. Something, perhaps, to emulate as the inevitable scrambling develops to fill the 1st District seat. You can, as Jo Ann Davis amply demonstrated, succeed in politics by making friends, working hard and doing your duty.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in mourning the loss of one of the Commonwealth of Virginia's finest public servants, Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS. She was a good friend and a tireless advocate for America's First District, as both she and the late Con-

gressman Herb Bateman referred to the First Congressional District of Virginia.

JO ANN was a self-made woman who came from modest roots. Born in North Carolina, she grew up in Hampton, Virginia, where her father was a city bus driver. She graduated from Hampton Roads Business College in 1971, received her real estate license in 1984, and received her real estate broker's license 4 years later. She was a successful business woman, having opened Davis Management Company in 1988 and Jo Ann Davis Realty in 1990.

Mr. Speaker, JO ANN was not a career politician and probably never imagined that she would run for office and end up serving in the United States Congress for over 6 years. In 1997 she was reluctantly convinced by her friends to run for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. When our late colleague Herb Bateman announced his retirement from the House, JO ANN mounted an underdog campaign. Notwithstanding the fact that she was outspent by a margin of 40 to one in the primary, she prevailed; and in November, 2000, she became the first Republican woman from Virginia elected to Congress.

While we had different political loyalties, we had no differences in our efforts to work together for the citizens of Hampton Roads. JO ANN's service on the Armed Services Committee directly mirrored her commitment to the thousands of military personnel in her district. One of her first pieces of legislation that she introduced passed in 2001. It increased the amount of life insurance benefits for survivors of members of the U.S. Armed Forces killed in active duty.

JO ANN was also a tireless advocate for the thousands of shipbuilders in her district that worked at Northrop Grumman Newport News, and she co-founded the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus with Congressman GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi. That caucus has made a compelling case to the Department of Defense that it is pivotal for our national defense that the Navy spend more money on shipbuilding. In the last Congress, she was instrumental in efforts to secure funding for the refueling of the USS *Carl Vinson*. Without JO ANN's hard work, the Hampton Roads area might have lost billions of dollars in economic revenue tied directly to that aircraft carrier.

JO ANN placed a high priority on the removal of ships in the so-called James River "Ghost Fleet," which posed a major environmental threat to the James River and the Chesapeake Bay; and as a result of her leadership, many of those ships have been removed. Together, we have worked to secure Federal funding for the Achievable Dream education program in Newport News to ensure that at-risk children have the best opportunity to succeed in school.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of this body was saddened to learn that JO

ANN developed breast cancer in 2005 and even more so when the cancer returned this year. The sadness is especially felt by members of the weekly Congressional Prayer Breakfast, which JO ANN and I regularly attended. Despite her personal battle with cancer, JO ANN did not retire from Congress. She stayed and fought her cancer and continued to represent the people of the First District to the best of her ability until the very end. Learning from her own experience with cancer, she has encouraged her colleagues and her constituents to get screened regularly for all types of cancer.

Mr. Speaker, the Hampton Roads delegation has lost a tremendous advocate for the interests of our region. I want to extend my deepest sympathies to her husband of 33 years, Chuck Davis; their two grown sons, Charlie and Christopher; their granddaughter; and her wonderful staff with whom my staff has worked so well over the years. America's First District and the U.S. House of Representatives have lost a true friend and advocate with the passing of Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and colleague, JO ANN DAVIS, who has served this body with dignity and honor and dedication since her election in 2000.

I first met JO ANN when she was running for the House of Delegates in 1997 and quickly became impressed with her strong work ethic. Her congressional district, like mine, is the home of many current and retired Federal employees. So when I became chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, it was an easy decision to ask her to oversee the Civil Service Subcommittee.

She took on the responsibilities of subcommittee Chair with great diligence and energy. Through her efforts, we made important strides in helping the Federal Government recruit and retain quality employees. With her help, we improved Federal student loan repayment programs and expanded dental and vision benefits. JO ANN was a strong supporter of legislation allowing retired Federal employees to deduct health care premiums from pretax dollars, moving this important legislation through her subcommittee. She was also a reliable ally in the annual fight for pay parity for civilian Federal employees.

Her district borders mine; we both represent portions of Prince William County. We have worked closely on a number of local issues. With her passing, Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth have lost a strong advocate.

I salute JO ANN DAVIS for her courageous fight against cancer. Her passing reminds us all that we need to fight this horrible affliction.

My heartfelt condolences go out to her husband, Chuck and to her sons, Christopher and Charles. I hope they find solace in knowing she did so much to represent the people of Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri, the chairman of one of the committees that JO ANN served on and a past president of the weekly Congressional Prayer Breakfast (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for giving me the opportunity to express my condolences to the JO ANN DAVIS family, her husband and two sons.

It's always difficult to say good-bye to a friend. And JO ANN DAVIS was my friend. She was my colleague. We served together on the Armed Services Committee since she came to Congress. She represented the First District of Virginia, which had and has a strong military tradition. She was preceded in this Congress by my friend through the years Herb Bateman.

She was a strong advocate for the men and women in uniform, and she will be sorely missed in supporting them as the days lie ahead. Shipbuilding was the centerpiece of her work because of the district she represented, and she understood and advocated the importance of shipbuilding for the United States Navy. She was a member, actually a subcommittee ranking member, on the Readiness Subcommittee.

□ 1815

And it is interesting that we should, this evening, point out that she fought a disease with grace and dignity, and that this is the Breast Cancer Awareness month, that I think we should make note of.

She fought a tremendous fight. She came back when she could, and our heart was with her. She fought the good fight. But in looking back at my friend, JO ANN DAVIS, I remember her most for her sense of humor, how we would joke with one another and how absolutely pleasant she was. Those are attributes that people remember just as much as they remember the good work that she did as a Member of this body. So I thank the gentleman from Virginia for allowing me to say a word or two about my friend, JO ANN DAVIS.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time to the gentlewoman from Virginia, THELMA DRAKE.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our colleague and my friend, JO ANN DAVIS. I was honored to have served with her in both the Virginia General Assembly and now here in the U.S. Congress.

JO ANN and I had reverse roles. When JO ANN ran for the House of Delegates, I was her mentor. I was glad to see her success at being elected there. And when I ran for the U.S. Congress in 2004, JO ANN was my mentor.

We were both Realtors and shared that common bond and that friendship.

I was proud to support her in her historic elevation to the Congress. JO ANN, as you have heard, was the first Republican woman to serve in this body. She was also the first woman from Virginia to be re-elected.

We all know that JO ANN was a woman of great faith, great strength, great courage, great honesty and great integrity. I don't believe that it was ever JO ANN's intention to be a trailblazer. I think her successes in her life as a mother, a grandmother, a businesswoman, as a legislator are all the result of a path that she chose in her life, and that was the path that cared for other people first, put other people first, and that she stood very strong on the principles to protect those around her. That earned her the respect of the people of the First District, and it led her on the path to the House of Delegates and then here.

JO ANN was a valued resource and a trusted confidant. Here in Congress, I was honored to work with her on issues facing the people of Hampton Roads and of Virginia. We served together on the House Armed Services Committee, and I have watched her very deep appreciation for the contributions of the shipbuilding industry, and she understood the important role that the Navy plays in our Nation, projecting strength and security around the world.

JO ANN also was a true leader and a hero in protecting our military and their families, and she always worked to ensure that their rights and interests were protected.

It is fitting that the month of October is dedicated to raising breast cancer awareness. For even as JO ANN battled her own illness, she saw her illness as an opportunity to help other women. When she was first diagnosed, she told me that she would be healed, and she was, from her first bout of cancer, and that she would use this as an opportunity for other women to see and to make sure that other women received the health care and didn't put things off.

I know that today I join my colleagues in extending our deepest sympathies to her family, to her husband Chuck, to her staff, to her friends. I appreciate the opportunity to stand here and to honor my good friend. I know that we will all miss her greatly.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I, with great sadness, rise to pay tribute as well to our dear colleague, JO ANN DAVIS.

As other women in the Congress know, there is a sisterhood among many women Members. This weekend, we lost one of our sisters to a disease that has fostered another kind of sisterhood throughout the Nation, breast cancer. And while JO ANN would have chosen to confront her disease in private, she bravely and valiantly decided

to take her experience to improve the experiences of other women in that sisterhood. She did so by advocating for the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act and other legislation that would improve the lives of those who suffer from this disease.

I was also proud to work with JO ANN on the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act. Together we worked, one from the west coast and one from the east, to extend to Federal firefighters the same presumptive disability rights offered to most city and State firefighters. I enjoyed working with JO ANN on this issue, especially as she showed so much her dedication to firefighters and their families.

I will, however, most fondly remember the many mornings I and several others spent with JO ANN at prayer breakfast on Wednesday mornings at the C Street House, as we will gather in sadness and sorrow tomorrow.

We were bound together, several of us, through personal experiences with cancer. And when amongst our fellowship JO ANN was first diagnosed, we supported her with prayer; and then as she regained her strength, we rejoiced. But as so often and tragically happens with this dreaded disease and others, there was a relapse. And we have been much in prayer, as all of us have, for her recovery, but it was not to be.

You know, she and I had our differences in the direction of policy, but we certainly shared in our desire to let our faith serve as a guide for our work in Congress. And she was a very strong, principled person whose convictions and certainty of her faith shown through everything that she did.

I know we're going to honor our dear departed colleague by following in her strong example, by calling on our faith to serve as the motivation for our work here in Congress the way that she did. We may not measure up to her strength, but we have a role model in her. And I also hope that we, as a Congress, will serve to honor her memory by redoubling our efforts to remove the scourge of cancer through support for prevention, for following her example of reaching out, through education outreach and awareness, and for increasing research dollars so that we can more effectively prevent and treat this disease.

I join my colleagues in paying tribute to JO ANN DAVIS today and offering our condolences to her family, her staff and her constituents in this time of their sorrow. We will miss JO ANN DAVIS dearly.

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES).

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I, like so many others, rise today to pay tribute to JO ANN DAVIS and to offer my sympathies to her husband, Chuck, and her family.

By now, you begin to hear a pattern that reflects very accurately the life of JO ANN. And you hear many people stand up and saying the same thing, that she was our friend, and like so many others, we will miss her.

I spent a lot of hours talking with JO ANN in this corner and in the Armed Services Committee, and I remember reading one account in one of the papers that said that she was born of "modest" means. But if you listened to JO ANN, she was born poor. JO ANN never went to a 4-year college, but she had more wisdom than you could ever see reflected in a diploma, and one mistake you could never, ever make with JO ANN DAVIS was to underestimate her.

I still remember how she used to talk that so many people felt that she could never put herself through real estate school, and she proved them wrong. I remember her talking about how, that as a wife and mother, many people didn't feel that she could become a successful Realtor, and she proved them wrong.

I remember when she was first running for the House of Delegates meeting with her and talking with her and she told me that people didn't think she could win, and she proved them wrong. And then, like my good friend from Virginia, Congressman SCOTT, said, when she was running for Congress, she was a 40-1 financial underdog and nobody thought she could win, and she proved them wrong.

Who would have ever thought she would have served on the Armed Services Committee, been the ranking member of one of the subcommittees, that she would serve on the Intelligence Committee of the House of Representatives, and as so many people mentioned, she became a national leader on shipbuilding and defending the shipbuilding trade.

She was a tireless advocate for our veterans and men and women in uniform. She loved her husband, Chuck, and firefighters and would stand with firefighters in almost every issue that they brought forward, both in the Virginia House of Delegates when she served there and here in Congress.

She loved her family, and she was proud of them. And she loved her constituents, and she fought for them. And nobody, and I emphasize "nobody," ever told her what to do. She always did what she thought was right for Virginia, and what she thought was right for the country.

And two final things that I think you don't hear people reflect here today, but we need to just mention, she loved horses. And I remember her and I talking many times about the fact that we were probably two of the only Members of Congress that actually had to go home on weekends and clean out horse stables; and yet JO ANN was the kind of person that was humble enough not only to do it, but to love it.

But above everything else, I am absolutely convinced that she would also want us to say today, and this is what Congressman WOLF alluded to a little bit earlier, that she absolutely loved, above anything else in her life, her faith in Jesus Christ. And I have no question that today she has heard

those words that Congressman WOLF mentioned, and that is, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Ms. PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to acknowledge the passing of Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS and to pay tribute to her. As we all know, she passed away on Saturday. And although she had been diagnosed a while ago, we knew she was sick, it still hit this Congress very hard to lose her.

Congresswoman DAVIS was tremendously proud to represent Virginia's First District, which she called "America's First District" because it included Jamestown. She spoke often on this floor of the deep patriotism of her constituents and of the pride of the many brave men and women in uniform who were her constituents.

When JO ANN DAVIS was elected to Congress, as has been mentioned by some, she made history as the first female Republican ever elected to the House from Virginia; but she knew it was far more critical to make progress than to make history, and she did, particularly in honoring our troops and our veterans. In fact, the first piece of legislation Congresswoman DAVIS ever introduced increased the life insurance benefits paid to survivors of military members killed on duty, and that passed the House in 2001.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005, Congresswoman DAVIS became an outspoken advocate in favor of education, prevention and treatment of the disease. We in this body can express our admiration for her dedication with a real national commitment to fighting this disease which annually takes the lives of 40,000 American women.

The Daily Press of Newport News, Virginia wrote of their Member of Congress this weekend, "You can, as Jo Ann Davis amply demonstrated, succeed in politics by making friends, working hard, and doing your duty." All of us in this body can honor Congresswoman DAVIS's legacy by doing just that.

As was mentioned about the patriotism of her district, she was deeply patriotic as well. She loved our country, and this Congress loved her. When she was diagnosed, we all hovered over her and prayed for her and were deeply saddened. At first, she would be gone for a while, and when she came back, we all encircled her and hugged her, and as it turned out, drew strength from her. As we were trying to encourage her, she gave us strength. Her attitude, her dignity, and the strength with which she confronted this terrible disease was something that was a lesson for all of us. When she passed away, we were all very, very deeply saddened, as I mentioned before, to get that sad news.

She was really a bright light in this Congress. I hope it is a comfort to her

husband, Chuck Davis, to her family, her two sons, her granddaughter, and her many family and friends that so many people in our country, indeed, intensely in this Congress, mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

□ 1830

Mr. WOLF. I yield such time as he may consume to Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

One of the great privileges in the daily honor of being able to serve in the Congress of the United States is the privilege of being able to meet extraordinary people on a constant basis here in these Halls.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to remember and pay tribute to a dear friend who was one of those truly extraordinary people whom I have had the privilege of meeting in my 15 years here in these Halls of Congress, JO ANN DAVIS. We will always remember her not only as the gracious and dignified and wonderful lady that she was, but as the effective representative for her constituents and the great American patriot, who every day gave her all to defend our Nation and to honor and protect, to the best of her ability, those who protect us and our freedom, our men and women in uniform.

I am deeply comforted, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that JO ANN DAVIS had such a profound faith in God. It was her strength. At this time, it is especially comforting to know that she is now with the Lord.

I enjoyed my conversations with JO ANN, the fellowship, her sense of humor. She was a wonderful, wonderful human being. How her eyes would light up, Mr. Speaker, when the subject of her granddaughter would be brought up, Charlotte. I had the privilege of getting to know her son, Charlie, very well. He was a member of my staff, an extraordinary young man, who did his job day in and day out. Each day he worked in our office in a marvelous manner with total devotion to this Congress, to the people of the United States. I am deeply grateful for his service. I extend to him, my friend, Charlie, and his family, obviously his wife, his daughter, Charlotte, his brother, JO ANN's other son, Chris, and of course, Chuck, JO ANN's husband, my deepest sympathy and condolences at this time.

We will never forget her, that wonderful, wonderful colleague, that wonderful friend, that wonderful lady who not only graced these Halls but served her constituents of the First District of Virginia so effectively, so well, and indeed served all of America so well.

As I say, I will never forget her and consider it a great privilege to have been able to meet and to be a friend of Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I learned of the loss of our colleague and four-term Representative, JO ANN DAVIS, who represented Virginia's First District, referred to as America's First District. She was a great leader and a tireless advocate for all of her constituents. And for those of us who came in after her, I remember she organized a WeightWatchers class, saw that we were there every week, and that we followed the procedure for weight watching. She said, Now, be sure to weigh yourself so that you can see what kind of progress you are making. But I want you to know, I don't weigh myself because I don't think I am progressing.

JO ANN was first in many ways. As the first elected female Republican from the Commonwealth, she set an example for women across the country who aspire to political office. She worked tirelessly on behalf of our men and women in uniform and the many Federal civil servants in her congressional district and succeeded in introducing and passing legislation that benefited these important constituencies.

We all know that we lost our colleague to breast cancer. I remember going over to her when we heard that Juanita Millender-McDonald was taking a leave, and the women's caucus wanted to send greetings, and I asked her if she would be the first. She looked at me and she said, No, because on that day, Friday, I take my chemo and I am very sick afterwards. So I said, Well, I understand. I just thought the two of you had much in common and that you could inspire her. We know that it is such a devastating disease that takes away our loved ones too quickly. I don't know at the time if it was in JO ANN's mind, but she never let on. She seemed to be very secretive about her personal self.

So, as a reminder, this is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and I think it is so appropriate that we salute her and her life because she lived so well and influenced so many people and was really a symbol for how to deal with the condition that she had and she was challenged by.

Our colleague will be sorely missed, not only here, but in her home district where her constituents knew that she represented them with excellence, integrity, and tenacity. We all mourn her loss, our friend and colleague. I send my most heartfelt condolences to her family, staff, and her many close friends here on Capitol Hill and in Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I am going to yield to Mr. CANTOR. We have been told we can do one more, but we will resume after the votes for anyone that is interested and is listening. But before we go to the votes, I recognize Mr. CANTOR from Virginia.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman. Along with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I too rise with a very heavy heart today as we mourn the passing

and reflect on the life of our dear friend and colleague, JO ANN DAVIS. In life, JO ANN amazed so many of us with her determination and her fighting spirit. In politics, as has been noted before, she made history, becoming the first Republican woman from Virginia to serve in this House. In fighting for everything she believed in up until the last day of her bout with cancer, JO ANN taught us how to make every moment on this Earth count. JO ANN was a true gentlelady from Virginia. She was a woman of faith and family who had an unshakable commitment to the principles of our Nation's Founders and of our Nation's military.

As was indicated by my colleagues before, JO ANN was a true patriot. And though she spent only a mere 10 years in elected office, she left a profound imprint on national and State politics. The State of Virginia and our country will miss her greatly. All of us talk about the experiences and recall with much sadness, but yet appreciation, that we did have the time we did with JO ANN DAVIS.

I, like many of my Virginia colleagues, served with JO ANN in the Virginia legislature. I had 3 years with JO ANN. We served together on the General Laws Committee in the Virginia House of Delegates. It was there that I first saw this incredibly strong woman with a will to make sure that she did the right thing regardless.

We had adjoining districts. We shared many of the same community interests. JO ANN was a believer and a promoter of the James River. As was noted earlier by my colleague from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), she cared greatly about the Ghost Fleet there as well as making sure that Virginia was no longer a dumping ground for out-of-state trash.

As has been noted, JO ANN was a great person of faith. I had the tremendous fortune of visiting the Land of Israel with JO ANN and Chuck and saw firsthand how much her faith meant to her. Regardless of what you say about JO ANN DAVIS, I think we can all agree that JO ANN DAVIS was never concerned about being politically correct. She carried the bill to make sure that we recognized the holiday of Christmas and that the issue of faith and God was not taken out of the public realm.

JO ANN spoke her mind when she had opinions about this war in Iraq. When it came down to it, she cared about her troops, her constituents, her family, and her God. We all will miss JO ANN tremendously. I want to, at this time, also extend to her family, to Chuck, to her two sons, her granddaughter, a great deal of sympathy. We will miss her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). Pursuant to the earlier order of the House, further proceedings on House Resolution 717 will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), the whole number of the House is 432.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 32, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 400, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

DENOUNCING THE PRACTICES OF
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION,
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, "HONOR"
KILLINGS, ACID BURNING,
DOWRY DEATHS AND OTHER
GENDER-BASED PERSECUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 32, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 32, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 0, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 949]

YEAS—378

Abercrombie	Bonner	Chabot
Ackerman	Bono	Chandler
Aderholt	Boozman	Clarke
Akin	Boswell	Clay
Alexander	Boucher	Cleaver
Allen	Boustany	Cohen
Altmire	Boyd (FL)	Cole (OK)
Andrews	Boyda (KS)	Conaway
Arcuri	Brady (PA)	Conyers
Baca	Brady (TX)	Cooper
Bachmann	Braley (IA)	Costa
Bachus	Brown (GA)	Costello
Baird	Brown (SC)	Courtney
Baker	Brown, Corrine	Cramer
Baldwin	Brown-Waite,	Crenshaw
Barrett (SC)	Ginny	Crowley
Barrow	Buchanan	Cuellar
Bartlett (MD)	Burgess	Culberson
Barton (TX)	Burton (IN)	Cummings
Becerra	Calvert	Davis (AL)
Berkley	Campbell (CA)	Davis (CA)
Berman	Cannon	Davis (IL)
Berry	Cantor	Davis (KY)
Biggert	Capito	Davis, David
Bilbray	Capps	Davis, Lincoln
Bilirakis	Capuano	Davis, Tom
Bishop (GA)	Cardoza	Deal (GA)
Bishop (NY)	Carnahan	DeFazio
Bishop (UT)	Carney	DeGette
Blackburn	Carter	Delahunt
Blunt	Castle	DeLauro
Boehner	Castor	Dent

Diaz-Balart, L.	Kuhl (NY)	Rodriguez
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lamborn	Rogers (AL)
Dicks	Lampson	Rogers (KY)
Doggett	Langevin	Rogers (MI)
Donnelly	Lantos	Rohrabacher
Doolittle	Larsen (WA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Drake	Larson (CT)	Roskam
Dreier	Latham	Ross
Duncan	LaTourette	Roybal-Allard
Edwards	Lee	Royce
Ehlers	Levin	Ruppersberger
Ellison	Lewis (CA)	Rush
Ellsworth	Lewis (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Emanuel	Lewis (KY)	Ryan (WI)
Emerson	Linder	Salazar
Engel	Lipinski	Sali
English (PA)	LoBiondo	Sanchez, Linda
Eshoo	Loeback	T.
Etheridge	Lofgren, Zoe	Sanchez, Loretta
Fallin	Lowe	Sarbanes
Farr	Lungren, Daniel	Saxton
Fattah	E.	Schakowsky
Feeney	Lynch	Schiff
Ferguson	Mack	Schmidt
Filner	Mahoney (FL)	Schwartz
Flake	Manzullo	Scott (GA)
Forbes	Markey	Scott (VA)
Fortenberry	Marshall	Sensenbrenner
Fossella	Matheson	Serrano
Fox	Matsui	Sessions
Frank (MA)	McCarthy (CA)	Sestak
Franks (AZ)	McCarthy (NY)	Shadegg
Frelinghuysen	McCaul (TX)	Shays
Gallegly	McCollum (MN)	Shea-Porter
Garrett (NJ)	McCotter	Sherman
Gerlach	McDermott	Shimkus
Gilchrest	McGovern	Shuler
Gillibrand	McHenry	Shuster
Gohmert	McHugh	Simpson
Gonzalez	McIntyre	Sires
Goode	McKeon	Skelton
Goodlatte	McNerney	Slaughter
Gordon	McNulty	Smith (NE)
Granger	Meek (FL)	Smith (TX)
Graves	Melancon	Smith (WA)
Green, Al	Mica	Snyder
Green, Gene	Michaud	Solis
Grijalva	Miller (FL)	Souder
Gutierrez	Miller (MI)	Spratt
Hall (NY)	Miller (NC)	Stark
Hall (TX)	Miller, George	Stearns
Hare	Moore (KS)	Stupak
Harman	Moore (WI)	Sullivan
Hastings (FL)	Moran (KS)	Sutton
Hastings (WA)	Moran (VA)	Tanner
Hayes	Murphy (CT)	Tauscher
Heller	Murphy, Patrick	Taylor
Hensarling	Murphy, Tim	Terry
Herger	Musgrave	Thompson (CA)
Herseth Sandlin	Myrick	Thompson (MS)
Higgins	Nadler	Thornberry
Hill	Napolitano	Tiahrt
Hinojosa	Neugebauer	Tierney
Hirono	Nunes	Turner
Hoekstra	Oberstar	Udall (NM)
Holden	Obey	Upton
Holt	Olver	Van Hollen
Hooley	Ortiz	Velázquez
Hoyer	Pallone	Visclosky
Hulshof	Pascarella	Walberg
Inglis (SC)	Pastor	Walden (OR)
Inslee	Payne	Walsh (NY)
Israel	Pearce	Walz (MN)
Issa	Pence	Wasserman
Jackson (IL)	Perlmutter	Schultz
Jackson-Lee	Peterson (MN)	Waters
(TX)	Petri	Watson
Jefferson	Pickering	Watt
Johnson (GA)	Pitts	Waxman
Johnson, Sam	Platts	Weiner
Jones (NC)	Poe	Welch (VT)
Jones (OH)	Pomeroy	Weldon (FL)
Kagen	Porter	Westmoreland
Kanjorski	Price (GA)	Whitfield
Kaptur	Price (NC)	Wicker
Keller	Putnam	Wilson (NM)
Kennedy	Radanovich	Wilson (OH)
Kildee	Rahall	Wilson (SC)
Kilpatrick	Ramstad	Wolf
Kind	Rangel	Woolsey
King (IA)	Regula	Wu
King (NY)	Rehberg	Wynn
Kingston	Renzi	Yarmuth
Kirk	Reyes	Young (AK)
Klein (FL)	Reynolds	Young (FL)
Kline (MN)	Richardson	

NOT VOTING—53

Bean	Hodes	Mitchell
Blumenauer	Honda	Mollohan
Boren	Hunter	Murtha
Butterfield	Jindal	Neal (MA)
Buyer	Johnson (IL)	Paul
Camp (MI)	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson (PA)
Carson	Jordan	Pryce (OH)
Clyburn	Knollenberg	Reichert
Coble	Kucinich	Rothman
Cubin	LaHood	Smith (NJ)
Dingell	Lucas	Space
Doyle	Maloney (NY)	Tancredo
Everett	Marchant	Tiberi
Giffords	McCrery	Towns
Gingrey	McMorris	Udall (CO)
Hastert	Rodgers	Wamp
Hinchey	Meeks (NY)	Weller
Hobson	Miller, Gary	Wexler

□ 1907

Mr. BOOZMAN changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, 'honor' killings, acid burnings, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and equality of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral and peaceful society."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 949, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 32. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

WAR PROFITEERING PREVENTION
ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 400, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 400, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 3, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 950]

YEAS—375

Abercrombie	Barton (TX)	Boucher
Ackerman	Becerra	Boustany
Aderholt	Berkley	Boyd (FL)
Akin	Berman	Boyda (KS)
Alexander	Berry	Brady (PA)
Allen	Biggert	Brady (TX)
Altmire	Bilbray	Braley (IA)
Andrews	Bilirakis	Brown (GA)
Arcuri	Bishop (GA)	Brown (SC)
Baca	Bishop (NY)	Brown, Corrine
Bachmann	Blackburn	Brown-Waite,
Bachus	Blunt	Ginny
Baird	Boehner	Buchanan
Baldwin	Bonner	Burgess
Barrett (SC)	Bono	Burton (IN)
Barrow	Boozman	Calvert
Bartlett (MD)	Boswell	Camp (MI)

Campbell (CA)	Hensarling	Nadler
Cannon	Herger	Napolitano
Cantor	Herseth Sandlin	Neugebauer
Capito	Hill	Nunes
Capuano	Hinojosa	Obearstar
Cardoza	Hirono	Obey
Carnahan	Hoekstra	Oliver
Carney	Holden	Ortiz
Carter	Holt	Pallone
Castle	Honda	Pascarell
Castor	Hooley	Pastor
Chabot	Hoyer	Payne
Chandler	Hulshof	Pearce
Clarke	Inglis (SC)	Pence
Clay	Inslee	Perlmutter
Cleaver	Israel	Peterson (MN)
Cohen	Issa	Petri
Cole (OK)	Jackson (IL)	Pickering
Conaway	Jackson-Lee	Pitts
Conyers	(TX)	Platts
Cooper	Jefferson	Poe
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Pomeroy
Costello	Johnson, Sam	Porter
Courtney	Jones (NC)	Price (GA)
Cramer	Jones (OH)	Price (NC)
Crenshaw	Kagen	Putnam
Crowley	Kanjorski	Radanovich
Cuellar	Kaptur	Rahall
Culberson	Keller	Ramstad
Cummings	Kennedy	Rangel
Davis (AL)	Kildee	Regula
Davis (CA)	Kilpatrick	Rehberg
Davis (IL)	Kind	Renzi
Davis (KY)	King (IA)	Reyes
Davis, David	King (NY)	Reynolds
Davis, Lincoln	Kingston	Richardson
Deal (GA)	Kirk	Rodriguez
DeFazio	Klein (FL)	Rogers (KY)
DeGette	Kline (MN)	Rogers (MI)
Delahunt	Kuhl (NY)	Rohrabacher
DeLauro	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Dent	Lampson	Roskam
Diaz-Balart, L.	Langevin	Ross
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lantos	Roybal-Allard
Dicks	Larsen (WA)	Royce
Doggett	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger
Donnelly	Latham	Rush
Doolittle	LaTourette	Ryan (OH)
Drake	Lee	Ryan (WI)
Dreier	Levin	Salazar
Duncan	Lewis (CA)	Sali
Edwards	Lewis (GA)	Sánchez, Linda
Ehlers	Lewis (KY)	T.
Ellison	Linder	Sanchez, Loretta
Ellsworth	Lipinski	Sarbanes
Emanuel	LoBiondo	Saxton
Emerson	Loeb sack	Schakowsky
Engel	Loftgren, Zoe	Schiff
English (PA)	Lowey	Schmidt
Eshoo	Lungren, Daniel	Schwartz
Etheridge	E.	Scott (GA)
Fallin	Lynch	Scott (VA)
Farr	Mack	Sensenbrenner
Fattah	Mahoney (FL)	Serrano
Feeney	Manzullo	Sessions
Ferguson	Markey	Sestak
Filner	Marshall	Shadegg
Flake	Matheson	Shays
Forbes	Matsui	Shea-Porter
Fortenberry	McCarthy (CA)	Sherman
Fossella	McCarthy (NY)	Shimkus
Fox	McCaul (TX)	Shuler
Frank (MA)	McCollum (MN)	Shuster
Franks (AZ)	McCotter	Simpson
Frelinghuysen	McDermott	Sires
Gallely	McGovern	Skelton
Garrett (NJ)	McHenry	Slaughter
Gerlach	McHugh	Smith (NE)
Gilchrest	McIntyre	Smith (TX)
Gillibrand	McKeon	Smith (WA)
Gohmert	McNerney	Snyder
Gonzalez	McNulty	Solis
Goode	Meek (FL)	Souder
Goodlatte	Melancon	Spratt
Gordon	Mica	Stark
Granger	Michaud	Stearns
Graves	Miller (FL)	Stupak
Green, Al	Miller (MI)	Sullivan
Green, Gene	Miller (NC)	Sutton
Grijalva	Miller, George	Tanner
Gutierrez	Moore (KS)	Tauscher
Hall (NY)	Moore (WI)	Taylor
Hall (TX)	Moran (KS)	Terry
Hare	Moran (VA)	Thompson (CA)
Harman	Murphy (CT)	Thompson (MS)
Hastings (FL)	Murphy, Patrick	Thornberry
Hastings (WA)	Murphy, Tim	Tiahrt
Hayes	Musgrave	Tierney
Heller	Myrick	Towns

Turner	Wasserman	Wicker
Udall (NM)	Schultz	Wilson (NM)
Upton	Waters	Wilson (OH)
Van Hollen	Watson	Wilson (SC)
Velázquez	Watt	Wolf
Visclosky	Waxman	Woolsey
Walberg	Weiner	Wu
Walden (OR)	Welch (VT)	Wynn
Walsh (NY)	Weldon (FL)	Yarmuth
Walz (MN)	Westmoreland	Young (AK)
	Whitfield	Young (FL)

NAYS—3

Baker	Davis, Tom	Rogers (AL)
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NOT VOTING—53

Bean	Hinchev	Miller, Gary
Bishop (UT)	Hobson	Mitchell
Blumenauer	Hodes	Mollohan
Boren	Hunter	Murtha
Butterfield	Jindal	Neal (MA)
Buyer	Johnson (IL)	Paul
Capps	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson (PA)
Carson	Jordan	Pryce (OH)
Clyburn	Knollenberg	Reichert
Coble	Kucinich	Rothman
Cubin	LaHood	Smith (NJ)
Dingell	Lucas	Space
Doyle	Maloney (NY)	Tancredo
Everett	Marchant	Tiberi
Giffords	McCrery	Udall (CO)
Gingrey	McMorris	Wamp
Hastert	Rodgers	Weller
Higgins	Meeks (NY)	Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1916

So (two-thirds being 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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I am writing regarding today's rollcall votes 949, H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society, as well as 950, H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007.

Please accept my apologies as I was attending a family event in Arizona and was not able to cast my votes tonight. It was my intention to vote "yea" on both H. Res. 32 and H.R. 400.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, because I was detained by an important event in my district, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 32, regarding human rights and gender-based persecutions, and H.R. 400, the "War Profiteering Prevention Act." Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both bills.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 949 on H. Res. 32, I am not recorded. I was absent, attending the funeral of Jack Sutton, a beloved mem-

ber of my District staff in Georgia. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 950 on H.R. 400, the War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 106

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my cosponsorship of H. Res. 106.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JO ANN DAVIS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, proceedings will now resume on House Resolution 717.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed earlier today, 28 minutes remained in debate.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) has 11 minutes remaining and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of which JO ANN DAVIS was a member.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I never speak for the whole committee, only for myself, but this is an exception.

JO ANN DAVIS was respected and admired across the total political spectrum, and as I was listening to my colleagues paying tribute to this extraordinary woman, to this remarkable Member of Congress, to this unique public servant, I, of course, agreed with everything they said. But there is one aspect of JO ANN's life that has not yet been mentioned, and that is what I would like to address.

She loved her district, she loved the State of Virginia, but she was also one of the great Atlantises in this body. She was passionately committed to rebuilding the alliance between Europe and the United States, and she did an extraordinary job over a long period of time successfully doing this.

My predecessor, Henry Hyde, and I had many conversations about her little-noticed, but enormously important, work on behalf of our effective foreign policy, on behalf of rebuilding so many of the ties that over the years had been weakened by a variety of actions.

JO ANN will be missed in all of her endeavors, but those of us on the Foreign Affairs Committee will particularly miss her enormous contribution

to building alliances for the United States, for being a multilateralist, for recognizing that while we may be the one remaining superpower, we are a superpower in need of allies and friends and collaborators.

I want to express my deepest condolences to her family and I want to express on behalf of all of my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee our respect, our admiration and our love for our dear colleague JO ANN DAVIS.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in mourning the loss of one of our own, it's been mentioned here tonight, Representative JO ANN DAVIS. Representative DAVIS, as has been said and as we have discussed tonight, battled cancer for several years, and of course, as we know, lost her battle Saturday morning.

At a time when others would have considered retirement, JO ANN DAVIS continued to represent the people of the First District of Virginia with distinction. Through her service she set an example of courage in the face of adversity. She refused to allow a disease that afflicts far too many affect her life and take her away from the work that she loved so dearly.

As the first female elected to the House of Representatives from the Commonwealth of Virginia, JO ANN was a leader and example to all of us. But of all of JO ANN's accomplishments, of all the roles she played, she would not be ashamed to tell you that her decision to follow Jesus Christ was the most important decision for her.

The people of Virginia were privileged to have known her as a public servant. The Members of this Congress were honored to share her as a colleague. I was honored to consider her a friend.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Chuck; her sons, Charlie and Chris; along with her granddaughter, Charlotte. May God give each of them an extra measure of peace during this time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished Member from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for yielding me this time, and on behalf of the people of the State of Ohio and myself, the senior woman in this House, I would like to express deepest condolences to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia on the passing of JO ANN DAVIS, our very, very respected colleague, from this life.

To her husband, Chuck, to her two sons, to her granddaughter, we respected JO ANN as a woman, as a Member, as a wife, as a mother, as a grandmother. We also respected her because she was a heroic Member of this Congress.

There are some people in life who teach us how to live, and then there

are those rare few who teach us how to die. JO ANN DAVIS was such an individual. She held herself with great courage.

As a woman, I might like to put on the RECORD that in the entire history of this institution there have been very few women that have actually served here. Out of a little over 11,000 Members of our Republic who have been elected to Congress, about 200 or so have been elected as women. And so we know that with every woman who is elected, a new page in history is written. It may seem easy, but it is very, very hard. JO ANN DAVIS was a part of that new page in history of this Republic.

Others have stated, of course, she was the first Republican woman to have been elected from Virginia, and so we know in having met her, we met a pioneering woman, a woman who truly is a first. That took great stamina; it took rare courage and great perseverance.

She had other careers before she came here, as a Realtor, as a member of her own State legislature, and upon being elected here, she was then elected to some of the most weighty committees in this institution: to Defense, Foreign Affairs, Intelligence, always a woman who stood tall for those in the uniformed service of our country.

She had a warm and radiant smile, and she held herself erect and with a stalwart stance that revealed the strength of character that represented JO ANN DAVIS' entire life. You knew she would meet all of life's challenges, and she did.

Her faith imbued her with that strength, and it also imbued the kindness that she demonstrated to every Member of this institution, a warm cordiality, and also in her closing days on Earth, great dignity in her heroic struggle.

It was my privilege to know her and to be allowed to serve with her during the years that she gave to the people of this great Republic.

May she rest in peace.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and a colleague, JO ANN DAVIS from the great State of Virginia. When I was first elected in 2002, came to this body in 2003, JO ANN was one of the first people to approach me and say, what can I do to help you, can I help you look for staff, what can I do. JO ANN was always known for being a very willing, helpful person.

She never offered advice, but if you asked her for advice, you better be prepared for frankness, and she would strongly suggest that you follow that advice. She'd say you asked for it. And she was always very frank and very candid when she gave advice but always very gentle, always a lady.

I would have to say that JO ANN DAVIS epitomized the Golden Rule. She

followed the Golden Rule. She was a fighter and she was a woman who, although diminutive in size, demonstrated great, great strength, whether it was fighting cancer, that she beat back once, and then we all know it came back a second time to take her from us, but she was always a fighter and always with a smile on her face.

It can safely be said that JO ANN loved God, and her country, as well as her beloved family.

□ 1930

We will miss JO ANN DAVIS because of what she brought to this body, because of her spirit, because of her ever, ever-winning smile.

JO ANN DAVIS had the honor of being respected by people on both sides of the aisle. They respected her, and they knew that she worked very hard to represent her district in Virginia.

We extend our sympathies to her husband, Chuck, her sons, Charlie and Chris, as well as her granddaughter, Charlotte.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri, who served with JO ANN as joint president of the Congressional Prayer Breakfast, Mr. CLEAVER.

Mr. CLEAVER. I thank the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, one of the first individuals I met when I was elected to Congress was JO ANN DAVIS. I actually met her, along with the gentleman from Virginia, at our prayer breakfast and immediately had the opportunity to get to know her and to work with her. I sat beside her on each Thursday; and over the course of a year, we got a chance to know each other and began to tease each other, play with each other, have fun with each other, and then we ended up as the coauthors of the prayer breakfast for this past year.

On the night before the prayer breakfast, I was called in my apartment and told that Congresswoman DAVIS was not feeling well enough for us to jointly lead the prayer breakfast. I knew of her physical problems, and so I knew that things had to have gotten worse, but I had the opportunity to say to her something that I really, really feel strongly about. My goal is not to hate a single individual, and I get up each morning with a goal of not even trying to resemble, in my actions, something that would be related to hate.

But I told her, and I will say it here, I hate cancer, I hate it. I have seen it wreak havoc in the lives of men and women almost all of my life.

When JO ANN tried to come back to Congress, this body that she loved, I was able to go over and sit down beside her. I wasn't going to have a gloomy conversation. She said, you know, you don't recognize me, do you, because I have lost so much weight. We had a relationship where we could tease each other, and I kept in contact with her office staff and the prayer breakfast. As the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from Tennessee will recall, we sent flowers to her about 3

months ago, which she was very thankful for.

But I would like to say this, JO ANN DAVIS and I didn't agree on a lot of things politically; but we were able to sit together, talk together, eat breakfast together, eat lunch together and enjoy this world together. If there is anything I think we ought to be able to remember about her, I think it is in spite of political differences, ideological differences, this woman from Virginia, this tiny woman, was able to put all that aside in terms of personal relationships.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts about one of my colleagues, someone I cared a lot about.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen from Virginia, Mr. WOLF and Mr. SCOTT, for leading this tribute to a great and courageous woman, Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS.

I had the opportunity first to meet JO ANN DAVIS when she was a member of the Virginia General Assembly. She showed there the same courage, determination and hard work that she has shown here during her service in the United States Congress. Right through to her final week here, she was still working for the people of the First Congressional District of Virginia. She was very proud of her representation of those great people and often talked about her district as being America's First Congressional District because it contained Jamestown and Yorktown and Williamsburg, and worked very hard for the past year or more as we prepared for this year's celebration of the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown.

She also was a member of three very important committees here in the Congress, the Armed Services Committee, the International Relations Committee and the Intelligence Committee, all very much related to our Nation's national security and working with other countries around the world in our war against terror and was very, very dedicated to our Armed Services, the men and women who served there and our veterans. She stood up for them time and time again.

When I arrived at my office today, I found in my in-box a copy of a bill that she introduced just last Tuesday, October 2. It may well be the last bill that she introduced in the Congress, House Concurrent Resolution 222, cosponsored by myself and all the other Members on both sides of the aisle, commending the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Langley Research Center in her district, on the celebration of its 90th anniversary later this month.

I can think of no better tribute to Congresswoman DAVIS and to the men and women of the NASA Langley Research Center, the premier aeronautic space and research facility in the coun-

try. I would commend to the Speaker and to the chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology where this bill has been referred to pass it, not only in tribute to those great workers at that great facility, but also a tribute to a great Member of Congress, Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS, who worked in this body in a very bipartisan spirit.

Every month the Virginia congressional delegation meets, both the Senators and the House Members, the Republicans and the Democrats, in a bipartisan fashion. We talk about the issues that we are dealing with here in the Congress, particularly those that have a great impact on the Commonwealth of Virginia.

She was an active and vocal participant in all of those discussions looking after the interests of Virginia and her congressional district. But she also loved to get away from here to her home in Gloucester, to her horses, to her family, her wonderful husband, Chuck, her children and grandchildren, where she was when she passed on at the end of last week.

We will all miss her. Our hearts go out to her family, to her constituents. It is my hope that we will all take heart from this brave and courageous woman to her last days serving the people of her district with distinction and courage and great honor and determination.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. DAVIS), a member of the Armed Services Committee who served with JO ANN DAVIS.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I want to thank my colleagues from Virginia for having this time set aside for all of us to come to the floor today and express our real sadness in losing our friend, JO ANN DAVIS.

Mr. Speaker, in many ways JO ANN was not just my friend, but in some ways my sister here. I came to the Congress in 2001 with JO ANN; and at the beginning, because our names are the same, we got a little confused. In fact, people confused one particular bill with our names, and it took us awhile to sort that out. We had a good laugh over that because sometimes we didn't always agree on everything.

But I can say that of so many people that I have met and had a chance to spend time with, I really enjoyed my time with JO ANN. She was just such a strong woman who didn't always have an easy time, particularly as we saw her suffer through cancer.

But she was so desirous, I think, of telling people a little bit about how she was doing and yet at the same time letting us know that she was okay. Well, you know, she wasn't always okay, but she wanted us to know that.

The first experience that I had with JO ANN is when we had an opportunity to travel to Afghanistan together, and one of the first codels, soon after we had a chance to go in and see how our military was doing there, and what was

happening and trying to help develop the new Afghani Army.

We had quite an amazing trip. In spending all that time in the air and on the ground and really having a chance to talk, I felt like I got to know her as a true individual with great values, connected with family, and someone who was so devoted to her community. We both represent a military community, and I think we shared a great deal of that together.

I wanted to just say thank you for what JO ANN gave me over these last years and helping me to also talk about my values and what is important to me. Family was very important to her. My husband and I reach out to Chuck and the family, and we wish them all the condolences in the world that we can bring to them and thank them for being the wonderful family that they are.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE).

Mr. GOODE. I too want to thank Congressman WOLF and Congressman SCOTT for arranging this Special Order on behalf of Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the service of my friend and colleague, JO ANN DAVIS. She worked tirelessly on behalf of Virginians in the General Assembly and in the United States House of Representatives. JO ANN was a stalwart defender of the rights of the unborn and a leader on numerous other commonsense issues.

In 2000, JO ANN surprised many political pundits and prognosticators by winning a hard-fought primary in which she was heavily outspent by her opponents. She was easily reelected in subsequent campaigns because of her devotion to the constituents in her district and her focus on the concerns of the citizens in the eastern part of Virginia.

She was a feisty fighter and frequently reminded others in Virginia and around the country that she represented not only Virginia's First District, but also America's first district, as it includes Jamestown, Virginia, where our Nation's first settlement was founded in 1607. She was a vigorous proponent of celebrating the 400th anniversary of Jamestown and made sure it received notice throughout Virginia, the United States and around the world.

As evidenced by the comments and tributes made here this evening, she touched everyone on both sides of the aisle. Her good works and her fighting on behalf of this great Nation will be long remembered.

Her husband, Chuck, and her family are in our thoughts and prayers. It was an honor to have served the Commonwealth of Virginia and this Nation with JO ANN DAVIS.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) for the balance of the time.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a very dear friend of mine, JO ANN DAVIS.

When I came here a little over 2 years ago, I walked into a room filled with strangers, and I quickly looked for the smiles. She was one of those smiles. She quickly took me under her wings. In addition to helping me through the maze of Congress, she also invited me to come to the best hour of the week, the prayer breakfast on Thursday. It's an event I rarely, rarely miss.

She not only was a fighter for her district and a fighter for her country, but she was a woman that truly loved her family and loved the Lord, and it showed in each and every day and in each and every way of her life. To her husband, Chuck, to her two sons, to her darling granddaughter, my heart goes out to you.

Every day since I learned of her cancer, I have been praying for her. I shall continue those prayers for you. May God bless all of you.

□ 1945

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H. Res. 717.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my colleague from Virginia, for introducing the resolution. I ask for support for the resolution, and will yield the gentleman, my colleague, the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I think for those who are watching, you've seen this Congress at its best, to see people from both sides of the aisle come together, and that is a tribute to JO ANN.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I rise to pay tribute to a great American and a member of this House. JO ANN DAVIS was a veteran legislator, businesswoman, and Member of Congress from Virginia's First Congressional District. Her district, which stretches from the Washington suburbs to the Hampton Roads area, is often called "America's 1st District; the site of the Jamestown settlement is located there.

Congresswoman DAVIS was the second woman from Virginia, and the first Virginia Republican woman, elected to the House in her own right. She was reelected by substantial margins in 2002, 2004, and to her fourth term in 2006. She was a productive member of three very important committees in the House: Armed Services, Intelligence, and Foreign Affairs. She was the ranking Republican on the House Intelligence Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy.

JO ANN DAVIS was born in Rowan County North Carolina, but lived in Virginia since she was 9 years old. She attended Hampton Roads Business College and worked in real estate before she was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1997. She was re-

elected in 1999, where she served until her election to Congress.

Congresswoman DAVIS died on Saturday, October 6, 2007 and was a respected member of this body and respected by all who knew her. She was a legislator's legislator. She was known to often to put aside partisan politics and reach across the aisle to legislate in a bipartisan manner for the best interests of the American people.

Her presence will be greatly missed and we all mourn her loss and extend our sincerest condolences to her husband Chuck and her children and grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, a dear colleague has fallen but she will not be forgotten. We are all saddened by our loss but we are happy to have served with her. Our prayers and condolences go out to her husband, Chuck, her children, and to thousands of friends around the Nation. She touched so many lives during her tenure in this body and she will be missed very much by the people she represented so ably.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express deepest condolences on the passing of my fellow colleague from Virginia, the Honorable JO ANN DAVIS.

During her time in Congress, JO ANN was a strong advocate for her constituents and an active voice on issues affecting the Commonwealth.

As Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee, JO ANN was well-positioned and a successful advocate for her district's economic bread and butter—the shipbuilding and national defense industry.

Regarding our joint efforts to grant federal recognition to Virginia's six state-recognized tribes, JO ANN was a passionate and helpful ally. Her familiarity with the tribes' issues and her testament as to their traditional values and practices helped pave the way for the recognition bill's passage in the House. I am grateful that, despite her failing health, she lived to see the bill receive the unanimous support of her colleagues.

JO ANN will be deeply missed both within Congress and the Virginia delegation. Our hearts and prayers go out to her husband Chuck Davis, her two sons, and their entire extended family as they cope with the loss of their beloved wife, mother and citizen legislator.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in support of H. Res. 717, the "Privileged Resolution on the Passing of the Honorable JO ANN DAVIS"

Today we stand in remembrance of a distinguished member of the 110th Congress, Congresswoman JO ANN DAVIS, who after a two year battle with Breast Cancer has passed away.

Her husband, Chuck Davis, battalion chief for the Hampton Fire Department; two sons, Christopher and Charles Davis, and extended family survive her, remembering the incredible legacy Congresswoman DAVIS has left behind her.

A woman of modest beginnings, Congresswoman DAVIS knew the meaning of hard work and proved headstrong and committed as she worked her way to becoming the first Republican woman to lead the First District of Virginia. She would maintain her leadership there for 7 years.

She has been praised for her commitment to Armed Services, and commended for her commitment to researching and pursuing legislative reform.

Her determination to pursue change and prevail over hardships knew no bounds, even in her fight against breast cancer.

Even in this moment of memorial, her presence and upstanding character is reflected as we discuss a recommitment of H.R. 1124—a bill providing financial assistance to low-income students and ensuring a brighter future for all Virginian youth.

Because of the Congresswoman's ongoing commitment to preserving life on a social and political level, my colleagues and I will make great strides to continue supporting breast cancer awareness and the wellbeing of all Americans.

In her memory we will continue to uphold two priorities to which she was greatly dedicated.

While it is with sadness that we say goodbye to an incredible woman, we think of her with joy and fondness as we remember her devotion to creating a better America.

The use of her life to benefit "America's First District of Virginia" is unquestionable and has served to ensure a sense of responsibility among her fellow colleagues in the 109th and 100th Congress.

I thank Congresswoman DAVIS for dedicating her life to service on the behalf of the 1st District of Virginia. I am honored to have worked with her and I truly appreciate all she has given.

Her efforts have touched many lives and her exceptional impact upon our country will create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Congresswoman DAVIS will be greatly missed.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, we've lost another great American who always put others before herself. She was devoted to her husband, Chuck, her two boys, Charlie and Chris, and her granddaughter, Charlotte, as well as all of the people she served. She and I were close friends—we talked about everything—and I, along with others here in Congress, will miss her dearly. JO ANN never gave up—she fought hard until the end.

She had her priorities right—God is going to be very good to JO ANN DAVIS.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of JO ANN DAVIS—a friend and colleague who served the people of Virginia for 7 years in the House of Representatives.

As the first female Republican elected to the House from Virginia, JO ANN was dedicated to representing her constituents with a genuine leadership and passion for public service. She was committed to fighting government waste and strengthening our national defense and remained devoted to her duty despite her illness. As fellow members of the House Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I am grateful to have known and worked with JO ANN. I am especially grateful for the 3 years we sat together on Thursdays at the Congressional Prayer Breakfast which she ultimately so devotedly chaired.

During this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with JO ANN's husband, Chuck, their two sons, her granddaughter, and the entire Davis family.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3056, TAX COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-368) on the resolution (H. Res. 719) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3056) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the authority of the Internal Revenue Service to use private debt collection companies, to delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, to revise the tax rules on expatriation, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2895, NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-369) on the resolution (H. Res. 720) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2895) to establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

JASON NORLING

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, last Monday, 38-year old Deputy Constable Jason Norling was killed while writing a traffic ticket in Houston, Texas. Norling, a motorcycle officer, was ticketing a speeder when another vehicle swerved off the shoulder and hit Norling, killing him.

Norling was a former chef and artist and previously worked for the Hempstead, Texas Police Department before becoming a member of the Precinct 5 Constables Unit. Norling's mother said, "God's purpose for Jason was to be in law enforcement."

Norling was married, and when he was hit by a driver who, ironically, had just been involved in another accident when his vehicle was rear-ended.

And so as the bagpipes played Amazing Grace at the Spring Baptist Church last week, they mourned the loss of another peace officer who wore the badge to protect and serve.

And by the way, Mr. Speaker, the driver who swerved and hit Officer Norling was apparently distracted because he was talking on his cell phone.

Our prayers are with the Norling family and his fellow Texas lawmen.

And that's just the way it is.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House Committee on Foreign Affairs will consider H. Res. 106, affirming the United States' record on the Armenian genocide. I will ask my colleagues on the committee to carefully consider this resolution and the vast body of evidence that supports its conclusion.

The allied powers of the First World War early on recognized that the Turkish Government at that time was committing crimes against humanity by perpetrating the organized slaughter of Armenians. The U.S. Congress of that time affirmed these crimes in hearings and resolutions. Though the chief organizers of this crime were convicted of the massacres by the Turkish military courts, they never were made to pay any penalty.

We fully recognize now the friendship of our allies in Turkey, but it cannot change the past. I hope that there can be some reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia and that a proper acknowledgment of the crimes of the past can allow them to move forward into the future of peace and mutual understanding.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

JOSE MEDELLIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I come tonight to talk to you, the House, about the murder of two girls. In 1993, two teenage girls were walking home, making sure they got there in time for the curfew. Their names were Jennifer Ertman and Elizabeth Pena.

As they were headed home, they took a shortcut through the woods, and that mistake cost them their lives. They came in contact with a person by the name of Jose Medellin, who was the gang leader of a group called the Black and Whites. He, along with his fellow gangsters, kidnapped these two girls and brutalized them, sexually assaulted them, tortured them, and then, when they were through having their

way after gang raping them, they murdered them, these two teenage girls, Jennifer Ertman, Elizabeth Pena.

The Houston Police Department finally caught up with Jose Medellin and his gangsters. They were all tried lawfully in Texas courts. Jose Medellin received the death penalty, along with one other individual who's already been executed. A third individual's on death row waiting to be executed, and two more are serving life sentences in Texas penitentiaries.

Jose Medellin, when he was captured, he had in his possession, Mr. Speaker, a watch. It was a Mickey Mouse watch that Jennifer Ertman wore. And he was proud to carry this token of his murder. He bragged about the murder. He confessed to the murder, and a jury of 12 Texans convicted him and gave him the death penalty, which he earned and which he deserved.

His case was appealed. It worked its way all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court upheld the conviction based upon a complaint about the confession.

But during all of this process, 10 years after the conviction, in 2003, the Mexican Government filed a lawsuit against the United States in the World Court. You see, Medellin was illegally in the United States from Mexico. And the Mexican Government claimed that he should have been told by the arresting police officers that he had the right to talk to the Mexican Consulate.

Now, the Houston police officers didn't tell him he had the right. They certainly wouldn't have prevented him from having permission to talk to the Mexican Consulate, and he never, at the trial, objected to not being able to talk to the Mexican Consulate. He waited some 10 years until he got to the World Court before his government complained.

The World Court ruled in favor of Mexico, and here's where all of the irony begins. After the World Court ruled that the Texas court, or the Texas peace officers should have told him that he had the right to talk to the Mexican Consulate, the President of the United States intervened in this case and told the Texas courts they ought to review this matter; they ought to uphold the ruling of the World Court. And last year, the Texas courts, in all due respect to the administration, told the President he didn't have any authority to tell Texas courts what to do about anything, and they upheld this conviction and ordered him to be executed, this defendant.

Tomorrow the Supreme Court of the United States is going to hear this case. They're going to hear this case and have to decide this issue. Does the World Court, when it issues an opinion about a trial that takes place in the State of Texas, or any other State, have authority to tell a court of law in this country that they must overturn a conviction or not?

This is a big deal, Mr. Speaker, because, you see, Texas courts, like most

courts in the United States, all courts in the United States, are beholden to the United States Constitution as the supreme law of the land. The supreme law of the land is not the World Court in the Hague. So that's the first decision the Supreme Court's going to have to make; whether or not this is a lawful order by the World Court or whether the Constitution is to be held supreme.

Second, they're going to have to decide, does the President of the United States have the authority to order any court to review any case?

I hope they rule that he does not because as Ted Cruz said, the lawyer representing the State of Texas tomorrow in this death penalty case, it is not the providence of the President to say what the law is or is not. If this President's assertion of authority is upheld in this case, it opens the door for enormous mischief from Presidents of either party. What might these Presidents be inclined to do if they had the power to flick State laws off the books?

It's a big deal. Separation of powers. The judicial branch is independent of the administration, of the executive branch. The executive branch has no authority over the judicial branch.

And the third issue, and most importantly, is should this case be reversed because the defendant, according to the World Court, should have had the ability to talk to his consulate or not?

Texas courts, and even Federal courts have found that he gave up that right if he had a right by not ever objecting at the trial.

Meanwhile, this defendant has been on death row longer than these two girls were alive. Justice must be provided for the victims of this crime, and this horrible case should be upheld by the Supreme Court.

And that's just the way it is.

WATER CRISIS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, after the administration promised to bring liberation to the people of Iraq, they have, instead, brought insecurity and despair.

Every day a new report emerges about the horrible living conditions in Iraq. One of the latest stories comes from Missan, a predominantly Shia province south of Baghdad.

Human rights groups and media reports show that there is a shortage of safe drinking water, and that very shortage may pose a serious health risk. Eight agencies have found that there is a shortage of chemicals for water purification and that many people have been forced to take water directly from the polluted Tigris River.

The provincial capital, Amarah, hasn't been able to treat its water supply since early September because they lack the treatment chemicals.

This problem, Mr. Speaker, is further complicated by the large number of internally displaced people arriving each and every day. And according to media reports, thousands of refugees have arrived from the central and northern provinces since February 2006, which puts unmitigated pressure on the already strained water system.

And according to a U.N. Refugee Agency report, the available water supply only met 60 percent of the needs 1 year ago. It also stated, "Rural areas rely on drinking water directly from the marshes, water that is highly saline, untreated and often contaminated."

Recent studies found that only 5 percent of the houses in the province have running water. 60 percent use water pumps, and the rest rely on river water. Is there any wonder why the number of cholera cases are on the rise?

But the news reports only say so much. Listen to the local sanitation officials: "Mains water has not been purified since early September as the chemicals aren't available, and the only truck carrying the material was stolen."

"Families fear cholera will spread to their cities and towns. In Amarah, cases of diarrhea have increased by 30 percent compared to 2 months ago."

There hasn't been a proper sanitation system in Missan since before the invasion of 2003. Many districts have poor sanitation facilities, and one can smell the stench of open sewers kilometers away. In some areas of the province, supposedly drinkable water is being mixed with sewage effluent and families have no option but to drink unsafe water.

Mr. Speaker, we are spending \$2 billion a week in Iraq, and we cannot provide for the most basic needs like safe drinking water. This makes one wonder if the funds are being misdirected, and it makes us wonder if our administration just can't show any leadership on humanitarian projects. It is simply disgraceful.

We should help the Iraqi people by giving them back their country, and then we should work with our international partners to help the Iraqis rebuild their physical and economic infrastructure. And we should ensure that the Iraqi people have all they need to survive: clean water, food, electricity, schools, jobs, and a secure future.

These life and death problems are not going to be solved at the point of a gun. Putting our brave men and women in uniform on the front lines of a civil war isn't helping.

I urge my colleagues to join together to support proposals that bring our troops and military contractors home and rededicate ourselves to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Iraq.

It is past time for responsible foreign policy. It is time to bring our troops home now.

□ 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the last few days have brought terrific news for American workers and taxpayers. Today, the markets closed at new record highs. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 14,164; the S&P at 1,565.

Last week the Bureau of Labor Statistics released new jobs figures: 110,000 jobs created in September. September 2007, is the 49th consecutive month of job growth, setting a new record for the longest uninterrupted expansion of the U.S. labor market. Since August 2003, our economy has created more than 8.1 million jobs, and the unemployment rate remains low at 4.7 percent.

We also learned last week that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the Federal deficit came in at \$161 billion for the just-completed fiscal year, down significantly from last year's deficit of \$248 billion.

The Wall Street Journal editorial board noted today that "since 2004 deficit spending has tumbled by \$251 billion, which is one of the most rapid 3-year declines in U.S. history. The deficit as a share of the economy is down to 1.2 percent or about half the average of the last 50 years." A deficit at 1.2 percent share of the economy. In the words of the Associated Press, "The fiscal picture is the best it's been since 2001."

Taken together, this shows the American economy remains strong, a strength derived from the hard work of the American people and Republican pro-growth, low-tax policies.

But as sure as the sun is going to rise in the morning and set in the evening, House Democrats are going to do their best to jeopardize our economic growth through higher taxes and spending increases. The Wall Street Journal warned this morning that the Democrat "Congress is already gearing up to splurge again, with its \$35 billion expansion in the children's health program, a \$286 billion 5-year farm bill, \$23 billion in water projects, and \$22 billion more in non-defense discretionary spending. Combine this blowout with slowing revenue growth due to the housing recession, and the deficit may not fall again in 2008. This is all the more reason for President Bush to finally use his veto pen on spending bills."

And that's just spending. Democrats continue to treat higher tax as a cure-all. Frustrated by their inability to choke off funds for our troops in harm's way, last week top Democrats on the Appropriations Committee proposed a \$150 billion war tax. This is just the latest. Consider some of the recent Democrat tax hike proposals:

A 50 cent increase per gallon of Federal gas tax hike from the Energy and Commerce Committee chairman. A 5-cent increase per gallon of Federal gas tax hike from the Transportation Committee chairman. A massive \$392.5 billion tax increase on middle-class families in their fiscal year 2008 budget. More than \$15 billion in new energy taxes passed in July that will raise gasoline prices on consumers. A \$7.5 billion tax increase in their farm bill which threatens 5.1 million American jobs and greater investment in the U.S.

It seems every time they propose to raise taxes, the deficit falls to historic lows. Each time they refuse to rein in spending, job creation breaks a new record. Each time they refuse to live up to their promise of fiscal responsibility, the stock market closes at record highs.

That's bad news for Democrats and terrific news for the American people.

Let's support the Republican policies that have made this success possible and let us see it continue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO MARGUERITE FREEMAN, TEACHER OF TRUTH AND LOVING ENCOURAGER TO CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, this last Sunday one of America's grandest ladies turned 97 years old. And tonight it is a sincere privilege for me to stand here in this well to speak a few words of heartfelt tribute to a woman whose impact on three generations of children will be felt in the human family I believe even after this Chamber is dust.

I knew this special lady as Mrs. Freeman. Four decades have passed since I gathered my belongings as a fourth grader and left the warmth and safety of her classroom for the very last time. As we all reflect on our childhood, I suppose each of us has that one teacher in our memory who affected our lives more than any other. My memory of her is always that of a truly warm and elegant lady who completely personified class, dignity, and grace.

Mrs. Freeman was the model teacher that I believe every teacher truly as-

pires to be. She made books come alive in class. She made every lesson exciting, every life was important. She made us realize that each of us had an important part to play that only we could play. This gracious lady encouraged us to pursue a standard of integrity simply by the way she lived. And in those times when we disappointed her, Mr. Speaker, she never failed to correct us truthfully but gently, and she was always willing to forgive us and to affirm that we were fully restored in her eyes.

While there were so many ways that the guidance of Mrs. Freeman prepared me for life, perhaps the greatest gift I ever received from her and have carried with me through all these years was that of her words of encouragement. I may never have come to this Chamber at all, Mr. Speaker, without some of the soul-lifting things that she said to me. And I am convinced that not a day goes by that I am not affected by those words.

And I can say to you, Mr. Speaker, that not a day ever went by in her class that did not include a moment when Mrs. Freeman looked into the eyes of one of her students and, with a warm smile and a loving wink, she would utter those simple words "You can do it." I know without a doubt that mine was only one of hundreds of lives that were changed forever by those magnificent words, not only because they empowered and encouraged but because we each knew that she meant those words from the depth and core of her soul.

There were many other lessons she left us with that I have greatly cherished on this road to the United States Congress. When one of us would be left out, she would come along beside us and encourage us with that authentically gracious and generous spirit that characterized her life. When my home burned down, Mr. Speaker, taking nearly every material belonging I had, including my school books, and leaving me feeling a little lost, it was Mrs. Freeman that reminded me that God had spared all of my family and that the rest really didn't matter. And I knew then and I know now more than ever that she was so very right.

She also taught me through school plays just to speak my lines sincerely from my heart, and I seek to do that even tonight, Mr. Speaker. Few gifts could have served me better over these many years.

When I first ran for the United States Congress, this sweet lady made the trip to attend one of the major events supporting my candidacy. She made a campaign contribution and included a note that ended with those words, "You can do it."

But a narrow loss in that election, Mr. Speaker, was a deep disappointment. And still I received a letter from her shortly afterward, and once again she offered hope and encouragement that I will cherish as long as I live. But it was her last five words that I re-

member most. They were the hallmark phrase of Marguerite Freeman, teacher of truth and loving encourager to children. Her letter closed with those words, "You can still do it."

Mother Theresa once said, "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are endless." Mr. Speaker, if Mrs. Freeman could be here in this Chamber tonight, I would say to her something like this: that words fail me to express the loving impact that you have had on my life and so many others. And I truly believe that this generation and many generations to come will inherit the beauty and legacy of those endless echoes of your encouragement that you cast into the hearts of so many of those children whose priceless gift it was to call you teacher. Beloved and gallant lady, may God bless you forever.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE JO ANN DAVIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to our fallen colleague, the Honorable JO ANN DAVIS, Member of Congress from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Let me, first of all, offer my deepest sympathy to her family and to acknowledge the special role that Congresswoman DAVIS had in this body.

She was a veteran legislator, a business woman, and a Member of Congress from Virginia's First District. She was the first Virginia Republican woman elected to the House in her own right, and she was the second woman from Virginia to be elected in the United States Congress.

More importantly, she loved the work. She loved this House and loved America. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Intelligence, and Foreign Affairs Committees, she was diligent in her work. I am reminded of her participation in the Women's Caucus. The caucus was bipartisan. We had many opportunities, as women Members of the United States House, to sit together to study issues, particularly health issues, the way a number of diseases impacted women. We were able to gather together to sponsor legislation that particularly focused on enhanced research on diseases that impacted women negatively.

I am reminded of the leadership of a former colleague also recently deceased, Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, who organized

the women's effort to lay a wreath at the Women's Memorial at Arlington Cemetery, and I have in my mind a memory of Congresswoman DAVIS joining us on those many occasions, uniting around our effort to pay tribute to women members of the armed services of the United States of America.

So this evening I simply say that we will miss her, thank her for her pioneering spirit and her leadership, and I would like to say simply to her husband, Chuck; her children; and to thousands of her friends around the Nation and in her district our prayers and condolences are to your family and certainly to your community. So many lives were touched by your service. So we say to you, farewell, our dear friend. May you rest in peace.

□ 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SCHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, what kind of Nation are we, and is anyone really listening? We have over 47 million citizens in this country going without health care coverage; 47 million citizens have zero, and they've been left behind. Why? They don't have the money. They simply don't have the money to be able to afford the impossible cost of health care today. People cannot afford to pay for their pills; they cannot afford to pay their doctor bills or their hospital tests or their cancer treatments. These treatments now are out of their reach. And why? It's simple. They don't have the money.

And what kind of Nation are we when, in my home State of Wisconsin, in Shawano County, 19 out of 20 families filing for bankruptcy recently did so only because they couldn't afford their health care bills. We need a uniquely American solution to this crisis, and we need it now because my patients and my constituents cannot hold their breath any longer.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of Nation are we? Let's agree right here and right now that we need to come together in a bipartisan way and help to begin to

solve this national disgrace. My constituents are listening tonight, and so are yours. Let's end this national nightmare and guarantee access to affordable care for every citizen.

Now, we're very fortunate to have a Democratic majority in the United States today. We're fortunate because we have the SCHIP bill that will be coming back to the House floor on the 18th of this month, that's one week from this Thursday. We're hoping to get enough votes to override President Bush's recent veto of this essential piece of health care legislation.

The SCHIP bill is a State-run program. There have been a great number of misrepresentations about what it really is, and tonight for a few moments I would like to review with you what the SCHIP bill really is all about. It's a State-run, private program. It's aimed and focused at the poorest working families. It will cost \$3.50 every day to ensure a child, \$3.50 a day. Compare that to the millions and millions and billions of dollars we're spending in the sands of Iraq, \$3 billion per week, nearly \$400 million a day, and \$3.50 to guarantee access for a child to see their pediatrician or their family practitioner. What kind of a Nation are we to say no to that?

The eligible people will be those who are in the low-income group. Low-income is three times the Federal poverty level. People who earn \$50,000 or \$55,000 a year simply don't have the money to spend on health insurance policies, which are now averaging \$12,000 to \$14,000 every year.

It will cover up to 10.8 million children in our country. But don't take my word for it about health care. These are cards I've received from my constituents in Wisconsin. Joe from Hazelhurst writes, "I am more likely to die because I can't afford the medical care needed than I am in danger of being killed by terrorists. Fix this, please." He's not a child, but he needs our help today.

Megan and Eric from Appleton, Wisconsin, "We are a young family with four kids, 6, 3 and twins age 5 months. Our insurance is out of control. Our family earns about \$38,000 a year, and we pay \$520-plus each month to have health insurance. Our country needs to make affordable health care a priority."

And what about Pat from Green Bay, Wisconsin. "Health care issues are critical. We need to develop a plan to help the elderly and the uninsurable." For too long, insurance companies have been allowed to discriminate against citizens. Why? For their own personal and individual corporate profits. For too long, our insurance companies have been able to deny people access to affordable care because of a preexisting condition. We haven't addressed that yet, but we will and we must. Allan from Green Bay writes, "Universal health care. I need affordable medical insurance." Rhonda, from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, "Our middle-class in-

come cannot support the increase in medical premiums, copays and deductibles. What will be done for the middle class?"

The SCHIP bill is a great start. It's aimed at ensuring the children of our Nation, those who are most at risk of going without, become healthy once again.

What kind of Nation are we if we don't care for our own children? Our children, after all, we are dependent on their future. I thank you for listening.

THE REPUBLICAN VISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SESSIONS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us to be on the floor this evening to talk about very important issues.

And of course the House of Representatives, in recess right now, is beginning to prepare for the funeral for our colleague, JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, who passed away. Today, our colleagues came to the floor one by one to not only acknowledge the service that JO ANN DAVIS gave to the United States of America, but also in her representation of her congressional district JO ANN will be missed. JO ANN courageously fought cancer. JO ANN courageously went back home day after day, week after week, after serving the United States Congress, making sure that she talked about those things which she did in her job and her representation of people from Virginia, but perhaps more importantly, with the strength and character and courage that JO ANN, even in the midst of adversity, brought to this body was an inspiration to Republicans and Democrats alike. It is with a heavy heart that we all will miss her, and we say to her family, how much they know they will miss her, too, and to her constituents, they were well served. Mr. Speaker, we will miss JO ANN DAVIS from Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I come to the floor of the House of Representatives to talk about the things which I believe are important for so many people to understand, not just about what is happening here in Washington, DC between the two parties, the Republican Party and the Democrat Party, as we talk about public policy issues that are demanding on both parties, and certainly our President and the American people who want to, and do, recognize that America's greatest days lie in our future, but rather, not just understanding the philosophies which are talked about here, but they want to know more about them. What would those policies lead to? And tonight it is my intent, with several of my Republican colleagues, to talk about the Republican vision, the Republican vision that would be of a smaller, smarter,

commonsense government versus the Democrat agenda, which is ineffective, wasteful and intrusive government.

The Republican Party for so many years has been really the party of the free enterprise system, the free enterprise system which has made America the envy of the world, which has made the Republican Party and this great Nation to not only grow in stature, but to provide dreams, dreams to Americans and dreams for people around the world.

Mr. Speaker, just in March of this year, the Financial Times out of London put forth a pretty interesting editorial where they talked about that the EU, now 25 combined nations of the EU has a GDP that equals that of the United States of America, or at least where the United States of America was 25 years ago; meaning that Europe consolidated all of their resources to the EU, the European Union, to these 25 nations, and when they combine all that they have equal that of the United States GDP 25 years ago.

What is interesting is that they also look at the amount of spending that would take place within their medical system and within research and development in medicine, and both those lag 25 years behind the United States.

The United States of America has a strong and vibrant system, the free enterprise system, as a result of not just the United States Congress and tax cuts and making sure that we have the greatest health care system in the world, but it comes as a result of what you're going to hear tonight of a public policy that is enunciated from a Republican vision. And certainly, as we look at what has made America great, you would want to look at, well, why has Europe lagged so far behind? I mean, after all, Europe could do the exact same things that America does. They have education. They have wonderful people. They have innovative ideas and opportunities. I would submit to you it is because of the public policy. And the public policy that they have in Europe really has three basic tenets that are entirely different than the United States has, our free enterprise system. And that was pretty much enunciated by what you saw tonight; we're talking about health care, where it's a State-run program. This is what the Democratic Party is pushing for their public policy. They want a State-run, single-payer health care system, just like Europe.

We also see rules and regulations. Europe is completely covered up with rules and regulations that tell not only employers but also employees exactly how they will be treated. Forget the free enterprise system, forget innovativeness, forget the new opportunities that people might have to bring new products and services. You've got to look up the union rule book; you've got to find out what you can do.

And lastly, the third tenet that separates the United States of America from the European model is taxation.

Taxes began as a battle point under Ronald Reagan here in this country. And we recognized that back under Ronald Reagan, and the President recognized it, that our taxes were not just too high, they were stifling innovativeness and the free enterprise system. They were stifling the ability that we had to grow our free enterprise system in favor of giving the money to the government, to grow the size of government. And as our President, Ronald Reagan, said, he hoped that he would change that to where America once again would be the shining city on the hill. In fact, that did take place. As we cut taxes, as we became prepared for the future way back when Ronald Reagan was President to be prepared today, and for the last few years, for America to propel itself forward.

Mr. Speaker, the Financial Times was right when they said in March that the European Union could not compete against the United States economically because of the three tenets that make the EU different, and that is, high taxes, more rules and regulations, and single-payer system for health care.

Tonight, you are going to hear members of the Republican Party talk about how that is virtually exactly what the Democrat Party agenda is for this great Nation. And tonight you're going to hear Republicans talk about smaller, smarter, commonsense government whereby we not only balance budgets, where we have tax reform, where we have health care that works on behalf of people to where we can maintain the greatest health care system in the world. We will talk about agriculture; the gentleman from the great State of Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) is here to do that. We will talk about intelligence and homeland security. And lastly, we intend to talk about education.

It is with great honor tonight that I am joined by a dear colleague who is from the State of Oregon, the gentleman from Oregon, and I would yield to him at this time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Representative SESSIONS, I appreciate your comments tonight about the differences between our parties, Republicans versus Democrats; but moreover, the vision for this country. Because I think at the end of the day Americans want us to come together with a vision that will produce jobs, that will let Americans keep more of what they earn, that will do something to protect our various resources and allow us to be competitive internationally.

I heard your comments about our competitiveness versus the European Union, and I am no economist, but I did spend a little time over there this spring. And, you know, they're headed down this path of higher taxes in some countries, and other countries have figured out they can't compete with higher taxes and they can't compete with very short work weeks, and they're actually trying to reform to be more like the United States.

Mr. SESSIONS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman.

You know, an example of this might be the recent election that we saw in France. And I'm going to let you amplify that, but as we in America looked at France, and just in the past few years as we looked at a closed system that they have to where they're not only having to have people to come through immigration to their country, they are not able to grow their economy, to be able to bring them into their economy so that they can be real positives. It's a closed system.

□ 2030

What we have seen is how the French people changed their government as a result of that. America still is the big dream. I think the French understand that.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I appreciate that. America is a great country with a great future if we don't allow it to get messed up in these Halls. We have a great opportunity ahead of us, I believe. I certainly think when you see what is happening in some European capitals, some are good things and then there are some questionable things. In some of these areas they realized their tax rates are much too high. All you have to do is go back and look at Ireland that went ahead after many decades of stagnant economy and then did a major tax reform or reduction and all of a sudden its economy is blossoming. They are creating jobs. They are attracting companies to locate in Ireland.

I guess that is what troubles me a bit about what I see happening here in the new Democrat majority is they are looking at how do we raise taxes, which I don't think is the way to go. I think hardworking Americans deserve to keep more of what they earn. Certainly that has been my philosophy and how I have voted here. I think that the outcome is clear. If you look at when President Kennedy cut the capital gains tax rate, revenues went up to the Federal Government. Bill Clinton understood it. He cut capital gains rate. Revenues went up to the Federal Government. Republicans cut the capital gains rate. Revenues went up to the Federal Government. The new majority, the Democrats say, We may just let that expire. We may raise it. We may raise all these taxes. I think the effect will be very harsh on our economy and revenues to the Federal Government will probably go down.

Mr. SESSIONS. Exactly what the gentleman is talking about, the newest word out today in the Wall Street Journal, last week the Bureau of Labor Statistics released new figures, 110,000 jobs created in September of this year.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. 110,000 new jobs.

Mr. SESSIONS. September 2007 is the 49th consecutive month of job growth,

setting a new record for the longest uninterrupted expansion of the U.S. labor market. There is more good news. No surprise. We also learned that the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office said the Federal deficit came in at \$161 billion for the just-completed 2007 year, down significantly from \$248 billion the year before, meaning that we are following exactly what the gentleman from Oregon is talking about. We are following through to make sure that with these tax cuts that not only do people have jobs, but the government increases the amount of revenue it has.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I am glad you made the point about the declining deficits and the increasing revenues to the Federal Government. This Federal Government has never been richer. It has never had more of our tax dollars than it has today. The issue here is how do you control spending. I think that Wall Street Journal editorial and column went on to say today that, Look out, because there are all these new spending programs being put on the desk.

I met with a group this weekend in my district and I said, You know, if you smoke, if you drink, if you are born, if you die, if you have capital gains, dividend income, if you just work, look out because the taxes on you are most likely going to go up. That is what we see here, as you know, on the farm bill that recently was approved by this House. I reluctantly at the end voted against it because it abrogates 55 international tax treaties we have on how our companies and other international companies are dealt with. Those are treaties we have. And this House, no notice to anyone here, I think we learned the night before the vote, suddenly wanted to raise taxes \$78 billion and abrogate all these international treaties America has entered into. Not renegotiate them. Just blow them apart.

And I don't think that is the way to go. We hear more about this every day. It is pick on this group or that group or the next group, set one American against another American and try to leverage one group and wedge one group and engage in all this political posturing to grow government.

Mr. SESSIONS. The point that the gentleman from Oregon is making is so true, and it seems like that we are always in gear for an election. The fact of the matter is that every 2 years there is an election, but now, the year before the election, we have engaged in so much bashing of not only America but really how great America is.

What the gentleman talks about here would also be true with trade, about how America has found a way to find trading partners all around the globe to reduce tariffs. And if there is one thing, and the gentleman knows that I am a big scouter with the Boy Scouts of America. I teach merit badge classes back home. All of my scouters learn right off the bat, what is a tariff? And they respond, it is a tax. We are reduc-

ing taxes and allowing countries all around the globe to be able to compete so that they better their own economic circumstances and end poverty in their own country. This is part of what that overall plan is.

Agriculture plays a key role in this.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. A huge role.

Mr. SESSIONS. The American is a farmer making sure that not only what we produce in this country that we get that opportunity for it, but making sure the rest of the world has that same opportunity. So this is where these trade bills which are languishing right now in the House of Representatives, the clock has already started. Please let everyone know back home if you can, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), that we need to continue these trade bills to make sure that American agriculture and our manufacturing pushes our products overseas and we take their products which helps not only these countries but also all of humanity.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. As the gentleman well knows, the trade bills that are pending open their markets to our goods, because our markets are all already open to their goods. This is about American manufacturers, American agriculture being able to sell what we make or raise here into other markets in a fair way.

I met with a wheat marketing group on Friday morning in my district in the town of Moro, Sherman County. And wheat there, they had just sold a barge full of U.S. soft white wheat from the Northwest for \$11 a bushel. I stutter because it is a record amount, \$11 a bushel. Why? Well, there are droughts in Australia and elsewhere, enormous demand for this product on the world market. Where they have suffered year after year when there have been gluts on the market, in this year, world economy, effects of agriculture around the globe, international trade policy being open, they are going to get up to \$11 for their wheat. Now the market has come down a little bit, \$300 for barley right now. These are tremendous prices that will help American farmers because it needs to be sold to countries overseas that are consuming it in enormous amounts.

So we benefit from trade if these agreements are fair, if they are negotiated properly, and if they are enforced correctly. Now, let me give you an example in my part of the world that is really troubling and that this Congress needs to do something about, and that is the issue of illegal logging. It ties into the whole issue of the environment and how I think Republicans want to take care of the environment that we have especially in our forests. There is an enormous amount of illegal logging going on overseas to satisfy the wood demand that we have right here in the United States and elsewhere. But we are the big importers in many cases.

According to the G-8 illegal logging dialogue which happened in Berlin in

June of this year, 40 percent of illegally cut timber is attributable to imports to the G-8 countries, and United States is responsible for a quarter of those imports. Now, what is going on around the world I don't think most Americans are aware of. I wasn't. The Washington Post did a terrific story on it. I have now read other studies. Brazil, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia appeared to supply, but not necessarily from all their own forests, a great majority of this illegal timber. There may be logs on the books that say, Don't cut here. But that doesn't stop rogue provinces and illegal operators from doing that. Why does that matter? Because here in the United States, this Congress and this government has clamped down on our domestic production of timber off our forested lands, especially in the West, 80 percent reduction since 1990. Meanwhile, wild fires ravage America's forests.

I tell you, Congressman SESSIONS, if Theodore Roosevelt were alive today, he created these forest reserves in 1905, he would be rolling over in his grave to watch how mismanaged they are. We had over 8 million acres go up in fire this year, nearly a record. We are on track for a record each of these last few years. It costs the taxpayers of America \$1.2 billion so far and we are not done with the fire season, so far to extinguish these blazes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Tonight we are talking about the Republican vision versus the Democrat agenda. Smaller, smarter, commonsense government versus ineffective, wasteful, intrusive government. Forestry may be one of those issues that would fit right in here.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. It absolutely is one of those issues. When Republicans were in control of this assembly, and I am sorry to sound partisan on this, but it is just the way it is in the clash of philosophies on this particular issue, while we had some bipartisan help, I chaired the Forestry Subcommittee in the House Resources Committee. We held hearing after hearing after hearing on these issues. We marked up and passed legislation, some of which made it all the way into law, some of which was bipartisan and passed this assembly.

But unfortunately, today, the Speaker of the House, the majority leader of the House, the Democratic caucus chair, the Natural Resources Committee chair and the Rules Committee chairwoman all voted against, for example, the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, which did become law, which allowed some thinning of our forest, not as much as I would like to see but helped streamline it. The whole leadership of this Democrat Congress voted against that in the House. So it makes it almost impossible to go to the next step to help stop these wild fires from ravaging our forests, to get to commonsense management of our timber.

I want to show an example here of a fire that occurred in my district. This

is the example of the Eggleys fire. The Eggleys fire burned about 140,000 acres of America's grasslands and forest lands out in Harney County, 140,000 acres. Do you see the devastation? These two children are the grandchildren of the county judge there, a Democrat, Steve Grasty, and they are standing there as a stark example of the future that they are now inheriting. Some of this area burned before. Some of this area has been basically made off limits. We think you ought to go in there and remove the burned dead trees while they still have value and restart a new forest sooner. We had legislation that passed the Republican House last year, it was bipartisan, that would have gotten that going. Unfortunately, the Senate never picked it up.

Mr. SESSIONS. So the opportunity to go in and clear, the opportunity to allow this burned timber to be harvested would mean that bugs and all the things which might find a way to eat this timber or weaken it, rather than clearing it and getting started again, is in the process of decay, not health at this time.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. I will tell you what is worse. We have a lot of cattle ranchers out there who have permits to graze on some of this ground. Because of the intensity of this fire, it may be one year or two before the grasses come back and they will be allowed to graze. They are having now today, literally today, with the price of hay being what it is and the demand, they are having to liquidate their herds. Some of them may go completely out of business all because these lands aren't being properly managed.

Now, for our friends who are concerned about global warming and greenhouse gas emissions, I serve on the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Climate Change. A fire that burns as intensely or more so than this one probably emits 100 tons of greenhouse gas emission for every acre, 100 tons per acre. This burned 140,000 acres. A good, green, healthy-growing forest like a lot of them we have in the Northwest will sequester between 4 and 6 tons of carbon per acre. So wouldn't you think that this Congress would be focusing on doing better management on our forests? And yet the subcommittee that I used to chair has now been compressed in with the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee into one, has held one hearing in 9½ months on this issue. They have marked up no legislation dealing with this issue. Nothing is happening of consequence, except taxpayers are spending \$1.2 billion to fight these blazes. The future these kids are looking at is a long way off. I like my forests green and healthy, not black. But some of the groups out there who appeal even thinning in these areas issued a statement recently that said burned forests are healthy forests.

Now, I suppose in the enormous scope of time, they grow back. We know that.

But I don't think burned forests are the policy that Americans want us to have when it comes to their forests. It doesn't work well for habitat, for water quality and watersheds.

Meanwhile, I'll bet we don't cut a stick of this, or very little of it. Instead, because this will get litigated because we won't change the law here which is what needs to happen, even though you and I would do it and you have been helpful in these efforts, instead we will proudly go to the local store and get our furniture made in China from illegally harvested wood from countries that have no environmental laws where the forests are extraordinarily important around the equator to sequester carbon.

□ 2045

I don't understand the ineffective, wasteful vision of the other side, when I believe no land manager in America would allow this to occur and wouldn't go in right afterward. Counties don't do it. Private foresters don't allow this to occur. They get in right away. I have been out on sites, and they get in right away, clean it up. Our State of Oregon has a very progressive Forest Practices Act. But they don't wait. They don't wait a year. It will be a year before they are done writing their plan, and then it will be subject to appeal and litigation, most likely for another year.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I remember when the fires at Yellowstone were taking place, and I remember seeing how many of our friends who were environmentalists said, let it burn, let it burn, and yet I remember seeing the carnage that took place with wildlife and the millions of animals who not only lost their home but then would be thrust out in the cold as a result of the huge fire, when in fact I had learned from my being an Eagle Scout, and the gentleman from Oregon is an Eagle Scout, we learned in our forestry merit badges that healthy forests are those where you can come in and clear out those things that were from years of use, and come and clean the forest, and you could come and take sections so that you made sure that any fire did not destroy the whole thing. They would come and cut the forest and work with Mother Nature and then replant.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 5 or 6 years, and you can look at any National Geographic or perhaps the Discovery Channel and see where the people, the companies that grow trees, they have healthy forests. I think the healthiest forests are where private people and private companies own the trees, as opposed to the government, because the government has a policy of ineffective, wasteful and intrusive government in managing our forests.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. The other thing we learned as Scouts, and, like you say, we are both Eagle Scouts, what has always stuck with me when it comes to how we manage our resources

was a very simple line: "Leave your campsite better than you found it." That, I think, is a great guiding principle for those of us in this body, not only for natural resource policy, but for this country, to leave it better than you found it.

Mr. Speaker, let me just suggest that we burned more than 8 million acres this year, and 5.7 million acres, which is our new average that we are burning every year in this country, is an area larger than the entire State of New Jersey. We throw these big numbers around in Washington, the bureaucrats do it all the time, and we do it from time to time. Think about every year you're burning an area of your national forest and grasslands and other areas larger than the size of the State of New Jersey.

Let me tell you what just happened in my district of eastern Oregon. I have 70,000 square miles of terrific eastern Oregon. Three of the last mills have been put either on indefinite closure or closure in very remote areas where they are surrounded by overstocked forests that need all this work, and they are some of the last, if not the last mills in these communities, and 198 people in those three communities have lost their jobs. That is 2.6 percent of nonfarm payroll.

Now the State's economists, the certified smart economic folks, said, I wonder what that impact of those 198 jobs would be if it was spread over 2.6 percent of nonfarm payroll over the Portland metropolitan area. So a standard city in America, what do you think that would be? It would be the loss of 26,400 jobs.

So all across the rural West in small communities where the mills close, there's barely a yawn or a whimper in this Congress about what is happening, and yet the prior forest service chiefs and the current one will tell you our country and our forests and our ability to manage those forests cannot be sustained if we lose the infrastructure to do the management.

That is precisely what is happening today, for a lot of reasons, some of it market conditions, but part of the market conditions is an 80 percent reduction in the timber harvest on Federal land, an inability to go in and even clean up after a fire in less than 2 years on Federal land.

I was just out on the GW fire, not named for me, even though it's my initials, GW fire outside of Black Butte Ranch, Sisters, Oregon. It burned, I think, 7,000 acres, something like that, or 8,000. Where the forest service had done thinning, the fire dropped to the ground and they put it out. That is part of what we were trying to accomplish with our Healthy Forest Restoration Act that President Bush signed into law, that we as Republicans wrote, with bipartisan help.

The thinning project, where it dropped to the ground, the trees are all green around it, was held up by environmentalists for let's say 5 years in

litigation, 2001 until, I think, 2006, and finally the forest service prevailed and they worked the sale. They thinned out this overstock stand, and a fire hit it and it went out, and the trees are still green.

Mr. Speaker, I think that what Americans want is for us to manage, to be good stewards of this land and this resource. To do what is happening today without reform is ineffective, it's wasteful, it's intrusive. Today, 45 percent of the forest service budget goes to fighting fire. It used to be 15. That is 45 percent goes to fighting fire. A nearly like amount goes to paperwork to process the various activities they do, rather than on the ground, doing what they are trained to do. We tie them up in court, in litigation, in all this process and all this stuff.

We have got to fix this problem, and if we do, when we passed the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act in the House last year by a big bipartisan margin, it would have generated, I think, \$140 million over 10 years to the Federal Treasury in net new revenues. It would have helped pay for cleanup and restoration effort.

We can do these things, but this leadership today, they voted against it, from the Speaker on down. They put people in charge of the committees who were opposed to us every step of the way.

So I would tell my colleague from Texas, elections have consequences, and the changes are being played out today as more and more firefighters are called upon to put out these blazes, as cattle ranchers in eastern Oregon and around the West are driven off their allotments, having to liquidate their herds or trying to get disaster help in, when it doesn't have to be that way. It doesn't have to be that way.

We can work smarter, we can fix these problems, and in so doing, we can improve the environment. Do you think this is great habitat for anything other than bugs and woodpeckers, which need habitat; I'm not downplaying that. We have seen case after case. In Colorado, the Hayman fire. After that enormous fire, the Denver watershed was deluged with mud and dead animal debris and dead fish as the runoff occurred. We are always going to have fire. We need to be smart on how we manage our forests so we can manage our fires. Get it back in balance with nature.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has held one hearing, taken no legislative action, zero, zip, zilch, let it burn, don't fix it afterwards, and we will just get our imported wood from illegal logging and furniture from China. It doesn't make sense. It needs to change.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman from Oregon, who not only has persuasively brought forth arguments that he sees in his home State of Oregon, but also who amplified the Republican vision, smaller, smarter, commonsense government, almost something you can find in a Scout hand-

book, or a merit badge, versus the Democrat agenda, which is ineffective, wasteful, intrusive government, allowing not only for thousands of people to lose their job, but mismanagement of the natural resources that has been given to this great country that Lewis & Clark found out so much about, that we tout as not only the Teddy Roosevelt answer to the way America would be, but also how we are going to bring her on in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oregon not only for his time, for his dedication, but also for the things which he believes in.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I want to make one other comment. You're going to see a lot of discussion in this Congress about what to do about global warming. I serve on both the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Energy and Air Quality Committee and the Select Committee on Global Climate Change, and I want to do what is right for the environment. But there are going to be competing viewpoints. The two philosophies are going to collide here.

There are some on the Democrat leadership side who think a carbon tax is where America should go, a .50 cent a gallon increase in taxes on your gasoline. That is their vision. It's \$50 a ton carbon emissions from power plants, higher taxes, higher fees on ratepayers in America or drivers in America. I don't think it has to be that way, by the way. I think there are ways we can invest in research and development and get new technologies and incent Americans to do the right thing, not punish them with higher taxes, because Europe is kind of going that direction. They are looking at a cap and trade model in Germany. They rolled it out 5 years and the price of electricity in Germany went up 25 percent. They miscalculated. Guess who got the bill? The ratepayers did. Now they are going to try and change that. They think they have got a little different thing worked out.

But I would rather invest in research, development in new technologies for new fuels. I was out at the dedication of an ethanol plant in my district. If we can ever get to cellulosic, we can use woody biomass and we can use things like algae to scrub carbon out and to produce fuel. It is amazing what lurks out there on the horizon. But we don't have to punish ratepayers, I don't think, at least. And yet, you watch, that is what is coming.

Think back to Jimmy Carter in the seventies. He put on his sweater, sat by the fireplace in the White House. The sweater thing may be there, but you aren't going to get to have a fire. You're just going to shiver in the cold because you won't be able to afford your electricity or your power because they are going to drive up the costs so high that people are going to say "I can't afford it." And then they will race back here to get more money from

the government to help bring down the cost of heating.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't have to be that way. We ought to have incentives, not punishment. There are ways to get this done. There is a great story in the Wall Street Journal today about big national companies that are beginning to ask about carbon footprint of their suppliers, and Americans are beginning to say maybe you ought to put a fluorescent light bulb in. If you put it in five of your most used lights, you can save an enormous amount of energy. It's a good thing for your bottom line, and it reduces carbon. Keep your air up in your tires, you reduce carbon emissions and you increase your gas mileage.

These are things Americans will do because we want a good, healthy environment. But do you want to have a 20 percent increase in your electricity bill this winter? Do you want 50 cents more on top of a gallon of gas? And who gets the money? The Federal Government. You could have a trillion dollars that way in a heartbeat and it will all be hidden; it will be phased in, come out of your power bills, you will never know it happened. And the big spenders around here are just licking their chops.

I don't think it has to be that way. I think we can have smaller, smarter commonsense government that uses market principles and incent the people to do the right thing, not ineffective, wasteful and intrusive government that just costs taxpayers more and more and more.

Mr. SESSIONS. I want to thank the gentleman from Oregon. There's only one thing you didn't mention, and that's the BTU tax that many of the new leaders of the United States Congress today, the new Democrat majority, right there with the BTU tax. They're back. What they are really saying is pretty simple: Don't use this electricity; sit in the dark. Don't go create something that is good or better, don't find a way to have less emissions; go and tax things.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for being here today. We have been joined also tonight by the gentleman, who is a dear friend of mine from Iowa, Mr. KING. We are talking tonight, Mr. KING, about the Republican agenda, smaller, smarter, commonsense government, versus the Democrat agenda, which is ineffective, wasteful and intrusive government. And perhaps the thing which I identify most, and particularly when I see you, is to talk about taxes and how important tax reform has been.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said a long time ago that the Republican party is here as the bull dogs for the taxpayer, to make sure that efficiency occurs, to make sure that the original mission statement of what a program might be for, to balance a budget is important. I don't know if the gentleman heard or not, but the Bureau of Labor Statistics released new job figures of 110,000 net

new jobs in September. September 2007 is the 49th consecutive month of job growth, setting a new record for the longest uninterrupted expansion of the U.S. labor market.

□ 2100

Since August of 2003, our economy has created more than 8.1 million jobs and today has the lowest unemployment that sits at 4.7 percent. There is more good news. You see, if you have a country that produces great dreams for people and they can go make things happen, like jobs, we also learned last week that the nonpartisan CBO, Congressional Budget Office, said the Federal deficit came in at \$161 billion for the just-completed fiscal year, down from \$248 billion the year before. I think we are headed in the right direction. I yield to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for organizing this Special Order this evening and pulling together a lot of the thought process regarding the Republican vision versus the Democrat agenda.

Looking at the 40 consecutive months of job growth, I would take us back to why we didn't have job growth before this began in August 2003. I would like to frame this for when the Bush Presidency came in in January 2001. That was in the middle of the bursting of the dot-com bubble. We had an economy that was really a false economy. It was a speculation on the ability to store and transfer information more efficiently than ever before, but it had not been corrected for.

Well, the dot-com bubble was in the middle of bursting in January 2001. By September 11, 2001, the financial center was attacked, America was attacked and the Pentagon was attacked and they had the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. This was another attack on our finances. This was a double-whammy cloud that came over the very new Bush administration.

So we came forward with two rounds of tax cuts. We asked for \$545 billion worth of tax cuts over that span of time. We got a pretty good chunk of that. In two rounds, those tax cuts have been what produced this thriving economy that shows a stock market that sets new highs, and also this job growth of 49 consecutive months of job growth.

Mr. SESSIONS. As I recall, we spent at least one or two of those elections talking about how the stock market was down and how people had lost their savings and their pensions were in trouble, and how all of these terrible things were happening, cataclysmic events.

Then along came a market-based idea which we had known and understood not just from watching President Kennedy who cut capital gains and President Reagan to talk about you cut taxes you get more money because of invasion, isn't it true what this

brave Republican Congress did is they cut taxes because they wanted to spur the American economy for people to have jobs and be competitive with the world, and so families would have an opportunity to keep more of what they made rather than giving it to the government.

Mr. KING of Iowa. What the gentleman says is exactly true. Believing in the free market system and allowing people to keep more of what they earn, allowing them to make those decisions, that was entirely the philosophy behind the tax cuts. It has proven to be true throughout all these years, and it continues to grow this economy in the face of some very poor messages coming out of this Congress. Thankfully, not much of what has been attempted on the other side has been accomplished.

I think a strong market indicates that Wall Street doesn't believe that the Democrats are going to accomplish very many of the things they would like to do.

To go back to the tax component, and I don't know how I overlooked the corporate corruption which was also a component, Enron, Global Crossing, some of those things, the accounting things that were going on. I recall some people made a lot of money out of Global Crossing. Some went to jail; some didn't. Some are supporting Presidential campaigns. We ought to take a look at those folks and how that worked.

But I would like to take this back to a philosophy that I would ask the American people to think about, that is, Ronald Reagan once said: what you tax, you get less of. He also said what you subsidize you get more of. But what you tax, you get less of. And so the Federal Government, in its, I'll say lack of wisdom, places a tax on all productivity in America. And Uncle Sam has the first lien on all productivity in America. That is our Federal income tax, personal, corporate, capital gains, the tax on your pension, the alternative minimum tax, the whole list of all of the Federal taxes, Social Security tax is another one. That list of taxes is taxes on productivity. Interest income, dividend income, all are measures of our productivity. The Federal Government has the first lien on those taxes.

What I want to do, what a lot of us in this Congress want to do is adopt a national sales tax, a national consumption tax, H.R. 25, the FAIR Tax. I will say this: everything good that anyone's tax proposal does in this Congress, it does all of them in one package. That is not just my opinion. That is the opinion of a lot of economists and some very highly placed, respectable people.

But to put that in place, we have to take the tax off of production and put it on consumption. We will have far more production. The estimates of some of the top economists go from a growth in our economy of maybe 8 to 9 percent up to 33, 35 percent growth in

our economy. But nobody thinks there will be less growth; we think there will be more growth.

But changing the dynamic way we tax, no tax on production, earn all you want to earn, save all you want to save and produce all you want to produce, there is a reward for that because then you get to decide when you pay taxes, and that will be when you consume.

Another thing that is an important component of this, and Alexander Tyler once said that when a democracy realizes, and I will argue we are a constitutional Republic, but he referenced a democracy, when people realize they can vote themselves benefits from the public treasury, on that day a democracy ceases to exist.

We have a number, maybe 44 percent, of Americans don't pay any income tax. That number has been growing. It is 2 or 3 or 4 years old, so I am going to suppose that number is bigger and maybe it is over 50 percent. If half of the people realize they can push their Congressmen and go to the polls and elect people that will vote them benefits out of the public treasury, then soon we are in a situation where that half of the people don't want to work. They don't want to produce any more. So they sit back. They were in the safety net that was created by the nanny state, and now that safety net has been cranked up to the elevation of a hammock, and there they sit, not producing, just sitting not being productive individuals in this society.

Mr. SESSIONS. And aren't we in that circumstance as we speak now with the SCHIP, which is children's health care, where this new Democrat majority has brought forth a bill that, among other things, more than half of the people who would be new to this SCHIP bill would be people who are already on insurance, who already have private insurance, and yet they are demanding, no, no, we have to add them to the government side.

What we are looking at here is a \$6 billion program that Republicans invented because we believe in helping children because we know if you take care of children, immunize them and do things when they are children, then when they are adults, they not only do better in school they grow up and are healthier.

We are taking this from a \$6 billion program a year to a \$13 billion program. And to fund it, it would require, under the Democrat majority plan, 20 million new smokers to pay for the darn program. Is that what you are talking about where you all of a sudden shift from people who figure out you can get the government to pay for everything, a government-run health care program?

Mr. KING of Iowa. That is exactly what I am talking about. People decide they want to be dependent on the taxpayers. They think it is cheaper for them to let somebody else pay for those services. This is a perfect example.

I was in the Iowa senate when we shaped the SCHIP policy and supported it at 200 percent of poverty. There are waivers in there, and I can speak specifically to Iowa's numbers. They vary across the country depending on the waivers and what the States have decided to do.

I think it was New Jersey that said no matter what the President says, they are going to grant SCHIP benefits to 450 percent of poverty. In Iowa right now it is 200 percent of poverty, and there are 20 percent that are waivers. So a family of four making \$51,625 a year qualifies. That is mom, dad and two kids. The kids qualify for federally funded health insurance programs making that kind of money.

The bill passed off the House, this Pelosi-led Congress, was 400 percent of poverty. That meant that same family of four in Iowa that qualifies at \$51,625 would qualify at over \$103,000. Well, in the Senate it got negotiated down to 300 percent of poverty. So in my State that is still over \$77,000 for a family of four.

So you have to decide. There will be 2.1 million kids that I will say will be bribed off their own private health insurance by Federal tax dollars. They will say: go on the Federal plan.

They will never be able to do that one again because there will be such a high percentage of the kids that you can never reach into that universe. I don't know if there will be any kids on privately funded health insurance if this SCHIP bill passes. That percentage goes up well over 80 percent of the kids that will be on federally funded health insurance, and there will be companies that are providing health insurance for their employees and the family, and they will take a look at this and decide I am paying them less than \$83,000, which is a commonly used number, so why don't we just offer health insurance to the employee and their spouse or significant other, as the case may be, and just say we don't provide it for children because the Federal Government does.

This bill takes us to the tipping point where it slides over the other side. It is the cornerstone for socialized medicine. It closes the gap, just a technicality to pick up the remaining percentage of kids that would be on private insurance.

By the way, here in this Chamber, September 22, 1993, President Clinton spoke to a joint session on health care. He laid out a lot of this plan which we know now was Hillary's plan, and she began her hearings and her secret meetings after that, Harry and Louise shut that down, along with Phil Gramm and a good number of other people who believe in freedom and private health care.

But Clinton came back and said if we can't get this done in one shot, we are going to do this incrementally. And the next step for full, federally funded coverage for children in America is to go and lower Medicare from 65 down to 55.

If we do that, the people in the middle, SCHIP is covering some kids up to age 25 today. So the people in the middle ages, 25 to 55, they are the ones paying for their own and they would be paying for everybody else's.

Mr. SESSIONS. My guess is they would call that the doughnut hole then.

Mr. KING of Iowa. That is the group of volatile people that will realize they are paying for everybody else's health care, and they are paying for their own. They will say, put me on it, too, I'm paying for it anyway, and then we will have a Canadian plan. That is what I see coming.

Mr. SESSIONS. Where would the Canadians go if America has a single payer, Hillary-style health care plan? Where would the Canadians go when they need real medicine?

Mr. KING of Iowa. I would think they would be worried about that right now. Their Prime Minister came to the United States for melanoma surgery. There are entire companies that have been spawned in Canada who are in the business of setting up the transportation and the access to U.S. health care for the people that are very sick or maybe die in line in Canada that can come down to the United States.

One of the good insurance programs that you can get up there is being able to have your heart surgery taken care of by flying you from Ottawa or Montreal or Quebec down to Houston for heart surgery. That is the Canadian package. There is no place to go if we don't have an American plan.

And by the way, the research and development, the innovation, the things that make us the best in the world in health care, disappear too because the profit incentive is taken out. Then we get mediocre along with the rest of the world. That ends up reducing our quality of life, and it costs American lives.

□ 2115

Mr. SESSIONS. The gentleman, as he makes the point about how important it is that we have a market-based, free enterprise system health care, is so true.

If you look at America and leukemia versus Europe, America's survival rate is 50 percent; Europe's is 35 percent. Prostate cancer, America's survival rate is 81.2 percent; France, 61.7; England, 44.3 percent.

My gosh, it just tells you that what America has is not only the greatest health care system in the world, and one that is of envy, but one that produces results. And of course it is more expensive, and of course it costs money, but if the free enterprise system would support this because we don't tax the ability that people have to buy their health care, which is what the Democrat party mandate is, that you've got to tax people that don't belong in a corporation, then what it means is that you've got a bunch of people that can't afford it.

So that's another point that comes back to your tax element about health

care. You should not have to pay after-tax money on health care. It should all be pre-tax, but the Democrats insist that, if you don't work for a corporation, you should not get this opportunity because it's not something that you negotiated with with a labor contract.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I do have a bill that I've introduced in this Congress, whose number has escaped me, that provides full deductibility for health insurance purchased by individuals, and that's been slow in the coming. It's been lagging. It's rooted back in wage and price controls of World War II. When they froze those wages and prices, then employers figured out that if they couldn't give a raise, they could give a benefit. So health insurance became the benefit that got added on because wage dollars couldn't go up.

When that happened, we built a foundation of employer-based health insurance in this country, and now it becomes the politics of holding on to that employer base. That's why there's not the flexibility that we need to have there.

But an entrepreneur, an individual that starts up a business, a ma and pa store, they have to pay some of the highest premiums because they don't get into a group plan, and they can deduct 100 percent of the health insurance for their employees but not for themselves.

There's something really wrong with that. That needs to be fixed. I would take this thing on over to a lot more freedom, and whenever you give up tax dollars, some of them provide you security like through the military, through those services that can't be provided any other way. Transportation is one of them. But at some point, as you peel out the tax dollars and hand them over into that hand of Uncle Sam, they represent your freedom that you're granting over there to the Federal Government. The Federal Government then decides who's going to be able to exercise their freedom at your expense.

I want to feed my share of this and hold up my end of this freedom, but I don't want those dollars to go to discourage people from holding up their end of this load. That's the difference between Republicans and Democrats.

We're all sociologists here in this chamber. We're here trying to figure out how do people react towards certain stimuli or lack of stimuli, raising taxes, raising regulations, imposing criminal penalties and prison sentences. Everything in between, across the spectrum are all things that we should be analyzing and having some understanding of how people will react.

But we understand the motive for earn, save and invest, and we are philanthropists. We give at church. We give to charities. All of us in this country do, more on our side than the other side statistically, but if you let people keep their own money, they'll also understand a good place to put it out of the goodness of their heart.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman not only for being here this evening but a chance to join the gentleman from Oregon and, of course, Texan here.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we've had an opportunity to talk about the Republican vision and how important the Republican vision is for a smaller, smarter, common sense government, versus a Democrat agenda, ineffective, wasteful and intrusive government.

I want to thank my colleagues for being here this evening. Mr. Speaker, we appreciate your time. We know that the people of the good State of Tennessee have sent you here to do the people's work, and that's what we're here to do, same also, for good public policy.

PROTECTING PEOPLE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAHONEY of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, let me do what I think you cannot do under the rules and reassure your constituents in Florida that you have not become a Tennessean when they weren't looking. I believe the gentleman from Tennessee left the chair, and we do now have the gentleman from Florida in the chair.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address today a very important issue that is generating an intense discussion among a fairly small segment of people who follow things, and it seems to us it's not healthy and that we ought to have a broader discussion, both of the specific issue, which is a question of how to protect people against discrimination based on their sexual orientation and at some point I would hope their gender and their gender identity, and also how do political parties relate to those in the population who are the most passionate, the most committed and the most legitimately zealous about their feelings, often on one particular issue to the exclusion of a broader set.

Before I came to Congress in 1981, former Members, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. Abzug), gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Tsongas) and others, in the House filed legislation to make it illegal to discriminate against people in employment based on their sexual orientation; that is, they would have made it illegal in the same way that the 1964 Civil Rights Act made it illegal based on race, but in a different statute for a variety of reasons, for people to be fired, for people to refuse to hire people, for people to be denied promotions or in other ways discriminated against in the job based on their being gay or lesbian or bisexual. That was, and has been, the number one leg-

islative goal of gay and lesbian, bisexual people for more than 30 years.

In many States subsequent to that enactment, that introduction, laws were adopted to do that. Wisconsin was the first in 1982; Massachusetts, the State I represent, the second in 1989. Many States now have it.

As we kept that fight up in the face of a good deal of opposition and as we began to educate people as to why the prejudice against people based on our being gay or lesbian or bisexual was, in fact, invalid as a grounds for economic discrimination, movement expanded to cover people who are transgendered, people who were born into one sex physically but who strongly identify with the other sex and who, in fact, choose to live as members of the sex other than the one they were born in, often but not always having surgery to enhance that new life.

We are at a differential stage in public understanding of these issues. We've been dealing explicitly and increasingly openly with prejudice based on sexual orientation for almost 40 years, since the Stonewall Riots of 1969 and since then.

The millions of people that talk openly and to take on the prejudice against people who are transgendered is newer. It is also the case that prejudice begins with people reacting against those who are different from them in some way. People are rarely prejudiced against their clones. So we have this situation where there is more prejudice in this society today against people who are transgendered than against people who are gay and lesbian, partly because we have been working longer at dealing with the sex orientation prejudice; partly because the greater the difference, the greater the prejudice is to start, the more people fail to identify, the more they are put off by differences, especially when those differences come in matters of the greatest personal intimacy.

We should be clear that as we talk about matters of human sexuality or the human sexual characteristics we touch on the most sensitive subjects that human beings will deal with.

So where we are today is that earlier this year, after years of our introducing the bill which we call ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to ban discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation, we added this year for the first time a provision that would also have banned discrimination based on gender identity as we have designated it, i.e., against people who are transgendered.

We began dealing with the transgender issue earlier in the context of the hate crimes legislation, and legislating against hate crimes, it's easier to do than sexual orientation. It is less intrusive, and it is easier to make the argument that assaulting people and destroying their property is wrong than it is to say that refusing to hire them is wrong. I think they're both wrong, but obviously, there is a dis-

inction in this society. One is a serious criminal issue; one becomes civil.

We originally encountered difficulty in broadening hate crimes to include people of transgender. I first talked about that in 1999. I remember having to explain to people what we were talking about.

Recently, we were successful earlier this, under the leadership of the Speaker of the House, in getting legislation through the House that expanded the hate crime protection, not just based on sexual orientation, but based on people being transgender. The Senate followed suit; although one of the leading senators engaged in that effort noted that whereas, when the Senate voted on that dealing solely with the sexual orientation issue, there were 12 Republican supporters, this year there were only eight. Eight turned out to be just enough to get us 60 votes to break a filibuster, but there was a fourth or one-third of Republican support even on hate crimes which is the easier one.

Despite that, we thought we were in a position this year, under the leadership of the Speaker who had committed early to myself and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), my colleague, to bring these issues up, hate crimes first and then employment non-discrimination, we thought we had the votes to pass it.

In fact, on September 5 of this year, when the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), a great supporter of opposing discrimination for all sorts, had a hearing in his subcommittee on the issue, I personally spoke more about the importance of including people who were transgendered than any other witness.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that there are today people who are unhappy with my position because I believe, to get to the central point here, that we have the votes to pass a bill today in the House that would ban discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation, but sadly, we don't yet have it on gender identity. And I differ with some as to what we do about that.

But one of the problems we have today, both on this issue, and as I will discuss in a little bit in general, is people in our society, the most deeply committed, who believe that when a politician tells them an unpleasant fact, he or she must somehow be embracing that fact. Because I have been one of those who has felt the obligation to tell my friends in the transgender community that prejudice against them is greater than prejudice against gay men and lesbians for some of the reasons I talked about, I have been asked why I am so opposed to fairness for people of transgender.

I will submit for the RECORD statements that I made officially, either in committee or on the floor, two in committee and one on the floor, in September 2004, when I said on the floor of the House: Yes, there are people who are transgendered in our society, and they are sadly often victimized.

They're often victims of violence. Yes, I think it is a good idea to come to their aid, and if the gentleman thinks it is a mistake to go to the aid of people who are transgendered, who are more often than others victimized or who were put in fear of that, then we do disagree. September of 2004.

September, 2005, again in the hate crimes context: I should add, too, that we've recently seen more of an outbreak of this sort of violence against people who are transgendered, and it is important for us to come to people's aid.

And on September 5 of this year, when I testified at that point in favor of a bill that I hope we would have the votes to pass only a month ago, that was fully inclusive, I said: And then we have the issue that my colleague so ably discussed of the transgendered, my colleague being the gentlewoman from Wisconsin who often talks about this.

I said: I understand this is a new issue for people. There are people who were born with the physical characteristics of one sex and strongly identify with the other. Some of them have a physical change. Some of them don't. Let me make a plea to all of my colleagues. These are people. Think what it must be like to be born with that set of feelings. Think what it must be like. Think what stress, what agony you go through to defy society's conventions to the extent where you make that kind of statement. This is something people are driven to do. Is there any reason why any of us should make those lives of those people more difficult than they already are? Obviously, these are people who are coping, and things are getting better. Things are better in ways. When I was young, a lot of things were difficult that are less difficult today. But we say here is, if someone has these feelings, if someone is born with one set of characteristics and strongly identifies the other way, should you fire them? Do you deny them a promotion? Do you say to them no matter how good your job is, you make me uneasy so out you go?

□ 2130

I spoke in hopes, on September 5, that we would have the support to do this. To my dismay, not entirely to my surprise but to my dismay, I found that we did not yet have the votes to pass a bill that would protect people who are transgender. As I said, I have discussed this issue, I think, as much as any Member of Congress and more than most. I am determined to try to diminish that prejudice, as I was determined when I started my political career to diminish the prejudice based on sexual orientation.

Let me add one point here. I am, myself, of course, gay, so when I talk about passing legislation against sexual orientation discrimination, it's fair for people to say, well, you think about yourself. But I first got elected to a legislature in 1972. In the intervening

35 years, I have worked very hard for legislation further banning discrimination based on race, discrimination based on ethnicity, based on gender to protect women, based on age to protect the elderly, based on disability.

At the time that I voted to protect people against those forms of discrimination, I was not, myself, a victim of any of them. I was not a beneficiary of banning discrimination against women or against African Americans or against Hispanics or people who were disabled. I was not when I voted for it one who was protected against discrimination based on age, but I now am, but I wasn't when I voted for it. I have just been around long enough to do that.

I reject the notion that somehow I have only been concerned with the category in which I am a member. I will say this, every time I voted for one of those, I was voting to protect one group of people and not another. Because at the time when we voted, that was all that we could do, that was all that we could get the votes for, because a fight against discrimination is an incremental fight. I wish it wasn't.

Some of my colleagues, some of my friends, I say to my colleagues in the gay community, maybe I will do a little stereotyping, maybe they have seen the Wizard of Oz too often. They seem to have Speaker PELOSI, a wonderful dedicated, committed supporter of human rights, confused with Glenda the good witch. They think if she waved her magic wand she could somehow change things.

I have seen this woman work as hard as it is humanly possible to do to achieve results, but there are limits to what any human being could do in the face of difficult reality. You can move reality, you can chip away at it, you can try to shape it, but you can't just wish it away.

What I have learned in the past month was that we weren't yet at the point where we could wish away this prejudice against people with transgender. Yes, we have an overwhelming majority of Democrats for that, but not all of them; and we have very few Republicans, although we have some of them. By the way, I wish this wasn't partisan. People said, don't make it partisan. I wish it wasn't partisan. I also wish I could eat more and not gain weight, and I wish I was as energetic today as I was when I was not protected with age discrimination.

But this is one of the central points. Denying reality not only doesn't change it; it makes it harder to overcome it. That's where we are.

On September 5, I testified in favor of including people of transgender. We then learned from conversations with our colleagues that we didn't have the votes to do it.

Let me say, and I love being in this House and many of my best friends are Members of Congress, but we are sometimes, those of us in elected office, loath to tell people the truth when it

will make them mad. We don't often lie directly, but we have ways of sounding more agreeable than we, in fact, are. We detect that in each other. We know when someone is being verbally more accommodating than he or she is likely to be when it comes time to vote.

I am afraid that some of my friends in the transgender community and the gay and lesbian community and the advocate community in general were misled by what we used to call in Massachusetts "the wink and the nod," the smile, the oh, of course, I strongly sympathize with you.

People thought we had the votes. I hoped we had the votes. I wasn't sure. We do not have the votes. That has been confirmed.

The majority whip, a man whose own life has been one of dedication to overcoming prejudice, did a check, not of every single Member on the Democrat side, but a large number of Members who were likely to be problematic. What we have found was, and I have confirmed this in my own conversations, here is where we are after years of advocacy on the sexual orientation question, a few years of advocacy on the transgender issue.

I am convinced that we have the votes to pass in this House a bill that has been the number one goal of the gay and lesbian and bisexual community and our allies for many years, a bill to ban discrimination based on employment. I think it will be an extraordinarily good thing for America if we are able to do that.

I don't expect the President to sign it, but it has always been the view of advocates, including my gay and lesbian colleagues, that we don't get deterred from pushing ahead by the threat of a veto. It's important to get those votes and to get people on record and show your strength so you can move forward and set the stage for an enactment in 2009. After all, I don't expect the President to sign the hate crimes bill; he says he won't, although he doesn't always remain unchanged.

But no one that I work with said let's not pass the hate crimes bill, transgender inclusive, by the way, because we aren't sure George Bush is going to sign it or we think he might veto it. You push ahead.

So this is the question we now face. I am convinced that the votes are there to pass a bill that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment. I am also convinced that if we were to put up a bill that included people of transgender, that part would be stricken on a vote, and, unfortunately, a fairly heavy vote. Because what happens is when a tough issue, and the transgender issue is a tough political issue now, and if I have fought with colleagues, it is for not being honest enough with people. And people who would mislead you, I would say, Mr. Speaker, to those who come before us as advocates, people who would mislead

you and let you think your task is easier are not your friends. They are undercutting your ability. Underestimating your enemy is the surest way, not only to lose, but to lose so bad it is hard to come back.

I had hoped that we would have a vote upon a transgender-inclusive bill and win. Getting a large vote in this body to say no to transgender inclusion will make it harder in the future to change that situation, partly because my junior Senator, as the Presidential candidate, was unfairly pilloried. His remark was caricatured about his vote on Iraq. He quite sensibly voted for one version of funding for Iraq and then voted against another. He phrased it inartfully. What he did was correct.

But because of that, the fear that Members of this body have and of the other body of voting one way and then later changing has been magnified. People now pay an unduly high price if they change their mind. So if you go ahead and get a negative vote on the transgender issue today, that will make it harder for us at some point, and I hope that point comes within the next few years, to change things after we have done more education.

If we simply put the bill forward, and these become parliamentary intricacies, but they are irrelevant, if we simply put the bill forward and there was no amendment in the committee and it came to the floor of the House and it included the transgender inclusion, then you would see a series of very clever moves from the Republican side, motions to recommit, that could lead to the indefinite postponement in a repeated set of votes that would keep us from passing this bill.

Now, people have said to me, what's the message you send if you pass the bill banning sexual orientation and not transgender discrimination? Before I answer that question, I want to pose another.

What will be the message to this country who are not following all the intricacies of transgender inclusion? What will be the message that we will send if NANCY PELOSI, as strong an advocate of human rights for all people who has ever held high public office in the United States, if she is portrayed in the headlines as someone who says, I give up, we can't pass the gay rights bill this year.

If, after NANCY PELOSI ascends to the Speakership with her record of advocacy and after many of us, and I include myself in this, who have long been supporters of fairness, if we now are in a position of leadership in this House and we collectively say, sorry, you know that goal that you have had for over 30 years, that we have had, speaking for myself, of banning discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation? You know this message we wanted to send that it's wrong to do that all over the country? Not now, can't do it. Why can't we do it? Because we can't do it perfectly.

Now, the notion that you do not pass an antidiscrimination bill protecting

large numbers of people until you can protect everybody, in my judgment, is flawed, morally and politically. It is flawed morally because I am here to help people in need. That's why I serve in this job.

If we can get a sexual orientation ban enacted, we will be protecting millions of people in this country who live in States where there is no such law. There are laws in some States and not others. The States that have the laws are probably the place where prejudice is most active.

I do not accept the argument that I am somehow morally lacking if I say, you know what, I would like to protect everybody, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, I am only at this point able to get a vote passed that protects the millions of people who are gay, lesbian and bisexual; but I will withhold from them that protection until I do anything. Because any time you insist on doing everything all at once, you will do nothing.

I think my favorite way to look at American history is to look at some of those wonderful principles that were set forth in the Constitution of United States, extraordinary declarations of basic human rights at a time when those were really quite unrealized in the world.

But as people pointed out, Thurgood Marshall most eloquently, there was a great gap between those wonderful universal principles, the rights of all, and the practice. Yes, everybody had rights on the paper, and rich white Christian men had rights in reality.

What we have seen over 200-plus years, in my judgment, is successive efforts to take those marvelous principles of freedom and equality and democracy and fairness that were set forth in the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and apply them to more and more people, to diminish the exclusion. We have done it on race, we have done it on gender, we have done it in a number of other areas.

The last remaining barrier is sexual orientation and people who are transgender. We cannot do it, I believe, all at once. I have tried, and I will say that I have tried as hard, I quoted several statements I made. I will say this as an aside, I will get to this later, that one of the things that does bother me, to be honest, is that people who are now demanding that we kill a bill to protect people against sexual orientation and discrimination because we haven't done enough to protect people of transgender were silent on the issue awhile ago.

When I testified on September 5, I wasn't the head of some large movement. I was speaking out personally. I had been begging people for months. We knew this was coming up. It has been published since earlier this year that we would be voting on this bill now.

People are now having Web sites; people are bursting forward. Where were they when we needed them? I will

talk about why we did not see them then and we see them now.

But the moral issue is, do you deny protection to millions of people because you can't give it to millions plus several hundred thousands? It's not the numbers that counted. More is always better; and, again, the notion that we shouldn't have helped blacks until we could help women, as somebody pointed out in an editorial, I think it was in the Washington Blade, constitutionally black men got the vote long before white women.

Now, I wish everybody had gotten the vote back at that time. There were suffragettes back then, but wouldn't it be fair to say we are not giving anybody the additional right to vote until everybody can? That's the issue. There are people who can test this and say, oh, if you had really tried, you could have gotten the vote.

They are simply wrong. I will tell them that I and many others, Speaker PELOSI and many others, have tried very hard to get those votes. They weren't there.

It's partly because some of the people who are now lately to this fight weren't there helping us through the lobbying. But even if they were, we probably wouldn't be there yet because we have been later to this game, and we have a deeper hole to fill. I believe we will get it done.

Now, there is one argument, let me actually hit two arguments, that people will say as to why we shouldn't go ahead now. One, they say, well, you know what, it's strategic. The President is not going to sign the bill anyway. Why go ahead with sexual orientation now without transgender?

But that argument is not being made honestly, because the argument is not that we shouldn't go ahead and pass the bill that George Bush would veto. The position taken by the various groups that want us to kill the gay rights bill now, because we do not have the votes to include transgender, are people who say to us, never pass the bill, even if you get a Democratic President who would sign it in 2009, and you get a House and Senate majority ready to pass it in early 2009, do not protect millions of people in this country against discrimination based on sexual orientation until you can protect everybody now unprotected.

I don't think that's morally a valid position, but let's be fair. It's not a tactical issue about whether you do it now or then. It's do you ever do it.

One other argument we get is, well, if you pass a sexual orientation, anti-discrimination law, you won't be protecting even gay and lesbian people, because people will then be able to fire gay men on the grounds that they are effeminate, not that they are gay. They will fire lesbians for being too masculine and that will take away the protection.

In fact, many States in this country still have laws that protect only against sexual orientation, including

New York State, which passed it a few years ago with the strong support of many of the people who now tell us that Congress dare not do what New York did. How people think we are going to get more votes, we are going to get more votes for a better bill in America than they got only in New York, I don't understand, if they really think that the United States is a more favorable theater for these kinds of rights than New York.

But I have challenged people to give me one case in which in a State which protects only against sexual orientation, and most States had that originally and it was that way in many States for a while and it's still that way in a lot of other States, is there one case where a person was fired because of her sexual orientation, and that firing was upheld in the teeth of the law that said you couldn't do that because she was too masculine?

□ 2145

There are no such cases.

And I asked Lambda Legal which may decide to give me a case. They have the one case that they allude to. They don't give the citation often because it is so clearly not supportive of that position. It's Dawson against Bumble & Bumble. No, that was not out of Dickens. Dawson against Bumble & Bumble is a case from the State of New York. Its cite is 398 F.3d 211. And what the three-judge panel says here affirming a district court judge is very simple. The woman who brought the claim wasn't able to show that she was discriminated against on any ground. In fact, the argument was, you know, you didn't have transgender protection in the New York State law; that's why she was fired. It was mostly a case about title 7 of the federal law, which doesn't even mention sexual orientation, and much of the case comes up with her trying to get sexual orientation into it. But in fact, as the judges point out, let me read what the three-judge court said, and this is a claim from Lambda Legal, that this shows that you could fire a lesbian on the grounds of her being too mannish because she didn't have gender identity protection. Listen to who fired her. The district court found it to be particularly significant that Connie Voines, the manager of the salon and the individual who ultimately decided to terminate Dawson, is a "presurgery male to female transsexual who, at the time of the events in question, was transitioning from appearing male to appearing female." She was fired by a transsexual. How in the world would having sexual gender identification protection have kept her from being fired by a transsexual? She was fired because she was a lousy haircutter. I don't say that negatively about her. I'd be a pretty lousy haircutter. But that's why she was fired. Dawson's performance was erratic. Sometimes she performed well, other times she did not. Over time, her performance and the

educational program declined until it was unacceptable.

Now, she does say with regard to New York State law, the Federal law doesn't even have sexual orientation in it, so it's totally irrelevant. Under New York State law, which has only sexual orientation, she did say that, yes, it was a problem because a couple of people had made remarks to her about being a dyke. You know what the Court found? That they didn't fire her; that the people who insulted her had no power to fire anybody. She was fired, this woman, in a place that was about 50 percent gay and lesbian, by the way. The notion that this was a pretext for getting rid of gays and lesbians, it was a hair salon. This wasn't the backfield of the New York Jets. It was a place where most, half the people were themselves openly gay and lesbian, and she was fired by a transsexual. And they say that this shows that a sexual orientation law doesn't mean anything.

It's sad to see a legal organization for which I have respect making that kind of an argument because what they're doing is they are loading the gun against us. Because I will tell you this: If in a future case, anybody fired a gay man and said "Well, I didn't fire him because he was gay; I just fired him because he was too effeminate" in a State which had a sexual orientation law, if someone tried to cite this case as an argument for firing that person, Lambda Legal would say "Of course not; you've misread it." Please don't distort the case now for rhetorical purposes when you may be putting this weapon in. Fortunately, this case is so completely off the point, a woman was fired for being a bad haircutter by a transsexual, and we're told, "Oh, if there was only gender identification protection, this wouldn't have happened." That's not good argument. What people really believe is, and it's not tactical. He's not going to sign it. It is not this principle. Do not pass a law that protects some people until you can protect everybody. Now that's a valid argument. I think it is terribly wrong. I also believe, by the way, from the standpoint of protecting people who are transgender, and as I've said I've listed my comments in favor of inclusion of people who are transgendered. I think I've got as good a record on this as others. And by the way, in listing what I've done on behalf of helping transgender people win, I will cite some of the arguments that people have taken issue with because I have told them how hard it's going to be. Yeah. A lot of people have been yes-sing people to death. And a lot of people, both in the gay and lesbian community and the broader advocacy community, and here in the Congress, people don't like to say no to people. You know, we Caucasians get all ethnocentric. We impute to people of Asian descent an unwillingness to be unpleasant face to face. Most people don't like to be unpleasant face to face. Most people tend to shade things. They tend to,

you know, one of the things you learn here if you're in the whip organization, if you're counting, please discount by a very significant percentage what people say to you because that's a natural human tendency.

And I remember once when I was in high school reading, the New York Times had an article about a Member from the Midwest who was very angry at a New York Member of Congress. He said, you know, "You told me you were going to vote with me and you didn't. You broke your word to me." And he said, "What do you mean? I never told you that." And he said, "Well, I asked you if you were going to vote with me and you said, 'Yeah, yeah.'" And the guy said, "Don't you know that in New York 'yeah, yeah' means no?" I mean, often that's where we are. That's the issue.

So again, there is a central issue here. Do you withhold protection from millions of people who live in States where they are now unprotected from discrimination based on sexual orientation? We had the case of a lesbian who was fired by Cracker Barrel who was a lesbian in the State of Georgia. They don't have a law. I think that's the morally flawed position. I reject the notion that when I want to extend protection to millions of people. And I want to go back. Am I protecting myself? Not anymore. Sure, there was a time when I was vulnerable. I'm now chairman of the Financial Services Committee. I really am very unlikely to be discriminated against. This is not a personal thing with me. But I remember what it was like to be young and gay and worried about the job. I know what it's like today when I talk to young people who are afraid, not in Massachusetts, not in California, not in Wisconsin, not in a lot of the States that have the law, but in many States that don't have the law there are people who are afraid. And again, we are being told by a very strongly motivated group, and it's not don't do it now because he's going to veto it. It's not don't do it for tactical reasons. It is very clear in what they say. Never pass a law that will protect people against discrimination because they are gay or lesbian or bisexual in their employment unless you pass a law that covers people who are transgender as well. My view is that we should try very hard to extend it to people who are transgender. I want to do that. But if I can't do everything, I don't want to be told to do nothing, because that is a way never to do anything.

And by the way, even Martin Luther King understood that. In 1964, the Civil Rights Act covers race, but it didn't cover all subjects. It didn't cover housing, didn't cover voting rights. And we've had people who said don't pass ENDA. It doesn't include everything, doesn't include housing, etc., etc. Well, neither did the 1964 Civil Rights Act. When we voted to protect people in the American Disabilities Act, we, in fact, protected people who had AIDS and

people who are HIV positive. But we didn't protect people who weren't. That was a distinction among gay men. If you can show me that by helping some people I am making other people worse, then I won't go forward.

But there's a great concept in economics, there used to be. Maybe they changed it. They changed a lot of things since I studied it. It was called pareto optimality. Pareto Optimality meant, named for the sociologist Vilfredo Pareto, pareto optimality recognized, being sensible people, that you can never make everything better at once. Pareto optimality is if you make some things better and nothing worse. And that, by the way, is considered an unattainable ideal in economics. To be able to make some things better and nothing worse is unattainable. To make everything better and leave nothing behind is unthinkable. It's beyond unattainable. And I think we are at pareto optimality when we say to millions of gay men and lesbians, blue-collar workers, young people, other people who live in the majority of American States where they're not now protected against discrimination, we will protect you. And I wish we could protect people who're transgender.

And by the way, from my standpoint, there are three options now. We could go forward with the bill that included people with transgender. That would lose. I am convinced it would lose. We've looked and worked hard on this. And I'm someone who's been an advocate. The Speaker's been an advocate. Chairman MILLER, the gentleman from California, the Chair of the Committee on Education and Labor, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), advocates who said they were trying. We don't have the votes for it. It is not, in my judgment, in the interest of succeeding ultimately and including people who are transgender in this protection to have them lose by 50 or 60 votes today. And I started to say this before. What will happen is this: They will lose. We know that. And once they've lost, people who were ready to support them will say, you know what, they're losing anyway. I think I'd better not vote for them, because what's the point of taking a hit when it's not going to be of any use.

So we could go forward with the vote and have them lose and maybe lose the whole bill because of procedural maneuvering, or we could let the whole bill die and people say what message are you sending the country if you protect against sexual orientation and not transgender? Well, my view is the message we are sending is we are at a point in our fight against prejudice where we have made these gains but not those gains, and we will consolidate the gains we made and move forward.

And the alternative is, the Democrats took over the House and they have the Speaker from San Francisco and they've got a chairman who's gay and they've got all these other people

who tell gay and lesbian people they're friends, and they couldn't even pass a bill to protect people. What message does that send to gay and lesbian people in all those States who are not now protected? So I think we should go forward. Do the best we can.

Now, I said we're going to lose. I hope I'm wrong. After we did our count and found that we didn't have the votes, all of a sudden, the cavalry mounted up. But they're coming from a long distance. I have been pleading with people in the gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgender communities to lobby for us. Instead, they want to strategize, many of them. Some, no. Some have done a very good job. But many of them weren't there. And now they have announced, in the last couple of weeks, and they asked for a postponement. The Speaker correctly said sure, take a couple of weeks. It's hard to do that in a couple of weeks. Maybe they can turn it around. I will say this, Mr. Speaker, if at some point it looks like our count is turned around, I don't expect it to, but I hope it does, and we have the votes to include transgender, I'll be for that vote being taken. But I doubt very much that people will be able to undo months and years of inaction and of talking only to each other and not doing the hard lobbying within a couple of weeks.

So I will say this. If a week from now we've reached a point after this delay that was granted to advocacy groups where we have, as we did before, have the votes to protect millions of currently unprotected people against a form of job discrimination, but not everybody who's being discriminated against, then I say it's immoral not to go forward. And again, I understand that we may not get the bill passed this year. But I understand also that what we're debating this year is a proxy for when we do have the votes to get this passed, because we will be told whenever we are in this situation, and I don't think we're going to turn this around in a year. I wish we could. But if we have a President ready to sign the bill and a majority ready to pass it, we will again be told, no, you may not. You may not protect millions of people against discrimination because they're gay or lesbian or bisexual until you can also protect people with transgender. I have to say to my transgender friends, why would you want to say that? Why would you want to say until you can protect me, don't protect anybody else? I've never said that. I never said don't protect people against racism until you can protect me against homophobia. Don't protect some people against ethnic discrimination until you can protect other people because they're lesbians. That's just not the way we'll get there. We have got to get there working together.

And in fact, the best way to improve is this, there are irrational fears about what will happen if we pass a bill protecting against sexual orientation. You know what's odd? There are people who

think the real fight in this world is whether or not we can include transgender. They kind of take for granted that we can pass sexual orientation. The fact that we are on the verge of passing a bill to protect people against discrimination based on sexual orientation is a wonderful breakthrough in this country. We've been fighting for it for over 30 years. A year ago, when we were trying to fend off a right-wing effort to ban same-sex marriage in Massachusetts and retroactively cancel the marriages of thousands of people, I don't think people were confident that we would be on the verge of passing a sexual orientation antidiscrimination bill. That's a wonderful moment as we make advance after advance in civil rights. And I will not allow people without my dissenting to turn that great breakthrough into some mark of weakness.

It's a great thing to be able to go forward, and it's also the prerequisite for going even beyond that, because if we are able to establish in 2009 anti-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation, within a year we will have alleviated many of the fears. We always have excessive fears about antidiscrimination. People always think antidiscrimination measures will cause chaos when they don't. And once we have done that, it will be easier to add people who are transgender rather than to say we're never going to do anything until we can do everything. That is not the way legislation has ever worked. That is not the way social advance has ever worked.

Now the question then is, and I think this is worth pondering in my closing minutes here. How did we get to the point, we certainly weren't there a year ago, where an announcement by a Speaker who has spent so much of her life fighting against prejudice, her announcement that she will bring to the floor a bill in which we will get a majority in the United States House of Representatives which would ban in the entire country discrimination based on sexual orientation, how did that get transmogrified in the minds of I believe only a few people, but a few very vigorous people? How did that become a bad thing? How did one of the great advances in civil rights protection since the Civil Rights Act of 1964 get labeled as somehow a sellout? And here's the problem. And it is a problem both parties face, and in some ways, this issue, do we go forward with a bill achieving a decades-long goal of for the first time getting either House to vote to ban sexual orientation discrimination, something gay and lesbian people have been fighting for a long time? And I do suspect there are some people who it's precisely because we're on the verge of victory that they decided they better not think it's such a good idea, because they are vested in the notion that we'll never win and that we must always be fighting.

□ 2200

But how do we reach the point where this is a negative in the minds of some? Well, here is the problem, and it is a problem, as I said, for both parties. It is how do you relate, those of us who hold positions of responsibility who have been elected by broad majorities and given a responsibility to govern, to govern in pursuit of our values? I'm not here as some neutral administrator. I am here because I have a set of values. I have a set of views about what I want this society to look like. And I'm here to try to move this society in that direction. And I do that as part of a broad coalition, and included in that coalition are some people who are fiercely motivated.

Now, this is the issue: Does a political party say to its most militant, committed, ideologically driven believers in purity that they have a veto over what the party does? And I say that procedurally because substantively I agree with them. I have spoken on this floor and in committee for including people of transgender. I have argued that with my colleagues in private. I have argued that with the Democratic Caucus. But I also believe that I have a broader set of responsibilities than to any one group and my job is to advance the moral values that I came here to advance as far and as fast as I can and not voluntarily to withhold an advance because it doesn't meet somebody's view of perfection. And the question is, how do we relate to those people? And it has become an increasing problem for both parties.

Frankly, until recently I have felt that one of the advantages we Democrats have had over our Republican colleagues is that we were more willing to be responsible, less susceptible to the most committed minority of our party having a veto. I think from the days of Terri Schiavo and before and since, the Republican Party has suffered from that. I don't want the Democratic Party to suffer from it. Not because I want to protect the Democratic Party as an end in itself, but because the Democratic Party is the means by which these values I care about are most likely to be advanced.

And let me talk about this ideological faction that we have. There are some characteristics that they have that I think led them to this profoundly mistaken view that the greatest single advance we can make in civil rights in many, many years would somehow be a bad thing because it would only include millions of people and leave some hundreds of thousands out. And I want to include those hundreds of thousands. I have done more to try to include them than many of the people who say we should kill the whole thing, but I don't understand how killing the whole thing advances that.

But here are some of the characteristics: first of all, they tend to talk excessively to each other. One of the things when you are in this body is you

talk to people all over the country. You talk to Members of Congress from every State. And I have this with people who can't understand why I am not introducing legislation to impeach the President and the Vice President, and I find that this is a characteristic that these are people who do not know what the majority thinks, who do not understand the depths of disagreement with their positions on some issues. And that doesn't mean a majority that says George Bush is wonderful. That isn't there anymore, but a majority who would be skeptical of impeachment.

But let me get back to this. There are people who talk excessively to each other. They don't know people of other views.

There is another characteristic of these people who are so dedicated. They do not have allies. You can take an elected official who has been with one of these groups day after day for years, but let that individual once disagree, and it's a betrayal. It's a failure of moral will. And lest anyone think I am here being defensive about myself, let me be very clear: I will be running for reelection again. The likelihood that I will be defeated by someone who claims that I am insufficiently dedicated to protecting people from discrimination based on sexual orientation seems to me quite slender. I am not worried about my own situation, and let me also say that I have said that my colleagues suffer sometimes from the unwillingness to tell people bad news. It has been suggested that I may suffer from the opposite direction. It's not that I like telling people bad news, but I do think that you should when you have to.

I am not worried about myself, but here is what I'm worried about: I am worried about people from more vulnerable districts because not only do people talk only to themselves and not understand the differences that exist and not accept anybody's bona fides ever, that they will turn on anybody the first time there is an honest disagreement, but there is also the single-issue nature. That is, there are people who say, okay, you know what, I don't care about your survival to fight for any other issue.

Let me put it this way: there are people who say to me, wait a minute, when you say you don't want to take a vote on transgender because it might lose and it would be politically difficult, you are letting politics enter into it. Let me make a very blanket statement here in the first place for those who want to live in America or France or England or anywhere else. If you want a decision to be made without any regard to politics, do not ask 535 politicians to make it. That's called democracy when you like it; it's called politics when you don't.

But here is the issue: there are people in this Chamber who come from districts much tougher to win in than mine, districts which I could never have won. And I treasure their being

here because they help us on the children's health program, on raising the minimum wage, on defending civil liberties and fighting racism, and, hopefully, in getting us out of the war in Iraq. Yes, I do take into account the likelihood that my colleagues with whom I agree on so many issues might be jeopardized in a fight that we are going to lose anyway.

And, by the way, I say to my gay and lesbian friends, there are people here who voted with us against a constitutional amendment that would have retroactively wiped out marriages in Massachusetts. They are ready to vote with us to get rid of the ban on gays in the military when we get a President who will sign that. They voted with us on hate crimes. They are ready to vote with us to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, which we have cared about for so long. They are ready to do other things that will be helpful to us.

I will not abide by people telling me that I have to totally disregard my interest in their continuing to be here on every single issue, and that's the problem with the single issue. You are willing to disregard progress on any other issue. So to demand 100 percent on the one issue and to scorn people giving 90 percent and to say I don't care whether they win or lose when they are with us on so many other issues, that is irresponsibility.

And I say this is a moment of truth for the Democratic Party. I wish it weren't the case. I apologize to my colleagues. It is awkward for me here. I have been pressing people for years. And, again, I want to stress a bill that bans discrimination and employment based on sexual orientation will be, I believe, the biggest single advance in fighting prejudice in many years, certainly since the American Disabilities Act; maybe since, in numbers, the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And I know that is a tough vote for some people to cast. And I have got people saying, I don't care if it's a tough vote to cast. If they are not also willing to do it for transgender, then they are my enemy and I don't want it to go forward.

I am sure of this, Mr. Speaker: I have been here 27 years, and the longer I get here, the less I know about everything else than what is here. My mind is not expansive enough to do much when the day is over. So I think I know a lot about this place and increasingly little about everything else. What I am sure about this place is this: if we listen to the most dedicated, most zealous believers in purity and kill this bill that would be such a great advance in civil rights, we will be a long time in getting back to anything. People who think that if they are successful in killing this one and in attacking people and demonizing people who want to deliver, as part of a movement, this big advance that they will then be able to get more than that live in Oz, in not only a fantasy world but a nonexistent fantasy world and a dream. It simply will not happen.

Let me close, Mr. Speaker. I am a great believer in free speech. I often am one of only two or three Members voting against telling people they can't read this or say that or look at such and such on the Internet. If I was inclined to ban forms of expression, it wouldn't have much to do with sex. I would make it a misdemeanor to use pragmatism and idealism as if they were opposing views. And that's what we have here. People say, well, you're going to be pragmatic and pass a bill that protects millions of people against discrimination based on sexual orientation, but, me, I am an idealist. I am for no bill at all because if I can't protect everybody, I don't want to protect anybody.

Let me put it to you this way, Mr. Speaker: of course you should start with ideals. You don't belong in this line of work making rules that other people have to abide by unless you are motivated by a genuine idealism about how the world should be. But the more committed you are to your ideals, the more you are morally obligated to be pragmatic about achieving them. What good are your ideals if they're never achieved and all they do is make you feel pure?

If we kill the gay rights bill this year and set back for some time to come the possibility of going after any of these forms of discrimination, there will be people who will be very proud of themselves. See, I didn't let those politicians compromise. I didn't let those politicians settle not for half a loaf but for about 85, 90 percent of a loaf. I insisted on absolute solidarity and absolute purity, and I feel much better about it.

And they probably will. But millions of people will be worse off because they will have been denied by this preference for purity a real legal protection.

Mr. Speaker, I filed a bill in 1972, in December, and my former colleague Jim Segel here who was with me as one of the few supporters of that, and we pushed for that. My colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), was one as well. We pushed for that. For 35 years I have been trying very hard to protect people against discrimination, and the people who are the victims of discrimination, they tend to be the most vulnerable people in places where there is the most hostility. And we are on the verge of winning in the House of Representatives an extraordinary historic victory, the passage of a bill banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. And people say don't do that because you can't protect everybody.

I should add, Mr. Speaker, I talk a lot to gay people, gay men and lesbians. I find the view that we should not do anything until we can do everything very much in the minority. I understand the passion of those who are in organizational positions. But, you know, we talk about politics here. There are politics in organizations too.

There are people who I have privately discussed this with who have said, yes, we wish you would go ahead, but I can't say that. I can't stand up against this organizational consensus.

Well, idealism by itself is going to be pretty fruitless, and idealism that is empowered by pragmatism is the way in which we make progress, and that is what we are called upon to do here. And so I am asking my colleagues, Democratic and Republican because there is bipartisan support for this, please do not be dissuaded by those who say do nothing until you can do everything. Look at the history of civil rights. Look at the fact that we helped one group here, we dealt with a certain form of discrimination there.

Even here, by the way, we are talking about employment discrimination. We are not talking about marriage here. There was an effort to try to put civil unions and partner benefits in the bill. It was a mistake. We'd get rid of it or it would kill the whole bill.

I do not believe that the majority of gay men and lesbians in this country want to take the position that nothing shall be done to enhance legal protection against the prejudice from which they suffer until we can do the job perfectly. I also believe that from the standpoint of including people who are transgender, for which I have and will continue to work, we will not accomplish that nearly as quickly. Maybe in 50 years it will all get done. I'll be dead; so tell me anything. I won't be able to argue with you.

But in the interim, we will get there much more quickly if we continue to follow the sensible strategy of working with allies, of accepting support that is overwhelming but not complete, of understanding political reality, of moving forward, of alleviating some fears by taking some partial steps. We are a lot likelier to get there.

So we have two choices today: we can say until we are able to do everything, we are going to abandon this effort; and I believe the consequences of that will be profoundly negative for any effort to revive this. People will say, wait a minute, those are the people who tell me not to do that. God knows what they're going to ask me for the next time. For 30 years they told me they wanted this. Now when I want to give them this, no, that's not good enough. They want that. I can't go through this again.

□ 2215

Or, we can take one of the biggest steps forward in the anti-discrimination march, in the march to make the American Constitution's wonderful principles fully applicable with everybody, we can take a major step forward on that issue. And having done that, we will be, in my judgment, better able to take the next step. That is the choice. And I hope, both for the substance, and for giving people a lesson in responsible governance in defense and in advancement of our values, my col-

leagues, especially on this side, but in the whole House, will opt for sensible and real progress that serves the interests of the majority and rejects the counsel of those who say that, absent perfection, we should leave everything as it was.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BEAN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and October 10.

Ms. BORDALLO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 3 p.m. on October 10 on account of official business in the district.

Mr. HODES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel problems.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and October 10 on account of a family emergency.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and October 10 on account of illness.

Mr. REICHERT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and October 10 on account of personal reasons.

Mr. WAMP (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family commitment.

Mr. GINGREY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family health reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. FOX) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, October 15 and 16.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and October 10.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, October 15 and 16.

Ms. FOX, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KAGEN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Resolution 717, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 10, 2007, at 10 a.m., as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the second and third quarters of 2007, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, KENNETH A. KRAFT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 8 AND AUG. 10, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kenneth A. Kraft	8/7	8/10	France		1,367.00						1,367.00
Committee total					1,367.00						1,367.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KENNETH A. KRAFT, Sept. 18, 2007.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARIAN ASSEMBLY SPRING MEETING IN MADEIRA, PORTUGAL; FOLLOWED BY BILATERAL MEETINGS IN LISBON, PORTUGAL, TUNIS, TUNISIA, AND RABAT, MOROCCO, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED MAY 24 AND JUNE 3, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John Tanner	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Paul Gillmor	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. John Boozman	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Ben Chandler	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	5/28	5/30	Portugal		304.00		³ 3,517.61				4,713.51
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/7	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Baron Hill	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Kendrick Meek	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		³ 3,665.08				4,481.08
	5/30	5/31	Tunisia		149.00		³ 3,665.08				
Hon. Charlie Melancon	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Dennis Moore	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Ralph Regula	5/25	5/27	Portugal		242.00		³ 4,475.91				4,717.91
Hon. John Shimkus	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Thomas Tancredo	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		³ 4,853.87				5,520.87
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		³ 4,754.00				5,421.00
Hon. Melissa Adamson	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Kathy Becker	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Hon. Paul Gallis	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Gene Gurevich	5/25	5/30	Portugal		515.00		³ 5,159.38				5,674.38
Marilyn Owen	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Patrick Stephenson	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Mark Wellman	5/25	5/30	Portugal		667.00		(³)				1,558.90
	5/30	6/1	Tunisia		298.00		(³)				
	6/1	6/3	Morocco		593.90		(³)				
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational Functions									13,426.42		13,426.42
Miscellaneous									362.00		362.00
Committee total					25,927.50		26,425.85		13,788.42		66,141.77

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

JOHN S. TANNER, Chairman, Sept. 21, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO EGYPT, LEBANON, ISRAEL, LIBERIA AND SENEGAL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 25 AND JUNE 3, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. David Price	5/25	5/30	Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Liberia		2,331.00		9,551.00				11,882.00
Hon. Nick Rahall	5/25	5/30	Egypt, Lebanon		683.00		2,871.00				3,554.00
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	5/25	6/3	Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Liberia		2,331.00		9,551.00				11,882.00
Hon. Gwen Moore	5/25	6/3	Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Liberia		2,331.00		9,259.00				11,590.00
John Lis	5/25	6/3	Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Liberia		2,331.00		9,551.00				11,882.00
Tommy Ross	5/25	6/3	Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Liberia		2,331.00		9,551.00				11,882.00
Rachael Leman	5/25	6/3	Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Liberia		2,331.00		9,551.00				11,882.00
	5/26	5/28	Egypt						954.00		954.00
	5/28	5/29	Lebanon						10,768.00		10,768.00
	5/29	5/31	Israel						2,125.00		2,125.00
	5/31	6/2	Liberia						7,275.00		7,275.00
	6/2	6/3	Senegal				708.00		1,708.00		2,416.00
Committee total					14,669.00		60,593.00		22,830.00		98,092.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DAVID E. PRICE, Chairman, Sept. 13, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO MONGOLIA, INDONESIA, PAPUA, NEW GUINEA, AND FUJI, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 29 AND JULY 10, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Donald Payne	7/1	7/9	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
Hon. David Dreier	7/1	7/9	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
Hon. James Moran	7/1	7/9	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
Hon. Jeff Miller	7/1	7/9	Mongolia		545.00		5,991.00				6,536.00
Hon. Mazie Hirono	7/4	7/9	Mongolia		545.00		4,089.00				4,634.00
John Lis	7/1	7/4	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
Tommy Ross	7/1	7/4	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
Rachael Leman	7/1	7/9	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
Brad Smith	7/1	7/9	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
Jon Stivers	7/1	7/9	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
Nkechi Mbanu	7/1	7/9	Mongolia, Indonesia, PN		1,442.00						1,442.00
	7/1	7/9	Mongolia						8,692.00		8,692.00
	7/4	7/4	Indonesia						18,583.00		18,583.00
	7/7	7/8	Papua New Guinea						3,977.00		3,977.00
	7/8	7/9	Fiji						19,623.00		19,623.00
Committee total					14,068.00		10,080.00		50,875.00		75,023.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DONALD M. PAYNE, Chairman, Sept. 25, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ICELAND, UKRAINE, AND THE NETHERLANDS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 19 AND AUG. 26, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. James E. Clyburn	8/19	8/21	Iceland		1,128.00		(³)				1,128.00
Hon. James E. Clyburn	8/21	8/23	Ukraine		692.00		(³)				692.00
Hon. James E. Clyburn	8/23	8/26	Netherlands		1,251.00		(³)				1,251.00
Committee total											3,071.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JAMES E. CLYBURN, Chairman, Sept. 26, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO MEXICO AND COLOMBIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 20 AND AUG. 23, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Roy Blunt	8/20	8/21	Mexico		145.00		1,507.10		155.00		1,807.10
Brian Diffell	8/20	8/21	Mexico		145.00		1,507.10		155.00		1,807.10
Hon. Roy Blunt	8/21	8/23	Columbia		750.00		1,507.10				2,257.10
Brian Diffell	8/21	8/23	Columbia		750.00		1,507.10				2,257.10
Committee total					1,790.00		86,048.40		8,310.00		8,148.40

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROY BLUNT, Chairman, Sept. 24, 2007.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Jean Schmidt	5/27	5/29	Kuwait		371.00						371.00
Hon. Jean Schmidt	5/29	5/31	Pakistan		578.00						578.00
Hon. Jean Schmidt	5/31	5/31	Iraq								
Hon. Jean Schmidt	5/31	6/1	Afghanistan		25.00		9,055.53				9,080.53
Hon. Jean Schmidt	6/1	6/3	Panama		598.00						598.00
Hon. Jean Schmidt	6/3	6/5	Colombia		512.00		2,004.76				2,516.76
Hon. Earl Pomeroy	6/6	6/11	Mali		757.00		9,201.47				9,958.47
Committee total					2,841.00		20,261.76				23,102.76

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

COLLIN C. PETERSON, Chairman, Aug. 24, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Donna Christensen ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Henry Cuellar ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Al Green ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Dan Lungren ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Bill Pascrell ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Mike Rogers ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Bennie G. Thompson ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Mandy Bowers ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Todd Gee ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Denise Krepp ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Todd Levett ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Robert O'Connor ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Alison Rosso ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Michael Russell ⁴	4/10	4/11	Mexico		295.00		(³)		50.00		345.00
	4/11	4/12	Honduras		173.00		(³)		50.00		223.00
	4/12	4/12	BVI				60.00				60.00
Hon. Yvette Clarke	4/13	4/15	Grenada		832.00		(³)				832.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	5/26	5/29	Italy		717.00		8,751.22				9,468.22
	5/30	5/31	UK		544.00						544.00
Committee total					9,581.00		9,711.22				20,892.22

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.⁴ Please note that the \$50 other expenditure had not been authorized by the Committee but was instead a clerical error resolved at the State Department.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, Chairman, Sept. 24, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 19 AND JULY 23, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Kevin W. Fitzpatrick	7/20	7/20	Serbia		914.00						914.00
			Bosnia		417.58						417.58
			Croatia		81.63						81.63
Committee Total									3 — 414.79		1,413.21

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Unused (Returned).

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman, Aug. 27, 2007.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3656. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Quinclorac; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0191; FRL-8149-5] received September 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3657. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pendimethalin; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0106; FRL-8147-8] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3658. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticide Tolerance Nomenclature Changes; Technical Amendment [EPA-HQ-OPP-2002-0043; FRL-8126-5] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3659. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Amitraz; Atrazone; Ethephon, Ferbam, Lindane, Propachlor, and Simazine; Tolerance Actions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0187; FRL-8147-5] received September 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3660. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chloroneb, Cypermethrin, Methidathion, Nitrpyrin, Oxyfluorene, Pirimiphos-methyl, Sulfosate, Tebuthiuron, Thiabendazole, Thidiazuron, and Tribuphos; Tolerance Actions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0036; FRL-81432] received September 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3661. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Desmedipham; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0297; FRL-8146-8] received September 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3662. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0539; FRL-8147-3] received September 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3663. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of the Deferred Effective Date for 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the Denver Early Action Compact [EPA-HQ-OPP-2003-0090; FRL-8469-8] (RIN: 2060-AO05) received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3664. 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; Delaware; Amendments to the Open Burning Regulation [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0450 FRL-8469-4] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3665. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Priorities List [EPA-HQ-SFUND-2007-0072] (RIN: 2050-AD75) received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3666. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Polychlorinated Biphenyls; Manufacturing (Import) Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2005-0042; FRL-8143-4] (RIN: 2070-AB20) received September 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3667. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2006-0898; FRL-8135-8] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received September 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3668. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Requirements for Expanded Definition of Byproduct Material (RIN: 3150-AH84) received September 28, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3669. A letter from the Chief Acquisition Officer, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 20075-017, Requirement to Purchase Approved Authentication Products and Services [FAC 2005-19; FAR Case 2005-017; Item IV; Docket 2006-0020; Sequence 6] (RIN: 9000-AK53) received September 25, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3670. A letter from the Chief Acquisition Officer, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2005-012, Combating Trafficking in Persons (Revised Interim Rule) [FAC 2005-19; FAR Case 2005-012; Item V; Docket 2006-0020; Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AK31) received September 25, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3671. A letter from the Chief Acquisition Officer, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2005-038, Emergency Acquisitions [FAC 2005-19; FAR Case 2005-038; Item VI; Docket 2006-0020; Sequence 5] (RIN: 9000-AK50) received September 25, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3672. A letter from the Chief Acquisition Officer, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2004-017, Small Business Credit for Alaska Native Corporations and Indian Tribes [FAC 2005-19; FAR Case 2004-017; Item VII; Docket 2007-001; Sequence 6] (RIN: 9000-AK18) received September 25, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3673. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of Nonessential Experimental Population Status for 15 Freshwater Mussels, 1 Freshwater Snail, and 5 Fishes in the Lower French Broad River and in the Lower Holston River, Tennessee (RIN: 1018-AU01) received September 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

REPORTS ON COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2474. A bill to provide for an increased maximum civil penalty for violations under the Consumer Product Safety Act; with an amendment (Rept. 110-364). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1721. 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; with an amendment (Rept. 110-365). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1699. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to require certain manufacturers to provide consumer product registration forms to facilitate recalls of durable infant and toddler products; with an amendment (Rept. 110-366). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 814. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations mandating child-resistant closures on all portable gasoline containers; with an amendment (Rept. 110-367). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CARDOZA: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 719. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3056) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the authority of the Internal Revenue Service to use private debt collection companies, to delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, to revise the tax rules on expatriation, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-368). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. CASTOR: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 720. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2895) to establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families (Rept. 110-369). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. REYES, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. HOOLEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ):

H.R. 3773. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. GONZALEZ):

H.R. 3774. A bill to provide for greater diversity within, and to improve policy direction and oversight of, the Senior Executive Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LAMPSON:

H.R. 3775. A bill to support research and development of new industrial processes and technologies that optimize energy efficiency and environmental performance, utilize diverse sources of energy, and increase economic competitiveness; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. GORDON:

H.R. 3776. A bill to provide for a research, development, and demonstration program by the Secretary of Energy to support the ability of the United States to remain globally competitive in energy storage systems for vehicles, stationary applications, and electricity transmission and distribution; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Ms. BEAN (for herself and Mr. NEUGEBAUER):

H.R. 3777. A bill to temporarily raise the portfolio caps applicable to Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, to provide the necessary financing to curb foreclosures by facilitating the refinancing of at-risk subprime borrowers into safe, prime loans, to preserve liquidity in the mortgage lending markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 3778. A bill to authorize bankruptcy courts to take certain actions with respect to mortgage loans in bankruptcy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 3779. A bill to require the Architect of the Capitol to permit the acknowledgment of God on flag certificates; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. MCHUGH):

H.R. 3780. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require a State to charge in-State tuition rates to active-duty members of the Armed Forces domiciled or stationed on active duty in that State and to the dependents of such members; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HILL (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HULSHOF, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 3781. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to promote and assure the quality of biodiesel fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 3782. A bill to reiterate the exclusivity of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 as the sole authority to permit the conduct of electronic surveillance, to modernize surveillance authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 3783. A bill to direct the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to revise the Federal regulations applicable to the declaration of the trans fat content of a food on the label and in the labeling of the food when such content is less than 0.5 gram; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 3784. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the quality of care in skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare Program through requiring the reporting of expenditures for nursing; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana):

H.R. 3785. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from individual retirement plans for adoption expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. BERRY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 3786. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to allow individuals called to military service to terminate telecommunications contracts entered into before the individual receives notice of a permanent change of station or deployment orders; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCHUGH (for himself and Mr. ARCURI):

H.R. 3787. A bill to require that the Secretary of the Interior hold at least one public hearing in the surrounding community where land requested to be taken into trust for an Indian tribe is located in order to ascertain the needs and interests of that surrounding community; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 3788. A bill to ensure that no Federal law shall prevent the Tuscarora Nation of Indians of the Carolinas from seeking Federal recognition as an Indian tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POE:

H.R. 3789. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain disclosures of cell phone numbers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. FARR, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina):

H. Con. Res. 229. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should seek a review of compliance by all nations with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna and other species, and should pursue strengthened conservation and management measures to facilitate the recovery of the Atlantic bluefin tuna, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. WU, Mr. GINGREY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. HALL of Texas):

H. Res. 716. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect raising aware-

ness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. WOLF:

H. Res. 717. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of the Honorable Jo Ann Davis, a Representative of the Commonwealth of Virginia; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H. Res. 718. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Week, recognizing the importance to the United States of residents of long-term care facilities, including senior citizens and individuals living with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BACA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WU):

H. Res. 721. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Mendez v. Westminster decision which ended segregation of Mexican and Mexican American students in California schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. KANJORSKI introduced a bill (H.R. 3790) for the relief of Charmaine Bieda; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 25: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 138: Mr. HALL of Texas and Mr. WEST-MORELAND.

H.R. 154: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 507: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 522: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 676: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 721: Mr. SULLIVAN.

H.R. 729: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 758: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. WALSH of New York.

H.R. 871: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 891: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1023: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CANTOR, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 1076: Mr. DEAL of Georgia and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 1077: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 1110: Mr. MANZULLO and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

H.R. 1134: Mr. KLEIN of Florida and Mr. WALSH of New York.

H.R. 1188: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1222: Mr. PICKERING.

H.R. 1223: Mr. PICKERING.

H.R. 1248: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 1261: Mr. SULLIVAN.

H.R. 1267: Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 1293: Mr. UPTON and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 1346: Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 1357: Mr. WEINER and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1394: Mr. JINDAL.
H.R. 1439: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1474: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BUYER, Mr. KUHL of New York, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1524: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 1537: Ms. CLARKE and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1539: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
H.R. 1540: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 1589: Mr. HOLT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 1596: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 1609: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BACA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DICKS, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1621: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 1721: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 1738: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 1783: Mr. KIRK and Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 1843: Mr. HODES.
H.R. 1921: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 1927: Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1971: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1983: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 2160: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2169: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 2188: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2262: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2266: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2303: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2332: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2353: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H.R. 2376: Mr. FORBES and Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 2406: Mr. GINGREY and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2464: Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2510: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 2677: Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 2758: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2820: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2827: Mr. SPACE, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 2878: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 2915: Mr. RUSH, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. FILNER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FARR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2930: Mr. BACA.
H.R. 2942: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. WALSH of New York, and Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 3005: Mr. McNULTY and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 3033: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3058: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 3099: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3115: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3140: Mr. JINDAL, Mr. HOLDEN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 3175: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 3189: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3251: Mr. HOEKSTRA.
H.R. 3327: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 3330: Mr. SPACE.
H.R. 3339: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. McCOTTER.
H.R. 3357: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3378: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 3393: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3397: Mr. STARK, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3404: Mr. HOLDEN and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 3414: Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3416: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3429: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 3448: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3452: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 3457: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BEAN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3480: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 3494: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 3512: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 3533: Mrs. JONES of Ohio and Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 3543: Mr. SIREs.
H.R. 3544: Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 3558: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 3585: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3605: Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 3630: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 3639: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3650: Mr. SEXTON, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 3652: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3654: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 3662: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 3757: Mr. EMANUEL.
H. Con. Res. 122: Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HALL of New York, and Mr. MURTHA.
H. Con. Res. 218: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, and Mr. TANCREDO.
H. Con. Res. 223: Mr. KILDEE.
H. Con. Res. 224: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.
H. Res. 111: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Ms. HOOLEY, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Res. 231: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
H. Res. 237: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. HOOLEY, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H. Res. 245: Mr. HONDA, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr.

GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Ms. CLARKE.
H. Res. 282: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. PETRI.
H. Res. 310: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Res. 356: Mr. HODES, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.
H. Res. 448: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. WEINER, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. COSTA.
H. Res. 499: Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. LINDER.
H. Res. 542: Mr. CARTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HAYES, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. SAXTON.
H. Res. 556: Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. SKELTON, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. FORTUÑO.
H. Res. 573: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. DELAULO.
H. Res. 576: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H. Res. 618: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. WEXLER.
H. Res. 620: Mr. WEINER, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 684: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 689: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H. Res. 693: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. Berry, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HARE, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REGULA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H. Res. 700: Mr. MELANCON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. GORDON.
H. Res. 709: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. PAUL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. LAMPSON, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative Frank of Massachusetts, or a designee, to H.R. 2895, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H. Res. 106: Mr. CUELLAR.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING AARON PAUL
GOTZON FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Paul Gotzon, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Paul Gotzon for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF MELVIN BELL LANE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable citizen, Mr. Melvin Bell Lane, who passed away in July at the age of 85. Mel and his brother Bill helped define Western living with their publications "Sunset" magazine and Sunset books. Mel was also well known as a philanthropist and was one of California's most prominent conservation leaders.

Mel Lane was born in Iowa, where his father sold advertising for "Better Homes and Gardens" magazine. When Mel was 6 years old, his family moved to California, where his father bought the 30-year-old "Sunset" magazine. It was then the on-board tourist magazine for the Southern Pacific Railroad's Sunset Limited.

During World War II, Mel and Bill both served in the Navy. After the war, the brothers went to work for the magazine, eventually becoming co-owners. Under their direction, "Sunset" magazine and its books on food, gardening, travel, and do-it-yourself became standards of the industry. It was said that "Sunset's Western Garden Book" was the most revered of its many publications, with well-thumbed copies found in nearly every nursery in the State.

In 1965, California Governor Pat Brown appointed Mel to be the first chairman of the newly created San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. This agency was successful in stopping developers from filling in the bay and paving over the wet-

lands. Later, Governor Ronald Reagan named him to be the first chairman of the California Coastal Commission, and Governor Jerry Brown re-appointed him. His attitude was that a healthy environment was crucial to a healthy economy. "As soon as business tightens up, not only do we drop environmental controls but as a shot to the economy we drill for more oil and cut down trees," he said. "These are a rip-off of the environment that can't be done indefinitely, so it's poor business."

When Ronald Reagan was elected President, he asked Mel to come to Washington to direct the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but Mel was not one who enjoyed being in the public eye, and he declined. Mel also co-founded the Peninsula Open Space Trust, preserving nearly 60,000 acres to expand State and local parks.

Mel graduated from Stanford University in 1944, and as a trustee from 1981 to 1991, he was a strong supporter of the humanities and creative writing, and of course for environmental research and teaching. Following the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, he worked to restore the damage that had been done to the campus, especially to the Memorial Church.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Joan Fletcher Lane; daughters Whitney Miller and Julie Lane Gay; his brother, L.W. "Bill" Lane; and four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I had the great pleasure of knowing Melvin Lane when he and my father worked together on the California Coastal Commission. He was a smart businessman, a dedicated environmentalist, well known yet humble; a man who always said "Make my speech shorter." He had that unique ability to inspire confidence and loyalty from people with opposite points of view. He will be sorely missed.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM
BRUCE ORR

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to William Bruce Orr, who recently accomplished the highest rank in Boy Scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout on October 14, 2007. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 142, Mannhoac District, located in Leetown, West Virginia.

William helped improve one of America's recreational treasures, the Appalachian Trail. He constructed a tent pad along the trail at the Rod Hollow site in northern Virginia. He and others carried lumber and tools from the base of the trail to the top of the mountain where the site is located. His tent pad structure will provide hikers with shelter for years to come.

Jeremiah was home schooled in Jefferson County and was a 2007 recipient of the Promise Scholarship. He is currently a freshman at Shepherd University.

I am proud to recognize William Bruce Orr for achieving the high honor of the Eagle Scout. Jefferson County and the State of West Virginia are fortunate to have him as a leader and a volunteer in his community.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIDE—PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN A DESIRABLE ENVIRONMENT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, the Appalachian Mountains, the Cumberland Lake and River, and red bud trees are just some of the natural assets that make southern and eastern Kentucky one of the most special places in the world. For many years, however, people who visited here could not say it was very special because what they saw were dumps, trash, litter, and filthy water.

These problems, which emerged over decades, were largely due to inadequate infrastructure for handling ever-growing amounts of solid waste and wastewater. And we had to do something about this problem, or else there would be no hope of ever having a clean environment or growing the economy.

In the summer of 1997, the region's elected officials gathered to face these problems including a key State official—the late General James E. Bickford, the former secretary of Kentucky's environmental department. They presented a battle plan for declaring "war against pollution" in the region. Their vision was to encourage citizens to take responsibility for protecting their environment and provide the education and resources needed to do so. Their campaign would promote PRIDE, or "Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment."

PRIDE has 10 years under its belt and now is a good time to remember why this initiative is essential to moving our region forward. People understand these days that a clean environment goes hand-in-hand with a healthy, vibrant economy.

Our region's religious, civic and elected leaders look for ways to leverage what makes us special—whether that is our mountain heritage, red-bud trees, scenic highways, or our pristine rivers. Our region will sell itself as long as we continue to show the world what makes us special. There is nothing special about trash and pollution. No matter how nice a place is, nobody wants to visit places that are polluted and littered.

First impressions count. When people see a natural area or town square for the first time, what makes a real impact is how clean a place is. For too long, the first impression people had in our area was empty bottles and fast food wrappers strewn along the highway, or in some cases—abandoned appliances, automobiles, and junk in an otherwise pristine natural setting.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

For those of us who live here, we don't want to live among trash and pollution. Our region has turned the corner. We left behind the southern and eastern Kentucky of the past—one with stagnant economic growth and net outflow of people. We turned it into a region for the future—one where business opens its doors and people move in. Simply cleaning up a place invites people to stay.

PRIDE has produced great benefits to the environment. With modern wastewater treatment systems, there is no excuse anymore to dump raw sewage into our creeks and rivers. PRIDE's sweeping efforts to install modern treatment systems enabled our waterways to thrive with plant and animal life again. No longer do we have open sewers moving through our mountains.

What I like best about PRIDE is the spirit of volunteerism behind it. People caused this litter and pollution problem and now people are fixing it. It is an amazing thing to watch what happens when a community pulls together towards a common purpose. Ten years ago there were skeptics and doubters. Today, many statistics clearly show PRIDE's progress over the last 10 years.

Theodore Roosevelt understood the need to protect our natural resources and a short sentence he once said sums up so well the spirit of PRIDE today: "Believe you can and you're halfway there."

What a legacy we have built. There are now 27,907 homes with access to sanitary wastewater treatment. Nearly 2,500 illegal dumps have been eliminated and 500,000 bags of trash have been collected. And the hard work of 238,000 volunteers made this happen.

When we look back 10 years hence, we will see even more progress—a region of the country that is free of the pollution and trash that held it back. On this 10-year anniversary, we remember the PRIDE volunteers and community leaders who believed we could.

IN HONOR OF JOAN AND BOB
RECHNITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan and Bob Rechnitz's contributions to the arts. This generous couple founded the Two River Theater Company providing the New Jersey community a place to experience the joys of theater.

Bob and Joan Rechnitz share a love for the theater. In 1994, the couple saw the opportunity to provide a home for Monmouth County's first professional regional theater in 30 years. After performing in different venues, in 2005, the Two River Theater Company opened a new, state of the art play house. The theater today provides an intimate space for 350 people to enjoy many fine performances.

Mr. Rechnitz serves as executive producer of the Two River Theater Company. He directs numerous plays including *True West*, *A View from a Bridge*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Mr. Rechnitz was also nominated Best Director of a Comedy for the *Curse of the Starving Class* by Newark, New Jersey's *Star Ledger* newspaper.

After 13 seasons, New Jersey residents have benefited from the theater's diverse and stimulating array of performances and educational programs. In 2006, the Two River Theater was named Theater of the Year by the *Star Ledger* newspaper. From producing plays by George Bernard Shaw to providing a venue for Bruce Springsteen performances, the Two River Theater has achieved Mr. and Mrs. Rechnitz's vision of a thriving and dynamic community theater company.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating Joan and Bob Rechnitz. Through their cultural and artistic contributions, the Two River Theater Company has become an integral part of the New Jersey community.

RECOGNIZING LEE MICHAEL CARPENTER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lee Michael Carpenter, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lee has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Lee has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lee Michael Carpenter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF SAN BENITO COUNTY COUNCIL #2890

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Benito County Council #2890 of the League of United Latin American Citizens, or LULAC, on its 20th anniversary. LULAC is the largest and oldest Latino national membership organization in the United States. This chapter was formed on October 17, 1987, and was the first Latino civil rights organization in San Benito County.

Since its formation, San Benito County LULAC has encouraged its membership to uphold and defend the rights of the Latino community, and serves as a circle of community influence and support. It promotes voter participation by encouraging the Latino community to register to vote, to participate in the electoral process, and to defend their voting rights against violations. The chapter encourages and supports San Benito County agencies and government bodies, ensuring that the Latino population has a voice that represents their needs and concerns.

San Benito County LULAC formed a Youth Council on October 5, 1989. It encourages youth participation in community and educational opportunities and has provided scholarship grants to over 140 students totaling \$136,000. They also formed a young adult council on February 10, 2000, whose local members attend colleges and universities throughout California. The chapter also served as the home State council for the local State director and State youth president.

LULAC believes that education is the foundation for the cultural growth and development of every community member. It organizes student conferences and retreats for youth development and leadership training. For the past eight years, this chapter has sponsored the after school Young Readers Program at the former Fremont School and Ladd Lane School, enabling over 240 first through third grade students and their parents to develop strong reading habits.

Madam Speaker, I commend San Benito County LULAC on its many accomplishments. Its exemplary record of civic involvement and extended support to the residents of this community personifies the very best of community involvement. I congratulate them on the 20th anniversary of their chapter's founding and invite all citizens of the county to celebrate their accomplishments.

HONORING ENERGY CORPORATION OF AMERICA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Energy Corporation of America for implementing one of the Nation's most successful employee health and wellness programs.

Energy Corporation of America, with operations in the Kanawha Valley, is being honored by the Wellness Council of America as the recipient of the Platinum Well Workplace Award. Already an honoree of the Gold Well Workplace award, the company had to undergo rigorous requirements and an extensive application process to be considered. Since its inception in 2001, only 21 organizations in the Nation have received the Platinum Well Workplace Award.

The corporation's unique approach to its employees and their well-being serves as a model for other organizations to follow. Compared to the national average, only 30 percent of wellness initiatives are met by employees and the ECA has 95 percent participation from both employees and their spouses. They participate in an annual health screening and health risk appraisal, and then meet with a health coach who outlines an annual regimen with many resources to guide them with their yearly health and wellness goals. Employees and their spouses receive an annual bonus as an extra incentive to meet their fitness goals.

The success of this program is most evident in the health and well-being of Energy Corporation of America's employees and the unprecedented success of the company's ability to contain its healthcare cost since the early 1990's. In a state and in a nation where the health of its citizens is constantly under criticism, it is my privilege to recognize the Energy

Corporation of America, which serves as a model of success for the implementation of a health and wellness program for its employees.

I am honored to recognize the Energy Corporation of America for the Platinum Well Workplace Award. It is an honor to serve a company in West Virginia's Second Congressional District whose health and well-being of its employees is its top priority.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUTDOOR VENTURES CORPORATION

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a company helping our people here at home, our troops at war, and the community in which they are based.

For decades, companies in my Fifth Congressional District were primarily logging and coal mining. Many still are, and their employees are very hard workers, and these are worthy industries on which our Nation relies. However, after the trees are harvested and the coal is mined, these companies go elsewhere and with them our employment opportunities. So it's not surprising that people over the years packed up and moved to places like Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana in search of a career and a future. I was one of those people.

One of the things we're trying to do in our district is attract companies that don't depend on our natural resources, but rather employ our hard workers and innovate and improve their products so that they can compete anywhere in the world. We could fix all of mankind's problems, and it won't mean a thing if people don't have a place to work. Good companies make good communities.

I want to recognize one such company, Outdoor Ventures Corporation, which this year celebrates its 35th anniversary and is located in Steams, KY.

Outdoor Ventures Corporation's 180 employees make specialized tents for the military. For our troops overseas, those tents are home. Like most products these days, what sounds simple is not. These tents require precision engineering and manufacturing techniques perfected over three decades.

Company President J.C. Egnew's dedication to civic life goes far beyond business, however. In his hometown community he was instrumental in creating its first public park, the first library and expanding our local community college. And, he keeps a tourist attraction going strong—the Big South Fork Scenic Railway, where visitors can take a 16-mile round trip ride on the 100-year-old Kentucky and Tennessee Railway.

I am proud to have this company in my district. And, I'm proud to know, Mr. J.C. Egnew who runs it. His company is built to last and our community is a better place to live as a result.

IN HONOR OF THE DRIFTERS, INC.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the services of The Drifters, Inc.

This organization was founded in Texas in 1954 to enhance the universal image of womanhood and serve as role models to women everywhere. The Drifters have chapters in 31 States in the United States. They have continued to provide for the youth and senior citizens within our society.

The Drifters reach out to educational institutions by awarding scholarships to local area high school students. Every year the Drifters choose one university to give scholarship money to promising students. They devote their time and energy during the holidays by delivering gift baskets to the underserved. Amongst the numerous charitable events, the women of the Drifters are actively involved with aiding the homeless and battered women.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing sincere appreciation to the Drifters. These women work hard to provide for future generations and empower individuals throughout the United States.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW MCEWEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew McEwen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1220, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew McEwen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE SPORTS CAR RACING ASSOCIATION OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula, or SCRAMP. SCRAMP held its inaugural race on November 10, 1957. For 50 years, the Sports Car Racing Association of

the Monterey Peninsula has worked to establish Laguna Seca as one of the premier road racing venues in the world. Unlike the operators at other tracks, SCRAMP is a non-profit volunteer organization. As such, they can make donations to the community, but cannot accept donations. Consequently, the Laguna Seca Raceway Fund was established as a 501(c)(3) to be the fundraising arm of the track. SCRAMP has invested more than \$20 million in the Monterey County-owned facility over the last five years, part of an ongoing effort to keep the track positioned as one of the world's finest road courses.

SCRAMP presents five world class motorsports events each year: the U.S. Sports Car Invitational, the Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix, the Monterey Historic Automobile Races, the AMA Superbike Race, and the Monterey Sports Car Championship. These events bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to Monterey County. The financial impact on the community is significant, estimated at one million dollars annually. SCRAMP itself donates hundreds of thousands of dollars of its proceeds each year to civic and charitable organizations that volunteer at events held at the track, a major source of revenue for these organizations.

Mazda became the title sponsor of the venue in 2001 and it was renamed Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. The new sponsorship is a major contributor in realizing the continuing vision for improving the raceway, making it more beautiful, functional, and safe.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will all join me in offering congratulations and encouragement for this fine organization on their golden anniversary.

HONORING BURKE FEASTER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Burke Feaster for his 30 years of service and leadership to the Boy Scouts of America.

Burke has been active as a troop master and scoutmaster since the fall of 1977. Over the past three decades, Burke has been involved as a leader of Pack 33 sponsored by New Street United Methodist Church in Shepherdstown, WV. Through his guidance, many Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts have gone on to make the rank of Eagle Scout. During his years of service, Burke has seen 24 young men make the rank of Eagle Scout, which is three times the national average for Scout troops.

For his years of dedicated service, Burke has received numerous awards including the prestigious Silver Beaver Award by the Shenandoah Council, the District Award of Merit, Scout Master and Cub Master of the year of the Potomac District, and the Mannahoac Award. His church which sponsors Pack 33 awarded him the United Methodist Cross and Flame Award.

Burke lives in Shepherdstown with his wife, Carole who has also volunteered for many years with the Boy Scouts of America. They have two sons, Burke, Jr., and Shawn who were both former Scouts and later volunteers. Burke and his wife currently reside in Shepherdstown, WV.

It is an honor to recognize Burke Feaster for his 30 years of involvement in one of America's proudest traditions for our youth, the Boy Scouts of America. The Mountain State is proud to call Burke one of our own.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Each year, the National Cyber Security Division, NCSA, of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, joins with the National Cyber Security Alliance, NCSA, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, MS-ISAC, and other partners to support National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The goal of National Cyber Security Awareness Month is to show everyday Internet users that by taking simple steps, they can safeguard themselves from the latest online threats and respond to potential cyber-crime incidents.

It would be dangerous to believe, however, that simple steps by end users will sufficiently combat the larger threats associated with a growing networked society. As Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology, I have held a number of hearings this year on our Nation's cybersecurity posture and the various vulnerabilities in our critical information infrastructure. Cybersecurity vulnerabilities can significantly impact our national and economic security. This issue has been largely ignored and misunderstood for too long. The oversight that the Homeland Security Committee is undertaking will help change that, but much work remains to be done.

I thank my colleagues for cosponsoring this resolution, and look forward to working with them on these critical issues in the future.

WELCOMING THE TROOPS BACK HOME

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the aviators and sailors from Strike Fighter Squadron VFA 14 and VFA 41 along with the Fleet Readiness Center West Sea Detachment Personnel and the staff of the Carrier Air Wing 11, all of Naval Air Station, Lemoore in my district in California who returned home safely this past weekend after a 6-month deployment aboard the USS *Nimitz* in Afghanistan and Iraq. In addition to combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, these units participated in Exercises Valiant Shield and Malabar. In all, a total of over 550 sailors from Naval Air Station Lemoore deployed.

Successful deployments depend not only on military skills, but also on support from three

important groups; families, employers and the community. The community of Lemoore is extremely proud of its servicemembers and hosted a grand welcome home celebration on base to greet the pilots and sailors. Anxiously, children, spouses, parents, aunts, uncles, and friends all waited for their loved ones to arrive.

It is happy homecomings like this that remind me of how proud I am to represent the 20th Congressional District and remind all of us why we live in a free country. These men and women have made great sacrifices in defending our freedom. Therefore, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome home to these fine men and women from NAS Lemoore and very proud to recognize their dedicated service.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RESTORE ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I'm proud, to join with Intelligence Committee Chairman REYES today in introducing legislation that will give our intelligence community needed tools to combat foreign threats while preserving civil liberties. Making sure that surveillance activities protect freedom as well as security is critical to waging an effective fight against terrorism.

The RESTORE Act extends the ability of the Government to acquire communications of persons abroad for the purpose of terrorism and other national security threats. Earlier this year, in the Protect America Act, PAA, amendments were made to the long-standing consensus approach set forth in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA. Responding to what the administration characterized as pressing concerns, the PAA gave the Government enhanced flexibility to collect foreign intelligence information. But the broad scope of the authority and procedures that allowed the Government to collect this information without up-front court approval raised grave concerns about the need for more safeguards of innocent Americans' communications. The RESTORE Act improves upon the PAA by providing a series of checks and balances while still allowing maximum flexibility. It limits the Government's authority to what the Director of National Intelligence told us he needed—a means to acquire information from telecommunications companies about physical threats to the Nation in which the target is overseas. The RESTORE Act does not require individual warrants when persons reasonably believed to be abroad, but it is firm that a FISA warrant is required to obtain communications of people in the United States. The RESTORE Act settles that FISA is the exclusive means of electronic surveillance, and that no modifications can be made without express statutory authorization. The RESTORE Act will also provide additional resources for the National Security Agency and Department of Justice to ensure that there are no backlogs of critical intelligence gathering.

Congressional oversight and full knowledge about surveillance activities is critical in ensuring the Nation's safety. Both the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees need access to court orders, Presidential authorizations, and details

of and legal justifications for past wiretapping efforts. The RESTORE Act provides for audits and congressional reports of surveillance programs past, present, and future. Through these reports and audits, with nonclassified aspects where appropriate, Members of Congress and the public will have the opportunity to assess whether the program works as designed. Chairman REYES and I are committed to vigorous oversight, constant dialogue, and statutory improvements as needed to meet our duty to ensure safety and liberty for all.

The administration has continued to deny us the information that Congress is entitled to and which is necessary for a full understanding of the issues at stake. Nevertheless, I believe this legislation will allow us to move forward and respond to the concerns of the administration. This bill will require that information be made available to us and give the Congress the opportunity to assess these procedures and the program on the basis of a complete record. The RESTORE Act's important audit and reporting provisions are essential for when the program will sunset in 2009. At that time, with a new Congress, a new President, and the results of these provisions, we will again strive to provide additional protections for the rights of Americans. For this is an ongoing responsibility that all of us in Congress are working toward—a foreign intelligence gathering system that is effective and flexible, yet bound by procedure and law.

CONGRATULATING REV. LOUIS S. GARBACIK FOR BEING NAMED "GUEST OF HONOR" BY THE GREATER HAZLETON AREA POLONAISE SOCIETY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Louis S. Garbacik, pastor emeritus of St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church in Hazleton, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who will be the guest of honor at a celebration hosted by the Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society on Sunday, October 14, 2007.

Father Garbacik is being honored for his dedication and support of Polish tradition, heritage, and culture during his 53 years in the priesthood.

A son of Polish immigrants, Father Garbacik grew up in a loving home where his mother cared for the family while his father labored in the anthracite mines of northeastern Pennsylvania and also worked as a talented carpenter making and repairing violins.

Throughout his years as a parish priest, Father Garbacik has endeavored to educate his parishioners in the customs and traditions of Poland.

From numerous trips to the country of his ancestors, Father Garbacik has collected a variety of Polish artwork which he proudly displays in his church rectory and shares with all who express an interest.

Father Garbacik was honored when he met with the late Pope John Paul II, himself a native of Poland and the only non-Italian to hold the position of Pope since the 1520s.

Committed to teaching members of his parish about Polish spiritual traditions, Father

Garbacik routinely shares with his flock information about Polish worship services rooted in his ancestral homeland.

A humble man who enjoys the love and devotion of his parishioners, Father Garbacik demonstrates through his own life the true meaning of Christian love which leaves those whose lives he touches inspired and comforted.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Father Louis Garbacik and the Greater Hazleton Area Polonaise Society which has recognized the value of Father Garbacik's ministry.

SUPPORTING THE CARIBBEAN AS ITS WORKFORCE BOOMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the article, "Caribbean Call Centers Booming," published in New York CARIB News on September 19, 2007. The piece notes that American corporations are increasingly setting up centers in the Caribbean, breathing new life into the region's workforce and diversifying its economy.

A drop in communication costs has ushered in newfound competition, willing the area's island nations to extend tax incentives in search of business—and it's working. For those economies with the smallest populations, it's made a world of positive difference, injecting droves of new workers and reducing rampant unemployment.

CARIBBEAN CALL CENTERS BOOMING

CASTRIES.—In a global search for low-cost customer service, AOL considered call centers in India and other hotspots—then settled on the tiny island of St. Lucia.

In choosing the Caribbean island, AOL, a unit of Time Warner Inc., joined other U.S. companies that have made the region a new global hub for call centers.

Plunging communication costs, workers who relate easily to American customers and the region's famed hospitality are attracting American corporations, boosting the work force in the "nearshore" service industry in the Caribbean.

Jamaica is one of the leaders with about 14,000 employees in the sector. In the Dominican Republic, 18,000 agents, many of them bilingual, are handling calls in English and Spanish. Call centers dedicated to customer service have also opened in Barbados, Trinidad, and Dominica.

According to Robert Goodwin, the AOL manager who chose a call centre in St. Lucia, the islands all seem to be really positive as opposed to the surly attitudes you have in some of the other places. AOL still uses call centers in India and elsewhere for technical support and other services—taking advantage of that country's large numbers of workers with technical and advanced degrees.

But the Caribbean is becoming increasingly competitive in the call centre industry, with island governments offering tax and other incentives to lure companies to their shores.

Jamaica, for example, granted call centers "free zone" status that allows owners to repatriate 100 percent of their earnings tax-free. The Caribbean has taken only a tiny share of the market from still-hot India and

the Philippines, but the impact is huge on islands with tiny populations. In Montego Bay, a resort area on Jamaica's north coast that accounts for about half the island's call centre jobs, developers have rapidly built thousands of concrete, single-family homes to accommodate the workers.

The industry owes much of its success to a telecommunications liberalization that began sweeping former British colonies in the Caribbean about six years ago. As new suppliers have challenged the monopoly of Britain-based Cable & Wireless PLC, lower prices allowed the region to compete.

The collections and call-centre firm KM2, which holds the AOL contract in St. Lucia, has opened a site in Barbados and, according to owner David Kreiss, the firm is looking to expand again as new telecoms install fiber optic cable.

The number of people working at Caribbean call centers has increased from 11,300 in 2002 to a current total of 55,000, with an annual economic impact of US\$2.5 billion. Large American companies including Verizon, AT&T, Delta Air Lines, AIG and Nortel have used Caribbean call centers, while often keeping operations in Asia or elsewhere. While much of the profits go to U.S.-owned operators, the islands welcome the business to diversify their economies and counter high unemployment.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY NURSES WEEK

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 7 through October 13 as Emergency Nurses Week.

As a nurse for over 40 years and the co-chair of the House Nursing Caucus, I have a longstanding commitment to the work nurses do and to highlight the impact they have on other important issues, such as homeland security preparedness efforts.

There are approximately 100,000 emergency nurses in the United States. Emergency nurses make a difference each day in peoples' lives, both within and beyond the traditional boundaries of the hospital emergency department. Working in areas such as critical care, research, technology, flight and ground transport and injury prevention, emergency nurses combine state-of-the-art skills with heartfelt compassion for those they serve.

Since 1989, the Emergency Nurses Association has celebrated the second Wednesday in October as Emergency Nurses Day, a day set aside to honor emergency nurses for their commitment to patient care. Starting in 2001, because 1 day is simply not enough to recognize all contributions made by emergency nurses, the Emergency Nurses Association expanded the celebration to devote an entire week to honoring emergency nursing.

This week is particularly important as evidenced by a survey conducted by the Emergency Nurses Association last year showing that 86 percent of emergency nurses had been victims of assault on the job at least once in the past 3 years. Nonetheless, a vast majority say they will continue to be emergency nurses in the years to come. This is a noble profession practiced by noble women and men and they deserve our recognition and thanks.

Emergency Nurses Day is Wednesday, October 10, and this year's theme, "Stepping into their lives when they need you the most" reflects the dedication of emergency nurses in the United States and around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Emergency Nurses Association for its work to define the future of emergency nursing and emergency care. Founded in 1970, the Emergency Nurses Association serves as the voice of nearly 33,000 members and their patients.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I encourage all of our colleagues to help spread the word about the critical importance of nursing to our Nation's health care system. Also, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me and my cochair, Congressman STEVE LATOURETTE, in the work of the House Nursing Caucus.

I thank my colleagues for their attention to this important public health issue and again am pleased to recognize October 10 as Emergency Nurses Day and this week, October 7 through October 13, as Emergency Nurses Week.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE DIVERSITY ASSURANCE ACT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that Senator DANIEL AKAKA will be joining me today in introducing the Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act. The act addresses the extremely important issue of diversity in the Senior Executive Service, SES. Senator AKAKA and I plan to continue our collaboration in the future, introducing additional legislation that will make a difference in the lives of Federal employees.

Our introduction of the Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act would not have been possible without the hard work of the African American Federal Executives Association, the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives, the Asian American Government Executives Network, Federally Employed Women, Blacks in Government, and the Senior Executive Association. I applaud them for not only raising the lack of diversity in the SES as an issue but for devoting their time and energy to work with our subcommittees to rectify it.

The lack of diversity in the SES has been a longstanding concern of mine. As a first step toward doing something about it, I asked the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to investigate the situation. GAO subsequently issued two reports—in 2001 and 2003. Both reports documented a poorly diversified SES. The 2003 report was entitled "Senior Executive Service: Enhanced Agency Efforts Needed To Improve Diversity as the Senior Corps Turns Over" (GAO-03-34). As the title suggests, this report revealed that while there will be a large amount of turnover in the SES in the years ahead due to retirements and attrition, it will not result in greater racial diversity. While there are numerous minorities in the pipeline ready to be promoted, to few are being given the opportunity to advance. Well, you might ask, why not, and what can be done about it?

In 2003, I joined then Office of Personnel Management, OPM, Director Kay Cole James in announcing the creation of OPM's SES Candidate Development Program. This program was created to address the lack of minority representation in the SES. Yet last July, when I attended the program's first graduation ceremony and saw few minority graduates, I realized that much more had to be done to effectively change the racial and the gender make up of the SES.

Diversity is valuable because it can bring a wider variety of perspectives and approaches to policy development and implementation. Minorities and women need to be at the table contributing when strategic planning, problem solving and decision making is taking place. Our ideas and talents can help strengthen an organization and lead to the achievement of results. That is not really happening today. What I see as I visit Federal agencies is a senior level workforce that is not reflective of the diverse people we serve.

As chairman of the House Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, I held a hearing in May of this year on diversity in the SES. It was after that hearing that I began to meet with the Federal minority groups represented here to effect change that would help diversify the SES. The subcommittee met extensively with these groups and what we heard was that it was not a lack of training, experience, or minorities in the feeder pool that caused the lack of diversity in the SES. What we heard was that there are flaws in the selection process, and that there is a lack of oversight and accountability when it comes to promoting and hiring minorities in the SES. The Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act aims to fix all of that.

The act establishes SES evaluation panels that are charged with reviewing the qualifications of all candidates for career reserve vacancies. The evaluation panels must be a diverse group consisting of three members. One must be a member of a racial or ethnic group and one member must be a woman. The panel will forward the names of the most qualified candidates to the Executive Resource Board.

In addition, the act establishes the Senior Executive Service Resources Office, SESRO, within OPM. The purpose of the SESRO is to ensure that the Senior Executive Service is reflective of the Nation's diversity and to establish and maintain records, to the extent possible, on the race, ethnicity, gender and disabilities of employees in the SES. This bill aims to create an environment where diversity will flourish. And where it does not, Congress will have the tools and information to hold agencies accountable.

Diversity of gender, ethnicity, age and disability, as well as diversity of education, thinking, and experience are crucial if the Federal workforce is to mirror the communities we live in and serve. To stay competitive in an increasingly global economy and recruit the best and brightest workforce, diversity is an issue that we must pay close attention to. All Americans want to work for organizations where they have the opportunity to use their knowledge and skills, develop their careers and be promoted to the highest levels. The Senior Executive Service Diversity Assurance Act is

going to give ethnic minorities and women that opportunity; an opportunity that does not broadly exist today.

Please see the attached Washington Post article dated October 5, 2007, entitled, "Bill Pushes Diversity Among Senior Executives."

(By Stephen Barr)

Legislation to promote diversity in the government's career executive ranks was introduced yesterday by the chairmen of the House and Senate federal workplace subcommittees.

Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.) and Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) said their bill would address the lack of diversity in the Senior Executive Service, the group of about 6,300 career executives who manage the day-to-day operations of the government.

The bill would establish a Senior Executive Service program office in the Office of Personnel Management. The proposed office would collect and maintain data on the race, ethnicity, gender and any disabilities of people who have been certified as qualified to serve in the SES.

The bill also would require federal agencies to establish SES evaluation panels to review the qualifications of applicants for SES jobs. Each panel would have three members. One must be a woman and one other a member of a racial or ethnic minority group.

"We are doing this really to try to bring about some improvement in the management of the Senior Executive Service and to enhance diversity," Akaka said.

Davis said "diversity is valuable because it can bring a wider variety of perspectives and approaches to policy development and implementation. Minorities and women need to be at the table to contribute when strategic planning, problem solving and decision making take place."

Davis added, "What I see as I visit federal agencies is a senior-level workforce that is not reflective of the diverse people we serve."

Reports by the Government Accountability Office show that "the numbers of women and minorities are low in the SES," Akaka said. Davis said the reports "documented a poorly diversified SES."

Of the 6,349 career SES members, the most recent GAO tally counted 325 African American men, 221 African American women, 164 Hispanic men and 65 Hispanic women.

That demographic profile of the SES, which was released in May, also showed there were 90 Asian-Pacific Islander men, 56 Asian-Pacific Islander women, 59 American Indian/Alaska native men and 27 American Indian/Alaska Native women.

The overwhelming majority of SES members were white—3,900 white men and 1,436 white women.

The GAO tally also included six as "unspecified."

Davis, an African American who represents a Chicago district, and Akaka, a Native Hawaiian, said they want the OPM to track the racial, ethnic and gender diversity of the SES because a significant number of federal executives will soon retire. The OPM estimates that 90 percent of federal executives will be eligible to retire over the next 10 years.

However, a GAO analysis in 2003 suggested that the projected turnover in the SES "will not result in greater racial diversity," Davis said. "While there are numerous minorities in the pipeline ready to be promoted, too few are being given the opportunity to advance."

Leaders of employee groups were on hand for yesterday's announcement to show support for the legislation.

They included William A. Brown Sr., president of the African American Federal Executives Association; Jose Osegueda, president of the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives; Carson K. Eoyang, executive director of the Asian American Government Executives Network; Rhonda Trent, president of Federally Employed Women; and Darlene H. Young, president of Blacks in Government.

Carol A. Bonosaro, president of the Senior Executives Association, issued a statement in support of increasing diversity in the SES. Bonosaro, who was attending the funeral of a SES member, said her group was pleased to see the bill consolidates policy and program management of the SES at OPM.

An OPM spokeswoman said the administration is reviewing the Davis-Akaka proposal.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JEANIE BELL WINSLOW

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Jeanie Bell Winslow on the occasion of her retirement after 40 years of dedicated public service to the Federal Government.

Mrs. Winslow began her career in federal service as a travel agent for the United States Army Audit Agency, where she was responsible for arranging official passenger travel, both domestic and international. In 1981, she spent 2 years at the Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) learning about all modes of transportation as an intern for the Department of Army. After her internship, she was assigned to the Directorate of Personal Property at the MTMC for whom she managed military/industry symposiums and councils, and played a key role in responding to White House and congressional inquiries. While at the MTMC, Mrs. Winslow was also responsible for managing standard agreements with airline, air taxi and rental car companies who provide service to the Department of Defense. She managed the Federal Government's rental car program and represented the MTMS on various General Services Administration panels that sought to evaluate bids for the city-pair contract.

Since joining the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), Mrs. Winslow has managed their annual training symposium and Quality Award and Excellence in Transportation Awards Program, as well as legislative affairs and trade publications. As a result of her efforts, the SDDC's award-winning Translog magazine has doubled in issue size to 44 pages. Mrs. Winslow will retire as the Acting Director of the Command Affairs Office at the SDDC.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jeanie Bell Winslow for her years of service and dedication to the Federal Government. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Winslow on her retirement and wishing her the best of luck in all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANNE ARUNDEL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR ITS
ASSISTANCE TO MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne Arundel Community College and its efforts to assist the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families as they return from combat overseas.

Anne Arundel Community College is now offering free counseling for military families in a four week course entitled "Reunited: Family Life After Deployment." The purpose of this course is to assist the men and women returning from service overseas reintegrate into their family and civilian life. These four, two-hour classes, which will be offered free to all service personnel thanks to the Friends of The Parenting Center scholarship program, will help participants identify the signs and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). It will also help returnees learn how to deal with the emotional responses that arise from separation during service, how to adjust parenting styles, and to balance disciplinary roles within the family.

This course is the most recent example of how Anne Arundel Community College, and its President, Dr. Smith, continually strive to embrace the community that surrounds the campus. Outreach like this does not just happen by itself; it takes the time and energy of concerned individuals who hear of a community need and take the initiative to make a difference. Individuals like Dr. Lou Aymard and his staff at the Parenting Center who made this course a reality, as well as Bruce Turnquist, Psy.D., a clinical psychologist who will be leading the class discussion, are to be commended. To these individuals, and those at Fort Meade and the United States Naval Academy who shared their insight, I offer my sincere gratitude on behalf of all the returning men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Since 2001, over 1.5 million soldiers have been deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan. A 2004 Army survey found that nearly 20 percent of soldiers returning home suffered from clinical anxiety, depression, or PTSD. More recent surveys show that 27 percent of those who serve longer deployments or multiple deployments have some form of mental illness or PTSD. I have heard first hand during hearings in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and meetings with veterans' groups about how these conditions can often lead to alcohol and drug abuse, divorce, and financial and legal problems. It is tragic and wrong that these treatable conditions continue to have such a devastating impact upon the families of these veterans.

The sad fact is that almost 80 percent of these returning veterans who need assistance to deal with these mental illnesses are not referred to treatment. Because of this phenomenon, I have joined as a cosponsor of the Lane Evans Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2007, which would require that all veterans who serve on active duty during a period of war receive mental health screening and, when necessary, mental health

treatment and family counseling. We have already passed significant legislation during this Congress to improve the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs health care delivery system and I hope that we will soon be able to take up and pass this legislation as well. This initiative by AACC represents how much can be done if we simply take advantage of the resources and opportunities within our communities to address this problem and to assist a population that has sacrificed so much.

Madam Speaker, I want to again thank all those at Anne Arundel Community College involved in the "Reunited: Family Life After Deployment" program. Anne Arundel Community College is a first-class institution and they have truly stepped up to support our Nation's veterans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FELIX
SPARKS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mourn the passing of a great Coloradan, Brigadier General and Supreme Court Associate Justice, Felix Sparks, who passed away on Monday, September 24th, 2007.

Although Felix Sparks was not originally from Colorado, his roots in the West and his commitment to public service in make him an indelible part of Colorado history. Born in Texas and raised in Arizona during the Great Depression, Felix Sparks epitomizes the "Greatest Generation." Felix joined the service before the World War II, and assigned to the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division, where he attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, leading soldiers in the European Theater.

In addition to his brave service in combat, Felix also bore witness to the Holocaust. Lt. Col. Sparks was in command of the unit dispatched to liberate and secure the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. In the aftermath of that experience, Felix Sparks struggled to contain the outrage of his men, some of whom took it upon themselves to execute German soldiers in an episode that remains controversial to this day. After the war, Felix Sparks often spoke about the Holocaust and reminded younger generations that we have a moral obligation to prevent such offenses in the future. His service during the war also earned him many commendations, including a Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

Returning to the United States, Felix Sparks moved to Colorado and joined the Colorado National Guard in 1947. This began a long and distinguished career in the Guard, ending thirty years later after Felix had risen through the ranks to become Brigadier General and commanding officer of the Colorado National Guard. His legacy was so important to the Colorado Guard that the Guard's Centennial Armory is named in his honor.

In addition to his numerous achievements in the military, Felix Sparks will be well regarded for his work as a lawyer. He earned his degree from the University of Colorado law school in 1948 and moved to Delta, serving there as District Attorney. He was appointed

as the youngest-ever associate justice of the Colorado Supreme Court in 1956. Unfortunately, he left the court at the end of the year because Colorado then elected our judges and he lost his campaign to keep the seat.

Poor luck at the polls inured to the benefit of Colorado's environment, however, because in 1958 Felix accepted a position as the director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, where he was instrumental in crafting an environmentally sustainable and sensible water policy. For his work on the board he was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by Governor Lamm in 1979.

As both a civilian and a soldier, Felix Sparks became an icon to all Coloradans. He was not only committed to the ideal of public service, he excelled at it.

I can think of no higher tribute than to simply say that Felix Sparks was a great American.

Colorado has lost a favorite son. America and the ideals we cherish were embodied in his life of public service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I missed several rollcall votes on Monday, October 1, 2007, Tuesday October 2, 2007 and Wednesday October 3, 2007, to attend funeral services for a dear family friend. I would like to enter into the record how I intended to vote on these rollcall votes:

On Roll No. 924, to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Con. Res. 185, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 925, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2276, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 926, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3325, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 927, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3087, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 928, to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 635, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 929, to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 203, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 930, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2828, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 931, to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 200, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 932, to order the previous question on H. Res. 701, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 933, to order the previous question on H. Res. 702, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 934, agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 702, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 935, the Conyers amendment H.R. 928, I would have voted "yes."

On Roll No. 936, to recommit with instructions H.R. 928, I would have voted "no."

On Roll No. 937, passage H.R. 928, I would have voted "yes."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 3246, REGIONAL ECO-
NOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, which will help spur economic development in my district of El Paso, Texas. I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his vision regarding the need and importance of regional authorities for development in areas of the country with huge economic need. For the past three Congresses, I have introduced my bill, the Southwest Regional Border Authority Act, in an attempt to bring some relief to the U.S.-Mexico border and my district of El Paso, Texas. This year, under the leadership of Chairman OBERSTAR, my bill has been included into his overall legislation. I would also like to thank many of my colleagues who represent districts along the U.S.-Mexico border for their support in the creation of the Southwest Regional Border Authority.

The Chairman's bill would authorize \$1.25 billion over the period of FY 2008 through FY 2012 for five regional commissions one of which will be created in the U.S.-Mexico border region. The Authorities would be Federal-State partnerships for providing assistance to economically distressed and underdeveloped areas that have experienced high levels of unemployment, poverty, or out-migration. Three of the commissions would be new and would assist areas in the Southeastern United States and areas along the Mexican and Canadian borders; two of the commissions would replace existing authorities in the Delta and Northern Great Plains regions. The bill would establish uniform administrative structures and responsibilities for the commissions, and authorize the commissions to provide financial assistance for projects and programs in their respective regions to develop transportation and infrastructure, provide job skills training and support business development.

The Southwest border region, as defined in the bill, includes all counties within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. This region contains 11 counties in New Mexico, 65 counties in Texas, 10 counties in Arizona, and 7 counties in California, with a combined population of approximately 29 million.

According to research compiled by the Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Southwest Border, 20 percent of the residents in my region live below the poverty level, unemployment rates often reach as high as five times the national average, and a lack of adequate access to capital has created economic disparities making it difficult for businesses to start up in the region. Border communities have long endured a depressed economy and low-paying jobs. Our economic challenges partly stem from our position as a border community.

Economic development in border communities is difficult to stimulate without assistance from the Government, private sector, and community organizations. H.R. 3246 would

help foster planning to encourage infrastructure improvements, technology deployment, education and workforce training, and community development through entrepreneurship.

Modeled in part after the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Southwest Border Regional Authority and other Authorities would follow four guiding principles:

First, the Authorities would fund proposals designed at the local level followed by approval at the state level in order to meet regional economic development goals;

Second, projects leading to the creation of a diversified regional economy would be prioritized. Currently, states and counties often are forced to compete against each other for limited funding;

Third, the Authorities would be independent agencies. This would prevent them from having to attempt to satisfy another Federal agency's mission requirements when determining which projects to fund; and

Finally, the Authorities would be comprised of one Senate-confirmed Federal representative and the governors of the States of jurisdiction.

For too long, many areas of our country including the southwest border region have been ignored, overlooked, and underfunded. We need to recognize the challenges facing these under-served areas and help them make the most of their many assets. I believe the authorities created in the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007 would go a long way toward achieving the goal of economic prosperity in some of the poorest regions of our country.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR for his leadership on this issue and look forward to the implementation of this important legislation. I ask my colleagues to support this important measure.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF RICK DIEGEL

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous service to the working man and woman of America by a true friend, Rick Diegel. Rick recently retired after working for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in a distinguished career that spanned 38 years.

After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, Rick's IBEW career began in 1969 when he joined Corpus Christi Local 278 in his native Texas. Always active in politics, Rick also served three terms as mayor pro tem in the city of Ingleside in the early and mid-1970's. Rick was elected business manager for Local 278 in 1977, and he arrived upon the Washington political scene in 1983 when he was appointed IBEW's Political Director, the same year I was elected to Congress. Then, in 1998, he became director of the IBEW's combined Political/Legislative Department, the position he held until his retirement October 1st, 2007.

Upon Rick's arrival in Washington, Rick Diegel immediately made an impact on public policy on behalf of the IBEW and its members. Through the support given to IBEW-endorsed candidates in local, state, and federal elec-

tions, the IBEW has been able to influence the agenda on vital kitchen-table issues such as job security, the minimum wage, healthcare, working conditions and safety, retirement, and trade. Rick became a major figure in the modern labor movement and helped lead the transformation of the IBEW into the 21st Century.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend Rick's tireless dedication to the members of the IBEW and the labor movement as a whole over his almost four-decade career. He will be truly missed by me and the IBEW.

Rick will be returning to Texas, where he will be able to have more time with his wife Theresa, his seven children, and four grandchildren. Fortunately, Rick isn't completely leaving the political arena though—he has promised to be available to aid HILLARY CLINTON's Presidential campaign, so we won't be losing him entirely.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Rick Diegel for all of his hard work and dedication as IBEW's lead political architect for over 20 years and in wishing him and his family the best of luck in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on Monday, October 1, 2007, I was detained in my district and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor for H. Con. Res. 185 (Roll No. 924), H.R. 2276 (Roll No. 925), and H.R. 3325 (Roll No. 926). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of these measures.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF GRAPEVINE OPRY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Grapevine Opry in Grapevine, Texas on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary of continuous family entertainment.

Originally built as Grapevine's Palace Theatre in November 21, 1940, this historic building was reopened in 1974 by a Grapevine dance instructor, Chisai Childs, for dance recitals. Its use evolved into a musical revue stage show and was dubbed "Grapevine Opry".

After many failed business partnerships, Grapevine Opry doors closed in 1984 and its fate seemed doomed forever. However, one year later, a new owner began renovation of the theater only to see the stage, roof and building partially destroyed by fire due to contractor negligence. But renovations began anew and on November 14, 1987, Grapevine Opry reopened with Mr. Rocky Gribble as the new producer and bandleader. In 1990, ownership sold the property to a local attorney's company, Grapevine Opry, Inc.

Bad times almost fell again on the Opry when in 1991, the Grapevine Opry, Inc. filed

for bankruptcy. The show was in danger of closing and the future of the theater was in doubt, even to the point of demolition. However, the City Council of Grapevine, along with the overwhelming support of the Grapevine Opry Association members, voted to acquire the property if the anchor tenant, the Grapevine Opry, would continue to operate in the theater. A long-term agreement was forged with the city and Yellow Rose Productions, Inc. to operate the Grapevine Opry and the Grapevine Heritage Foundation was formed to manage the property. Due to the foresight of Yellow Rose Productions, Inc., Grapevine civic leaders and residents, the future of the Palace Theatre was preserved.

In 1999, the Grapevine Opry underwent its most recent renovation and celebrated a grand reopening/homecoming show on June 2, 2001. The show continues to be a mainstay of family entertainment not only in North Texas but across the region and beyond. Many music industry performers attribute their success to experience gained on this landmark stage. Some of the best up-and-coming performers in country music can be found performing each weekend at Grapevine Opry.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Grapevine Opry's on November 10, 2007. This beautiful and historic building, whose preservation is secure, is an important local landmark in Grapevine, Texas and surrounding areas. I sincerely wish the Grapevine Opry many more successful years of continuous family entertainment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for Rollcall vote 948 to H.R. 3648. I would have voted "yes." My vote would not have changed the result, but I want this record to reflect my intention.

ENTERGY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on September 13, 2007 the first hurricane to make landfall in the United States since 2005 hit Southeast Texas. Hurricane Humberto took only 16 hours to form, making it the fastest growing storm on record and leaving area residents and businesses little time to prepare. Entergy Texas, our local electricity provider was ready and quickly took action.

Hurricane Humberto left 118,000 without electricity as they waited for the water to recede to begin cleaning up debris left in the storms wake, Thursday morning. While local residents were busy taking care of their family and property Joe Domino, President and CEO of Entergy Texas, and his employees began "turning the lights on" across our area. The utility company, which serves parts of Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas, brought

in around 3,000 employees and additional contractors, to relieve their customers from the smoldering Texas heat that is very much a part of our Septembers. The streets of Jefferson County were bustling with Entergy trucks throughout the weekend as workers effectively traveled from project to project. Though the initial estimates warned that power would not be restored for six days, dedicated employees working into the night and through the weekend were able to restore all 118,000 consumers in just four days.

I would like to commend all Entergy Texas employees for their hard work and dedication during the aftermath of Hurricane Humberto. Companies like Entergy Texas that care about the community they serve make Southeast Texas such a special place.

And that's just the way it is.

AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO MICHAEL ELLIS DEBAKEY, M.D.

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the National Association for Biomedical Research, NABR and Foundation for Biomedical Research, FBR, are the Nation's oldest and largest organizations dedicated to improving human and veterinary health by promoting public understanding and support for humane and responsible animal research. I would like to submit their following comments for the record on the passing of legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Michael E. DeBakey:

The National Association for Biomedical Research, NABR and Foundation for Biomedical Research, FBR, salute you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives for recognizing Dr. Michael Ellis DeBakey and his unparalleled contributions to cardiovascular medicine. Dr. DeBakey's work has improved the health of millions of American citizens and people around the world. His extraordinary talents as a surgeon, inventor, educator and medical statesman make him a true medical legend.

Dr. DeBakey richly deserves his reputation as one of this country's most innovative and pioneering physicians and the most famous cardiovascular surgeon in the world. A former president of the International Cardiology Foundation referred to him as "... the genius ... the father of open heart surgery." Upon receiving the prestigious Lasker Award, Dr. DeBakey was cited for: "His pioneer contributions in cardiovascular surgery ... His laboratory investigations, translated with extraordinary courage and unprecedented skill to the patient, have resulted in the correction and cure of previously incurable cardiovascular disease, replacing what would have been lingering chronic disease and disability, or sudden death, by vigorous, happy, and productive life."

Among his many inventions and innovations was the Dacron tube. Using his wife's sewing machine and fabric purchased from a local store in Houston, Dr. DeBakey created the first artificial artery. These Dacron tubes yield-

ed remarkable advancements in vascular surgery. Dr. DeBakey continued to perfect new vascular surgical techniques, which spawned the modern era of the surgical treatment for stroke. His innovative work didn't end there, as he continued to develop new pioneering surgical techniques for the treatment of aneurysms, again leading to new, effective treatments and the saving of thousands of lives.

In 1964, Dr. DeBakey triggered the most explosive era in modern cardiac surgery when he performed the first successful coronary bypass. Two years later, he made medical history again by becoming the first person to successfully use a partial artificial heart (left ventricular bypass pump) to help patients who could not be weaned from a heart-lung machine following open-heart surgery. Later in that decade, Dr. DeBakey again became part of medical history, supervising the first successful multi-organ transplant, in which a heart, both kidneys, and lung were transplanted from a single donor to 4 separate recipients. Also during that decade, Dr. DeBakey pioneered the field of telemedicine with the first demonstration of open-heart surgery to be transmitted overseas by satellite. Medical staff in Geneva, Switzerland were able to watch aortic valve replacement surgery being performed at The Methodist Hospital in Houston.

In 1942, still early in his career, Dr. DeBakey had achieved a national reputation as an authority on vascular disease. Rather than returning to his university employer and working to enhance his career, Dr. DeBakey felt morally bound to serve his country during World War II. He volunteered for military service, joining the Surgeon General's staff and rising to the rank of colonel and Chief of the Surgical Consultants Division. His work, inspecting field hospitals and actively caring for the wounded, led to his proposal for the proper staged management of war wounds. These recommendations made possible the development of mobile army surgical hospitals, or MASH units. Dr. DeBakey's experience during the war also caused him to recommend the creation of specialized medical centers in different areas of the U.S. to treat wounded military personnel returning from war. That recommendation evolved into the establishment of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, VAMC, System.

As a scholar and man of letters, Dr. DeBakey would later initiate the concept and spearhead the movement to establish a national facility for historical medical papers and artifacts. His idea and leadership brought about the establishment of the National Library of Medicine in 1959, housed at the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. DeBakey has also made enormous contributions to the city of Houston and what is now known as the Baylor College of Medicine. In 1948, Baylor University College of Medicine was a small, virtually unknown institution recently moved from Dallas to be the cornerstone of the new Texas Medical Center. At the time, it was the only medical school in Houston and lacked most of the facilities and programs essential to a viable medical and teaching institution. Dr. DeBakey reluctantly accepted a faculty position, but once on board, he worked quickly to set the standard that would allow the College to become one of the most respected health science centers in the Nation and the world. In 1969, after working for 2 decades to build the institution into a world-

class health science center, Dr. DeBakey was elected the first President of the newly named Baylor College of Medicine. Under his leadership, the College would experience an unprecedented era of growth and renowned reputation.

In recognition of his life-saving achievements, Dr. DeBakey has been honored numerous times with hundreds of awards, including the Legion of Merit from the United States Army, the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction, the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanities Award, and the Presidential National Medal of Science. He has been honored by kings and queens, and virtually every U.S. President since Harry Truman has sought the wisdom of "the maestro."

ON THE OCCASION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Taiwan's National Day, I would like to join my colleagues in wishing Taiwan and its people many happy returns and especially an early return to the United Nations.

In recent decades, Taiwan has impressed the world with its economic development and progress in the areas of human rights and political freedom. Taiwan has also been a partner with the United States in our global war against terror.

Best wishes to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian and Taiwan Representative in Washington, Dr. Joseph Wu. Representative Wu has impressed everyone on the Hill with his knowledge, industry and professional demeanor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 946 to H.R. 3246. I would have voted "yes." My vote would not have changed the result, but I want this record to reflect my intention.

KEVIN EVERETT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, southeast Texas has a rich and proud tradition when it comes to football. There have been numerous State championships won from the neighboring high school teams who play to capacity crowds on Friday night. The area has produced superstars that have gone on to Hall of Fame careers in both the college and professional game. But for all the championships and awards, the greatest victory a southeast

Texan has achieved might be against a doctor's prognosis.

Kevin Everett was an All State tight end at Port Arthur's Thomas Jefferson High School. He moved on to Kilgore Junior College, where he twice received first-team All-Southwest Conference honors. Due to his exceptional speed and size, he was rated the second-best junior college player in the Nation. He then transferred to college football national powerhouse the University of Miami. After 2 solid years as a Hurricane, he was selected 86th overall in the 2005 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills.

Despite being so far away from home, Kevin Everett had a mountain of support from his hometown fans. He never could have imagined how much he would need that support until September 9 of this year. Kevin's Bills were playing in week 1 when he went to make a tackle and went down with a severe spinal injury. Doctors originally believed that Kevin would sustain permanent neurological damage and used words like "bleak" and "dismal" to describe his chances of walking again. Then, only 2 short days later, Kevin was voluntarily moving his arms and legs. Over the next few weeks, Kevin made vast improvements in his physical condition, leading doctors to believe that he will eventually walk again and possibly make a full recovery.

Kevin is now home in Houston with his family, beginning a long rehabilitation period. The grim prognosis once given to him is now but a distant memory. Thanks to his positive attitude, mental toughness, and motivation to work hard, Kevin has shown that anything is possible. He has earned his place amongst other southeast Texas football greats and always be remembered as a champion of the human spirit.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMENDING SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL OF THE MARI-
ANAS AND SOROPTIMIST INTER-
NATIONAL OF GUAM FOR THEIR
EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF WOMEN
AND CHILDREN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of Soroptimist International of the Marianas and Soroptimist International of Guam, for their service to our community and thank them for various projects to assist and improve the lives of women and children in Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Soroptimist International of Guam, which was chartered on March 8, 1978, produces a weekly hour-long show, "Women Making a Difference," on Guam's public radio station, KPRG. The show addresses issues of importance to women. SIG also sponsors health fairs and, in conjunction with the Superior Court of Guam, the annual Silent Witness program, which focuses public attention on domestic violence, as well as an annual women's art show, "A Mosaic of Culture, Uniting Women and Girls Through Art, Friendship and Service."

Soroptimist International of the Marianas, chartered on February 9, 1986, sponsors a

scholarship program to the University of Guam and Guam Community College, as well as Grandparent's Day at St. Dominic's Senior Care Home, Mother's Day with Alea Shelter, the Women in Business Conference, the University of Guam Sigma Club, and the John F. Kennedy High School S Club; and in 1997, Soroptimist International of the Marianas and Soroptimist International of Guam co-founded and adopted as their long term project "Erica's House—A Family Visitation Center," a support service for parents and children in need of visitation and exchange services. Both chapters also jointly participate in the Women's Opportunity Awards, the Violet Richardson Awards, and Women of Distinction project, as well as in the activities and projects of the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, Women United Against Cancer and the Relay for Life.

Soroptimist International is the world's largest volunteer service organization for women in business, management, and in various professions. On October 27 and 28, 2007, SIM and SIG will jointly host the Soroptimist International of the Americas Founder Region District VI Annual Meeting on Guam with the theme, "Share the Passion, Share the Magic." And on behalf of all the women of Guam and the Marianas, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome SIA Regional Governor Sue Finch; Governor-elect Amelia Benko; Secretary Linda Sue Hansen; Fellowship President Dion C. Weaver, and District VI Director Judy Lee, and to offer my best wishes for a fruitful and productive meeting.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAKE LIPPETT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the career of Dr. Jake Lippert. Dr. Lippert has served as the Executive Director for the Missouri Dental Association since 1998, who now ends his tenure.

Dr. Lippert earned an undergraduate degree from St. Louis University before completing its Dental School program in 1959. He then honorably served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy until 1961. Dr. Lippert has been a member of the American Dental Association since 1959 and a member of the Missouri Dental Association since 1961. During his career, Dr. Lippert has been awarded numerous professional honors, including being named the Missouri Dental Association's Dentist of the Year in 1998.

Beyond his private practice, Jake Lippert has been extremely involved in his community. He has served as an Instructor for East Central College, the President of the Union School Board, an assistant scout master for a local Boy Scout troop, and a certified high school football referee. Dr. Lippert is highly regarded for his generosity and hard work.

As Executive Director of the Missouri Dental Association, Dr. Lippert was instrumental in increasing legislative involvement, creating additional continuing education programs, and shaping a vision for the future of the organization. I'm certain that Members of the House will join me in thanking Jake Lippert for his exceptional leadership and dedication.

PHILADELPHIA'S RENAISSANCE
MAN, FORGOTTEN NO LONGER

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the good news that a great Philadelphian of another time, whose life, accomplishments and even his burial site have been lost in obscurity for too long, is finally being restored to prominence.

Octavius Valentine Catto, a champion of African American empowerment, civil rights and civil disobedience before those terms were even in use, was assassinated by a political thug on October 10, 1871, during a Philadelphia municipal election. Catto was walking between his South Street home and a nearby polling place on a riot-torn day during which he had been organizing African Americans to exercise their newfound franchise and throw out a corrupt local political machine.

Catto has been called a renaissance man for all that he undertook and accomplished in his short life (1839–1871). He was a classically trained student and then professor at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia, the forerunner of Cheyney University; an officer in an all-black unit of the Pennsylvania National Guard during the Civil War who insisted on a meaningful role for his soldiers; and even manager-second baseman for the Pythian Baseball Club, a renowned and pioneering all-black team. In the 1860s Catto, along with another prominent Philadelphian, the black abolitionist William Still, organized a civil disobedience campaign that led to laws desegregating Philadelphia's trolley car system.

Catto's assassination led to a massive public funeral and an outcry for justice. But gradually his deeds and memory faded from view. His remains were relocated from Lebanon Cemetery in Southwest Philadelphia to Eden Cemetery in Delaware County in 1903, but contemporary admirers haven't even known where to find his resting place.

On the anniversary of O.V. Catto's assassination, October 10, 1871, a group of Philadelphians led by Philadelphia City Council member Jim Kenney are changing all that. At a ceremony that includes representatives of the Philadelphia Union League, to which Catto belonged, Cheyney University; the O.V. Catto Elks Lodge and others, a temporary marker is being installed and dedicated at Eden Cemetery, 1434 Springfield Road, Collingdale, Pennsylvania. Significantly, his modest burial site is not far from the tomb of William Still. A permanent and appropriate headstone for Catto soon will follow.

That's not all. A site has been designated on the plaza outside Philadelphia City Hall for the construction of a statue of Catto. A design competition and fundraising effort are being launched by the O.V. Catto Memorial Fund under the leadership of Carol Clark Lawrence, the Fund's Chair, and Jim Straw, the Co-Chair. The Fund will also develop an educational program to assure that future generations will be well aware of the contributions of this outstanding Philadelphian.

Octavius V. Catto is an inspiration to Philadelphians of all races. The telling of his story is long overdue. And now it begins.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM E. "SONNY" MOTTERN

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute William E. "Sonny" Mottern who was a true patriot and friend of the First District of Tennessee. He passed away recently at the age of 87.

He was born June 24, 1920 and married his high school sweetheart, Eulah "Sweetie" Shepherd on October 17, 1941. From December 1943 thru December 1945, "Sonny" served on active duty with the 15th Infantry—3rd Division in France where he received a battle field promotion to S/Sgt. He was captured December 19, 1944, near the Rhine River in France and was held in four German prisoner camps, being moved by box car and forced marches. He was liberated on April 29, 1945 by General George Patton.

"Sonny" was discharged December 7, 1945 and awarded the Bronze Star, One Bronze Star Cluster, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American European-African Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Combat Infantry's Badge, Honorable Service Medal and the POW Medal. He was called again to serve his country as Chairman of the Carter County Draft Board during the Vietnam Conflict.

On April 19, 1996 he was named by the Governor of Tennessee as a Colonel, Aid-Camp for Valor and Dedication in the Performance of his duties in service to the ExPOWs and all Veterans of the state of Tennessee. He also served on the Military and Veterans Advisory Board for Tennessee. On April 19, 1997 he was appointed by the Governor of Tennessee as Tennessee Ambassador of Goodwill. He was a National Service Organization Representative for the Department of Veteran Affairs and was currently serving as Treasurer of the Military Ex-Prisoners of War Foundation.

Mr. Mottern's community involvement and leadership included: Elder in the Brick Christian Church; member of the Chamber of Commerce; past Master of the Masonic Lodge, and Life Member of the VFW, DAV, Purple Heart, the American Legion and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was a previous owner of the Dixie Battery Company in Elizabethton and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Watauga Volunteer Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring Sonny Mottern, a true servant of his country, whose commitment and unwavering determination continue to make a lasting impact all throughout East Tennessee. He will be missed greatly throughout our region as we have lost a true American hero.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LAND-IN-
TRUST PUBLIC HEARING ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Land-In-Trust Public Hearing

Act, which would require the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior to conduct at least one public hearing in the surrounding community before taking land into trust for an Indian tribe.

In April 2005, the Oneida Indian Nation (OIN) applied to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to have 17,310 acres in Central New York taken into trust. These lands are located in Madison and Oneida counties, which I represent together with the gentleman from New York, Mr. ARCURI. In fact, I originally introduced similar legislation in the 109th Congress as H.R. 4634 with Mr. ARCURI's predecessor, Mr. Boehlert.

The land-in-trust process is complex and time-consuming. Moreover, its potential impacts on regulatory jurisdiction, property taxes, and special assessments are immense. However, current regulations do not require that the Department of the Interior conduct a public hearing in the area that would be most impacted by the loss of the jurisdiction over the land in question.

This is unfortunate, particularly given the potential consequences of a decision to take land into trust. Thus, very simply, this bill is designed to ensure that the hard-working men and women of areas, like my constituents in Madison and Oneida counties that are the subject to land-in-trust applications have an opportunity and forum to directly and personally provide their comments. It also would require the Department of the Interior to consider the input and statements received at that hearing in its decision-making process. While providing such an opportunity would certainly further the interests of justice and equity, it also would enhance the quality of the Department's decisions on land-in-trust applications.

RECOGNIZING KARL GSCHNEIDNER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 9, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished professor of materials science and engineering, a senior metallurgist at Ames Lab, Karl Gschneider.

It was just recently announced that Karl will be awarded the prestigious Acta Materialia Gold Medal in March of 2008 based on his demonstrated ability and leadership in materials research.

Karl has been working with rare earth metals including research into their magnetic and electrical properties for over 50 years. Karl's most noble work has been in magnetic refrigeration. Magnetic refrigeration is a cooling method that uses considerably less energy than the majority of common cooling methods used today. The new knowledge Karl is developing will advance existing materials and will lead to new and better materials, which will ensure the success of magnetic refrigeration as a viable energy-saving and environmentally safe technology in the next century.

Karl's research is vital in this period of our country. Our Nation's dependence on foreign

oil and demands for energy has potential for great strain on our economy, security and supply of natural resources.

I commend Karl Gschneidner for his dedication to science and to materials engineering research. And, I know that all of my col-

leagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating him on his gold medal recognition.

Daily Digest

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2007.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 3773–3789; 1 private bill, H.R. 3790; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 229; and H. Res. 716–718, 721 were introduced. **Pages H11393–94**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H11394–95**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2474, to provide for an increased maximum civil penalty for violations under the Consumer Product Safety Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–364);

H.R. 1721, 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, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–365);

H.R. 1699, to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to require certain manufacturers to provide consumer product registration forms to facilitate recalls of durable infant and toddler products, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–366);

H.R. 814, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations mandating child-resistant closures on all portable gasoline containers, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–367);

H. Res. 719, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3056) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the authority of the Internal Revenue Service to use private debt collection companies, to delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, and to revise the tax rules on expatriation (H. Rept. 110–368); and

H. Res. 720, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2895) to establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families (H. Rept. 110–369).

Page H11393

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Salazar to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H11323**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:31 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H11323**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Extending the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999: Concur in Senate amendment to H.R. 1124, to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H11324–27**

Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 3518, amended, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the “Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building”; **Page H11327**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the ‘Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building’.” **Page H11327**

Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 3530, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 Highway 41 North in Inverness,

Florida, as the “Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building”; **Pages H11327–28**

Recognizing Martha Coffin Wright on the 200th anniversary of her birth and her induction into the National Women’s Hall of Fame: H. Res. 588, to recognize Martha Coffin Wright on the 200th anniversary of her birth and her induction into the National Women’s Hall of Fame; **Pages H11328–30**

Congratulating the Warner Robins Little League Baseball Team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2007 Little League World Series Championship: H. Res. 630, to congratulate the Warner Robins Little League Baseball Team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2007 Little League World Series Championship; **Pages H11330–31**

Celebrating the 90th birthday of Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, and honoring his contributions to higher education, the Catholic Church, and the advancement of the humanitarian mission: H. Res. 687, amended, to celebrate the 90th birthday of Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, and to honor his contributions to higher education, the Catholic Church, and the advancement of the humanitarian mission; **Pages H11331–33**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Recognizing Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., for his contributions to the civil rights movement in the United States, his tireless work to reduce the threat of nuclear conflict, and his efforts to secure the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.”. **Page H11333**

Commending Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre for establishing a National Football League record for most career touchdown passes: H. Res. 697, to commend Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre for establishing a National Football League record for most career touchdown passes; **Pages H11333–35**

Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 3308, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, as the “Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office”; **Pages H11335–36**

Congratulating the Phoenix Mercury for winning the 2007 Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) Championship: H. Res. 654, to congratulate the Phoenix Mercury for winning the 2007 Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) Championship; **Pages H11336–37**

Children’s Gasoline Burn Prevention Act: H.R. 814, amended, to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations mandating child-resistant closures on all portable gasoline containers; **Pages H11337–39**

Danny Keysar Child Product Safety Notification Act: H.R. 1699, amended, to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to require certain manufacturers to provide consumer product registration forms to facilitate recalls of durable infant and toddler products; **Pages H11339–40**

Providing for an increased maximum civil penalty for violations under the Consumer Product Safety Act: H.R. 2474, amended, to provide for an increased maximum civil penalty for violations under the Consumer Product Safety Act; **Pages H11341–42**

Pool and Spa Safety Act: H.R. 1721, amended, 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; **Pages H11342–46**

Public Diplomacy Resource Centers Act of 2007: H.R. 2553, amended, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at United States diplomatic and consular missions to provide information about American culture, society, and history; **Pages H11346–47**

Amending the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems and reauthorizing such Act through fiscal year 2010: H.R. 2185, amended, to amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems and to reauthorize such Act through fiscal year 2010; **Pages H11347–50**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect tropical forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems, to reauthorize such Act through fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.”. **Page H11350**

Expressing the strong support of the House of Representatives for implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between

President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus: H. Res. 405, amended, to express the strong support of the House of Representatives for implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus;

Pages H11350–52

Recognizing the warm friendship and expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil, commending Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs, and recognizing the importance of the March 9, 2007, United States-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels cooperation: H. Res. 651, amended, to recognize the warm friendship and expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil, to commend Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs, and to recognize the importance of the March 9, 2007, United States-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels cooperation;

Pages H11352–53

Denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, “honor” killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society: H. Res. 32, amended, to denounce the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, “honor” killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and to express the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 378 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 949; and

Pages H11353–56, H11368

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, ‘honor’ killings, acid burnings, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions, and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and equality of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral and peaceful society.”

Page H11368

War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007: H.R. 400, amended, to prohibit profiteering and fraud relating to military action, relief, and reconstruction

efforts, by a 2/3 yeas-and-nays vote of 375 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 950.

Pages H11356–63, H11368–69

In Memory of the late Honorable Jo Ann Davis of Virginia: The House agreed to H. Res. 717, expressing the condolences of the House on the death of the Honorable Jo Ann Davis, a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Pages H11363–68, H11369–73

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the passing of Representative Davis of Virginia, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 432.

Page H11368

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H11368, H11368–69. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and at 10:15 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 717, it stands adjourned in memory of the late Honorable Jo Ann Davis.

Committee Meetings

HIV/AIDS RELIEF AND FOOD SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the President’s Emerging Plans for AIDS Relief: Is it Fulfilling the Nutrition and Food Security Needs of People Living with HIV/AIDS? Testimony was heard from Mark R. Dybul, Coordinator, Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Department of State; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IMPROVEMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on Implementation of the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act: Has the promise been fulfilled? Testimony was heard from H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; John Frampton, Director, Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina; Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of the Interior; and public witnesses.

NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 9 to 3, a structured rule providing one hour of general debate on H.R. 2895, National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all

points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute except for clause 10 of rule XXI.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, the rule provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker.

Testimony was heard from Chairman Frank and Representatives Hastings of Florida, Woolsey and Bachus.

TAX COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a vote of 9 to 3, a closed rule providing one hour of debate in the House on H.R. 3056, Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, the rule permits the Chair, during consideration of the bill, to postpone further consideration of it to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Representative Van Hollen.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings are scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on security involving Pakistan and policy implications for the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, hearing on Cases of Child Neglect and Abuse at Private Residential Treatment Facilities, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, to mark up H.R. 1424, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, to mark up the following: H.R. 3403, 911 Modernization and Safety Act of 2007; and the Broadband Census of America Act of 2007, 3 p.m., 2120 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, to mark up the following: H. Res. 106, Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology, hearing and markup of H.R. 2631, Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act, 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, to mark up the following: the Responsibility Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective Act of 2007; H.R. 3678, Internet Tax Freedom Act of 2007; H.R. 2830, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007; H.R. 3564, Regulatory Improvement Act of 2007; H.R. 2405, Proud to Be an American Citizen Act; H.R. 2884, Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act; H.R. 1512, To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to States incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors; H.R. 1312, Arts Require Timely Service (ARTS) Act; and H.R. 3387, To update and improve the codification of title 46, United States Code, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 53, Virgin Islands National Park School Lease Act; H.R. 767, Refuge Ecology Protection, Assistance, and Immediate Response Act; H.R. 830, Denali National Park and Alaska Railroad Land Exchange Act of 2007; H.R. 3111, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial Enhancement Act of 2007; H.R. 783, Mesa Verde National Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2007; H.R. 1528, New England National Scenic Trail Designation Act; H.R. 2094, To provide for certain administrative and support for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission; H.R. 2197, Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Boundary Adjustment Act; H.R. 523, Douglas County, Washington, PUD Conveyance Act; H.R. 1462, Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and Pathfinder Modification Authorization Act;

H.R. 29, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California; H.R. 135, Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2007; and H.R. 664, Dana Point Desalination Project Authorization Act, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, hearing on Professional Sport Stadiums: Do They Divert Taxpayer Funds From Public Infrastructure? 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, hearing on Six Years Later: Assessing Long-Term Threats, Risks and the U.S. Strategy for Security in a Post 9/11 World, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider H.R. 2095, Federal railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, to mark up the following: H.R. 1834, National Ocean Exploration Program Act; the Energy Storage Technology Advancement Act of 2007; and

the Industrial Energy Efficiency Research and Development Act of 2007, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on Assessment of the National Science Board's Action Plan for STEM Education, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, hearing on Small Business Priorities in upcoming energy legislation, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on The Transition from FAA to Contractor-Operated Flight Service Stations: Lessons Learned, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, hearing on the Findings of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, to mark up the RESTORE Act of 2007, 10:30 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, hearing entitled "The Business Opportunity in a Low-Carbon Energy Economy," 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, October 15

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, October 10

Senate Chamber

Program: for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 3 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3093. Commerce and Justice, and Science Appropriations Act.

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 2895—National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 (Subject to a Rule) and H.R. 3056—Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Ackerman, Gary L., N.Y., E2092
Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E2094
Butterfield, G.K., N.C., E2094
Capito, Shelley Moore, W.Va., E2085, E2086, E2087
Capps, Lois, Calif., E2089
Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E2088
Costa, Jim, Calif., E2088
Davis, Danny K., Ill., E2089
Davis, David, Tenn., E2095

Davis, Tom, Va., E2090
Farr, Sam, Calif., E2085, E2086, E2087
Fattah, Chaka, Pa., E2095
Graves, Sam, Mo., E2085, E2086, E2087
Green, Al, Tex., E2093
Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E2091
Kanjorski, Paul E., Pa., E2088
Kind, Ron, Wisc., E2092
Langevin, James R., R.I., E2088
Latham, Tom, Iowa, E2095
McHugh, John M., N.Y., E2095

Marchant, Kenny, Tex., E2092
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E2086, E2087
Pickering, Charles W. "Chip", Miss., E2093, E2094
Poe, Ted, Tex., E2093, E2094
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E2089
Reyes, Silvestre, Tex., E2092
Rogers, Harold, Ky., E2085, E2087
Sarbanes, John P., Md., E2091
Skelton, Ike, Mo., E2094
Udall, Mark, Colo., E2091



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