

Rudd coauthored *The Wonder of Food*. In the 1970s, Mr. Melikian wrote a syndicated newspaper feature about the history of famous dishes and, in the 1990s, he established and taught at a chef training school.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Mr. K. Cyrus Melikian, an innovative entrepreneur who made coffee drinking a convenient pastime. May his life be an inspiration to all fellow citizens and we extend our utmost respect and condolence to his family.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES
WALTERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Charles Walters, a profoundly respected writer and prolific advocate of organic and sustainable farming, and in honor of his outstanding dedication to this country.

Charles Walters was born a few years prior to the Great Depression on June 18, 1926. He grew up in a time of great challenge and great change and he dedicated his life to serving his country. During World War Two, Charles served in the Army Air Corps and later served in the Korean War in the Air Force cartography unit. He attended Creighton University and Denver University, earning a master's degree in Economics.

Charles was one of the earliest contributors to discourse on organic farming and authored thousands of articles on the topic over the past 40 years. An accomplished writer, he served as editor for the National Farmers Organization, authored a number of books on economics and agronomy, and published two novels. He was also the founder and editor of *Acres U.S.A.*, America's oldest monthly magazine on organic and sustainable farming. Charles was the recipient of the American Monetary Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the field of economics. In addition to his love of writing, he enjoyed history, poetry and foreign travel. He is survived by his wife Ann, his three children, Fred, Tim and Jennifer and his three granddaughters, Emily, Diana and Kara.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Charles Walters—an accomplished and innovative writer and in honor of his leadership and advocacy for organic and sustainable farming.

TARP REFORM AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure ac-

countability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman FRANK for introducing H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009, and I join in support of this legislation that is aimed at bringing liquidity back to our capital markets and enhancing oversight of the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

I particularly want to draw attention to Section 402 of the Act, which provides important support to the struggling municipal bond market from those TARP funds already released. I thank the chairman for including this provision, which is intended not only to address municipal offerings, but also to include qualified 501(c)(3) bonds as described in Section 145 of the Internal Revenue Code. These important offerings have also been impacted by the liquidity crisis over the past several months.

More specifically, the tightening of credit in our financial markets has greatly affected the 501(c)(3)/non-profit bond market and the many non-profit organizations that rely on these bonds' issuance to carry out their charitable missions. Non-profit organizations provide a much needed back-stop to government programs and ensure that many of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens receive basic needs such as food, shelter, or drug rehabilitation. Without access to sufficient, affordable lines of credit, many charitable programs go unrealized. Particularly now, that cannot be allowed to happen.

This new legislation should alleviate this problem and increase liquidity in the bond market, as it makes clear that 501(c)(3) bonds, as defined by Section 145 of the Internal Revenue Code, are considered "municipal securities." It is further my understanding that the support offered by Section 402 of the Act is not a "federal guarantee" under section 149 of the Internal Revenue Code, so that the legislative direction and solutions offered in today's bill will be available to the non-profit agencies who rely upon these types of bonds for their important work.

Furthermore, for new lending that is attributable to TARP investments and assistance, I encourage the secretary to clarify that 501(c)(3) bonds are eligible investments, and hold accountable those banks receiving funds to ensure that these not-for-profit organizations issuing bonds have access to affordable and competitive rates when seeking letters of credit to support their bond offerings. By holding financial institutions receiving TARP money accountable to use part of those funds to assist the non-profit sector, the secretary will help bring liquidity back to the non-profit bond market.

THE CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL
OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing today the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009. This legislation is the same bill that passed the House on a vote of 312 to 112 in the 110th Congress as H.R. 5244, except that we have made it effective 3 months from enactment.

This legislation would amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan. The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights prohibits certain unfair and deceptive credit card practices and provides consumers with tools to manage their credit card debt responsibly. The bill prohibits retroactive rate increases on existing balances except under limited circumstances, including where the consumer is over 30 days late in making payment, and requires creditors to provide consumers with a reasonable time to pay off the balance. It requires creditors to provide a written notice of any rate increase at least 45 days before the increase takes effect, and to send periodic statements to consumers no less than 25 days before the due date. The bill prohibits double cycle billing and requires creditors to allocate payments among balances so as to allow consumers to take full advantage of promotional rates and to make payments towards balances with higher rates. The bill limits overlimit fees and bans fees on interest-only balances. It prohibits creditors from knowingly issuing a credit card to a minor who is not emancipated. For credit cards on which fees in the first year exceed 25 percent of the credit limit, the bill prohibits such fees from being paid from the credit available under the card account agreement (except late or overlimit fees). The bill also provides for additional data collection to enable better oversight and regulation.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY CENTERS ESTAB-
LISHMENT ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the National Emergency Centers Establishment Act, a bill that I first introduced in the 109th Congress.

Many of us share the belief that the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina was disorganized and inadequate. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, was far too slow to respond and evacuees were left stranded in massive shelters with egregious standard-of-living conditions.

Sixteen months following the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Katrina, more than 13,000 residents who were displaced by the storm were still living in trailers provided by FEMA. Eighteen months after Katrina, half of the homes in New Orleans still did not have electricity. Shortly thereafter, FEMA informed Congress that 60,000 families in Louisiana still lived in 240 square foot trailers—usually at least 3 people to a trailer.

The sluggish and derisory reaction of our Federal Government to disaster victims affects me personally. In 2004, four hurricanes ravaged my home State of Florida, all of which literally destroyed parts of the counties in my district. In the immediate and long-term aftermath, our communities saw FEMA's shortcomings. More than 18 months after Hurricane Wilma struck in 2005, citizens were still residing in trailers labeled on the outside "FEMA."