a world of black and brown, a moderate in a world of revolutionaries, trying to bring change where change seemed needed most, trying to buy time until the change would come.''

After feeling his power to affect change had reached its limit, Barry Gottehrer left New York's City Hall and went on to work in government affairs roles in New York and Washington, DC. His legacy lives on in his books and in the memory of those who marveled at his daring belief that working for good was not impossible. I was honored to have met Barry after coming to Congress and I will always be grateful for our friendship.

RECOGNIZING JEFFERY WEHR, AN ''AMERICAN STAR OF TEACHING''

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the community of Odessa, Washington in celebrating the accomplishments of Jeffrey Wehr. Today, the U.S. Department of Education is recognizing Mr. Wehr as an American Star of Teaching for his work as the science teacher at Odessa High School.

Mr. Wehr is known for being an exceptional motivator, challenging students daily to think and achieve at their highest levels. During his time as a teacher, he has increased enrollment in science courses and has inspired students to rethink how they view science. His students have also received numerous awards in science research and have dramatically improved their science scores on State assessments. It is important we have teachers like Mr. Wehr to train this country's next generation of scientists and engineers so we can remain competitive in a global marketplace.

Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to join with the U.S. Department of Education in recognizing his passion, dedication, and commitment to helping our students achieve their full potential. I commend Mr. Wehr for emphasizing the importance of receiving a science education. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Wehr on this outstanding achievement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN SEIBERLING

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my condolences to the family and friends of Congressman John Seiberling and to pay tribute to his work here in the Congress. Congressman Seiberling passed away on August 2, 2008, at the age of 89.

John represented Ohio's 14th Congressional District, the district just north of the one I represent, from 1971 through 1987. He was an active member of the House Resources Committee and worked on a number of natural resource and environmental issues through this assignment. He cared deeply about the preservation of our national heritage and protecting the natural environment. He carried out these priorities through his work on the committee, but one effort in particular stands out as a legacy for the people of northeast Ohio.

As an innovator when it came to protecting natural resources and open space, John introduced legislation that would create a 33,000-acre national recreation area between the two population centers of Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. He asked me to serve as his partner as the Republican cosponsor of the legislation. We worked together to pass the bill, and on December 27, 1974, with President Gerald Ford's signature, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was established.

Today, this area, now the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, is one of the most frequently visited national parks within the entire national park system and serves as a respite to the residents of the densely populated cities of Cleveland and Akron and their surrounding suburbs, as well as many national park visitors from other States.

John's innovation and vision in understanding that people thirst for open spaces in their communities brought about the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Today it is a gift to the people of northeast Ohio and a true legacy of his work.

We are grateful for John's life and accomplishments and wish his family, especially his wife, Betty, who was his inspiring supporter, peace with his passing.

HONORING BRANDON MATSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Matson of Blue Springs, Missouri. Brandon is 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 1058, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandon 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 Brandon Matson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 2008

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today, I introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs Energy Sustainability Act of 2008, to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, a strategic plan for energy sustainability and an Office of Energy Management. As our country looks to a new energy future, I believe it is vitally important to encourage smart energy use and take steps to become more aware of how we spend our money for our energy. The office would be under the direction of a Deputy Assistant Secretary, who would report to the Assistant Secretary for Management. The bill would also create an Energy Advisory Committee consisting of VA officials and private sector experts on energy management. Disabled veterans would also receive increased specially adaptive housing and auto grants for energy efficient systems and vehicles.

The Office of Energy Management, with the advice and recommendations of the Energy Advisory Committee, would be responsible for helping VA meet a number of specific goals such as compliance with Presidential Order 13423, VA Directive 0055, and formulating long term, sustainable energy plans for VA. The office would also establish a database to track VA's energy and water consumption. The bill would authorize the office to directly utilize the expertise of national laboratories, such as those at Lawrence Livermore and Oakridge.

Addressing our Nation's energy problem calls for multi-faceted solutions—including alternative fuels. My bill would authorize the installation of alternative fuel stations at VA facilities, and require a feasibility study regarding the installation of energy efficient and renewable energy systems in Department buildings. Such systems include solar technologies and energy efficient roof and building envelope systems that might utilize ballasted or vegetated roof systems.

In an effort to assist our Nation's veterans in their efforts to become more energy efficient, my bill would provide an additional amount of up to $10,000 for high efficiency systems for veterans who qualify for specially adaptive housing grants under section 2101 (a)(2) of title 38, United States Code. Additionally, it would provide veterans who qualify for a specially adapted auto grant, under section 3902(a) of title 38, United States Code, the additional amount necessary to purchase alternative fuel vehicles.

Finally, VA would be authorized to conduct a pilot program for the sale of air pollution emission reduction incentives, also known as emission reduction credits, and would be authorized to retain proceeds from the sales. America's veterans should benefit from the VA's efforts to produce cleaner energy.

Madam Speaker, as the cost of fossil fuels rise and resources become more scarce, our Nation must provide services for our veterans in an energy efficient manner. A sustainable energy program at VA will conserve energy and financial resources that can be used to provide care for our veterans. I encourage my colleagues to support the Department of Veterans Affairs Energy Sustainability Act of 2008.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, earlier today I was detained by a previously

scheduled commitment in my district. Due to my absence, I request unanimous consent for the record to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall vote No. 600, I would have voted "nay";

Rollcall vote No. 601, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was meeting with constituents off the House of Representatives campus and missed three votes. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted.

Rollcall No. 602 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 1335, celebrating the 120-year partnership between Government and State veterans homes, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 603 on suspending the rules and passing S. 2339, designating the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Alpena, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Clement C. Van Wagoner Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic", I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 604 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1594, designating the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, as the Michael A. Marzano Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic, I would have voted "yea."

GREAT LAKES LEGACY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, as we all know, the Great Lakes have suffered as a result of years of industrial pollution that entered their waters. Through the Clean Water Act and other important measures we have begun the work necessary to reverse that trend.

However, much work needs to be done. The 2007 State of the Great Lakes report recorded the status of the Great Lakes ecosystem as mixed. In other words, the ecosystem displays both good and degraded features. Stopping pollution from entering the water is one thing. Beginning the efforts to restore the ecosystem from the damage it incurred is another.

Undoing that damage will require an extensive amount of work. One of the best tools in our arsenal to achieve that goal is the Great Lakes Legacy Act. This act, which authorizes funds to clean up contaminated sediment sites in U.S. Areas of Concern (AOCs), was spearheaded by my Great Lakes State colleague, Mr. EHLERS.

The projects that are funded under this act are devoted to prevention and remediation of contaminated sediment. As a result of projects done under this act, nearly 800,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments have been removed from AOCs. It is clear that this program has been successful and that is why it has been endorsed by numerous Great Lakes groups.

This program has been very good for the Great Lakes and we need to build on those successes to meet the challenges. While some great work has been done so far, we have only seen one spot de-listed as an Area of Concern; 31 Areas of Concern remain in the U.S. alone and 5 more are split between the U.S. and Canada. For these areas to be dealt with, it will take an incredible investment at the Federal level.

This legislation increases the authorization for this program up to $150 million annually. While I support that, I think we must also do our due diligence on the appropriations side of the ledger. Over the past few years, we seem to have settled at around the $30–35 million level, even though we are currently authorized at $50 million per year.

We also need to make sure that there is sufficient participation at the State and local level to complement Federal efforts. With the economy in Michigan being what it is, State and local governments are barely able in many cases to perform their basic functions, let alone take on ambitious restoration projects. This bill makes some improvements which will help in meeting the non-Federal requirements.

In closing, Madam Speaker, this has been a very successful program. I am glad to see that we are reauthorizing it at a higher level. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING SAMUEL ANDERSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Anderson of Blue Springs, Missouri. Samuel is 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 1696, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel 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 Samuel Anderson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 15, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 589 through 591. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 589 on H. Res. 1200, honoring the dedicated and outstanding work of military support groups across the country for their steadfast support of the members of our Armed Forces and their families, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 590, on H. Con. Res. 390, of which I am a cosponsor, honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 591, H.R. 6889, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to ensure continued access to Federal student loans, for 1 year, I would have voted "aye."

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND DR. WALTER A. JONES, SR., SENIOR PASTOR AND ORGANIZER OF THE MAJORITY BAPTIST CHURCH ST. ALBANS, NEW YORK

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commemorate the retirement and service of a great man of God, a great American, a great New Yorker, a dear friend and one of my constituents, the Reverend Dr. Walter A. Jones, Sr., senior pastor and organizer of the Majority Baptist Church, in St. Albans, NY.

The Reverend Dr. Jones rose from humble beginnings to a position of honor and distinction among our Nation's Baptist ministers. As a man of the cloth, his service and commitment to his church and the community that it serves have helped to improve the quality of life and spiritual condition of the people who reside there.

The Reverend Dr. Jones is a product of his hometown primary schools in Spartansburg, SC, and is a graduate of both the Friendship College of Rock Hill, SC, and the City College of New York, and has studied psychology at York College in Jamaica, NY. Reverend Jones received his ministerial training at the New York Theological Seminary of New York City, and his initial theological education began under the guidance of his spiritual mother, the late Reverend Dr. Katherine Brazley.

The Reverend Dr. Jones is the former president of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Queens, and he is a member of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York. Additionally, Reverend Dr. Jones is a member of the Eastern Baptist Association, the Ministers Conference of Hampton University, the Empire Convention of New York State and the National Baptist Convention. The Reverend Dr. Jones is also a member of the American Baptist Churches of New York City.

The Reverend Dr. Jones is married to Mrs. Doris L. Hope-Jones and they are the proud parents of two sons and a daughter.

The Reverend Dr. Walter A. Jones, Sr., senior pastor and organizer of the Majority Baptist Church, in St. Albans, NY, has been a pillar of strength, vision and hope in the St. Albans community, and I congratulate him on his many years of service to the church and our community.