H. Davenport, John Debbink, Jennifer T. Duncan, John K. Duncan, Oscar Duyck, Reese Evans, E. Heric Fehrenbach, Victor A. Gansser, Lawrence R. Gordon, John W. Grigg, William F. Gross, Margaret A. Hanson, Mark M. Jaffe, Eugene H. Kramer, Bradford T. Light, Vagn A. Littrup, David A. Lovely, Clifford F. Mader, Ronald P. Maes, William R. Mahoney, John A. Martin, Donald J. Massnick, Margaret F. Morand, Karl D. Newingham, Austin P. Nickel, Frank C. Niemann, George L. Oliver, Gerald W. Pergande, Joseph E. Pergande, Charles C. Rochow, Michael D. Rowley, Daniel L. Santistevan, Jack A. Shaw, Robert N. Shuster, Richard J. Somalski, Melvin E. Steggall, Edward P. Trahan, Jill M. Urban, Gregory S. Wagner, Louis W. Westover, Dena J. Wirt, Gary Young, Eric W. Zimostrad, Gary N. Zube.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the wonderful service provided by these board members since 1957. As a former teacher, I know first hand the impact boards of education have on shaping the curriculum, culture, and structure of our schools. I congratulate the Essexville-Hampton Board of Education for the work they have accomplished over the years.

CONGRATULATING SALLYANNE AND HAROLD ROSENN, 2008 RECIPIENTS OF THE MONSIGNOR McGOWAN CORNERSTONE AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Sallyanne and Harold Rosenn, the recipients of the Monsignor McGowan Cornerstone Award for their years of service to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This prestigious award was created by the collaborative efforts of various nonprofit organizations in northeast Pennsylvania as well as the mid-Atlantic region that prospered from Monsignor McGowan's aid.

The Monsignor McGowan Cornerstone Award is presented annually to an individual whose tireless efforts in the areas of service, leadership, humanitarianism, and philanthropy make them an invaluable resource to their community.

Sallyanne and Harold Rosenn are textbook examples of kindness and dedication. Harold Rosenn received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1941 and enlisted in the United States Air Force shortly after, earning three medals for his service.

Mrs. Sallyanne Rosenn met her husband when she was the executive director of the Girl Scouts while he was chairman to the Community Chest, predecessor of the United Way. This is the first of many positions she held that were dedicated to helping the area's youth. She was employed as field and camp director of the Wyoming Valley Council of Girl Scouts and served as president of the Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council; the Council on Juvenile Justice and Youth Service Commission of Luzerne County.

Mrs. Rosenn was the recipient of the Woman of the Year Award from the National Council of Jewish Women in 1961. She received the Hannah G. Solomon Award in 1966, and the Woman of the Year Award from the Seekers of Mercy. She was also the first woman to run for the office of councilwoman in Kingston, in which she served a full term.

Harold Rosenn has held the position of commander of the Kingston American Legion Post No. 395 where he started a blood donor program which would eventually be adopted as the American Legion Blood Donor Program for Pennsylvania. He has chaired the United Way Campaign of the Wyoming Valley, twice chaired the United Jewish Campaign and served as chairman and president of Temple Israel. He also served on the boards of United Penn Bank, Franklin First Savings Bank, and Governor George Leader's nursing homes.

His community bonds extend to not only public service, but appreciation for the education of the region's youth. He has been extensively involved with his wife's alma mater, Misericordia University. He served as a member of Misericordia's board of trustees for almost 25 years and became a Director Emeritus in 1985. The plaza in the center of campus has been named ''Rosenn Plaza'' in their honor and they were the first recipients of the Trustees Award for their dedication. Atty. Rosenn was awarded an honorary doctorate of law degree and the McAuley Medal in 1991.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Sallyanne and Harold Rosenn on this auspicious occasion. Their inexhaustible efforts and dedication to community service is an inspiration to all.

A TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT VIRGIL BROWN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Virgil Brown's 30 years of service to the Sacramento Police Department. Lieutenant Brown leaves a lasting legacy in Sacramento and his leadership and expertise will be deeply missed. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest public servants.

Lieutenant Brown began his career with the Sacramento Police Department as a community service officer in June 1978. By December of that year Lieutenant Brown was promoted to the rank of police officer in the Patrol Division. During his time on patrol his work ethic distinguished himself from others and in 1983 he tested for and was assigned to the Crime Suppression Unit where he had a 92 percent conviction rate. In 1989 he was promoted to detective in the Special Investigation Division During his time as detective he conducted major multi-jurisdictional narcotic investigations, resulting in the arrest of many suspects and the recovery of thousands of pounds of cocaine and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In 1995 Lieutenant Brown was assigned to the Office of the Chief Criminal Intelligence Unit where he worked with the Secret Service and sat on the Greater Sacramento Area Taskforce on Hate Crimes. Over the next few years Lieutenant Brown continued to distinguish himself on all of his assignments and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. In 1999 he was assigned to the North Area Patrol Division, and was promoted to his current rank of lieutenant, assigned to the Office of Operation in 2006 where he currently works as a watch commander for the south and east areas of Sacramento.

During his tenure with the Sacramento Police Department Lieutenant Brown has been honored for his hard work and dedication to Sacramento's safety. In 1991 he was named Narcotic Officer of the Year by H.I.P., the Joint Narcotic Investigation Taskforce of the Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento Sheriff's Department. That same year he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition for the narcotic investigation of Oscar Garcia Escobar, Cali Cartel cocaine trafficker. In 1994 Lieutenant Brown was honored with a Special Award of Honor in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments in the field of Narcotic Law Enforcement by the International Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association in New York and was named the Narcotics Officer of the Year by the California Narcotic Officers Association.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Lieutenant Virgil Brown's distinguished commitment to law enforcement and Sacramento's safety. Lieutenant Brown's outstanding leadership and dedication to the Sacramento Police Department, has reduced crime and made Sacramento a better and safer place for us to live and work. We all are thankful for his efforts. As Lieutenant Brown's colleagues, family and friends gather to honor his service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing him continued good fortune in his future endeavors.

H.R. 6304, FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE AMENDMENTS ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker I rise in opposition to H.R. 6304, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act (FISA).

There is no question that we need to modernize the laws that govern U.S. intelligence to protect our national security, but we must also rigorously defend civil liberties and ensure accountability.

That is why I am strongly opposed to any retroactive immunity for those telecommunications companies that are charged with violating those fundamental rights.

Legal experts concur that President Bush's wiretapping program was, and is, in violation of the Constitution and applicable federal law. Congress as a whole was kept in the dark for years about these activities.

It is our responsibility to protect innocent Americans who expect that their communications will remain private, except in circumstances provided under the law. Corporations that handed over their customers' records, without a valid court order or other legal instrument authorized by statute, undermined fundamental civil protections and privacy rights of Americans.

The courts should not be prevented from ruling on the legality of the actions taken by these corporations. And Congress should not meddle in the pending lawsuits.

Yes, we need to replace the outdated and controversial Protect America Act (S. 1927) and enable timely intelligence gathering against terrorists. But we must also ensure that power cannot be abused to violate our most precious freedoms.

Since the tragedy of September 11, the Bush administration has abused its intelligence gathering powers. In 2005, we learned that the government had circumvented intelligence laws to spy on Americans' phone conversations. Last year, an investigation found that the FBI had misused tools intended to fight terrorism to conduct unrelated domestic surveillance. And earlier this year, reports have surfaced that the FBI requested thousands of phone records to cover up its previous abuses, and that this and other questionably obtained data is being compiled by the National Security Agency in a massive data-mining operation about which we know almost nothing.

I cannot in good conscience vote for this bill, which gives the Bush administration even broader spying powers.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act implicitly gives retroactive immunity to telecommunication companies that facilitated warrantless wiretapping over the last 7 years and ensures the dismissal of all cases pending against telecommunication companies.

Furthermore, H.R. 6304 permits the government to conduct mass, untargeted surveillance of all communication coming into and out of the United States, without any individualized review, and without any finding of wronging doing.

This act permits only minimal court oversight and court review is further trivialized by authorizing the Government to continue a surveillance program even after an application is denied by the court.

The legislation also contains a loophole that permits the Government to start spying and wait for up to 7 days to go to court and obtain a warrant.

Congress should not allow for the warrantless wiretapping of American citizens. Ensuring our national security must not come at the expense of our basic civil liberties. We can protect our Nation and our rights.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ONESEPHOR PETER (O.P.) BROUSSARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Onesephor Peter Broussard, a constituent and citizen of Pleasantville, Texas, and a tireless civil rights advocate, who passed away June 25, 2008, at the age of 81.

Born in Louisiana to sharecropper parents, Mr. Broussard served in a segregated Army unit during World War II, in the battalion known as the Black Panthers. After returning to the States, Mr. Broussard served as a union organizer at Armco Steel, where he worked for 35 years.

But what truly distinguished Mr. Broussard, was his endless fight for civil rights, specifically for the integration of the Houston Independent School District. In 1966, Mr. Broussard and his wife filed a lawsuit against HISD to stop a project that would encourage de facto segregation. The suit eventually went to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, where the judges unfortunately refused to halt the program. Despite this, Mr. Broussard's eldest son, Richard Broussard, became the first African-American freshman at McReynolds High School in the Fifth Ward of Houston, TX. It was only thanks to his father's tireless struggle that Richard, and his siblings, were able to gain the good education that their father had never had.

In addition to this civil rights work, Mr. Broussard served as an officer in the Pleasantville Civic League, and as director of the Gulf Coast Community Action Board and the Community Development Commission. He dedicated his life to helping others, and this made him a true leader in every way. O.P. was a civil rights pioneer and a good friend.

He will be greatly missed by the Pleasantville community and by all those who knew him, and I ask that you remember the Broussard family in your thoughts and prayers.

SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN BOUMEDIENE ET AL. V. BUSH

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, the Supreme Court's recent decision in Boumediene et al. v. Bush has again shown a spotlight on this administration's misguided attempts to rewrite the Constitution to suit its own ends. Once again, the Court has spoken up for the Constitution and against attempts to do an end run around the venerable document.

In this important decision, the Court found that those at Guantanamo Bay "have the constitutional privilege of habeas corpus" and are "not barred from seeking the writ . . . because they have been designated as enemy combatants or because of their presence at Guantanamo" and struck down attempts by the 109th Congress and the President to prevent detainees from using this historic writ to challenge their detention in court.

In its ruling, the Court again reminds us "that the Framers considered the writ a vital instrument for the protection of individual liberty" as well as a safeguard of the separation of powers provided in the Constitution.

This decision marks at least the third time in which the Supreme Court has acted to overturn disastrous and controversial Bush Administration policies regarding the treatment of enemy combatants. These policies have helped to make Guantanamo a negative symbol of America around the world.

While I strongly believe that dangerous terrorists should and must be detained, the confusing, conflicting, and sometimes illegal policies at Guantanamo and the actions of the Supreme Court time and again clearly indicate a need for change. These changes must include the closing of the detention facilities at Guantanamo and an end to the torture and detention policies that have tarnished America's image, drawn condemnation from our allies, and done little to help bring to justice those responsible for acts of terrorism against our country.

Prolonged indefinite imprisonment without charges and torture are out of line with the traditions and values of the U.S. While the Supreme Court decision will now ensure that Habeas Corpus will be available so that an independent court can review the facts and make a determination of whether individuals should be detained, the administration's other policies also need to be reformed.

Last year, in the FY 2008 Defense Authorization bill, Congress urged the administration to ensure that detainees at Guantanamo Bay, to the maximum extent possible, are charged and expeditiously prosecuted for crimes committed against the U.S. The bill also urged the administration to carry out operations at Guantanamo Bay "in a way that upholds the national interest and core values of the American people" and called for the Defense Department to provide Congress with its plan for each detainee—whether they have or will be charged, whether they will be released or transferred, or whether they will be detained.

In light of the recent ruling and continuing controversy regarding this facility, Congress can and must go further to ensure that this facility is closed.

Closing Guantanamo won't immediately repair the damage done by the detention and other policies that have undermined America's image even among some of our allies. Such a move may open up a host of new questions of what to do about those detained there. However, rather than putting that important question to an administration which our courts have repeatedly had to check, the Court's ruling creates another opportunity for Congress to Act.

And one of its first steps should be putting Guantanamo out of business while holding accountable those prisoners at Guantanamo who represent real danger to the U.S. We can and should do so in a way that does not require us to switch off the Constitution, our values, or our Nation's strong tradition of ensuring access to the courts and justice.

In the decision, Justice Kennedy, writing for the majority, warned of the dangers of allowing either the legislative or executive branch to "switch the Constitution on or off at will."

In pursuing terrorists, we cannot undermine the very freedoms and rights that are the basis for our democracy. Our national security interests are best served when we interrogate and try terrorist suspects in a manner that comports with our values, produces convictions that will withstand appeals, and honors longstanding international commitments.

THE "MICHAEL BILIRAKIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SPINAL CORD INJURY CENTER"

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand before my colleagues today as we pass legislation that will designate the Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida, as the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center."