

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MR. CHRIS BLUM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Chris Blum, FAA Regional Administrator for Central Region, on the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of serving the FAA.

Chris began his career in 1970 as a controller at the Miami Air Traffic Control Center. He has since served in various management positions in the FAA's Southern, Central and Great Lakes Regions. In April 2005, he was asked to handle two regions—Central and Great Lakes. This resulted in a twelve-state span, and was a first for the FAA. He was also responsible for such high volume and high visibility facilities as Chicago O'Hare. In 2008, Chris was detailed as the Acting Administrator for Regions and Center Operations, Washington, DC.

Chris has earned the gratitude and respect of his fellow colleagues and fellow citizens. His life's dedication and hard work should serve as an example to the rest of us on how we can better serve each other and our great nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Mr. Chris Blum for his dedicated service. I know Chris's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

**HONORING THE TOWN OF TRURO,
MASSACHUSETTS ON ITS 300TH
ANNIVERSARY**

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in congratulating the Town of Truro, Massachusetts on the 300th anniversary of its incorporation. Since its founding, Truro has enjoyed a reputation as a diverse and culturally rich town, whose welcoming residents and awe-inspiring landscapes are famous throughout New England.

Truro's history harks back to November 1620, when the Pilgrims visited the area while their ship, the Mayflower, was anchored in what is now Provincetown Harbor. It was here that the Pilgrims found their first fresh water, and on Corn Hill, overlooking Cape Cod Bay, the voyagers found a cache of seed corn belonging to the natives which they stole to provide seed for their own spring crop. Determining that the land here was unsuitable for their purposes, the Pilgrims continued up the coast of the Cape to present-day Eastham and then ventured across the Bay to Plimoth.

On July 16, 1709, the Town of Truro gained its independence. Formerly a part of Eastham, the nascent Town encompassed the district previously known as Pamet.

During the Revolutionary War, Truro's militia demonstrated remarkable skill and bravery in keeping the British at bay. Once, the members marched in a circular formation behind a barrier dune to convey the impression that there was a large force assembled ready to defend the town. At the time, Provincetown Harbor was controlled by the British, and there was no protection for Truro save its own meager militia.

Truro has a long and distinguished seafaring history, and at one time had a shipyard which produced large vessels in the Pamet River basin. Truro whalers sailing from other ports ventured as far as the Arctic and the Falkland Islands. Ultimately, the Town of Truro's intrepid and expert whalers helped spur an industry that became profitable and culturally significant throughout coastal New England.

In fact, much of Truro's economy was once dependent on the sea. Truro's men were whalers, and the shipyard built large commercial vessels to sustain their activities. There were several try works in town to render the whale blubber into lamp oil, and salt works dotted the shores and hillsides, providing much-needed salt to preserve the catch. These industries—along with subsistence and commercial farming—have been replaced largely by the seasonal tourist industry that currently fuels the local economy.

Today, slightly more than 2,100 residents call Truro home year-round. During the summer months, the tiny Town's population swells by an estimated 17,000 to 18,000 people anxious to experience the breathtaking scenery for which Truro is known. More than half of its landmass is within the Cape Cod National Seashore. Truro's beaches stretch unbroken between its borders, offering water access for swimming, fishing, and boating.

The first lighthouse—what many consider an icon of Cape Cod—was built in Truro at Highland in 1797. At the time, the numerous shoals off the "great backside" claimed many ships as the prevailing winds and waves drove vessels to the shore. This original lighthouse was declared unsafe in 1857 and a new tower, still standing and still in-use, was built to replace it.

Truro, with its glorious sunsets; noisy, storm-surf-beaten beaches; tranquil, sunny berry-laden hills; deliciously refreshing freshwater springs; adventuresome paths; and acres of protected National Seashore land, has been home or temporary haven to politicians, musicians, puppeteers, pirates, poets, and ordinary folks. Its people are hardy and resilient. Tradesmen and professionals, artists and writers, bards and photographers, fishermen and farmers, retirees and schoolchildren all contribute to the unique fabric of the Town's community. Some grew up here; many others have chosen this special place as their home.

It is with pleasure and pride that I join Truro's residents on this auspicious day to celebrate all the achievements the Town has accomplished, and all those to come. Happy birthday, Truro. May the years ahead be ever prosperous and bright.

**CONGRATULATING PAUL GIBLIN,
PATTI EPLER, AND RYAN
GABRIELSON RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2009 PULITZER PRIZE FOR
LOCAL REPORTING**

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate three Arizona journalists, Paul Giblin, Patti Epler, and Ryan Gabrielson, for earning the most prestigious honor in their profession, the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting. Their hard work and dedicated effort on behalf of The East Valley Tribune are deserving of recognition and should be a source of pride for the people of Arizona.

The Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting was first awarded in 1948 to honor journalists who display innovation and knowledge of their communities while reporting on important local issues. The Pulitzer Prize Committee offers each winner a \$10,000 award and a commemorative certificate, but more important is these journalists have earned the respect and admiration of their peers and the public.

Paul, Patti, and Ryan have set a new standard for all Arizona journalists with their commitment to excellence through their exhaustive in-depth reporting on the impact of immigration enforcement in Arizona. Despite facing tough conditions with the downsizing of the newspaper industry—both Paul Giblin and Patti Epler have since been laid off by The Tribune—these individuals have reminded us all that investigative journalism is still vital to shedding light on and informing the public about significant issues that face the nation today.

It is only the fourth time in Arizona's history that a local media organization has won a Pulitzer Prize. More significantly, it represents only the second occasion that a Pulitzer Prize has been awarded in Arizona for reporting.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Paul, Patti, and Ryan's achievement and their continued service to journalism in the public interest.

ADRIAN MURPHY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Adrian Murphy who has received the Arvada Wheat

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Adrian Murphy is a 7th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Adrian Murphy is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Adrian Murphy for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to show my support for H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholder's Bill of Rights Act of 2009.

For months, we've worked to get banks lending money again and now, it is essential that we level the playing field between cardholders and card issuers.

Americans are struggling in the midst of our economic downturn and they deserve tough new protections against excessive credit card fees, sky-high interest rates, and unfair, in-comprehensible agreements that credit card companies revise at will.

By enforcing new transparency and accountability in this industry, our constituents will have a renewed faith in the credit card industry, which I believe is an essential step towards our economic recovery and faith in our system.

I am pleased to be an original co-sponsor of this bill because it is imperative to protect consumers against arbitrary interest rate increases, early pre-payment penalties, due date gimmicks and excessive fees.

We have focused so much time on helping banks, and this bill will help all Americans.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I want to express my concern regarding the \$3.5 trillion

Federal budget, S. Con. Res. 13, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday.

The size of the deficit in this budget, some \$1.7 trillion for one year, is almost beyond comprehension. This could be a prescription for future debt disaster for our Nation's finances. Even the United States can go bankrupt if we continue spending at this rate.

In the first 100 days of the new administration, Congress and the administration have run up more debt than the entire 8 years of the Bush Administration. The spending in the first three months includes a \$787 billion so-called stimulus, \$406 billion Omnibus increasing discretionary spending by 10% this year and hundreds of billions in TARP dollars.

Not only does the 2010 budget represent astronomical deficit spending, it also raises taxes by \$1.5 trillion (that's trillion) dollars.

At some point soon this deficit spending, taxation and increased national indebtedness will have dramatic and negative consequences for our Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PREPARE ALL KIDS ACT" OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the "Prepare All Kids Act," which would assist states in providing at least one year of high quality pre-kindergarten to children. The plan calls for a new federal investment to be accompanied by matching funds from the states.

Introduced in the Senate by my colleague on the Joint Economic Committee, Sen. CASEY of Pennsylvania, I am happy to be introducing this House companion bill along with original cosponsors Reps. SCHWARTZ, FATTAH, HINCHEY, and HIRONO.

President Obama has made the expansion of high quality early education programs a major pillar of his educational reform agenda—and for good reason. Decades of research and data have proven the enormous benefits of investing in high quality early childhood development and education programs, such as higher high school graduation rates, lower need for special education, and lower rates of teen pregnancy, criminal activity, and dependence on public assistance programs. In fact, for every \$1 invested in high quality early education, the nation saves up to \$17 due to lower crime and decreased welfare and other entitlement spending.

Clearly, children are our Nation's greatest resource. The "Prepare All Kids Act" is not only the right thing to do for our children; it's a wise investment in our future.

ANGEL BREWER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Angel Brewer who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Angel

Brewer is a 7th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Angel Brewer is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Angel Brewer for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

A BILL TO IMPROVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND OVERALL DECISION-MAKING AT THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I, along with Mr. STEARNS, introduce legislation designed to reform some of the Federal Communications Commission's byzantine regulatory processes. As the pace of competition and technological change increases in our country's communications markets, sound decision-making at the FCC and faith in how it makes those decisions become all the more important. Not only are the issues far more complex, they affect far more Americans and American businesses than ever before. The bill would do much to improve the quality of the FCC's decisions and the country's trust in the agency.

First, the bill would codify the not-so-radical notion that the FCC should let the public see proposed rules before it adopts them, and should provide everyone with a realistic amount of time to comment. If the FCC expects the American people and the regulated community to respect its decisions, I don't think it is too much to ask the FCC to show some respect for them in return. Not only will this improve everyone's confidence in the FCC's decisions, it will improve the decisions themselves, both because the agency will be forced to exert more rigor in developing policy, and because the public and the regulated community can often be the source of the best ideas. Secrecy breeds both inefficiency and distrust, and the FCC already has enough of both. Thus, the bill requires the FCC to provide at least 30 days for comments and 30 days for replies on published language of proposed rules.

Letting the sun shine in and the public have a say on what they see won't be worth much unless the commissioners are provided a reasonable amount of time to review the comments and evaluate any proposed decision document. The bill therefore requires at least 30 days after the submission of reply comments, as well as an adequate amount of time for Commission review of a draft document, before the FCC renders a decision.

Nor is it unreasonable for those waiting on a decision to know when resolution will come,

whether in their favor or against. In a rapidly evolving market, particularly in difficult economic times, uncertainty itself can be one of the greatest obstacles to investment and business planning. Consequently, the bill requires the FCC to set deadlines for action on the various types of decisions it makes.

And when the Commission adopts a decision, the text of that decision should march quickly into the public realm. The longer it takes for that language to come, the more it begins to look like the decision was not really made when the FCC said it was, but rather ironed out later through last-minute, back-room deals. Guilty or not, the FCC is widely suspected of changing its mind between decision and regulation. Under the bill, the FCC would have 30 days from adoption of a policy to release the actual text of the decision.

Statistics also are becoming increasingly important. The only reason for regulation should be a failure in the marketplace, and the American people deserve more than vague assertions from regulators that a rule is necessary. The bill therefore requires the FCC to publish a schedule of all its statistical reports, both to ensure that those reports are actually issued regularly and so that everyone can know when.

Transparency and good management should not be partisan issues, and I hope all my colleagues will join us in support of this legislation. I look forward to working with them, with the industry, with the public interest community, and with the FCC to help make commission decisions as well-crafted and unassailable as possible.

HONORING MAUREEN ARCAND

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Maureen Arcand, a disability researcher and advocate, community leader, and mother of six. Celebrating her 80th birthday this month, Maureen has fought for positive social change and inspired many of her fellow Wisconsinites for years.

Maureen was born in 1929 with cerebral palsy (CP). In those days, CP was poorly understood and many affected children were simply institutionalized. Nevertheless, her parents raised her through the Great Depression and World War II with high expectations, emphasizing her abilities. By age 40, Maureen was working full time, becoming increasingly involved in her community as an activist for the disabled, and single-handedly caring for her six children.

While many Americans spend their retirement relaxing, Maureen has been perhaps most active at this point in her life. In her sixties, she served the greater Madison community as an elected member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, where I was fortunate to serve with her. Beyond her work with the Dane County Board, Maureen worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those living with disabilities. She served as president of Movin' Out, Inc., leading the Madison organization's efforts to assist people with disabilities in finding and retaining independent housing. She also lobbied for the Madison based nonprofit,

Access to Independence, Inc., further reflecting her strong conviction that people with disabilities have the right to live independently and make individual choices. Following the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Maureen became the first evaluation coordinator in Dane County for the ADA, proudly stating, "Never have people with disabilities worked so well together to achieve a goal."

In the past few years, Maureen has researched the aging process in people living with CP. Using personal insights and focus groups comprised of others affected by CP, she has illuminated much about this often misunderstood condition, creating valuable information for others with the disability. In her research titled "One Person's Journey into Aging with Cerebral Palsy," Maureen states, "This attempt to record my experiences is being made in the hope that other people with CP can benefit from knowing something about what has happened to me over the last thirty some years."

On April 30, Maureen is celebrating her 80th birthday by launching the Maureen Arcand Advocacy and Leadership Awards to spotlight and inspire others who are continuing her work. Maureen once told me that her favorite animal is the giraffe, because it's always sticking its neck out. In reality, Maureen has spent a lifetime sticking her neck out for all of us, especially those without a voice.

Today, I therefore commend Maureen Arcand not only for her myriad accomplishments, but also the many future contributions to society that she has undoubtedly nurtured and inspired.

IN HONOR OF DR. JOEL M. LEVY'S
RETIREMENT FROM YAI/NA-
TIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES NETWORK

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly remarkable New Yorker, Dr. Joel M. Levy, as he retires from the YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities Network (NIPD).

After forty years of dedicated service and leadership on behalf of people with disabilities, Dr. Levy helped grow YAI/NIPD from a small and struggling agency into one of the nation's leading providers of services for people of all ages with developmental and learning disabilities.

Dr. Levy played a key role in transforming the field of disabilities and dramatically improving the lives of thousands of individuals and families.

Dr. Levy's inspirational efforts helped create innumerable opportunities for those with developmental disabilities to experience greater independence, productivity and joy through community living, meaningful employment and volunteer activities. Furthermore, he has ensured that people with disabilities have access to quality physical and mental health care.

And because of his commitment, Dr. Levy has positioned YAI/NIPD as an internationally acclaimed professional organization renowned for its conferences, training materials, research and publications in this field.

In the course of a long and distinguished career, Dr. Levy has given hope to people with developmental and learning disabilities and their families.

On behalf of myself and all New Yorkers, I thank Dr. Levy for his years of service to people with disabilities and their families and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

GWANE DALAWI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gwane Dalawi who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Gwane Dalawi is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gwane Dalawi is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Gwane Dalawi for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF THE SILVER STAR
FAMILIES OF AMERICA

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Silver Star Families of America. This organization was founded by two of my constituents, Steven and Diana Newton of Clever, Missouri.

On April 11, 2005, the Silver Star Families of America was founded. Since that time, they have freely given thousands of Silver Star Service Banners to the wounded and ill or their families. Their primary mission is that every time someone sees a Silver Star Service Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying, that people remember the sacrifice made by so many for this State and Nation. They have also established Silver Star Banner Day on May 1st of every year to honor the wounded and ill of the United States Armed Forces.

Steven and Diana Newton, along with national president Janie Orman and volunteers across the country, have donated close to 50,000 hours. They have also donated over \$40,000 in Silver Star Banner distribution and \$30,000 in direct aid to homeless and near-homeless veterans, care packages, and support of hospitalized veterans and other programs.

To date, they have honored thousands of our wounded and ill with the Silver Star Service Banner. I am proud to pay tribute to the

Silver Star Families of America, their service to veterans across our nation, and ask my colleagues in the House to join me in doing the same.

HONORING FRESNO RESCUE
MISSION

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH, Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fresno Rescue Mission upon celebrating its 60th anniversary.

Reverend Clifford Phillips first envisioned the Fresno Rescue Mission with a prayer meeting, the "Fisherman's Club" and the concerned hearts of many local Christians. The Fresno Rescue Mission opened its doors in 1949 as a non-profit, faith-based, evangelical Christian charitable organization with the purpose of assisting local alcoholics and transient farm laborers. Since the 1950s the Fresno Rescue Mission has expanded their services to include assistance to every man, woman, child or family that walks through their doors. They stress accountability, responsible living and decision making for all residents, while encouraging them with support, training and prayer.

In 2008, the Fresno Rescue Mission served four hundred and twenty-two children at the Craycroft Youth Center, and an additional one hundred and fifty-four families with three hundred and eighty children. It shelters an average of eighty to one hundred and thirty men every night in the overnight homeless shelter for men. The Mission also averages one hundred and twenty-five men involved with the eighteen month Academy Recovery Program. Individuals that complete this program become productive, law abiding citizens. The Mission has been instrumental in changing the lives of many individuals by providing life and job skills training, literacy and GED education, computer training and a career development program. The goal of the Mission is to change one life at a time and to provide hope and renewal to abandoned, abused, neglected and addicted.

The Fresno Rescue Mission has been an integral part of the Fresno community for sixty years; saving the city, county and state millions of taxpayer dollars. Its influence has spread beyond the City of Fresno and its success was instrumental in starting twenty-two other rescue missions with the belief that people are able to rise above their mistakes to make positive changes for themselves.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Fresno Rescue Mission on 60 years of community building. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Fresno Rescue Mission many years of continued success.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act.

Last year, I was an original cosponsor of a similar bill, which passed overwhelmingly in the House by a bipartisan 312 to 112 majority (including 84 Republicans). I was disappointed that this legislation languished in the Senate.

Since last year's action in the House, many American families and businesses have been particularly hard hit by the economic crisis, including those who rely upon credit lines, who, through no fault of their own, have been subjected to predatory lending or abusive credit card practices that make it difficult for them to end the cycle of costly debt. Hundreds of constituents in my district have contacted me to express support for this critical legislation.

In 2008, credit card issuers imposed \$19 billion in penalty fees on families with credit cards, and this year card companies will break all records for late fees, over-limit charges, and other penalties, amounting to more than \$20.5 billion for the industry. Credit card debt in the United States has reached a record high—nearly \$1 trillion—with almost half of American families carrying a balance averaging \$7,300 in 2007. One-fifth of those carrying credit card debt pay an interest rate above 20 percent.

H.R. 627 prohibits credit card issuers from raising rates retroactively on existing balances. The bill also requires a 45-day notice of any rate increase and prohibits companies from charging interest on balances from more than one billing cycle.

Members of the House have collaborated with President Obama to strengthen the bill by mandating that card issuers apply payments beyond the minimum to debts with the highest interest rate, requiring card companies to inform customers about the long-term costs of paying only the minimum balance, and allowing consumers to opt whether or not they want to go over their credit limit and be charged a fee for doing so.

This legislation codifies Federal Reserve rules prohibiting unfair or deceptive bank practices related to credit card accounts and overdraft services and goes further by banning the marketing and issuance of credit cards to minors under the age of 18, banning credit card companies from imposing unfair and arbitrary fees when customers pay their bills, and allowing customers to set a lower credit card limit.

The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights will level the playing field between card issuers and cardholders.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

JORDAN CONNELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Connell who has received the Arvada Wheat

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jordan Connell is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Connell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jordan Connell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 223 on final passage of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, I was unable to vote due to a death of a close friend and missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have vote "yea" on rollcall No. 193 to pass H.R. 388, the "Crane Conservation Act of 2009; "yea" on rollcall No. 194 to pass H.R. 411, the "Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2009; and "yea" on rollcall No. 195 to pass H.R. 1219, the "Lake Hodges Surface Water Improvement and Reclamation Act of 2009."

IN HONOR OF CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT PAUL AIREY

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2009, the Air Force, the Panama City community and indeed our Nation, lost one of the most respected Airmen in the history of the Air Force—the very first Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force—Paul Wesley Airey.

Chief Airey was an Airman's Airman and a true Air Force pioneer. His legacy is the professional enlisted force we have serving our Nation today.

Chief Airey was born in New Bedford, MA, on December 13, 1923. He enlisted in the Air force at age eighteen, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The first chief master sergeant of the Air Force was always a leader. During World War II he flew as a B-24 radio operator and additional duty aerial gunner. On his 28th mission, then-Technical Sergeant Airey and his fellow crewmen were shot down over Vienna, Austria, captured, and held prisoner by the German air force from July 1944 to May 1945. During his time as a prisoner of war he worked tirelessly to meet the basic needs of fellow prisoners, even through a 90-day forced march.

Chief Airey held the top Air Force enlisted position from April 3, 1967 to July 31, 1969. During his tenure he worked to change loan establishments charging exorbitant rates outside the air base gates and to improve low retention during the Vietnam Conflict. Chief Airey also led a team that laid the foundation for the enlisted promotion testing system, a system that has stood the test of time and which is still in use today. He also advocated for an Air Force-level Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy and this vision became reality when the academy opened in 1973.

Chief Airey retired August 1, 1970. He continued advocating for Airmen's rights by serving on the boards of numerous Air Force and enlisted professional military organizations throughout the years. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Airmen Memorial Museum, a member of the Air Force Memorial Foundation and the Air University Foundation.

On the north wall of the Air Force Memorial in Washington D.C., Chief Airey's thoughts on Airmen are immortalized, "When I think of the enlisted force, I see dedication, determination, loyalty and valor."

Before he became Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Chief Airey was assigned to the Air Defense Command's Civil Engineering Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., where he was the unit's first sergeant. Chief Airey and his wife lived in Panama City after he retired. The Tyndall community will greatly miss the chief. An interment ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. on 28 May, 2009 at Arlington National Cemetery.

JORDAN HANNEBAUM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jordan Hannebaum who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jordan Hannebaum is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jordan Hannebaum is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jordan Hannebaum for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her

academic career to her future accomplishments.

THE ELECTRIC GRID

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of legislation I introduced today with the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee, Mr. KING, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, Science and Technology, Ms. CLARKE and Mr. LUNGREN.

The electric grid is highly dependent on computer-based control systems. These systems are increasingly connected to open networks such as the Internet, exposing them to cyber risks. Any failure of our electric grid, whether intentional or unintentional, would have a significant and potentially devastating impact on our Nation.

For years, my Committee has been concerned about this possibility. In 2007, the Committee learned that the electric industry was not mitigating a dangerous control system vulnerability known as "Aurora." We launched a series of investigations and held two hearings to understand what was being done in the public and private sectors to mitigate this and other cyber vulnerabilities.

The findings were disturbing. Most of the electric industry had not completed the recommended mitigations, despite being advised to do so by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation. This effectively left many utilities vulnerable to attacks. Furthermore, in spite of existing mandatory cybersecurity standards, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") recently reported that many utilities are underreporting their critical cyber assets, potentially to avoid compliance requirements.

We must ensure that the proper protections, resources and regulatory authorities are in place to address any threat aimed at our power system. The Critical Electric Infrastructure Protection Act will do four things to improve our defensive posture:

Provides FERC with the authorities necessary to issue emergency orders to owners and operators of the electric grid after receiving a finding from DHS about a credible cyber attack.

Requires FERC to establish interim measures deemed necessary to protect against known cyber threats to critical electric infrastructure. This will improve existing mandatory standards.

Requires DHS to perform ongoing cybersecurity vulnerability and threat assessments to the critical electric infrastructure, and provide mitigation recommendations to eliminate those vulnerabilities and threats.

Requires DHS to conduct an investigation to determine if the security of Federally-owned critical electric infrastructure has been compromised by outsiders.

I believe that this legislation adopts a common-sense approach towards securing our electric grid from cyber attack, and I look forward to working with the Senate and the rest

of our colleagues on bipartisan, bicameral basis to see that this bill is enacted.

CLIMATE CHANGE SAFEGUARDS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION ACT

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Climate Change Safeguards for Natural Resource Protection Act. I am pleased to be joined in sponsoring this measure by Chairman NICK RAHALL as well as . . .

Madam Speaker, in 1850, the estimated number of glaciers in what would become Glacier National Park was 150; today, it is 26. The Joshua Trees in Joshua Tree National Park are dying. Unless Congress and the Administration work together to combat climate change on Federal lands, these parks and others like them will need new names.

Forests, wildlife refuges, national parks and other federally-owned land and water represent a 650-million-acre front in the battle against global climate change, but many Federal land and water management agencies have yet to take up the fight in earnest.

The previous Administration pursued a "don't-ask, don't-tell" approach to climate change; scientific research was undermined and planning was discouraged through underfunding and censorship. As a result, the gap between what we know about climate change and what we are doing about it has widened.

The legislation we are introducing today is intended to narrow that gap by providing Federal land, water, and ocean management agencies and the States, the tools they need to protect our fish, wildlife, oceans, plants and other resources from the impacts we know are coming.

The bill requires establishment of a Natural Resources Climate Change Adaptation Panel made up of Federal agencies responsible for managing our Nation's natural resources. The Panel's mission will be to foster the kind of inter-agency cooperation and planning that is both critical in responding to climate change and, so far, sorely lacking.

The Panel will be tasked with developing a comprehensive, national strategy for combating climate change. Once the national strategy is in place, each Federal agency with jurisdiction over natural resources will be tasked with translating that broader plan into a climate change response tailored specifically to their agency's programs and activities. Furthermore, funding will be authorized to assist states in developing similar state-wide adaptation plans that lead to concrete on the ground actions to address the impacts of climate change on the natural resources they manage.

In addition, the bill will streamline, centralize and improve the collection and dissemination of climate-related scientific information. This provision will ensure that Federal climate research will be better funded, more aggressive and more easily available to land managers, policy-makers and the public.

Finally, the bill will create a centralized database of geographic mapping information designed to identify significant wildlife migration corridors. Such corridors must be included in

any ecosystem level adaptation planning efforts.

In developing this legislation, we have been privileged to work closely with our colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, including Chairman WAXMAN and the Dean of the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL to include this bill in larger, so-called "cap and trade" legislation. We support having this measure included in the larger package and appreciate the support of the Energy and Commerce Committee in this effort.

This legislation is the product of multiple oversight hearings and extensive negotiations in the Natural Resources Committee. A serious and sustained commitment to fighting climate change is a significant priority for the Members of our Committee and we ask our colleagues to join us in this effort.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights, which will provide real relief to Americans who are being hit hard by unfair credit card practices.

Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY has been fighting for three years to bring these predatory practices to light, and I commend her tireless efforts.

Mr. Chair, college students are particularly vulnerable to credit card targeting and marketing. As they walk through campus, they come across offers ranging from free food to clothing just for filling out a credit card application. But after the free gifts, too many students are left with piles of debt and nowhere to turn.

For too long, credit card companies have had special deals with universities to let them market to students. Through these deals, schools receive large cash payments in exchange for handing over students' personal information and providing access to their campuses. Right now, with their families at home struggling, more students are turning to credit cards to fill the gap between their tuition bill and student loans. As a result they are racking up debts that take years to pay off. A Sallie Mae study recently reported that college seniors are graduating from school with an average of more than \$4,100 in credit card debt.

I strongly support today's bill, but as it progresses I hope to see a provision included to bring accountability to the deals credit card companies make with schools. We should require that companies report the terms and conditions of agreements with schools and call for a GAO report to show the impact these agreements have on overall credit card debt. I offered a bipartisan amendment with Congressman PETRI from Wisconsin to do just that, but unfortunately it fell to procedural hurdles.

This provision would provide much needed transparency—and hopefully help prevent students from falling too far behind before they graduate. I hope as this bill makes its way through Congress, our amendment will ultimately be incorporated.

Mr. Chair, this bill is an opportunity to do what's right for American consumers. I will continue to look for ways to provide more transparency to these practices—something that the American people are desperate for right now.

With this bill, we are taking a large step toward decreasing credit card debt. I urge my colleagues to keep the debt of college students in mind as this bill moves forward.

KORI MCKEOUGH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kori McKeough who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kori McKeough is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kori McKeough is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kori McKeough for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009 SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES FROM THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate the 2009 Service Academy nominees from the 21st Congressional District who have accepted academy appointments:

John Boone Shandera Baker, Salisbury School, Naval Academy;

Jordan Bernard Brickman, Clarke High School, Naval Academy;

Thomas Logan Chilton, Westwood High School, Naval Academy;

John Michel Paquette, Texas A&M University, Naval Academy;

Steven Charles Scott, Texas Military Institute, Naval Academy;

Nicholas Edward Espinoza, MacArthur High School, Air Force Academy;

Brent Tucker Hancock, Leander High School, Air Force Academy;

Cameron Neil Harris, International School of the Americas, Air Force Academy;

Benjamin John Matthewson, Northwestern Preparatory School, Air Force Academy;

William Thomas Stover, Central Catholic High School, Air Force Academy;

Thomas J. Wilkinson, Cedar Park High School, Air Force Academy;

Preston Joseph Horejsi, Medina High School, Military Academy;

Thomas Prioleau Ball, IV, Alamo Heights High School, Merchant Marine Academy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIBERTY AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Liberty Amendment, which repeals the 16th Amendment, thus paving the way for real change in the way government collects and spends the people's hard-earned money. The Liberty Amendment also explicitly forbids the Federal government from performing any action not explicitly authorized by the United States Constitution.

The 16th Amendment gives the Federal government a direct claim on the lives of American citizens by enabling Congress to levy a direct income tax on individuals. Until the passage of the 16th amendment, the Supreme Court had consistently held that Congress had no power to impose an income tax.

Income taxes are responsible for the transformation of the Federal government from one of limited powers into a vast leviathan whose tentacles reach into almost every aspect of American life. Thanks to the income tax, today the Federal government routinely invades our privacy, and penalizes our every endeavor.

The Founding Fathers realized that "the power to tax is the power to destroy," which is why they did not give the Federal government the power to impose an income tax. Needless to say, the Founders would be horrified to know that Americans today give more than a third of their income to the Federal government.

Income taxes not only diminish liberty, they retard economic growth by discouraging work and production. Our current tax system also forces Americans to waste valuable time and money on compliance with an ever-more complex tax code. The increased interest in flat-tax and national sales tax proposals, as well as the increasing number of small businesses that question the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) "withholding" system provides further proof that America is tired of the labyrinthine tax code. Americans are also increasingly fed up with an IRS that continues to ride roughshod over their civil liberties, despite recent "pro-taxpayer" reforms.

Madam Speaker, America survived and prospered for 140 years without an income tax, and with a Federal government that generally adhered to strictly constitutional functions, operating with modest excise revenues. The income tax opened the door to the era (and errors) of Big Government. I hope my colleagues will help close that door by cosponsoring the Liberty Amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, on April 2nd, 2009, I voted against H. Con. Res. 85, the Congressional Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2010. Although I was unable to cast my vote on the resolution, I made it clear to Leadership that I continue to oppose the budget resolution. While this budget represents much-needed honesty by including the cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the inevitable cost associated with natural disasters, it does not go far enough to restore fiscal responsibility to our Nation. We are suffering in the wake of eight years of historic fiscal irresponsibility. But difficult times call for difficult decisions. We cannot climb out of the current economic crisis without returning to fiscal sanity to restore consumer and investor confidence. While this budget resolution took a significant step in the right direction by cutting the deficit by more than half in five years, we can and must do better. For this reason, I continue to oppose the budget resolution.

LEE KAMPEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lee Kampel who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lee Kampel is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lee Kampel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Lee Kampel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on April 15, 2009, a delegation of World War II veterans, family members, and volunteers from South Carolina, coordinated by Bill Dukes, gathered at the National World War II Memorial in Washington to recognize the service and sacrifice of our World War II veterans and honor the memory of five veterans. These five members of the Greatest

Generation had sadly passed away before they could travel with Honor Flight—an organization that brings World War II veterans to visit the memorial erected in their honor. Five American and South Carolina flags were dedicated in the memory of: Allen C. Hart, James Adkins, Robert Atkinson, John Lachenmeyer, Harold C. Reynolds.

Our liberty is not guaranteed. It must forever be defended by the courageous men and women of our military. I am honored to recognize these brave American heroes.

RECOGNITION OF GLOBAL CHILD NUTRITION MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the School Nutrition Association, (SNA) and the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF). It is my distinct pleasure to share with you how one organization, along with some loose change, can make a dramatic difference for those around the globe who are less fortunate.

April is Global Child Nutrition Month and to celebrate, the School Nutrition Association, in conjunction with the Global Child Nutrition Foundation is collecting funds to "Change the World". SNA and GCNF encourage school nutrition professionals to take a day, a week, or the whole month to partner with students and teachers in raising funds to fight global hunger. Through the Change Our World campaign, the funds raised will be used to support GCNF and other local and international hunger organizations. Hundreds of school districts nationwide are participating this month.

For the second year during Global Child Nutrition Month, the annual Change Our World fundraising campaign continues its mission to raise awareness about global hunger. Last year, Change Our World raised \$110,000 for GCNF. I am hopeful that this year's campaign will exceed last year's efforts.

The Global Child Nutrition Foundation was created in 2006 with the mission of expanding opportunities for the world's children to receive adequate nutrition for learning and achieving their potential. I visited the GCNF Web site to learn more about its work and was delighted to see how just in a few years' time, one organization has done so much to make a difference. I would encourage all of my colleagues to visit the GCNF Web site at www.gcnf.org to learn more about its activities.

Additionally, I am delighted to report that the GCNF will hold its 2009 Global Child Nutrition Forum outside of Cape Town, South Africa, May 5–9, 2009. The Forum marks the beginning of a three-year technical assistance cycle to advance school feeding through sharing problem solving guidance and ongoing communication with country leaders from selected developing countries.

As we speak of these developing countries, we are reminded that nearly 300 million of the world's children are caught in the debilitating cycle of poverty and hunger. According to the World Food Programme, 170 million of these children attend school, but most do not receive meals there. Because a hungry child cannot learn, GCNF works to help nations

build and sustain school feeding programs to nurture and educate children.

Madam Speaker, as someone who is committed to ending hunger once and for all, I thank and commend the School Nutrition Association and the Global Child Nutrition Foundation for recognizing April as Global Child Nutrition Month.

It is my hope that all of us can work together to be a part of the solution as we continue to raise awareness in eradicating hunger.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 627, the "Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009," a bill of which I am a proud co-sponsor. My friend and colleague, Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, who is the bill's author, has been a tireless advocate for protecting consumers from the abuses of the credit card industry. This legislation will mandate meaningful reform on an industry that has been permitted to run wild for far too long.

We hear daily of countless Americans, who are struggling to pay their bills. Compounding this lamentable state of affairs is the fact that workers in this country have suffered a decline in real wages over the past decade. As a result of being stretched to their financial breaking point, many families have had to resort to using credit cards to pay for unforeseen costs, such as car repairs or emergency room bills. Far too often, these families are subjected to arbitrary rate increases and also forced to pay iniquitous late fees.

H.R. 627 will help put an end to these shameful practices and require credit card companies to treat consumers fairly. Importantly, this legislation will restrict the practice known as "universal default," wherein a credit card company uses information about a cardholder's financial status, such as a change in his or her credit rating, to raise the cardholder's interest rate, even if the cardholder has not defaulted on payments or made them late. Moreover, H.R. 627 will also ban what is known as "double cycle billing," which is the collection of interest on amounts already paid by consumers to credit card companies.

In this time of severe recession, I feel it imperative that consumers be afforded fair protection from unfair credit card industry practices. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this common-sense legislation, which will help stem the tide of unscrupulous and predatory lending that has brought our nation to an economic precipice of gargantuan proportions.

NGAN NGUYEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ngan Nguyen who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ngan Nguyen is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ngan Nguyen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Ngan Nguyen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

DORI SLOSBERG AND KATIE MARCHETTI SAFETY BELT LAW**HON. ROBERT WEXLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Florida Legislature for passing the Dori Slosberg and Katie Marchetti Safety Belt Law yesterday, a law giving police the power to stop motorists for not wearing seat belts. I believe this law is a great step forward in the effort to reduce the numbers of tragic deaths and injuries throughout Florida and should serve as an example for other state governments to follow in ensuring all Americans are safer on our roads.

This measure was long championed by Irv Slosberg, a former state representative from Boca Raton whose 14-year-old daughter, Dori, was killed in a 1996 car crash on Palmetto Park Road. This accident claimed the lives of five teens and left four others, including Dori's twin sister, with serious injuries. It is unfortunate that such a tragedy needed to occur for people in our community to take notice of the need to amend the law to ensure people are wearing their seat belts, but Irv Slosberg deserves a tremendous amount of praise for his dedication to ensuring other families do not suffer from such a tragedy.

Along with his efforts in the Florida State House to introduce this bill, Irv Slosberg also introduced the Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act, which became law in Florida in 2002 and allows Florida counties to fund driver education programs by adding a surcharge to traffic tickets. In addition, recognizing that teen traffic crashes are the number one cause of death in Florida, Irv Slosberg also founded the Dori Slosberg Foundation, with a mission statement to educate the public about the importance of traffic safety; promote the usage of safe driving habits, especially seat belt compliance and proper child restraint devices; support and advance driver's education pro-

grams nationwide; assist the Florida Department of Transportation to ensure a safe driving environment on our roadways; and distribute tools to both teens and seniors to help them drive safely. These initiatives, along with his personal dedication to the issue of road safety, have no doubt saved and will continue to save countless lives in our community.

As a co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Global Road Safety, I understand the impact road crashes have on the global community, and while we must continue to work to establish protocols with nations around the world to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries globally, we must also set an example here in the United States by passing laws to ensure safety belts, which have been credited with saving countless lives since they were made standard in U.S. automobiles in 1968, are being used by all who get behind the wheel, especially our children.

I want to once again congratulate the Florida Legislature for passing this bill, and I look forward to Governor Charlie Crist's signing this into law in the near future. I also want to once again extend my appreciation for Irv Slosberg's efforts, both while he served in the Florida Legislature and as a member of the South Florida community, to ensure our loved ones remain safe on the roads.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 1913). This bill makes a profound statement that this country will not tolerate violence motivated by bigotry and ignorance against its citizens. I commend Chairman CONYERS for bringing this legislation to the floor.

The message of this bill is clear: the United States will not tolerate hate crimes. These crimes are unlike other violent acts of randomness. Targeting people because of their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender or disability is a form of domestic terrorism. Such violent crimes send a chilling message to entire communities that they are not welcome and that intolerance and ignorance is alive and well.

Since 1991, the FBI has received more than 118,000 reports of hate crimes and we know that crimes of this nature are frequently underreported. Current federal law covers crimes committed based on a person's race, color, religion, or national origin. H.R. 1913 extends federal protection to include hate crimes committed because of a person's gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. This bill allows the federal government to provide needed federal resources to state and local law enforcement officials to prosecute hate crimes and also authorizes grants to law enforcement agencies that have incurred expenses investigating and prosecuting hate crime cases.

Some opponents of H.R. 1913 have suggested that this bill legislates against thoughts and ideas. This is absolutely false. H.R. 1913

provides local authorities more effective means to prosecute violent acts of hate, not thoughts or speech. In fact, this bill explicitly includes First Amendment free speech protections for persons accused of acts of hate.

My first vote as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives was for equal rights on housing and employment for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) community. As a Member of Congress, I have now voted for similar federal four times. The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act must become law so that all Americans can fully participate in and enjoy the rights of a democratic society.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RESTORING THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COUNTY HEALTH CARE COSTS**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to address two matters that are critically important to the future of this country: health care and the health of our local economies.

In almost all states, an inmate in a county jail or juvenile detention facility loses their Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP or SSI benefits during their incarceration—even if they have not been convicted of a crime. The United States leads the world in the number of people who are incarcerated and federal law requires government entities to provide medical services to all inmates. High incarceration rates, chronic conditions, substance abuse treatment, mental illness, and aging prison populations have contributed to the rise in health care costs for inmates.

Madam Speaker, providing health care for inmates constitutes a major portion of local jail operating costs. Nearly two thirds of all jail inmates are awaiting court action or have not been convicted of the crime they have been charged with. Over half of jail inmates who receive financial support from government agencies prior to their arrest have physical and/or mental health problems. Requiring county governments to cover health care costs for inmates who have not been convicted. This places an unnecessary burden on local governments, which have been negatively impacted by recession, widespread budget deficits, and cuts to safety-net programs and other essential services.

Stripping inmates of Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP and SSI benefits also violates the presumption of innocence which is at the heart of our criminal justice system. The failure to distinguish between persons who are awaiting disposition of charges and persons who have been duly convicted goes against the foundational tenets of our justice system.

Disadvantaged populations are further harmed by this situation. Low-income and minority populations are often unable to post bond, which would allow them to continue to receive benefits from the federal government. The facts are clear and all too familiar. Black men are three times more likely than Hispanics and five times more likely than whites to be in jail. Black women are more than twice

as likely as Hispanic females and over 3.5 times more likely than white females to have been incarcerated.

Madam Speaker, this issue hits close to home. Florida's local economy has been devastated. Further, Florida has one of the highest levels of uninsured persons in the nation, and the majority of these people reside in South Florida. Passage of this bill will rectify this inequality by restoring the partnership between federal and local governments.

The bipartisan Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2009 ensures that the federal and local governments share in these health care costs, and that no side is unnecessarily burdened with financing medical services.

I urge you to join Representative BURGESS, Representative HOLT and myself in supporting a bill that is designed to provide relief to local county budgets and defend those values which are at the core of our nation's criminal justice system.

RAE LANIEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rae Laniel who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rae Laniel is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rae Laniel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Rae Laniel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

CLIMATE CHANGE SAFEGUARDS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES CON- SERVATION ACT

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and someone who is very concerned about the need to safeguard wildlife and ecosystems from the threat of global warming and ocean acidification, I wish to express my strong support for the "Climate Change Safeguards for Natural Resources Conservation Act," legislation introduced today by Representative RAÚL GRIJALVA. I believe that the policy provisions in this legislation, coupled with a dedicated funding stream for wildlife and natural resources derived from a portion of the Federal revenues from expected

cap-and-trade legislation, will provide the policy response necessary to tackle this significant challenge.

I am very much aware of the need to take action to address global warming, and I have held hearings in the Interior Subcommittee to examine the impact of climate change on many of the agencies and resources under my subcommittee's jurisdiction. I have consistently stated my belief that climate change is the emerging issue of our time. Climate change may alter the face of our planet in ways we cannot yet fully comprehend, and I believe it is our responsibility not only to do as much as possible to halt or slow it, but also to do everything in our power to protect the earth's resources from its impacts so that future generations will be able to benefit from them as we and past generations have done.

Our Nation's wildlife is one critically important resource that is particularly vulnerable to climate change and is also a resource that is a fundamental part of America's history and character. Conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat is a core value shared by all Americans.

America's wildlife is vital to our Nation for many reasons. Wildlife conservation provides economic, social, educational, recreational, emotional, and spiritual benefits. The economic value of the outdoor recreation industry alone is estimated to contribute \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Wildlife habitat, including forests, grasslands, riparian lands, wetlands, rivers and other water bodies, is an essential component of the American landscape, and is protected and valued by Federal, State, and local governments, tribes, private landowners, and conservation organizations.

Ocean acidification is a subject not often discussed but which poses a grave threat to our waterways and ultimately to our food chain. The oceans absorb approximately 30 percent of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) released into the atmosphere and they have played an important role in reducing the greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere and mitigating some of the impacts of climate change. However, recent discoveries clearly indicate that marine fish and wildlife are highly susceptible to increases in CO₂ and the impact it has on water quality. Higher acidity affects the ability of marine life such as shellfish, lobsters and corals to build their skeletons and shells. Many of the affected organisms are important sources in the food chain for fish and other higher marine organisms. Fishing and related industries play a tremendous role in Washington State's economy, as well as other coastal communities.

Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the effect of climate change on wildlife will be profound. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports have made clear that global warming is occurring, that it is exacerbated by human activity, and that it will have devastating impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Global warming is already impacting all of us: threatening the water we drink, the air we breathe, the medicines we use, the food we eat, the forests and fisheries we depend on, the special places we take our children. Wildlife is already suffering from massive changes in habitat, particularly in the arctic, and shifts in ranges and timing of migration and breeding cycles. Continued global warming could lead

to large-scale species extinctions. These impacts add to and compound the adverse effects wildlife and its habitat already suffer from land development, energy development, road construction, and other human activities, and from other threats such as invasive species and disease.

According to the IPCC, global warming and associated sea level rise will continue for centuries due to the timescales associated with climate processes and feedbacks, even if greenhouse gas concentrations are stabilized now or in the very near future. I believe that, as a nation, we must craft responses and mechanisms now to help navigate the threats global warming poses to the natural resources that we all depend upon for survival.

To conserve natural resources and wildlife in the face of the far-reaching effects of global warming, there is a need for a coordinated, national strategy based on sound scientific information to ensure that impacts on wildlife that span government jurisdictions are effectively addressed and to ensure that Federal funds are prudently committed. Ensuring strategic and efficient allocation of funding is something of particular interest to me as an appropriator.

Because of these needs, I have co-sponsored the "Climate Change Safeguards for Natural Resources Conservation Act." This legislation has been developed by the Natural Resources Committee and lays out the strong policy framework necessary to ensure our Nation is using all possible means to help safeguard America's natural resources and wildlife from the harmful impacts of global warming.

I have also acted in my capacity on the House Appropriations Committee to support actions address the climate change impacts in the near term. In 2007, I worked to establish the Global Warming and Wildlife Science center at the U.S. Geological Survey to enhance the science capacity of Federal land management and wildlife agencies. In addition, the recent FY09 omnibus appropriations provided direction from my Subcommittee to the Department of the Interior to develop a national strategy to address global warming's impacts on fish, wildlife, and natural resources. Last Congress, I also introduced "The Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act" whose central principles are represented in the Natural Resources Committee bill that I am proud to cosponsor today.

This bill will help ensure that the pressing needs that are faced by the agencies and programs under the Interior and Environment appropriations subcommittee to help wildlife and wildlife habitat are addressed strategically, based on a foundation of sound scientific information, and that funding is driven through proven programs at the Federal, State and tribal levels in the most efficient way possible.

I also have one additional but very significant point to make about funding to address impacts to natural resources and wildlife from global warming. It is essential that actions to safeguard wildlife and the natural resources will all depend upon dedicated funding. Adequately addressing the greatest conservation challenge of our time will require long-term investments of the magnitude that only the revenue stream created by comprehensive climate and energy legislation can provide. I am working to ensure that 5 percent of the allowance value created by this legislation is dedicated to protect natural resources from global

warming. As I have indicated, the impacts are occurring today and the need is urgent. Paying for these investments through climate revenues takes the burden of protecting these resources off taxpaying citizens and onto the polluting entities responsible for causing global warming pollution.

The Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee allocation is woefully stressed just dealing with the current needs of the agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. Our Federal land management agencies have tremendous backlogs for operations and maintenance of our national wildlife refuges, parks, forests and other public lands. This situation was greatly exacerbated under the Bush Administration budgets and prior Congresses. Hundreds of important biologist positions have been cut, and the agencies' budgets are far below what they have needed just to keep up with inflation. These programs have been starved to the point where they are on life support. It became apparent in hearings the subcommittee has held on global warming that the land management agencies are already seeing the results of climate change on the ground, but that they have few, if any, resources to deal with these changes. With the effects of global warming only expected to increase in severity in the coming years, I believe it is crucial to infuse dedicated new funding into our efforts to address this crisis, and I will work to make this happen.

This is a great Nation with a unique and irreplaceable natural heritage. We must take steps now to protect our wonderful wildlife from the ravages of climate change. In this regard, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of the "Climate Change Safeguards for Natural Resources Conservation Act."

RECOGNIZING THE CANYON DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Canyon Del Oro High School Academic Decathlon Team who recently won first place in the Arizona state competition and placed fourth in the United States Academic Decathlon.

These smart, industrious young men and women have set a wonderful example for every public school student in our country. Their achievements remind us that excellence is the direct result of determination, hard work and clearly defined goals. The nine-member team includes: Taylor Cleland, Marie Clymer, Benjamin Ferrell, Melinda Fraser, Jordan Kurker-Mraz, Rush Moore, Dylan Ousley, Danielle "Ellie" Strasser, and Jennifer Wendel.

Guiding these talented young people was their able coach and teacher, Mr. Chris Yetman.

Before traveling to Memphis, Tennessee for the national competition, the Canyon Del Oro High School Academic Decathlon Team participated in the state competition in Phoenix. There, they took written exams, gave prepared and impromptu speeches and were interviewed on a diverse range of subjects. They were tested on their knowledge of mathe-

matics, music, literature, economics, art history and social sciences. To be successful, each team must include students who have mastery in each of these subject areas.

It was a great source of pride for all Southern Arizonans when the Canyon Del Oro High School Academic Decathlon Team defeated their closest competitor by 3,000 points in the state competition. This victory paved their way to Memphis, Tennessee and their prestigious fourth place finish nationally.

Students on the team also won individual awards. Taylor Cleland finished with the bronze medal in art, the bronze in math and the silver in social science. Melinda Fraser finished with the silver in art. Benjamin Ferrell finished with the top score on the team and was awarded the bronze in art, the bronze in literature, the gold in math and the bronze in ten events. Jordan Kurker-Mraz finished with the gold in art, the gold in essay, the silver in social science, the silver in the super quiz, and the bronze in ten events. Rush Moore finished with the silver in social science, and Jennifer Wendel finished with the gold medal in interview. Additionally, Benjamin Ferrell received \$1,000 in scholarships and Jordan Kurker-Mraz received \$3,000 in scholarships.

I commend the Canyon Del Oro High School Academic Decathlon Team for their outstanding accomplishments. Their journey to these academic heights has brought local, state and national recognition to each of them and their school. Their achievements are an inspiration to us all.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009, but am frustrated by the delay in implementation that the bill allows. This legislation works to protect consumers from unfair credit lending practices, helping to restore the much needed balance between consumers and credit lenders, but fails to do so quickly. I support my colleagues in the Senate and the speedy effective date which their companion bill contains.

In these tough economic times, more individuals and businesses are turning to credit cards to pay for basic necessities than ever before. In the U.S. credit card debt has reached nearly \$1 trillion, with the average American's credit card debt reaching nearly \$10,000 in 2007.

While Americans are struggling to make ends meet and making decisions about which bills to pay and which medications and other necessities they can go without, credit card issuers are making record profits; over \$19 billion in late fees, over-limit charges and other penalties.

Consumers desperately need legislation that will protect them from arbitrary interest rate hikes, over-limit fees, and other unfair charges so they can protect their hard-earned money. Many consumers are unaware that they are being charged penalty pricing on their cards, and credit card issuers routinely fail to explicitly notify lenders when invoking penalty pricing and repricing accounts when payments are made even one day late.

Consumers deserve better than due date gimmicks, and misleading terms. We must ensure that consumers not only know when they are being charged penalty pricing, but are notified before they are charged, so that they can make responsible financial decisions.

Consumers should be financially empowered, not defenseless against the whims of credit card issuers. This bill works to do that by halting these unfair fee practices and allowing individuals to set their own credit limits, so they don't unwittingly accumulate debt they can't possibly get out of. It also protects those who do make their payments on time, preventing them from being charged interest on debts paid during the grace period.

Consumers are being hit on all sides, with unfair credit card fees, overdraft banking fees and rising costs of goods and services. We must work immediately to protect consumers as financial institutions look to them to make up money lost in the economic downturn. My only concern is that these changes must be implemented immediately. Few of our constituents can wait out the year's implementation time period in the bill. I strongly urge institutions that can, to do the right thing and implement these changes as soon as possible.

I will continue to work hard on my legislation to bring financial relief to millions of Americans through bank abuse protections, and other efforts Chairwoman Maloney makes to protect consumers and small businesses from unfair lending.

Although I believe this bill does not go far enough, fast enough to protect consumers, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009 is an important step in the right direction and I urge its passage.

RIKKI DICKINSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rikki Dickinson who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rikki Dickinson is an 8th grader at St. Peter and Paul School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rikki Dickinson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Rikki Dickinson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her

academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MATTHEW SCHNIREL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Matthew Schnirel, a lifelong member of the Buffalo, NY community. He died tragically when the single engine plane he was riding in crashed just east of Cleveland, OH the afternoon of April 28, 2009. Schnirel was helping Michael Doran, his associate at the Doran and Murphy Law firm and pilot of the plane, with his ongoing fight for the railroad workers of Ohio. The two were on their way back to Buffalo.

Making Matthew's death all the more heart-rending was the fact that the 26 year old was just starting his life and career. He returned from earning an undergraduate degree in history at the University at Albany to graduate from the University at Buffalo Law School in 2008. Matthew passed the Bar Exam in January 2009 when he began work as an attorney at Doran & Murphy. He and his longtime girlfriend, Lauren, recently purchased a home in a Buffalo suburb, where he is missed by parents, brother and two sisters.

Matthew's parents, a salesman and an emergency room nurse, taught him the values of hard work and helping others and he hoped to put those values to use as a civil litigator to help those injured or wronged by the carelessness of others. An avid competitor in nationwide trial competitions Schnirel was described as a "superstar in the making" by Christopher Murphy, a partner at the law firm where he worked. His life and spirit will be remembered by his family and friends for his hard work ethic and contribution to his community.

Madam Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to Matthew's family, his girlfriend, Lauren, and all those whose lives he touched. Our community grieves the loss of this young and promising life.

HONORING SONIA LEROIA RUSSELL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Sonia LeRoia Russell for her contributions to both society and the arts. Through her poetry, Ms. Russell has impacted the lives of many, both locally in New York and throughout our nation. Her recent work commemorating the election of President Obama has been widely cited and read. For these reasons and many others, I believe that Ms. Russell is deserving of recognition.

An esteemed author, poet and publisher, Ms. Russell has enriched the community within which she lives through her sustained contributions to society. Through these numerous contributions, Ms. Russell is proud to both represent and actively participate in the large, influential and diverse African American community in New York and beyond. In addition to

her successful poetic, publishing and writing ventures, Ms. Russell gives back to her community in various other fashions. Formerly, Ms. Russell held the presidency of the first poetry ministry with the Holy Unity Baptist Church located in Queens, NY. In keeping with that trend, Ms. Russell is currently ministering poetry at the Living Water Church in Harlem, NY. Writing and orating for special events, Ms. Russell lends her strong, poetic voice to her community. In addition, Ms. Russell is also a member of the Music & Fine Arts Ministry where she writes and sings songs for the choir. Further, Ms. Russell also writes poetry for important community events, such as weddings and anniversaries. Ms. Russell's recent work commemorating the Presidency of Barack Obama and the African American struggle for civil rights and equality has been well received and further exemplifies her continued efforts at serving her community in lending her important voice to contemporary issues.

Our country, built on the premises of equality, freedom of speech, and a vocal citizenry, needs talented individuals like Ms. Russell in order to fulfill these founding principles. In addition, the arts, in general, play a vital role in our society, enriching our communities and inspiring our youth to confront their future circumstances in creative and innovation ways. For her efforts in both vocalizing the experiences of her community and county and in stimulating the arts, I am thankful to Ms. Russell.

The work of Ms. Russell is inspiring, and I am grateful to her for all that she has accomplished. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for her contributions to society.

The following is the aforementioned poem authored by Ms. Russell entitled "Inauguration Poem for President Barack Obama":

INAUGURATION POEM FOR PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

I laid my head down and sleep stole my thoughts
And I drifted like a disembodied soul
I began to see figures moving slowly in my haze
And I heard a familiar refrain remind me of my role

softly—"It's been a long time coming"

So many before me who paved the way to today

Many lives who unknowingly touched mine
So many died before their work saw fruition
Many who stood on that freedom, faith, line

softly—"And I know change is gonna come"
"Not in vain," I hear them shouting, "hold on fast."

"It's not for skin that we are striving, but for equal eyes,

Equal tongue, equal ears, equal image, equal time!"

Now there's no more lamenting that we can't rise

softly—"There's been times that I thought I couldn't last for long"

I watched with suspicion many take up the cause

As we were beaten down, lifted up, then given our cross

I watched behind the fine lines of others sacrifice

As we were being defined by the way we handled loss

softly—"But now I think I'm able to carry on."

Frederick Douglass was the first black man to aspire

He was on the ticket as vice President to Victoria Woodhull

Their 1872 Equal Rights Party did not make it to the top

But the ink was spilled and all felt the inevitable pull

softly—"It's been a long time coming"

And the people sang, "Run Jesse run, keep hope alive,

Don't let Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have died in vain!"

There are spiritually, mentally, and physically scarred folks

Who don't believe this country can look upon them without disdain

softly—"It's been a long time coming"

America watched a people stand tall against oppression

Strong men holding signs reminding doubters "I am a man"

Then time convinced some that this was not the case

Until a new sign was held up that insisted, "Yes we can!"

So as I rose up from my dream and allowed reality to sink in

I saw a man of African, and white American descent

Representing all people of America as a spiritual, patriot

On the values and principles that this country was meant

softly—"It's been a long time coming"

And I cried as I remembered the ghosts of my dream

Those who believed and had faith that change would occur

Those ghosts spanned the ages of time before Christ

And had more to do with prejudices and fear than mere color

softly—"It's been a long time coming"

Now let us pray that God lights and directs the path

Of the one whom we the people chose to lead us

Let us pray that the ghosts of the past will always remind him

And that Jesus will strengthen his resolve and his purpose

softly—"And I knew change was gonna come"

And it did, yes it did

God bless you and keep you President Barack Obama!

—Sonia "LeRoia" Russell.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "AFGHAN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 2009"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI), I am reintroducing the "Afghan Women Empowerment Act of 2009." This legislation would authorize \$115 million each year from FY2010 through FY2012 for programs in Afghanistan that benefit women and girls as well as the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs. The funding would be directed toward important needs including medical care, education, vocational training, legal assistance, protection against trafficking, and civil

participation. Senator BOXER has introduced similar legislation, S. 229, in the Senate.

Although women are guaranteed equal rights in the Afghan constitution, they continue to face challenges including intimidation, discrimination, targeted violence, and efforts to restrict their legal rights. In March the parliament of Afghanistan approved the Shi'ite Personal Status Law which was signed by President Karzai. According to the United Nations, one provision of the law would have the effect of legalizing marital rape by mandating that a wife cannot refuse sex to her husband unless she is ill. In addition, the law would forbid women from working or receiving education without their husbands' permission; restrict their ability to leave the house without a male relative; and aims to strip women of their rights as mothers by granting child custody only to men. President Karzai has ordered that the law be reviewed, and has said that changes will be made to any articles which contradict Afghanistan's Constitution and Islamic Sharia. I believe that the United States has an obligation to ensure that women and girls have the opportunities that they were denied under the Taliban. It is imperative that we provide the support needed to ensure that the rights of women are protected in the new Afghanistan.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the wonderful work being done by Puget Sound Energy. Located in Bellevue, Washington, they continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy efficiency through investment and smart ideas. I'm proud to represent this company in Congress.

In late March, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, named Puget Sound Energy one of 89 "Energy Star" organizations across the country. Through its Residential New Construction "Energy Star" Lighting Program, Puget Sound Energy is working to increase demand for qualified lighting products in new, single-family homes. Beginning in 2008, they doubled investment in partner outreach as part of an ongoing regional fixture program. Serving as the facilitator, 16,000 Energy Star fixtures and 39,000 Energy Star CFLs were installed in new homes, representing a 100 percent increase in energy savings from 2007.

The work Puget Sound Energy is doing in Washington State is not only beneficial to our environment; it is also beneficial to the economy. Customers can take advantage of energy rebates for improving efficiency in their homes through the installation of new windows, doors and improved insulation, among other many other things. In 2008 alone, Puget Sound Energy customers collectively saved \$30 million on energy bills and helped support more than 450 new "green" jobs.

Utilizing green technology and improvements positively impacts our environment, our communities and—especially important during these tough days—our economy. The work Puget Sound Energy is doing in Washington is exactly the type of forward-thinking, reason-

able work that businesses and individual Americans should strive for, and I congratulate them on their new classification as a leader in energy-efficient technologies.

HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL H. DORAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of Buffalo and Western New York and a dear friend who will be deeply missed, Michael H. Doran. Mike Doran, a well-known attorney in Buffalo and the devoted father of two children, was tragically killed in a plane accident on Tuesday, April 30, 2009. This is a devastating loss to his family and friends, and to our community.

A Buffalo native and alum of the University at Buffalo and the University of Buffalo School of Law, Mike would have celebrated his fifteen year anniversary with his law practice, Doran & Murphy, with his law partner, Christopher Murphy, this Saturday. Mike was on his way home from working on a case in Cleveland to attend his daughter's school function when his single-engine plane crashed. Those who witnessed the crash say Mike steered the failing plane away from a nearby neighborhood and are calling him a hero.

For over 25 years, Mike has represented those afflicted with serious injury and occupational disease, as well as wrongful death cases. He was most recently working with Roswell Park Cancer Institute in promoting a program designed to help detect lung cancer in high risk patients. The early detection program was proven effective in prolonging life and curing lung cancers.

Mike was deeply loved by his family, friends and the community. He was very involved in numerous organizations including the board of directors of the Western New York Leukemia Society, the University of Buffalo Center for Children and Families, and was an active volunteer with the University of Buffalo Law School Alumni Association. Michael was an FAA certified pilot, an avid extreme skier, and was the 2008 champion of the Buffalo Croquet and Debating Club.

Madam Speaker, I offer my deepest condolences to Mike's family. My thoughts are with them, and I share their grief of this wonderful man I am honored to have called a dear friend. His loss is felt by the many lives he touched in this community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF SAIGON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance and recognition of the 34th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. This historical date commemorates the end of the Vietnam War, and represents the beginning of a new life for tens of thousands of Vietnamese

people, as they began their hopeful journey to America. Thirty-four years later, I rise to honor the memory and the sacrifice of the hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese soldiers, American soldiers and civilians who lost their lives during this time.

After the fall of Saigon, thousands of Vietnamese began a treacherous exodus out of Vietnam, determined to rebuild their lives. Their daring escape was by boat and on foot, through thick jungles, over jagged mountains, through snake-infested rivers and across turbulent seas. They became refugees in many nations, including America, with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and the hope for freedom in their hearts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who struggled for peace and freedom. I also rise in honor of local agencies and churches such as The Vietnamese Community of Greater Cleveland and the St. Helena Catholic Church, which offer havens of support, services and hope to immigrants from all over the world. The Vietnamese culture, through the care and commitment of its people, has flourished in Cleveland and across America, while remaining connected to its ancient cultural and historical traditions.

JACKSON CAMERON OTTO MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my daughter Catherine and her husband Tim Otto on the birth of their third child and my sixth grandchild, Jackson Cameron Otto. Jackson was born on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 2:42 a.m. and weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces, and was 21.25 inches long. My wife Faye and I are delighted to welcome Jackson as he joins our five other grandchildren, William, Virginia, Cameron, Walker, and Andrew. Faye and I wish Catherine and Tim and big brothers William and Andrew great happiness upon this new addition to our family.

Faye and I are truly blessed by the arrival of little Jackson Cameron Otto. The birth of a new child is a joyous occasion that reminds us of the promise of a new life. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world.

My family and I are looking forward to spending a lot of time with our new bundle of joy and introducing him to all of our friends and neighbors in North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to declare my strong support for H.R. 1913, the

Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and to urge its swift passage in the House of Representatives.

This important legislation would expand the federal definition of hate-motivated crimes to include gender, sexual orientation, disability and gender identity. Violence provoked by prejudice has no place in our society. It jeopardizes not only the safety of the victims but also their friends and neighbors, and upsets public order by making people feel threatened in their communities.

For example, persons with disabilities are often vulnerable to criminal hateful acts because they may seem different or use unfamiliar assistive technologies. Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia, including my home state of Rhode Island, already recognize and prosecute these cases as hate crimes. However, there is still no uniform recognition on the national level that a disability could make a person uniquely susceptible to prejudice. Equally troubling is that Rhode Island law enforcement officials reported that nearly 50 percent of hate crime victims were targeted because of their sexual orientation. Yet even as so many Americans joined together to mourn the loss of Matthew Shepard last October, on the tenth anniversary of his brutal murder, hate-motivated crimes still go unrecognized under federal statute.

H.R. 1913 has the practical purpose of authorizing training and grants for local law enforcement officials to facilitate prevention, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. However, the passing of this bill today is equally as important as the civil rights legislation that was enacted several decades ago, which enforced the principle that our country does not accept targeting any American for violence or discrimination based on hatred. I urge my colleagues to join me in fighting bigotry that threatens our communities by voting for the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, for too long now, credit card companies have toyed with the lives and financial health of the American people. For far too long, credit card companies have seemed to offer hard-working Americans a lifeline, but that lifeline is really an endless web of debt.

Cardholders are surprised by huge hidden fees that are buried in the fine print.

Credit card companies aggressively prey on our young college students who are not yet working. These companies rove college campuses and entice students with gifts, with the intent of collecting interest payments as the student ravel herself in debt.

We are in the midst of a horrible recession. Millions of Americans are without work, trying to keep their homes, feed their families, and stay healthy, because a trip to the doctor could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. But credit card companies remain cold, chasing the almighty dollar.

Many people have a hard enough time just paying monthly interest charges, yet these companies add on additional fees and increase interest rates by 10 and 20 percent—all without notice.

The truth is they do not want consumers to pay off their balances. It is much more profitable to feast on the interest.

We must put an end to this. We can no longer allow these unjust practices to continue. We cannot allow this industry to continue to profit on the hardship of Americans who use their services.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE "WAYSIDE SHRINE AND CROSS CRAFTING IN LITHUANIA" EXHIBIT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Folk Art exhibit of "Wayside shrine and cross crafting in Lithuania" on the occasion of Lithuania's Millennium being celebrated this year.

Cross crafting in Lithuania has a rich 400 year old history and was inscribed into the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage List of Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2001. The exhibit "Wayside shrine and cross crafting in Lithuania," displayed at the Embassy of Lithuania in Washington, DC features beautifully crafted crosses and shrines which are traditionally built to recognize special occasions and significant events for individuals, families or communities. These crosses can be found throughout Lithuania in churchyards, roadsides, villages and even government buildings, and typically feature the Virgin Mary and various saints. The craft of cross making is one that has been passed down through generations since the 16th century and serves as a symbol of Lithuania's rich cultural and historical history.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Lithuania's rich history and the cultural significance of cross crafting as featured in the "Wayside shrine and cross crafting in Lithuania" exhibit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, on March 23, 2009, March 24, 2009, March 30, 2009, March 31, 2009, and April 21, 2009, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 145–149, 157–168 and 193–195 due to flooding in my State of North Dakota. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No.

145, "aye"; rollcall No. 146, "aye"; rollcall No. 147, "aye"; rollcall No. 148, "aye"; rollcall No. 149, "aye"; rollcall No. 157, "aye"; rollcall No. 158, "aye"; rollcall No. 159, "aye"; rollcall No. 160, "aye"; rollcall No. 161, "nay"; rollcall No. 162, "aye"; rollcall No. 163, "aye"; rollcall No. 164, "aye"; rollcall No. 165, "aye"; rollcall No. 166, "aye"; rollcall No. 167, "aye"; rollcall No. 193, "aye"; rollcall No. 194, "aye"; and rollcall No. 195, "aye."

INTRODUCTION ON IRAN REFINED PETROLEUM SANCTIONS ACT

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, our nation has a vital national security interest in ensuring that Iran does not possess nuclear arms or achieve the means to produce them on short notice. My bill, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (IRPSA), is designed to help prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapons capability.

This legislation requires that any foreign entity that sells refined petroleum to Iran—or otherwise enhances Iran's ability to import refined petroleum through, for example, financing, brokering, underwriting, or providing ships for such activity—will be effectively barred from doing business in the United States. The same would be true for any entity that provides goods or services that enhance Iran's ability to maintain or expand its domestic production of refined petroleum.

Because of its limited refining capacity, Iran is forced to import roughly one-quarter of the gasoline and other refined petroleum products it consumes from other countries. Without this outside help, much of the Iranian economy would grind to a halt. It seems hard to believe that one of the world's leading oil exporters could find itself in this position, but it is reality—one that can only be attributed to shockingly poor planning and administration by the Iranian regime.

I and the other co-sponsors of this bill therefore believe that this measure could have a powerfully negative impact on the Iranian economy, rendering it more difficult for the Iranian government to continue to fund a nuclear program that the international community has repeatedly called upon it to suspend. Our goal, of course, is not to punish the Iranian people, but to maximize the chances that we can persuade the Iranian government to accede to the will of the international community.

Let me be clear: I fully support the Administration's strategy of direct diplomatic engagement with Iran, and I have no intention of moving this bill though the legislative process in the near future. In fact, I hope that Congress will never need to take any action on this legislation, for that would mean that Iran at last has complied with the repeatedly-expressed demand of the international community, as embodied in five separate U.N. Security Council resolutions, to verifiably suspend its uranium enrichment program and to end its pursuit of nuclear weapons once and for all.

The larger purpose of my bill is to demonstrate to one and all—but particularly to the Iranian regime—the importance that the U.S. Congress places on the Iranian nuclear issue.

I share President Obama's conviction that it is unacceptable for Iran to possess nuclear weapons and his determination to seek a diplomatic solution to this issue. However, should engagement with Iran not yield the desired results in a reasonable period of time, we will have no choice but to press forward with additional sanctions—such as those contained in IRPSA—that could truly cripple the Iranian economy. In that respect, I am pleased that Secretary of State Clinton has said that she is already intensively engaged with our allies and other key states in the international community for the purpose of, in her words, “laying the groundwork for the kind of very tough . . . sanctions that might be necessary in the event that our offers are either rejected or the process is inconclusive or unsuccessful.”

This legislation is offered in that spirit.

HONORING TEXAS NURSES ASSOCIATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, The nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession; and

Whereas, A renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care will require the better utilization of all of our nation's registered nursing resources; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association has had a mission to advance nursing through leadership, advocacy and innovation; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association was founded on February 22, 1907 in Fort Worth, Texas with a group of 19 nurses as the Texas Graduate Nurses' Association and is the oldest professional nursing association in Texas; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association has advocated to improve the practice and perception of nursing and to ensure quality care for all Texans; and

Whereas, The demand for registered nursing services will be greater than ever because of the aging of the American population, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technology, and the explosive growth of home health care services; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association has been successful promoting the growth of the nursing practice by getting the Nursing Shortage Reduction Act of 2001 to increase nursing school enrollments; and

Whereas, That more qualified registered nurses will be needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of health care consumers in this community; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association in 2007 celebrated 100 years of advocating for professional nursing in Texas; and

Whereas, Along with the American Nurses Association, the Texas Nurses Association has declared the week of May 6–12 as NATIONAL NURSES WEEK with the theme ‘Nurses: Building a Healthy America’ in celebration of the ways in which registered nurses strive to provide safe and high quality patient care and map out the way to improve our health care system; therefore

Be it hereby *Resolved*, That Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, in representing the 28th Con-

gressional District of the State of Texas, honors the Texas Nurses Association.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CORPORAL BRAD A. DAVIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Army Corporal Brad A. Davis, who dedicated himself to serving our country, his community and his family as he courageously and selflessly rose to the call of duty.

Corporal Davis grew up in Garfield Heights, Ohio and graduated from Garfield Heights High School. Shortly thereafter, in 2006, he enlisted in the Army, and served our country in two tours of duty in Iraq. He served in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Throughout his tenure in the Army, Corporal Davis consistently reflected bravery, commitment and compassion, and he often and easily offered his assistance to anyone in need, without regard to his own sacrifice. Corporal Davis risked his own safety to assist his fellow soldiers and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama. He was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Good Conduct Medal by the Secretary of the U.S. Army.

Corporal Davis was an exceptional and courageous United States soldier, and an equally exceptional human being. His young life was framed by commitment to family, service to country, loyalty to his brothers and sisters in uniform, and reflected an unbridled love of life. Corporal Davis' family and friends were the center and foundation of his life. He was the youngest child of Terri and Bob Davis, and the youngest sibling of Jennifer, Robert and Rebecca. A kind young man with a generous and fun-loving heart, Corporal Davis loved being around family and friends and was always the one to bring people together, whether for a last-minute summer game of cornhole or an organized softball tournament.

Madam Speaker, and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Corporal Brad A. Davis, whose heroic actions, commitment and bravery will be remembered always. I extend my deepest condolences to the family of Corporal Davis his beloved parents, Bob and Terri, his beloved sisters and brother—Jennifer, Rebecca and Robert; his beloved nephews, Landon and Lukas, and his extended family and friends. The significant sacrifice, service, courage that defined the life of Corporal Davis will be honored and remembered by throughout the Cleveland community.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, on March 24, 2009, the House of Representatives

passed H. Con. Res. 55—recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA)—unanimously by voice vote. The Members of this House have spoken in one voice affirming the need to further deepen the relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

This anniversary is an important milestone and represents an incredible opportunity for us to further build upon and strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. On April 12, 2009, President Ma Ying-jeou in his address on the anniversary of the TRA declared “the TRA has come to symbolize the strong friendship and trust forged between America and Taiwan over these past decades” and the TRA has served as an anchor of “peace and stability.”

In his address, President Ma laid out the historical and political significance of the TRA and the diplomatic path hewed by its enactment:

The TRA was enacted in 1979 by the U.S. Congress to cope with the Taiwan situation after the U.S. had switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing. It replaced the terribly inadequate arrangement of the Carter Administration, by keeping all aspects of the Taiwan-U.S. relationship intact except, of course, formal diplomatic ties, a mutual defense treaty and the stationing of American troops in Taiwan. One American commentator said in 1979 that while the U.S.-China Joint Communiqué establishing diplomatic relations derecognized Taiwan, the Taiwan Relations Act has re-recognized it. My Harvard professor Detlev Vagt said to me after the passing of the TRA that Taiwan is the most recognized unrecognized government of the U.S.

In an imperfect world, the TRA, which largely accommodates Taiwan's needs for continuity, reality, security, legality and governmental status in the new Taiwan-U.S. relationship, is the second-best choice for Taiwan. Today the TRA is more than a convenient solution to a political dilemma. Its very existence changed the evolutionary course of cross-strait development by stabilizing the triangular relationship among Taiwan, the United States and mainland China.

President Ma also addressed the need to promote Taiwan's economic growth and to take the necessary steps to ensure Taiwan's rightful place in our global economy:

We believe that rapprochement with mainland China will improve Taiwan's prospects for expanding our international space. Certainly, the international community will benefit significantly from this change, whether by capitalizing on the new business opportunities thereby made available or simply by no longer being caught in volatile cross-strait relations. For example, the establishment of the Three Links has made it logistically feasible and economically cost-effective to fly, ship or send mail across the Taiwan Strait.

The establishment of direct cross-strait travel and transport provides an incentive for the international community to include Taiwan in regional economic arrangements in East Asia. In fact, right after we inaugurated the Three Links across the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan was able to join the Government Procurement Agreement last December, which we had been unable to participate in when we became a member of the World Trade Organization six years ago. This new development is good news to many potential foreign investors in the U.S., Japan and Europe.

The United States interest will always be in the defense of democracy and in honoring our

commitment to the protection of democratic institutions and peoples. President Ma also expressed his commitment to these same principles:

In fact, Taiwan has much to offer foreign investors. We are a country with a sophisticated legal infrastructure, a democratically open and stable political system and a viable and liberal economy.

We therefore want to end Taiwan's isolation from the world by putting our economic relations with the Chinese mainland on a more normal footing. At the same time, the more contentious political issues will be left on the back burner. We will put off political talks until after a firm foundation for economic, cultural and educational exchanges has been established and buttressed by reciprocal trust and confidence on both sides.

Strengthening the relationship between the United States and Taiwan is essential. This Congress must continue to remain firm in our commitment to Taiwan and meet our obligations under the TRA, as President Ma expressed:

Undoubtedly, the resilience of the TRA and the recent cross-strait détente have opened new opportunities for Taiwan, the U.S. and the mainland to pave a common path towards cooperation, instead of confrontation. This new equilibrium can result in a win-win-win situation for all sides. Obviously, America's role is pivotal. For peace negotiations to continue, the United States is well advised to not only reaffirm but also bolster its commitments under the TRA. The new-found rapprochement with the mainland only means we must with equal, if not greater, effort work to fortify U.S.-Taiwan relations on the basis of mutual trust. This I believe calls for an expansion of bilateral interaction especially at higher levels so as to always guarantee clear communication and better cooperation. Furthermore, a strong commitment in U.S. arms sales and support for expanding Taiwan's international space will enhance our position in face of a power imbalance now rapidly developing across the strait.

Therefore, we come here today not only to commemorate a historic point in cross-strait relations, but, more importantly, to celebrate the endurance of Taiwan-U.S. relations. The strength of the TRA is more vital and crucial at this critical juncture of development than ever before. U.S.-Taiwan relations, the stability of the status quo and even the entire region hangs in the balance. Therefore, I call on Taiwan and the United States to continue to honor the commitments that have bound their destinies together in common friendship and interest for the past three decades.

Madam Speaker, it is my express hope that as we move forward from this 30th Anniversary, the United States and Taiwan will continue to recognize the importance of our shared destinies and act accordingly for the preservation and promotion of our shared values.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1913, the

Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. I am a cosponsor of this legislation because we must do all that we can to protect those who are injured because of their gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or disability.

Hate crimes can occur in any community—even one as wonderful and diverse as mine. On July 4, 1999—when we should have been celebrating the welcoming and embracing traditions of our great country, my district was rocked by the killing spree of the white supremacist, Benjamin Nathaniel Smith. This madman left us grieving for Ricky Byrdsong, a former Northwestern University coach, a well-known community leader, a deeply religious man, a man who was committed to his family. His only crime was the color of his skin—he was African-American. Smith also murdered Won Joon Yoon, an Asian American student from Indiana.

The bill we are considering today takes an important step toward making America a more just society, by closing a glaring loophole in our justice system that prevents the Federal Government from prosecuting cases where women, gay, transgender or disabled persons are victims of bias-motivated crimes for who they are. These crimes not only devastate victims and their family and friends, but they devastate the community to which the victim belongs by creating fear and intimidation. Hate crimes chip away at the very foundations of what it means to be an American—that all people are created equal and are afforded the same freedoms and protections.

America must no longer ignore hate crimes of any kind. Everyone, regardless of race, sexual, orientation and gender identity, must be equal in the eyes of the law. The passage of H.R. 1913 will send the powerful message that America stands for tolerance and inclusion, and is opposed to prejudice in all its forms. I want to thank my good friend, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN, and the entire LGBT Equality Caucus for their tireless work to get this bill passed and urge my colleagues to vote "yes" to H.R. 1913.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Chair, I am disappointed that Congressman MURPHY and I will not have the opportunity to offer our amendment to the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act which would require credit card companies to report on marketing agreements with institutions of higher education and alumni associations. The amendment also would direct the Government Accountability Office to analyze and report to Congress the impact of these arrangements on student credit card debt. To that end, today we will be introducing this amendment as a stand-alone bill, the Student Credit Card Transparency Act of 2009.

According to a recent study, students are now graduating with an average credit card debt of more than \$4,100, up from \$2,900 just four years ago. The average number of cards per student has grown to 4.6, with over half of college students reporting they have four or more cards. The combined impact of credit card debt and growing student loan debt can greatly limit a student's future career choice. Furthermore, compounding debt from late payments and high penalties can further jeopardize a young person's financial future by making it difficult to take out their first mortgage, buy a car or even rent an apartment.

As I'm sure we all know through our own experiences or through our children's, college students have become prime targets for credit card marketing campaigns. Most students enter college without a credit card and are quickly saturated with e-mails, direct mailings and on-campus solicitations to sign up for their first credit card. A recent report by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group revealed that, of the students they surveyed, 80 percent said they had received mail from credit card companies. Students reported receiving an average of nearly five mailed solicitations per month. In addition, 22 percent of students reported receiving an average of nearly four phone calls per month from credit card companies.

While the practice of targeting college students may not be much of a surprise, students and parents may be alarmed to learn that many colleges, universities and alumni associations have entered into lucrative agreements with these companies to allow exclusive marketing of their cards. In these arrangements, schools receive large cash payments in exchange for handing over their students' contact information—such as address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers. These confidential agreements may also go further and give companies exclusive face-to-face access to students on campus, such as during sporting events or at the student union. Some provide the university or alumni with additional money based on a percentage of purchases using the card.

Despite the fact that hundreds of schools throughout the country have such arrangements, very little is known about them. Last year's "pay to play" scandal in the guaranteed student loan program exposed the practice of lenders and financial aid administrators putting their own interests ahead of their students' when it came to compiling their "preferred lender list." While arrangements between credit card companies and schools don't necessarily mean the student's financial interests are being harmed, I believe it is imperative to have at a minimum a better understanding of these arrangements. For instance, are schools and associated foundations making arrangements with companies that offer the best rates for their students?

This bill simply seeks greater transparency by requiring credit card companies to report these arrangements. Then Congress, students and parents will be able to judge whether these agreements reflect the best interests of students or that of the school or related institution.

I am happy to have the support of the United States Students Association, USPIRG, Consumer Federation of America, National Association of College Admissions Counselors, and the American Association of Collegiate

Registrars and Admissions Officers and want to thank Congressman MURPHY for his work on this important bill.

IN HONOR OF GUST SEVASTOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Gust Sevastos, as he is being recognized by the Cleveland AHEPA—American Hellenic Education Progressive Association—as the Socratic Award Honoree of the Year, at their 44th Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet.

Mr. Sevastos immigrated to Cleveland in 1958, with not much more than the clothes on his back, faith in his heart and the promise of the American dream. He married, started a family and began his own business. He also began a legacy of dedicated service to the Greek community of Cleveland. His service to others and spirit of volunteerism continues to reflect throughout our community.

Mr. Sevastos served as president of Annunciation Church, and was one of the founding members of the annual Greek Heritage Festival. His dedication to preserving his heritage while assisting others to succeed is also evidenced in the Chios Society, where he held leadership positions on both local and national levels. During his tenure with the Chios Society, he led many fundraising efforts and raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for medical clinics, including an eye clinic and hospital, to provide greatly needed medical services for the poor in the beautiful coastal town of Chios, Greece. Mr. Sevastos has also helped raise tens of thousands of dollars toward college scholarships for young adults in the Cleveland community. His significant contributions have not gone unrecognized. He has been honored numerous times by local, state and national leaders of the United States and Greece as well.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Mr. Gust Sevastos upon his recognition as the Cleveland AHEPA's Socratic Honoree of the Year. His leadership, kindness, service to others and commitment to preserving the rich cultural heritage of his Greek homeland serves to deepen the diversity in our Cleveland community. Mr. Sevastos' lifelong spirit of volunteerism and dedication to helping others has enriched the lives of numerous families and individuals—from Cleveland to Chios, connecting us all in our shared humanity. I consider Mr. Sevastos to be a friend and mentor, and I wish him and his family an abundance of peace, health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Office of Biotechnology at Iowa

State University in Ames, Iowa on their 25-year anniversary.

In 1984, Vice President of Research Daniel Zaffarano appointed a Biotechnology Council comprised of five colleges at the university: Agriculture, Engineering, Home Economics, Science and Humanities, and Veterinary Medicine. Despite facing early skepticism by some, within two years the Iowa General Assembly backed the biotechnology program with \$17 million in funding after the Council convinced the public of the benefits.

Over the last 25 years, the Office of Biotechnology has provided critical support to many of the university's academic colleges and to K-12 outreach programs. The office has also helped provide research funds to new faculty and equipment and resources to 28 different service facilities at the university.

I congratulate Iowa State University's Office of Biotechnology on this historic anniversary and for its great contributions to science and the State of Iowa. It is an honor to represent current director Walter Fehr, as well as each current and past member of the Office of Biotechnology in the United States Congress and I wish the Office great success in the future.

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL CONSENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Parental Consent Act. This bill forbids Federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the federal and state governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental-health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to Medco Health Solutions, more than 2.2 million children are receiving more than one psychotropic drug at one time. In fact, according to Medco Trends, in 2003, total spending on psychiatric drugs for children exceeded spending on antibiotics or asthma medication.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, vio-

lence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Madam Speaker, universal or mandatory mental-health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental-health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Parental Consent Act.

SALUTING HARLEM'S OWN RAMONA "MONA" LOPEZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute and congratulate my dear friend, an outstanding businesswoman and community leader, Ramona "Mona" Lopez in celebration of the 369th Veterans' Association Annual Pre-Mother's Day Brunch taking place on Sunday, May 9 at the elegant Marina del Rey.

Affectionately known in Harlem as Mona by her many fans, friends, business associates and Jazz musician legends, was born on the Island of Puerto Rico and came to New York at an early age. Mona was educated in the Public School system, raised three daughters and embarked on a career that has spanned over three decades. Her daughters Joann, Eva, and Dolores have blessed her with four grandchildren, Margaret, Kimberly, Eva, and Jonathan.

Since December 1978, Ms. Mona Lopez has managed Showman's Cafe in all of its locations within my Congressional District. Showman's, originally located next to the

World Famous Apollo Theatre, over the years has been the home club of choice and hang-out for many of Harlem's renowned entrepreneurs and personalities. Since 1942, Showman's Jazz Cafe has showcased top musicians for Harlem and International audiences, as Mona, Co-Owner and retired Son of Sam New York City Police Detective Al Howard, and former barmaid "Lil" Pierce refer to as "family."

Madam Speaker, The Friends of Showman's roster include luminaries and entertainers like Count Basie, Billy Eckstine, Sammy Davis, Jr., Charles Honi Coles, Leroy Myers, Gregory Hines, Pop Brown, Nat Davis and Savion Glover. Personalities like Jesse Walker, Joe Yancy and Jimmy Booker. Performers like Bill Doggett, George Benson, Seleno Clarke, Irene Reid, Jimmy "Preacher" Robins, Gloria Lynne, Joey Morant, Akiko Tsuruga, Grady Tate, Frank Dell and the Prince of Harlem Lonnie Youngblood.

Mona has always been, and still is a "Hands-On" person and as Operations Manager she along with her dedicated and energized staff, is responsible for the reputation that Showman's has maintained for being "The Jazz Club in Harlem" since it was founded back in 1942. For her service to the community, Mona has been honored to receive a "Woman of the Year" award from the Tioga Democratic Club, the Women's Ministry Achievement Award, and a special award from the Greater Harlem Uptown Chamber of Commerce Association. In 2009 Ms. Lopez became a partner in Showman's Jazz Club.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, on rollcall number 216 I am not recorded. This rollcall vote on S. Con. Res. 13, the Conference Report to a Concurrent Resolution setting forth the Congressional Budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014, occurred while I was absent from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

I would have voted "nay" on S. Con. Res. 13 because the budget significantly increases the Federal deficit and passes the burden of payment on to future generations of Americans. The reserve funds singled out for healthcare reform, climate change, affordable housing, and Medicare alone represent a dramatic expansion of the powers of the Federal government. I am committed to voting to improve fiscal responsibility and to reduce the size and power of the federal government. As a result of that commitment, I would not support this resolution. On April 2, 2009 the House of Representatives voted in favor of the House Budget Resolution (233-196), on that vote, I am recorded as voting "nay."

TRIBUTE TO JAMES GRABAU

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize James Grabau, a resident of Boone, Iowa, and president of R. H. Grabau Construction Inc.

James, who has been the president of R.H. Grabau Construction Inc. since 1984, was recently honored with The Master Builders of Iowa "Build Iowa Award." The award is given to one Master Builder member each year who best exemplifies skill, integrity, and responsibility in the construction industry and in the member's community.

James has offered his time and talents to many community organizations. Among many other contributions, he has served as President of Boone's Future, the Boone Chamber of Commerce, Boone's Industrial Development Corporation, and the Master Builder's of Iowa. He has served on the boards of Boone County YMCA and Hawkeye Federal Savings Bank. Additionally, he has served as Global Ambassador for the Rotary Group Study Exchange to Australia, Church Elder, and Chairman of the Congregation of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Through his work, he has been honored with such awards as the Al Kinney Award, DMACC Alumni Award, National Leadership Award, and the Associated General Contractors of America Chapter President of the Year Award while President of the Master Builders of Iowa.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending James Grabau for his professional contributions to the construction industry, his leadership and dedication to representing Iowa in his career, and committing time to his community. I consider it an honor to represent James and his family in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING STACEY DONALDSON 2009 MISSISSIPPI TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the 2009 Mississippi Teacher of the Year, Stacey Donaldson.

The Teacher of the Year program, sponsored by the state Department of Education and the Mississippi Teacher Center, awards certified public school teachers for their outstanding performance. Donaldson, a 37-year-old Murrah High School English teacher, was selected for exhibiting leadership, excelling in the classroom and being active in her community.

Stacey, a graduate of University of Southern Mississippi, obtained a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in speech communications. She worked as a broadcast journalist before changing careers and becoming a teacher. Stacey earned a master of teaching degree from William Carey College and became a national board certified teacher

and completed the Advanced Placement Institute at Millsaps College.

Prior to teaching at Murrah H.S., Ms. Donaldson taught at Bassfield High School in the Jefferson Davis School District and at Sumner Hill Junior High in Clinton, MS. "The art of teaching is bigger than the subject one teaches," Donaldson said. It is no surprise to those who know Stacey best that she would be recognized for her achievements. Donaldson's father, Allen Hall, "noticed his daughter's potential and encouraged her to be the best she could be". With this in mind, Stacey serves as a member of the Murrah site council and sponsor of the school's Not Here Club, which discourages students from substance abuse, as well as coordinates Murrah's Seatbelt Safety Project.

Stacey's husband, Johnny Donaldson, describes her as passionate, hardworking and devoted. She is the mother of two daughters, 10-year old Camaryn and 5-year old Cailyn. In addition to her role as wife, mother and teacher, Stacey finds time to give back to her church and community. She is a member of Greater New Jerusalem's scholarship committee and is a young women's ministry volunteer for the Sims House Stewpot Ministries.

I am very proud of Ms. Donaldson and all of her accomplishments. She is truly a remarkable example of the talented, dedicated and hardworking teachers that help to educate Mississippi's best and brightest children.

Please join me today in congratulating Ms. Stacey Donaldson, the 2009 Mississippi Teacher of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 29, 2009, on rollcall number 223 I am not recorded. This rollcall vote on H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes, occurred while I was absent from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Violence, whether it's based on a perceived or actual threat, is of enormous concern when it is combined with constitutionally protected rights. Race. Color. National Origin. Religion. Gender. Disability. All of these fundamental rights are protected by our Constitution and hate crimes themselves have additional protection in Section 280003(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. Any hate crimes perpetrated in violation of either law should be fully prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice and we, as the DOJ's appropriators, should give them all the resources they need to prevent any hate crimes from occurring.

I believe existing federal law is more than adequate to prosecute hate crimes and, as such, should I have been present I would have voted "nay."

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act. Last week, I hosted my first telephone town hall meeting and my constituents called in with questions and concerns about what can be done to stop the deceptive practices by credit card companies. I was pleased to tell them that I was a cosponsor of this bill, which provides a sensible approach to reforming major credit card abuses and improving consumer protections for cardholders.

Credit cards have become an integral part of the American economy, offering consumers instant access to a convenient, flexible source of financing. Unfortunately, more and more Americans are turning to their credit cards to help pay medical and utility bills, buy groceries, and make ends meet in this troubled economy. Credit card debt now consumes a sizeable portion of the average family's income. To make matters worse, the playing field between card companies and consumers has become increasingly uneven in recent years. A credit card agreement is a contract between a card company and a cardholder, but these companies have taken advantage of their customers with deceptive billing practices and hidden fees. Meanwhile, money that families are forced to divert to these unfair rates and charges could be better spent on goods and services that could help bolster our struggling economy.

Cardholders deserve more bargaining power, and the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act helps level the playing field. Cardholders are entitled to accurate information and the right to make decisions about their own credit. This bill will ban interest rate increases on an existing balance unless the borrower is 30 days overdue and requires card companies to give cardholders notification 45 days before any interest rate increase. This legislation also protects vulnerable consumers from fee-heavy subprime cards and prohibits issuing cards to minors. H.R. 627 would also ban "universal default," where a card company raises the interest rate on one card if the cardholder misses a payment on a separate credit card or their credit score lowers. All of the provisions in this bill are the result of careful study and analysis, and I believe this deliberative approach has produced a very balanced and moderate bill.

Mr. Chair, instead of looking the other way while Americans fall deeper into debt, Congress must protect their financial interests and put an end to the tricks and traps used by credit card companies to undermine a competitive market. The balanced reforms in the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights will help do

just that, while also helping to foster fair competition and the values of the free market. I encourage all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 627.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM RENZE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Dr. Tom Renze, Principal of Woodbury Elementary School in Marshalltown, Iowa, on receiving the Dr. Carmen P. Sosa Leadership Award.

The Dr. Carmen P. Sosa Leadership Award recognizes administrators who exhibit outstanding leadership and advocacy for English language learners. Woodbury School has a dual language program and helps students learn English or Spanish as a second language.

Dr. Renze credits the award and success of the dual language program to the efforts of and support from the teaching staff and parents of the school's students. This award comes at a special time for Dr. Renze, who is retiring at the end of the 2009 school year.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in thanking Dr. Renze for his work with the dual language program and service to the Marshalltown Community School District. I consider it an honor to represent Dr. Renze and his family in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future retirement.

HONORING MR. THOMAS R.
RAMSEY**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2009 inductees to the Phoenixville Area School District Wall of Fame.

Thomas R. Ramsey Jr. and Leo J. Scoda are well-deserving recipients of this honor thanks to their outstanding service to students and constant commitment to improving the quality of life in the community.

Mr. Ramsey, a Phoenixville native, has shared his knowledge of television broadcasting with high school students since 2002, helping launch Phantom Television. In addition to informing students and staff with daily morning announcements, the station provides great coverage of concerts, sports and other scholastic events. Mr. Ramsey also gives back to the community through his service on Schuylkill River Heritage Center Board and the Donald J.L. Coppedge Scholarship Committee.

Mr. Scoda dedicated 35 years to teaching biology at Phoenixville Area High School where he also guided the boys' tennis team to amazing 196-0 record in PAC 10 play and 33 Chest-Mont and PAC 10 league champion-

ships. He also has been most active in civic life by serving as Mayor of the Borough of Phoenixville since 1998.

The school district and community members will honor the two men during an induction ceremony on May 5, 2009 at Phoenixville Area High School.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Thomas R. Ramsey Jr. and Leo J. Scoda for their tremendous community spirit and exemplary dedication to the youth of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

LOCAL ENFORCEMENT HATE
CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, while it is an honor to be able to participate today's debate, I must say that it gives me feelings of both joy and sorrow. Sorrow, because in the year 2009, I would hope that we should not have a need for such a bill.

I find it most ironic that some of the very same voices in the community who speak out against this bill are the very same voices that question whether racism and prejudice no longer exist simply because a person of color has been elected President. Racism, prejudice, and hate did not disappear on November 4th, 2008. Nor did they disappear on January 20th, 2009.

Yet it gives me joy that we are able to do something about it. I grew up in the Deep South and faced vile hatred up close, and it gives me joy to vote "yes" on the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Today we proclaim that our country will not stand for, and will not tolerate hate crimes.

This bill is the right thing to do. It protects our citizens, our nation; our principles and our values.

We are all Americans—

Black Americans, White Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native American, Christian Americans, Jewish Americans, Muslim Americans, Gay Americans, Straight Americans—all Americans. We are one people and one nation, the American nation. This bill will bring us one step closer to the Beloved Community, a nation at peace with itself.

A constituent came by my office just yesterday and spoke about her son who fought in Iraq. Her son completed two tours in Iraq. Her son has said that he was indeed concerned about his safety. But her son said that he was even more concerned about the safety of his father—a transgender woman, walking the streets of the United States of America every day.

President Obama has talked repeatedly about renewing America's promise. Today, I urge my fellow Members to vote "yes," and keep America's promise.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of an announcement that Taiwan has been invite to participate as an observer at the annual meeting of the World Health Organization's governing body being held in Geneva next month.

With the strong support of the United States, Taiwan has persistently campaigned, especially after the SARS outbreak in 2003, to rejoin the World Health Organization but China has consistently blocked efforts to join any international body as an independent political entity.

So this marks a clear and important sign of improved relations between China and Taiwan, and I congratulate them on taking this important and meaningful step forward.

Since Taiwanese President Ma took office on May 20, 2008, relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits have greatly improved, paving the way for the first direct flights between the straits in 60 years, Chinese pandas being sent to Taiwan, substantially improved financial and business contact, and direct postal service and shipping.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues will join me in applauding the efforts to improve relations and to encourage further cooperation.

CONGRATULATING LANA POLLACK FOR RECEIVING THE 2009 MILLIKEN AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lana Pollack on the occasion of her receiving the Michigan Environmental Council's (MEC's) 2009 Helen and William G. Milliken Distinguished Service Award.

I have known Lana as both a friend and a colleague. She is a public servant of the highest order and a remarkable human being. Lana has served her community and her state with distinction. As a Michigan State Senator from 1982 until 1994, Lana led the effort to provide for a cleaner and more beautiful Michigan. As a champion of environmental causes, Lana helped clean up our state and ensured that those who polluted paid for their transgressions. But she did not limit herself to just one issue; Lana fought for legislation to provide gender equity, educational improvements and reproductive rights.

After leaving the Michigan State Senate, Lana joined the Michigan Environmental Council, serving as its president from 1996 until her retirement in January. While president of the MEC, Lana provided the force and leadership that grew this terrific organization, doubling its size and producing a ten-fold increase in its budget. But it wasn't the size increase or the money that made Lana's leadership of the MEC such a success, it was the quality of

work that the MEC produced. Under Lana's watch, the MEC continued in its mission to protect Michigan's environment and preserve its natural resources. Lana used her skills in building coalitions of support to manage the 70 member organizations that make up the MEC in their combined efforts. Through passion and pragmatism Lana led the MEC from one success to another in its fight to protect our environment.

Lana Pollack is a model public servant. She is being honored with the Milliken Award because of her lifetime of service and her commitment to the environment. Her efforts personify what it means to be an active and engaged member of a community and an individual who is willing to fight for those principles they care deeply about. I am pleased to congratulate Lana on this tremendous accomplishment, for which she is so worthy of recognition, but above all else, I am honored to have her friendship. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Lana Pollack for her leadership, passion and record of accomplishment.

HONORING GREAT VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF THE NATION'S SCHOOLS TO WATCH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the parents, students and faculty at Great Valley Middle School for earning the outstanding distinction of being named one of the nation's Schools to Watch.

Just 11 schools in Pennsylvania and 170 schools in the United States have been recognized as Schools to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

This honor demonstrates that Great Valley has an exceptionally talented team of teachers and administrators, involved parents committed to making education a priority and hard-working students determined to make the most of their educational opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Great Valley Middle School for this much-deserved national honor and for the school's constant commitment to excellence in education.

TRIBUTE TO EILEEN HOROWITZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Eileen Horowitz, Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School's Head of School. Eileen will be retiring this spring after 14 remarkable years of service to Temple Israel of Hollywood and 40 years as a visionary educator and administrator.

Eileen will be wished a warm and fond farewell on May 16, 2009 during Temple Israel of Hollywood's Spring Gala celebrating her commitment to the children and community at Temple Israel.

Since 1995, Eileen has served as Temple Israel of Hollywood Day School's Head of School. By all accounts, she has transformed the Day School while touching the lives of hundreds of children, their families, her colleagues and the Temple's congregants. Eileen has elevated the Day School to an institution that is locally, nationally and internationally renowned for its high academic standards, its innovative and creative programming and its focus on nurturing well-rounded children. Eileen's forward-thinking philosophy has been to foster a student's identity that is sensitive to others and the environment and fulfills the responsibility that each of us bears.

Eileen's 40-year career in education has taken her from classroom instruction to curriculum development and implementation to school administration and teacher training. Perhaps Eileen's most inspiring legacy is that she has never lost sight of the reason she entered the field of education in the first place—her desire to help children reach their potential and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Notwithstanding Eileen's incredible accomplishments, she considers her finest achievements to be her nearly 40-year marriage to her husband, Steve, her children and their six beautiful grandchildren.

Temple Israel of Hollywood and our entire community owes Eileen a debt of gratitude for her tremendous record of achievements at Temple Israel of Hollywood and throughout her career. I am delighted to join Eileen's family, friends, colleagues, students and their families in congratulating her and wishing her Mazel Tov for her successes.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending thanks and appreciation for her outstanding and inspired contributions these past 14 years at Temple Israel and in wishing her all the best for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DONALD W. KOLHOFF

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Donald W. Kolhoff, veteran and patriot, upon receiving the lifetime achievement award from the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republicans.

Don was born in Toledo, Ohio in 1930, the second of three sons. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1948. After High School, Don served in the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1954, including two tours of duty during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. While doing his duty in the Air Force, Don found time to attend classes at Southwest Texas State University and the University of Toledo, majoring in Accounting.

After his service to our nation, Don began a successful career in the defense industry. Don got his start as a contract manager for the jeep division of Kaiser Industries. In 1970, Don moved his young family to Livonia, Michigan and went to work for AM General. From 1981 until he retired in 1994, Don served as a Senior Contract Administrator with Textron Corporation, supervising defense contracts with the United States Navy. Due to his exemplary

professional service, Don has served as a state or chapter executive committee officer with several defense industry professional associations including the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), the American Defense Preparedness Association (later the National Defense Industry Association), and the JROTC Awards Banquet Committee, among others.

In his personal life Don has always been a staunch, committed Conservative. His first official participation in the Republican Party came when he offered to volunteer in the re-election campaign of President Nixon in 1972. He went on to serve as a volunteer in both Reagan landslides of 1980 and 1984. His first foray into local Michigan Republican Party politics was as a volunteer in the Honorable Joe Knollenberg's successful campaign for the United States House of Representatives in 1992. Don was later elected as a precinct delegate and joined the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republicans. During his time in the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republicans, Don has led, organized, or assisted in almost every volunteer effort undertaken by the organization in order to promote principled Conservative values which make our GOP the grand party it is. Don's other greatest achievements are his two children, Beth and Steve, and his four grandchildren. Beth and her husband Eric, have three children, Megan, Sean, and Kelly. Steve and his wife Andrea have one child, Christopher.

Madam Speaker, Donald W. Kolhoff has faithfully served Michigan and Wayne County. As he receives this award for his lifetime of achievements, he serves as a timeless example of selflessness and public service. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Donald W. Kolhoff upon his award and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

HONORING RAYMOND SERCU OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Raymond Sercu, a great leader in the community of Napa Valley. Mr. Sercu is being honored by Napa Valley Product Services Industry for his many contributions to developmentally disabled adults in the Napa Valley.

Mr. Sercu was born in Buffalo, New York and served in the United States Air Force for two years before coming to California for post-graduate work at UC Berkeley and San Jose State. He worked as Area Manager for National Cash Register from 1954 to 1965 before beginning his distinguished tenure with Vallerger's Markets of Napa in 1965.

Mr. Sercu's time as President of one of Napa's premier small businesses is only the beginning of his extensive community involvement. Ray has served as Chairman of Queen of the Valley Hospital's Board of Trustees, the Northern California Grocers Association, Retail Marketing Services and the Napa County 4-H Sponsorship Committee. He has also served

as President of the Napa Valley Economic Development Corporation, and in the Napa Valley Chamber of Commerce among many others. He is a Rotarian and lifetime PTA member who was appointed to the Napa City Council from 1999 to 2001. Of particular note on this occasion is Ray's service to developmentally disabled adults as Chairman of the Product Services Industry Board of Directors and President of North Bay Developmental Disabilities Services.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sercu has earned the continued admiration of all who have worked with him. His colleagues and friends describe Ray as one of the kindest, most generous people they have ever met, someone who would give the shirt off his back to make the community a better place.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Ray Sercu for his many years of service. He has been a model citizen and leader in the Napa Valley and his presence has enriched the lives of everyone in our community. I join his wife Jenny and six children in thanking Ray for a distinguished lifetime of service and wishing him continued success and fulfillment.

UW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the University of Washington School of Medicine and their incredible standing as one of the best medical schools in the world. According to US News & World Report, the University of Washington tops the list of national primary care medical schools for the 16th consecutive year.

The groundbreaking and life-saving work done at the UW School of Medicine is beyond extraordinary. I feel a sense of pride to know that the best primary care medical school in the nation is located in my home state of Washington.

The School of Medicine was also ranked first in family medicine and rural medicine for the 18th straight year, fourth in women's health medicine, sixth in geriatric and pediatric medicine and eighth in internal medicine. Additionally, six active and retired members of the UW community are among 210 new Fellows named to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences: David Baker, William Gerberding, Andrew Meltzoff, Ed Miles, James Truman and Gunther Uhlmann.

Previously, the University of Washington was ranked the 17th best university in the world by the Institute of Higher Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and 22nd among the top 100 global universities by Newsweek. The University of Washington has proven itself to be a world-class institution and it is truly a privilege to represent a region boasting some of the greatest minds in the world. I congratulate them on the honor for the School of Medicine and look forward to continue working together to make sure we provide the best medical care and training possible.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I supported Reading is Fundamental, a national project, that received funding through H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) is authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. RIF promotes youth literacy by providing underserved children access to free and new books at programs across our nation.

It is a good program, and I am pleased to support it.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 342 encouraging the designation of May 2, 2009 as "Vietnamese Refugees Day".

H. Res. 342 expresses the support of the House of Representatives for a day to commemorate the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in the United States and document their harrowing experiences and subsequent achievements. May 2, 2009 has aptly been chosen for this day of commemoration since it also the date on which a powerful symposium entitled "Journey to Freedom: A Boat People Retrospective" is being sponsored by the Library of Congress and Vietnamese-American organizations across the United States.

More than one million Vietnamese refugees left their home country following the Vietnam War. Many risked their lives fleeing peril and destruction on small, overcrowded ships. Others escaped by land to refugee camps throughout Southeast Asia. Over 22,000 of these courageous individuals settled in Minnesota and I am proud to say that many now call Minnesota's 4th District their home.

Despite the difficult conditions they left behind, Vietnamese refugees have prospered in the United States. In Minnesota, and across the United States, Vietnamese-Americans have made their communities more prosperous and more vibrant. Today, Vietnamese-Americans are amongst the most distinguished contributors to the fields of literature, the arts, science and athletics in America. Vietnamese restaurants, retail services, and grocery stores have helped turn University Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota into a thriving business center.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to recognize the great courage and achievement of Vietnamese refugees everywhere by joining me in supporting H. Res. 342.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report on S. Con. Res. 13, Chairman, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014. I thank Chairman SPRATT of the Budget Committee for his leadership and hard work on spearheading the effort to bring a budget to the floor that the American people can live with, helps fuel the engine of the government, makes America thrive, and makes it place that we all can be proud of. The President, the Conferees, and this Congress, should all be commended for helping bring this budget to the floor. I support the budget and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I support the budget for several important and distinct reasons.

Unlike the last Administration, which inherited a \$5.6 trillion surplus, this Administration inherited an economy in steep decline, a budget in record deficit, and faltering public services due to persistent underfunding and inattention. The Congress has already taken steps to create jobs, help Americans regain their home, help Americans pay their bills and put food on the table for their families. The Congress has also taken steps to rebuild our economy. The Congress has done all of these tasks by enacting the Recovery Act. The budget is an economic blueprint for the future that builds from these initial steps by making strategic investments to rebuild our economy over the long term. The budget provides for increased investment in health care reform, education, and energy independence and at the same time puts the budget back on a path to fiscal responsibility and sustainability.

The budget is to be applauded as nothing short of a miracle. It makes strategic investments in education, health care reform, and energy independence and puts the country back on track to remain globally competitive. It puts us on track to cut the Federal budget deficit by more than half by 2013. The budget reflects the Recovery Act. The Obama Administration inherited a deficit of well over \$1 trillion and the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. The budget builds upon the President's plan. It provides tax relief to middle-income families, creates jobs through investment in infrastructure, and extends unemployment benefits for millions of Americans.

The budget addresses eight years of Republican policies that have brought on America's current economic woes. So far, we have seen 25 straight months of housing price declines; 14 months of job losses and 4.4 million jobs lost, the most since World War II, with 651,000 jobs lost in February alone; unemployment is currently soaring above 8.1 percent and in the double digits in the minority communities across this great Nation; and 45 percent drop in major stock markets from their highs.

The budget supports the President's goals for Health Care Reform. The President's principles for healthcare reform include making health coverage affordable and available to all, improving safety and quality, and improving and providing Americans with a choice of health plans and physicians, including the choice of keeping their current health plan. The budget begins to address the rising health care costs. The average cost of an employer-sponsored health insurance policy exceeded \$12,000 in 2008, more than twice what it cost ten years ago. The President's plan would reduce the inefficiencies that have caused these prices to soar.

The budget sets us on a plan to increase coverage. The number of people without insurance grew from 38 million in 2000 to nearly 46 million in 2008. Nearly 1 out of 6 Americans is without health care coverage. Most uninsured are in working families. Millions more are underinsured. The budget assumes that health care will be paid for, so it does not add to the deficit. Importantly, the budget supports improvements to medicare's payment system for doctors. The budget supports legislation on medicare physician payments to provide for efficiency and higher quality care, promote fiscal sustainability, ensure that primary care receives appropriate compensation, and improves coordination of care.

The budget invests in education. The budget builds upon the Recovery Act's historic investment in education. The budget includes the \$100 billion in education funding provided for in the Recovery Act to help states maintain elementary, secondary, and higher education services. The Recovery Act targeted funds to Title I (Education for the Disadvantaged), Head Start, and special education, where the funding can be used to train more teachers to provide needed services. This supports Congress's efforts that resulted in increased maximum Pell Grant awards to \$619 to a total of \$5,350—the largest annual increase in history—and created the American Opportunity Tax Credit for eligible students receive a partially refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 to cover college costs. Simply put, the budget makes education more affordable and accessible and increases education funding. It supports early childhood education and supports improved school breakfast and lunch programs. The budget will afford over 31 million children a healthy and nutritious meal.

The budget builds upon significant funding and tax incentives in the Recovery Act by increasing our investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency by some 18 percent for 2010. These investments will spur new sources of energy that we can produce here, creating "green collar" jobs for American workers. It will promote energy independence over the long term.

I urge my colleagues to support the budget. It takes the appropriate steps to put the budget back on track for fiscal responsibility and sustainability. It will cut the budget deficit by more than half in four years. Specifically, it will cut the budget from \$1.7 trillion in 2009 to \$586 billion in 2013. It also improves responsibility through statutory pay-go. It includes investment in oversight and enforcement yielding savings.

YOUTH JOBS

The budget includes funding for summer jobs for youth. Our youth, and individuals that have opted not to go to college or institutions

of higher learning, need to be engaged and employed. Employment will provide them with skills and aptitudes that are necessary to be productive in society.

HEALTHCARE

The budget accounts for the cost of healthcare reform to ensure that the 45 million uninsured Americans (four million of which are children) have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

The budget accounts for the following:

Funding the Minority AIDS Initiative to build capacity among minority run non-governmental organizations and to conduct outreach services among minority communities.

Funding the Ryan White CARE Act to support care and treatment programs at the local level to address the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Funding the CDC Prevention activities for HIV, STD, TB and Viral Hepatitis to fund testing initiatives and support innovative prevention efforts at the local level.

Funding for Housing for people living with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) to provide supportive housing for people with AIDS.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

I commend the President for requesting an increase of \$15 billion for the Department of State and other international programs in FY2010, which is a 40% increase over the FY2009 level. The budget includes this increase in the budget resolution. I am hopeful that these additional funds will go towards the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; USAID; migration and refugee assistance; peacekeeping efforts in Darfur; education, healthcare and cultural exchange programs; child survival and health programs; and development assistance.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

I support the robust funding for our troops and America's national defense. I support reducing funding for the failed Ballistic Missile Defense program and reallocating those funds within the Defense Department to fund increases in shipbuilding, troop readiness, military and civilian pay, cancer research, and mental health services.

I have consistently fought for funding to weed out waste, fraud and abuse within the Department of Defense. The Defense Department has already saved an estimated \$89 billion between FY01 and FY07 by implementing 1,682 of the Government Accountability Office's recommendations. The present budget, as does President Obama's FY2010 Budget Overview, reflects a similar commitment, as has the House Budget Committee under Chairman SPRATT's leadership.

INCOME SECURITY

As the economy continues to worsen, the budget accounts for the increased need for income security programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Unemployment Insurance, Medicaid, and the Recovery Act's COBRA subsidy.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

The housing crisis lies at the center of the economic problems we face today. After the series of TARP bills, the Congress has just found out that bank executives have used over \$100 million in TARP funds to pay for executive bonuses and other forms of compensation. The budget reverses eight years of underfunding of the nation's affordable housing programs and we are pleased that the Administration has proposed a HUD budget that

increases funding for the Department by 19 percent. The budget matches this aggressive budget authorization and to support large investments into the Community and Regional Development and the Income Security functions in order to account for increases in Affordable Housing programs.

The budget supports the Administration's proposal to fund the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund at \$1 billion and to fully fund the Community Development Block Grant program. It funds HUD's housing programs for the elderly, disabled, and Native Americans, as well as for those programs that prevent homelessness. It increases funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which allows states, localities, and nonprofits to buy up and rehabilitate abandoned and foreclosed properties.

JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The budget accounts for funding efforts to combat and reduce juvenile crime and efforts to rehabilitate ex-offenders. Removing barriers to reentry has proven to reduce recidivism, which in the long run reduces crime. In addition, the budget accounts for much needed increases in youth crime intervention programs. Research has shown that targeting funding towards intervention rather than incarceration is more effective at reducing crime and saving the taxpayer money in the long run.

I have long supported efforts to increase funding for the Justice Assistance Program, the Juvenile Justice Program, Civil Rights Enforcement, the COPS Program, the Byrne Justice Grant Program, and State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance. The budget accounts for sustaining many of the important increases for these programs that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

EDUCATION

As the Chairwoman of the Children's Caucus, I support the budget's effort to reform and expand the Pell Grant program. Pell Grants are way to make education affordable to disadvantaged youth. This is very important to me.

The budget has sustained increases in education funding, especially for Title I and IDEA. Even though Congress is to consider the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, the Budget Committee should still account for the need to address the substantial funding shortfalls of this program over the last eight years. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made substantial increases, the budget accounts for sustaining many of these new investments.

The budget also account for needed increases in funding for Head Start, TRIO (including Upward Bound), GEAR UP, Youth Build, and vocational education programs. The budget accounts for funding for expanded grants to states for workplace and community transition as authorized in the Higher Education Opportunity Act. These grants will better assist and encourage incarcerated individuals who have obtained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent to acquire educational and job skills.

The budget accounts for funding for the historic increases in funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions authorized in the Higher Education Act reauthorization enacted last year.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The budget supports the President's initiatives to provide increased funding for

infrastructural projects. The President's priorities are reminiscent of the New Deal where this country invested in building up our Nation and the budget reflects this. The President has made a significant effort at achieving this by his signing of HR 1, the Stimulus Act.

In the Stimulus Act, the President authorized money to be spent on infrastructural projects that were shovel ready, i.e., ready to be stated within 120 days. I know that America could use this money.

Indeed, Houston would benefit. Houston's Metro Rail needs to complete its RAIL service in certain quadrants of Houston. The project has been twenty years in the making. I have worked with Leadership and Chairman OBERSTAR to ensure that METRO Rail projects get the funding that they need to be completed.

Completion of this mobility project would decrease congestion and pollution as Houstonians would travel via rail instead of using their cars. This would increase Houston mobility and the health of Houstonians as they would be forced to walk around instead of using their private transport.

VETERANS

The budget provides increased funding for veterans over the next five years.

OTHER PRIORITIES

Fully fund the Community Development Block Grant.

Increased funding for the Public Housing Capital Fund to continue to address eight years of stagnant funding under the Bush Administration.

Fully fund the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Fully fund the Social Services Block Grant. Increased funding for HOPE VI.

Fully fund the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Increased funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Support for the creation of a National Infrastructure Bank.

Continued funding for Hurricane Katrina recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Increased funding for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.

Increased funding for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program at the National Park Service. This is important to me. I worked to get funding for urban parks in the Stimulus bill. This increases the health and overall well being of constituents. It is necessary in urban Mecca's like Houston.

HANG UP ON THE TELEPHONE TAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act of 2009, which I introduced today along with Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. The telephone tax is deceptive, archaic, unfair and regressive.

This tax was first imposed in 1898 to fund U.S. involvement in the Spanish American War. That conflict is long over, and now elimination of this tax is long overdue. But it is not for want of trying.

Similar pieces of legislation have won bipartisan support in previous sessions of Con-

gress—127 cosponsors in the 110th Congress and 220 in the 109th Congress—but have routinely been stalled. Let's not let that happen again.

I suspect many Americans would be surprised to learn that they are paying a three percent tax on their local telephone, toll, and teletype exchange services. As an excise tax, there is no direct payment made to the government; the tax is collected by the phone companies and remitted to the federal government.

Although the amount is itemized on each phone bill, it is one of many taxes, fees and surcharges listed and can be easily overlooked on the multiple pages of an average telephone bill.

With advances in technology, this tax has become punitive for those without the ability, financial means or desire to upgrade their telecommunications services. Cellular phone and long distance landline telephone services were exempted from the tax in 2006. Bundled services that do not differentiate between local and long distance services, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, also are exempt. The only service still being subjected to this antiquated tax is local telephone service, which is the predominant means of communication used by the disabled, lower-income families and senior citizens.

Eliminating this regressive tax would be consistent with the actions we already have taken so far in this Congress to provide hundreds of billions of dollars in tax relief to hard working Americans. I ask my colleagues to join us in hanging up on the telephone tax.

HONORING DANIEL C. GILLIAM

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Daniel C. Gilliam upon his retirement from the position of Deputy Senior Acquisition Executive at the National Security Agency (NSA). In this position Mr. Gilliam has been responsible for all of NSA's acquisitions and management of the Acquisition Directorate's senior leadership. Mr. Gilliam oversees all procurements, liaisons with key industry partners, and directs resources to optimize the organization's effectiveness. Working closely with Acquisition's customers, Mr. Gilliam maintains strategic partnerships with NSA's mission elements to ensure their needs and requirements are met.

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Maryland, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the George Washington University in 1979, Mr. Gilliam graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1993. He also attended the Federal Executive Institutes Leadership for a Democratic Society Program in 1996.

In 1976, Daniel began his career at NSA as a management support intern. Since then, he has worked on a variety of acquisition and contracting positions to include contracting specialist, contracting officer, and cost/price analyst as well as managing those same disciplines. While participating in NSA's executive development program, Mr. Gilliam worked in

the NSA Corporate Policy Office, the NSA Operations Directorate, and served as the Defense Intelligence Agency's Director for Procurement in 1995/1996. From 1997 to 2005, Mr. Gilliam served as the Chief of the Contracting Group, responsible for managing and directing all effort associated with contracting for materials, equipment, and services required to support the missions of the NSA.

Certified level III in contracting in accordance with the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act. Mr. Gilliam graduated from NSA's Senior Cryptologic Executive Development Program in 1996. He received the Defense Intelligence Director's Award in 1996, and he received the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Daniel C. Gilliam in his retirement from the position of Deputy Senior Acquisition Executive at the National Security Agency. His legacy as a brilliant and competent specialist will be forever remembered in his service to defending the security of our nation. It is with great pride that I congratulate Dan Gilliam on his exemplary defense career and his outstanding service at the National Security Agency.

RECOGNIZING MATT GIRAUD

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matt Giraud, a great talent from Kalamazoo, Michigan, for placing in the top five on the eighth season of Fox's American Idol.

Every week, Matt has been a staple in our living rooms, helping us forget about Michigan's challenges for a little while as he sang the hits in his own impressive style.

A life-long Michigan resident, Matt grew up in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he began his musical career by playing drums at his local church. As time passed, Matt became more serious about music. He taught himself how to play the piano and began singing at the age of sixteen. Matt spent his college years in Kalamazoo and attended Western Michigan University, where he studied organizational communication and was a member of the jazz ensemble Gold Company II. After graduating from Western, Matt decided to make Kalamazoo his home and became a regular performer at Monaco Bay and Zazio's lounge, building quite a local following—including me and my staff.

Matt was a performer on American Idol this season, wowing us time and time again with his polished performances. The State of Michigan has been rooting for him from the beginning and we in Kalamazoo are proud to call Matt Giraud our home town idol. Matt, congratulations on your success and we look forward to watching you succeed in the years ahead.

Although Matt's run is over on American Idol, a brilliant career is just beginning.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: Department of Education, National Projects, Innovation & Improvement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Writing Project

Address of Requesting Entity: University of California, 2105 Bancroft Way #1042, Berkeley, CA 94720-1042

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$24,291,000 for the National Writing Project for activities authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009

Account: Department of Education, National Projects, Innovation & Improvement

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reading Is Fundamental

Address of Requesting Entity: 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009

Description of Request: Appropriation in the amount of \$24,803,000 for Reading Is Fundamental authorized under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, the Centers for Disease Control estimate that autism now affects one in every 150 American children and nearly one in 94 boys. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with diabetes, cancer, and AIDS combined. Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the world, and yet we know little about the root causes of autism.

That's why we must do more to support NIH medical research. Earlier this month I introduced a resolution with Representatives GERLACH and BACHUS to again designate April as "National Autism Awareness Month."

This resolution commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their dedication in providing for their special needs. It emphasizes the importance of early intervention services. And it supports efforts to devote new resources to medical research on the causes of autism and treatments for it.

With increased support for autism, together we can offer some hope in an area that desperately needs it. I encourage all of my col-

leagues to help bring renewed awareness of children with autism.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to 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, and for other purposes:

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Chair, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act.

In this economic crisis, far too many families have been forced to rely on short-term, high-interest credit card debt to pay for food, housing and other basic necessities.

In Northern Michigan, unemployment is at record highs. This has led many families to fall behind on their payments and fall victim to predatory practices of many credit card companies.

This legislation includes several provisions that would protect consumers from these abusive practices.

The bill would protect cardholders from arbitrary interest rate increases, ban collection of interest on amounts already paid, and would also set specific definitions for "prime rate," "fixed rate" and other terms to prevent deceptive use of these terms.

For too long, the credit card industry has preyed upon consumers through omission of honest billing practices, and through loopholes in credit regulation.

I, alongside my colleagues Mr. PRICE, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. MORAN among others, have offered an amendment that requires credit card companies to honestly report a customer's balance on their monthly credit card statement.

This includes reporting the monthly payment amount and total cost to the consumer for them to eliminate their outstanding balance in 12, 24 and 36 months.

I urge my colleagues to support our amendment and to support the underlying bill.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Budget Resolution Conference Report (S. Con. Res. 13). As a member of the Budget Committee, I would like to thank Chairman SPRATT for his continued leadership, and President Obama for advancing a budget that embodies our national values.

The serious problems caused by eight years of failed policies, including record deficits, doubling of the national debt and the smallest rate

of job growth in three-quarters of a century, will not be solved overnight. Families across the nation, and in Minnesota, are struggling to make ends meet. Unemployment has soared to 8.5 percent, while health care costs are rising and housing prices continue to decline.

This budget is a new beginning. It charts a course toward economic recovery and signals the end of an era of disinvestment in America's families. Instead of ignoring the economic crisis, this agreement confronts it head-on by making strategic investments in education, health care reform and energy independence to help restore growth at home and keep the U.S. competitive in the global economy.

Today's students are tomorrow's workforce, which is why this resolution makes significant investments in education from early childhood programs to college affordability. This budget also recognizes that health care reform cannot wait: nearly one out of every six Americans is uninsured and many more are underinsured.

This resolution takes steps to make health care coverage affordable and available to all, while also improving the quality and safety of patient care. In addition, this budget makes historic investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and the clean energy research programs America needs to start down the path of energy independence.

After eight years of masking the costs of war and natural disasters, this plan ushers in a new era of honesty and accountability in budgeting. President Obama and this Congress have included estimates of these costs for every year in the budget.

The budget resolution is a blueprint for the future of our country, which recognizes the needs of America's families and will help to restore widely-shared economic prosperity for generations to come. As an important first step in this direction, the budget calls for tax cuts for families who make less than \$250,000 and permanently extends the middle-income

tax cuts adopted in 2001 and 2003 for middle-income Americans. This plan will also place restraints on areas of unsustainable spending and cut the deficit in half by 2014.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. Con. Res. 13.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, on April 29, 2009 I missed rollcall vote 223, the final passage of H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. If I were present for the vote I would have voted "aye." I missed the vote because I was in an Intelligence Committee hearing.