

to government. H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, is also critical to restoring the American people's faith in our Government and takes us one step closer to getting our country back on track.

Importantly, H.R. 384 requires that a certain amount of TARP funding be committed to foreclosure mitigation and stipulates that the Treasury Secretary develop a comprehensive plan to prevent and mitigate foreclosures on residential mortgages. This legislation also establishes a program to stimulate demand for home purchases and clear inventory of properties so that qualified home buyers can purchase homes at affordable mortgage rates. We cannot move quickly enough to provide assistance to homeowners across the country.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 384.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN B. WEBB'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a lifetime of service and community involvement from Dr. John B. Webb, who, on January 24, 2009, celebrates his 90th birthday.

The past 90 years have seen many changes in Dr. Webb's life, most of which was spent practicing veterinary medicine. After graduating from Auburn University in 1957, Dr. Webb returned to his hometown in Pensacola, Florida, to begin his own practice. When he opened his first clinic, Dr. Webb was the fifth veterinarian to begin practicing in Escambia County, Florida, and the 575th to begin practicing in the state of Florida. Today, Dr. Webb serves as one of the oldest licensed veterinarians in Escambia County.

Over the years Dr. Webb has received numerous awards for his ongoing role in the northwest Florida community. He served 15 years on the Escambia County Board of Directors for the Florida Farm Bureau as well as 25 years on the board of trustees for the Langley Bell 4-H Center. He is also a past president of the Escambia County Extension Council as well as the Pensacola Interstate Fair.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Webb for many years now and I am honored to call him a friend. A strong supporter of conservative principles and values, Dr. Webb has always offered his support and friendship to Vicki and me. As he celebrates his 90th birthday, I have much to thank him for from our years of friendship.

For many years to come, the northwest Florida community will continue to benefit from the lasting impression made by Dr. Webb, whose involvement in the community has expanded opportunities to the surrounding area. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Dr. John B. Webb upon his 90th birthday and for his exemplary service in the First District of Florida.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOHN J.
McRAITH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop John J. McRaith for his faithful service to the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. He has served the church and his community with distinction for over 26 years. Bishop McRaith, the third bishop of Owensboro, resigned from his position on January 5, 2009.

Bishop McRaith graduated from St. John's Prep School in Collegeville, Minnesota, and Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Then, he graduated from the School of Theology, St. Bernard Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, in 1960 and was subsequently ordained a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, on February 21, 1960.

Bishop McRaith began serving the Diocese of Owensboro on December 15, 1982. The diocese encompasses 32 counties and covers approximately 12,500 square miles. It includes 79 parishes, three high schools, two middle schools, and 13 elementary schools. In a testament to Bishop McRaith's dedication, he would typically log more than 25,000 miles a year traveling across the diocese.

Known for his humble spirit, Bishop McRaith is quick to credit others with the successes over the last 27 years, including one of the highest church attendance rates in the Nation. Last week he said, "The good things that have happened while I was here, many, many people made them happen."

Beyond his service to the Catholic Church of Western Kentucky, Bishop McRaith serves the community as a board member for Brescia University, the Daniel Pitino Center, the McAuley Free Clinic in Owensboro, and Lourdes Hospital Foundation in Paducah.

Bishop McRaith's devotion is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Bishop McRaith for his many years of service and commitment to western Kentucky.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Modern medicine can prevent an inconvenient infection from ballooning into a debilitating illness with a relatively simple physician's visit and subsequent treatment. And here in America, with the best medical practices and practitioners in the history of the world, we have the capabilities to keep our Nation's children healthy and their futures bright.

But we aren't doing it.

Up to now, we've chosen not to guarantee the health of our children, instead forcing upon millions of parents the difficult choice of seeking treatment for an ailing child or buying food. Making that potentially life-saving doctor's visit or keeping the lights on.

Today, we have the opportunity to erase that awful dilemma for the working mothers and fathers of more than 4 million children, including tens of thousands in my home State of Kentucky, by extending the State Children's Health Insurance Program. By supporting the SCHIP expansion we help guarantee the inalienable rights of America's children to survive, thrive, and grow up to become healthy adults.

By expanding SCHIP we can prevent the future health problems of our youngest generation so that they never grow up to be burdens on the system. It makes economic sense, but more importantly, it is our moral obligation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, as we fight to ensure that a sick child in this great Nation never has to go without care.

HONORING MICHAEL TOLLEFSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Tollefson upon his retirement as the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park. After thirty-six years with the National Park Service, Superintendent Tollefson will be honored on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at a party to be held at Curry Village Pavilion, in Yosemite National Park.

Michael Tollefson was raised in Seattle, Washington and graduated from the University of Washington in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing and finance. He later returned to graduate school to study park management. As a young adult he served in the United States Army Reserves for eight years, attaining the rank of Captain. His introduction into the National Park Service began early in his career. Mr. Tollefson served as the Chief of Interpretation at Virgin Islands National Park. He also spent time as the Chief of Operations at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, as a District Ranger at Denali National Park and Park Ranger at Katmai National Park all in Alaska. His time in Alaska provided unique challenges in dealing with Alaskan brown bears, fragile coral reefs and endangered humpback whales. He officially began his National Park Service career as a seasonal ranger at North Cascades National Park in 1972.

In 1983, Mr. Tollefson attained his first superintendency position at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska. He managed the 3.3 million acre park for four years. While there, he implemented regulations guiding cruise ship operations in the park for the protection of the Humpback Whales. After four years, he became the Associate Regional Director for Operations in the National Park Service's former Pacific Northwest Region. He was stationed in Seattle and provided support for all aspects of operations to the twenty national park units in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

In 1995, Superintendent Tollefson moved to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California's Southern Sierra Nevada. During his tenure, he was responsible for guiding the restoration of over two hundred acres in the Giant Forest Sequoia Grove to protect the