

program was terminated in 1986 and it is time that VA once again became a leader in promoting veteran-owned businesses.

It is not right that some set-aside programs get a competitive advantage over veteran-owned businesses, so my bill also includes provisions to have veteran-owned small business evaluated and awarded contracts under the same rules as 8(a) businesses.

If this bill is enacted it will be a win-win for all Americans, as it will provide a valuable boost to our veterans who want to start a business, while stimulating the economy at the same time. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support this measure.

**PORT JEFFERSON VOLUNTEER
AMBULANCE CORPS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps in celebrating 50 years of dedicated service to our community. An historical shipbuilding town renamed in honor of our third President, Port Jefferson is now a thriving village of nearly 8,000 residents, growing in the summer with the arrival of tourists from Connecticut on the Cross-Sound ferry.

In the fifty years of its existence, the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps has expanded to meet the growing needs of the wider community, including the villages of Belle Terre and Mt. Sinai. Starting with a single ambulance, the Corps now operates three ambulances and a first-responder car, with 120 volunteers ready to answer the call 24 hours a day.

Madam Speaker, ambulance volunteers embody the best aspects of the American spirit and play a vital role in keeping our communities safe and healthy. I am proud to represent the membership of the Port Jefferson Volunteer Ambulance Corps and to join them in marking fifty years of service to their neighbors. I wish them the best as they continue their important, frequently life-saving mission.

**THE TURNABOUT RANCH IN
GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH**

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would correct a drafting error that involves a 25-acre parcel of Bureau of Land Management, BLM, land, and land that is part of the Turn-About Ranch, which rehabilitates troubled youth.

An erroneous survey in January 1999 was the cause of this trespass conflict when Congress approved a major land exchange, P.L. 105-335, between the State of Utah and the border of the Grand Staircase-Escalante, GSE, Monument. This legislation makes a minor boundary change to resolve the trespass conflict. It would grant the owners of the ranch to purchase the erroneously surveyed

land at a fair market value, enabling this important and effective program for troublesome youth to continue unimpeded.

The Turn-About Ranch has graduated approximately 500 troubled and at risk teenagers through an intense program of training and rehabilitation. The ranch also employs about 35 Garfield County residents. The Turnabout Ranch has strong support from the local community, and the Garfield County Commission, as well as approval from the parents of the troubled youth.

The Government-owned land administered by the BLM surrounds the congressional action by passing this legislation in Congress. The land was historically used for agriculture and grazing purposes. The Townsend family purchased the ranch and then leased the land to the Turn-About Ranch, Inc., for the sole purpose of rehabilitating the troubled youth, and restoring the values and self-esteem to these wayward teens.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a fair resolution to a technical problem. I hope Congress can implement this legislation and resolve this problem to continue helping our troubled adolescent teens.

SITUATION IN GAZA

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I strongly support Israel's right to defend itself against the rocket attacks by Hamas—attacks which have killed and injured many Israeli citizens. Israel's actions are understandable. We must stand by our ally and be involved in any negotiations. I'm heartened to learn of a possible cease fire proposal. However, any cease fire must ensure an end to the terrorist attacks by Hamas.

**ADDRESSING THE SITUATION IN
GAZA**

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my concern about events in Israel and Gaza, and my support for Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks launched from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. The region must have a meaningful resolution that will permanently end these rocket attacks and open a pathway to alleviate civilian suffering and develop a secure and prosperous Palestinian society. Hamas' rocket attacks targeting civilians triggered the current crisis. Any country is compelled to defend its civilians against attack.

The situation in the region has reached a new level of violence, and each civilian death is tragic. The images of suffering innocents, especially children, in both the Gaza Strip and Israel are a stark reminder that it is long past time for this region to know peace. The United States must be deeply involved in the peace process while vigorously working for short and long term solutions that will provide security to

Israel and the means for a better future to Palestinians.

**HONORING MADELINE DELOACH
FRANKLIN**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Madeline DeLoach Franklin. A loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, and compassionate soul, Madeline will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Madeline passed away on December 21, 2008, at the age of 94, less than 1 month short of her 95th birthday.

Born on January 17, 1914, Madeline had a long and fascinating life. She not only witnessed the most transformative periods in our Nation's history, she actively participated in them. Madeline Franklin was a vanguard of the pre-civil rights era and an inspiring political mother to many activists from the civil rights movement up until the present.

Madeline was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her parents, William and Dora C. DeLoach, moved the family from New Orleans to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during World War I. In Philadelphia, Mr. and Mrs. DeLoach founded St. Philip's Lutheran Church and raised their children in the spirit of community service. Growing up during the first decades of the 20th century, Madeline shared a simple and happy childhood with her nine older siblings. It was during this time that Madeline developed her strong social values, faith in God, and belief in the necessity of justice and human dignity for all people. She would carry these values with her and teach them to those fortunate enough to know her for over 70 years.

After graduating from the prestigious Philadelphia Girls High School, Madeline returned to New Orleans to attend Dillard University, where she pledged as a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She graduated in 1939, and by that time had already fulfilled one of her dreams by becoming an accomplished pianist. Madeline was living in Pass Christian, Mississippi, and it was during this period that she decided to formally pursue a career in education and become politically active in the most important efforts of her time—actions that would serve as the precursors to the civil rights movement in America. Even before Rosa Parks' famous refusal to give up her bus seat to make room for White passengers in 1955, Madeline DeLoach was refusing to sit on wheel covers or wait for the next bus to come in the 1930s in Jackson, Mississippi.

During that same period she met her future husband, Dr. Charles L. Franklin, who was living in New York after graduating from Columbia University in 1936 at the age of 25. At that time, Dr. Franklin was one of the youngest PhDs in the country, and the only African-American with a doctorate degree in his field. A specialist in social legislation, labor economics, and statistics, Dr. Franklin was an energetic intellectual at the forefront in the struggle for employment integration in the Federal government. On his own merit he received the highest average of all of the competitors in the