

people in more than 400 cities, on all seven continents participated, darkening some of the world's most famous skylines and icons, including the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Coliseum in Rome, and the Sears Tower in Chicago. Even Google's home page went dark for that day.

This year, more than 1,700 cities in some 80 countries already have signed up to participate, with more joining each day. The event itself will begin in Fiji, cascading across the world with Hawaii as the final stop. In my district, three municipalities, Aurora, Naperville and Homer Glen, and numerous businesses have signed up to participate.

We need to start addressing climate change now, and Earth Hour is one of the many steps that we can take to do just that. That's why I introduced House Resolution 268, with my good friend from Georgia, Mr. BARROW, to support these goals and ideas of Earth Hour. The resolution will help increase education, awareness and action on this important environmental issue.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor House Resolution 268 and join in this inspiring and historical event.

I will submit an article entitled, "3,000 Vets Face HIV Risk After Unsterile Procedure," from the Associated Press, for the RECORD.

[From the Associated Press, Mar. 24, 2009]

3,000 VETS FACE HIV RISK AFTER UNSTERILE PROCEDURE

A Veterans Affairs hospital here has notified thousands of patients that their colonoscopies were performed with improperly sterilized equipment, officials said Monday.

The hospital urged about 3,260 patients who had colonoscopies between May 2004 and March 12 of this year to get tests for HIV, hepatitis and other diseases.

The VA insisted the risk of infection was minimal, saying the tubing that was improperly cleaned didn't make contact with patients.

It was the second recent announcement of errors during colonoscopies at VA facilities.

"The very notion that veterans have to contemplate this new reality now before them and visit special care clinics to undergo blood testing is stomach-turning," U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Fla., said in a letter Monday to the VA's inspector general. "This information is shocking."

Meek urged a door-to-door campaign to alert veterans of the error.

"Although there is minimal risk, we feel that even a slight risk is unacceptable to the veterans we care for," said Susan Ward, a spokeswoman for the VA in Miami.

Last month, 6,378 patients at a clinic in Murfreesboro, Tenn., were told they may have been exposed to infectious body fluids during colonoscopies.

The VA said 1,800 veterans treated at an ear, nose and throat clinic in Augusta, Ga., were also alerted they could have been exposed to an infection due to improper disinfection of an instrument, though officials said the risk was "extremely small."

The VA hasn't said whether it expects more facilities to announce similar problems, though Meek cautioned the number of affected people "could quickly expand to include a much larger pool of people."

"That, somehow, these standard protocols were not followed will undoubtedly leave our

veterans with serious misgivings about our VA system," he said.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINE SARBANES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with several of my colleagues from Maryland to honor Mrs. Christine Sarbanes, and the impact her passing will have on the citizens of our great State of Maryland and on our country.

Mrs. Sarbanes is the wife of Senator Paul Sarbanes and the mother of JOHN SARBANES, who is a Member of the House of Representatives. Christine was the quintessential lady, polished, well-educated and warmhearted.

Many times, as lawmakers, our spouses chose to sit on the sidelines, but Christine was very much involved in her husband's career. In fact, political activism brought Senator Sarbanes and Christine together at Oxford in England. A champion for women's rights, she was trying to get women accepted into his all-male debating society.

On the occasions when she would represent her husband at events, Christine was very knowledgeable on the issues. She was a hearty campaigner for her husband, but was even more tenacious when her son, JOHN, campaigned for this seat in the House of Representatives. She shared her love of politics and public service with her three children, and they each have taken her example to serve the greater community. She was the true matriarch of a great and distinguished political family.

In addition to finding time to raise three children and helping her husband's career, she managed a full-time job teaching Latin, Greek, and French at Goucher College and Gilman High School, all located in Baltimore, where she taught for more than 20 years.

In fact, one of my staffers, Walter Gonzalez, had the privilege of studying under her at Gilman. He described her as firm, but effective. She taught his 11th-grade speech class and advised him on his senior class speech. Laughing, he recalled yesterday how she coached him day after day. She would say, "Speed up, slow down, enunciate your words, too loud, emphasize the points." He said Christine was a passionate teacher who communicated her respect for her subjects with grace and humor.

A lifelong lover of libraries and art, Christine also found time to serve on several cultural boards and talked the Walters Art Gallery into eliminating their admission fees. She wanted all people, and especially children, to have the ability to experience culture. But she also wanted them to have basic survival needs. She did this through tireless work with the United Nations children's fund.

Christine enjoyed high regard from important people. But I will always remember how she treated everyday people who crossed her path with dignity and respect.

Maryland has lost a truly admired political presence. And on behalf of the residents of Maryland's Second District and the State of Maryland, I would like to express my sympathies to the Sarbanes family and thank them for sharing a talented and giving woman with our State and our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROGERS of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TARP FUNDS ABROAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, recently released documents from AIG accounts for some of the more than \$180 billion in aid that AIG has received. And it's revealed that over \$58 billion of that \$180 billion has gone to foreign banks around the world. And \$58 billion have gone to French banks, German banks, French and German banks, respectively, pulled in \$19 billion and \$17 billion of American taxpayer money.

I understand the outrage over bonuses, \$166 million in bonuses, but that's a pittance compared to the \$58 billion that have gone to overseas banks. Societe Generale, based in France, was the top foreign recipient, at \$11.9 billion. Deutsche Bank of Germany received \$11.8 billion of taxpayer money. Barclays, based in England, got \$8.5 billion. BNB Paribas, based in France, got \$5 billion.

The House Oversight Committee also discovered a list of questionable foreign investments conducted by the largest recipients of TARP funds. Citigroup, JP Morgan and Bank of America each received \$25 billion in TARP funds on October 26th of last year. Citigroup then loaned Dubai \$8 billion of American taxpayer money. JP Morgan invested \$1 billion of American taxpayer money in India. And Bank of America gave communist China \$7 billion of the American people's money.

Now, the American people have the right to be outraged at the fact that they are being taxed so that a government-owned, failed company like AIG can give bonuses to the very same executives who brought about the ruin of their company. Mr. Speaker, \$166 million in bonuses is a lot of money. But it's a pittance, again, compared to that \$58 billion that AIG used to bail out the rest of the world.

So while hundreds of thousands of Americans get laid off each month, and