The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:
WASHINGTON, DC, September 14, 2009.
I hereby appoint the Honorable Mazie K. HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day. 
NANCY PELOSI.
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.
The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

CARGO SCREENING SOLUTION
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.
Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, last week marked the eighth anniversary of 9/11. Congress should honor the memory of that tragedy by solidifying its homeland security agenda. That means taking the right steps to keep the Nation safe, free and prosperous. At the same time, Congress should resist initiatives that do not actually improve security and impair international trade.
The international maritime community has long voiced their concerns with the blanket application of the 9/11 law mandating 100 percent scanning of all U.S.-bound containers from more than 700 ports around the world. The countries that have raised concern include United States allies such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Singapore.
H.R. 1, implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007, called the public’s attention to issues of supply chain security and the potential threats faced by this Nation and all of those with a stake in this supply chain.

One hundred percent container scanning as a security tool may seem like an appealing way to ensure container security, but it is fraught with various operational and technical challenges. In addition, it provides a false sense of security, as the effectiveness of the analysts become degraded, given that there will be information overload and desensitization of the analysts.

Requiring 100 percent scanning of all in-bound sea containers, more than 11 million containers annually, may be well-intentioned, but it is not feasible, given the current technology. A 100 percent scanning requirement could simply strangle commerce, have a significantly damaging impact on American manufacturing and cost a lot of jobs.
The international flow of containers will also be slowed as a result of the severe bottleneck in busy ports. Similarly, U.S. ports such as Long Beach, New Jersey and Los Angeles will have their congestion problems exacerbated if the international maritime community makes similar reciprocal demands on the United States.

One other important point: The backlog in cargo traffic caused by 100 percent scanning could inadvertently cause a higher security risk. Major delays in inspecting and processing containers would put the cargo in greater risk of tampering at the docks. 100 percent scanning will also bring about huge costs to port operators, shippers and ocean carriers. Costs incurred through such a requirement will eventually filter down to the very constituents that we are trying to protect. This will be essentially hurtful as consumers deal with rising prices and a weak economy.

My colleagues, there is an alternative approach which has broader international consensus, and that is a risk-based approach, coupled with the concept of total supply security along the chain. Such an approach, where all stakeholders in the supply chain undertake security measures to protect their cargo, is less duplicative and more holistic. A layered, risk-based, targeted approach to cargo security, rather than a one-size-fits-all, such as in H.R. 1, will provide more effective security with better utilization of limited resources.
So, my colleagues, striking the proper balance between security needs and the free flow of legitimate trade will continue to be a challenge that will face all of us into the future. Unfortunately, slowing the international supply chain and adding significant costs by imposing unnecessary technologies is not consistent with the challenge today.

Congress should rethink cargo screening mandates in H.R. 1 before more time, money and limited resources are wasted by the Department of Homeland Security.

HAVING HONEST, MEANINGFUL DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gohmert) for 5 minutes.

Mr. Gohmert. Madam Speaker, I appreciate, as always, the chance to address the House.

You know, two days before the President gave his speech to the joint session last Wednesday, the President was on television, and I watched and typed up his comments, and he talked about the critics of his health care plan, including me as a critic of what I understand his health care plan to be. And the President said these exact words.

He said, “You have heard the lies. I have got a question for all those folks. What are you going to do? What’s your answer? What’s your solution? And, you know what? They don’t have one.”

That is simply not true. It is so difficult to try to have a meaningful debate over a bill, and even as I have, take H.R. 3200, the bill we have been given, and read directly out loud from that bill to show what it actually says, and then have the President of the United States call critics of the bill liars. We are lying. You have heard our leadership over here to quit using interrogations, that he had their back. I am excluded, it is included.

And they both used that “L” word. President say that we have spread lies. Mr. Speaker from Texas (Mr. Gohmert) calls us out if we mistakes. Help us to learn from our mistakes. May we recognize personal shortcomings so to make us all the more understanding of others.

Forgive our faults and failures. Help us to learn from our mistakes. May we recognize personal shortcomings so to make us all the more understanding of others.

May Your forgiveness free us to live a new life and be more forgiving. Thus may Your compassion for the poor, the weak and the alienated, Lord, guide us now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gohmert) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Gohmert led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. Sablan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. Sablan. Mr. Speaker, in his recent speech to the House and Senate, President Obama stated that leaving Americans without health insurance is wrong and “should not happen in the United States of America.” I could not agree more strongly with our President. When it is accessible and affordable, health care ensures high quality of life, helps families, and saves lives.

In my home, the Northern Mariana Islands, our health care system is sorely in need of improvement. But the current health care bills being debated in the House and Senate exclude the U.S. territories from the exchange and affordability credits, denying the men, women, and children living there the benefits their fellow citizens will enjoy.

I ask for the support of my colleagues in bringing health care reform
to all Americans, including those in the territories.

CONCERNS WITH GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE PLAN
(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the August recess, I was honored to host the largest congressional townhalls in the history of South Carolina: 1,700 people in Columbia; 1,500 in Lexington; 1,500 in Beaufort; and 1,200 in Hilton Head. During my 25 years of serving the public in the State Senate and Congress, I have not seen such passionate events full of patriots, 95 percent of whom support health insurance reform, but not a government takeover.

I presented my concerns in a handout with a government-run health care plan: $1.6 trillion in costs, 100 million people losing their current coverage, $38 billion in taxes, 1.6 million jobs lost, according to the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and rationing of care.

I presented a better way, the Empowering Patients First Act, introduced by the Republican Study Committee led by Dr. Tom Price. It provides for portability, keeping current coverage, tax incentives to purchase insurance, lower costs through competition, and bars government-funded abortions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th and the Global War on Terrorism.

IT'S TIME FOR US TO TALK ABOUT HEALTH CARE
(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I have got some news here. It says as of September 10, 11:23 a.m., reported by The Hill, Speaker NANCY PELOSI said, Democrats should cease efforts to sanction Representative JOE WILSON. It goes on to quote her and says, It's time for us to talk about health care, not Joe Wilson.

But Democratic leaders, it goes on to say, were looking into what formal action the House might take against Wilson, and then. But Pelosi dismissed that idea as well as a call for Wilson to apologize on the floor.

I am on to health care reform. I am not going to discuss Joe Wilson, she said. I think his actions spoke for itself. He has apologized. He will figure out what is appropriate for him to do. And I am really confused. What do you call it when somebody says something that they are going to do, and then they don't do it? What is that statement?

AMERICANS' TRUST IN MEDIA REACHES NEW LOW
(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans trust in the media has plummeted to an all-time low, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center. According to Pew, only about a quarter of Americans say that news organizations are not politically biased, less than one-third say the media generally get the facts straight, less than one in five say that the media deals fairly with all sides of the story, and just 28 percent have a favorable opinion of the liberal New York Times, the lowest rating for any international organization in the Pew survey.

Americans have lost faith in the national media. Whether it's health care or other issues, it's up to the media to restore the public's trust by reporting the facts fairly.

APOLOGY ACCEPTED
(Mr. KING of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to make the point that last Wednesday night during a joint session there was a very brief confrontation here by Congressman JOE WILSON, someone who is a true consummate Southern gentleman, an officer and a gentleman.

He immediately called the White House, the White House immediately accepted Joe Wilson's apology, and that must be the end of it. A gentleman that conducted himself as a gentleman immediately in the aftermath, without putting his finger to the political winds, he did the right thing.

No one has a claim to any further re-dress if the President of the United States accepts an apology, and he did.

So I stand with Joe Wilson. Let's get on with the business of this House, and let's start running this country instead of doing cheap political points, which I know the Speaker will do until the floor of this House sometime about tomorrow.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore VAN HOLLEN on Tuesday, August 25, 2009:

H.R. 3325, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOMMENDING TEACHING CONSTITUTION TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Mr. SABLAN, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 686) recommending that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior year, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 686

Whereas the United States Constitution is the fundamental law of the United States; Whereas people in the United States of all ages, income levels, and political beliefs fail tests of civic literacy;

Whereas a 1998 survey revealed that more teenagers knew who the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" was than the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, more knew the star of the motion picture "Titanic" than who was the vice president of the United States, and more can name the Three Stooges and the 3 American Idol judges than can name the 3 branches of government;

Whereas fewer than half of all people in the United States can name the three branches of the United States Government;

Whereas students at colleges and universities in the United States scored an average of only 59.4 percent for seniors and 56.6 percent for freshmen on tests of civic literacy;

Whereas people in the United States aged 25 to 34 score an average of 46 percent on a test of civic literacy and people aged 65 and over score the same 46 percent;

Whereas research shows that an increase in civic knowledge, including that of the United States Constitution, almost invariably leads to the beneficial use of that knowledge; and

Whereas research shows that greater civic learning leads to more active citizenship, and people in the United States who fulfill their civic obligations are becoming more knowledgeable about their country's history and institutions; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) all high school seniors across the country should spend at least one week learning about the United States Constitution in September of their senior year, as knowledge of this historic document, which constitutes the very foundation of our country, is critical to being an effective citizen; and

(2) upon reaching voting age, high school seniors should engage in civic learning activities on an issue of importance to them to demonstrate their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.
Mr. SUBLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 686 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SUBLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 686 and thank Mr. GRAYSON, the sponsor of this resolution, for his leadership.

Almost 222 years ago, on Thursday, September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia for the last time to sign the document they created, a living and breathing charter government.

This resolution brings attention to the importance of this document by calling on high school students to learn about the Constitution. Many students today have little exposure to this rich document and its history. And without a basic understanding of the Constitution and the benefits it provides, it is less likely that these same students will vote or engage in active citizenship.

One program that combats this lack of knowledge is, "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution." The program promotes civic awareness and responsibility in middle school and high school students through hands-on activities. Students discover firsthand how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights impact their everyday lives and participate in simulated congressional hearings. At the national level, students utilize higher-order thinking skills as they demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional theory by defending a historical or contemporary issue.

Programs like "We the People" make the Constitution come alive and help students connect what they are learning to contemporary issues and events. This type of learning is important not only for its academic aspects, but also for the way in which it improves our democracy. Learning about the Constitution promotes positive civic attitudes and fosters involvement in our democracy.

This Thursday, September 17, is Constitution Day, because on September 17, 1787, the Constitution was signed and history was made. One way high school students can participate is by attending these hearings. The Constitution is a blueprint for building a diverse society in a peaceful coexistence, for the most part.

Passing on an understanding of our country's history and the constitutional framework upon which it was founded is the duty of one generation to the next. As my friend from the Northern Mariana Islands mentioned, September 17, 2009, will mark the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

I think it is appropriate that teachers and parents across the country use this anniversary as an opportunity to discuss the importance of our Constitution and the principles it embodies with all students, but especially high school seniors, who are preparing for life after high school. And, by the way, this House—with a Bill of Rights and after its founding—has a tradition of recognizing the Three Stooges. It is reported that Benjamin Franklin, after 5 weeks, said, we need an executive to have a veto over laws that I agree with him, and I agree so wholeheartedly with my friend that it's written in the Constitution, that he said, Mr. President, I have been living at the half of the sun carved in the back of your chair, wondering throughout this process if that were a rising sun or a setting sun. He said, I now believe that is a rising sun. And it was ferocious argument and debate coming around to this final document that my friend from the Northern Mariana Islands has pointed out has been such a tremendous asset for the history of mankind. And it was so moving that at the conclusion they agreed to the Constitution, they agreed to come forward with a Bill of Rights, and thereafter, that it's reported that Benjamin Franklin said, as he was recognized at the end, looking at the chair behind President George Washington as he stood there—and, by the way, the magazine cover that morning was the three branches of government that might try to run away and take away their liberty.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SUBLAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my colleagues in the House to please support House Resolution 686.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 686, which recommends that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior
Supporting Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 737) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 737

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping them attain their full potential through higher education; whereas there are currently about 268 Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the United States; whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving their communities; whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions contributes to the strength and culture of our Nation; whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions are deserving of national recognition; and whereas the week of September 20th would be an appropriate week for such recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives:

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the country;

(2) supports the designation of an appropriate week as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”;

(3) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating such week; and

(4) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe such week with appropriate activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Leave

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 737 into the record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 737, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established.

I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, for introducing this resolution. Mr. GRIJALVA recognizes the important role that HSIs play for all postsecondary students, especially minority students.

HSIs and their student body are very diverse. The community of HSIs includes 2-year and 4-year institutions and public and private institutions. In 2007, 46 percent of students enrolled in HSIs were Hispanics, and the remaining 44 percent were a diverse mix of students from various ethnic and racial backgrounds. Even with this diversity of the student body, geographical location and population served, the principal missions of all of these institutions is to provide a quality education.

HSIs deserve recognition for the contribution they make to the education community and the Nation. While comprising less than 10 percent of the Nation’s institutions of higher education, HSIs educate over two-thirds of Hispanic students enrolled in colleges and universities. Most HSIs do not have access to the resources or endowment income that other institutions can draw.
on. However, they are still successful in their effort to provide a high-quality education, often to some of our most disadvantaged students.

We have consistently worked to improve the Nation’s support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Just last Congress, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, the reauthorization bill for the Higher Education Act, included a provision that created a new program designed to allow these institutions to improve their graduate and professional programs. We also provided more flexibility to HSIs through broadening their uses of Title V funds to include activities like the development of articulation agreements, the development of distance learning technologies, and providing additional financial literacy counseling to students and families.

It is important that we recognize the contributions of HSIs and their graduates by celebrating HSI Week. The number of HSIs continues to grow. From 2006 to 2007, 13 new institutions qualified as an HSI. These institutions provide an ever-increasing number of students with a high-quality education and leadership skills for the future, and they deserve recognition for such.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my colleagues to support House Resolution 7.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two-tenths of a minute) the time and energy that they dedicate to the development of children.

Last year’s winner, Clarence McQueen, demonstrated his commitment to children by coaching basketball, baseball and flag football while teaching the benefits of teamwork, trust and hard work.

Today, more than 20 million children in the United States lack the opportunity to participate in organized sports due, in part, to the lack of available coaches. We must continue to encourage adults to volunteer and commit time to youth sports, as this resolution suggests.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to express my support for this resolution, and I thank Representative MCINTYRE for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 6, recognizing the significant contributions coaches make in the lives of children who participate in organized sports and supporting the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week.

Coaches make a lasting impression on America’s young people. I bet that almost every Member in this Chamber could name at least one coach that has had a profound impact on their lives and encouraged them to become the person that they are today. This resolution brings national attention to the contributions coaches make and the time and energy that they dedicate to the athletic and moral development of children. In addition, National...
Coaches Week aims to encourage more adults to give their time to coaching, enabling more children to benefit from participation in organized sports.

It is widely accepted that children can benefit in numerous ways from participation in organized sports. Research has shown that children who play sports, especially girls, are more often likely to have a positive body image and a higher self-esteem. They are also less likely to be overweight. Children involved in sports are less likely to smoke or drink, and statistics show that students who are involved in sports while in high school are more likely to experience academic success and graduate from high school.

The role of a coach can vary from a high-intensity, full-time college football coach to a parent who volunteers to coach his 4-year-old daughter’s community soccer team every week. Many coaches in high school are primarily teachers of academic subjects, and many part-time coaches have other full-time careers in addition to their coaching duties.

Approximately 42 million American children participate in organized sports every year. Each one of these children is influenced somehow by the coach who leads their team. Along with refining athletes’ individual skills, coaches are responsible for instilling good sportsmanship, a competitive spirit and teamwork.

I stand in support of this resolution, recognizing the roles and contributions of America’s coaches and recognizing National Coaches Appreciation Week, and I ask for my colleagues’ support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for this resolution, which recognizes the roles and contributions of America’s coaches and recognizes National Coaches Appreciation Week, and I ask for my colleagues’ support.

Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that I introduced on the very first day of this session of Congress, House Resolution 6, a resolution which recognizes this week, September 13 through 19, as National Coaches Appreciation Week.

The narrative of the American coach is a powerful testament to the role that volunteerism has played in shaping our country. The passage of H. Res. 6 will help and add another layer of support to those countless individuals and families who give of their time voluntarily to encourage, work with and support our Nation and its young people, as well as time to hold practices, organize games and rally interests within their communities.

I started the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports in 2006 in order to shift the focus of our youth sports culture. There had been a report card done on the attitudes of many toward youth sports. I was told that the umpires, the referees and the coaches, and the bad language and the ugly fights that were occurring and the way people were putting down those who took time to work with our young people.

This is a chance for us to emphasize powerful values that we all want for our families and our communities; opportunities not only to emphasize things like what we do, but also values along with sportsmanship, those concepts of teamwork, of civility, of respect, of discipline, of loyalty and of learning how to graciously accept the victories and the defeats that we all may face in life from time to time.

As a result, I’ve also had the benefit of meeting with other youth sports organizations from all over this country that are doing wonderful work, trying not to start another government program but to work with the programs that are already working in our communities across this Nation.

Every afternoon, including this afternoon, there will be young people after school, hurrying out to football fields, soccer fields, tennis courts and other venues to get ready, to practice for their games this weekend. There will be all kinds of recreational activities going on, and we need to be supporting those parents, those families and those volunteers who are out there giving of their time to help support our young people.

This isn’t about reform or reinventing the wheel. It’s about simply recognizing these contributions, honoring these individuals and providing them the tools and the resources to do well what they’re already doing and for which we are grateful.

I would also like to thank our caucus cochairman, Jim JORDAN from Ohio, for his work on this, and a fellow Congresswoman from North Carolina, Heath SHULER, who chairs the Professional Sports Caucus, because they too have been supportive of this effort.

I remember, as many of you probably do, having fun of sports in my life. My father, Dr. Douglas McIntyre of Lumberton, North Carolina, coached me growing up, and I’ve had the same privilege to coach my sons Joshua and Stephen, and, in fact, over 130 other young people in three different sports over 7 years who only knew me as Coach McIntyre.

I had the opportunity to work with them, to encourage them, to build their self-esteem as well as the other practical and physical benefits only in character but physical fitness and fighting obesity and a healthier lifestyle. And by working with three all-American, drug-free teams that I coached, they also learned the dangers of getting involved in activities that can only hurt, not help your self-image and your physical well-being.

We all know of coaches who have helped a player make a tough decision, pushed a player to achieve things they never thought possible, and shaped their sense of integrity, character and discipline that now propel them to the successes that they can accomplish today and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 6 and honor National Coaches Appreciation Week; and in doing so, colleagues, you are supporting and recognizing a vital part of our country’s culture and ensuring that our Nation’s youth have access to role models who can put them on the path to achievement.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to again express my support for this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

Mr. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 6 to recognize the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and to support the goals and objectives of National Coaches Appreciation Week. Our coaches deserve to be honored for the work they put forth in developing the young minds of tomorrow’s leaders. Coaches have long served as the backbone of youth sports, nurturing generations of minds, bodies and souls.

H. Res. 6 applauds the ongoing effort of our coaches who put in extra time and effort to make the difference in the lives of our children; coaches are a vital part of organized youth sports. Their efforts welcome approximately 42 million American children to participate in organized sports each year. However, 20 million children here in the United States are unable to participate in organized sports, in part due to an insufficient number of coaches. A national effort to promote coaching is needed to increase the number of adults serving as coaches in organized sports.

The Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports will educate Members of Congress, the media, and the Public on the need to restore a child-centered focus in youth sports that will produce immeasurable positive benefits for the well-being and character development of children. Sports and coaches help children fight obesity, increase their self-esteem, learn leadership skills, and discover how to incorporate the values of sports into their daily lives. Children need adults who will believe in them and leaders who give children the support they need to be a success. Coaches can positively impact the physical, emotional, and educational life of children. According to Paul Caccamo, President of Up2Us, a national coalition that seeks to increase the impact of and access to youth sports as a tool for positive youth development, “Young people who play sports are higher achievers.” He also said that “They are more likely to attend college and land jobs with more responsibility and greater pay, and less apt to fall to drug and alcohol abuse. With dropout rates and gang activity on the rise in our urban cities, we cannot afford to stand by when we know there’s an alternative. National Coach Appreciation Week recognizes the men and women who have dedicated their time to give our children better, brighter futures.”

Not only will National Coach Appreciation Week recognize the men and women who have dedicated their time to give our children brighter futures, but also, it is a great effort to recruit more adults to do this admirable work. As stated by the Up2Us coalition “National Coach Appreciation Week would
raise awareness and leverage resources to engage millions of children in organized sports that promote health, nutrition, and fitness, as well as other youth development outcomes.”

Mr. SABLAN. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 6.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 459) expressing support for designation of “National Safety Month.”

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 459

Whereas, after years of decline, the rate of unintentional injuries and deaths in the United States has reversed and has reached unacceptably high levels in recent years;

Whereas deaths from motor vehicle collisions, poisonings from unintentional overdoses, and falls remain as the three leading causes of preventable death in the United States;

Whereas the cost of unintentional injuries to people in the United States exceeds $684,400,000,000 each year and causes great suffering among individuals and their families;

Whereas the cost of unintentional injuries to workers and their employers is $175,300,000,000 each year, including the value of 114,000,000 days of lost productivity;

Whereas preventing unintentional injury and death requires the cooperation of all levels of government, the Nation’s employers, and the general public;

Whereas the National Safety Council, founded in 1913, was congressionally chartered in 1963 to lead this Nation in injury prevention through safety and health education, training, and advocacy in the United States;

Whereas the National Safety Council educates the workforce about policies, practices, and procedures leading to increased safety, protection, and health in business and industry, as well as in schools and colleges, on roads and highways, and in homes and communities;

Whereas since the summer season is a time of increased rates of preventable injuries and death, it is an appropriate time to focus the attention of our workforce and community leaders on injury risks and prevention by celebrating June 2009 as “National Safety Month”;

Whereas the National Safety Council in 2009 as part of its public education about safety and health will provide this Nation a monthlong campaign in June: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of “National Safety Month”;

(2) recognizes the contributions of the National Safety Council and its ongoing commitment to raising awareness about the need for the implementation of safe practices in our schools and jobs; and

(3) encourages citizens to observe the “National Safety Month” with appropriate ceremonies and educate themselves about the importance of implementing safe practices in our schools and jobs to prevent unintentional injury and death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 459 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 459 which recognizes the month of June as National Safety Month and comends the National Safety Council for its ongoing commitment to educating the public on the prevention of accidental injury and death.

The National Safety Council was established in 1912 by a small group of midwestern industrial leaders concerned about safety in the workplace. Since then, the council has broadened its scope to include the home, transportation and the community. Its membership has grown to over 18,000 companies with more than 33,000 locations. All together, the council represents 8.3 million employees across the Nation.

In 1953, a congressional charter was granted to the National Safety Council to lead the country in injury prevention through safety and health education, training, and advocacy in the United States;

Whereas the National Safety Council educates the workforce about policies, practices, and procedures leading to increased safety, protection, and health in business and industry, as well as in schools and colleges, on roads and highways, and in homes and communities;

Whereas since the summer season is a time of increased rates of preventable injuries and death, it is an appropriate time to focus the attention of our workforce and community leaders on injury risks and prevention by celebrating June 2009 as ‘National Safety Month’; and

Whereas the National Safety Council in 2009 as part of its public education about
States in the workplace, on roads and highways, and in our homes and neighborhoods. Each week of National Safety Month focuses on a different aspect of safety: traffic, workplace, home, and community. This year’s National Safety Month themes are teen driving, distracted driving. The statistics on the types of safety that comprise this year’s National Safety Month are jarring.

According to the National Safety Council, NSC, traffic crashes have the number one cause of teen fatalities, accounting for 38 percent of all teen deaths. In 2007, 20,600 people died from falls in U.S. homes and communities. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Labor documented that 8 percent of all occupational fatalities from trauma were caused by falling. Overexertion, particularly in the form of back injuries, affects over 1 million workers.

Lastly, 80 percent of automobile crashes are the result of distracted driving. Given these drastic statistics, I believe that National Safety Month is an important effort to improve the well-being of our country.

Injuries and loss of life due to preventable accidents are tragedies that traumatize workplaces, families, and communities. In addition to the suffering of the victims and their families, accidents in the home and on the road created over $60 billion in costs to Americans. The Department of Employment created over $175 billion in costs for workers and employers. I believe that National Safety Month will help to improve our national economy as we climb out of the economic downturn.

In my Texas Chapter of the National Safety Council is working hard to educate and influence the public in order to prevent accidental injury and death. The Texas Chapter contributes to Texas’ public safety through events such as National Seat Check Saturday, National Child Passenger Safety Week, National Preparedness Month, and the Texas Safety Conference & Expo. I am proud of the work that the Texas Chapter of the NSC does to train safety professionals, reach out to the public for safety education, and raise awareness of safety.

By increasing awareness and educating the public on safety, National Safety Month honors the work of safety experts and professionals. Safety experts research, analyze, and publish information on improving safety in many aspects of our daily lives. Safety professionals provide training in schools and colleges, workplaces, and communities, as well as to drivers across the country. The work of these men and women save countless lives each year, and through this resolution, we honor their contribution to society.

In addition to supporting National Safety Month, we must also recognize the achievements of the National Safety Council, NSC. The NSC was established in Illinois in 1913 to promote industrial safety. Since then, their mandate has expanded to include traffic safety, home safety, community safety, and workplace safety at large. In 1953, the NSC received a Congressional Charter. Today, over 51,000 labor organizations, businesses, schools, public agencies, private organizations, and individuals comprise the NSC. The NSC and its 40 member local chapters coordinate and execute events to educate the public, analyze safety research, and raise awareness about safety issues. The NSC inaugurated the first National Safety Month in June 1996. In addition to National Safety Month, the NSC holds an annual Congress & Expo to exchange information among safety experts, safety professionals, and the safety industry. Their work is an invaluable contribution to the well-being of our country.

Mr. SABLAN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 459.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SENIOR CAREGIVING

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 59) supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution. The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 59

Whereas 8,000 people in the United States turn 60 years old every day;

Whereas an estimated 35,900,000 people, 12.4 percent of the population, are 65 years of age and older;

Whereas the United States population age 65 and older is expected to more than double in the next 50 years, and the demand for affordable care to family, friends, and neighbors;

Whereas in order to address the surging needs for in-home care, the field of senior caregiving is an important effort to improve the well-being of our country.

Whereas the United States population age 65 and older is expected to more than double in the next 50 years, and the demand for affordable care to family, friends, and neighbors;

Whereas it is estimated that 4,500,000 people in the United States have Alzheimer’s disease today;

Whereas it is estimated that number will increase to between 11,300,000 and 16,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas 70 percent of people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias live at home, and these individuals are examples of individuals who need assistance in their homes with the “activities of daily living”;

Whereas currently over 25 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with the “activities of daily living”;

Whereas in order to address the surging population of seniors who have significant needs for in-home care, the field of senior caregiving will continue to grow;

Whereas there are an estimated 4,000,000 adults in the United States providing care to adult relatives or friends and an estimated 725,000 nonfamily private paid senior caregivers;

Whereas both unpaid family caregivers and paid caregivers work together to serve the daily living needs of seniors who live in their own homes;

Whereas the Department of Labor estimated that paid caregivers for the year 2006 worked a total of 835,000,000 hours, and the projected hours of paid senior caregivers are estimated to increase to 4,350,000,000 hours by 2025; and

Whereas the longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden is placed on public payment systems in State and Federal governments; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes caregiving as a profession;

(2) supports the private home care industry and the efforts of family caregivers nationwide by encouraging individuals to provide care to family, friends, and neighbors;

(3) encourages accessible and affordable care for seniors;

(4) reviews Federal policies and supports current Federal programs which address the needs of seniors and their family caregivers; and

(5) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States on the impact of aging and the importance of knowing the options available to seniors when they need care to meet their personal needs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Thompson) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 59 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 59, which is a bill that supports the ideals of senior caregiving and addresses the important issue of affordability.

Research professionals tell us that our seniors are living longer than any previous generation. The number of people over the age of 65 will double in the next 50 years, and the demand for senior care will rise to unprecedented levels. Currently, 25 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with their daily living activities. Families, neighbors, and private care serve this role for many seniors. As demand increases, so does the need for affordable and quality care.

There are between 30 and 38 million adult caregivers age 18 and older. They are our friends, family members, partners, and neighbors. On average, they work 21 hours per week. Not only do these unpaid caregivers provide long-term services to persons of all ages, but they are also a key part of our economy. In 2006, the AARP estimated that caregiving services have an annual economic value of $350 billion.
Many caregivers put their own health at risk while caring for others. Caregivers are more likely to report chronic illnesses at twice the rate as non-caregivers. Though they save the country billions of dollars, caregivers report having higher medical bill expenses than non-caregiving counterparts.

Providing better support for caregivers is essential to the well-being of our health care system, our long-term care system, and our economy.

I want to express my support for this resolution and thank Congressman TERRY for bringing this resolution forward. I urge my colleagues to support me on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today and am proud to do so in support of House Concurrent Resolution 59, which supports the goals and ideals of senior caregiving. I also want to take the opportunity to thank my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) for introducing this resolution.

According to the Administration on Aging, the number of people age 65 and older was 37.9 million in 2007, an increase of 3.8 million since 1997. The population of those 65 and older is projected to increase from 40 million in 2010 to 55 million in 2020. The number of those 85 and older is expected to increase from 4.2 million in the year 2000 to 6.6 million in the year 2020.

In the United States today, it’s estimated that 4.5 million people have Alzheimer’s disease, and this number is expected to increase to between 11.3 million and 16 million by 2050. Seventy percent of people with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias live at home and need assistance to perform normal daily activities.

According to the Administration on Aging, persons reaching age 65 have an average life expectancy of an additional 19 years. Caregiving for these individuals takes many forms. Caregivers may be full- or part-time, live with their loved one, or provide care from a distance. Caregiving ranges from simple help such as shopping to conducting medical procedures.

There are an estimated 44 million adults in the United States providing care to adult relatives or friends. The longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden is placed on our public systems. Caregivers are individuals out of obligation and necessity to live out their lives in familiar surroundings and with dignity. It is appropriate that we take a few minutes today to honor these individuals who give so much of themselves to provide care for our aging population.

I stand in support of this resolution recognizing the profession of senior caregiving and supporting the private home care industry, and I ask for my colleagues’ support.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H. Con. Res. 59—supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and fostering the seniors’ independence—sens. and one other of the seniors we care for is growing at unprecedented rates. National statistics reveal that 8,000 people turn 60 each day. Moreover, an estimated 44 million adults in the United States currently provide care to their senior relatives and friends. In light of these numbers, it is our responsibility to ensure that senior citizens, especially those suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, have access to the quality and professional care they need to live their lives to the fullest. I commend Rep. LEE TERRY for bringing this measure before the floor.

This resolution demonstrates that Congress is concerned about our senior citizens and we are actively engaging and learning more about the senior caregiving industry. Today, 35.9 million people, roughly 12.4 percent of the U.S. population, are aged 65 years and older. Moreover, 25 seniors require some level of assistance with their daily life activities. At this rate, the population of seniors is expected to increase each year and is in danger of exceeding the availability of qualified professionals and trained caregivers. Therefore, Congress must now begin to take the necessary steps to effectively manage the needs of our aging population.

We can accomplish this objective by providing some much needed support to family caregivers across the country. Family caregiving is a full-time, live-in, and non-compensated profession. Many families that do not provide care within their homes rely on non-family private caregivers. In this regard, Congress must help to foster a private home care industry environment that supports enterprises that provide accessible and affordable caregiving services to seniors. This must also include standardized training to paid caregivers with the opportunity for their ongoing professional development. Additionally, Congress must examine and continue to develop programs that address the affordability and accessibility challenges our seniors and their family caregivers face.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H. Con. Res. 59—supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability. And I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure we continue to provide the necessary resources toward senior caregiving and improve affordability so that all our senior citizens will have access to quality care when they need it.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, thank you for conducting this debate on H. Con. Res. 59. This important concurrent resolution supports the goals and ideals of senior caregiving. I would like to thank the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Education and Labor Committee, as well as the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittees on the Needs of Healthy Families and Communities for their role in bringing this concurrent resolution to the House Floor. Furthermore, I would like to particularly thank the 42 cosponsors of this important resolution.

Seniors are one of our most precious resources. In order to take care of our seniors, we need a nation of caregivers.

On March 30, 2009, I introduced H. Con. Res. 59 in order to help promote the goals and ideals of senior caregiving. The idea for this concurrent resolution was brought to me by the world’s largest senior care provider, Home Instead Senior Care, which is located in my congressional district in Omaha, Nebraska. Home Instead understands first hand the importance of senior caregiving. Its 800 franchises worldwide provide care to over 80,000 seniors. Home Instead is just one of thousands of companies that provide care to our older population. In addition to family caregivers, you have millions of individuals who provide care to their elderly parents, siblings, friends etc.

To illustrate the need for senior caregivers, today in the United States, there are more than 38 million people who are 65 years of age or older and this number is expected to more than double by 2050. For this reason, it is critical that we as a nation are prepared to meet and manage the needs of our aging population. This resolution is critical that we as a nation are prepared to meet and manage the needs of our aging population.

This important concurrent resolution pledges to study the needs of an aging population and seeks alternatives which can make caregiving more affordable. Moreover, this resolution importantly recognizes the caregivers who provide these homecare services. This resolution will draw attention to our everyday heroes who enhance the lives of our senior population. This resolution also focuses on those caregivers who are excited to have an employment opportunity to work with our seniors.

I would like to thank this opportunity to thank the three national associations supportive of this legislation: National Family Caregivers Association; the National Association for Home Care and Hospice; and the National Private Duty Association. These three groups illustrate the widespread support for this resolution amongst the caregiver community.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 59 is an important step in recognizing the important work of caregivers. I encourage my colleagues to support this important concurrent resolution.

NATIONAL PRIVATE DUTY ASSOCIATION, Indianapolis, IN, July 1, 2008.

The National Private Duty Association formally endorses the Concurrent Resolution which Home Instead Senior Care has circulated. This Resolution does an excellent job of promoting these goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability.

The National Private Duty Association is supportive of the intent of this Resolution which is to increase the availability of senior caregivers in a positive manner. Moreover, the National Private Duty Association believes the six recommendations listed in the Resolution are important steps in our effort to educate the public on senior caregiving.
We encourage other associations to support this Resolution effort and we look forward to becoming a part of the coalition in support of this. I would be happy to discuss the merits of this Resolution at any time.

Sincerely,

SHEILA MCMACKIN,
President

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION,
Kensington, MD, September 1, 2008.

DEAR PHYLLIS: The National Family Caregivers Association supports your resolution to bring attention to the work of the private pay hospice industry. Although family caregivers provide 80% of all longterm care services, we can’t do it alone. We need a healthy homecare industry that we can turn to for help on a regular or intermittent basis.

As the country continues to age, and as the number of people 85 and older increases, the ability of our nation to support caregiving in the home will increase exponentially. Given that services to assist people with activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living are not covered by Medicare, and long-term care insurance is not a realistic solution for many Americans, it is incumbent on us to work together to find solutions to the problems that face us individually and as a nation.

Thank you for making this effort on behalf of families, homecare providers, and the caregivers who are the lifeblood of your industry.

Sincerely,

SUZANNE MINTZ,
President/Co-founder
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
HOME CARE & HOSPICE,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2008.

DEAR PHYLLIS: The National Association for Home Care & Hospice is the nation’s largest national advocate organization on behalf of providers of home care and hospice services, their employees, and their clients. We congratulate you and heartily endorse your efforts to secure enactment of a Congressional resolution that supports family and professional caregivers, calls for continued funding for programs that provide vital community-based services, and recommends broader education of the public and policymakers on the needs of our growing senior population.

In recent years our nation’s health care needs have changed considerably, and one of our greatest challenges at this time is the development of more effective means of caring for individuals with multiple chronic conditions. This challenge can only be effectively met by greater emphasis on the services and support that allow our population to engage in their health care for as long a restrictive environment possible. For most individuals, that environment is the home. We strongly support any efforts that help to raise awareness and expand access to home and community-based services, as well as to ease the burden on informal caregivers.

Many thanks for your commitment to the disabled citizens of our nation. Please feel free to call upon us if we can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

VAL J. HALAMANDARIS,
President.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for this concurrent resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 59, as amended.

The question was taken.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 260) supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.
The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 260

Whereas the infant mortality rate of a nation is an important indicator of that nation’s overall health;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that the United States ranked 29th in the world in infant mortality in 2004, falling from 12th in 1960;

Whereas there are more than 28,000 deaths to children under 1 year of age each year in the United States;

Whereas preterm birth has a considerable impact on the United States infant mortality rate, in 2005 68.6 percent of all infant deaths occurred to preterm infants, up from 65.6 percent in 2000;

Whereas the United States infant mortality rate for non-Hispanic White women in 2005 was 2.4 times the rate for non-Hispanic White women in 2005;

Whereas in 2005, the United States infant mortality rates were above average for non-Hispanic Black women at 13.63 deaths per 1,000 live births, for Puerto Rican women at 8.30 deaths per 1,000 live births, and for American Indian/Alaskan Native women at 8.06 deaths per 1,000 live births;

Whereas in Memphis, Tennessee, the infant mortality rate is three times higher than that of the United States (higher than any other city in the country), and the 2005 infant mortality rate in the 38108 zip code of Memphis was deadlier for babies than that of any other city in the United States, and for African American babies in that zip code was 31 deaths per 1,000 live births, 5 times that of the 2005 national average of 6.66 deaths per 1,000 live births;

Whereas African American women have a studied, positive effect on the health of the baby;

Whereas preterm care is one of the most important interventions for ensuring the health of pregnant women and their infants;

Whereas 29 percent of mothers 15 to 19 years of age received no early prenatal care in 2004 according to the Department of Health and Human Services;

Whereas non-Hispanic Black women were 2.6 times more likely than non-Hispanic White mothers to begin prenatal care in the third trimester, or not receive prenatal care at all;

Whereas babies born to mothers who received prenatal care were 1.5 times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers received prenatal care, as stated by the Department of Health and Human Services;

Whereas the United States’ high infant mortality rate reflects in part racial disparities in premature and low birthweight babies;

And whereas the racial disparities in infant mortality may relate to socioeconomic status, access to medical care, and the education level of the mother; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports efforts to understand racial disparities and the rate of infant mortality in order to lower the rate of infant mortality in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 260, a resolution that supports efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States.

The United States amazingly enough ranks 29th in the world in the incidence of infant mortality. That is a shocking figure. And while there are a lot of reasons for infant mortality—there’s education, there’s health care, there are certain other issues that may be existent—health care is the primary one. And as we discuss health care in this Congress, it is hard to submit looking at the United States being 29th in the world in infant mortality, that we don’t have a problem somewhere with our health care system.

The extremely high incidence of infant death in the African American community is particularly troubling. In Shelby County, Tennessee, the county which I represent, African American babies die at three times the Nation’s infant mortality rate. Prematurity is the number one cause of infant death in the United States, accounting for at least 60 percent of those deaths. Poor women are much more likely to deliver a premature or a low-weight baby as they’re often on Medicaid, or they cannot afford prenatal care or they are simply not educated about what is required for women during pregnancy or have access to health clinics or inner-
This September is Infant Mortality Awareness Month; so I am especially proud that we are considering this important resolution today. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of House Resolution 260, which supports efforts to address this important public health problem and a moral problem, and understand racial disparities that persist in infant mortality and try to make America better than 29th in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to support H. Res. 260, supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States.

I want to thank my colleague Congressman COHEN for his work on this resolution. It has been exemplary, and we thank him for his leadership. I also want to recognize other members of our delegation who have stood with him and with me in this work to address infant mortality, Congressman TANNER and Congressman GORDON, both of whom are original cosponsors, as is Congressman WAMP; and we thank them for their efforts.

Congressman COHEN has championed the cause of prenatal care since he and I served together in the Tennessee Senate, and I am honored to stand and work on this resolution with him now. I stand in support of the legislation, and I hope that all of our colleagues will join us in this effort. It is an important issue for Memphis, Tennessee, which, as Mr. COHEN said, is a community we both represent. And I hope that our conversation on the floor today will be just one more step in a unified effort to end the staggering rates of infant mortality that plague many of our communities.

In this conversation, I am reminded of the Healthy Start program that was reauthorized and expanded into law by President George W. Bush on September 3, 2008. Healthy Start provides services tailored to the needs of high-risk pregnant women, infants, and mothers in geographically, racially, ethnically, linguistically diverse communities with exceptionally high rates of infant mortality. The goal of the program has been to reduce the factors that contribute to infant mortality, particularly among minority groups, and remains a very important program to help reduce the deaths of children each year.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Tennessee for her remarks which are so appropriate; and I would like to add that there are efforts in Shelby County, the Blues Project and the ABC Project that the county has to combat infant mortality and work with pregnant women and new mothers.

If a child is born premature, it costs at least 20 times as much money to keep that child alive for the first year. So if their efforts could be successful to eliminate and reduce infant mortality, and some of that comes through programs such as the county and others have—Blue Cross/Blue Shield has the Blues Project—we could save money in the health system because we won’t spend so much keeping premature babies alive at the trauma center. It is an example where if we have preventive care and wellness programs, by investing money, we can save money. And we can save so much with infant mortality.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, just to add to the gentleman’s comments and to talk a little bit about the efforts that we have participated in in our State, as you look at Shelby County and Memphis, you see there has been a wonderful partnership between your local, State, and Federal entities to address this. Also between the Memphis Women’s Guild and the not-for-profit sector, individuals who have said this is a problem. These children deserve to have a healthy start in life. They deserve to have a good solid first year.

Recognizing that recognizing that they live a problem is the first important step in solving that problem. Certainly we have all worked together for many years to make certain that education is an enormous component of the strategy to address low birth weights, to address infant mortality, and to make certain that our children get that healthy start that they need in life.
I commend those who have worked with us at the local, State and Federal level, as well as the community partners in Shelby County and across the State of Tennessee, who have made this a priority. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on the issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 260, as amended.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 260, as amended.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 738

WHEREAS VAWA has succeeded in bringing domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including combined efforts by law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, victim services, and community-based programs to develop long-term plans for addressing such crimes locally and nationwide; and

WHEREAS VAWA has provided crucial Federal support to Indian tribes to combat the problems of sexual and domestic violence in Indian country; and

WHEREAS VAWA has lowered sexual assault crimes to include dating violence and stalking; and

WHEREAS VAWA provides a means for many victims of domestic violence who were dependent on their batterers for immigration status to self-petition and obtain legal immigration status on their own, and to access legal services to flee violence and recover from trauma; and

WHEREAS the Sexual Assault Services program, authorized by VAWA 2005, enabled the 1,300 rape crisis centers in the United States to reduce waiting lists, reach out to underserved communities, and provide more comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS VAWA was the first comprehensive legislative package designed to end violence against women; and

WHEREAS subsequent reauthorizations of VAWA were subsequently expanded by VAWA 2005, enabled the 1,300 rape crisis centers in the United States to reduce waiting lists, reach out to underserved communities, and provide more comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS VAWA has provided crucial Federal support for efforts by criminal justice officials and victim service providers to hold offenders accountable and to keep stalking victims safe; and

WHEREAS the continued support of VAWA and subsequent Acts combating violence against women is essential to best serve the 3,400,000 individuals in the United States who are stalked each year; and

WHEREAS September 13, 2009, marked the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives

(1) recognizes the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994;

(2) continues to support the goals and ideals of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and its subsequent reauthorization Acts; and

(3) recognizes the need to continue vigorous enforcement of the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and similar Acts and programs to deter and prosecute crimes of violence against women.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 57, a resolution recognizing the high rates of drowning fatalities among children.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 3,582 unintentional and fatal drownings in the United States in 2005. This figure represents an average of 10 drowning deaths a day.

Children are the most susceptible to fatal drowning incidents. In fact, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 4.

On top of this startling statistic, for every child who fatally drowns in the United States, there are four near-drowning incidents that require emergency care. These accidents can lead to brain damage and result in permanent disabilities ranging from loss of memory to the loss of all basic functions.

Drowning rates among children greatly exceed those of their non-minority counterparts. The fatal drowning rate for African-American children is over three times that for Caucasian children. American Indian and Alaskan Native children have rates over two times as high as Caucasian children.

Contributing to these disparities is limited access to swimming lessons. African Americans and Latinos are more likely to live below the poverty line, putting lessons that can cost hundreds of dollars per course out of reach.

House Resolution 57 not only condemns the persistently high rates of drowning among children, but it also recognizes the hard work of organizations that promote access to swimming education and teach skills that will help save lives.

I urge my colleagues to help bring awareness to this serious issue, and join me in supporting final passage of House Resolution 57.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 57 expressing the importance of swimming lessons and recognizing the danger of drowning in the United States. With almost 10 unintentional and fatal drowning deaths each day in our country, it is important to recognize those most vulnerable to drowning, and it is usually our precious children under the age of 14 who have not yet learned to swim. Swimming education programs in communities and drowning prevention lessons for those as young as 4 years old could help lower the number of fatal drownings each and every year.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, which was signed into law in December 2007 by President Bush, has led to increased pool and spa safety requirements and education. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida who has joined us on the floor for her excellent leadership and outstanding work on that issue. It is one that was important to all of us in dealing with the FTC and the regulations. We commend you, and we thank you for your work.

I urge my colleagues to support drowning prevention strategies like the Pool and Spa Safety Act and non-profit initiatives like the U.S.A. Swimming Foundation’s “Make a Splash”
That is why we must encourage children out of reach for too many kids. More likely to live below the poverty line, Latino children do not know how to swim as well as other efforts that help educate children, parents and caregivers about drowning prevention. Consequently, drowning is the second most common cause of accidental death among children. Alarming, fatal drowning rates are 2 to 3 times higher among minority children. According to a study by the University of Memphis, almost 60 percent of African-American and Latino children do not know how to swim as compared to roughly 30 percent of nonminority children. These statistics are not just shocking; they are shameful.

In order to help spread awareness about these startling statistics and how we can better protect our children, Representative Wasserman Schultz and I introduced H. Res. 57, a resolution recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children. The resolution expresses the danger of fatal unintentional drowning in the United States, and condemns the high rates of fatal drowning among all children.

This resolution also celebrates the hard work of initiatives that currently provide swimming lessons to underprivileged communities as well as other efforts that help educate children, parents and caregivers about drowning prevention.

The ability to swim is an important and essential skill, and according to Safe Kids USA, in order to help prevent drowning, children should be enrolled in swimming lessons as early as age 4.

The USA Swimming’s Make A Splash Program has partnered with organizations in 31 states and has reached out to over 90,000 children to provide access to swimming education.

Together with these organizations, we must promote access to the type of education that can not only improve children’s health, but help save their lives. I urge my colleagues to help bring awareness to this serious issue, and support final passage of H. Res. 57.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 57, which expresses the importance of swimming lessons and recognizes the dangers of death of American children. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in 2005 there were 3,582 unintentional drownings in the United States, and averaged 10 per day.

According to an article in the NY Times, an even more daunting statistic is that African-American and Hispanic children are 2.3 times more likely to drown than Caucasian children in this age group. For children 10 to 14, the rate is five times higher. Nearly 6 out of 10 African-American and Hispanic children were unable to swim, nearly twice as many as their Caucasian counterparts, a concern often highlighted by U.S. Olympian Cullen Jones, who is African-American and swam the third leg of winning men’s relay. This unprecedented statistic is unacceptable as it is fairly easily preventable, steps such as adult supervision, regularly using life jackets, learning CPR, and fencing of backyard swimming pools can help save the lives of many of our youth according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Some alarming statistics as stated by my very own district of Houston, TX declare that from May of 2005 to May of 2007: HFD responded to more than 50 drownings, resulting in at least 8 deaths.

Traditionally, apartment pools account for most of the submersions. 60 percent of the pool incidents occurred at apartments.

We also had several bathtub drowning incidents and several in lakes or bayous.

Most of the children involved submersions involved 4 years old and infants (0–1 year old). Although, all age groups had submer- sions.

Incidents occurred every hour of the day, though 1–2 p.m. and 4 p.m.–7 p.m. had the higher number of incidents.

In 2006, The New York Times story “Every one into the Water” reported on why the barriers to swimming for black children are so high. The report stated that “studies have shown that many Africans were avid swimmers when they were brought over as slaves, most slaves born in the United States were exposed to learn to swim, and so it was a means of escape. That created generations of non-swimmers and spawned the myth that Af- rican-Americans could not swim. Though widely discredited, a 1969 study titled “The Negro and Learning to Swim: The Buoyancy Problem Related to Reported Biological Difference,” was printed in The Journal of Negro Education and fed the stereotype. The problem was compounded by segregation, which kept blacks out of many pools and beaches. The USA Swimming Foundation is trying to address the problem through its Make a Splash program, which works to educate parents and increase swimming rates among all chil- dren. Donors who want to help can sponsor swimming lessons for children.
The passing of H. Res. 57 expresses the importance of providing access to swimming lessons for all communities in the United States as an integral part of drowning prevention. This Resolution celebrates the work of initiatives like USA Swimming Foundation’s “Make A Splash” and Safe Kids USA to educate parents on water safety and drowning prevention messages. H. Res. 57 also encourages the public and private funding to support current and future initiatives that provide all children access to swimming education.

Ms. BLACK BURN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz and Congressman Sires for their hard work on this, and my counterpart from Tennessee for her excellent work.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 57, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: “A resolution recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 738) recognizing the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 57

Whereas the success of the United States Olympic swim team, including the record-breaking eight gold medals won by Michael Phelps, has brought great attention to swimming;

Whereas a New York Times article entitled “Despite Olympic Gold, Swimming Statistics Are Grim”, highlighted the irony of the United States Olympic glory in light of a shocking number of drownings in the United States;

Whereas the New York Times has also highlighted the discrepancies in swimming education between African-American children and White children in the article “Everyone Into the Water”;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were 3,582 unintentional and fatal drownings in the United States in 2005 representing an average of 10 drowning deaths each day;

Whereas a report of initiatives like USA Swimming Foundation’s “Make A Splash” and Safe Kids USA to educate parents and caregivers on water safety and drowning prevention messages; and

(5) celebrates the work of initiatives like Make A Splash”, and Safe Kids USA to educate parents and caregivers on water safety and drowning prevention messages; and

Whereas minority drowning rates greatly exceed the rates of White children;

Whereas according to the CDC, the fatal drowning rate for American children between the ages of 5 and 14 is over three times higher than the rate for White children, and the rate for American Indian and Alaska Native children is over two times higher;

Whereas according to a study by the University of Memphis, almost 80 percent of African-American and Latino children do not know how to swim as compared to roughly 30 percent of White children;

Whereas long-existing stigmas regarding minorities and swimming have contributed to the lack of swimming education in minority communities, and nonswimming minority families are far less likely than nonswimming White families to enroll in swimming lessons;

Whereas according to the United States Census Bureau, percent of Bureau American-Americans, 28.6 percent of Latinos, and 12.5 percent of Asian-Americans lived below the poverty line as compared to 18.1 percent of Whites. And this discrepancy can cost hundreds of dollars per course;

Whereas the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed into law in December 2007 addressing the pressing need for increased pool and spa safety requirements and education to prevent accidental deaths by drowning;

Whereas these drowning prevention strategies require several approaches such as supervision, fully gated pools, CPR training, and swimming skills;

Whereas the ability to swim is an important and essential skill, and according to Safe Kids USA, in order to help prevent drowning, children should be enrolled in swimming lessons as early as age 4 to learn how to float, tread water, and enter and exit the pool; and

Whereas nonprofit initiatives, like the USA Swimming Foundation’s “Make A Splash”, are working hard to meet the need for swimming lessons by partnering with local communities to offer all children access to swimming education; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives:

(1) expresses the importance of access to swimming lessons for all communities in the United States as an integral part of drowning prevention;

(2) recognizes the danger of fatal unintentional drowning in the United States;

(3) condemns the persistently high rates of fatal drowning among all children, and the particularly high rates of fatal drowning among minority children;

(4) celebrates the passage of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act;

(5) encourages the public and private funding to support current and future initiatives that provide all children access to swimming education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Wasserman Schultz) and the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.
communities and provide more comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault. But that’s not all this monumental legislation has done to help eradicate violence against women. In addition, VAWA 2000 created T and U visas to allow victims of human and sexual trafficking, and victims such as sexual assault to come forward and seek law enforcement assistance without the fear of deportation.

Over 1,300 victims of human trafficking have received T visas. The National Center for Victims of Crime has also witnessed dramatic improvement during the past 15 years in the way our Nation responds to stalking cases. This progress, too, is attributed to the Violence Against Women Act.

Undoubtedly, VAWA has provided crucial Federal support for criminal justice officials and victim service providers who work so hard each day to hold offenders accountable and keep stalking victims safe.

The holistic approach to addressing violence against women that VAWA promotes is inextricably linked to the improved safety and security of victims of domestic and sexual violence and their families. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this House resolution, which, as the gentlelady from Florida said, recognizes the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, or VAWA.

One out of every three people in the United States has been a victim of domestic violence, and that is according to Department of Justice statistics. Legislation proposing a Federal response to this violence against women was first introduced in 1990, although such violence was identified as a serious problem as early as the 1970s. So in 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act to protect women against violent crime, including domestic abuse. The act created grant programs to be administered by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

Funding under the bill recognized enforcement as well as educational and social programs to combat violent crime targeted against women. VAWA grants provide funding for the investigation and the prosecution of violent crimes perpetrated against women and support increased pretrial detention of defendants. VAWA also imposes automatic and mandatory restitution on those convicted.

In 2000, Congress reauthorized many VAWA programs, set new funding levels, and created new grant programs to address sexual assault victims on campuses and assist victims of domestic abuse. These programs continue the essential work begun by the earlier act and add important services for immigrant, rural, disabled and older women.

The VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2000 also created new stalking offenses by creating penalties for a person who travels in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to kill, injure, harass or intimidate a spouse or intimate partner.

VAWA was reauthorized for an additional 5 years when President Bush signed the act in 2005. The legislation expanded VAWA-funded initiatives to help children who have been exposed to violence and to train health care providers to support victims of abuse.

The 2005 reauthorization also provided funding for crisis services for victims of rape and sexual assault. The act also improved support services, such as transitional housing, to women and children who have been forced to leave their homes because of this violence.

As the resolution notes, over the last 15 years VAWA has provided Federal support for efforts by law enforcement officials and victim service providers to hold offenders accountable and to keep those victims safe.

I join my colleagues in recognizing the 15th anniversary of the enactment of VAWA and urge continued support of the goals and the ideals of the Violence Against Women Act.

Mr. Speaker, in yielding back the balance of my time, I would thank so many of the volunteers in our communities who have been instrumental in working with many of us in starting rape and sexual abuse centers and supporting those victims, especially the children that we’ve been able to reach out and provide additional help and support for over the last few years. I know many of my colleagues have served in local and State legislative bodies, and we have had this as a very important focus of much of our work to make certain that our children and our communities were protected from this strike of violence, and so I commend all of them.

I thank the gentlelady from Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to concur and associate myself with the remarks of the gentlelady from Tennessee as we celebrate 15 years since the first passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

I remember back in my early days in the Florida House when we were struggling—and I’m sure that you went through the same thing in Tennessee—just to get domestic violence recognized as a serious crime. And we fought to pass laws like this one around the country, fought subsequently to get a crime like stalking declared as a crime and not just get sort of brushed aside as something trivial that women shouldn’t worry their pretty little heads over. These kind of crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, we need to enforce. They have the resources behind them as a result of the Violence Against Women Act.

We look forward to the reauthorization, the discussions that will occur next year, and celebrate the 15th year since VAWA’s first introduction and passage.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce H. Res. 738 to recognize the accomplishments we have made in the fight to end violence against women in the United States in the fifteen years since President Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act into law on September 13, 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. This recognized the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, we have made great progress.

In 1993, a woman was raped every six seconds in the United States and a female was beaten every 15 seconds.

In July 1994, there were three times as many animal shelters in the United States as battered women shelters.

No doubt about it—the Violence Against Women Act has vastly improved access to support and care to women and families who are victims of domestic violence and stalking.

During a time, when women were still considered secondary to the men, my colleagues of the Congressional Caucus on Women’s Issues and I battled to explain the importance of protecting women form the horrors of violence and abuse.

In the House, I worked with former Representatives Patricia Schroeder, Constance Morella and now Senators OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, and BARBARA BOXER and CHUCK SCHUMER to authorize the Violence Against Women Act. In the Senate, Vice President BIDEN, then the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, championed the Senate version of VAWA.

The 1994 bill was a watershed, marking the first comprehensive legislative package designed to end violence against women. The protections and provisions afforded by the 1994 law were subsequently expanded and improved in the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 and they Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005.

VAWA has led to the reduction of domestic violence incidents reported. By reducing the need for emergency and medical responses, VAWA has averted more than $14 billion dollars in societal costs as VAWA-funded interventions have lowered domestic violence frequency and sexual assault rates.

VAWA has succeeded in bringing communities together to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Prior to VAWA, few helping systems in a community addressed these crimes. Now law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, victim services and community-based work together on the grassroots and statewide levels to develop long-term plans for addressing the crimes. VAWA has brought innovative practices to the field by funding demonstration projects, trainings, and supporting the development of specialized courts and police teams.

The Sexual Assault Services Program, created in VAWA 2005, enabled the country’s 1300 rape crisis centers to reduce waiting lists, reach out to underserved communities, and provide more comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault across the nation.

Since 1997, VAWA has funded the Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project
(RSP) to develop and strengthen state and territorial sexual assault coalitions. In 1997, there were only 26 states with either no coalition or a coalition with no paid staff. Through VAWA and the efforts of the RSP in 2009 all 50 states and 5 territories have sexual assault or dual issue sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions.

During the last fifteen years, the National Center for Victims of Crime has witnessed dramatic improvement in the way our nation responds to stalking cases, progress greatly owed to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). By funding stalking in the original landmark bill, Congress elevated this crime in our nation’s consciousness and highlighted it as a serious offense requiring heightened attention.

With VAWA funding, the National Center for Victims of Crime created the Stalking Resource Center raise national awareness of stalking and to encourage the development and implementation of multidisciplinary responses to stalking in local communities across the country. VAWA has also provided crucial support for efforts by criminal justice officials and victim service providers to hold offenders accountable and to keep stalking victims safe.

VAWA has supported the Stalking Resource Centers work to create a model stalking code that works for lawmakers and physicians to avoid being left out of state’s stalking laws to keep pace with an ever-changing, and has enabled the SRC to train over 30,000 multidisciplinary professionals across the country who work with and respond to stalking victims, better equipping them to respond to the crime of stalking.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of VAWA which took place on September 13, 1994 while recognizing the accomplishments we have made and the continuing commitment in the fight to end violence against women.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 738, Recognizing the 15th Anniversary of the Enactment of the Violence Against Women Act, offered by my friend and colleague Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER of New York.

The 15th anniversary of President Clinton signing this landmark legislation into law offers us the opportunity both to see how far we have come and to recognize that there is still much ground to be covered as we continue to protect vulnerable women and work on behalf of abused women across this nation.

What is so important about VAWA, just as much today as it was 15 years ago, is that it specifically identifies women as an at-risk population, because sexual violence perpetrated against them. Violence against women ranges from rape to physical and mental abuse to stalking to other forms of domestic violence. It was appropriate to pass legislation specifically geared toward identifying different forms of violence, who was affected by the violence, and what judicial and social services were available for victims and potential victims. Our current Vice President JOE BIDEN played a leading role in shaping and forwarding this legislation when he was in the Senate, and we should acknowledge him for championing the bill and getting it passed.

Since the enactment of VAWA into law, there has been a proliferation of community and advocacy organizations, shelters, health clinics, and law enforcement divisions and programs dedicated to protecting women from abuse and to giving them time to heal and piece their lives back together. VAWA funding has made it possible for women—and often times their children—to be able to find the help and the support they need to begin life anew, more so than at any other time in our Nation’s history. And given the unprecedented rate at which state and local budgets have been slashed during the recent economic downturn, VAWA funding is more crucial than ever: to date the Office of Violence Against Women under the Department of Justice to implement VAWA, has issued $3.5 billion in grants and cooperative agreements.

I have long strived to be a voice for those who have difficulty being heard. Despite the significant inroads that VAWA has made in the lives of countless women throughout this country, we continue to see alarming trends in the rates of abuse, rape, and murder of women. Under the auspices of VAWA and other initiatives meant to protect women, I will continue to champion women and to offer and sponsor legislation to protect and empower them.

I was proud to vote for the passage of VAWA 15 years ago. So let today mark an important milestone to commemorate the work that VAWA and other initiatives have created. But let it also force all of us to redouble our efforts to continue legislating and advocating on behalf of women who find themselves in abusive and dangerous relationships and situations.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 738 and I commend Representative SLAUGHTER for offering it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for H. Res. 738, Recognizing the 15th Anniversary of the Enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. I express my gratitude to Ms. SLAUGHTER for her leadership in introducing this important bill. This is legislation that I have worked on since becoming a member of the House Judiciary Committee in 1995 and I have worked with my colleagues through the years to improve the legislation.

The need for such legislation is punctuated by the tragic murder of Yale graduate student Annie Le. While an investigation into this matter is still ongoing, Ms. Le’s death appears to have been related to her wedding scheduled for today. As a Yale alumnae, I’m particularly grieved by this tragedy, and my heart and sympathies go out to Ms. Le, her family, and her mourning fiancée, on what would have been their wedding day.

Ms. Le’s murder in a Yale research building shows that sexual violence has no barriers and crosses racial, ethnic, and economic boundaries. It is in this backdrop that we celebrated legislation proposing a federal response to the problem of violence against women.

A review of history shows that the first legislative action on this matter was introduced in 1990, although such violence was first identified as a serious problem by Congress in the 1970s. In 1994, this legislative action culminated by the passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Funding under the VAWA has emphasized enforcement as well as educational and social programs to prevent crime. The focus of the funding was on local government programs, an approach that the sponsors of the bill believed was the most promising technique for reducing crime and violence. They also cautioned that, because of the variety of programs funded through the states, the impact of the bill may be difficult to quantify. Funding through FY2000 was authorized through the Violence Against Women Trust Fund (VCRTF). Authorization for VCRTF expired at the end of FY2000. Nonetheless, most of the programs in VAWA were appropriated for FY2001.

On October 28, 2000, President Clinton signed into law the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, which included the Violence Against Women Act of 2000. The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (VAWA 2000) continued to support VAWA by reauthorizing existing programs and adding new initiatives, including grants to assist victims of dating violence, transitional housing for victims of violence, a pilot program aimed at protecting children during visits with a parent who has been accused of domestic violence, and new funding levels, and created new grant programs to address sexual assaults on campuses and assist victims of domestic abuse.

VAWA 2000 also authorized the Attorney General to award grants to private non-profit organizations and Indian tribal governments to publically funded organizations to increase the availability of legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault in legal matters, such as immigration, housing matters, and protection orders, at minimum or no cost to the victim. These grants may be used to establish or expand cooperative efforts between victim services organizations and legal assistance providers, by providing training, technical assistance, and data collection.

VAWA 2000 included grants to be administered by HHS for short-term transitional housing assistance and support services for victims of domestic abuse. The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 and the PROTECT our Children Act required HHS and DOJ transitional housing assistance programs for victims of domestic violence.

VAWA 2000 amended the language of the existing STOP grants and “Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies” to provide funding to increase the prosecution of older individuals and individuals with disabilities from domestic violence and sexual assault through policies and training for police, prosecutors, and the judiciary.
also created new grants, administered by the Attorney General, for training programs to assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and court officials in addressing, investigating and prosecuting instances of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and violence against individuals with disabilities, including domestic violence and sexual assault.

VAWA 2000 authorized the Attorney General to award grants to state, local, and Indian tribal governments to provide supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange for children involved in situations of domestic violence, child abuse, or sexual assault.

Several studies were authorized in VAWA 2000. These included studies of (1) insurance discrimination against victims of domestic violence; (2) work-related or parental effects of violence against women; (3) unemployment compensation for women who are victims of violence; and (4) parental kidnapping. VAWA 2000 also required the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to develop a research agenda and plans to implement the agenda based on the National Academy of Sciences’ recommendations in the report Understanding Violence Against Women.

VAWA 2000 contains the Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 2000, which provided protection of immigrant women who are victims of domestic abuse, and creates special rules for alien battered spouses and children to allow them to remain in the United States. VAWA 2000 also established a task force to coordinate research on domestic violence.

VAWA 2000 established a definition for “dating violence” and amended the existing law so that STOP grants, Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies, and Rural Domestic Violence grants could be awarded for programs to combat dating violence, defined as violence committed by a person (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (i) the length of the relationship; (ii) the type of relationship; and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

In 2005, Congress reauthorized VAWA, through Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005). VAWA 2005 reauthorized many existing programs for FY2007 through FY2011, and authorized a number of new programs for victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The act emphasized collaboration among law enforcement, health and housing professionals, and women, men, and youth alliances, and encouraged community initiatives to address these issues.

VAWA 2005 advanced the ball to protect battered women and children. Specifically, VAWA 2005 programs sought to focus on young victims of violence; improve the health care system’s response to violence; inform the public about domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; protect the privacy of victims of violence; provide housing assistance, including public housing, for battered women and children; and support outreach efforts to underserved populations such as ethnic, immigrant, and racial populations.

In an effort to more closely monitor the stature and performance of some of these programs, VAWA 2005 provided for some grant recipients to submit reports on policies and procedures they followed. The act also provided funding for studies and research on effective interventions that prevent both acts and effects of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Over the past 15 years, the federal government, with the use of the public treasury has funded interventions which have lowered assault rates. This intervention is estimated to have saved over $14 billion in public safety resources that would have been required had VAWA programs not prevented or addressed cases of domestic violence in each of the fifty states and all of the U.S. territories.

I have worked with formidable organizations such as Texans Against Sexual Assault, who work to bring voices to women who have been victims of sexual crimes, and helping them along an emotional recovery. Also, the Texas Council on Family Violence, which has connected more than 15,000 Texas victims of domestic violence with emergency shelter and protection.

In 2005, I offered an Amendment to the VAWA to provide $2 million for the Office on Violence Against Women, the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs account for “child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners.” This legislation would be off the Edward Byre Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program and transferring the funds to the Office on Violence Against Women, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Program. Instead, I proposed that this money be channeled to a program that has been significantly under-funded for many years, the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Program’s account for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners as authorized by section 222 of the 1990 Act. Domestic Violence is of the utmost concern, to me and my constituents. However, in the past, the chronic lack of funding and resources has left a number of child victims in the cold to cope with the horrible and immense physical and psychological effects of the abuse that they have endured.

As we look down the road for future VAWA reauthorizations, I urge my colleagues to focus on how we can take a more comprehensive look at domestic violence. Indeed, violence between family members and others related by special relations requires a dedication of resources to address problems that could be addressed by conflict management counseling and other mental health treatment. Indeed, juvenile justice data shows that families who are separated as a result of VAWA programs may also have an unintended consequence of contributing to juvenile delinquency, particularly amongst children of color, young boys in particular.

Together we must take a stand and work together for Women’s rights, as well as the rights for families. We must work on building a brighter future and make gender based and family based violence a thing of the past. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 738.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Speaker pro tempore, pursuant to clause 23a of rule I, declared the House in recess until approximatly 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o’clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HIMES) at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COACHES APPRECIATION WEEK

The Speaker pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 6, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 6.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 398, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

YEAS—388

Abercrombie  Aderholt  Adler (NJ)  Akin  Altman  Arcuri  Austria  Becerra

Barco

Bachmann  Bachus  Baird  Baldwin  Barrow  Barton (TX)  Barton (NY)  Bauler

Becerra  Berkley  Brown (CA)  Brown (O)  Broun  Bright  Broun  Buitrago  Bucala  Bugjargil  Buentello  Bump  Bumenos  Bumgarner  Burton (WI)  Byrd  Bucy

Yeas—388

Abercrombie  Aderholt  Adler (NJ)  Akin  Altman  Arcuri  Austria  Becerra

Barco

Bachmann  Bachus  Baird  Baldwin  Barrow  Barton (TX)  Barton (NY)  Bauler

Becerra  Berkley  Brown (CA)  Brown (O)  Broun  Bright  Broun  Buitrago  Bucala  Bugjargil  Buentello  Bump  Bumenos  Bumgarner  Burton (WI)  Byrd  Bucy

Yeas—388

Abercrombie  Aderholt  Adler (NJ)  Akin  Altman  Arcuri  Austria  Becerra
SUPPORTING NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 459, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk reads the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. Sablan) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 459.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 697]

**YEAS—386**

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Cantor
Cantor
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Castle
Cassidy
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Clark
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Clyburn
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Cohen
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Cole
Coney
Connolly (VA)
Congers
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Costa
Costello
Courtney
Creel
Craig
Culber
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Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (NY)
DeFazio
Delahunt
Democratic
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
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Doyle
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Dy Cravedi
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Emerson
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Farr
Fattah
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Frank (AZ)
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GEOFFREY MILLER

**[Roll No. 697]**

**N O T V O T I N G — 4 5 **

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Andrews  
Adler (NJ)  

the table.

resolution was agreed to.

Stated for:

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 59, as amended, was agreed to.

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So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

To amend the Federal Highway Administration’s contracting requirements is making it difficult, if not impossible, for States to implement these anti-corruption laws if they want to continue to receive Federal highway support. It is up to us in Washington to make sure that our constituents are best served and their tax dollars are being spent efficiently.

By amending the Federal Highway Administration’s contracting requirements, we in Washington can ensure that States have every tool at their disposal to ensure and encourage transparency and accountability. Please join me in supporting H.R. 3247, the State Ethics Law Protection Act, to ensure our dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.
RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, this month Lincoln Montessori School of Nebraska is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Founded in 1969 by Mary and Larry Verschuur, Lincoln Montessori School is one of the first schools in the United States to be custom built to facilitate the Montessori curriculum. The school has served hundreds of families over two generations and is fully a part of Nebraska's diverse educational community.

Fifteen years later, Mary and Larry are still the school's motivating force. They guide young children daily with beautiful and purposeful materials, offer after-school enrichment classes for older children, conduct classes to help parents understand and implement the Montessori philosophy, and facilitate the Montessori curriculum. The result: children who are self-directed and self-disciplined, joyful, and eager to learn. The children are free to discover the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the First District of Nebraska and the United States Congress, I thank the Verschuurs, two extraordinary people, for their dedication to the formation of young children and congratulate them on the 40th anniversary of Lincoln Montessori School in Nebraska.

WELCOMING HOME PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Pennsylvania National Guardsmen who just arrived home after serving 8 months in Iraq. Members of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team's First Battalion 112th Infantry have arrived at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Some 1,500 U.S. flags will line their route, along with countless yellow ribbons placed by Pennsylvanians who want to show their thanks.

The soldiers come from Crawford County and from the cities of Bradford and Ridgway. Earlier, guardsmen from the 2nd 112th Regiment Infantry Regiment from Bellefonte and Lewistown came home.

The brigade operated in 800 square miles that stretched from 900 miles. They captured some 80 hidden supply dumps, causing severe shortages and disrupting enemy operations.

As these men and women are reunited with their families, we realize the sacrifices they have made. The children, the pets, the missing Operation Cards, the joys of a sports milestone, they can't replace those lost moments. But we can pause and stop and say thank you, and God bless and welcome home.

STOP THE INNOVATION TAX

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, as we continue the debate on health care, we must remain cognizant of the impact on both jobs and health care innovation.

That's why I strongly oppose the new $60 billion innovation tax on the medical device industry that's being proposed in the Senate. Minnesota, and the Third Congressional District in particular, is home to many of the top medical device manufacturers responsible for life-saving technologies. Hundreds of small businesses and entrepreneurs in the medical technology field also call Minnesota home.

I visited and I have met with many of these entrepreneurs. They are hard working. They are employers that provide tens of thousands of good-paying jobs for Minnesotans. Moreover, these medical breakthroughs save money, and they improve the quality of care.

So mass innovation tax will stifle job growth. It will stifle innovation, and it will ultimately harm quality health care. I strongly urge the Senate, the President, and my colleagues to oppose this misguided new tax.

THE PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, freedom's bell has sounded across this Nation. It is loud; it is clear. The people's resistance to big, bloated government has begun in the hearts and minds of the American people.

It was seen in their actions over the weekend. Over a million Americans took time off from work, gathered up their families, made their signs, brought their flags and came to D.C. with the cry for government to listen. Their message to Congress and the administration: We have had enough.

They have watched in stunned horror as this Congress has made government bigger and less accountable. Congress has lavishly spent trillions of their tax dollars, and it doesn't belong to the government, but to the people.

Now the threat of a government takeover of their health care has made it personal to them. It doesn't matter how many times it's said otherwise, the American people understand what government-run health care looks like, and they don't like it.

Thomas Jefferson once said: 'The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground.' But the tide is turning. Mr. Speaker, the American resistance is awake and on its feet and on the move. People are not happy, and we ignore their right to bring their grievances before this Member of Congress.

And one of the issues they have talked about is the question of the constitutional importance of these so-called czars. We now have over 30 czars in this administration, those that have not been subject to the scrutiny of consideration by the United States Senate, those who apparently have decision-making responsibility in areas, who have traditionally been in Cabinet level roles, and others who in fact have been vetted by the Senate. It seems the longer I am here the more it appears that political life in Washington seems to follow art.

Now, you might say we have come to a situation in Washington, D.C. in which we now have a new show. It's called 'Dancing with the Czars.' It could last more than a full TV season because we have more than 30 of them.

It can continue on into the summer. It's not a joke. It's serious, and the American people deserve answers.

PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WANT TO CUT SPENDING

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, free-spending, and the government intrusion into their lives, and they don't like it.

But this body here, and my colleagues on the Democrat side, continue to come up with new proposals, new spending, and we are spending trillions and trillions of dollars that we simply don't have. And our kids are going to bear the responsibility for that because we are not doing our job.

And, secondly, I just want to say one other thing. This ACORN group needs to be investigated. They are getting access to almost $10 billion, and we know there are an awful lot of
crooked things going on. It needs to be investigated by this body. My colleagues on the Democrat side, who are the chairmen of the committees, need to listen. We need to investigate ACORN.

LEHMAN BROTHERS COLLAPSE
(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it was only a year ago today that Lehman Brothers collapsed. And as we mark this 1-year anniversary, it is also with trepidation that we remark that the Federal Government today is the leading insurer, the leading lender, and the leading carmaker in the United States, the Federal Government.

Since the inception of Bailout Nation less than 1 year ago today, an economist from Arizona State University has documented, today the Federal Government owns or controls 30 percent of private business profits. That’s right, 30 percent. And if President Obama gets his way and nationalizes an additional 18 percent of private wealth in the health care industry, that would be nearly 50 percent of private business profits.

Think of that, 50 percent of private business profits nationalized in less than 1 year’s time. We can do better. Let’s enjoy freedom. Let’s embrace freedom and let’s say no to Bailout Nation and to the Federal Government taking over the private economy.

And let’s investigate ACORN.

HONORING NASA
(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just a few months ago, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Apollo mission for NASA, and we are excited as a Nation to think of the brightness and the genius of our country.

Tomorrow, before the Science and Technology Committee, the author of the “Augustine Report” will present his findings regarding NASA. As a representative from the Houston area, where the Johnson Space Center is, I encourage America to be that same genius.

Let’s continue manned space flight and continue our exploration in space, as well as support for the international space station. Out of those efforts come new inventions, new cures for diseases, and new opportunities for the genius of America to be seen around the world. We must continue manned space flight.

Supporting the space centers in Florida and Alabama, California, Mississippi and Texas, I know America can achieve for the future.

□ 1930
SPECIAL ORDERS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, there was a townhall meeting not too far from here in Reston, Virginia. Over 3,000 people were inside and about that many outside who could not get into the school. Now this townhall event was held at South Lakes High School, and one of the security officers there, a Wesley Cheeks, Jr., did not like one of the signs that the protesters were carrying and holding up. The sign apparently was not to the officer’s political liking.

So the security officer demanded that out of the thousands of signs at the event, the one he didn’t like was going to come down, and he ordered the person to take it down because it was obviously critical of the administration. Note, Mr. Speaker, there was nothing illegal about the sign.

This officer told the man with the sign to put his sign away or he would be arrested. Yes, arrested for freedom of speech and the right to protest. The protester said, This used to be America. Officer Weeks said in response, Well, it isn’t any more, okay.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it’s not “okay.” Not by a long shot. This is still America, the land of the free—the land where we can disagree with government, whether government likes it or not. This is the place where men of noble character and heart and noble action, who understood that free speech undergirds liberty and freedom. They understood that the right to speak the truth to authoritarian power is granted by the Almighty to those bold enough to stand and claim that right. No king, no government, no dictator, and no high school security officer has the right to abuse their authority and suppress freedom of speech.

One of the founding principles of this Nation is freedom of speech. It is so fundamentally important that our Founding Fathers put it first in our Constitution’s Bill of Rights, made it the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights, because it is the most important. Without the First Amendment, the rest are meaningless.

The First Amendment simply says, Congress—that’s us, folks—shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

It is the tendency of all governments to enroach upon the rights of people in this Nation, and other nations. And while many Americans are going about their daily business of work, taking their kids to school, to football practice, to Boy Scouts, grocery shopping, and eating to dinner on our grass, and living their lives, don’t underestimate that these people are paying attention to what government is doing to them.

Freedom of speech is crucial for folks to get the attention of fellow Americans when the size of government no longer fits the Constitution. Freedom of speech is sacrosanct, and not just for those who agree with government, but it is a holy right, especially for those who disagree with government oppression.

It is the right of a free people to speak truth when the government is wrong. It is the right of the people to gather and stand in the face of those elected officials and speak what they see—tyranny of a government gone amok.

It is the right of a self-governing people to come together in cities around the Nation to speak out and to hold the government accountable when those who seek to rule over us have stepped out of their constitutional bounds.

There can be no more fundamental display of our God-given right to freedom of speech than what we’re seeing from the American Resistance Movement today. From city to city, streets, the right of free speech is one of the very guardians of the freedom and liberty that make this Nation the greatest in history. And it is the government that would do well to listen, be silent, and then act in the interest of the American people.

And that’s just the way it is.

START OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the fall of Lehman Brothers. Just prior to that, former Treasury Secretary and former Goldman Sachs executive Hank Paulson; Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke; and former Federal Reserve Bank of New York and now Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, bailed out Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and orchestrated the first of multiple tranches of taxpayer money to AIG.

We some mark the fall of Lehman as the start of our financial crisis, but it started long before. It started on Wall Street, the very place that President Obama gave his financial regulatory reform speech today. The President stated, Restoring a willingness to take some responsibility for what we do is at the heart of what we must do. Very carefully worded, Mr. President. But what real reform will assure it?
Willing to take responsibility. Mr. President, Wall Street has responsibility for the greed they bred, for ripping off American taxpayers and taking exorbitant profits, destroying anything and anyone in its path, and then taking more bonuses and continuing to live the high life.

Wall Street will never willingly and openly accept its responsibility for their role in our financial system’s downfall. It’s our responsibility to hold them accountable.

It’s time to ask Wall Street to play nice and make reforms. They had their chance, and they blew it. You can be sure they are going to pay millions to lobbyists and PACs to protect their bonuses, loopholes, their safety nets, and the current structure of banking in this country.

It’s time to face down Wall Street and stand up for Main Street. The time spent waiting for Wall Street’s willingness to change is over. The results of the too-big-to-fail model—prohibiting Wall Street and the American people.

Wall Street had its chance to open credit lines to business, as well as to direct payments from taxpayers to millions of families facing foreclosure work out those loans, but instead they took the money for themselves and racked up huge profits in the last quarter.

Wall Street had its chance to be responsible as stewards of the tax dollars they got. They failed. They didn’t even try. Wall Street banks cannot even tell us where the TARP dollars, that is, the taxpayer dollars, went.

The arms of their businesses which service loans are moving at a snail’s pace to help people find ways to work out their mortgages. Why? Because they can make more money when loans are delinquent. The pace of loaning to businesses and people is almost stuck. What are fast and furious are the payouts of bonuses and profits.

Wall Street executives like Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs are wallowing around the changes they should make around compensation and bonuses, but talk is cheap because it costs them nothing. It’s a good press release. Name me one Wall Street money-center bank that has restructured its compensation structures. Wall Street is fighting to have cash from credit default swaps and other derivative instruments remain unregulated in the coming reforms.

This moment in history marks the time for each Member of Congress and public servants at the FDIC, the SEC, the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, and associated regulators to act and create the kind of reform that creates a credit system that respects communities, encourages savings, assures sound credit? Will we break up the megabank trusts or continue to allow the concentration of financial power in the few greedy hands that are holding it today? Will we move forward with a stronger, more creative, more powerful, more sound community-oriented financial system again?

It’s time to work on a bipartisan basis to do this. We can’t race. We have to delve deep reform here, not cosmetic bills that are brought up on this floor. We must share the rationale behind reform and make it real. And we must shift the balance of credit power from Wall Street back to Main Street and the American people.

The challenge is crystal clear. The question is: Do we have the will to do it here—to create a financial regulatory system again for the betterment of all people in our Nation, to strengthen community sound and prudent credit practices at the local level and, in turn, the world’s financial system? The jury is out.

THE URGENCY OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week we commemorated a sad anniversary of the September 11th attacks on our country and the reality that day 8 years ago, we realized that protecting our homeland and defeating our enemies would require innovative approaches and an unconventional view of the threats that we face. However, when looking at the Iranian nuclear threat, it would appear that some have forgotten the lessons of 9/11.

Many believe that because Iran has not yet mastered all of the elements needed for an operational nuclear weapon, we have the luxury of time. Mr. Speaker, that is not so. Iran has already produced 1,400 kilograms of low-enriched uranium, which can easily be used for a “dirty nuke.”

As former President Clinton noted in the year 2005, if you have basically a cookie’s worth of fissile material and you put it into a traditional bomb, you can amplify the destruction power by hundreds-fold or more.

So the threat that threat that Iran already exists in a radiological form. Yet, the U.S. and the U.N. Security Council have actually lowered the requirements imposed on the Iranian regime with respect to its nuclear activities. The initial U.S. position with respect to Iran’s nuclear program was to demand its complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement. Then it went down to a mere temporary suspension of its uranium enrichment. And now, reported transfers of fissile material from Iran to Libya and as the Iranian regime that they will not use growing supplies of enriched uranium to make nuclear weapons.

This, as a U.S. government official was quoted as saying last week, “Iran is now either very near or in possession already of sufficient low-enriched uranium to produce one nuclear weapon” and is closer “to a dangerous and destabilizing possible breakout capability.” And this is, I am afraid, a risk we can no longer take.

Iran is pouring enormous resources into its nuclear program. Its missiles can already strike U.S. forces, can strike Israel and our allies in the Middle East and Europe, and it is only a matter of time until it has the capability to hit us here at home.

Ironically, one administration after another has not fully implemented the range of sanctions that are called for in current U.S. law, nor have we leveraged our resources to secure cooperation from our allies, particularly those on the U.N. Security Council. And this year we have filed another bill, another another bill on Iran, and we have yet to get that bill out of committee, in spite of over 300 sponsors for that bill.

Next week at the United Nations in New York, for the first time a President of the United States will chair a meeting of the U.N. Security Council. The Council will be holding a special summit on the general issue of nuclear nonproliferation, but will ignore the actions of specific countries such as Iran.

The U.S. will also not use its presidency on the Security Council this month to pursue further sanctions targeting the Iranian regime. In fact, rather than using our platform at the U.N. to urge immediate action against the regime, the U.S. has again succumbed to Iranian manipulation.

Joined by France, Germany, Britain, Russia, and China, we will meet with the regime in Brussels on October 1 to resolve the disputes over Tehran’s nuclear program.

Let’s get this straight. As the threat posed by the Iranian regime increases, as the Iranian regime inches closer to weaponizing its nuclear program, the response from the so-called international community is to schedule more talks—legitimizing the regime by engaging them directly.

By its own statements, the regime is committed to the destruction of Israel and the U.S. as well. Ahmadinejad has repeatedly denied the existence of the Holocaust, called for Israel to be wiped off the map, spoken of achieving “a world without America and Zionism.”

Iran is also the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, assisted the attacks on our soldiers and continues to this day in Iraq and Afghanistan, and poses a growing threat to the Persian Gulf, a major source of the world’s oil. Daily Israel and our allies in the Middle East and South and Central Asia and right here
TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ABOUT THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the United States Constitution. Earlier today, the House unanimously passed my bill, House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution. Congressman RON PAUL and I combined our Constitution Week resolution. House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution. Congresswoman BARBARA JACKSON and I combined our Constitution Week resolution. The House unanimously passed my bill, House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution. Congresswoman RON PAUL and I combined our Constitution Week resolution. House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution.

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, like many Members in the House, I spent a good part of August visiting with people in the 19th Congressional District that sent me here. I had several coffees all across my district. One of the things that they spoke loud and clear of is that they are very concerned about the direction of their country. And as I listened to the President’s speech and I listened to some of his advisers, they think these people are not Main Street America, that they are somehow disillusioned. Well, they are disillusioned. They are disillusioned with our government. They see their government bailing out banks. They see their government bailing out car companies, their government taking over every aspect of their lives and now wants to take over our health care. I want to read you some of the comments from the people of the 19th Congressional District. Janie from Lubbock, Texas: ‘I am self-employed and pay my taxes. I firmly believe we currently have way too much government in our business and daily lives.’ Jennifer from Wolkfort, Texas: ‘Keep the government out of our health care. Remind them of our broken systems, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We don’t need another one.’

Bobby from Lubbock: ‘I do not want the government to run my health care. America does not need any more debt.’ Rick from Lubbock asked this question: ‘Why can’t government cut back on its spending like the rest of us have to?’

Nelma from Lubbock: ‘My husband and I were born into very poor families. We were able to realize the American Dream. I want this opportunity for the upcoming generations.’

Michael from Lubbock: ‘Reform is definitely necessary, but not the kind that has been proposed.’

James from Lubbock: ‘Read, understand and apply the Constitution. A novel idea, James E. Grayson, Jr.’

Mary from Lubbock: ‘Want to keep our great insurance that we pay premiums for. We don’t want to have our tax dollars fund another fiasco and become another Canada.’

Holly from Lubbock: ‘Stop the spending. When I was deeply in debt, I stopped buying, worked hard and paid for things slowly but surely. I am out of debt now. I did not ask anyone to print money for me or pay for me.’

John from Lubbock: ‘Promise us that you will sign yourself, your family on the same plan that you force us into.’

Grace from Lubbock: ‘I hope you have listened to the many people here in Lubbock who do not have health insurance and who cannot afford it.’

James from Lubbock: ‘The U.S. Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government, in particular, should limit their reach to what is allowed by our Founding Fathers’ documents.’

Robert from Lubbock: ‘We must stop this crazy deficit spending and borrowing.’

Larry from Lubbock: ‘In the bill there is language limiting the growth of physician-owned hospitals. These hospitals are able to supply health care services more efficiently than other community-based larger hospitals. I am against this bill.’

Sandra from Lubbock: ‘We need to slow things down and people need to read all of the bill before doing any voting.’

Karen from Lubbock, who attended with her grandmother: ‘I am 9 years old, and I am wondering why the heck you’re spending my future. Thank you for listening.’

Ron from Lubbock: ‘When my kids were in college, my friends called me the ATM. I don’t know the President. I don’t want to be his ATM.’

George from Lubbock: ‘As Big Gov’t continues to expand, there is a commensurate loss of individual freedom, accompanied by excessive spending and an amassing of a ridiculous deficit.’

Michelle from Lubbock: ‘I am a RN in a local emergency room. I am personally against the health care bill. How do we fix overcrowding of ERs? ER nurses are working twice as hard and seeing twice as many patients compared to the past.’

Jack from Lubbock, ‘Say ‘no’ to the government health care and protect our borders.’

Joel from Lubbock: ‘Please say ‘no’ to all excessive spending. Some of it does not fit with our Constitution.’

Susan from Lubbock: ‘I have been an RN for 31 years. I am tired of seeing patients turned away due to lack of insurance. This takes such a toll on families and health care providers.’

Mary from Lubbock: ‘Please do all that you can to keep health care in our hands, not the government.’

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, these are not people that are off on some tangent. These are people that are concerned about their country. They are concerned that the government is taking over every aspect of their lives. They’re concerned that they’re mortgaging the future of their children and their grandchildren. They’re concerned that their personal liberties and freedoms are at risk.

in Latin America as well as Africa. But right here in our own hemisphere, one need look no further than the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community center in Argentina, Buenos Aires, to demonstrate Iran’s willingness and ability to attack targets half a world away.

In July, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for even stricter sanctions on Iran to try to change the behavior of the regime. I couldn’t agree more, but we need them now. Let’s act now.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the United States Constitution. Earlier today, the House unanimously passed my bill, House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution. Congressman RON PAUL and I combined our Constitution Week resolution. House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution. Congresswoman BARBARA JACKSON and I combined our Constitution Week resolution. The House unanimously passed my bill, House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution. Congresswoman RON PAUL and I combined our Constitution Week resolution. House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution.
Mr. President and Madam Speaker, it's time to listen to the American people and quit giving speeches.

CORRUPTION IN ACORN

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. You know, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that concerns me is that the more liberal media seems to ignore some of the things that are extremely important to the people of this country and to the freedoms we enjoy and the money that's being spent by the Congress.

This weekend and today I watched a number of these shows that I watch on regular basis because those of us in this body, we follow the news very, very closely. Mr. Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity and Mr. O'Reilly, who are all on FOX, have been very critical about the investigative hearings on this, to have an investigation, and we have yet to have any investigation whatsoever. Not one. So today I wrote a letter to Chairman Towns of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, who is a very good friend of mine and a very fair man. I have asked Chairman Towns to have an investigation into ACORN.

When you're talking about $10 billion of the taxpayers' money going into an organization that we know has been involved in various nefarious activities and that we know has been involved in corruption, we should at least look into what they're doing and stop them from using taxpayers' dollars to do these things.

This is something that we shouldn't allow anybody to shovel under the rug. The administration should take responsibility for conducting an investigation and pushing for it. The Members of Congress on the majority side have the chairmanships in both the House and Senate and should push very hard for an investigation, and we should not decide where this money is spent and who gets to use it. They should have investigation into ACORN. When you're talking about $10 billion of the taxpayers' money going to an organization that we know has been involved in various nefarious activities and that we know has been involved in corruption, we should at least look into what they're doing and stop them from using taxpayers' dollars to do these things.

CAREFULLY CRAFTING HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, as we're having a debate on the issue of health care and a lot of different ideas and different things are being passed around, I think it's really important that we look at the real reason why we need to make reforms to our health care system in America.

Clearly there are problems with health care, but there are very narrow problems with people who don't have the ability and the access to get health care at an affordable price. What we need doing is fixing the problems in the system that don't work, but at the same time, we need to be very careful not to destroy the things that make medical care in the United States the best medical care in the world.

I think what concerns many of us is this proposal of a government takeover of our health care system where the government would in essence be under the guise of competing against private companies. Of course anybody that understands what competition really means and who looks at the concept of the Federal Government, with taxpayers' dollars, coming in as a competitor when they write the rules that both of you have to play by—they've got this health care czar that they're creating in their bill, which, by the way, I think the count is up to over 30 czars now created in this administration.

We need to sunset these czars. We need to get rid of these czars. We shouldn't have people with these unbridled powers that have absolutely no accountability to the public, did not go through the scrutiny of the normal process that a cabinet secretary or high-ranking official would have to go through with Senate confirmation, testifying before committees and being accountable to the people.

You've got these czars with these powers, and now they're trying to create a health care czar that would literally have the ability to make major decisions over individual families' health care.

I think it's very important to go through and talk about some of these claims that are being made because they are claims that are being made that completely are contradicted by the bills that we have before us in the Congress that are brought by and supported by this President and this administration.

One of the first claims that's been made a whole lot is if you like the health care you have, you can keep it. No, it's not true. This is one of the very important claims. I think that's one of the sacred parts of health care that we should maintain. If people like the health care they have, they should keep it. The problem is in the bill that President Obama supports in the House, the only bill this administration, Speaker PELOSI, and others are promoting, is H.R. 3200. In that bill, in fact, on page 15 of that bill, they give this power to the health care czar, again an unappointed bureaucrat, a person who did not go through any confirmation process, who was just appointed by the President, who is wholly unaccountable to Congress, this health care czar would have the power to decertify private plans. That's right. That means if you have a health care policy you like, the health care czar, in their bill, has the power to take away your health care plan even if you do like it. It's in their bill. They actually tried to take that out in committee.

Another claim that's been made a whole lot that was made here on this
House floor deals with the issue of illegal immigration and do illegal aliens have access to health care. Now, many have claimed that illegal aliens wouldn’t be able to get health care in their bill. The problem is, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the President’s bill allows 8 million illegal aliens to have access to his government-run health care plan. That testimony was given by the Congressional Budget Office. That’s not a Republican or a Democrat who said that. That’s the bipartisan group that we actually have to follow who scores these bills, who makes a determination whether or not these statements are accurate. The Congressional Budget Office has said 8 million illegal aliens would have access to this government plan that the President is supporting, H.R. 3200.

And there are a lot of other claims that are similar to those that are just not accurate. One of the ones that’s thrown by the President and others is this straw man that we’ve got to fix health care and if we don’t pass his bill, then everybody else is for the status quo if they’re not for his bill, if they don’t want the government to take it over.

That’s not true. If you look at the bills that are out there, there are many bills that I and others support that are very different approaches than the bill that the President and Speaker Pelosi support. One good one is H.R. 3400. H.R. 3400 has nearly 40 Members of Congress that are cosponsors, including four medical doctors, people that really understand the problems in health care. In our bill, we actually address the problems that exist. We address the problems with preexisting conditions. I don’t think it’s fair or right that somebody can be denied health care coverage because they’re battling maybe a disease that in the current system they are currently discriminated against. We fix that problem in our bill. We invoke real competition, but it’s not by bringing in the government; it’s by bringing in the insurance companies.

THE NATION’S CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. Bachmann) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, the context of my remarks is engaging the context of my remarks is engaging the time.

We're excited about it. And we thank our House leadership for helping us pass this honoring of those wonderful gospel musicians that all of us have enjoyed over the years and decades; some starting out or gaining their rock and roll status like Elvis Presley from their original origins of gospel music.
or Al Green, the gospel singer, or Mahalia Jackson or Marian Anderson or Yolanda Adams. So many great gospel singers have given all of us joy no matter from whence we have come.

So I would like to thank the House leadership that I would like to thank the majority leader and his staff and Chair‐men TOWNS and the ranking member of the Government Oversight Committee, all of whom helped this day come to fruition.

As we move into issues that require our attention, Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment very briefly on our situation in Afghanistan. Tomorrow I will have the opportunity to join in listening to Ambassador Holbrooke, who has just returned back from Afghanistan, and I would like to offer these thoughts.

I do believe that Afghanistan is very important to the United States, and after 9/11 it was important to respond to the attack on this Nation. But now I think it is important to emphasize the need for a diplomatic surge and the stand-down of the military soldiers, all who are valiantly working there. I believe it is important to allow the Afghan people, through the building of schools and roads and the building of the Afghan Army, to take control of their own security. We cannot allow this to be a 20-year war as it was with Russia, and the Afghan people must stand up.

Some may say it is not the time, that it is a difficult time. And they are right, because instead of pursuing the cause in Afghanistan, over the last 8 years we failed and detoured into Iraq. Iraq that took thousands of American lives and still unfortunately and tragically struggles today with democracy and leadership in their own country. But I do believe it is time for a surge of diplomacy in Afghanistan, and I am going to work with my colleagues to see this happen.

I wish to mention Iran, as well, as the General Assembly gathers in the United Nations and particularly to focus on Camp Ashraf that has displaced Iranians. These individuals are in Iraq and they are subject to abuse. I'm calling upon the administration to demand for the people that are displaced that happen to be Iranians who are in Iraq to be treated with human dignity and for that camp to be protected and for the Iraqi military to protect that camp and not allow the intrusion into the camp and the rampage that's going on and the attack on women and children. Enough is enough. If Iraq claims itself to be a democracy, it is important.

I also call upon the General Assembly to comment on the abuses in Iran, the human rights abuse, the press abuse, the lack of freedom of press. Even as we debate this question of nuclear proliferation, we should not allow the kinds of abuses that are going on in Iran.

As I move to the domestic issue, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we clarify that health care is something that America wants. Sixty percent of the American people want health care. And as I was coming here to Washington, I met someone, Mrs. Wallace, in the airport who indicated that her son will have to have surgery costing a million dollars, and she pleaded that we engage in the conversation of people concerning ethical issues, and in some instances maybe even criminal issues that need to be addressed. I have raised the issue because I want to remind the leadership of this House that if we don't address these issues, we are failing in our duty as Members of Congress.

As we sit here with the Democrat majority blasting JOE WILSON for a very inadvertent outcry in the House of Representatives, we seem to have forgotten what I have been talking about for the last 12 weeks which is Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL's decades of tax evasion and ethics violations that have been raised over and over on the floor of this House. This is the ultimate hypocrisy of talking about ethics when I believe. Close to it any‐way. On September 15, 2008, the New York Times, certainly not one of the more conservative newspapers, and I don't think anyone would consider them a Republican newspaper, called for the resignation of Chairman RANGEL as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee because of the allegations that he himself had pointed out to this House on the floor of this House of his failure to report certain items of value and failure to pay taxes on about $75,000 worth of income that he realized in the Dominican Republic on a vacation home that he owned there and rented out. He rightfully said he was going to correct that by paying the taxes and amending his return and that he felt bad about it, and that he had turned himself in to the Ethics Committee.

Well, this turning yourself in to the Ethics Committee is almost the hypocrisy's dream because you say I want you to judge me. Well, are they? They have had a year now. This was turned in to the Ethics Committee a year ago. We were promised when this new Congress started, we were promised in the fall of last year by the Speaker of this House, NANCY PELOSI, that she was sure that all of the Rangel issues would be resolved by the first or second week of January of this year. And yet they are still not resolved.

The Ethics Committee's job is to be the charging body in this Congress, and they are to look into these allegations and they are to make decisions. It is our method of policing ourselves. Quite frankly, when you find your method of policing yourself has failed, and I don't argue 1 year on one person is pretty close to failure, then maybe we need to come up with a new system. Maybe we need to come up with a new
way. Maybe we are not capable of policing ourselves.

There have been bodies like bar associations and medical associations that have historically policed up their own members; and other associations, certified public accountants, architects, and others have boards that police up their members. If they do a good job, they should be commended. And if they fail, they should be condemned. There is an old adage in the law, and having spent the vast majority of my life in the courtroom in Texas, I have spent the vast majority of my life in the courtroom in Texas, for 20 years prior to my coming to Congress 8 years ago, I can tell you we have an adage that justice delayed is justice denied. That is why we have things like speedy trial acts in the courts of America where a defendant can say I want this case brought to trial within a set time period because justice delayed is justice denied.

That’s why we have multiple terms of grand juries and we promote the grand jury process to move cases along through the system so we can deal with felony criminal cases in an opportune way so justice is not delayed. Therefore, justice is not denied. That is why we have alternative forms of resolution of disputes in the courtroom because our civil dockets and our family law dockets get so bogged down in numbers that justice becomes delayed; and, therefore, justice is denied. We believe that when one man stands at that microphone and for about an hour confesses his transgressions to this House, defended by the speech and debate clause of the Constitution, and states in no uncertain terms that he had made some serious errors and he was going to correct them and that he was turning it over to the Ethics Committee to get it resolved, then he has not been fairly treated by the Ethics Committee not resolved it in one of the ways that I want to point out. I am about resolution of disputes. I am about solving these types of things that put an evil light upon this House of Representatives.

We have enough trouble with the public right now. Our poll numbers are terrible. But the reality is that the history of this place calls upon us to be honorable people. We address each other as honorable people. And if you are going to be honorable people, then we have to have a means of recourse when honor is challenged even if you challenge it yourself. And I would argue that our methods that we are using right now in the Ethics Committee are falling this House of Representatives and the leadership whose committee it is is failing this House of Representatives. This needs to be resolved.

When we talked about this 1 year ago, we heard about Mr. RANGEL's issues concerning the rent that he failed to report as income, and he announced to us that he was paying the taxes and would pay any penalties and interest that may be assessed against him. Later we learned that he paid taxes but he didn’t pay any penalties and interest because they weren’t assessed against him. That looked to me like the IRS was giving special privileges to Mr. RANGEL. Why would they do that? Congress instructed the chairman of the committee that oversees the IRS and the chairman of the committee that writes the tax laws of this Nation? It could be, but that is not right. That is not the way it ought to be. Those rules were given to us by Thomas Jefferson, a fairly famous scholar and author, and we promote the Constitution, and states in no uncertain terms that he had made some serious errors and he was going to correct them and that he was turning it over to the Ethics Committee to get it resolved; just what I was saying to you and we should. We are not different than anybody else in this House. And yet I think it is totally, totally inappropriate for the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, who has admitted that he failed for years to pay taxes on income that he received in the Dominican Republic, that he should not be assessed penalties and interest. For 10 years I practiced law in Texas, and I represented a lot of people who had trouble with the IRS. And I always saw when we finished it up and resolved their issues, penalties and interest. In many instances, the penalties and interest were more than the taxes. And Mr. RANGEL, and I don’t have exact numbers, but it was for a period of 10 or 15 years that he didn’t pay on this income. Why shouldn’t he pay penalties and interest?

So I wrote him a letter. I said very respectfully, Mr. Chairman, I am sure that you do not want to be treated any differently than any other American. I would request that you speak to the IRS and ask them to assess the appropriate penalties and interest, and that you pay them. I received no reply to that.

So I introduced a bill that I call the Rangel rule. The Rangel rule says very simply if you owe penalties and interest on income that you fail to pay, when you pay that tax, write on your tax form “exercising the Rangel rule” and you as an American citizen will be treated the same as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

I thought that was fair. I thought that was just. It is still in the hopper. I am perfectly willing, if the leadership of this House will bring it up, to put it to a vote of my colleagues, and we might be surprised; the Rangel rule might actually become law. But we should at least have that find of fair treatment for Americans, the same kind of fair treatment we expect to have. We don’t expect people in this Congress to get different treatment.

That is what I have been talking about, failing to report. We have to file a report every year. It is required by law. It is like an oath, and if you violate that oath, there are consequences of violating that oath. You basically swear this is what I owe, this is what I made. This is dividend income or interest income, or whatever. We sign and swear to that. That would at least be subject to perjury. And we file it every year.

Now the complaint that we give ranges is true. You can report that I own property that is worth between $250,000 and $500,000, and you don’t know exactly what below is that you are talking about, that that is the range. I didn’t write the forms; those are the forms. But if you fail to report it, you are given a certain amount of time to amend it. That is fair. People can miss something. And many of the things that Mr. RANGEL talked to us about when he talked on the floor of this House was the things that he didn’t report. That is good. He was being honest with the American people and the Chairman of the House. He turned that over to the Ethics Committee, too. I assume that he filed the amended reports. And that is sort of what we have been trying to get resolved before the Ethics Committee, is this something that should be sanctionable by the House? The Ethics Committee's job is to tell us that. We have certain sanctions that this House can have. They are set out in our rules. Those rules were given to us by Thomas Jefferson, a fairly famous scholar and author, and we have these rules, we have these sanctions, and that committee is supposed to function to start the process.

Today is the first anniversary of the process starting for that, just what I told you so far.

But since then, since that time other things have come forward. Mr. RANGEL has been found, in many newspaper articles that have been coming out about this, in a potential additional violation of under-reporting income and assets in 2007 by more than half, including the failure again to report the income from his Caribbean resort property. He has aids that work for him that also failed to file these reports and failed to disclose this information.

He also has a multi rent-controlled apartment was part of the discussions that took place at that time. He is using his House parking space as a storage place for a car he didn’t want to pay to be stored. His failure to report or pay taxes on his rental income in the Dominican Republic, the alleged quid pro quo trading legislation action in exchange for the new Rangel Center and College and New York College. All of these things are part of previous accusations. But now we have new propinquity, unrelated investments, brand new investment accounts, five different investment accounts that, oops, we just discovered those. And
we’ve just discovered rental properties over in Brooklyn, New York, and over in New Jersey, just discovered and have just come out in the newspapers. And there’s article after article after article.

As we celebrate this anniversary, here are some of the things that are out there. We just talked about some of them, the parking spot and all those things. There is also a trip taken by Mr. Rangel and others to the Caribbean by lobbyist. We had a firm promise by the Speaker and the leadership of this House, the Democrat leadership, that this was a new Congress, they were draining the swamp. Well, the swamp is not drained; in fact, we’re knee deep in alligators right now. But the draining of the swamp was there would be no more lobbyists paying for trips, when we have multiple Members of this House, including Mr. Rangel, who went on a lobbyist-paid trip where they are on film having a lobbyist pay for the trip, pay their contributions for their contributions to the trip.

People say, why isn’t this working? Why isn’t this Ethics Committee working? And of course the newspapers, who like to speculate, have pointed out that three of the five Democrat members on the Ethics Committee have received major campaign donations from Charlie Rangel. We asked why Speaker Pelosi hasn’t taken a hand in this and like to speculate, have pointed out that three of the five Democrat members on the Ethics Committee have received major campaign donations from Charlie Rangel.

And I can remember the excoriation that took place when Republicans were in the majority and Democrats were looking for anything that they could fabricate to allege against the people in power. And their constant attacks on Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, who had something like 74 charges brought against him; every one of them specious, none of them substantive, and none of them stuck in the end. But it was designed to focus on the person that held the most power here in the House of Representatives. And so that taints this. And people think that it’s purely a political battle that’s going on. Well, it’s political in a lot of ways. Judge Carter talked about how political it is with 119 Members of the Democrat Caucus in the House of Representatives having received a campaign check from Charlie Rangel. When you have a majority—or a near majority—or near the majority of your own caucus that you’ve contributed to their campaign, somehow they just magically, over time, lose their conviction to stand up for pure ethics.

And if it’s a shame, but the reality of the political world today is that it isn’t just a matter of altruism, it isn’t just people that come here—and many do come here to do the right thing; many come here because they want to help and improve the American people. They believe—they’re either liberals or conservatives or someplace in between, but they believe in what they do and they stand up and speak out about it. That sense of conviction, that sense of altruism is something that should be applauded and honored and respected whatever that judgment is, whether they’re liberals or whether they’re conservatives.

I think a lot of Americans believe that’s what drives this House. I’d like to think it is. It’s part of what drives this House. But another part that drives this House is political power, political patronage, campaign contributions. The influence that comes from being able to direct policy as chairman of a committee is a powerful thing, it’s an influential thing. And why does Chairman Rangel have all that money to give to 119 Members of his own caucus? He controls the writing committee. He controls a lot of the regulations that control the economy of the United States of America—at least the free market economy and what’s left of it.

The failure to report and pay taxes on rental income from the villa in the Dominican Republic is as clear as it can be. And was it an attack of conscience that Chairman Rangel had to go through financial statements? I think not, because to falsify those statements is a felony. But when the issue was raised by Judge Carter, by the New York Times, by a number of others, then the chairman stepped forward and amended his returns, and then amended them again—I actually don’t know how many rounds it’s been that those ethics reports or financial reports have been amended.

But they’re not, I can’t envision, being amended because there’s an attack of conscience; they’re being amended because the news media, John Carter, other Members have stepped forward and laid the facts out before the American people. They’re being amended to avoid the embarrassment and perhaps the prosecution in order to comply with and hopefully avoid an Ethics ruling when it comes out of the dysfunctional Ethics Committee in the House of Representatives.

But they’re not, I can’t envision, being amended because there’s an attack of conscience; they’re being amended because the news media, John Carter, other Members have stepped forward and laid the facts out before the American people. They’re being amended to avoid the embarrassment and perhaps the prosecution in order to comply with and hopefully avoid an Ethics ruling when it comes out of the dysfunctional Ethics Committee in the House of Representatives.

September 14, 2009
after you, Mr. CAMPBELL, but yes, I've been here a long time, it's okay. I think we're allowed to do that.

House Members don't do that. There are posthumous names for Federal buildings for Members of Congress, but it's very rare to find a Member of the House of Representatives to ask for real estate to be named after them; kind of a self-glorification. Quid pro quo? Possibly. It certainly raises a question.

But trips to the Caribbean, this is something that's fairly astonishing. The gift rule violation, the trips to the Caribbean that were sponsored by the Carib News Foundation in 2007 and 2008, raised all kinds of questions. Now the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee—which, by the way, shouldn't be in the business of trying to direct the IRS to examine anybody; he should be worried about national policy and how that affects on a broad perspective, not micromanaging and focusing on anecdotes. But he had the audacity to push for a crackdown on U.S. taxpayers who make honest mistakes on their own returns, and then on the heels of Secretary Geithner's crackdown of UBS depositors and say their own mistakes. The timing of this couldn't be worse.

And it goes on. The statement that I thought was really interesting was the Democrats' House of hypocrisy. They made a lot of allegations, but the House of hypocrisy run by Speaker PELOSI—and when a liberal newspaper like The New York Times is indignant at this and when a liberal newspaper like The New York Times is indignant about the price for freedom and what freedom is and about the pillars of American exceptionalism. They speak, and speak, and speak. They have blown the whistle at that time. If he would have come on the bench. I believe in that Lady Justice that some are saying this issue that I have raised about Mr. RANGEL has something to do with his race. I want to make it very clear: I spent 20 years on the bench. I believe in that Lady Justice that stands there with that blindfold. I can tell you in no uncertain terms—and I will leave it up to the people in my district, and you can check with them—that I never gave a sentence to a criminal defendant based on the color of his skin. I based it upon his behavior, and the behavior that needed punishing I certainly punished. It had nothing to do with the race of anybody.

When that happens, we'll learn the truth, and there will be a day when the American people rise up again as they did last Saturday, when they came into this city by the hundreds of thousands. Hundreds of thousands of people came on the steps of the Capitol on Saturday and registered their rejection and their contempt for the profligate overspending that has taken place in this Congress, for the corruption that's here and for the House of hypocrisy that it is. They want clean, decent people, like they are, representing them in this Congress. Between them, they have the solutions to everything that's wrong with America. They aren't all good ideas, but among them are all the ideas that we need to solve the problems that we have.

We need to listen to the American people. We need to listen to the Founding Fathers. We need to be re-anchored to the Constitution. We have got to reform our fiscal responsibility. We have got to take this IRS out of our lives and get back our freedom. We have got to give people school choice. We have got to make sure that future generations learn it right and that they learn about God and country—our true history—and about our Founding Fathers, about personal responsibility and about the price for freedom and what freedom is and about the pillars of American exceptionalism.

This House of hypocrisy is not a pillar of American exceptionalism. It is a corrosive entity that undermines the pillars of American exceptionalism. We must clean it up. It needs to happen now. Why not on the first anniversary of The New York Times' calling for the resignation of CHARLIE RANGEL as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee? As my father always said, there is no time like the present.

I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. I thank my friend for everything he had to say, and I agree with everything he said.

I want to say something that is concerning me. It has come to my attention, through the rumors that have spread around the Halls of Congress, that some are saying this issue that I have raised about Mr. RANGEL has something to do with his race. I want to make it very clear: I spent 20 years on the bench. I believe in that Lady Justice that stands there with that blindfold. I can tell you in no uncertain terms—and I will leave it up to the people in my district, and you can check with them—that I never gave a sentence to a criminal defendant based on the color of his skin. I based it upon his behavior, and the behavior that needed punishing I certainly punished. It had nothing to do with the race of anybody. When people start accusing someone of being a racist because he raises an issue of right and wrong, there's something wrong in this House of Representatives.
I bring this up now because I would hope this wouldn’t happen, but if it does, I stand ready, willing and able to point out that this has absolutely nothing to do with race.

By the way, Mr. Rangel isn’t the only one. Mr. Conyers and I have spoken against and said that we needed to do something about. I just had to get that off my chest. Before this stuff starts, I want you to know the race card has nothing to do with what I’m trying to do on the floor of the House. I’m trying to see that we get justice at this level.

Mr. King pointed out the fact that the Chairman of the IRS has got issues of not paying taxes. Who is going to go after him? Well, I’ll tell you who can—the Justice Department. You know, when there are allegations of improper behavior, if those things rise to the level of criminal behavior, it is the duty and responsibility of the Justice Department to investigate, and I think the Justice Department should. It’s supposed to be like that. It’s supposed to be blind to the political ramifications and going forward based only upon doing justice. That’s why it is called the “Justice Department.” If there are issues here that we have a rule which says the Governor—

This Congress has the ability to hold hearings on these issues, and they have the ability to hold hearings on the other issues that have been talked about here tonight, and it’s about time we did it. We have issues of major proportions that are being totally ignored by this House. This has become the House of hypocrisy, as Mr. King said. There are those who accused others of a culture of corruption just 2 years ago and had stepped, quite honestly, stepped forward on the floor of this House and admitted so. Now, as the corruption is being exposed, all of a sudden, we don’t hear anything more about that. It is hypocrisy. I wanted to bring that up because it’s important.

I’ve spent my lifetime trying to be like that Lady Justice—blind as to who you’re dealing with. If people will think back, I have said the reason I stand here tonight is because the rule of law that underlies this government is the very basic foundation of this Republic, and if we let the rule of law be forgotten or to be discarded and if we, as a people, are not bound together by those agreed laws we’ve agreed to through our legislative process and if political power or influence changes that, then we’re no different than a banana republic. Therefore, nothing is more sacred to the basic premises of a Republican form of government and a democracy than that all people, no matter what their statuses, are bound by the law.

Together, we just sent a man who stole in a Ponzi scheme billions of dollars from people around the world. Do you know what? It speaks to the American system. He is in prison tonight. That’s the rule of law, and that’s the way it’s supposed to be.

So, when we talk about this—and occasionally I do—I smile and have fun with it. I believe in Lady Justice. That’s the reality is, if we surrender the rule of law, we surrender our freedom and we surrender our Nation. We just can’t do it. With all the political back-and-forth that may go on on the floor of this House, I believe in my heart—that every person who sits in these seats is about standing up for the rule of law. If they are not, they don’t belong here, because the rule of law is the glue that holds our society and our Republic together. It’s very simple. It’s not a complex issue. It’s that people, as a people, decide to govern themselves with certain rules and regulations that are required of us as citizens. It’s what we promise to do by being good citizens. So we’re not going to take a handgun and walk across the street and rob the grocery store, because that is disruptive, and society has decided we’re not going to tolerate that. That armed robbery in Texas will put you in prison for life, and believe me, I can tell you, several people who know that very fact.

There’s a reason we have laws: They hold our society together. It’s not a law that says the poor immigrant gets the prison sentence and the rich executive walks away because he broke the law and the punishment is prison, they both ought to go to prison because that’s the rule of law.

So, when we have issues that affect the rule of this House and, maybe, the rules of law of this Nation—right now, I’m talking about the rules of the people’s House. This is the House of the people. This is the only House of the people. Don’t let those Senators fool you, okay? They’re not the House of the people. They’re not the House of the nation. We have a rule which says this is the House that is elected by the people. If we have a Senator die, the States can fill that vacant seat in the Senate. If someone dies in this House or is removed or leaves office in the middle of a term, nobody appoints his replacement. It is unlawful to appoint his replacement, because the Constitution of these United States says this is the House that is elected by the people. If we have a Senator die, the States can have a rule which says the Governor—and in fact, my State has that rule. If a Senator dies or leaves office in the middle of a term, the Governor gets to appoint a replacement Senator until such time as an election is held, and most States have something along those lines, which means they’re not necessarily placed in that office by the people. That’s the difference. When we say this is the House of the people, this is the only House of the people.

If we can’t abide by our own rules when we are in charge of making those rules that govern life in America, what kind of example is that? Maybe those folks who’ve been in the streets for the last couple of weeks, who’ve been marching and yelling and fussing about Congress, have got something to fuss about; because the truth is, if we can’t govern our own House, how can we be expected to govern our Nation?

I have been pointing out to the Democratic leadership of this House, who has this responsibility—you know, when you’re in the majority, you govern. When we were in the minority, we governed. Governing is hard. It’s harder than being in the minority. In the minority, you can just vote your conscience, and that’s what we all should do anyway, but in the majority, you’re responsible for the results just like whoever sits in the White House is responsible for the results.

Well, I can’t even figure out our own little rules and make our own little rules happen, how can we make laws that are responsible for the results that affect the people in Iowa or the people in Texas or the people in Louisiana or the people in Oregon or the people in Maine? How can the people have confidence if we can’t even take care of our own little rules?

By the way, an issue is coming up, I think, in this House. Whether you’re for it or against it, Joe Wilson made an outcry the other night, and he knows and has admitted that he should not have done that. In the heat of emotion, he made an outcry while the President was speaking. Joe is a very honorable man, and he immediately apologized to the President of the United States, and he immediately, in writing, apologized to the White House and to the Vice President. Now there is some street rumor that a privileged resolution is going to be filed on the floor of this House to censure Mr. Wilson before this Congress.

Of course, it’s kind of interesting that the process is normally done through privileged resolutions, but there’s usually some involvement by the Ethics Committee. I don’t see any here. The Speaker has already said she didn’t think it was appropriate to do that. She made the statement that we should move on with health care and that he has apologized. I read that in the newspaper. Yet we’re going forward on this. Then I’m crying for 12 weeks about really offensive behavior: When you pay your taxes, don’t you think the guy who runs the Ways and Means Committee ought to pay his taxes? I don’t see anybody jumping up, except the one time I did, and offering a privileged resolution. Mine was tabled on party lines and didn’t get addressed. But I find it curious. I think Joe Wilson has apologized. He has acted like a gentleman, and I think that’s where it ought to be. I agree with Speaker Pelosi’s statements of 3 days ago to the press that we should move on. We’ll see, but I hope we don’t do that because it’s just going to add, I say, to the hypocrisy of what we’re talking about.

I yield back to my friend from Iowa.
And listening to the dialogue here on floor, I have to also rise in defense of the individual that everybody knows here is a true gentleman, a true Southern gentleman, and that’s Congressman Joe Wilson of South Carolina. anybody that knows Joe knows that he is the consummate officer and a gentleman.

He comes from generations of military personnel. He has four sons that have served in the military. And Joe spends his life and his time respecting others, respecting our military people who serve this country. And I have never known Joe to be anything other than a respectful, polite, gentleman, and, yet, duty, honor, country.

He was offended by what he heard here in the House of Representatives. And, for me, so was I.

The President of the United States came into the House of Representatives, as our guest, and stood here at the podium, here in the well, from the rostrum of the Speaker, and he threw the first stone. And he said, the prominent politicians had lied, and he began to tell how the President’s masterful diplomacy brought everybody together at the White House. And we all knew what kind of beer everybody drank sitting there at the picnic table sitting outside—I actually don’t know if they drank any. We know that they served it.

Well, so the President has accepted Joe Wilson’s apology, and we are watching, through the majority whip, drive a resolution towards the floor tomorrow to try to exorcise a Southern gentleman.

And the President is sitting there now, having accepted the apology, and all he has to do is tell Rahm Emanuel, pick up the phone, call up there and say, talk to Ben Cardin, Steny HOYER, the majority leader, and call off the dogs. We don’t need this circus on the floor of the House of Representatives over something that may or may not have offended the President of the United States.

But that’s over because he has accepted the apology. So now if we have a circus on the floor of the House, and the President doesn’t come in and become the referee—and maybe call for a beer summit, so invite Joe Wilson out to the White House, that’s what I would like to see happen—if the President doesn’t call for that you have to wonder if he isn’t secretly sitting there watching the fight, enjoying it, enjoying the circus that they are staging for tomorrow.

The circus itself will bring disgrace on the House of Representatives, and it’s designed to cover this House of hypocrisy that we have. But instead it will illuminate it. And as the judge was saying about the rule of law, when I write rule of law, I capitalize it. Rule of law, R and L, capitalize it, in every way. Sometimes the staff slips by, but I get it in there, because I have such reverence for the rule of law.

And if we are going to be a Nation that functions, we all have got to have reverence for the rule of law. And if you don’t have those principles that are pretty good workers—more so than the people that I think in Mexico than Russia from my observations, but they also were used to payoffs. They are used to payoffs. They don’t think they can make a difference. They don’t think their voice matters.

And when it gets to that point in the country where people don’t believe anything, that is the voice and the culture of a country, you cannot have influence, the rule of law, the central pillar of American exceptionalism. Without it, we would have never become the unchallenged greatest Nation in the world.

But we are, because of that central pillar, the rule of law. Now, there are many other pillars, but the central pillar is the rule of law, and we have got to respect it.

And if you don’t like the law, we will run for office or support somebody that does and ask them to change it. That’s why we have this system. We have amendments to the Constitution. We don’t like the Constitution, find a way to amend it.

If the people speak, we are supposed to listen here. Hundreds of thousands of people have had that throughout these centuries in the United States of America. And the things that threaten it, it isn’t just a reflection of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee that has this whole list of ethical problems, including tax avoidance, and that’s the way I can say that. It isn’t just that. It’s the culture that supports it.

It’s the Speaker of the House that enables it. It’s the majority leader that backs it up. It’s the fact that we are dealing with this House of hypocrisy while we are trying to set standards for the people of the United States of America and saying be altruistic, pay your taxes, follow through and do your part. And if you do that, we are a greater country.

But if people decide to take the CHARLIE Rangel/Tim Gellner route, we can’t have enough enforcement officers out there working for the IRS to go out and collect enough taxes to go out and run this government. It’s got to be because people have great respect and reverence for the rule of law, and it should start here. This should be the highest standard in the House of Representatives.

But if I go to Mexico or if I go to Russia, I see there are natural resources, I see a good labor force, people that are pretty good workers—more so than the people that I think in Mexico than Russia from my observations, but they also were used to payoffs. They are used to payoffs. They don’t think they can make a difference. They don’t think their voice matters.
showed up in Washington D.C. over this past weekend. And we need to hear what they have to say.

But they want to respect their elected Representatives. They want the rule of law to adhere to. They don’t want to see the country flooded over with the level of corruption that we have seen in places like Mexico and Russia, or I go there and I think, what can be done?

I can prescribe the solutions that I think are very constructive to those countries. It’s that you could snap your fingers and get rid of the corruption in those countries, that would be the biggest thing that could be done. And then the people would have hope; they would have faith again. They would believe again that their government was responsible and responsive to them.

But the rule of law—and I think about how important it is to comply with the letter and the intent of the law, not just avoid prosecution, not just find a way to skirt around the edge, but if you could control your activities by enforcing a law that one can point to, therefore, whatever he might do apparently is acceptable or maybe even moral.

In the absence of prohibition, things become moral in this era of morals relativism. I reject that. We have got to have high standards, high standards of conscience, high standards of morality, and our laws uphold those standards. And the people on the left will claim constantly you argue you can’t legislate morality.

Well, but if you de-legislate the morality that others legislated, now you have now you have lowered the standard. Now you have lowered the bar. And now people believe it’s acceptable, and it has happened over and over again. Our legislation is morality. Our legislation, the laws of America, the laws of our States and our local subdivisions, uphold the moral standards of the people that pass them.

It’s often our faith; our Judeo-Christian values are what shaped this country. The Declaration and the Constitution are infused with Judeo-Christian values. And those values are part of the culture reflected in the documents, not the documents that drove the culture.

And if we lose our culture, the documents will become meaningless to us. That’s why we have got to stand up for the rule of law here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and everybody in America has to stand up for the rule of law, the letter and the intent of law, and the moral and ethical foundation that underpins it, or we lose our way, and we lose our country. Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for that impassioned speech. We have about 5 minutes more left.

So I make it very clear, I don’t think I made it clear, but Roll Call newspaper recently reported 25 some of these issues with Mr. RANGEL. I am going to go through them very quickly. He filed an amended return about his 2007 assets and income disclosing more than $600,000 in assets, tens of thousands of dollars in income, that he had failed to report. He failed to report, for instance, a Congressional Federal Credit Union, which is just right down the hall from us here, account of at least $250,001; an investment fund account also worth at least $250,001.

He originally claimed assets of $516,000 to $1,316 million. Now he has revised it to $1,028 million to $2.5 million.

And once again he failed to report the income on his Dominican Republic account. He failed to report investments that netted him between 29,000 and 81,000 in capital gains dividends and in rental income when he previously claimed between 6,000 and 17,000.

He failed to report his investment in certain stocks, at least 1,001 of Yum brands; 15,001 in PepsiCo; and 250,001 in funds of Allianz Global Investors Consults Diversified Port III, half the limit, number three.

He failed to report rental income, and that’s on top of the multiple allegations we have been talking about. It’s time for a Member that justice must be swift and justice delayed is justice denied.

I ask the leadership of this House to move this process, reconcile these differences we have been talking about. It’s time for a Member that justice must be swift and justice delayed is justice denied.

I ask the leadership of this House to move this process, reconcile these issues of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and let’s resolve this crisis of this House so we can no longer be called the House of hypocrisy.

EXAMINING THE FACTS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to take a little time to examine some of the statements President Obama made when he addressed Congress on the issue of health care. Many of the things he mentioned in his address deserve some clarification or outright rebuttal.

The President said that, Not a dollar of the Medicare trust fund will be used to pay for this plan. That was easy for the President to say, and it is technically correct. It is technically correct only because there is no Medicare trust fund. It is an accounting mirage, a sham of government IOUs, thanks to decades of government deficit spending.

And, furthermore, among more than $500 million in proposed savings from Medicare, the Democrat bills also proposed using $23 billion from the Medicare Improvement Fund to fund new health care entitlements. According to current law, the Medicare Improvement Fund is designated specifically to make improvements under the original Medicare fee-for-service program.

Then there is the issue of taxpayer-funded abortion coverage. President Obama said. Under our plan, no Federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and Federal conscience laws will remain in place. But independent groups have confirmed that the legislation will result in Federal funds being used to pay for abortions—both through the government-run health plan and through Federal subsidies provided through the exchange, despite various accounting gimmicks created in a so-called Energy and Commerce Committee ‘compromise’.

Republicans offered amendments in all three of the committees to say this money cannot be used for abortions, and they were rebuffed at each turn.

President Obama also went on to claim that, ‘Reducing the waste and inefficiency in Medicare and Medicaid will pay for most of this plan. Much of the rest will be paid for with revenues from the very same drug and insurance companies that stand to benefit from tens of millions of new customers.’’

But the Congressional Budget Office had previously found that the cuts to Medicare Advantage plans included in the Democrat legislation would result in millions of seniors, including thousands and thousands in my district in North Carolina, losing their current plan—a direct contradiction of the President’s assertion that, Nothing in this plan requires you to change what you have.

The President could have strengthened his statements by quoting sections and lines to back up the statements. We who have presented our alternatives and who have stood to refute the comments have been able, in most cases, to quote the section and the line of the bill to show that what we are saying is the truth.

As you can see from this discussion of the President’s speech, when it comes to the debate over health care reform, there are often two sides to the issue, and it is simply not as cut and dried as President Obama has tried to make it out.

Many of us have serious misgivings about disagreements with the proposed legislation and will not allow our disagreements to be misrepresented and sidelined by lofty rhetoric.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from
Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to enter remarks on this topic in the Congressional Record on this page.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Certainly I appreciate the opportunity to join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, for this Special Order. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable Barbara Lee from the Ninth Congressional District of California.

My name is Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, and I represent the 11th Congressional District of the State of Ohio. CBC members are advocates for the human dignity and potential of all people. They are advocates for the importance of increasing access to both education and financial services in Africa.

Specifically, I will discuss increasing access to education in Africa, and the economic, social and political responsibilities to help advance a bright future for Africa.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am proud to point out that the Congressional Black Caucus is privileged to draw upon the wisdom and expertise of people of color and the experience of those in Africa to grow, using research as those in Africa to grow, using research.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be a focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As Congress, CBC members also promote legislation to aid neglected citizens throughout the world. We understand that the United States, as a bellwether, has the ability to positively impact our neighbors abroad.

The CBC is a leader in advocating for the underprivileged at home and abroad. Americans understand that if we uplift others, then we, too, will be advanced.

With this in mind, tonight's CBC hour will focus on poverty reduction and the economic, social and political outlook for the continent of Africa. Specifically, I will discuss increasing access to both education and financial services in Africa.

As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, I know well the far-reaching effects of education on individuals' quality of life and a nation's economic competitiveness. In the context of improving developing nations such as many African countries, the basic education offers the hope of a more prosperous world.

The benefits of basic education are innumerable. For instance, we know that when citizens receive proper education, their nation's economic prosperity is increased, preventable illness is decreased, democratic ideals are spread, violent conflicts are reduced, and women are able to advance further than if they were discouraged from pursuing their studies.

Mr. Speaker, I see we have been joined by our Chair, the Honorable Barbara Lee from California. I would now like to yield to the gentlelady, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me thank the gentlelady for yielding and also for organizing once again the voice of the Congressional Black Caucus. Thank you, Congresswoman Fudge, for continuing to raise the critical issues that our entire country must address at this moment in our history, and thank you so much for having a focus tonight on the continent of Africa, which is so important to our country.

Africa faces numerous challenges, which you mentioned earlier, but also enormous opportunities, and the promotion and the strengthening of the United States-Africa relationship is really vital to realizing the progress that's being made in addressing enduring crises related to food insecurity, the devastating health pandemic, such as HIV and AIDS, and the growing rates of inequality and poverty. Also, the economic development.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am proud to point out that the Congressional Black Caucus is privileged to draw upon the wisdom and the expertise of our colleague on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman Donald Payne of New Jersey. Congressman Payne is more than a member, however; he is a resident expert on Africa. He understands the continent and each country on the continent.

He is the Chair of the Africa and Global Health Subcommittee. He is recognized on the continent of Africa as being a person who seeks global peace and security every step of the way. He is also the leader of our Congressional Black Caucus International Affairs Task Force.

The Congressional Black Caucus also is ably represented on the Foreign Affairs Committee by Congressman Gregory Meeks of New York; Congressman Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri; Congressman Donald Payne of New Jersey; Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts; and Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts.

President Obama has likewise demonstrated a clear commitment to turn the corner in Africa, most notably with his announcement of a government-wide United States review of the U.S. Global Development Policy. Also, a renewed $3.5 billion food security initiative that we spent a large portion of our budget on foreign affairs, but we just do not do that.

Instead of spending a staggering 52 percent of the Federal discretionary budget on an inflated defense budget for the Pentagon, that continues to invest in Cold War-era weapons systems to the tune of about $1 trillion for, really, an enemy that does not exist, we should be investing in diplomacy and development activities that will help bring stability to nations on the brink of collapse and conflict. That is the essence of how we ensure our own national security.

That's why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 63, a resolution calling for an increase in nonmilitary foreign assistance to an amount equal to no less than 1 percent of GDP. It's hard to imagine we're not even at 1 percent yet.

Foreign assistance programs are essential in promoting national security and improving the credibility and standing of the United States in the world. To that end, our Congressional Black Caucus will continue to work to...
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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

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Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Speaker, I would just very much like to thank our Chair for being here at every Special Order, for the support that she has given to me personally but, more importantly, for the leadership she gives to the CBC. I thank you, Madam Chair, for being here.

Mr. Speaker, if I may continue, I wanted to just talk about the economic prosperity of the African continent. Many African countries do still, in deed, struggle to achieve economic sustainability and growth. This pursuit is undermined in part by the large number of citizens who have not received a basic education. Not only is an economically viable nation achieved its prosperity without implementing near universal primary education. Additionally, education increases a Nation’s gross domestic product. Adults with a primary school certificate earn twice as much as adults without any schooling.

In the areas of health, education and behavior changes are also the most effective way to address preventible diseases, including smallpox, tuberculosis, diarrhea and other water-borne illnesses. According to some estimations, if all children completed primary education, 700,000 new cases of AIDS and HIV could be prevented each year.

We also need to improve the political stability of this important continent. Education and the free exchange of ideas also encourages democratic styles of government. When citizens are well informed, they are more likely to participate in their democracy. As it relates to violent conflicts, education that teaches tolerance, the value of each individual, and respect for different beliefs is the best method to reduce violence and extremism.

Basic education provides girls and women with an opportunity for economic empowerment, which is important for the overall advancement of families. Women’s employability is especially crucial if they are the family’s sole support. Children of educated women are in better health and are twice as likely to be enrolled in school. Twelve percent of the government’s budget for 2001–2002 would be $233 million, more than half the year 2015. In Nigeria, which is the most populous country in Africa, there is a shortage of 1 million teachers.

Not only are workforce shortages caused by the difficulty of providing adequate education, the availability of teachers on the continent is also impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The disease, itself, has robbed education systems of manpower and knowledge worldwide. According to a report released by the World Bank in 2002, an estimated 860,000 children in sub-Saharan Africa lost teachers to AIDS in 1999. In some cases where there has been an increase in class enrollment, the loss of one teacher can affect hundreds of students. The cost of replacing these instructors is prohibitive for many countries. If the nation of Swaziland hired and trained enough staff to replace the teachers lost to HIV and AIDS, the estimated cost would be $233 million, more than half of the government’s budget for 2001–2002.

Again, there are too many primary and secondary schools in the developing world that are forced to rely on student fees to supplement government funding. These fees, while modest by American standards, often prevent children from enrolling. Similarly, primary school children cannot afford the uniforms commonly required by the schools.

In 2003, Kenya eliminated primary school fees in a step towards universal primary education for its entire population. For the first time, more than 10 million students who had not previously attended school then enrolled, increasing the average class size from 40 to 120. Kenyan
took a step in the right direction, but these actions must be coupled with greater investment by local governments and donors to address the issues of quality that arise when access to education is increased.

While this statistic represents an improvement in the rate of primary school enrollment during the early nineties of over 10 percent, we should also be aware that the problems still remain. In countries such as Djibouti, Ethiopia, Niger and Mali, less than half of all school-age children go to school, and there is a disparity in enrollment rates between boys and girls. Forty-two percent of girls as opposed to 38 percent of boys are out of school.

As the international community and donors discuss the importance of quality education, we must remember the vast numbers of teachers who will need to be trained and what this means to the international partners who work with African governments and civil society.

Africa's education is a long-term path to economic viability. Stimulating small businesses through micro-lending is another method of improving the economies of developing nations, which will ultimately lead to expanded trade and business opportunities for all of the world.

I and several Members recently returned from a congressional delegation to Tunisia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Senegal. Our goal was to educate Members on the impact that the global financial crisis has had on the continent of Africa. Additionally, we examined the regional impact of multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, and the International Monetary Fund.

The codel spent significant time examining the effects of the global economic crisis on local economies. We were especially interested in how the multilateral development banks and the United States supports, particularly the African Development Bank, are helping countries to obtain grants, loans and technical assistance. We also explored the role and impact of the IMF on the region during this period of economic crisis.

Africa is of increasing strategic interest to the global economy. The continent is expected to soon provide the United States with more petroleum than the Middle East. Again, I will repeat, the continent is expected to soon provide the United States with more petroleum than we get from the Middle East.

Several reports state that more than half of all Africans are estimated to live on a dollar or less a day. The nations we visited were interested in help, not a handout. Well-intentioned countries and organizations have poured billions of dollars into improving conditions for Africans, but their efforts have repeatedly failed to stimulate a sustainable and self-reliant lifestyle. This is, in part, because many of these groups do not fully incorporate local traditions, values and attitudes into their assistance programs. Assistance can only be successful if it is culturally sensitive and adapts to the needs of the local community.

The direct impact of the global crisis on Africa, however, has been relatively contained to date. Institutions have not been severely affected by the crisis since African banks generally are not well integrated into the global financial system. Nonetheless, African countries still are at risk of indirect adverse effects. With worldwide demand for African exports, a dampening of economic growth, a tightening of credit, and reduced remittance flows. Despite these setbacks, Mr. Speaker, African countries can greatly benefit from programs that both encourage productivity and promote economic independence.

Access to formal financial services is a key component of economic development. One method to facilitate development is microfinance. Microfinance is where institutions or even individuals grant small loans to other individuals, usually to establish or expand a small or self-sustaining business. When individuals gain access to credit, they can start a business, hire their families, and stimulate local economic growth. For example, a loan made to a woman to buy a sewing machine can yield an income when she offers her sewing and tailoring services. Or if a loan helps a family purchase a cow, the global profit from the cow can generate both nourishment and income.

The average microfinance loan amount ranges from $50 to $5,000, and the repayment cycle can range from 90 days to 18 months. Repayment of microfinance loans is 98 percent compared to regular business loans by traditional lenders. Official microfinance organizations are currently only reaching 5 to 8 percent of the businesses who are in dire need of loans. Access to credit for the poor is in dire need as well. Microfinancing institutions also provide access to savings accounts.

Microfinance has proven to be successful because of its ability to reach the poor, especially women with highly sustainable programs that have a positive impact. As the United Nations Office of Special Adviser on Africa reports, women are a better credit risk than men and more responsible managers of their resources. Furthermore, women are, and I quote, more committed to using their loans for the benefit of their household rather than self-gratifying consumption, as is common among many African men. Empowering women sets families on the path toward economic independence.

This case study demonstrates how microfinance can help alleviate poverty.

In 2007, Absa Bank Group in South Africa established a dedicated microfinance unit to make funding more readily available to businesses that are formally excluded from getting regular bank loans. It has been estimated that as many as 97 percent of microentrepreneurs in South Africa had no access to loans prior to receiving funding through the AMEF. Today, more than 4.5 million people on low incomes use Absa Bank services for everything from microloans to saving accounts and transfers. Microfinance is the way for microenterprise loans in South Africa.

In addition to providing loans, microfinance institutions can also support individuals by keeping savings in a secure manner and by helping to accumulate interest on deposits.

This allows the poor to lift themselves out of poverty.

Self-reliance, Mr. Speaker, is the key. I've seen both the despair and the resiliency of Africans. In Rwanda I met a woman who was given a cow. Shortly after she received the cow, the cow had a calf, which she was then obligated to give to her neighbor. But based upon the cow she had and the milk that she could harvest from that particular cow, she was able to not only feed her family but to sell enough milk to then buy a bicycle.

She bought a bicycle, Mr. Speaker, so that she could ride the 3 miles it took to get clean water. So instead of walking, now she could ride and send her children to get clean water. She then made enough money to send her children to school and pay the fees. She then took out a loan and bought another cow, and with that cow she is able now to buy food and clothing. She is able to do much more than she was before. She is really quite an entrepreneur. And, by the way, Mr. Speaker, this woman has AIDS. But she is raising her children out of poverty. Because someone gave her a cow and she had the ability to go from there.

Mr. Speaker, in the very near future, microloans that support small-scale entrepreneurship will improve the lives of Africans and empower them to work their way out of poverty. Microfinance is already proven in India and Bangladesh to be an effective economic development strategy. According to World Vision, one loan, just one loan, can create 40 jobs in a community of approximately 600 to 700 people.

The difficulties faced by African nations should not deter us from providing assistance. Through America's support of expanding basic education and access to financial services, we can assist African leaders and people in creating a more vibrant continent and, in turn, a richer world. My recent experience has confirmed for me that both of these approaches can empower people by providing them with confidence, self-esteem, and the financial means to contribute to their economic advancement. Our moral strength is only enhanced when we help others. Truly, Mr. Speaker, we lift as we rise.
HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MASSA). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as always, it hurts me to have to stand and oppose the power of the purse. But I am here today, as I always am, to represent my constituents here on the floor of the House of Representatives and convey the thought process for myself and a good number of my colleagues about the issues of the day. And I will be able to cap off this evening and send some people to bed with some thoughts that they’ll wake up in the morning supporting or else have good reasons to oppose.

A lot has transpired here since the August break began, and we only have 1 week behind us here in the House of Representatives since we have returned. That deep tradition has been that Members of Congress would leave Washington, D.C. in the hot, humid months of July and August and return with a fresh face and a fresh mind before air conditioning. It’s a good tradition, and I think we should keep it because we saw something phenomenal in America this past August, and it seemed like a never-ending series of townhall meetings that took place in community after community. Nearly every congressional district held something. Some held many, many meetings. I don’t know the record on the number of the townhall meetings that were had, but it fell in the dozens of meetings for a single Member.

For myself I represent 32 counties in western Iowa, the western third of the State, that’s sliced from Minnesota down to Missouri, 32 counties, 286 towns. I held a good number of townhall meetings, and it was a very rewarding experience. The thing that I take away from it, Mr. Speaker, and there are many—I got some feedback on the health care issue that are on my list that I will talk about here in a moment, Mr. Speaker. But the thing that I will remember the most, it isn’t a single issue or a single individual or a way an argument was phrased or worded or how compelling they were, and there were many that were compelling arguments, but it was the image of town after town, meeting after meeting, rooms full of people, often people in standing room around the outside, some people standing and looking in the doorway. We always found a way, I think, though, where everybody could hear. If they wanted in, they could get in. We couldn’t always hear the comments of everyone because there were just too many.

But the dissenters had their say. And they actually had, I think, a disproportionate amount of voice within the meetings that I had, but that’s all right. We got to hear from both sides of the argument. We got to hear from more of those that oppose a national health care plan than those that support it. Those that supported it were a distinct minority in my district, but they had more than their fair share to say.

So I weighed those issues, and I watched their reaction. But the thing I remember the most were hundreds of attentive people sitting there with focused attention, listening to every word, listening to the words that were spoken by their friends, their neighbors, their family members, listened to the responses that I gave, and weighing this and putting it into their calculator for what America is going to look like.

I will never forget those faces, those eyes looking up to the front of the room, paying attention to every word, taking notes. Some of the questions were so well worded, so carefully phrased, you could tell that there was a deep amount of research that went into the questions. I wondered if some of them didn’t stay up nearly all night long to be ready just for their chance, their chance to have that moment to have that voice.

And I’m so encouraged by their commitment, and I wish they had more voice. I wish we could hear them now, Mr. Speaker. I wish we could fill this Chamber up with the people that filled those rooms up throughout this country, and especially the leadership, but the rank and file of all of us that have the privilege here to serve in the House of Representatives could hear those voices again in here.

I hope when we debate a health care bill here on the floor of the House that this gallery is full of people. I hope the C-SPAN camera, Mr. Speaker, represents millions out there that are watching every move, listening to every word, people that are taking notes, people that are tape-recording our actions and our words and carefully analyzing, and I hope we’re held accountable for the decisions that are made in committee where generally it doesn’t get the press that it gets here on the floor.

But when the day comes, the American people need to know that they have been heard, that we went home, that we traveled our districts, we did our townhall meetings, and that we came back and conferred with each other and arrived at a decision that’s the right decision for the long-term best interests of our descendants, our progeny and their descendants as well, Mr. Speaker.

So I hope that’s what happens. And I don’t know that it will. I don’t know that it will because there are forces at play, and some of the people, especially in the majority, have voiced this, that their townhall meetings with their constituents are just one of the places where they get the information to decide. Other places might be the lobby. It might be their coffers. It might be their leadership. And it could be just simply a deeply entrenched philosophy that favors Big Government over freedom.

So for me in my townhall meetings, if there was one position that I took that I was clear on that had the most support of all, it was I will not support a bill that diminishes the people’s freedom in the United States of America.

That’s my pledge, Mr. Speaker. I will not diminish our freedom. It’s my freedom too, and I have taken an oath to uphold this Constitution and our Constitution and it’s about freedom. It isn’t just about individual freedom. It’s about the 10th Amendment. It’s about the freedom of the States to control those things which are not specifically delegated to the Federal Government. This Federal Government has reached across the 10th Amendment and violated at least the spirit and I will say also the letter of the Constitution over and over again.

And if this United States of America passes a health care bill that looks anything like H.R. 3200, it will be a violation of our Constitution consistently in several different ways.

And I’m very concerned about where we go with this: the disregard, the cavalier attitude that many Members of Congress have towards the Constitution, towards their oath to the Constitution, towards its meaning and to-ward its content.

And this drive to create this single-payer system, you know, you just couldn’t drive the wooden stake in the heart of HillaryCare back in 1993 and 1994. When Senator Phil Gramm stood up at the heart of the Senate right down this hallway where I’m faced right now and he said this health care bill, this national health care bill will pass over my cold, dead political body, a lot of people thought that Senator Phil Gramm was going to become a cold, dead political body and that HillaryCare was going to pass. But it has not. It’s been 15 years and more since Phil Gramm made that statement, and he has held off this nationalizing health care, this socialized medicine juggernaut. He has and many others have too. It has been a national effort.

Yes, there are people out there that think that they’d be better off if somebody else would take the responsibility for their health care, and they are large in number but small in percentage, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I will make this point that we have constantly heard the words and the statistics that 46 million people that are uninsured in America, that we have got to do something about the uninsured. And this number of 40 million usually rounds up to around 44 million. Now it has kind of crept up to 47 million and probably the most reliable number is close to 46 million people uninsured in America. Now, that’s a pretty large percentage of our population. We have about 306 million Americans, and if 46 or 47 million are uninsured, that’s, let’s see, one-sixth or a little bit less of our population.

It’s funny that the uninsured is about the same percentage of our population as the GDP is consumed by health care.
But if that number is 47 million, and that's the highest number that's consistently delivered by the other side, and sometimes they stretch it and round it up to 50 million, but if the uninsured in America are 47 million, they would have us believe that the 47 million chronically uninsured people that are stuck on those uninsured rolls year after year after year.

Well, that's not the case, Mr. Speaker. A lot of these people are just temporarily uninsured and they're in transition policies. So as those policies change, occasionally they find themselves without coverage.

But I began to ask this question a little more carefully, and that is, Who are the people with affordable options? If somebody's uninsured and they're making a million dollars a year, I'm sorry, my heart doesn't bleed for them. They have decided that they don't care to have a health insurance policy and they're willing to take the risk with their health, and I'm not my medical. In fact, the United States Senate Republican conference staff set the bar at $75,000 a year. If you make $75,000 or more a year and you don't have health insurance, we are not going to put you in the category where you get a lot of our governmental compassion to extract dollars out of somebody else's labor to provide that person making over $75,000 a year with health insurance.

Now, the President has decided to do class envy at $250,000; but let me just say that if you're making more than $75,000, you can find a way to pay for your own health insurance even if you just buy catastrophic, and you should get a health savings account and grow that health savings account and buy a major medical policy, a catastrophic health insurance policy, take care of your own incidental health care bills. But 47 million uninsured at any given time, the biggest number that we get.

Now, down, Mr. Speaker, to who are the people without affordable options, you take the 47 million and you subtract from it those that we really don't want to provide health insurance for out of the taxpayers' pocket at least, and that's going to be those that are in the country illegally. Even the President of the United States doesn't insist that we insure illegals under this policy. It was a new position that he took the other night. I'm not sure that he's as serious as he would like, but I was encouraged that right back here a few feet behind me, the President of the United States said, no, we are not going to fund illegals. Well, H.R. 3200 does. The Congressional Budget Office thinks so. The Congressional Research Service thinks so.

The vote that took place in the Ways and Means Committee that voted down the citizenship standard requirements in order to qualify for under H.R. 3200, this health care bill. That partisan vote. Or Democrats voted down the language that would require proof of citizenship that's tried, tested, and used to be part of our Medicaid policy from the beginning, was voted down by a vote of 29-28 in the Ways and Means Committee. Demo- crats then wanted to leave a door open, at least in committee, so illegals could be funded under that newer policy.

That also was the case in the Ways and Means Committee, right down the line they voted down the effort to try to raise the standard and require proof of citizenship. But the President is now taking the position he doesn't want to fund illegals in this. I think he got pushed into that pretty hard.

So 47 million uninsured at a given time minus 5.2 million illegals, this is according to the Republican Conference in the United States Senate. I think there are a lot more than that, but not enrolled. They have the numbers right here, and they're 65.8 million.

They're under the 5-year bar; no welfare until you've been here 5 years, take care of yourself for half a decade, and then you can qualify if you come legally. Under the 5-year bar, another 5 million.

Now we're adding this up. So you have 5.2 million illegals, 5 million new immigrants, but legal, under the 5-year bar, now we're at 10.2 million. Those making $75,000 a year or more, I mentioned those illegals, there are 9 million of those. Those who qualify for government programs, all part of the 47 million, 9.7 million Americans qualify for government programs but don't sign up, mostly Medicaid, Medicaid eligibles but not enrolled. They make more than $75,000 a year or more, 9.7 million eligible for government programs, mostly Medicaid, but not signed up, and 6 million eligible for employer programs not signed up. That comes to 34.9 million Americans of the 47 million that we've rounded up, mostly Medicaid, Medicaid eligibles but not enrolled. They make more than $75,000 a year or more, 9.7 million eligible for government programs, mostly Medicaid, but not signed up, and 6 million eligible for employer programs not signed up.

That's the highest number that's consistently delivered by the other side, and sometimes they stretch it and round it up to 34.9 million. Take that off 47 and you come to 12.1 million Americans without affordable options. That is the universe we're trying to fix.
government problem to spend more money when you’re spending too much. And so even if the President identifies the problem correctly, he has the erroneous solution to apply to it: Volia, we spend too much money, therefore, the solution is to spend more. This was the approach he brought to this economic crisis to demand more money through the stimulus fund, too, when we came to our conference and said, FDR lost his nerve, he should have solved the problem by spending more money. He convinced us that the President of the United States wasn’t going to make that mistake, he was going to spend a lot more money. He was going to be FDR-Keynesian economics on steroids. And that’s what we got, Mr. Speaker. And the White House made a $2 trillion mistake on their projections, $2 trillion.

I remember when the junior Senator from Iowa, Tom Harkin, made the statement that $5 billion was just pencil dust. He walked around with a man-size pencil to talk about pencil dust. Well, I don’t know that $5 billion was pencil dust—in that context it can be questioned. But I can tell you that $1.6 trillion is not pencil dust. But if you put together $2 trillion and the target is not pencil dust. That’s real, huge money.

But if we’re spending too much money on health care, then why wouldn’t the things that fix the problem? Why don’t we come at this in a different way and go after those most obvious things that we can use to fix the problem? Now, for example, how much money does defensive medicine cost? What does it work with—in the macro economics of the health care equation? And there are some numbers that will rattle on down to around 5.5 percent of overall health care costs. The health insurance underwriters, the top legislative officer gave me a number of 8.5 percent, the cost of medical malpractice premiums and litigation and defensive medicine. Those three things together, 8.5 percent, are overall health care costs.

If you take the 8.5 percent and you apply it to the 14.5 percent of our GDP, you can come up with a number of about $203 billion a year that’s going all for defensive medicine and malpractice premiums and trial lawyers and litigation. In other words, it isn’t being spent on good health care; it’s money that’s being chummed up in the system to pay other people to do other things other than deliver a product to people for the benefit of their good health.

Defensive medicine. Some of the providers got together and advised me in one of my meetings that their consensus was between 20 and 28 percent of the tests that they do are for defensive medicine purposes. In other words, get the test, get it on the record to protect them in case somebody files a malpractice lawsuit against them. They can always roll out the test and go to court and say, Well, I did this and this and this, and I ran this test, and these were all negative, so therefore our medical conclusion was thus. And of course we all know there are anomalies when it comes to health.

Defensive medicine. Twenty to 28 percent of the tests are unnecessary costs in health care that have to do with malpractice and premiums and in litigation and in defensive medicine, perhaps 8.5 percent, I see numbers to 10 percent, numbers up to 16 percent of the overall health care bill.

I’ll settle on that 8 1⁄2 percent number—perhaps it’s slightly less—but if it’s the 18 percent, as a number of doctors have pointed out, then you’re looking, roughly, in the area of $400 billion a year. Over 10 years, there’s the $4 trillion, Mr. President.

I remember his speech, and I know there were some folks who saw the humor when the President of the United States said, If you adopt my policy, over time, it will save $4 trillion. Over time. How long is “over time”? Is that right before the existence of infinity? Is it 1 year? 5 years? 10 years? 20 years? A generation? A half a century or a century? A millennia? Over time, his policy would save $4 trillion. Now, there is an ambiguous statement. You know, if you’d invest a penny and drop it in your passbook and account, over time, you’d be worth $4 trillion, too, Mr. Speaker. I think you wouldn’t want to wait that long.

So, as to the high cost of health care, if it needs to be addressed—and I think it does—let’s go where we can get the most money, the best results the quickest. Let’s do lawsuit abuse reform. Let’s adopt the California policy. Let’s adopt the Texas policy. We passed it out of the House of Representatives about 4 years ago out of the Judiciary Committee, where I sat; brought it to the floor; passed it here; messengered it over to the Senate. The wholly-owned subsidiary of the Trial Lawyers Association decided to kill our malpractice reform, our lawsuit abuse reform, that passed this House under the leadership, at that time, of the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Jim Sensenbrenner. So it’s the simplest thing we couldn’t do, the most effective thing we couldn’t do.

If you do this—now, I don’t think we’re going to get it all. I don’t think we’ll fix all of those problems, but if we did, it would be around $203 billion a year, just by my little back–of-the-envelope calculation. Over a decade—we do our calculations here on a 10-year budget—that’s $2 trillion. We could save as much as $2 trillion from health care just simply by cutting the trial lawyers out, still letting people get whole and letting the doctors do their doctoring without having to worry about the law. We could reduce dramatically their malpractice premiums. As I say, they passed medical malpractice reform in Texas, and the doctors who had undergone an exodus from Texas began to come back to Texas again. It’s interesting.

So, if health care costs too much, why don’t we address the problems of costly health care? Why don’t we put more competition in it?

In some States, as much as 80 percent of the health insurance that’s available to them is offered by one company. One company so dominates the market that it’s 80 percent. In 20 States, that one company dominates the market up to 70 percent. Why don’t we let the people in New Jersey buy health insurance in Kentucky? Why don’t we let the people in New York buy health insurance in Texas? Why don’t we let them buy in Iowa for that matter? We have pretty good policies available in Iowa. If we’d let people buy insurance across State lines, that would solve another allegation of the President of the United States.

He has said that they need to inject competition into the health insurance industry because too few companies dominate the market so much that they can dictate what probably is true in localities. In fact, I just won’t take issue with that statement. Yet the solution is not to establish a Federal government-run health insurance policy. We know that goes. Many of us have made the argument:

If you do that, if you set up Federal health insurance, it will swallow up the rest of the private insurance companies in the country. We have 1,300 health insurance companies in the United States today that are selling a possible combination of 100,000 policies. If we get ObamaCare, we’re going to get a national health insurance system that will be subsidized by the taxpayers, and all of our private insurance companies will also have to meet new standards written by the new Health Choices Administration, czar-issioner. That’s what we’ll see happen. The result of that will be the pattern that is out there for us. Here is what happened.

In 1968, they passed National Flood Insurance. Yes, there were private property and casualty insurers in the business of selling flood insurance to people who lived where they could be flooded. That happened. It wasn’t a great big market back in those years, but we didn’t have a great big infrastructure to protect either back then. We do now. The Federal Government stepped in and passed the National Flood Insurance Act, and in a short period of time, all property and casualty flood insurance companies dropped the selling of flood insurance, and today, you can only buy one kind of flood insurance. That is the Federal Government’s. They have the monopoly now. They dominate the market. They have squeezed everybody else out, and they have destroyed the private market in flood insurance. Well, you don’t have to just buy that model. You could think that’s an anomaly.

We could look at another situation that’s going on. How about the student...
loan program in the United States with all of the private companies, the private banks and the lending institutions that manage the student loans and the good competition that we’ve had? Now we have GEORGE MILLER, who’s deciding that it has to be and pass it through Federal. A smaller and smaller percentage of our student loans are provided now through the private sector. They want to eliminate it all. If GEORGE MILLER has his way—and I’m confident that he’s going to remove it all with whatever GEORGE MILLER puts on his desk—you won’t be able to go to a bank and borrow money to go to college. It will all be through the Federal Government. The Federal Government will control it all.

Oh, by the way, Federal flood insurance is a monopoly. The only flood insurance you can buy in the United States is from the Federal Government. The owned, operated, managed, marketed premium is set by the Federal Government. Federal flood insurance is $19.2 billion in the red, and there’s no way to get it back. So do we want more of this?

Let me throw another concept out here. Here’s an interesting thing that comes out in listening to people at townhall meetings. Mr. Speaker, some proponents of ObamaCare would say, Well, listen. We have Medicaid and we have Medicare and we have Social Security and the Federal government programs. You like those, don’t you?

Well, yes. The people who are receiving the benefits like them better than nothing, and some parts of them are pretty good, but there’s a big difference between what they’re proposing here and Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security. In all three of those categories that I’ve mentioned, of those government programs that we have, the people receiving the benefits are predominately paying for them at the time they receive them. They are the beneficiaries of someone else’s labor and largesse. The highest producing people in America are paying the most taxes, and now the President and the liberals in this Congress are determined to tell the freedom-loving, top-producing Americans that not only are they going to have to continue to fund somebody else’s Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, but now they’re going to have to fund a whole lot of health care for who are in the most productive years of their lives, and by the way, you’re going to fund everybody else’s, but your choices are going to be diminished because the Federal Government has to be able to compete and push out a lot of the private providers. I guarantee you, if they pass this bill, there will not be 1,300 health insurance companies any longer. There will not be 100,000 possible policy combinations any longer. That number will diminish over time, and we’ll see how long it takes before there’s the same number of private health insurance companies in America as there are property and casualty companies that are selling flood insurance.

I see my friend from Minnesota, MICHELE BACHMANN, has arrived at the floor—persistent, relentless and ever on the ball. I would be so happy to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentility from Minnesota.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I could never hold a candle to the stunning STEVE KING of Iowa, so I thank you for deferring to me for a few minutes, and I am extremely grateful for the gentleman’s comments on the floor so far this evening.

One thing that has been brought to my mind from your comments is you’d recalled that you’d remembered that President Obama came to meet with House Republicans down in the bowels of the Capitol building, just below where we’re standing now, and he gave a private speech to us where there were no members of the press. One thing that I recall from that meeting with the President is the President had said to us he would prefer to enact his full agenda and be a one-term President rather than not enact his agenda and be a two-term President.

I think the American people cannot underscore enough the fact that the President is very determined in his desire to enact this health care legislation, and perhaps never again will one party hold the type of cards that have been dealt in their hands as they hold right now. I think the American people recognize that, with an overpowering one-party domination, we see an intention to enact this government takeover of health care that literally will lead to life-and-death decisions.

You talked about three different areas where the government has gotten involved, and it reminded me of yesterday, when I was meeting with a group of constituents, and a gentleman told me this story. He had purchased from what is now known as “government motors” in our country—because the Federal Government has taken over not one but two car companies. The United States Government is now the largest car manufacturer in the United States. Well, government motors—and again, this is nothing derogatory against our dealerships. Our dealerships, through no fault of their own, are in the current situation that they’re in. We know 3,500 car dealerships have received pink slips from our government, putting out of work about 150,000 good American-paying jobs.

Well, in the midst of this, a gentleman told me yesterday he went to what’s now called Government Motors, fondly. He purchased a top-of-the-line vehicle, brand new. His dashboard split, and he had a brand-new dashboard in this top-of-the-line vehicle from Government Motors.

He went down to the good dealership, excellent dealership that he purchased the car from. Dealership said, sure, it’s under warranty, we will take care of that for you. The gentleman waited. He didn’t hear back. He said, hey what’s up with my dashboard, brand-new car, top of the line, Government Motors? It’s under warranty.

I am calling all around the country. This wonderful local dealer turned over every stone that he could. And do you know what he discovered? In the entire country, in the United States, there isn’t one single dashboard to replace this brand-new top-of-the-line dashboard in the car he just purchased.

What am I going to do?, he said. Well, since the Federal Government took over GM, suppliers have been let go. No new suppliers are in place.

So here this gentleman purchased a car. It’s the last of its series. How many suppliers are going to be out there bidding for a car that will never be made? In the Red.

That’s part of the problem when government takes over. Because does government really have to worry about customer satisfaction the same way that a private business worries about government satisfaction? I think that’s what the American people in their innate genius understand in the middle of this health care debate.

They understand that when government is in charge, government doesn’t necessarily have to worry about customer satisfaction unless you are an elected official. Then you know you have to go back to your constituency. You have to answer for the votes that you cast and the decisions that you make.

But if you are government and you own the company and you dominate the company, what do you worry about customer satisfaction, especially if you are not only the car maker, but you also control the contracts with the dealerships and you are the lender? Because, let’s face it, now the Federal Government is also the lender when it comes to car sales.

And the Federal Government is backing a lot of the credit card loans that are out there now. So where is the public going to go, and who does the Federal Government have to answer to?

And this is what people know, because now it’s about my health care and my child’s health care, and my elderly mother’s health care. And I really care about my mother, but will a bureaucracy, a nameless, faceless bureaucrat give a rip if my mother can’t get her hip replacement or she can’t get the pacemaker?

Remember, that question was asked of President Obama. He held a townhall meeting in the White House, and, recall, there was a woman who stood up and said, President Obama, my mother was 100 years old. I couldn’t get one, doctor to give her the pacemaker she needed until finally I found a doctor. Who said your mother has a lot of spirit. And, he did it. He did it.

And her mother was still living 5 years later, doing very well with her pacemaker.
President Obama’s response? He said, well, you know, maybe a pill would be the better answer than surgery.

Well, the woman didn’t need a pain pill. What she needed was the surgery. And this is exactly the point.

Why are they baying bureaucrats and politicians looking at their bottom lines in their constituencies rather than having a doctor who, really, his best interest is to make sure that patient is healed and becomes well? Who will make the decisions in this upcoming scenario? That’s really what the American people want to know.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleday from Minnesota.

I was just listening to the General Motors part of this discussion, and I am thinking about the components of General Motors, Government Motors, and how this all transpired. And it first came about with the first little dialogue going on. And some of us said put General Motors, Government Motors, and how this all transpired. And it first came about with the first little dialogue going on. And some of us said put the cars, the General Motors, and over, near that period of time, picked, hand-picked all but two members of the board of directors on General Motors. And the Federal Government ended up with 61 percent of General Motors. That’s the U.S., the Federal Government, the Canadian Government, 12.5 percent, the unions, 17.5 percent. Now I didn’t do the math on what’s left. It’s not much.

And then on top of that you have Cash for Clunkers that goes out and buys these cars or puts the down payment down. And the Federal Government guaranteeing some of the loans for the cars, it is the perfect circle of socialized economy. It’s astonishing to me.

Now what do you do if you are out here making a car that you can’t sell, and you need to pay the scale for the workers that you give up anything if we pass a national health care act? The unions didn’t give up anything in this deal, but they got 17.5 interest in a company.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Let’s go back to the 2002. This is an issue, and it is the economy, what’s happening in the United States economy.

And as we have seen, the Federal Government comes in and effectively nationalizes about 30 percent of our economy, and they are on a deep, long drive to make sure that they can nationalize another 18 percent by taking over health care. And what’s more, with the national energy tax, they want to take over even more of the national economy so that the Federal Government would effectively own or control well over 50 percent of the private business profits earned in this company. What has it yielded for the economy?

And I just looked at an article today that was in the Hill newspaper. And it said President Obama’s chief economist has said, today, the jobless rate will remain high despite economic growth. She voiced worry that the economic growth that we are having in the next 4 years won’t be enough to bring down the unemployment rate to pre-recession levels.

Christina Romer said, in 2010, that’s next year, Representative, next year, the economy will likely grow, but the jobless rate will peak at 10 percent.

We are at 9.7 percent unemployment now. It’s going to grow, according to the President’s chief economist, up to 10 percent. It won’t start falling at a rapid clip.

In fact, the administration, independent economists expect next year steady but not over-the-top GDP growth of between 2 to 3 percent. That will bring unemployment down slowly, but not by big movement; Unemployment on the right trajectory, but not coming down.

This is incredible. We were told we had to pass in 3 days a trillion-dollar stimulus plan because the President said otherwise we would go to 8 percent unemployment. We could only wish we had 8 percent unemployment.

We are at 9.7 percent. The President’s chief economist said we are going to over 10. And according to the President’s chief economist, if this health care plan goes into effect, we will lose another 5.5 million jobs. If we put his national energy tax into plan, it will be another 2.5 million jobs lost every year. The President is bent on a China-India jobs stimulus plan.

We are losing American jobs, ceding them to our national competitors, and the American people aren’t gaining anything for it. That’s why last week the flash point, when President Obama stood here in this Chamber and gave a speech to the joint session of Congress, there was one story that overshadowed the entire night, and that was one of our colleagues, Mr. Joe Wilson of South Carolina who had made a statement to President Obama.

And in the midst of that statement, Representative Joe Wilson became effectively the point at the tip of the spear on this debate. And it was over the issue of whether the President was accurate in his statement that illegal aliens would be receiving health care benefits coequal with other Americans that are here lawfully in our country and at the expense of taxpayers. That was really the flash-point issue.

And what we found out last Friday night, driving Members of Congress saying we are willing to put that verification in the bill, in other words proving that our colleague, Joe Wilson, was right, which makes it almost incomprehensible to me to believe that the Democrat majority plans to bring about a resolution tomorrow in this very Chamber condemning our colleague for his words.

He has already apologized for his lack of decorum, everyone agrees with that.

But to think that you would say to one of our colleagues, who the Democrats have already proved right by admitting that they are going to take the point of view on that case, that Representative Wilson was referring to?

It’s almost uncanny to me that we would live to see such a day when that would happen.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleday. I believe it says in the book of John that if you forgive men’s sins, they are forgiven them. If you hold them bound, they are held bound.

President Obama said he accepted the apology. That’s forgiveness. Because the President accepted the apology from the officer and the gentleday of Joe Wilson, then the country has a claim to any other redress whatsoever.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Which is why I thank the gentleman from Iowa, Representative Steve King, for penning a letter asking others of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join that letter in support of our colleague, Joe Wilson. I was very happy to sign on to your letter.

But you, Steve King, the stunning Steve King of the State of Iowa, you took the initiative on that front. You were right to do so. And I am extremely grateful for your leadership on this issue. Because this is the point. When we’re talking about this, it isn’t the President; it’s about any Member of Congress. This is about the American people. Will the American people continue to enjoy the finest health care system that the world has ever known or will we lose our freedom of choice over health care and will Americans lose the control over another 18 percent of private business profits.

This is a big deal. This is a really big issue. Because, since the inception of Bailout Nation less than a year ago, 30 percent of private businesses are now owned or controlled by the Federal Government. If President Obama gets his way, that’s another 18 percent—almost 50 percent.

This is the issue right now. Will our economy be better off by government taking over the economy? No? Are you kidding. We’ve already seen demonstration of that in the last few months. Surely, we would not be better off with President Obama nationalizing health care and the energy industry.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I was very happy to sign on to roll this question back across your analytical accountant, CPA, tax lawyer mind, and that is, if 30 percent of the private
Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, you triggered something in my memory here, Mrs. BACHMANN, and that would be the hearings that we held before the House Agriculture committee. This would have been March 13, 2007. It has to do with what people should be eating and how we’re going to legislate that from the Federal level.

There were those on that committee that thought that we should increase food stamps substantially. In fact, they were pushing food stamps up to 46 percent. For the most part, they got that job done.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That’s right.

Mr. KING of Iowa. But, how do you justify that when you can’t find people that are suffering from malnutrition or people that are actually hungry, chronically hungry. There are people that miss meals, I’m among them. But we don’t have chronic hunger in America.

In order to justify the expansion of food stamps, they brought before us the president of La Raza, that’s the organization that stands for The Race. Her name is Janet Murguía. And in that testimony she said this—and this is a quote, “There is also mounting evidence that obesity and over weight trends in the United States are due, in part, to high levels of food insecurity.”

So we have a situation where the argument is being made to the United States Congress that we have fat people in America because we have one national health care plan, taking us to 48 percent of the private sector. What if all private interests were rolled up in shares, and you could buy derivatives of those shares of the private sector? What if you could do that?

And what if the Federal Government then controlled 48 percent of all the shares of the private sector? Because that would be the equivalent, I would think. They would almost be to the point of having controlling interest over the private sector of the economy of the United States of America. Is that how the equation works out?

Mrs. BACHMANN. That’s exactly right, Representative. Again, we know President Obama’s intention is to effectively nationalize the energy by giving the Federal Government control over the use and distribution of energy. Remember, we had a conversation earlier.

Then-candidate Obama, Senator Obama, made the statement during the course of his campaign. He said, Americans cannot afford to be driving SUVs, set their thermostats at 72 degrees, or eat as much as food as they want, and think the rest of the world will be okay with that.

We let’s take a look at the report card since President Obama has come into office. By taking over GM and Chrysler, what we’re seeing is the diminution of the SUV. We’re seeing a lot of these high-end vehicles now being phased out, and instead we’re seeing the new cars that the President wants to have put in place by Government Motors. That’s the SUV portion.

What about setting our house temperature at 72 degrees and buildings like this one at 72 degrees? Well, once we have the government effectively nationalizing energy, people won’t be able to afford to set their thermostats at 72 degrees. They will be sitting at home shivering at 55 degrees in winter, and in summer most likely won’t even be able to turn on the air-conditioning.

And what about food? President Obama said we can’t eat as much food as we want and think the rest of the world will be okay about that, as if that matters to freedom-loving Americans. Well, we just heard last week that the Federal Government now under the Obama administration is calling for a reordering of America’s food priorities—which is that? Is that to mean? Now will the White House decide how many calories we consume or what types of food we consume?

You’re from an agriculture State. I’m from an agriculture State. Farmers are concerned about this. Our farmers are some of the greatest geniuses the world has ever seen. When you think of the percentage of farmers that we had in this country producing the food when the Nation first began, we’re talking about 2 percent of our population produces all of the food that Americans consume. Not only that, a good portion of the world as well.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Could that be interpreted to mean that ACORN talked to his staff after the committee meeting and advised him that he should come to the floor and change the language?

Mrs. BACHMANN. I can’t tell you whether ACORN spoke with him or not. I have no knowledge of that. All I know has a persistent record of voter fraud indictments across the country, was brought under indictment for 11 counts of voter fraud down in the State of Florida. And then there were videos that came out showing that ACORN, which is a grand recipient of Federal money, was found facilitating bringing in underage girls illegally across not only State lines but across our country’s borders into the United States for the purpose of prostitution.

ACORN was not only enabling this illegal criminal behavior, they were also coaching people on how to avoid their tax payments that they would have to pay and how to go into federally funded housing.

That’s why I have been writing letters to the Census Bureau, to the Housing and Urban Development Agency, to call on them to stop all current and future grants and to investigate all past grants.

ACORN has been a recipient of $33 million in Federal funds since 1993. Now, since President Obama, who is a former employee of ACORN, since he has become the President, now ACORN has access to $8.5 billion. And in another bill that passed through the House, an additional $1 billion—$8.5 billion, ACORN has access to.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mrs. BACHMANN, why didn’t you do something about it?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Why didn’t I do something about that?

Mr. KING of Iowa. Yes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I did. I have and you have. We’ve been writing letters.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Did you offer an amendment in Financial Services?

Mrs. BACHMANN. I did. I offered an amendment in Financial Services. It did pass out of the committee. And the amendment said that organizations like ACORN or similarly situated organizations that are currently under indictment for voter fraud would be ineligible to have access to Federal grants.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Did Chairman FRANK vote for that amendment?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Chairman FRANK voted for that amendment.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Why isn’t it law?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Well, it came to the House floor and Chairman FRANK said in the course of his remarks here on the floor that he was not—he didn’t link the amendment fully. He wasn’t aware of what the amendment said. And so he said it came to his attention later by his staff, and so now he was going to change that.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Could that be interpreted to mean that ACORN talked to his staff after the committee meeting and advised him that he should come to the floor and change the language?

Mrs. BACHMANN. I can’t tell you whether ACORN spoke with him or not. I have no knowledge of that. All I know has access to $8.5 billion. And in another bill that passed through the House, an additional $1 billion—$8.5 billion, ACORN has access to.
is that when Chairman FRANK came to the floor, he proceeded to pull my amendment out of the bill, which he did, which meant that now ACORN would have access to another $1.5 billion in addition to the $8.5 billion that they already have access to.

ACORN, in my opinion, should have the Internal Revenue Service look at their tax-exempt status. In my opinion, I think ACORN has a very tough time proving that they should hold onto their tax-exempt status. Not only that, they have a tough time proving that they should be a recipient of any more Federal housing grants. If they want to be an organization, they can, but they shouldn’t be a recipient of Federal tax-payer funds.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Here is an image. In fact, this poster is not here tonight, but I will try to bring it down later this week so everybody can see it, Mr. Speaker. I thought it would be good for me to go down to the headquarters of ACORN. It looked like so I went down there to 2609 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. That’s the national headquarters and, for all I know, the international headquarters of ACORN. In there is where they process for many of the 200 affiliated organizations housed, and it’s a two story building?

Mr. KING of Iowa. Yes. But it’s a four- or five-story building. I would have to look at the picture to count the stories. But the first two are all bars, and it’s fortified. Then above that, it’s high enough so that the crowds can’t get in. But behind the glass in ACORN’s national headquarters on the street side, there’s a huge poster: “Obama for President 08,” and hanging right next to it is an ACORN flag. I have that picture. I have turned it into a poster. I brought it down here on the floor.

ACORN is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. It is unlawful for them to engage in partisan politics, and yet they are a get-out-the-vote organization for Democrats. They are taking Federal tax dollars, and they’re pushing it through to run political campaigns, and then they boldly advertise it in the front window of their national headquarters in New Orleans with an Obama poster.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Over and over, I have had people tell me that ACORN is effectively the electioneering arm of the Democratic Party, and that is concerning. At least I would think that the Democrat majority that controls this House would want to hold hearings to clear their name, to say that ACORN is not our electioneering arm and that it is not political. Would you think that’s exactly what they would want to do, which is why I wrote letters to Chairman BARNEY FRANK and to Speaker PELOSI, demanding that we have oversight hearings and investigate ACORN to take a look at all of the grants that ACORN has received to see if they have been spent wisely, if they’ve been used according to the rules that have been set up for their disbursement.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mrs. BACHMANN, you have raised a lot of children, foster children, your own natural born children. It is a phenomenal thing. Have you ever caught any of your children with their hands in the cookie jar?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Oh, yes, I have.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Did any of them ever call for a hearing to clear their name?

Mrs. BACHMANN. No. They knew they were guilty, Mr. KING.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I think that is the case. Clearly, it’s a partisan get-out-the-vote organization. They’re everywhere in America, in over 100 major cities, and then subdivisions within the cities. Their reach doesn’t just go into politics. We saw what was going on with the—what’s the nicest word—subornation of prostitution, child prostitution, the encouragement of what appears to be illegal immigration, say, the higher-ups told them—they’re all helping with a child tax credit, the refundable tax credit which is a transfer from the taxpayer to the pimp and the prostitute out of the pocket of the taxpayers, enabled by ACORN.

Mrs. BACHMANN. This is ACORN enabling it. And one of our colleagues said that he would hold hearings about ACORN. Several months ago there was one indictment after another that came out after voter fraud. Now these latest indictments deal with the housing grants that ACORN is receiving. He announced that he was going to hold hearings and investigate ACORN. Then the next thing we knew, he was not going to hold those hearings because he said the higher-ups told him—that’s not my words, it’s his own words—he said, the higher-ups told him that he was not to hold hearings.

I think the American people have a right to know. I think they have a right to know that these red flags about ACORN didn’t just happen last week. These red flags have gone up months and years ago. Remember, the Speaker of the House said that she was going to drain the swamp. That’s what she’s doing. She’s a swamp by corruption. But could anything be more corrupt than a taxpayer-funded tax-free organization doing the electioneering bidding for a dominant political party? Does it get any more circular than that? And, some might suggest, incestuous?

Mr. KING of Iowa. Well, it’s circular, and it’s incestuous. The statement that was made about investigating ACORN was made by Chairman JOHN CONYERS, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I was sitting in the room when that was going on. We had a hearing before the Constitution Subcommittee, the subcommittee chairman is JERRY NADLER from New York. Chairman CONYERS said, I think there’s substance here. I think we should look into it. Chairman NADLER said, When I see something substantive, then I will consider hearings. There was plenty of substance. There is plenty more substance here now.

But since that time, JOHN CONYERS has said, Well, the powers that be—necessarily the higher-ups—but the powers that be have decided that there wouldn’t be hearings. And that’s just what I would be—would call the powers that be when you are the chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives? You really only look up and you think, well, the powers that be are either the Speaker of the House or the President of the United States.

Well, what do we know is the President of the United States used to work for ACORN. That’s irrefutable and not arguable. He not only worked for ACORN, but he also was a trainer for ACORN, and he headed up Project Vote, which is part and parcel of ACORN. The President wore an ACORN jersey. He was a player and a coach, and now he is an alumni who has hired ACORN to help people who are on a minimum on the Census and now they’ve backed off of that. I’m not all that optimistic that that will stick. But we have a President of the United States which is a chief of staff named Rahm Emanuel who used to serve in the House of Representatives. He is known for hardball, hard-core Chicagostyle politics. And we’re going to have to wonder if we can actually get hearings and investigations.

Here’s what needs to happen, Mr. Speaker: this Congress needs to have multiple committees with bipartisan hearings and investigations on every aspect of ACORN. The Department of Justice has to deploy an entire division to go in and do a complete forensic audit of every dollar that comes and goes from ACORN and every one of their affiliates. They have to bring the IRS into this so we can track every dollar, and we’ve got to do indictments. We’ve got to see the perp walk. We are going to have to see people put in prison for what they’re doing to the American taxpayers, Mr. Speaker.

States with a chief of staff named Rahm Emanuel who used to serve in the House of Representatives, he is known for hardball, hard-core Chicagostyle politics. And we’re going to have to wonder if we can actually get hearings and investigations.

Here’s the SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 60 seconds.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Okay. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. We’re not just simply conclude. I didn’t pick up the sound very well.

I appreciate the gentlelady from Minnesota coming to the floor to engage in this discussion and dialogue that we have. I’ll appreciate it when this Congress steps forward and does the investigations of ACORN and multiple committees, the Finance Committee, the

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. CrensHaw (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. McHugh (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and September 15 on account of a family medical matter.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GRAYSON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GRAYSON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCALISE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCALISE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BACHMANN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 3235. An act to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on September 10, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 3325. To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

3295. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: APHIS-2007-0042] (RIN: 0579-AC76) received August 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3296. A letter from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Grape Crop Insurance Provisions and Table Grape Crop Insurance Provisions (RIN: 0563-AC06) received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3297. A letter from the Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management, Chief, Forest Service, Department of the Interior Department of Agriculture, transmitting 2008 report — Monitoring Fuel Treatments Across the Continental United States for Overall Effectiveness and Effects on Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat, Air and Water Quality”; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3298. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Sodium Lauryl Sulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0041; FRL-8430-4] received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3299. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s “Major” final rule — Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Treatment of Perpetual Preferred Stock Issued to the United States Treasury under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1316) received September 8, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3300. A letter from the Assistant to the Chairman, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Department’s “Major” final rule — Capital Adequacy Guidelines; Treatment of Perpetual Preferred Stock Issued to the United States Treasury under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1316) received September 8, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3301. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s report entitled, “Fiscal Year 2006 Report to Congress on the Impact and Effectiveness of Administration for Native American Projects”, pursuant to Section 811(e) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3302. A letter from the Director, Office of Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting notice of the President’s award to the Drug Control Policy agency programs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3303. A letter from the Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting Inventory Lists for the Department of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, pursuant to section 2330a. Title 10 of the U.S. Code as amended by section 807 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.
331. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting FY 2008 Performance Report to Congress for the Medical Device User Fee Amendments Act of 2007, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

332. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Energy and Commerce, concerning the Department’s final rule — Advisory Committee: Risk Communication Advisory Committee; Termination and Repeal,ocket No.: FAA-2008-N-16408; received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.


334. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Consumer Products Rule (EPA-R05-OAR-2007-1340; FRL-8956-6) received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

335. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval of Implementation Plans of Michigan; Clean Air Interstate Rule (EPA-R03-OAR-2009-0531; FRL-8946-6) received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

336. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Interim Final Determination of Endangered or Threatened Species and Endangered and Threatened Habitat or Biological Significant Area; Arizona (EPA-R09-OAR-2009-0633; FRL-8954-6) received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

337. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, Kern County Air Pollution Control District, Mohave Desert Air Quality Management District (EPA-R09-OAR-2008-0566; FRL-8963-2) received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

338. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Orange County Air Pollution Control District (EPA-R09-OAR-2009-0621; FRL-8946-2) received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

339. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Prevention of Air and Water Pollution; Air Quality Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Consumer Products Rule (EPA-R05-OAR-2007-1340; FRL-8956-6) received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

340. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting reports in accordance with Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

341. A letter from the Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule — Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008 [MD Docket No. 08-65] received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

342. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting reports in accordance with Section 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

343. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112(b); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

344. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to an order that was declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006., pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

345. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-52, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

346. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-35, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

347. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-45, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

348. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-48, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

349. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-49, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.


351. A letter from the Executive Director, Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, transmitting the Foundation’s required General/Trust Fund Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

352. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reorganization Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

353. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Inspection and Enforcement, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the report on the administration of the Regulations Consistency Update for Delaware in accordance with the requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

354. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Management and Administration and Designated Reporting Official, Office of the Under Secretary for Management, transmitting a report pursuant to the President’s report to Congress under the National Emergencies Act, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

355. A letter from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the preliminary description and classification of the North Fork of the Smith Wild and Scenic River, Rogue River — Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

356. A letter from the General Counsel (Acting), National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendments to Various National Indian Gaming Commission Regulations (RIN: 3141-0001) received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

357. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act covering the six months ending December 31, 2008, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

358. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the personal data for Foreign Officials: Definition of Immediate Family Members, As Amended [Public Notice: 6676] received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

359. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department Homeland of Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded $5 million for the costs of recovery efforts for FEMA-3299-EM in the State of New York, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5183; to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure.

360. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, submitting the Department’s report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1846-DIR for the State of Oklahoma, pursuant to Public Law 110-329, section 539; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

361. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures, Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 36060; Amdt. No. 482] received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

362. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, submitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures, Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 36060; Amdt. No. 482] received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No., 2120-AA64] received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3436. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Model G-IV, GIV-X, and GIV Airplanes and Model GIV Aircraft [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0994; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-189-AD; Amendment 39-15992; AD 2009-17-01] (RIN: 2120-AA44) received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3437. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers Model 313-69 Aircraft [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0964; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-189-AD; Amendment 39-15992; AD 2008-16-09] (RIN: 2120-AA44) received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3438. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1844-DR for the state of South Dakota, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3439. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s final rule — Special Rules Governing Eligible Combined Plans received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3530. A letter from the Chief, Department of Health and Medicaid Services, transmitting the Department’s “Major” final rule — Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 (CMS-1538-F) [RIN: 0938-AP56] received August 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

(Pursuant to the order of the House on September 10, 2009. No printing was reported on September 11, 2009)

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee: Committee on Science and Technology, H. R. 3246. A bill to provide for a program of research, development, and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy; with an amendment (Rept. 111-254). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H. R. 3556. A bill to provide for a program of Health and Human Services to establish a self-referral disclosure protocol under the Medicare Program to enable health care providers and suppliers to disclose violations of section 1877 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JONES:

H. R. 3557. A bill to provide an emergency cost-of-living increase for Social Security beneficiaries for 2010; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITHT:

H. R. 3558. A bill to allow incumbent contractors to be competitive for Government contracts as small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committees on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts:

H. R. 3559. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve awareness and access to colorectal cancer screening tests under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SQUIRES (for himself, Ms. JACKSON of Georgia, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. PAYNE):

H. R. 3560. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to establish the Health Technology Program in the United States Agency for International Development to research and develop technologies to improve global health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TEAGUE (for himself and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona):

H. R. 3561. A bill to add 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of educational assistance provided to certain veterans for flight training; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H. R. 3562. A bill to designate the Federal building under construction at 1220 Echelon Parkway in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner Federal Building,” to authorize the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EDWARDS of Texas:

H. Con. Res. 183. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of Norman E. Borlaug to the United States and the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MEEKS of New York:

H. Con. Res. 184. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the bankruptcy proceedings of Lehman Brothers Inc. and Lehman Brothers Europe Inc. be resolved in an equitable and expeditious process between the United States and United Kingdom, and that the beneficiaries of American investors be given due consideration and be treated with urgency throughout; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRUJALVA (for himself, Mr. LUJAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. PIELSIURI, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BACA, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BICKER- RAO, and Ms. RICHARDSON):

H. Res. 737. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established; to the Committee on Education and Labor; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. RICH- ARDSON, Mr. BALDERAS, Ms. EMER- RICK JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HODES, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H. Res. 738. A resolution recognizing the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOSWELL (for himself, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BRAlly of Iowa, Mr. LOBRSACK, Mr. KINSELL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GAVIES, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PORTENBERGER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LEE, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. ROYAL-ALLARD, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois):

H. Res. 739. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug for his many contributions to alleviating world hunger; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BOSWELL (for himself, Mr. BRAlly of Iowa, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. LOBRSACK):

H. Res. 740. A resolution recognizing the valuable contributions of the extension offices of land-grant universities; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MARKEY of Colorado (for herself, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. CAPFA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TRAUGUE, Mrs. TITUS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SHA-PORTER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHAUER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SQUIRES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. McMAMON, Mr. LUJAN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

H. Res. 741. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 8, 2009, as national Jumpstart’s “Read for the Record Day”; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.
H.R. 3554: Mr. Boswell, Mr. Carnahan, Mr. Nye, and Mr. Adler of New Jersey.
H.J. Res. 42: Mr. Coble and Mr. Roskam.
H.J. Res. 47: Mr. Price of New Jersey, Mr. Price of Georgia, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Young of Alaska, and Mr. Reyes.
H. Con. Res. 138: Mr. Coble and Mr. Roskam.
H. Con. Res. 139: Mr. Price of Georgia, Mr. Young of Alaska, and Mr. Reyes.
H. Con. Res. 149: Mr. Cao.
H. Con. Res. 170: Mr. Minnick and Mr. Boswell.
H. Con. Res. 178: Mr. Wexler, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Engel, Mr. Massa, Mr. Royce, and Mr. Arcuri.
H. Res. 81: Mr. Sestak.
H. Res. 167: Mr. McDermott, Mr. Payne, Mr. Carnahan, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Price of North Carolina, and Mr. Nye.
H. Res. 215: Mr. Sestak and Mr. Hinojosa.
H. Res. 260: Ms. Degette, Mr. Kennedy, and Mrs. Blackburn.
H. Res. 266: Mr. Connolly of Virginia.
H. Res. 267: Mr. Wittman.
H. Res. 443: Mr. Sestak.
H. Res. 494: Mr. Carter, Mr. Rooney, and Mr. Michaud.
H. Res. 534: Mr. Conaway, Mr. Flake, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Mr. Cole, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Schauer, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin, Mr. Ehlers, and Mr. Austria.
H. Res. 556: Mr. Sestak.
H. Res. 577: Mr. Sestak.
H. Res. 604: Mr. Blunt, Mr. Manzullo, Mr. Franks of Arizona, Mr. Inglis, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Mack, Mr. Chennshaw, Mr. Gallegly, Mr. Hokestra, Mr. Kirk, Mr. Shimkus, Mr. Daniel E. Lungren of California, and Mr. Wolf.
H. Res. 615: Mr. Latta.
H. Res. 619: Mr. Price of Georgia.
H. Res. 638: Mr. Sessions, Mr. Shuster, and Mr. Moran of Virginia.
H. Res. 649: Mr. McGovern, Mr. Conyers, and Mr. Kucinich.
H. Res. 660: Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, and Mr. McIntyre.
H. Res. 672: Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Mr. Royce, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Moran of Virginia, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Rohrabacher, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Mr. Culberson, Mr. Daniel E. Lungren of California, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Stark, and Mr. Johnson of Georgia.
H. Res. 676: Mr. Filner.
H. Res. 679: Mr. Skelton, Mr. Dreier, Mr. Young of Florida, Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Pastor of Arizona, Mr. Sestak, and Mr. Miller of Florida.
H. Res. 686: Mr. Souder, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Kissell, Mr. Broun of Georgia, Mr. Maffei, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Altman, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mrs. Kirkpatrick of Arizona, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Mr. Coble, Mr. Stupak, Mr. Sires, and Ms. Giffords.
H. Res. 692: Mr. Klein of Florida, Mr. Teague, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Israel, Mr. Baldwin, Ms. Matsui, Mr. Braley of Iowa, Mr. Shuster, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Perlmutter, Ms. Pingree of Maine, Mr. Engel, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Hodes, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Bishop of New York, Mr. Eliot, Mr. Murphy of New York, Mr. Kratovil, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Altman, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Nye, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Space, Mr. Wilson of Ohio, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Sires, Ms. Berkley, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. McMah, Mr. Massa, Mr. Kagen, Mr. Hare, Mr. Berman, Mr. Milland, Mr. Donnelly of Indiana, Ms. Sutton, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Rothman of New Jersey, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Nadler of New York, Mrs. Napolitano, and Mrs. Maloney.
H. Res. 700: Ms. Bordallo.
H. Res. 704: Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Mr. Culberson, Mr. Inglis, and Mr. Boozman.
H. Res. 707: Mr. Harper, Mr. Skelton, Mr. Deal of Georgia, and Mr. Yarmuth.
H. Res. 721: Mr. Rehberger, Mr. Souder, Mr. Burton of Indiana, Mr. Coble, Mrs. Schmidt, and Mr. LaTourette.
H. Res. 725: Mr. Hunter and Mr. Issa.
H. Res. 727: Mr. Moore of Kansas and Mr. Broun of Georgia.
H. Res. 733: Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, Mr. Walberg, Ms. Foxx, Mrs. McCarthy of New York, Mrs. Schmidt, Mr. Carter, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Ms. Chu, Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, Mr. Reichert, Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Bilirakis, and Mr. Kinzinger.
H. Res. 734: Mr. Lamborn, Mr. Broun of Georgia, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Cantor, Mr. LaTourette, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Barton of Texas, Mr. Conaway, and Mr. Biliray.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative Gordon of Tennessee, or a designee, to H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.
The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, empower our Senators to have clean hands and pure hearts worthy of a nation that depends on You. Spare them from impure thoughts, careless manners, and compromising conduct. Keep them humble and eager to accept Your forgiveness and renewing grace. Lord, infuse them with such a spirit of civility that they will be peacemakers who are called Your children. Create in them pure hearts that they may understand Your will and follow where You lead.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Honorable Mark Warner led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Mark Warner, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE
Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to be in a period of morning business until 3 o'clock—for 1 hour. After that, we are going to move back to the Transportation appropriations bill. There will be a vote at 5:30 p.m. today on a matter relating to the Transportation appropriations bill.

NOT LETTING HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF
Mr. REID. Mr. President, just a year ago today, our economy came precariously close to its breaking point—as close to the brink as it had in generations. One year ago today, Lehman Brothers, part of the foundation of Wall Street for more than a century and a half, collapsed.

Much is being made of this anniversary. The media is dedicating significant amounts of air time, newsprint, and bandwidth to analyzing what it means, to recording how far we have come since that day, and to describing the work we still have before us. President Obama went to Wall Street today to reiterate the importance of strengthening the system that keeps financial firms in check.

But as significant as this occasion is, it is critical to remember that the economic crisis was not created in a day. As dramatic as it may sound, the reality is that our economy did not wake up on the morning of September 14 and suddenly find itself in the emergency room. In fact, this was a long time coming. The Lehman collapse was simply the final straw that broke a vulnerable economy's back, the final spark that ignited a highly flammable and flawed system.

The conditions that created this crisis had been brewing for years. A lethal combination of government deregulation and industrial irresponsibility meant Wall Street could run wild. And run wild it did. Greed, excess, and reckless risk ruled the day. Disdain for government oversight—even though the singular purpose of oversight is to protect the people—was in vogue. Loopholes were exploited. When the rules did not offer any loopholes, those rules were broken.

More than a year and a half before his company's collapse, a Lehman executive told his boss how risky the mortgages that had artificially inflated their business were. He knew the bubble was bound to burst, and he knew that once the housing market fell, it would fall onto the nearby dominos in the banking markets and credit markets. He saw it coming.

I repeat, he knew that once the housing market fell, it would fall onto the nearby dominos in the banking markets and credit markets. He saw it coming.

Bear Stearns knew as early as 2005 that the complicated loans it packaged were too good to be true. The Securities and Exchange Commission saw the
warning signs and started an investigation but then dropped the case. They saw it coming too.

But the industry did not act alone. For years, the previous administration put the interests of Wall Street before those of Main Street. The mantra of the day was deregulation, re-regulation, and more deregulation. The last White House refused to police lenders when they deceived and defrauded Americans looking for loans and necessity to protect consumers when predatory lending was being abused.

The previous administration did nothing while Wall Street traders bid up the price of oil, took windfall profits, and left the tab for the rest of a Republican idea Warren Buffett called financial weapons of mass destruction.

It is interesting to note, I believe the Presiding Officer was in a meeting last Thursday when Warren Buffett told us, in an effort to help General Electric, he bought their credit division. He looked this over and found that some of the swaps were not due for 100 years—100 years. He said he knew he couldn’t help that and lost hundreds of millions of dollars. He said: I want nothing to do with that, even though the original investment was to help the economy. What Warren Buffett called financial weapons of mass destruction is what they were.

Instead, the previous administration sat and watched while the subprime mortgage market sent millions into foreclosure and nowhere worse than in Nevada. It gave tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans but gave no thought to how we would make up for the lost revenue. It looked the other way while the executives who got us into this mess took home bonuses and golden parachutes and continued to look the other way while taxpayers, consumers, and investors were taken to the cleaners.

It is on fiscal responsibility and accountability. It said anything goes, but all Americans saw was their jobs. That is all they saw go. They saw their jobs, their homes, and their economic security go down the drain.

The previous administration simply refused to safeguard the American people from an impending crisis clearly visible on the horizon. It was a time of blissful ignorance, at best, and willful neglect. During Wall Street’s heyday.

The hard-working Americans who lost everything did nothing wrong, but their leaders did nothing—period.

We all know what happened next. Our economy was paralyzed and credit was frozen. Families and businesses were forced to make painful cuts that were felt in every corner of our country and every industry in our economy.

The stock market lost a third of its value in just a few months in 2008. Consumer confidence was at an all-time low as the unemployed and incomes went down. Families and financial institutions alike could not pay the bills. People could not get car loans, students could not get college loans, and small businesses could not grow their companies.

Economic experts, from Nobel Prize winners to former Cabinet Secretaries, to Ivy League professors, said we needed to act fast to keep a bad situation from getting worse.

Despite it all, those in the Bush White House and some Republicans in Congress told us the economy was fundamentally sound at a time when it was fundamentally flawed. The history books will tell the tale of what happened in the weeks and months after September 14, 2008: major investment banks that for decades simply disappeared; institutions that were once synonymous with success became synonymous with distress; and America took unprecedented steps to stabilize a bleeding economy.

But the history books will also tell the tale of what happened before September 14, 2008. The singular lesson from the recent storms is that we cannot wait until a system collapses before we act to save it.

Today, the system headed for its breaking point is the health insurance system. We have already seen what happens when we do nothing about rising health care costs and reckless health insurance policies. We have already seen what happens when we let the market take care of itself, as some of my colleagues have urged us to do.

Over the past 8 years of inaction, the price of staying healthy in America rose to record levels, and the number of Americans who cannot afford insurance did the same.

For the millions of families who file for foreclosure because they cannot afford both their house and their health care, not acting is not an option.

For the millions of Americans who filed for bankruptcy because their medical bills grow higher and higher, not acting is not an option.

For the millions of Americans who skip doctor visits or treatments they need to stay healthy or who never fill the prescriptions their doctor gives them because health care is simply so expensive, not acting is not an option.

For the 600,000 Americans—including 46,000 from Nevada—who, we learned last week, joined the ranks of the uninsured between 2007 and 2008, not acting is not an option.

During that time, 600,000 Americans have lost their health insurance. In Nevada, 220 families a day lose their health insurance. The number is much higher in densely populated States such as Virginia.

This is a lesson we need to hear extra loud today. We again see the storm clouds gathering. This time they hover over the health care system. We again can predict the very real and very painful consequences of not acting. We again see disaster but again we say that what is avoidable. Again, we have a choice.

If we learn the lessons of the financial crisis, the choice we will make is to put the future of the American people first. We will choose to recognize that working people, not greedy executives, are the backbone of our economy, and we will choose to give them the security and stability they deserve.

We will choose to act in the short term, not the long term. We will choose to put the American people first and fulfill our fundamental duty to promote their well-being.

We will choose to keep the insurance companies and government bureaucrats out of people’s medical decisions.

We will choose to keep health care companies honest and accountable.

We will choose to give the American people more choices in their health care coverage.

And we will choose to make quality, affordable care available to every single American.

Those in Congress who think we cannot afford health insurance reform sound an awful lot like those who didn’t want to risk the windfall profits during Wall Street’s heyday.

Those in the health insurance business who let their profits and bonuses, rather than their conscience or ethics, guide their decisions sound an awful lot like those who got us into this mess in the first place—those who saw all the warning signs and stuck their heads in the sand.

This country has no place for those who hope for failure and this time has no patience for those who seek more of the same failed policies.

George Santayana famously said: Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

My response to those who want to ignore the lessons of last year is simply we cannot afford to let history repeat itself.
Instead, he stated his intention to spend nearly $1 trillion on a plan he says will expand coverage without increasing costs or adding to the deficit. These are precisely the claims Americans are finding so difficult to square with the speech itself, which is stunningly well delivered, but in the end Congress is not going to be asked to vote on a speech. It is going to be asked to vote on specific legislation.

In my view, the President’s speech only highlighted the concerns that millions of Americans and Members of both parties in Congress continue to have with the Democratic plans for health care reform because when you strip away the pageantry of the speech itself, what you are left with is simply this: one more trillion-dollar government program and a whole lot of unanswered questions about how we are going to pay for it. What is it going to mean for seniors and small business owners, and how is it going to affect the quality of care for millions of Americans, the vast majority of whom are happy with the care they have? These are legitimate questions, and it is unfair for anyone to dismiss those who ask them as either cranks or scaremongers. The answers to these questions impact some of the most important aspects of people’s lives, and people just aren’t getting answers.

Take the issue of cost. The President says he is going to pay for his plan by cutting waste, fraud, and abuse out of the system. That raises a couple of questions. First of all, if there is such waste, fraud, and abuse, then why isn’t the administration doing something about it already? Second, if we are seeing this kind of waste, fraud, and abuse in an existing government program, why shouldn’t we expect it to exist in the new government program the White House wants to create? Of course, we can root out waste, fraud, and abuse. I don’t know anybody who is against that. But let’s do it for its own sake, not to justify a very brand new government program most Americans aren’t even asking for.

How about Medicare? The administration plans to pay for much of its health care proposals with hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts to Medicare. A significant portion of this would involve cuts to Medicare Advantage, a program that serves more than 11 million American seniors, nearly 90 percent of whom say they are satisfied with it. But faced with questions about his proposed cuts to Medicare, the administration insists services to seniors won’t be cut. Mr. President, this is absurd. The speech itself was America’s seniors with a straight face that it is about to cut $5 trillion from Medicare but that those cuts won’t affect the program in any noticeable way.

What about the hundreds of billions of dollars the administration would have to raise to pay for its plan even after its proposed cuts to Medicare? The White House hasn’t said where it plans to get all of that money, but to most people, the answer is pretty obvious: more spending, more taxes, higher deficits—or, most likely, all three.

What about the deficit? The White House says its health care plan won’t add a dollar to the deficit. How do they square that with the fact that the Congressional Budget Office has said repeatedly and unequivocally that every proposal they have seen would, in fact, add hundreds of billions of dollars to the deficit?

Any schoolkid in America could tell you that creating a massive new government program will cost a lot of money, that cutting Medicare by hundreds of billions of dollars will lead to cuts in services people currently enjoy, and that higher taxes on small businesses will lead to even more job losses.

These are serious questions. The administration’s response to them is not. Their response is to accuse anyone who asks them of not understanding and to give them the same two-word answer they gave everybody who questioned the stimulus: Trust us.

When it comes to health care, Americans are saying these arguments don’t add up. These are simple questions. The administration should answer them. If they can’t, it is even further validation that the questions are worth asking.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN BORLAUG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to a fellow Iowan, Dr. Norman Borlaug, a 1970 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. That honor—Dr. Borlaug’s winning the Nobel Peace Prize—was because he was the father of the Green Revolution.

Dr. Borlaug passed away over the weekend at the age of 95. I am honored to have known Dr. Borlaug. He was a remarkable man, a true son of the Iowa soil. A tenacity found through wrestling, a love of the soil, and a twist of fate helped Dr. Borlaug develop the scientific breakthroughs that eased malnutrition and famine around the globe. His efforts to spare people from the sharp hunger pains that strike an empty stomach is an example for generations to come that one person can, in fact, make a difference—and, in his case, a big difference.

Dr. Borlaug’s notoriety most often comes, as I have just said, as the father of what is called the Green Revolution, a time when dramatically increased crop yields over a short period of years helped alleviate world hunger. It is from this work that he is credited with saving more lives than any other person in history.

I also said that Dr. Borlaug’s desire for a sufficient food supply came from his childhood. He grew up in a small town on a family farm in northeast Iowa. His education came in a one-room schoolhouse full of immigrants. It was there where he and his schoolmates learned the common threads between them, similar to what their own parents learned, that working together to provide food for their families was more important than any ethnic differences that might divide them.

In true Iowa tradition, as a young man Dr. Borlaug was an outstanding wrestler. His wrestling skills took him to the University of Minnesota, where he became wrestling, earning his bachelor’s and master’s degree in forestry and, by a twist of fate, a doctorate in plant pathology.

It was after his graduation and World War II service that Dr. Borlaug first saw the plight of poverty-stricken wheat farmers in rural Mexico. In the early going, his work in Mexico was discouraging, but Dr. Borlaug showed his tenacity and willingness to get dirt under his fingernails and give over a period of time ingratiated himself to the local farmers. With the help of Mexican farmers, Dr. Borlaug and his scientific team eventually developed a disease-resistant wheat—a breakthrough in the fight against hunger.

His success in Mexico gave Dr. Borlaug the opportunity to help developing countries all around the world. His innovative work brought an agricultural revolution to poor and hungry countries. I don’t know anybody who could stretch to say that Norman Borlaug transformed these countries. His work helped these countries avoid starvation and famine, but he also helped to lift the social conditions and create more peaceful societies.

His commitment to this important cause has been recognized worldwide. I already alluded to the fact that he was a 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner. He is one of only five people to be awarded three different medals of honor: the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and this Congress awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal. That may not sound like much, but in just putting it in context. The other four recipients of all three of those awards—again, the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal—include Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Mother Teresa, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. President, Dr. Borlaug may not be a name known at every kitchen
table, but this man is one of the greatest humanitarians who have ever lived. He dedicated his life to the development of scientific breakthroughs in order to ease malnutrition and famine all over the world.

One of Dr. Borlaug’s latest efforts began in the early 1980s. There wasn’t anything in the Nobel armada of prizes that represented agriculture, which is why he received the Peace Prize for recognition of his research in agriculture, and so Dr. Borlaug thought there ought to be an annual award for research in agriculture and helping with the problems of food production. Through his initiative, the World Food Prize was initiated. It recognizes the achievement of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, and availability of food in the world. Just as Dr. Borlaug dreamed, the World Food Prize is helping to continue to inspire future generations of scientists and farmers to innovate and lift those mired in poverty and preserving Dr. Borlaug’s legacy over the years. The World Food Prize is the idea of Dr. Borlaug, and so his scientific work will live on.

The World Food Prize exists today because of the John Ruan family endowing it. They are an outstanding Des Moines business family, and they have endowed this. President of the World Food Prize is the former Ambassador to Cambodia, Dr. Ken Quinn. The World Food Prize has its headquarters in Des Moines since 1992, about 4 or 5 years after its founding.

An extraordinary man, with a brilliant vision and Iowa common sense who turned his dreams into reality—that was Dr. Norman Borlaug. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 30 minutes remaining in morning business, with Senators having a 10-minute limit. The Senate goes out of morning business at 3 o’clock.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Will the Chair please let me know when 1 minute is remaining—after 9 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair will so advise.

PUSH OUT THE CZARS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, according to news accounts, there are approximately 32 or 34 so-called czars in the Obama White House and government. Republican voices in the Senate—Senator BYRD, a senior Democrat and Senator HUTCHISON, a senior Republican—have pointed out that these czars are an affront to the Constitution. They are anti-democratic. They are a prime example of a new era of transparency which was promised to this country. I would add that they are a poor way to manage the government, and they seem to me to be the principal symptom of this administration’s 8-month record of too many Washington takeovers. We have an AIDS czar, an auto recovery czar, a border czar, and a California water czar. We have a car czar, a central reorganization czar, and an energy czar.

There is an economic czar, an energy and environment czar, a faith-based czar and a Great Lakes czar. The list goes on, up to 32 or 34. One of these, for example, is the pay czar, Mr. Kenneth Feinberg, the President’s Special Master for Compensation. He will approve pay packages at seven firms receiving TARP funds, thus deciding how much pay is too much. This will affect the top earners at some of the major corporations in America.

According to Mr. Feinberg, in answer to some questions, he said:

The statute provides guideposts but the statute ultimately says I have discretion to decide what it is that these people should make and that my determination will be final. Anything is possible under the law.

That is the pay czar. Then we have a manufacturing czar. There is a manufacturing czar named Mr. Ron Bloom. He is also the car czar. We have had manufacturing czars before in other administrations, but as Rolcall pointed out on September 8, Mr. Bloom’s background and new position differs from the two czars before him. Mr. Bloom is a former union official, remaining close to leaders in organized labor.

According to the policy director for the AFL-CIO, Mr. Bloom is expected to have a major role in the development of climate change legislation. So-called buy American provisions that favor home-grown products, and tax credits for domestic industry need to be included, said the policy director for the AFL-CIO, in the climate change provision. If it is not done, those producers could lose votes, said the AFL-CIO Policy Director.

In other words, Mr. Bloom may end up being the protectionist czar as well. Then there is the health czar, a very distinguished Tennessean, Nancy-Ann DeParle, a very able woman I know well. But who is in charge of health care policy? Is it the Secretary of Health and Human Services, confirmed by the Senate, accountable to the Congress, accountable to the people of the country? Or is it someone in the White House who, an administration official says will “wake up every morning focused on health care reform, and she is going to be focused on that the whole time.”

There have been czars in the White House, at least since President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Of the 32 or 34 we have today—and I am using those two numbers because there are different reports and 2 or 3 czar positions are vacant—only 8 are confirmed by the Senate. We have had czars before, but there has never been anything quite like this.

Let me take my concerns one by one. Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States gives to the Congress the appropriations power and sets up, in articles II and III, the executive and judicial branches, a system of checks and balances that make sure no branch of the Federal Government runs away with the government.

Senator ROBERT BYRD, the President pro tempore of the Senate, wrote a letter to President Obama on February 23. Senator BYRD, who is often called the Constitutional conscience of the Senate, expressed his concern over the increasing appointments of White House czars and the relationship between these new positions and their executive branch counterparts, noting:

Too often, I have seen these lines of authority and responsibility become tangled and blurred, sometimes purposely, to shield information and to obscure the decision-making process.

That is Senator BYRD speaking. He goes on to say:

The rapid and easy accumulation of power by White House staff can threaten the Constitutional system of checks and balances to make sure no one branch of the government.

At the worst, White House staff have taken direction and control of programmatic areas that are the statutory responsibility of Senate-confirmed officials.

Continuing:

As presidential assistants and advisers, these White House staff are not accountable for their actions to the Congress, to Cabinet officials, and to virtually anyone but the President. They range from congressional committees, and often shield the information and decision-making process behind the assertion of executive privilege. In too many instances, White House staff have been allowed to inhibit openness and transparency, and reduce accountability.

More recently, one of the senior Republicans, Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas, who is the senior Republican on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, said in an op-ed in the Washington Post:

I oversee legislation and agencies that coordinate policy areas such as trade, technology, transit, consumer protection and commercial regulation. As many as 10 of the 32 czars functionally fall under my committee’s jurisdiction. Yet neither I nor the committee chairmen have clear authority to compel these czars to appear before our panel and report what they are doing. The Obama administration presented only two of these officials for our consideration before they assumed their duties. We have had no opportunity to probe the others’ credentials.

That is Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks the comments of Senator ROBERT BYRD and the op-ed of Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1).

Mr. ALEXANDER. As the Senator said, many of these czars have not testified by the Senators, no appropriation requests to be considered by us, no testimony given, and answer no hard
questions. Who is making the policy, then, on health care, on climate change, on energy?

I have been reading President James K. Polk’s diaries. I may be the only one in the United States reading them these days. They are actually very interesting. He wrote down every night what he did that day, back in the 1840s. Among the things he did, he had a Cabinet meeting every Tuesday and Saturday and every major issue that came before him, whether it was the war with Mexico or the annexation of Texas, the argument with Great Britain about what to do in Oregon—he submitted all those questions to his Cabinet, and then the Cabinet, of course, had to go before the Congress and testify. He didn’t always agree with the Cabinet.

Secretary of State Buchanan disagreed with President Polk quite a bit, but Secretary Buchanan then had to go before the Congress and come back and tell the President what he heard. That was the last thing he did, but what the Framers had in mind was checks and balances where the President leads the country, the Cabinet manages the government, and the Cabinet, as the managers of the government, are accountable to the people through their elected Representatives.

The 32 or 34 czars are not representative of the way the American system of government is supposed to work. This is not an era of transparency. It creates a centralization of power that is the antithesis of freedom, which is the principal characteristic, the principal aspect of the American character.

The second aspect of this large number of czars that is troublesome is the issue of managing the government. Forty years ago, I worked in the White House for President Nixon under a wise man named Bryce Harlow.

I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in order, and order, until I am finished with my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Harlow had worked for President Eisenhower. He was a wise counselor to President Johnson. He knew a lot about how the American Government is supposed to work. He said to me, then a very young staff member—he said:

Lamar, our job here in the White House is to pull together the most important issues out of the White House so that we can reserve to the President only that handful of truly Presidential issues.

George Reedy, who was Lyndon Johnson’s Press Secretary, wrote:

The job of the President is three things—to see and do as much business as you can, to develop a strategy to meet the need, and persuade half the people he’s right.

Mr. Reedy didn’t say anything about managing the Government of the United States out of the White House. He talked about leading the country.

Our current President is very skilled at persuading half the people he is right. He has demonstrated that in an election. He continues to demonstrate that with his speeches. That is not the issue. The issue is whether he ought to bring into the White House, or closer to him into the government, a large group of men and women who are accountable to him but not accountable to the people.

It is not for the President of the United States, I would submit, to have close to him people he listens to who do not have to listen to anybody else, or at least who do not have to listen to the elected Representatives of the people.

Everyone knows the first thing that happens when a new President is elected is people pick offices, and which office do they pick? They want the office closest to the President because it is an unwritten rule in Washington DC, that influence in Washington is measured in direct proportion to the number of inches one is physically from the President of the United States. So the First Lady usually ends up with the East Wing, the closest to the President. She sits right down the hall in the West Wing over to the Executive Office Building. After a while you get out around the Cabinet offices.

I used to be in one of the Cabinet offices in the first President Bush’s administration. It is true, the persons with the most influence with the President are almost always the men and women who are closest to him.

The other aspect of management that this session in the White House is the “one thing at a time” idea. One thing at a time is best exemplified, I suggest, by President Eisenhower when he said “I shall go to Korea.” He said that more than a half century ago when the big issue before the country—there were many, but the biggest issue was the Korean war. President Eisenhower said, in October of the election year, “I shall go to Korea,” and in December he went. And he said to the American people, “I will focus solely on the war in Korea. I will have my full attention until the matter is concluded.”

Because he was President and because he had capacity for leadership, people believed he would probably get that one thing done. In fact he did because, in our system of government, people know if the President selects a single issue—say it is health care, say it is resolving the debt, or fixing Social Security—if he picks one thing and throws himself into that for as long as he is there, the odds are he is going to wear everybody else out. He might have to compromise a little bit along the way.

I used to think this as Governor—and the President from one Governor in Virginia. Often our best proposals would get changed in the legislature. I learned a long time ago you could either condemn that or say: Well, they improved my proposal. Give the other side some credit, and go on to the next issue.

But a Governor and certainly a President who picks one thing can get a lot done. We have a lot of very talented people in and around the President. The President himself is highly intelligent and well liked by the American people, as well as he is by those of us in the Senate. But sometimes I am afraid the Obama White House resembles the House of Cards. Everybody has a bright idea, everybody is very smart, but everyone forgets that someone has to be the operator. Someone has to make it run. Someone has to pick one thing and lean into it for as long as it goes.

My point is, having a large number of bright advisers or czars for every issue under the Sun, clustered around the President, coming up with bright ideas, and who are accountable to the Congress for most of what they have to say, is not the best way for a President to pick a single, major issue—let’s say health care—and lead the country.

Finally, the number of czars we now have today, who have accumulated on the Obama administrations and today have reached a record level is anti-democratic. Czars are usually Russians; they are not Americans. Czars are usually imperialists, not Democrats.

The dictionary says a czar is an autocratic ruler or leader or an emperor or king. A czar is not associated with a democracy, not associated with an era of transparency.

Czars are alien to our way of thinking and our way of government. I am afraid czars are beyond control of this administration and the number of Washington takeovers. Let me not just use my own words, a New York Times article today said:

But one year after the collapse of Lehman Brothers set off a series of federal interventions, the government is the nation’s biggest lender, insurer, automaker and guarantor against risk for investors large and small.

Between financial rescues and the economic stimulus program, Government spending accounts for a bigger share of the nation’s economy—26 percent—than at any time since World War II. The Government is financing 9 out of 10 new mortgages in the United States. If you buy a car from General Motors, you are buying from a company that is 60 percent owned by the Government.

If you take out a car loan or run up your credit card, the chances are good that the Government is financing both your debt and that of your bank. And if you buy life insurance from the American International Group, you will be buying from a company that is almost 80 percent Federally owned.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record this article from September 14 following my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 2).

Mr. ALEXANDER. Czars are becoming a symbol of a runaway government in Washington with too many Washington takeovers. Before Johnson, the British moralist a few centuries ago, was once introduced to a talking dog in a London pub. The proud owner
of the dog asked Dr. Johnson what did he think of how well his dog talked.

Dr. Johnson is reported to have said, he was not so impressed with how well the dog talked, but that the dog talked at all.

That is about the way I feel about the nearly three dozen White House czars and government czars. I am not so worried about who they are, I am worried that the czars are there at all. I believe that the American people in addition to respected Senators such as Senator Byrd on the other side of the aisle, and Senator Hutchison on this side of the aisle, sense this is a problem.

My respectful suggestion to the President is along the same lines as Senator Byrd and Senator Hutchison have made. I believe it is time to push these czars out of the White House, and leave the management of government to the managers of government in the Cabinet and the positions in the departments of government who are accountable to the Congress. The positions who are accountable for their confirmation, accountable to answer the questions of Members of Congress, accountable for appropriations that have been signed by Congress before they spend the people’s money. That is the American way.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of czars published in the newspaper Politico on September 8.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 3).

BYRD QUESTIONS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON ROLE OF WHITE HOUSE “CZAR” POSITIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., the Constitutional conscience of the Senate, has written to President Barack Obama to express his concerns over the increasing appointments of White House “czars,” and the relationship between these new White House positions and their executive branch counterparts, noting that “too often, I have seen these lines of authority and responsibility become tangled and blurred, sometimes purposely, to shield information and to obscure the decision-making process.”

Byrd, in his February 23 letter, specifically referenced the creation of new White House Offices of Health Reform, Urban Affairs Policy, and Energy and Climate Change Policy, noting that “the rapid and easy accumulation of power by White House ‘czars’, can threaten the Constitutional system of checks and balances. At the worst, White House staff have taken direction and control of programmatic areas that are the statutory responsibility of Senate-confirmed officials.”

“As presidential assistants and advisers, these White House staffers are not accountable for their actions to the Congress, to cabinet officials, and to virtually anyone but the president. They rarely testify before Congress, and often shield information and decision-making process behind the assertion of executive privilege. In too many instances, White House staff have been allowed to inhibit openness and transparency, and reduce accountability.” Byrd’s letter continued.

Byrd cited President Obama’s recent memorandum to the executive departments and agencies in which Obama noted that, “A democracy requires accountability, and accountability means responsibility---not just to the President, or with the President’s specific approval; that senior White House personnel will be limited from exercising authority over any person, any program, or any funding within the statutory responsibility of a Senate-confirmed department or agency head; that the President will be responsible for resolving any discrepancies between a Senate-confirmed department or agency head and White House staff; and that the lines of authority and responsibility in the Administration will be transparent and open to the American public,” the letter requested and concluded.

EXHIBIT 2

[From the New York Times, Sept. 14, 2009]

U.S. IS FINDING ITS ROLE IN BUSINESS HARD TO UNWIND

(See exhibit 3).

WASHINGTON.—When President Obama travels to Wall Street on Monday to speak from Federal Hall, where the founders once argued bitterly over how much the government should control the national economy, he is likely to cast himself as a “reluctant shareholder” in America’s biggest industries and financial institutions.

But one year after the collapse of Lehman Brothers set off a series of federal interventions, the government is the nation’s biggest, lender, insurer, automaker and guarantor against risk for individuals and small businesses.

Between financial rescue missions and the economic stimulus program, government spending claims a share of the nation’s economy—26 percent—than at any time since World War II. The government is financing 9 out of 10 new mortgages in the United States. If you buy a car from General Motors, you are buying from a company that is 60 percent owned by the government. If you take out a car loan or run up your credit card, you are buying from a company that the government is financing both your debt and that of your bank.

And if you buy life insurance from the American International Group, you will be buying from a company that is almost 80 percent federally owned.

Mr. Obama plans to argue, his aides say, that these government interventions will be temporary. At the same time, however, he will push hard for an increased government role in overseeing the financial system to prevent a repeat of the excesses that caused the crisis.

“These were extraordinary provisions of support, not part of a permanent program,” said Carol Browner, the director of the National Economic Council at the White House. “You’re seeing a process of exit every day. It’s a process that’s going to take quite some time, but the prospects are much brighter today than they were nine months ago.”

That process unfolds every day in a bland bureaucratic’s haven, an annex connected by an underground tunnel to the Treasury’s main building on Pennsylvania Avenue. There, about 200 civil servants—accountants, lawyers, analysts—oversee the government’s most multibillion-dollar bailout packages for the biggest recipients of government loans, like Citigroup and Bank of America. A separate group, working closely with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, oversees the multibillion-dollar bailout package for American International Group. Ten blocks away, at the Federal Reserve, officials are still providing the emergency liquidity that keeps battered companies afloat.

To Mr. Obama’s critics, thousands of whom took to the streets of Washington this weekend in protest a new era of government intervention, all these efforts are part of a plan to dismantle free-market capitalism. On the ground it looks quite different, as a new president and his team try to find the proper role, both as owners and regulators.

A LIGHT HAND ON THE REINS

Far from eagerly micromanaging the companies the government owns, Mr. Obama and his economic team have often labored mightily to avoid exercising control even when government money was the only thing keeping some companies afloat.

Several weeks ago, a group of anguished gracles inside the Treasury Department as the Senate, has written to President Barack Obama, whose rescue package is 22 times greater than Mr. Obama’s, ridiculed officials in Washington—his majority shareholders—as “crazies.”

The government’s hand is even more minimal among the policy-makers. Mr. Benmosche insisted that A.I.G.—one of the worst offenders in the risk-taking that sent the nation over the fiscal cliff—will sell all its businesses at fire-sale prices, despite pressure from Fed and Treasury officials, who are desperate to have the insurer repay its $180 billion government bailout.

But in the end, according to one senior official, “no one called him and told him to shut up.” The Treasury secretary, who ran the bank and told him to sell assets as soon as possible to repay the loans.

A similar hands-off decision was made about the auto companies. Shortly after General Motors and Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy, some members of the administration’s auto task force argued that the government should not go out of business until it was confident that a new management team in Detroit had a handle on what needed to be done.

But Mr. Summers strongly rejected that approach, and the Treasury secretary, Timothy F. Geithner, agreed.

An argument was that if the president said he wasn’t elected to run G.M., then we couldn’t hire a new board and then try to run any aspect of it,’ one participant in the discussions said. The auto task force took off for summer vacation in July, and it never returned.

But it will probably be several years before the government can begin to sell its stake in G.M. back to the public, and even then, according to a report issued last week by the independent monitor of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, some $20 billion or so will be felled to G.M. and Chrysler is probably gone forever.

WINNING DOWN PROGRAMS

By contrast, Mr. Obama’s team and the Federal Reserve have been more successful than generally recognized at winding down many of the support programs for banks. Nearly three dozen federal bank rescue packages have repaid $70 billion in loans to the Treasury, and officials predict that $50 billion more will be repaid over the next 18 months. In the meantime, the government has earned tidy profits on the first round of repayments.

One of the biggest backstops has been the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which now guarantees about $300 billion worth of bonds issued by banks.
The volume of new guarantees has declined to less than $5 billion a month in August from more than $90 billion a month earlier this year. The F.D.I.C. announced last week that it would end the program entirely on Oct. 31 or reduce it further by substantially increasing the fees that banks have to pay.

Since it, one of the Fed’s biggest emergency loan programs, the Term Auction Facility, has shrunk by more than half in the last 12 months. A second big program, which financed most of the Federal Reserve’s bond purchases for banks, has shrunk to $124 billion, from $332 billion a year ago.

Obama administration officials have ushered in a new era of “big government.” Despite promises to the contrary, experts say it will be difficult to shrink the government to anything like its former role. For one thing, Mr. Obama is determined to expand government regulation of business and to beef up federal programs for consumers.

**SEEKING MORE OVERSIGHT**

Mr. Obama’s proposals to overhaul the system of financial regulation would give the Fed new powers to supervise giant financial institutions whose failure could threaten the entire financial system. To limit the dangers posed by insolvent institutions that are “too big to fail,” the F.D.I.C. would wield “new authority to close them in an orderly way.”

The administration would impose much tougher regulation over the vast market for financial derivatives like credit-default swaps and other exotic instruments for hedging risk. It would also create an entirely new Consumer Financial Protection Agency, which would have broad power to regulate most forms of consumer lending.

In his speech on Monday, White House officials say, Mr. Obama will step up pressure on Wall Street to accept tougher oversight. Even though his proposals have made little headway in Congress, largely because of the battle over health care, Democratic lawmakers said they were determined to pass comprehensive legislation by next year.

But the much bigger puzzle is how the government will untangle Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which have about $5 trillion in outstanding mortgage debt. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which oversees banks, has already suggested that the Fed would have to buy or guarantee almost two-thirds of all new mortgages. The Federal Housing Administration guarantees another third of all new mortgages. The Federal Housing Finance Agency accounts for about 7 percent of new mortgages.

The F.D.I.C. would receive new authority to close institutions whose failure could threaten the financial system. As the government backs away from its rescue operations, economists and others worry about unknown consequences. Some analysts are already predicting that mortgage rates will bump higher when the Fed stops buying mortgage securities, potentially delaying a recovery in housing.

As the government’s approach to its rescue operations, economists and others worry about unknown consequences. Some analysts are already predicting that mortgage rates will bump higher when the Fed stops buying mortgage securities, potentially delaying a recovery in housing.

**AN ENORMOUS SCALE**

The scale of the Fed’s intervention has been staggering. The central bank has acquired more than $700 billion in mortgage-backed securities so far, and officials have said they will buy up to $1.25 trillion—a goal that should be met by the end of next year. To help Fannie and Freddie raise the money they need to buy mortgages from lenders, the Fed is also buying $200 billion of their bonds.

All told, the government is propping up almost the entire mortgage market and, by extension, the housing industry. "It will be very difficult to unwind, having stepped in as big as they did," said Howard Glaser, a senior housing official during the Clinton administration and now an industry consultant. "There is no structure, no mechanism, for private investors to come back into the market."

Other experts and policy makers have begun to argue for a broader concept that if the Obama administration and the Fed do manage to shrink the government’s role to precrisis levels, has the government’s immense rescue measures stagged for more frequent interventions in the future? "This crisis, whether it’s because of the Fed or the Treasury or Congress, has created a lot of new moral hazards," said Charles I. Plosser, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. "Once you have done this once, even though it was in a serious crisis, the temptation will be for people to figure that in the next crisis you’ll do it again. You’ve got to figure out a way to say no."

**From the Washington Post, Sept. 13, 2009**

**CZARS WASHINGTON**

(By Kay Bailey Hutchinson)

The Framers of the Constitution knew that the document founding our democracy must be the anchor of liberty and the blueprints for our nation’s future. They provided a balance of powers to ensure that no individual and no single arm of government could ever wield unchecked authority against the American people.

Nearly 250 years later, these critical lines of separation are being obscured by a new class of federal officials. A few of them have formal titles, but most are simply known as “czars.” They hold unknown levels of power over broad swathes of policy. Under the Obama administration, we have an unprecendented number of czars—some of which it has yet to fill, including a “car czar,” a “pay czar” and an “information czar.”

There are also czars assigned to some of the broadest and most sensitive in policy, including health care, terrorism, economics and key geographic regions.

**What so these czars do?** Do they advise the president? Do they manage the administration’s agenda on the heads of federal agencies and offices that will be created by Congress? Do they have clear authority to compel these czars to appear before our panel and report what they are doing? The Obama administration presented only two of these officials for our consideration before the Senate, and we have had no opportunity to probe the others’ credentials.

Recently we saw the kinds of dangerous deals that can slip by without the proper oversight. The political czar is not put through the Senate confirmation process. Before the assuming the post of “green jobs czar,” Van Jones had engaged in much trouble, often by endorsing and embracing fringe theories about the Sept. 11 attacks. He has ties to a socialist group. The Obama administration and Congress have created a new generation of czars to oversee the federal government, and the Senate needs to make sure that it will not allow the potentially dangerous official isn’t put through the Senate confirmation process. Before assuming the post of “green jobs czar,” Van Jones had engaged in much trouble, often by endorsing and embracing fringe theories about the Sept. 11 attacks. He has ties to a socialist group. The Senate confirmation process would typically provide a meaningful opportunity for Senate committees to ask questions about Jones’s background and then discuss the kinds of issues and for allowing for public input. Jones’s case highlighted the lack of accountability that is becoming commonplace under the Obama administration.

While Jones rightly resigned, there are dozens of other administration czars about whom we still know very little. It is Congress’s duty to know who is serving at the highest levels of government, what they are doing, and what qualifications or complications these people bring to the job. It is also our responsibility to make this information known to the people who have elected us to serve and protect them. This is how we ensure accountability.

The deployment of this many czars sets a dangerous precedent that undermines the Constitution’s guarantee of separated powers. It must be stopped. President Obama has promised to do this. But he has failed to do it. It must be stopped. President Obama has promised to do this. But he has failed to do it. President Obama should submit each of his many policy czars to the Senate so that we can review their qualifications, roles and other qualifications or complications these people bring to the job. It is also our responsibility to make this information known to the people who have elected us to serve and protect them. This is how we ensure accountability.

The deployment of this many czars sets a dangerous precedent that undermines the Constitution’s guarantee of separated powers. It must be stopped. President Obama has promised to do this. But he has failed to do it.
I know the majority offer amendments so we can get to final passage. I hope our colleagues would bring those amendments down. I think one or two are going to be offered this afternoon so we can have votes scheduled at 5:30, as the majority leader has suggested. It is not only the majority leader, it is the Senate of the country.

Theoministerial clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The assistant legislative clerk read the papers, is at a crisis point. I yield the floor.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. JOHANNS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate adjourn to pending business and rise.

Amendments to the motion to proceed to H.R. 3288 (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010)

The amendment is as follows:

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be dispensed with.

The acts as follows:

(Amendment No. 2355)

The amendment has received $3 million in Federal funds—taxpayer money—since 1994. In the current transportation and housing appropriations bill, ACORN is eligible to add to that number, to receive millions more in taxpayer funds from several different accounts and purposes. It could receive money through mortgage counseling, it could receive money through CDBG, community development block grants, and it could receive money from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

The people of Nebraska sent me to Washington to protect them from waste and fraud and abuse, and they asked me to change the status quo. I take that responsibility very seriously. That is why my amendment would prohibit one more penny—one more penny—of taxpayer money from going for transportation and housing appropriations.

The recent news surrounding ACORN is alarming, at a minimum. In fact, it is outrageous. Last week, Miami-Dade prosecutors issued arrest warrants for 17 ACORN employees, its employees are charged with falsifying voter registration cards. A total of 1,400 voter registration cards were turned in, and 888 of those cards were found to be a fake. This means almost three-quarters of ACORN’s entries were fraudulent, including 888 of ACORN’s entries were fraudulent. ACORN is the Voting Rights Act, as amended by the Voter Education and Assistance Act.

The amendment to the motion to proceed to H.R. 3288 (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010) is as follows:

Purpose: Prohibiting direct or indirect use of funds to fund the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)

Amendment No. 2355

The amendment is as follows:

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be dispensed with.

The Senate adjourned to pending business and rise. Mr. JOHANNS. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be dispensed with.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be dispensed with.
September 14, 2009

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S9309

would suggest, obviously, this is a pattern of very rotten behavior. Well, the alarm bells are rightly going off.

The Census Bureau notified ACORN on Friday that it is severing all ties with the group for all work having to do with the 2010 census. Notwithstanding the fact that I am long overdue, I applaud them for that action.

The Census letter pulled no punches, and I am quoting: ... It is clear that ACORN’s affiliation with the Census Bureau has caused sufficient concern in the general public, has indeed become a distraction from our mission, and may even become a discouragement to public cooperation negatively impacting 2010 Census efforts. Unfortunately, we no longer have confidence—

“We no longer have confidence”— that our national partnership agreement is being effectively managed through your many local offices. For the reasons stated, we therefore have decided to terminate the partnership.

Some may even say today, as amazing as this would sound, that the recent events isolated, that the facts are not a fair and accurate representation of ACORN. How you could say that I am not sure, but to these defendants, I urge them to read the 88-page incriminating report published in July by the minority staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. It is entitled—and, again, I am quoting—and I have the report here—"Is ACORN Intentionally Structured as a Criminal Enterprise?"

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Executive Summary of that report be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Darrell Issa (CA–49), Ranking Member

Is ACORN INTENTIONALLY STRUCTURED AS A CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE?

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“We should be unfailingly to ourselves if we should ever forget the danger to our liberties if anything partial or extraneous should infect the purity of our free, fair, virtuous, and independent elections”—President John Adams, Inaugural Address, 1797.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) has repeatedly and deliberately engaged in systemic fraud. Both structurally and operationally, ACORN hides behind a paper wall of non-profit corporate protections to conceal a criminal enterprise. The part of the directors, to launder federal money in order to pursue a partisan political agenda and to manipulate the American electorate.

Emerging accounts of widespread deceit and corruption raise the need for a criminal investigation of ACORN. By intentionally blurring the legal distinctions between 361 tax-exempt entities controlled by ACORN, diverts taxpayer and tax-exempt monies into partisan political activities. Since 1994, more than $33 million in federal funds have been pumped into ACORN and under the Obama administration, ACORN stands to receive a whopping $8.5 billion in available stimulus funds.

Operationally, ACORN is a shell game played in 120 cities, 43 states and the District of Columbia through a complex structure designed to conceal illegal activities, to use taxpayer and tax-exempt dollars for partisan political purposes, and to distract investigators. Structurally, ACORN is a chess game in which special techniques are used to conceal accountability by multiple layers of volunteers and compensated employees who serve as pawns to take the fall for every bad act. The report contains evidence obtained from former ACORN insiders that completes the picture of a criminal enterprise.

First, ACORN has evaded taxes, obstructed justice, engaged in self dealing, and aided and abetted a cover-up of embezzlement by Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke.

Committee investigators have established that a violation of corporate duties led to gross abuses of public and private funds and a violation of upon relevant laws.

ACORN’s political agenda. ACORN’s 2005–06 electioneering and its affiliates as part of a coordinated and systematic political action committee. These actions are a clear violation of numerous tax and election laws.

Documents contained in this report reveal ACORN’s political agenda. ACORN’s 2005–2007 Strategic Plan states that “just as important as . . . mobilizing existing progressive voters, ACORN and similar groups actually create new progressive voters.” In the same document, ACORN acknowledges that its goals are to build a “grassroots movement of attracting new members, and educating or politicizing existing members.” One particular issue where ACORN claims success is stated as one of the key elements of the national Republican program.”

In other documents, ACORN affiliates take credit for the election of former-Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. In the 2008 end-of-year report of ACORN affiliate Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 880, efforts to elect Blagojevich and advance partisan political agendas are cited as part of its operation.

Labor organizations, unions, and other tax-exempt entities stretched Chicago-style political action committees from back room scheming beyond Illinois to other state-wide and national campaign efforts. In the State of Ohio, where ACORN directors drafted a political plan contained in this report, partisan goals are enumerated. The ACORN Ohio Political Plan states: “ACORN will target three competitive Ohio congressional districts, as well as seats in the upper legislative bodies.”

Moreover, documents provided by former ACORN employees and contained in this report demonstrate the degree to which ACORN influenced the election of President Barack Obama in 2008.

Fourth, ACORN has submitted false filings to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Department of Labor, in addition to violating the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Committee investigators have tracked ACORN’s numerous failures to comply with federal laws that required the payment of excessive benefits to Dale Rathke, SEIU Local 100—under the direction of ACORN grassroots director Richard Zoller—after holding a low-level ACORN employee liable for election law violations—"somebody has to go after ACORN." Third, ACORN has conspired in concert with the Justice Department to defraud the United States by using tax-exempt funds to cover up illegal activities. The report states that ACORN, in violation of relevant laws, has conspired to defraud the United States by using tax-exempt funds to cover up illegal activities. The report states that ACORN, in violation of relevant laws, has conspired and abetted a cover-up of embezzlement by Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke.

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Committee investigators have concluded that ACORN plunders employee benefits and violated fiduciary responsibilities under ERISA. In addition, ACORN failed to properly account for prohibited loans to a related party. Moreover, ACORN affiliates lack independent control of their own assets and maintain endowments and endowment assets for their exclusive use to hide ACORN’s secret and illegal use of monies.

ACORN conspired to conceal information concerning prohibited transactions from its board in violation of its corporate charter. ACORN’s termination of board members who sought to uncover its illegal activities perpetuates a cover-up at the expense of adherence to its own bylaws.

The evidence contained in this report presents evidence that ACORN’s stated purpose as a community organizing entity in the United States to increase the number of voters who speak and support a non-partisan political agenda. These actions are a clear violation of numerous tax and election laws.

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ACORN conspired to conceal information concerning prohibited transactions from its board in violation of its corporate charter. ACORN’s termination of board members who sought to uncover its illegal activities perpetuates a cover-up at the expense of adherence to its own bylaws.
strategy of tax fraud, racketeering, money-laundering and manipulating the American electorate.

Scrutiny is essential to lift a dark cloud of suspicion off nonprofit community organizations; to bring to justice the responsible parties who have heretofore been shielded from prosecution by ACORN’s obscure organization, to protect the American system of democratic self-government from manipulation and disruption; and to free our political climate from the choke of corruption that threatens to strangle free and fair elections.

Mr. JOHANNES. According to the report:

Operationally, ACORN is a shell game played in 128 cities, 43 states and the District of Columbia through a complex structure designed to conceal illegal activities, to use taxpayer and tax exempt dollars for partisan political purposes, and to manipulate the electoral system. Structurally, ACORN is a chess game in which senior management is shielded from accountability by multiple layers of volunteers and compensated employees who serve as pawns to take the fall for every bad act.

There is a history here, and it is a sad history. In 1998, an ACORN employee was arrested for falsifying voter registration forms. In 1999, Philadelphia authorities found hundreds of fraudulent registration forms by ACORN. In October of 2008, the pattern continues. ACORN’s Nevada offices were raided by Federal agents, and in 2009 their Las Vegas field director was charged with voter registration fraud. In May 2009, seven ACORN employees were charged in Pittsburgh for voter registration fraud.

I cite this sad, tragic history because the events of the last week were not isolated, and I do not believe it was accidental that this video caught ACORN employees delivering the same message in different cities. They magnify a troubling, systemic, and criminal pattern. In fact, they serve as a public window into an organization that is besieged by corruption, by fraud, and by illegal activity—activity committed—the taxpayers’ dime.

Mr. President, I would suggest to you, if we had the capability to ask every taxpayer in America: Is this how you want your money spent, we would have a nearly unanimous count saying: Absolutely not.

At a time when we are experiencing record deficits and the economy is struggling every day to get back on its feet, how in the world can anyone come to this floor of the Senate and say: I want to cast my vote to continue to fund this organization with taxpayer dollars, hard-earned dollars by American families, when so many questions of legitimacy reign? I think the answer to that is simple. I do not see how anybody could cast that vote. To do so, in my judgment, would ignore the proof, and it would also ignore our responsibility to protect taxpayers from waste and fraud and abuse. I would go so far as to say that I respect that some of my colleagues believe the work done by ACORN in some communities might be valuable. But I would respectfully suggest that the problems riddling this organization, in office after office, cannot and should not be trivialized. This is an opportunity for the Senate to stand up and say: Enough is enough, just as the Census Bureau did.

As Judge Richard Zoller said, after holding an ACORN employee liable for election registration fraud:

Somebody has to go after ACORN.

Well, I suggest today, on the floor of the Senate, that “somebody” is each and every U.S. Senator. That “somebody” is each Senator, who now has the habit of rolling over and say: to the taxpayers back home: We will not tolerate this any longer. Until a full investigation is launched into ACORN, no taxpayer money should be used to fund its activities. A vote in favor of my amendment is a vote in favor of the taxpayer and a vote against the status quo.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the roll proceed to call the roll.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for up to 25 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for up to 25 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, building on a series of speeches I have given over the past few years and in the tradition of a former Member of this body, Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina, I hope to provide my colleagues and the American people with regular updates on our catastrophic national debt. Unfortunately, given the lack of action to address this coming tsunami, I believe President Obama and Congress need to be reminded of the fiscal realities in which we find ourselves. Senator Hollings came down to the Senate floor every few weeks with a poster updating the national debt, and today I renew his tradition, and I will continue it until we do something about this unsustainable financial crisis.

One of my grandchildren’s favorite stories is “The Emperor’s New Clothes” by Hans Christian Anderson. In the tale, an emperor goes about the land wearing a nonexistent suit sold to him by a new tailor who convinced the monarch the suit is made of the finest silks. The tailors—two swindlers—tell the emperor that the threads of his robe will be so fine that they will look invisible to those dimwitted or unfit for their position. The emperor and his minions then decide to see the clothing, lavish the tailor with praise for the suit because they do not want to appear dimwitted or incompetent.

Word spread across the kingdom of the emperor’s beautiful new robes. To show off the extraordinary suit, a parade was formed. People lined the streets to see the emperor show off his new clothes. Again, afraid to appear stupid or unfit, everyone pretends to see something. It is only when a child cries out “the emperor wears no clothes” does the crowd acknowledge that the emperor is, in fact, naked.

Much like the emperor, America’s elected leaders know we face a fiscal tsunami, but we pretending to ignore our current economic reality. I am here to tell my colleagues and President Obama, the emperor has no clothes and we are naked in terms of dealing with our deficits and national debt.

As shown right here on this chart, get the book out. I am sure you have it. Read it. That is where we are right now. The irony is that the American people know we are naked, and they are coming to Washington to want us to know we are naked, and so does the rest of the world, and our credibility and our credit today are at risk.

I have this chart, what I refer to as the “Wheel of Misfortune.” This lays out quite clearly what our national debt is today.

One of the reasons I ran for the Senate back in 1998 was I wanted to come to Washington and reduce the national debt and balance budgets, which is something I did as Mayor of the City of Cleveland and something I did as Governor of the State of Ohio.

When I came to the Senate in 1999, our gross national debt stood at $5 trillion or 61 percent of the GDP. Today, as you can see from the chart behind me, the gross national debt is nearly $11.8 trillion. I understand the President is going to ask us to increase our debt limit to $12 trillion and, quite frankly, I believe he is going to be asking us to raise the debt limit to more than $12 trillion.

This is an increase of more than 100 percent in 10 years. Much of this increase has come recently. In fact, from 2008 to 2009 alone, the Federal debt will increase 22 percent, boosting the country’s debt-to-income ratio—our national debt as a percentage of GDP—from 70 percent last year to 86 percent this year. We haven’t seen this kind of GDP debt since the Second World War. It was 65 years ago during the Second World War that we saw these kinds of numbers.

By the way, this does not include our unfunded Medicare and Social Security obligations which the Peterson Foundation recently tagged at $66.4 trillion. This is the equivalent of a $483 billion debt per American household or $184,000 for every man, woman, and child in America today. Those are unfunded liabilities.

I don’t take an economist to realize our course is unsustainable. President Obama and this Congress are fully aware of this reckless fiscal path. Yet they continue to spend and borrow,
spend and borrow. Our Federal Government is the worst credit card abuser in the world. We talk to our kids about not abusing their credit cards. What kind of example do we set? You know what. We are putting the tab on the backs of our children and grandchildren.

Like the boy who cried "the emperor has no clothes," the American people see through this sham. There were a bunch of them here this weekend who saw through the sham. A recent poll conducted by the Peterson Foundation showed that after their personal job, the most pressing concern of Americans is the national debt. Americans are cutting back, folks, in their own family. They are making tough decisions. They know they haven't been living within their means.

Some people are saying: Why are they paying attention to this finally? Well, they are finally realizing in their own families they need to redo the way they are doing things, and they are asking themselves: Why isn't our Federal Government doing the same thing we are doing in our households? Is it no wonder they are looking at government's reckless spending with disapproval and wondering why we are not doing the same thing they are doing. They are mad as hell, and they aren't going to take it anymore.

The media is also finally starting to pay attention to this issue. Recently, the Washington Post ran an article by Fred Hiatt, chief editorial writer, acknowledging that our long-term fiscal path is unsustainable, as well as an editorial taking the administration to task for lacking a plan on how to start digging our economy out of this fiscal crisis.

Additionally, Newsweek published an article by Fareed Zakaria where he outlines what he describes as "the disease of modern democracy: the system cannot impose any short-term pain for long-term gain: we are unwilling to pay for it or do without."

The first one, this Newsweek article, is called, "There is a Silver Lining."

The crisis forced the United States to confront bad habits developed over the past few decades. If we can kick those habits, today's pain will translate into gains.

The other is a Washington Post article entitled "No Laughing Matter. Why America's Deficit is Not Our Problem."

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the articles to which I previously referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

September 14, 2009

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S9311

The President pro tempore of the Senate is recognized.

Mr. VOLCKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the articles to which I previously referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Newsweek Magazine, Oct. 20, 2008]

THERE IS A SILVER LINING

(By Fareed Zakaria.)

Some of us—especially those under 60—have always wondered what it would be like to live through the kind of epochal event one reads about in books. Well, this is it. We're now living history, suffering one of the greatest financial panics of all time. It compares with the big ones—1907, 1929—and we cannot yet know its full consequences for the financial system, the economy or society as a whole.

I'm betting that, in the end, the world's governments will win this battle against fear. They have potentially unlimited tools at their disposal to get into this by crisis measures of that sort.

Let's hope that the world's governments will be able to win this battle against fear. If they can, they will have to act in concert. They can nationalize banks, call in the Treasury, suspend trading for weeks, buy up debt and equity, and renegotiate home mortgages. Most importantly, the American government can print money. All of these tools have long-term effects that are extremely powerful. This is nothing compared with the potential collapse of the financial system. And Washington seems to have recognized that it must do whatever is required—no question remain. What will it take to stop the fall? How costly will it be? How long before the rescue plan starts to have an effect? But at some point, the panic that gripped world markets last week will end. Of course, that will not mean a return to growth or a bull market. We're in for tough times. But it will mean a reallocation of wealth and resources. Amid all the difficulties and hardship that are about to descend on us, one silver lining. This crisis has—dramatically, vengefully, with a single blow to the face—unleashed the bad habits it has developed over the past few decades. If we can kick those habits, today's pain will translate into gains in the long run.

Since the 1980s, Americans have consumed more than they produced—and they have made up the difference by borrowing. Two decades of easy money and innovative financial products meant that virtually anyone could borrow any amount of money for anything that they wanted: a bigger house, a better TV or a faster car, and we didn't actually have the money to pay for it, no problem. We put it on a credit card, took out a massive mortgage and financed our fantasies. As the fantasies grew, so did household debt, from $680 billion in 1974 to $14 trillion today. The total has doubled in just the past seven years. The average household owns 13 credit cards, and 40 percent of them carry a balance, up from 6 percent in 1970.

But the average American's behavior was virtuous compared with the government's. Every city, every county and every state has wanted to preserve its many and proliferating operations and yet not raise taxes. How? By borrowing, using ever more elaborate financial instruments. Revenue bonds were backed up by the prospect of future income from taxes or lotteries. "A growing trend is to securitize future federal funding for highways, housing and other items," says Chris Edwards of the Cato Institute. The effect on the private sector was to make them more expensive, since they incur interest payments. Because they "insulate the taxpayer from the cost"—all that needs to be paid now is the interest—they also tend to produce cost overruns.

Local polo's aren't the only problem. Under Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve obstinately refused to inflict any pain. Russian default? Cut interest rates. Worried about Y2K? Cut rates. NASDAQ crash? Cut rates. The economy slows after 9/11? Cut rates. Whatever the problem, the solution was to keep the money flowing and goose the economy. Eventually, by putting the housing market on steroids, the strategy created problems too large to untangle.

The whole country has been complicit in a gigantic fraud. As economist Jeffrey Sachs puts it, the government "rotates its budget from one year to the next, but the private sector is there to support it. The government stops, but we haven't wanted to pay for it." So we've borrowed our way out of the problem. In 1990, the national debt stood at $3 trillion. (That sounds high, but keep reading.) By 2000, it had almost doubled, to $5.75 trillion. It is currently $10.2 trillion. The number is now growing into 11 digits last month, which meant that the National Debt Clock in New York City ran out of space to display the figures. Its owners plan to get a new clock this year.

"Leverage" is the fancy Wall Street word for debt. It's at the heart of the current crisis. No one missed Buffett exclaiming in his inimitable way on "The Charlie Rose Show." "Leverage," he said, "is the only way a smart guy can go broke . . . You do it, and you get rich. If you do smart things and use leverage and you do one wrong along the way, it could wipe you out, because anything times zero is zero. But it's the people around you are doing it successfully, you're doing it successfully, and it's a lot like Cinderella at the ball. The guys look better all the time, the music sounds better, it's more and more fun, you think, 'Why the hell should I leave at a quarter to 12? I'll leave at two minutes to 12.' But the trouble is, there are no clocks on the wall and everybody thinks they're going to leave at two minutes to 12.'"

If there is a lesson to be taken from this crisis, it's a simple and old rule of economics: there is no free lunch. If you want something, you have to pay for it. Debt is not a bad thing. Used responsibly, it is at the heart of our capitalistic system. But maintaining debt in complex instruments is a way to disguise costs, an invitation to irresponsible behavior.

At some point, the magical accounting had to stop. At some point, consumers had to stop using their homes as banks and spend-
sate of financial innovation was nothing of the kind: it simply shuffled around existing resources while contributing few real benefits to the economy. Such activity will now be less extravagant.

Mr. Geithner was met with laughter when he told a group of Chinese students that their country’s assets were “very safe” in Washington. The chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben S. Bernanke, was considerably more decorous than the Chinese students in testimony before Congress on Wednesday but, in essence, only slightly less skeptical. “Even as we take steps to head off and remove threats to financial stability,” he said, “maintaining the confidence of the financial markets requires that we, as a nation, begin planning now for the restoration of fiscal balance.”

Mr. Bernanke did not say explicitly that there is no such plan in Mr. Obama’s budget. He did note that the estimates of the president’s budget show annual deficits lingering indefinitely above 4 percent of GDP. Nor did he point out that Congress has yet to come up with job-creating, demand-financing for the president’s desirable but expensive health-care proposal. He did not say that Mr. Obama and Congress have done nothing so far to deliver on the president’s pledge of entitlement reform. But if the Fed chairman had said those things, he would have been absolutely right.

Mr. Voinovich, Mr. President, now is when we turn to the first step toward fiscal responsibility and making good on our promises by enacting meaningful, comprehensive tax and entitlement reform. The recent pay-as-you-go legislation passed by the House isn’t going to get the job done. We know that. This Band-Aid relies on smoke and mirrors and exempts the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, patching the alternative minimum tax, updating physician payments in Medicare, and reducing the estate tax in intellectually dishonest. Even the Budget Committee chairman in the Senate, Senator Conrad, calls this pay-go that came out of the House insincere. If Congress is going to reenact statutory pay-go, then it should apply to everything, not just to what is convenient.

We need real comprehensive reform. I am pleased to say it appears as though President Obama is finally starting to get it. In an interview with the Washington Post, President Obama endorsed the idea of a commission where—here is what he said: "Everything is going to be on the table when it comes to examining our tax and entitlement systems and presenting long-term solutions to place the United States on a fiscally sustainable course."

He went on to say: "What you end up having to do in terms of structural reforms realistically is you probably have to set up some sort of commission of some kind. We are going to have to look at the prospect of maybe locking in a pledge for action, post election."

We know we have talked about this on occasion, about this commission and getting it up and trying to get the administration to commit to it so we can let the American people know we are sincere about doing something about this debt and balancing our budget.

For the past three Congresses, I have been calling for such a commission. That Congress, I am pleased to say, the Senator Lieberman has joined me as an original cosponsor to create the commission now.
There is a new poll out just today, AP, that says half of Americans are more concerned about tackling our debt than our health care reform, education, and climate change. Did my colleagues hear that? Over half of them say that’s the first priority. The reason I believe we are having such a hard
difficult time dealing with health care and why we are not going to pass any
kind of climate change legislation is that the people of this country know
we have to go to work on this. They want us to get serious about these issues.

I think the American people know we can’t afford the health care system we now have, and we must face the day we must do more
responsible. Think of this: We spend $2.2 trillion on health care in
this country. The Medicare trust fund will be insolvent in 2017, and we have
to reform the way we pay physicians. We must have a proper mix and say
will cost us $280 billion over 10 years. Furthermore, the States are already
overburdened by the cost of their Medicaid programs.

We gave the States $77 billion in the stimulus bill. I can tell you in ordinary
circumstances, many States usually come to Washington with a tin cup. I can
guarantee you that the Governors of this country are going to be down here
with a large bathtub asking us to fill it because of the problems they confront.

In other words, they can’t now take care—well, they can now because they
got the $77 billion, but once that runs out, they are going to be down and
saying: We can’t handle the current system as it is. How can we expand
Medicaid when we can’t take care of the Medicaid Program we now have?
With the financial crisis we have in this country, we have to be careful about
taking on something we can’t afford, particularly when we can’t afford to
pay for what we already have.

I am surprised that in the President’s speech last week he didn’t talk about
the fact that everybody needs to understand this—the money coming in for Medicare would not be adequate to
take care of the people who are out there who are eligible for Medicare. It
is part of what I call that unfunded liability that I talked about earlier.

The Peterson Foundation recently commissioned an in-depth health care
study conducted by the Lewin Group, and I urge my colleagues to take a
close look at this analysis and see the principles the Peterson Foundation
lays out to determine a fiscally responsible health care reform bill.

I am not the only one calling for Congress to be fiscally responsible when it
comes to health care reform. In order for health care reform legislation to
be fiscally responsible, it must, one, pay for itself over a 10-year period;
two, not add to the deficit beyond a 10-year period; three, bend the cost curve
down to reduce health care spending; and four, significantly reduce current
unfunded obligations. That is what we should be talking about.

President Obama and Congress must act. We all came to Washington to
serve, and we have a moral responsibility to leave this place better than
what we found it. How will we look our children and grandchildren in the eye
knowing we mortgaged their future at a time when we know they are going to
have to work harder than we have to maintain the standard of living we enjoy.

God has blessed me with three children—and seven grandchildren. I am
constantly worried about what kind of America they are going to be living in.
I know darn well the competition we face today worldwide is a lot more
fierce than anything I experienced during my life here. I know because of
that competition they are going to have to work harder. They are going to
have to work smarter. It would be very cruel for us, on top of that, to lay this
terrible burden on their shoulders and say: We weren’t willing to pay for it or
do without, so you take care of it. It is your problem. You handle it.

I was pleased to hear President Obama echo this last Wednesday during
a joint session of Congress, the same sentiment I have just made. He stated—and I quote the President of the United States:

I understand that the politically safe move would be to kick the can further down the road—to defer reform one more year, one
more election, one more term. But that is not what the moment calls for. That is not
what we came here to do. We did not come here to play politics, to
shape it. I still believe we can act, even when it is hard.

President Obama’s words ring true in light of the fiscal challenges we face as a
country today. And they should get the first priority. Until we start on a
commission, Congress, the administration, the American people, and the
world will know the Emperor has no clothes. We are naked in terms of real-
ity, the marketplace of health care reform or any other fiscal crisis.

Now is the time to act.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.
The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order
for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Missouri.

AMENDMENT NO. 285, AS MODIFIED
Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Johanns
amendment be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2355), as modified, is as follows:

(PURPOSE: PROHIBITING USE OF FUNDS TO FUND
THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZA-
TIONS FOR REFORM NOW (ACORN))

After section 414, insert the following:

SEC. 4. None of the funds made available under this Act may be distributed to the
Congress has the opportunity to end this relationship now. I am hoping we will be able to vote this afternoon, and I urge my colleagues to support the Johanns amendment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of an amendment by my good friend, Senator Mike Johanns, that would prevent our taxpayer dollars from being directed to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, more commonly known as ACORN. I also want to commend the Census Bureau’s recent decision to cut all ties with ACORN.

Simply put I am very pleased with this decision, which was announced late last week through a letter from Census Bureau Director Robert Groves to ACORN’s National Headquarters. As I met with Dr. Groves in my office just last week, I raised this very issue and expressed my disappointment, along with the disappointment of many of the Utahns I represent, that ACORN would have any association with such an important and historic event such as the 2010 Census.

Anyone who knows me, knows that I am always supportive of reasonable efforts to ensure that taxpayer funds are not used for unlawful activities, particularly when those activities may be construed to be partisan in nature. That is why I have followed this particular issue so closely throughout the year and raised the issue directly with Director Groves.

In fact, as next year’s census quickly approaches, Congress is going to work with Census officials at the Commerce Department on all levels. As all Utahs are keenly aware, the Decennial Census requires precision and uniformity— both of which I am closely monitoring as the Census approaches.

To that end, I am hopeful that the Census Bureau will ensure that all Americans are counted fairly and accurately, with the privacy of the individual always in mind. I applaud Director Groves and the Census Bureau to cut all ties with ACORN. I am pleased that he listened not only to my concerns, but also to the concerns of thousands of Utahns and Americans from across country who have expressed severe disappointment with ACORN’s involvement in the 2010 Census. Personally, I feel ACORN should not have been involved in the 2010 Census in the first place. However, I recognize the Bureau’s actions as an important step toward an accurate and fair count and look forward to assisting in additional efforts toward that same end in the near future.

While I am encouraged by the recent actions, I recognize that it is critical to adopt Senator Johanns’ amendment so we can know with certainty that partisan political organizations like ACORN will not be underwritten with taxpayer dollars.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Johanns amendment No. 2355, as modified; that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to the vote; and that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the amendment, with the time equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, tomorrow is the first anniversary of the Lehman Brothers collapse, the largest bankruptcy in United States history. Lehman’s failure sent shock waves throughout the entire country.

The resulting financial meltdown plunged the American economy into the most severe recession since the 1950s. Credit markets froze, investor confidence collapsed, stock prices crashed, and millions of Americans lost their jobs, their homes, and their savings.

Lehman brought about its own demise. Once the Nation’s fourth-largest investment bank, Lehman allowed a culture of recklessness to engulf its firm.

But the blame for this downward spiral and for the consequences to millions of Americans does not end with Lehman. At a time when banks were taking on unprecedented risk, our regulatory agencies were taking their fingers off the field.

Just like other regulatory agencies, has made many mistakes in recent years: from failing to monitor the credit rating agencies and permitting the banks to increase their capital-leverage ratios to as much as 30- or 50-to-1 to buy up what turned out to be toxic assets to removing the uptick rule without putting anything effective in its place and failing to put in place systems to monitor and adjust its regulations as the markets rapidly evolved.

Our Nation has paid dearly for these mistakes.

In response, we have vowed to shine a light on Wall Street, to enact financial regulatory reforms, to push for clearer...
and enforceable laws, to strengthen our oversight agencies—all in an effort to prevent history from repeating itself and to rebuild the credibility of and investor confidence in our markets.

But our actions have not yet followed our words.

President Obama has proposed a new financial regulation plan that would enforce stricter capital and liquidity requirements for investment banks, re-vamp the disjointed regulatory system, and impose high standards for risky products like credit default swaps.

I applaud President Obama’s efforts to address the regulatory problems that devastated our economy and I look forward to working with my colleagues to create a systemic risk regulator, to regulate derivatives effectively, and to ensure consumer financial protections.

But we cannot simply react to problems after they have occurred. We must also adopt a forward-looking approach that recognizes manipulation and wrongdoing while it is happening and stops it in its tracks.

Because of the damage that was done to our economy by the prior financial scandals, the regulatory agencies and Congress need to catch up and redress prior mistakes—while at the same time focus on current questionable market practices before new problems arise.

Since I became a Senator in January, I have been spending much of my time in Congress working questions and promoting regulatory solutions to current questionable practices on Wall Street.

And I have stressed repeatedly the need for the SEC to step forward as a strong and determined cop on the beat.

I believe that democracy and fair markets are the foundation of our American society. They are both based on the notions of equality and fairness—the idea that all Americans have an equal opportunity to succeed.

For markets to have credibility and investors to have confidence, Congress and the SEC must act urgently to restore a level playing field for investors.

If investors don’t believe the markets are fair, they won’t invest in them. It is as simple as that.

Fairness may be an ever-changing and elusive concept when it comes to the financial markets, but it must be defined and then defended by the regulatory framework that guarantees a fair and efficient marketplace.

So I am concerned that when the conditions for profitable naked short selling reoccur, there will be no enforceable rules to stop it, and the SEC will be unable to punish those who undertake it, just as the SEC has yet to punish anyone for the naked short selling events of last year.

More recently, several questionable market structure issues have come to light, threatening market fairness in ways we are only beginning to understand.

Wall Street has undergone a radical transformation in only the last few years. Only a few years ago, powerful trading organizations, like the New York Stock Exchange, handled over 80 percent of all transactions. Today, the market is currently heavily fragmented and dominated by high-frequency traders.

According to research by the Tabb Group, there are now over 50 trading venues in the United States. Technologically advanced high-frequency trading firms now represent over 61 percent of the daily trading volume in stocks.

Institutional investors prefer to trade in dark liquidity pools, which are essentially ‘non-transparent’ regimes of rules that require fair and non-discriminatory access to quotations.

These innovations, from market fragmentation to high-speed electronic trading, have produced benefits, including increased liquidity, narrowed spreads, and lowered commissions for most investors.

But while competition and innovation have flourished, the fundamental fairness of our markets cannot be taken for granted.

Actions by the SEC over recent decades have had the unintended consequence of producing markets that now seem to favor the most technologically sophisticated traders, sometimes at the expense of ordinary retail investors. Moreover, competition for market trading volume among market centers now includes questionable practices such as liquidity rebates, flash order offerings, co-location of servers, and other inducement arrangements with broker-dealers and other market participants.

Congress, the SEC, and the public they serve need to stand back and better understand what has happened. Even for the skilled insiders, it is all very complicated and opaque, and the challenge we face is to understand the benefits, costs, and risks of these developments to long-term investors, in a market environment very different from the one that prevailed 5 years ago.

This is why I recently called on the SEC to undertake a comprehensive review of a broad range of market issues, analyzing the current market structure from the ground up before piecemeal changes build-in the current structure add to the potential for execution unfairness.

I am concerned that questionable practices threaten to further erode investor confidence in our financial markets and that our understanding and regulatory capability have not kept pace with those changes.

To her credit, SEC Chairman Schapiro, for whom I have great respect as well as for the urgent tasks Congress and the SEC confront in this new era for the Commission, has begun such a review and has agreed to broaden it.

In her letter responding to my concern, she too recognizes the trade-offs between liquidity and fairness, as well as the importance of regulatory solutions for the interests of long-term investors.

She wrote: “If . . . the interests of long-term investors and professional short-term traders conflict, the Commission previously has emphasized the clear responsibility of the SEC to uphold the interests of long-term investors. I firmly agree that the Commission’s focus must be on the protection of long-term investors.”

Alan Greenspan, the former Fed Chairman, in commenting on the fixed income markets, learned this lesson too late: technological developments without effective regulation do not always lead to the best interests of investors.

He wrote: “All of the sophisticated mathematics and computer wizardry essentially rested on one central premise: that enlightened self interest of owners and managers of financial institutions would lead them to maintain a sufficient buffer against insolvency by actively monitoring and managing their firms’ capital and risk positions.”

The premise failed in the summer of 2007, the former Fed Chairman said, leaving him “deeply dismayed.”

We are all deeply dismayed and we do not ever want to be so dismayed again.

So while recent developments in the equity and options markets are very different from what happened in the fixed income markets, Congress must ensure its oversight capacity to lay out the issues and ask the tough questions about high-frequency trading and recent market structure issues.

High-frequency traders have many tools at their disposal that give them significant advantages over regular investors.

The first is speed. In order to receive information as quickly as possible,
high-speed firms place their computer servers right next to the exchanges. Co-locating allows them to receive information a few milliseconds before the rest of the world. Because every millisecond is critical in the world of high-frequency trading, firms are willing to pay millions of dollars annually for this advantage.

Information on price movement and market trends is routed directly to electronic algorithms, designed by top engineers to make trades automatically.

These programs rely on the rapid acquisition of information in order to read the markets and execute trades instantaneously, sometimes as many as 1,000 times in a single second. To prevent abuse, the SEC must ensure “fair access” for co-located servers at the exchanges and a method of allocation that does not disadvantage retail orders.

Another advantage for insiders in this new system, arises from what are known as market latency disparities.

Market fragmentation appears to permit high-speed traders to use the disparities in time, place, speed, and price to advantage themselves over unsuspecting investors. Let me read from a recent article in The Economist magazine entitled “Rise of the Machines.” “High-frequency traders attempt to uncover how much an investor is willing to pay—or sell stock at a loss. They check, but a stream of probing quotes that are swiftly cancelled until they elicit a response. The traders then buy or short the targeted stock ahead of the investor, offering it to them a fraction of a second later for a tidy profit.”

While the cost to each individual might be slight, the Tabb Group estimates that high-speed stock traders banked about $8 billion in profits last year. Let me repeat: $8 billion with a “b.” How much of this profit came from legitimate practices that benefited all investors, and how much of it was a toll paid by the average investor?

We all know the old adage, that it is easier to steal a penny or two from 100 million people than to steal a million dollars from one person.

We need to know if high-speed traders are proving this to be true in our markets every day.

Some market practices have also introduced conflicts of interest into the marketplace. For example, trading venues offer rebates to investors who post limit orders, which bring liquidity to their exchange, and charge for market orders, which take liquidity out of the exchange. Some broker-dealer firms direct sizable fractions of their order flow to the exchanges that offer the highest payments and lowest fees.

In theory, best execution is always the first priority, as regulations clearly state that even if the customer’s order is routed to a market that does not have the best price, it must be rerouted to the market center that does.

I am concerned that regulators are outmatched by the rapid advances in high-speed trading. In a highly fragmented system where millions of trades take place in a microsecond, the ability to measure and enforce so-called “best execution” may be a vain hope.

The so-called Rule 605 forms, which purport to measure execution quality, are woefully outdated. The first column for time for execution reads “0-9 seconds.” In a gap of 9 seconds, prices can change significantly. In a world of 50 market venues, with structural latency issues being targeted by an entire industry of high-frequency traders, millions of trades reaping millions of dollars can take place before retail investors and the regulators who protect their interests can comprehend what happened.

We need to ask if regulators are looking through the wrong end of a telescope when they should be using a microscope.

Average investors must now wonder if their orders are being routed to a venue because it offers the best execution quality for them, or because it leads to the most revenue or lowest transaction costs for brokers.

Liquidity rebates paid by the exchanges have increased trade volume and thereby provided added revenue for exchanges.

Most of the traders who capitalize on rebates are high-frequency traders who execute millions of low-risk trades a day. These market participants are not investors. Rather, they step in between buy and sell orders, trade on both sides of a security, and cash in on double the rebate.

Let me again read from The Economist: “Another popular HFT [high-frequency trading] strategy is to collect rebates that exchanges offer to liquidity providers. High-frequency traders will post bids and immediately selling the shares to the investor at the slightly higher purchase price, collecting a rebate of one-quarter of a cent on both trades.”

Some argue that such innovations add needed liquidity to the market. But high-speed traders mainly target the most frequently-traded stocks. Liquidity is light and spreads are wide on many lower-volume stocks. We must rigorously examine the degree to which these activities are driving liquidity to the marketplace where it is needed and help the market function properly.

I have discussed a variety of questionable practices that deserve and I hope will receive a searching examination by the SEC and by Congress.

While some of these innovations have produced benefits, they have also created wide disparities between high-speed traders and average investors. We do not have a clear accounting of all the costs and benefits of these recent market structure changes. Under the current system, until empirical data shows us to dispel our concerns, we have little reason to believe average investors can compete with the high-speed traders they are up against.

We must question whether certain broker-dealers are acting in the best interests of their customers, under cover of flawed regulation and anti-enforcement technologies. At the same time, we have dark trading platforms that are insufficiently monitored by regulators and which undermine public price discovery.

Moreover, unlike specialists and traditional market-makers that are regulated, some of these new high-frequency traders are unregulated, though they are acting in a market-maker capacity.

They have no requirements to “maintain a fair and orderly” market. They trade when it benefits them.

If we experience another shock to the financial system, will this new, and dominant, type of pseudo market-maker act in the interest of the markets when we really need them? Will they step up and maintain a two-sided market, or will they simply shut off the machines and walk away? Even worse, will they seek even further profit and exacerbate the downside?

Because our rules and regulations are so inapt, most of the practices I’ve mentioned today are still legal, but they are not fair.

It used to be that steroids were not banned by Major League Baseball. In fact, they were great for business. The game’s biggest sluggers hit home runs at an unprecedented rate, enthralling fans in the process. But the game was taken over by the competition was unfair, and the power was not genuine. Eventually, the game suffered a crisis of legitimacy.

High-frequency trading, while not illegal, may operate in ways that undermine the legitimacy of our financial markets. In order to restore investor confidence, we must effectively regulate unfair performance-enhancers. We must shine a light on dark pools, conduct a searching examination of high-frequency trading and ensure they are not manipulative, ban flash orders, and give regulators the tools they need to ensure that broker-dealers are acting in the best interests of their clients.

I know as well as anyone the benefits of free markets. I know that technology, innovation, and competition are critical components of economic growth. But we must balance those interests, against the values of fairness and equal opportunity. We must bring back a level playing field, encourage long-term investment, and help our economy grow.

I am not here today, to stand in the way of progress. I do not wish to return to horse-and-bugger.

High frequency trading and the “Rise of the Machines”—as The Economist called it—are here to stay.

I don’t want to ban them. I don’t want to allow them to go unchecked.

Simply put, technological developments should not control our regulatory destiny; rather, our regulatory
agencies should ensure that technological progress everywhere bring benefits to long-term investors. And where the interests of the two are in conflict, our regulators must stop the practices of professional short-term traders that harm the interests of long-term investors.

The market structure rules themselves should not enshrine or permit illicit advantages that a careful review, a surgeon’s scalpel, electronically constructed, solution- and effective enforcement can end.

Neither should solutions that protect investor interests, like reinstatement of some form of the uptick or bid price for the “hard locate” requirement to end naked short selling once and for all—remain unused primarily in deference to the desires and convenience of high-frequency traders.

For our part, we in Congress need to undertake a fundamental review of the oversight responsibilities we give to regulators, examining whether they have adequate tools to carry out these responsibilities.

We have become complacent in thinking that continually updating our body of regulations is enough, when in reality we perhaps have failed to provide regulators with the necessary tools they need to observe these complex financial institutions.

So on this anniversary of the Lehman Brothers collapse, I conclude by saying I look forward to working with my colleagues, not only to address the financial crises of the past, but also to scrutinize and begin to correct the financial crises of the present, so we can avoid the problems of the future.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, at 5:30, in a few minutes, we are going to vote on the pending amendment, which is an amendment to bar ACORN from receiving any money from the appropriations bill we are considering. I spoke earlier today, so I will only speak a couple of minutes.

I wanted to come to the floor again to underscore the importance of this vote and to underscore the history that brings us here today to take this action. The history is a sad one.

On September 9, 2009, Miami-Dade proscribed arrest warrants for 11 ACORN employees. The employees are charged with falsifying voter registration cards. A total of 1,400 voter registration cards were turned in, and 888 of those were found to be fake. That means that almost three-quarters of those cards were fraudulent.

Late last week, devastating news surfaced regarding hidden videotapes at the New York, Baltimore, and Washington, DC, ACORN offices. What is the feature on these videotapes? They feature ACORN employees offering advice on a number of illegal activities, including tax evasion, prostitution, and fraud—all with taxpayer dollars.

Finally, the Bureau notified ACORN on Friday in a letter that it was severing all ties. The Census Bureau has had a bellyful. They severed all ties with this group having to do with the 2010 census. Here is what they said in the letter. . . . it is clear that ACORN’s affiliation with the 2010 Census promotion has caused sufficient concern in the general public, has indeed become a distraction from our mission, and has even become castigated by the public, negatively impacting the 2010 Census efforts.

The letter goes on:

Unfortunately, we no longer have confidence that our national partnership agreement is effectively managed through your many local offices. For the reasons stated, we have therefore decided to terminate the partnership.

According to a report published in July by the minority staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, again quoting:

Operationally, ACORN is a shell game played in 120 cities, 43 states and the District of Columbia through a complex structure designed to conceal illegal activities, to use taxpayer and tax exempt dollars for partisan political purposes, and to distract investigators. Structure is ACORN’s chess game in which senior management is shielded from accountability by multiple layers of volunteers and compensated employees who serve as pawns to take the fall for every bad act.

It doesn’t stop there. In 1998, an ACORN employee was arrested for falsifying voter registration forms. In 1999, Philadelphia authorities found hundreds of fraudulent registration forms by ACORN. In October of 2008, ACORN Nevada offices were raided by Federal agents and in 2009 their Las Vegas field director—their field director: unbelievable—was charged with voter registration fraud.

In May 2009, seven ACORN employees were charged in Pittsburgh for voter registration fraud.

To date, nearly 70 ACORN employees have been convicted in 12 States for voter registration fraud.

The events of the last week are not isolated. We have only caught them. As Judge Richard Zoller said, after holding an ACORN employee liable for election law violations:

Somebody has to go after ACORN.

Madam President, I suggest this afternoon that “somebody” is each and every Member of the Senate. Until a full investigation is launched into ACORN, no taxpayer money should be used to fund their activities. A vote in favor of my amendment is a vote in favor of the taxpayer and against the status quo.

I will just wrap up by saying, if somehow we could bring the taxpayers of America to the Senate floor and ask them: Do you want your taxpayer dollars to continue to fund this organization, with this kind of history, with the videos that have been just released, overwhelmingly, taxpayers would say: Absolutely not.

This is our opportunity to stand up against an organization that does not deserve the trust of the American people.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHANNES. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the pending amendment and I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be. The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Maryland (Mrs. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COFFIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted “yea.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 7, as follows:

(Roll Call Vote No. 275 Leg.)
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
September 14, 2009

H.R. 3288, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

(Spending comparisons—Senate-Reported Bill (in millions of dollars))

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<th>Defense</th>
<th>General Purpose</th>
<th>Total</th>
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For comparison purposes, President’s requested level is adjusted to remove $39.45 billion in proposed BA that continues to be classified as transportation obligation limitations.

Note: Table does not include 2010 outlays stemming from emergency budget authority provided in the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-32).

WHEREAS the wit and passion of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy and his perseverance in the face of adversity will be remembered in equal measure to his impressive legislative and rhetorical skills:

WHEREAS Senator Edward Moore Kennedy was part of a proud family tradition of public service, which included 2 other distinguished Senators:

WHEREAS never before have 3 brothers served in the Senate, and rarely have any 3 brothers served the United States so well:

WHEREAS John Fitzgerald Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate, before being elected the 35th President of the United States;

WHEREAS Robert Francis Kennedy served the people of New York with distinction in the Senate, after serving as the 65th Attorney General;

WHEREAS Edward Moore Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate for nearly half a century, acting as a tireless advocate for those who might otherwise have been without an advocate;

WHEREAS the Senate has been greatly enriched by the dedication, compassion, and talent of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators;

WHEREAS, in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, the people of the United States have commemorated tragedy, celebrated triumph, and recognized the great importance of the most important issues facing the Nation;

WHEREAS it was in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building that both Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Senator Robert Francis Kennedy announced their intention to run for the office of the President of the United States;

WHEREAS a spirit of passionate advocacy and deep respect for the institution of the Senate should govern the deliberations that take place in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building; and

WHEREAS the Senate wishes to honor the life and work of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, to recognize the contributions of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators, and to celebrate the spirit of public service exemplified by the Kennedy family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates room 325 of the Russell Senate Office Building, commonly referred to as the “Caucus Room”, as the “Kennedy Caucus Room”, in recognition of the service to the Senate and the people of the United States of Senators Edward Moore Kennedy, Robert Francis Kennedy, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy;

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I wish to take a second and thank, first of all, the majority leader, Senator REID, for his support in this effort. I recognize as well our colleague from Massachusetts, Senator KERRY, who is my lead cosponsor in this effort and a very close and dear personal friend of Ted Kennedy for many years. And I thank our colleagues.

We are joined by the presence of our colleague from the other body, Senator Ted Kennedy’s son PATRICK, who serves with great distinction in the other body. I am pleased he is here with us at this moment to watch this resolution be adopted.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, and
that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 264) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Connecticut. There was no closer or better friend to Ted Kennedy than Chris Dodd. I admire and respect his many efforts in the Senate to fight the fights in the spirit of Ted Kennedy.

This could not be more appropriate, and I do not think anything more needs to be said. I thank him, and I thank the majority leader. It is wonderful to have Patrick, Congressman Kennedy, on the floor of the Senate to share in this moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I join, of course, Senator Kerry, Senator Dodd, and Congressman Kennedy in honoring the father and the Kennedy family in what used to be the Russell caucus chamber. There is no more appropriate place, I believe, to honor Senator Kennedy than right there.

MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, last week in Cincinnati, President Obama joined thousands of Ohioans at the Nation’s Day picnic. This year, Ohioans gathered together to celebrate our history of workers who transitioned our Nation from one industry to the next, sustaining our economy, creating the middle class, and strengthening the middle class.

It is time once again to invest in our workers. It is time to invest in a national manufacturing policy.

As Ohioans understand, manufacturing for so many is a ticket to the middle class, and Ohioans understand that a strong middle class makes a strong nation. That is why American workers deserve a manufacturing strategy that works for them.

First, we must invest in manufacturing innovation. We should make research and development tax credits permanent to incentivize investment in emerging manufacturing industries, such as clean energy, so that the tax system is predictable so investors will bring money forward, especially for capital-intensive industries that create jobs such as wind and solar manufacturing.

Second, a national manufacturing strategy must strengthen our component supply chain. Companies that make the parts for cars and trucks should be able to expand to make component parts for other industries, such as clean energy, aerospace, and biotechnology. If a company can make glass for a truck, they can make glass for a wind turbine.

The Investments for Manufacturing Progress and Clean Technology Act, the IMPACT Act, I introduced 4 months ago, would provide a $30 billion revolving loan fund to help component part manufacturers transition to the clean energy industry.

Third, we must better connect workers with jobs in emerging industries. Earlier this year, I introduced the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act which will allow local communities to determine their workforce needs from the bottom up. Workforce investment boards working with local businesses, working with local community colleges, working with local organized labor could determine what they want to specialize in region by region, even within a State. That way workers will be retrained for jobs that actually exist, that are productive, and that build the middle class.

Fourth, there must be improved Federal assistance to economically distressed communities. When a major plant closing results in massive job loss and economic decline, there must be a coordinated Federal response such as we are trying to do in Wilmington, OH, in response to the closing of DHL, the same way the Federal Government responds to disastrous base closings—disastrous in terms of what it does to local communities—and the same way the Federal Government responds to a devastating flood or tornado.

Fifth a national manufacturing strategy must revamp how our Nation does trade. It must include fair trade policies that promote American manufacturing and level the playing field for workers and products alike.

I applaud the President’s decision Friday night to stand up and enforce fair trade rules that will save jobs, that will help our communities, that will strengthen our competitiveness.

Since China joined the World Trade Organization, American workers have not been assured that the government would defend them against unfair trade. With this section 421 decision—a section of trade law that China agreed to during the permanent normal trade relations debate—President Obama has taken the side of American workers and American manufacturers.

If American workers and manufacturers are going to compete in the global market, they need to have a government that uses the trade enforcement tools that exist, including the section 421 safeguard.

As part of becoming a member of WTO, China—20 years ago—agreed to this so-called section 421 safeguard. Four times it has been invoked or been suggested by the International Trade Commission, a bipartisan, generally free trade arm of the Federal Government, four times Presidents of both parties from Bush to Obama have its way. This is the first President who stood up on this issue to actually enforce the trade laws that exist on the books to make our trade policy fairer and to help American workers.

The data in this case on tires make clear that American workers are getting crushed by a surge in tire imports from China. Imports of these products more than doubled in volume and tripled in dollar value in only a 4-year period. During this time, domestic production obviously declined. Manufacturers could not sell their high-quality products and orders dropped. In many cases, there was not even price but to slow or even halt production.

Take, for example, workers at the Denman Tire Company located in Leavittsburg, OH. I have been to that plant. That plant that has been in operation for almost 100 years produces a variety of tires. About half of its 2,600 units-per-day capacity is dedicated to the passenger and light truck tires that are the subject of this trade investigation. Invests in unbelievable men and women in good-paying, skilled jobs that strengthen the middle class.

Take, for example, workers at the Cooper Tire and Rubber facility in Findlay, OH, there over 1,100 workers producing some 22,000 tires per day. The Cooper facility has also been in operation for almost a century. It is time our trade policies reflect our national interest and that we do not practice trade according to a textbook that was out of print 20 years ago.

It is time our trade laws were enforced to promote our goods and services—and our auto communities.

Tomorrow the President travels to Lordstown, OH, a northeast Ohio community not far from Youngstown, where GM workers are building the next generation fuel-efficient vehicles, the most fuel-efficient vehicles in the GM fleet. Increased production of these vehicles means investments in Ohio, employees and investment in the future of our auto industry.

We have a rare opportunity to reinvigorate manufacturing by helping to create demand for new technologies in a brand new industry. We have not had an opportunity such as this in 40 years. We can build a new industry that will help end global warming and create good will and will rebuild our Nation’s manufacturing backbone. We can build on our auto industry, which in my State has been a leading economic engine for all kinds of next-generation manufacturing.

When you look at the GM factory in Lordstown, OH, outside of Cleveland, or a Chrysler facility in Toledo, you are also seeing the genesis of next-genera- tion manufacturing jobs up and down the Ohio Turnpike as it crisscrosses from the west of Toledo in Williams County, to the Pennsylvania border near Youngstown—jobs in the aerospace industry, the component parts industry, the largest industry still in America—auto parts, auto components, auto supply parts—and you can also see jobs in the aerospace industry, the component parts industry, the largest industry still in America—auto parts, auto components, auto supply parts—and you can also see jobs in the auto industry. These jobs were created out of America’s manufacturing ingenuity and entrepreneurship.
Plainly and simply, as we work to build more fuel-efficient autos, we will expand opportunities for new manufacturing jobs that become part of the green jobs supply chain.

Again, this manufacturing strategy must include rigorous trade enforcement.

I am struck by the chorus of voices from editorial boards and from the conventional wisdom think-tanks that warn against creeping protectionism. Safe to say, none of these editorial writers and none of these think-tank academicians have ever lost their job because of trade agreements or ever lost their job because of unfair trade practices.

These think-tank academicians and these editorial board members are confusing protectionism with pragmatism. Utilizing trade remedies under limited circumstances, as the President did, as provided for under international trade rules, is not protectionism. It is simply enforcing the law. Enforcement of trade remedy laws consistent with WTO rules, again, is not protectionism.

Most Americans recognize that trade plays an important roll in creating opportunities for economic growth. But when a trade deficit is bumped up against $2 billion a day for much of the last several years—we buy $2 billion more in products than we sell abroad, about a third of that bilaterally with China alone—you know something is not working.

American workers and businesses have an entrepreneurial spirit and can compete with anyone. They also need to look to new markets to sustain economic growth. American workers can compete with anyone, but they must rely on this government to enforce fair trade practices. Done right, a national manufacturing policy can reinvist in our workers’ capacity to build next-generation technologies and can rebuild the next generation of middle-class families.

One thing is certain: It is time to invest in the workers and the communities that are the backbone of our middle class.

I yield the floor.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BALL HOMES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Williams, the director of communications of one of Kentucky’s most storied racetracks, Keeneland in Lexington. After 38 years at the forefront of Kentucky’s racing community, Mr. Williams has led a legacy worthy of the champion thoroughbred horses he won there, and the entire State wishes him well as he retires from the job he loves.

Keeneland racetrack is located in the beautiful Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Since 1936 Keeneland has operated two meets per year, every April and October. For nearly 40 of those years, Mr. Williams has helped transform what was once a small racetrack
Mr. Williams’s passion and dedication for Keeneland and horse racing began when he was just a boy, when he moved to Lexington and attended his first race at Keeneland. Since that first race, he has maintained a lifelong devotion and support of the sport of horse racing.

Jim Williams is a legend in Kentucky horse racing and his contributions to the Commonwealth’s most hallowed sport are immeasurable. His retirement is going to leave a large hole that will be very hard to fill. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Williams for his 33 years of service to Keeneland and to Kentucky horse racing.

BOWLING GREEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I read an article of great interest in the Bowling Green Daily News involving the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce. The article commended the chamber for being recognized by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives as the number-one chamber in the nation. Bowling Green and the surrounding community have experienced significant growth in the areas of business and industry, due to the chamber’s efforts to keep Bowling Green a flourishing and vibrant city. I know my colleagues join me in commending the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce for all it has done to better their community and State. I am pleased to see their hard work being recognized.

I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

"We're No. 1." Chants a Thrill for BG Area Chamber Local Group Named Best in the Nation in Its Category

"About 100 state and local officials, business leaders and community members gathered at the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce today, many of them chanting, "We're No. 1." The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce recently was named the best chamber of its size in the nation, chamber officials said today.

"I can't tell you what a great feeling it is to say we're the No. 1 chamber in the nation," said Jim Hizer, president and CEO of the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce.

Each year, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, a national group of chamber leaders, chambers in the nation. Chambers are separated into three categories based on their revenue: the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce won in the mid-size category, beating about 45 chambers that were invited to apply for the award.

When choosing the top chamber of commerce, ACCCE officials look at "the entire scope of the chamber, from its financial practices all the way to programs and special events," said Tonya Matthews, vice president of chamber operations. "They really don't miss a beat in digging into the chamber."

This is the second year the local chamber has been a finalist—last year, it was one of the top three chambers, but did not pick up the top award. "All I was thinking about was to be a finalist two years in a row and not come home with an award would be an empty feeling," Hizer said. "But we don't have to worry about that."

Chamber of Commerce has remained committed to helping businesses as they work their way through today's economic landscape.

BOWLING GREEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce for receiving the 2009 Chamber of the Year award. It has become a strong organization committed to serving the interests of its members and community. I wish it all the best in its future endeavors within Kentucky and around our Nation.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, last Friday was the eighth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, and we solemnly remembered the thousands of innocent lives, of many nationalities and religions, that were so cruelly and indiscriminately destroyed on that infamous day. It was a defining moment for our country, and since that day the United States has been engaged in a war to defeat the shocking intelligence and security failures that enabled the perpetrators to so brazenly enter this country and carry out those attacks, as well as to track down the masterminds of that atrocity and to destroy al-Qaeda and other terrorist networks that have become a global menace.

We all recognize the threat that violent extremists pose to Americans, as well as to citizens of other countries, and we must do everything in our power to defeat it. This should not be a matter of partisan politics, but of working together in a common purpose for the sake of law abiding people everywhere. I supported many of the initiatives of the Bush administration, as I have the Obama administration, to make our borders more secure, to improve our intelligence gathering, to track down terrorists and bring them to justice.

But there have been strong differences over what tactics to use, and the effectiveness of military force to combat violent extremism in countries where we are widely seen as invaders or occupiers. No issue has generated more
controversy than the Bush Administration’s abuse of detainees, whether at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, Bagram prison in Afghanistan, Guantanamo, other secret detention facilities around the world, or through the use of “extraordinary rendition” whereby prisoners were secretly delivered to the custody of foreign security forces whose use of torture was well documented.

These policies and practices, conceived and supported at the highest levels of the Bush Administration and justified by Department of Justice lawyers who made a mockery of the law, and steadfastly defended as recently as last week by former Vice President Cheney, were abhorrent. They were also dangerous. They violated our international legal obligations, caused grave harm to our reputation as a country devoted to the rule of law, endangered our service men and women who every day face the risk of capture and death at the hands of our enemies, and caused deep embarrassment among the American people who, for generations, have taken pride in the image of our country as a defender of human rights and the highest moral values.

Laws, issues and concerns were eloquently addressed in a timely piece in The Miami Herald by two distinguished retired senior U.S. military officers, Charles C. Krulak, who was commandant of the Marine Corps from 1985 to 1990, and Joseph F. Hoar, who was vice commandant of the Marine Corps and a retired commander-in-chief of U.S. Central Command from 1991 to 1994. I urge all Senators to read it, and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Miami Herald, Sept. 11, 2009]
FEAR WAS NO EXCUSE TO CONDONE TORTURE
(By Charles C. Krulak and Joseph P. Hoar)

In the fear that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Americans were told that defeating Al Qaeda would require us to “take off the gloves.” As a former commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps and a retired commander-in-chief of U.S. Central Command, we knew that was a recipe for disaster.

But we never imagined that we would feel duty-bound to publicly denounce a vice president of the United States, a man who has served our country for many years, in light of the irresponsible statements recently made by former Vice President Dick Cheney. We feel we must register our disapproval of his dangerous ideas—and his scare tactics.

We have seen how ill-conceived policies that ignored military law on the treatment of enemy combatants, and failed to defeat Al Qaeda. We have seen American troops die at the hands of foreign fighters recruited with stories about tortured Muslim detainees at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib. And yet Cheney and others who orchestrated America’s disastrous trip to “the dark side” continue to assert—against all evidence—that to defeat Al Qaeda, and that our country is better off for having gone there.

In an interview with Fox News Sunday, Cheney applauded the “enhanced interrogation techniques” used to capture Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan; he claimed they were “directly responsible for the fact that for eight years, we had no further mass casualty attacks against the United States. It was good policy...It worked very, very well.”

Repeating these assertions doesn’t make them true. We now see that the best intelligence, which led to the capture of Saddam Hussein and the elimination of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was produced by professional interrogations using non-coercive techniques. When the abusive interrogatorswhatever they thought would make it stop. Torture is as likely to produce lies as the truth. And it did.

What leaders say matters. So when it comes to light, as it did recently, that U.S. interrogators staged mock executions and held a whirling electric drill close to the body of a naked, hooded detainee, and the former vice president winks and nods, it matters.

The Bush administration had already degraded the rules of war by authorizing techniques that violated the Geneva Conventions and showed disrespect for the whole world. Now Cheney has publicly condoned the abuse that went beyond even those weakened standards, leading us down a slippery slope of lawlessness. The humane treatment of prisoners exist precisely to deter those in the field from taking matters into their own hands. They protect our nation’s honor.

To argue that honorable conduct is only required against an honorable enemy degrades the Americans who must carry out the orders. As military professionals, we know that complex situational ethics cannot be applied during the stress of combat. The rules must be firm and absolute; if torture is broached as a possibility, it will become a reality. Moral equivocation about abuse at the top of the chain of command travels through the ranks to war front.

On Aug. 24, the United States took an important step toward moral clarity and the rule of law when a special task force recommended that the Army interrogation manual should be the single standard for all agencies of the U.S. government.

The unanimous decision represents an unusual consensus among the defense, intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security agencies. Members of the task force had access to every scrap of intelligence, yet they drew the opposite conclusion from Cheney’s. They concluded that far from making us safer, cruelty betrays American values and harms national security.

On this solemn day we pause to remember those who lost their lives on 9/11. As our leaders work to prevent terrorists from again striking on our soil, they should remember the fundamental precept of counter-insurgency we’ve relearned in Afghanistan and Iraq: Undermine the enemy’s legitimacy while building our own. These wars will not be won on the battlefield. They will be won in the hearts of young men who decide not to sign up to be fighters and young women who decline to be suicide bombers. If Americans torture and it comes to light—as it inevitably will—it emblifies and alienates the very people we are trying to win back.

Our current commander-in-chief understands this. The task force recommendations take us a step closer to restoring the rule of law in our country. They remind us that we are a nation. Repudiating torture and other cruelty helps keep us from being sent on fools’ errands by bad intelligence. And in the end, that makes us all safer.

POLAND’S 70 YEAR JOURNEY
Mr. KERRY. Madam President, this month we commemorate an important anniversary: 70 years ago the Second World War began in Europe with a ruthless Nazi assault on Poland. Out-numbered and outgunned, Poland’s defenders fought bravely, forced to surrender only through the overwhelming force of their enemies. Every American should remember the sacrifice made by the heroes of Poland. Their bravery was tragically often rewarded with a concentration camp or a bullet in the head in a dark forest. They were the first of many innocent victims, almost too many to count.

On an occasion like this it is important to honor the past, remind the present of the sacrifice of those who came before, and warn the future that the world should never allow the imitation of such catastrophic events again.

In September 1939, authoritarian paranoia and violence won out over trust and humanity, and in the end the world burned. Seventy years later, Poland and its democratic neighbors work together in Brussels to build a better Europe. We remember the importance of that hard-won cooperation on this 70th anniversary.

As Americans, let us appreciate this achievement, help extend the cooperation, and continue to assist in the preservation of democratic ideals.

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES
Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I wish to speak about a matter of great prominence to the people of my State. This past Friday, in Springfield, MA, Jerry Sloan and John Stockton were inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved honor, and I wanted to take a few moments to congratulate them both.

As any fan of professional basketball can tell you, the Energy Solutions Arena in Salt Lake City is widely considered one of the most difficult places for visiting teams to play. Some have tried to blame this on the city’s high elevation, but, if you have ever been to a game there, you know very well that it is because of the Jazz fans.

You see, due to its relatively small population, Utah has only one major sports franchise—the Jazz. And there were times when people thought that this small market would not be able to sustain even a single NBA team. But for more than two decades the Jazz have enjoyed one of the most loyal and supportive fan bases of any team in professional sports. This is due in no small part to the careers of both John Stockton and Jerry Sloan.

John Stockton grew up in Spokane, WA, and played basketball at both
Gonzaga Prep and Gonzaga University in his hometown. He was a relative unknown when he moved into the professional ranks, picked by the Jazz in the middle of the first round of the 1984 draft and initially relegated to a reserve role on the team. But after three seasons he became the full-time starter at the point guard position and went on to have one of the most prolific careers in basketball history.

Over the course of his career, he accumulated many honors. He was selected to play in the NBA All Star game 10 times. He played on the 1992 and 1996 Olympic teams—the first two Olympic squads to include professional players winning Gold Medals in both years. He was selected to the All-NBA First Team twice, the All-NBA Second Team six times, the All-NBA Third Team three times, and the NBA All-Defensive Second Team five times. In 1996, the NBA celebrated its 50th anniversary by selecting the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History. Of course, John Stockton was honored on that list as well.

Though the accomplishment of winning an NBA championship eluded him, Stockton did lead the Jazz to two consecutive NBA Finals appearances in 1997 and 1998. John Stockton was immortalized in the first of those seasons, when, in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals, he scored the last 9 points for the Jazz, including a last-second 3 point shot to send the Jazz to the Finals for the first time. This was probably the most memorable moment of Stockton’s career and the history of the Jazz franchise and it is still replayed in montages of great sports moments.

It is impossible to talk about John Stockton without mentioning Karl Malone. Together, these two formed one of the game’s legendary one-two punches. Together, they became the league’s model of consistency, commitment, and success. The two played 19 seasons together, and an NBA record 1,412 regular-season games together as teammates. Due to their collaborative efforts, Malone finished his career as the second highest scorer in NBA history and Stockton holds the all-time career assist record.

Let’s talk about that assist record for a moment. In the 63-year history of the NBA, only 4 players have career assist totals of over 10,000. Stockton finished his career with 15,806 assists. Mark Jackson, No. 2 on the list, collected 10,334 assists—5,483 fewer than Stockton.

But, the raw numbers don’t do this record justice. To put it in perspective, only 37 players have dished out 5,483 or more assists in their entire careers. Indeed, just getting that many assists over a whole career would put you in pretty elite company—and that is the difference between John Stockton’s total and that of the guy who is next in line.

This record is among the truly unbreakable records in all of sports—and it isn’t the only one held by John Stockton. He also holds the career record in steals, also by a considerable margin. He holds the NBA record for the most seasons and consecutive games played with one team and is third in total games played.

John Stockton set the floor on fire with his hard-nosed defense, his unmatched work ethic, and his quiet, unassuming personality. His unflashy, fundamentally sound style of play earned him the respect of John Woodson, the legendary Ucla basketball coach. Stockton was the only NBA player he would pay money to see.

Stockton retired in 2003 and returned home to Spokane. While other NBA greats have sought careers in broadcasting or working in front office roles after their careers were over, so far, John has been content to stay at home with his family. This comes as no surprise to those who know him.

Guiding John through most of his NBA career, was coach Jerry Sloan, who, once again, is also being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Sloan’s careers as both a player and a coach have been characterized by his unyielding toughness and an unmatched drive to compete.

Jerry was born and raised in McLeansboro, IL, and played his college career at the University of Evansville. He played one season in the NBA for the Baltimore Bullets before being selected by the Chicago Bulls in the expansion draft. In fact, he was the team’s first player, earning him the nickname “The Original Bull.” Sloan quickly became known for his tenacity on defense and his leadership of the expansion team to the playoffs in its first season.

He had an exceptional career as a player. He played in two All-Star Games, was named to the NBA All-Defensive First Team four times and the All-Defensive Second Team twice. He also led the Bulls to the playoffs on various occasions and helped them to win the franchise’s only division title prior to the Michael Jordan era. After his career was cut short by knee injuries, the Bulls retired Sloan’s No. 4 jersey, the first jersey retirement in the team’s history.

Immediately after his retirement, he became part of the Bull’s coaching staff, eventually working his way up to head coach, a position he held for three seasons. A few years later, he joined the Jazz coaching staff as an assistant to another Utah sports icon, Frank Layden. In 1998, when Layden’s health forced him to retire, Jerry was named head coach of the Jazz, a position he has held ever since.

Coach Sloan just finished his 20th season as coach of the Jazz, a milestone that, in today’s sports world, is almost unthinkable. Over the course of his Jazz tenure, literally hundreds of coaching changes have taken place throughout the NBA. In a league that has a place in its history, none have coached for the same team as long as Jerry Sloan.

This extends to other sports as well. Currently, Sloan is the longest-tenured coach in any major professional sport. There are a number of reasons to explain his longevity. The most obvious is that he has been successful. He is currently fourth on the list for all-time coaching wins—though he holds the record for most wins with one team. In 17 out of the 20 seasons he’s been in Utah, the Jazz have been in the playoffs, the only absences coming in transitional years after the departures of John Stockton and Karl Malone.

Another reason Sloan has been able to stick around is his consistent, non-nonsense approach to the game. Over time, teams have changed strategies to become flashier in order to cater to younger fans and the new era of players, many of whom have been self-centered prima donnas. Throughout that time, Coach Sloan has been a model of consistency, placing premiums on discipline and hard work among his players. The result has been a franchise that, for over two decades, has competed at a high level.

In many ways, Stockton and Sloan were alike, and their strengths complemented each other. Neither one will claim to have been able to be successful without the other.

Currently, there is a huge statue of John Stockton in front of the Energy Solutions arena alongside a statue of Karl Malone. Chances are, in 20 or 30 years when Jerry Sloan finally decides to hang it up, they will want to build a monument to him as well. Neither of these gentlemen would actively seek such limelight, but few are as deserving.

Once again, I would like to extend my congratulations to both John Stockton and Jerry Sloan for this great honor and to thank them for their contributions to the Utah community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING DICK RUSH

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, on behalf of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, I would like to congratulate Richard P. Rush on his retirement from the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce.

Dick will be leaving the State chamber next spring after serving as its president and chief executive officer for 24 years. Richard has made an outstanding contribution to the State of Oklahoma and has been characterized as “the State’s leading pro-business advocate.”
Dick’s success is evident in both his internal administration of the State chamber and his work leading key probusiness campaigns which have made a positive impact on Oklahoma creating jobs and increasing business development.

Due to Dick’s work, the State chamber now operates debt free. During his tenure, Dick has built the State chamber to over 2,000 members. He has been named Executive of the Year by the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executive and is already a member of the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.

Through leading key campaigns advocating new business opportunities and job creation such as Right-to-Work and tort reform, Dick has been credited with saving the business community in Oklahoma over $2 billion. In fact, the State chamber recently earned the Nation’s highest honor from the American Tort Reform Association and the U.S. Chamber’s Institute for Legal Reform and the first annual “Gold Medal for the 31st Civil Justice Legislation” by the American Tort Reform Association. Dick has also led international outreach serving as Executive in Charge of sister chamber work between the Oklahoma State Chamber and both the Ganasu, China Provincial Chamber, and the Liaoning, China Provincial Chamber. Dick was a presenter at the VI Hemispheric Sister Cities Forum in Iquique, Chile, and he is the recipient of the “The George Nigh Global Trade Award.” Dick’s involvement in Oklahoma business development has been extensive.

Dick’s success is due in part to his long history in chamber management. Before coming to Oklahoma, Dick worked in chambers throughout the country including Oklahoma before coming to Oklahoma in 1986. His experience also extends internationally as Dick worked as a project adviser for the U.S. Chamber’s Center for International Private Enterprise serving as a consultant to the National Chamber of Commerce of Zimbabwe, Africa.

Oklahomans can appreciate Dick’s service to the Oklahoma State Chamber and the entire State of Oklahoma, and we wish him the very best in his retirement and all future endeavors.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 599. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee’s duty (Rept. No. 111-70).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2871. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of the authorization of (4) officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2872. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Employer Contributions and Reporting Requirements for Disability Insurance” (Rev. Rul. 2009-34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2873. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reasonable Good Faith Interpretation of Required Minimum Distribution Rules by Governmental Plans” (Rev. Rul. 2009-40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2874. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification to Consolidated Return Regulation Permitting Election to Treat a Target, Followed by a Recontribution to a New Target, as a Cross-Chain Reorganization” (Rev. Rul. 2009-48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2875. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Single Insured—Reinsurance” (Rev. Rul. 2009-25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2876. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Automatic Contributions Increases under Automatic Contribution Arrangements” (Revenue Ruling 2009-30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2877. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Annual Paid Time Off Contributions” (Revenue Ruling 2009-31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2878. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Paid Time Off Contributions at Termination of Employment” (Revenue Ruling 2009-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2879. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the
Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “ICE Futures Canada, Inc. 1256(e)(7)(T)(C) Qualified Board or Exchange” (Revenue Ruling 2009–24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC—2881. A communication from the Chair of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adding Automatic Enrollment in SIMPLE IRAs” (Notice 2009–67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC—2882. A communication from the Chair of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Automatic Enrollment in SIMPLE IRAs” (Notice 2009–66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC—2883. A communication from the Chair of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of 401 Plans—Sample Plan Amendments” (Notice 2009–65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC—2884. A communication from the Chair of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “District Land Disposition Amendment Act of 2009” (RIN0648–AV77) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC—2885. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Amendment (92) and the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648–AX78) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
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“Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Revision of Single Geographic Location Requirement in the Bering Sea Subarea; Amendments 62–92” (RIN0648–AR06) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC—2009. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the United States; Federal Amendment 1” (RIN0648–AS25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC—2009. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery; Engagement” (RIN0648–AX61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC—2010. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Other Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648–XQ57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC—2011. A communication from the Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648–XQ57) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC—2013. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Catcher Processors Participating in the Rockfish Limited Access Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648–XQ59) as received during adjournment of the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. Res. 264. A resolution designating the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building as the “Kennedy Caucus Room”; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):
S. Res. 265. A resolution honoring the firefighters who sacrificed their lives while battling the Station Fire in southern California in August 2009; considered and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JOHNSON:
S. 1664. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the appointment and grade of the Chief of the Army Medical Specialist Corps, to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUGAR:
S. 1665. A bill to amend the Andean Trade Preference Act to add Paraguay and Uruguay to the list of countries that are eligible to be designated as beneficiary countries and ATPDEA beneficiary countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. LANDRIEU):
S. 1666. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to satisfy certain conditions before issuing to producers of mid-level ethanol blends a waiver from certain requirements under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):
S. 1667. A bill to provide for the development and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program that assists the people of the United States and the world to understand past, present, and future events; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET:
S. 1668. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of certain active duty service in the reservestatus components as qualifying service for purposes of Post-911 Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

S. Res. 263. A resolution designating October 2009 as the “Kennedy Caucus Room”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 229
At the request of Mr. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 229, a bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 428
At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 451
At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 451, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

S. 461
At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MUKILSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to have the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.
At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1490, a bill to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information.

At the request of Mr. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1492, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer’s disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority.

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 935, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans’ dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. KLEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1076, a bill to improve the accuracy of fur product labeling, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MERCY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1244, a bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding by new mothers, to provide for a performance standard for breast pumps, and to provide tax incentives to encourage breastfeeding.

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1254, a bill to provide for identification of mismaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Gregg, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1316, a bill to prohibit the use of stimulus funds for signage indicating that a project is being carried out using those funds.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1340, a bill to establish a minimum funding level for programs under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 for fiscal years 2010 to 2014 that ensures a reasonable split of funds for victim programs without jeopardizing the long-term sustainability of the Crime Victims Fund.

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1382, a bill to improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1491, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase awareness of the risks of breast cancer in young women and provide support for young women diagnosed with breast cancer.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1076, a bill to improve the accuracy of fur product labeling, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1340, a bill to establish a minimum funding level for programs under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 for fiscal years 2010 to 2014 that ensures a reasonable split of funds for victim programs without jeopardizing the long-term sustainability of the Crime Victims Fund.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1382, a bill to improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1490, a bill to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information.
amendment No. 2355 proposed to H.R. 3288, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 2361
At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of Mr. JOHANNS from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as co-sponsors of amendment No. 2356 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3288, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2361
At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. ISAACSON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as co-sponsors of amendment No. 2361 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3288, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

STATMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1666. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to satisfy certain conditions before issuing to producers of mid-level ethanol blends a waiver from certain requirements under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today along with Senators CARDIN, WHITEHOUSE, and LANDRIEU I am introducing legislation that requires the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to satisfy three conditions before granting a waiver from the Clean Air Act of 1970 to producers of mid-level blends of ethanol. These are fuels that contain more than ten percent ethanol that have been designed for use in engines originally designed to work with just gasoline.

While I believe that expanding our capacity to generate and use renewable energy is an important step toward becoming energy independent, I have serious reservations about the impact of ethanol on engines and fuel efficiency. Ethanol blends are more corrosive than gasoline and can cause failure in small and older engines, such as boat engines.

The 2005 Energy Policy Act required that renewable fuels be introduced into our fuel supply to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. In 2007, that requirement was expanded to require that by the year 2022 we introduce annually a minimum of 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel into our fuel supply.

The first, easiest route to satisfying the renewable fuel mandate was through blending ethanol, chiefly derived from corn, into gasoline at a level of 10 percent by volume, resulting in a gasoline known as “E10.” Due to its high oxygen content, this fuel requires a Clean Air Act waiver, which EPA first granted in 1978. Today, in many areas of the country, people only have E10 as a choice at the pump. This includes my constituents in Maine. While the most modern engines have been designed to work with E10, older engines have well-documented difficulties using this fuel. I am very concerned that they will have even greater problems with ethanol fuel blends with even higher levels of ethanol.

E10 was introduced into Maine in 2008 and now I have a level choice in the State. E10 has caused problems for some of my constituents. One topped off his gas tanks before heading to sea but, two miles out, the boat stopped. He later discovered that his tanks were topped off with water that destroyed his boat’s fuel lines and caused fuel filters and carburetors to clog. He eventually had to tear up the boat deck and replace the fuel tanks at a cost of thousands of dollars.

In March 2009, manufacturers of mid-level ethanol blends containing as much as 15 percent of ethanol by volume, termed E15, petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, to also grant this new fuel a waiver from the Clean Air Act. Many organizations that produce mid-level ethanol blends are demanding that the performance of E15 in the current fleet of engines be thoroughly investigated before the new fuel can be introduced into commerce.

In June, 21 Senators wrote to the administrator of the EPA urging her to ensure that independent and comprehensive testing of any ethanol blend fuel with greater than 10 percent ethanol in the new fuel be conducted. From current EPA guidance as required under the Clean Air Act. The response on July 20 was that a decision to grant a waiver for the new fuel rests entirely on the demonstration that the new fuel will not cause or contribute to the failure of new or existing vehicle emission systems to meet new emission standards. This is not adequate to alleviate my concerns about older and non-road engines.

Thus, today I am introducing the Mid-Level Ethanol Standards bill. This bill requires that the EPA Science Advisory Board carefully evaluate the body of evidence presented about E15’s performance in the current inventory of engines and report back to the Administrator before any waiver is granted. The report would indicate whether or not a sufficient body of evidence exists to support a decision to grant a waiver, which is hotly contested by both supporters of a balanced approach to caution against introducing the fuel into the market now. Automobile manufacturers who warranty their products to perform with E10 are justifiably concerned about whether they will be able to extend the warranty to users of E15 without putting themselves at significant economic risk. They will require significant testing of all engine and emission systems before accepting such risks.

The Science Advisory Board also would report on the ability of the wholesale and retail gasoline fuel infrastructure to introduce an E15 fuel into commerce without consumer complaints and the waiver announcement. The Science Advisory Board also would estimate whether consumers throughout the country will be able to purchase gasoline other than E15 immediately and for five years after the introduction of the new fuel. This will put the administrator with information about potential difficulties faced by many millions of vehicle, boat, and small-engine devices, such as lawn mowers, chainsaws, weed trimmers, snowmobiles, that have engine whose performance could be compromised were they unable to use any fuel other than E15.

Once the Science Advisory Board report is released and the public has an opportunity to comment on the Board’s findings, should the administrator decide to grant a waiver, this bill requires that the administrator formally respond to the recommendations of the Science Advisory Board in the waiver announcement. The administrator can only issue a waiver if the findings are that it will not adversely affect conventional gasoline-powered onroad and nonroad vehicles and nonroad engines in widespread use as of the date that new fuel is introduced into commerce.

There are over 200 million engines in the U.S. today that could conceivably be damaged by the introduction of new fuel blends containing higher amounts of ethanol. Should this occur, it would result in significant hardship to millions of Americans. We simply cannot place so many people in jeopardy through precipitous actions. Any introduction of a new fuel must be done carefully with ample time for testing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Sensitivity of organizations endorsing this legislation, and ensure that the ramifications of introducing mid-level ethanol blends into commerce are thoroughly understood before they are granted a waiver from the Clean Air Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.
There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1666

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION OF HIGHER ETHANOL BLENDS INTO COMMERCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(b) MID-LEVEL ETHANOL BLEND.—The term "mid-level ethanol blend" means an ethanol-gasoline blend containing greater than 10 percent ethanol by volume that is intended to be used in any conventional gasoline-powered onroad or nonroad vehicle or engine.

(c) WIDESPREAD USE.—The term "widespread use", with respect to the use of a particular fuel, system, or component in an onroad or nonroad vehicle or nonroad engine, has such meaning as is given the term by the Administrator in accordance with the determination of the Administrator under section 202(a)(6) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7522(a)(6)).

(d) INTRODUCTION.—The term "introduction into commerce" means the introduction into commerce of a mid-level ethanol blend for use in conventional gasoline-powered onroad and nonroad vehicles and engines.

(e) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(f) NOTIFICATION.—The term "notification" means notice and a public comment for a period of not less than 30 days on a report that describes (and, with respect to the matters described in subparagraph (A), provides recommendations on mitigating)—

(i) the impact of the mid-level ethanol blend on engine performance of conventional gasoline-powered onroad and nonroad vehicles and engines;

(ii) emissions from the use of the blend; and

(iii) materials compatibility and consumer safety of the mid-level ethanol blend and the use of the blend (including the identification of insufficient data or information for some or all of those vehicles and engines with respect to each of the issues described in this clause and clauses (i) and (ii));

(iii) the ability of wholesale and retail gasoline distribution infrastructure, including bulk storage, retail storage configurations, and retail equipment (including certification of equipment compatibility by independent organizations), to introduce the mid-level ethanol blend into commerce without widespread intentional or unintentional misfueling by consumers; and

(C) the estimated ability of consumers, determined through separate reviews of population in rural areas and of areas with populations greater than 50,000 individuals, to purchase gasoline other than that mid-level ethanol blend;

(i) in metropolitan areas having populations greater than 50,000 individuals throughout the United States; and

(ii) in the United States, by the date that is 5 years after the mid-level ethanol blend is introduced into commerce;

(2) THE PERMIT OR AUTHORIZATION TO INTRODUCE A MID-LEVEL ETHANOL BLEND.—(A) A permit or authorization to grant mid-level ethanol blend is issued under section 202(a)(6) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7522(a)(6)) after the close of the public comment period on the report required under paragraph (1); and

(B) the Administrator formally responds to the recommendations of the Science Advisory Board in the enhancement; and

(C) the mid-level ethanol blend is introduced into commerce for general use in all conventional gasoline-powered onroad and nonroad vehicles and engines in widespread use as of the date on which the Administrator authorizes that introduction.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a bill to authorize funding for abrupt climate change research. I am pleased to be joined on this bill by Senators CANTWELL, as lead cosponsor and by our colleagues, Senators SNOWE, KERRY, and GILLIBRAND.

Ablrupt climate change is defined as a large-scale change in the climate system that takes place over a few decades or less, persists, or is anticipated to persist for at least a few decades, and causes substantial disruptions in human and natural systems.

Our bill authorizes $10 million per year for the next 6 years for a comprehensive and integrated competitive, peer-reviewed, research program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to understand, assess, and predict abrupt climate change.

Ablrupt climate change is not necessarily a result of increased amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. It can be caused by natural phenomena, such as massive volcanic eruptions, or natural climate variability.

However it comes about, abrupt climate change can pose significant risks and challenges to our society. For us to uphold our responsibility as stewards of the Nation’s environmental and economic security, it is crucial that we better understand abrupt climate change so that we can recognize it early and respond to it effectively.

Understanding conflicting climate change is enormous scientific challenges. The challenges are made even more difficult with the recognition that the climate system is capable of dramatic and abrupt changes. Past global temperatures have swung as much as 20 degrees Fahrenheit within a decade, accompanied by drought in some places and catastrophic floods in others. An abrupt climate change triggered by the ongoing buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere would likely result in regions of the globe experiencing a combination of atmospheric moisture and rainfall, with substantial impact on the world’s food supplies. Unfortunately, we have no satisfactory understanding of what triggers abrupt climate changes.

The National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Climate Change Science Program have identified abrupt climate change as a high priority for additional research. The National Academy of Sciences stated that “Large, abrupt climate changes have repeatedly affected much or all of the Earth.” Furthermore, the Academy went on to state that “abrupt climate changes are not only possible but likely in the future, potentially with large impacts on ecosystems and societies.” and noted that we’re not doing nearly enough to identify the threat of abrupt climate change.

The U.S. Climate Change Science Program last reported to the President and Congress on abrupt climate change in December 2008. The overarching recommendation of this report is the urgent need for coordinated and sustained monitoring of components of the climate system, particularly vulnerable to abrupt climate change. Our bill provides a framework and funds for the U.S. to better understand and address abrupt climate change.

One reason this funding is so urgent is that we are rapidly losing one of the greatest sources of information: ice cores from glaciers. The University of Maine’s Climate Change Institute is one of the best abrupt climate change research programs in the world. The Climate Change Institute uses ice cores from glaciers and ice sheets around the world to make discoveries that change the way we think about climate change. Unfortunately, numerous glaciers around the world are melting, and when they go, we lose the very record that has given us so much of this critical climatic history.

I would like to recognize Senators McCaIN and SUNUNU in traveling to the Scandinavian to see our ongoing research taking place on ice more than 2 miles deep. Along the way we toured some of the University of Maine research sites in New Zealand with distinguished Professor George Denton, who was the first scientist from the University of Maine to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences. According to Professor Denton, 50 percent of the glaciers in New Zealand have melted since 1800, and this melting is unprecedented in 10,000 years. We stood with the professor on sites that had been buried by massive glaciers at the beginning of the 20th century, but are now ice free.

I also travelled with Senators McCaIN, SUNUNU, and others to Ny-Alesund, the northermost community in the world. The scientists we met with told us that the global climate is changing more rapidly now than at any time since the beginning of civilizational research. The National Academy of Sciences stated that “Large, abrupt climate changes have repeatedly affected much or all of the Earth.” Furthermore, the Academy went on to state that “abrupt climate changes are not only possible but likely in the future, potentially with large impacts on ecosystems and societies.” and noted that we’re not doing nearly enough to identify the threat of abrupt climate change.

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In the last 30 years, the Arctic has lost sea-ice cover over an area 10 times as large as the State of Maine. In the summer, the change is even more dramatic, with twice as much ice loss. The ice that remains is as much as 40 percent thinner than it was just a few decades ago. In Ny-Alesund, Senator McCAIN and I witnessed massive blocks of ice falling off glaciers that had already retreated well back from the shores where they once rested.

The melting of glaciers and sea ice, the thawing of permafrost, and the increases in sea levels resulting from warming are already beginning to cause environmental, social, and economic changes. If these changes were to be compounded with an abrupt climate change on the scale seen in our climatic history, the result could be devastating.

Mr. President, this measure has passed the Senate many times, as part of the 2001, 2005, and 2007 energy bills. I hope this is the year that we finally pass this important provision into law. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1679

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Abrupt Climate Change Research Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED. In this Act, the term “abrupt climate change” means a change in the climate that occurs so rapidly or unexpectedly that human or natural systems have difficulty adapting to the climate as changed.

SEC. 3. ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and carry out, a program of extramural awards, made on a peer-reviewed and competitive basis, to conduct scientific research on abrupt climate change.

(b) PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.—The purposes of the program established under subsection (a) shall be as follows:

(1) To develop a global array of terrestrial and oceanographic indicators of paleoclimate in order to sufficiently identify and describe past instances of abrupt climate change.

(2) To improve understanding of thresholds and atmospheric and oceanic systems related to the mechanisms of abrupt climate change.

(3) To incorporate such mechanisms into advanced geophysical models of climate change.

(4) To test the simulation of climate change by such models against an improved paleoclimate record.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2016, $10,000,000 to carry out the research program established under section 3(a).

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 263—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2009 AS “NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. Res. 263

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly;

Whereas the abuse and recreational use of over-the-counter and prescription medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce severe side effects;

Whereas during a recently sampled month, approximately 7,000,000 individuals 12 years of age and older reported using prescription psychotherapeutic medicines for non-medical purposes;

Whereas prescription medications such as pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives are the most abused drug in the United States;

Whereas recent studies indicate that 2,500,000 children between 12 and 17 years of age, or 1 out of every 10 children, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high from the ingredient dextromethorphan;

Whereas 4,700,000 young adults, or 1 out of every 5 young men and women, have used prescription medicines for non-medical purposes;

Whereas in 2008, the National Institute on Drug Abuse estimated that the rates for intentional abuse of cough medicine among eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders stood at 3.6 percent, 5.3 percent, and 5.5 percent, respectively;

Whereas according to research from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, nearly one in ten young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high off its main ingredient Dextromethorphan;

Whereas over-the-counter, OTC, cough and cold medicines is also alarming. While these common cold medicines are safe and effective if used properly, the abuse of these medicines can also be destructive. According to a study conducted by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, nearly one in ten young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high off its main ingredient Dextromethorphan;

Whereas the lack of understanding by teenagers and prescription medicines for recreational use or in large doses can have serious and potentially lifesaving consequences;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the unintentional deaths involving prescription narcotics increased 117 percent from the years 2001 to 2005.

Therefore be it resolved that the Senate—

(1) designates October 2009 as “National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month”;

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth about the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit a resolution designating the month of October, 2009 as the National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. The abuse of prescription drugs and cold medicine is currently the fastest growing drug abuse trend in the country. According to the most recent National Survey of Drug Use and Health, NSDUH, nearly one in ten people have admitted to using controlled substances without a doctor’s prescription. People between the ages of 12 and 25 are the most common group to abuse these drugs. However, more and more adults are dying of abuse of this abuse. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the unintentional deaths involving prescription narcotic increased 117 percent from the years 2001 to 2005.

Millions of Americans use these medicines every year to treat a variety of symptoms due to injury, depression, insomnia, and the effects of the common cold. Many legitimate users of these drugs often do not use as much medication as the prescription contains. As a result, these drugs remain in the family medicine cabinet for months or years because people forget about them or do not know how to properly dispose of them. However, many of these drugs, when not properly used or administered, are just as addictive and deadly as street drugs like methamphetamine or cocaine.

According to the NSDUH, more than half of the people who abuse these drugs reported that they obtained OTC and prescription drugs from a friend or relative or from the family medicine cabinet. As a result, groups like the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, and the Partnership for a Drug-Free America have been reaching out to communities to increase awareness of the rising abuse of these medicines.

Whereas observation of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month will encourage parents to educate themselves about this problem and talk to their children about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas educational toolkits and training methods have been developed on how to best engage and educate parents and grandparents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and health care professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of cough medicine abuse; and

Whereas educating the public on the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention is a critical component of what must be accomplished to appropriately combat the disturbing rise in medicine abuse. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2009 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month";

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth about the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.
throughout the nation to raise awareness of this growing drug abuse trend and encourage communities to tackle the problem head on. Many community anti-drug coalitions, public health officials, and law enforcement officials have been holding town halls, organizing community “clean out your medicine cabinet” events, and holding many other events to raise awareness of this growing abuse in an effort to reverse this trend.

We can stop the growing trend of medicine abuse in its tracks, but it will require all sectors of the community to join together to make it happen. The National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month Resolution promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines must be taken as directed, and when used recreationally or in large doses they can have serious and deadly consequences. This resolution will help remind parents that access to drugs that are abused doesn’t just happen in alleys and on the streets, but can often occur right in the home. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 264—DESIGNATING THE CACUS ROOM OF THE RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING AS THE “KENNEDY CAUCUS ROOM”

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGGELI, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURRE, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COHUT, Mr. COHILL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ENZL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GILLIAM, Mr. GILMORE, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LATESTEG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINDSAY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIRULUSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. NISSENFELD, Mr. NYSTAD, Mr. ORRIN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCHEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPICER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THURBER, Mr. UDALL OF Colorado, Mr. UDALL OF NEW MEXICO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 264

Whereas, during the last century, few rooms have borne witness to as much history as the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building;

Whereas, during the last century, few families have played as integral a role in the history of the United States as the Kennedy family;

Whereas the Senate mourns the passing of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, one of the most accomplished, effective, and beloved Senators of all time;

Whereas Senator Edward Moore Kennedy played a role in every major national debate during the last 50 years, serving as a consistent champion of the disadvantaged and overlooked;

Whereas the legacy of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy includes not only his prolific achievements on behalf of the people of the United States, but the enduring friendships he formed with colleagues on both sides of the aisle;

Whereas the wit and passion of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy and his perseverance in the face of adversity will be remembered in equal measure to his impressive legislative and rhetorical skills;

Whereas Senator Edward Moore Kennedy was part of a proud family tradition of public service, which included 2 other distinguished Senators;

Whereas never before have 3 brothers served in the Senate, and rarely have any 3 brothers served the United States so well;

Whereas John Fitzgerald Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate, before being elected the 35th President of the United States;

Whereas Robert Francis Kennedy served the people of New York with distinction in the Senate, after serving as the 6th Attorney General;

Whereas Edward Moore Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate for nearly half a century, acting as a tireless advocate for those who might otherwise have been without an advocate;

Whereas the Senate has been greatly enriched by the dedication, compassion, and talent of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators;

Whereas, in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, the people of the United States have commemorated tragedy, celebrated triumph, and held hearings of great importance on the most important issues facing the Nation;

Whereas it was in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building that both Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Senator Robert Francis Kennedy announced their intention to run for the office of the President of the United States;

Whereas a spirit of passionate advocacy and deep respect for the institution of the Senate should govern the deliberations that take place in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building; and

Whereas the Senate wishes to honor the life and work of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, to recognize the contributions of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators, and to celebrate the spirit of public service exemplified by the Kennedy family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates room 325 of the Russell Senate Office Building, commonly referred to as the “Caucus Room”, as the “Kennedy Caucus Room”, in recognition of the service to the Senate and the people of the United States of Senators Edward Moore Kennedy, Robert Francis Kennedy, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Whereas in late August 2009, the Angeles National Forest and neighboring communities north of Los Angeles, California were engulfed by an intense wildfire, which came to be known as the “Station Fire”;”;

Whereas the Station Fire, ignited by arson on August 26, 2009, burned more than 160,000 acres of public lands and private property in Los Angeles County and the Angeles National Forest, including more than 160 structures and homes;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire continued to threaten 12,000 structures in the National Forest and nearby communities such as Acton, Altadena, Glendora, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, and Sylmar, as well as other communities in Los Angeles County;

Whereas more than 8,000 fire personnel and 800 fire engines and approximately 40 helicopters, 13 fixed winged aircraft, and 88 water tenders were deployed statewide to assist with firefighting efforts;

Whereas the extraordinary effort made by firefighters throughout the region contributed to the preservation of the historic Mount Wilson Observatory, a national landmark for astronomical research;

Whereas Fire Captain Tedmund D. “Ted” Hall, aged 47, and Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo “Arnie” Quinones, aged 34, lost their lives in the line of duty fighting the Station Fire;

Whereas Tedmund D. Hall joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on April 22, 1981;

Whereas during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Tedmund D. Hall served the city of Lakewood, the city of Whittier, the city of La Puente, and the Department’s command and control team;

Whereas in January 2001, Tedmund D. Hall was promoted to fire captain;

Whereas Tedmund D. Hall is survived by his wife, Katherine, sons Randall and Steven, and parents, Roland Ray and Donna Marie Hall;

Whereas Arnaldo Quinones joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on August 6, 1996;

Whereas during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Arnaldo D. Quinones served the city of Palmdale, the city of Covina, and the city of La Cañada Flintridge;

Whereas in December 2005, Arnaldo Quinones was promoted to firefighter specialist; and

Whereas Arnaldo Quinones is survived by his wife, Lorenya, who is expecting their first child, and his mother Sonia Quinones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families, fellow firefighters, and friends of Tedmund D. Hall and Arnaldo Quinones;

(2) recognizes the noble and brave service that firefighters provide to every community in the United States; and

Senator—
AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2362. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2363. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2364. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2365. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 318, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. 234. The matter under the heading “COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND”, under the heading “COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT”, under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT” in chapter 10 of title I of division B of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 110–329; 122 Stat. 3601) is amended by striking “: Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be used by a State or locality as a matching requirement, share, or contribution for any other Federal program”. 

SA 2366. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Sect. . . (a) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, amounts made available in this Act for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) shall immediately cease to be available if Amtrak prohibits the secure transportation of firearms on passenger trains.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “secure transportation of firearms” means—

(1) if an Amtrak station accepts checked baggage for a specific Amtrak route, Amtrak passengers holding a ticket for such route are allowed to place an unloaded firearm or starter pistol in a checked bag on such route if—

(A) before checking the bag or boarding the train, the passenger declares to Amtrak, either orally or in writing, that the firearm is in his or her bag and is unloaded;

(B) the firearm is carried in a hard-sided container;

(C) such container is locked; and

(D) only the passenger has the key or combination for such container; and

(2) Amtrak passengers are allowed to place small arms ammunition, shapes, or use in a checked bag on an Amtrak route if the ammunition is securely packed—

(A) in fiber, wood, or metal boxes; or

(B) in other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition.

SA 2367. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of
Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 132. (a) The project description in item 5760 under section 1702 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109-59) is amended by adding at the end the following: ‘‘(to include the Montgomery Outer Loop)’’.

(b) The project description in item 16 under section 193(c) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109-59) is amended by adding at the end the following: ‘‘(to include the Montgomery Outer Loop)’’.

SA 2368. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3286, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 223, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 156. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts made available for the Rail Line Relocation public and Improvement Program under title I of division I of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–8, 123 Stat. 935) and directed to ‘‘Phase 3 Rail Rehabilitation in Redwood Falls, MN’’ in the explanatory statement appearing on page H2372 of the Congressional Record shall be available for obligation and expenditure for ‘‘Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority, MN’’.

SA 2369. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3286, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 223, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

SEC. 172. (a) Title I of Public Law 109–346 is amended, under the heading ‘‘Capital Investment Grants’’, by inserting ‘‘and Manchester’’ after ‘‘Nashua’’.

(b) Title I of the Public Law 107–87 is amended, under the heading ‘‘Capital Investment Grants’’, by inserting ‘‘and Manchester’’ after ‘‘Nashua’’.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 14, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ‘‘Cyber Attacks: Protecting Industry Against Growing Threats’’. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 258 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 258) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any motions related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 258) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 258

Whereas La Crosse is located on the western border of middle-Wisconsin, on the east side of the Mississippi River;

Whereas the first Europeans to see the site of La Crosse were French fur traders who traveled the Mississippi River in the late 17th century;

Whereas La Crosse was incorporated as a city in 1856;

Whereas Thomas Morris sponsored a bill in the Wisconsin State Senate that led to the creation of the first-University of Wisconsin-La Crosse;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse was founded in 1909 as the La Crosse Normal School, with the purpose of teacher preparation;

Whereas the philosophy of Fassett A. Cotton, the university’s first president, was to train the whole person;

Whereas ‘‘mens corpusque’’, Latin for ‘‘mind and body’’, is the motto on the university seal;

Whereas the college changed its name to Wisconsin State College-La Crosse in 1951 when the Wisconsin State teachers colleges began awarding baccalaureate degrees in liberal arts;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse offers 88 undergraduate programs in 44 disciplines and 26 graduate programs;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1971 when the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse athletic teams won 59 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III titles in 9 different sports; and

Whereas 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 100th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse; and

(2) commends the university for its status as a leading public university that excels in academics, athletics, and quality of life for students.

HONORING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 265, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 265) honoring the firefighters who sacrificed their lives while battling the Station Fire in southern California in August 2009.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any motions be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 265) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 265

Whereas in late August 2009, the Angeles National Forest and neighboring communities of Los Angeles County and the Angeles National Forest, including more than 180 structures and homes;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire was the 10th largest wildfire in modern California history, and the largest wildfire in the modern history of Los Angeles County;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire continued to threaten 12,000 structures in the National Forest and nearby communities such as Acton, Altadena, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Pasadena, Littleton, Sunland, and Tujunga;

Whereas more than 8,000 fire personnel and 800 fire engines and approximately 40 helicopters, 13 fixed winged aircraft, and 88 water tenders were deployed statewide to assist with firefighting efforts;

Whereas the extraordinary effort made by firefighters throughout the region contributed to the preservation of the historic Mount Wilson Observatory, a national landmark for astronomical research;

Whereas Fire Captain Tedmund D. ‘‘Ted’’ Hall, aged 47, and Firefighter Specialist Arnold ‘‘Arnie’’ Quinones, aged 34, lost their lives in the line of duty fighting the Station Fire;
WHEREAS Tedmund D. Hall joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on April 22, 1961;

WHEREAS during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Tedmund D. Hall served the city of Lakewood, the city of Whittier, the city of La Puente, and the Department’s command and control team;

WHEREAS in January 2001, Tedmund D. Hall was promoted to fire captain;

WHEREAS Tedmund D. Hall is survived by his wife, Katherine, sons Randall and Steven, and parents, Roland Ray and Donna Marie Hall;

WHEREAS Arnaldo Quinones served the city of Palmdale, the city of Glendora, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Tedmund D. Hall;

WHEREAS in December 2005, Arnaldo Quinones was promoted to fire captain; and

WHEREAS Arnaldo Quinones is survived by his wife, Loressa, who is expecting their first child, and his mother Sonia Quinones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families, fellow firefighters, and friends of Tedmund D. Hall and Arnaldo Quinones;

(2) recognizes the noble and brave service that firefighters provide to every community in the United States; and

(3) honors Tedmund D. Hall and Arnaldo Quinones for the sacrifices they made in giving their lives to protect Californians from the Station Fire.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Rockefeller), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Reid), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Portman), as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; and the Senator from Washington (Ms. Cantwell), Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, September 15; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 153, H.R. 3288, Transportation HUD appropriations; and finally, I ask the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ERIC L. HIRSCHBORN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR EXPORT ADMINISTRATION, FOREIGN COMMERCE, AND small business; and

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BARBARA J. BENNETT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE LYONS GRAY, RESIGNED.

STATE

JEFFREY L. BLEICH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO AUSTRALIA.

FELICITAS V. BOWER, OF WASHINGTON, D.C., TO BE A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE.

MICHAEL W. FUNK, OF MONTANA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE PETER F. ALDRICH, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LAURIE D. ROBINSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JEFFREY LEIGH SEDGWICK, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

BARBARA MILTON KENNAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE H. EMMORY WIDENER, JR., RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1228:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID J. CONBOY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1228:

To be brigadier general

COL. JAMES V. YOUNG, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1228:

To be brigadier general

COL. IVAN N. BLACK

IN THE MARINE CORPS


To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN F. KELLY

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LTG) GREGORY J. SMITH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 622:

To be lieutenant colonel

THOMAS M. ANDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 622:

To be major

RICKY B. BEAVES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR Force UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 622:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOSE R. PEREZTORRES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR Force UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 622:

To be major

LOYD A. GRAHAM

Virginia L. Hays

KIGHTINE B. SAUNDERS

CHRISTIAN K. STÅHL

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 634:

To be colonel

DOUGLAS LOUGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be colonel

JOYVETTA LEWIS

DEBORAH W. OLSZHOSKI

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 532:

To be lieutenant commander

BRIAN J. ELLIS

MARY B. FORANA

GREGORY W. SAVOY

MATTHEW L. TUCKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531:

To be captain

ANTHONY T. CORDEN

JAMES F. MURRAY

PHILIP R. O'DO

TO BE COMMANDER

MAURICE A. FISCHER

CYNTIA SIKORSKI

TO BE COMMANDER
HONORING SGT RICHARD F. CANNON

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a WWII Veteran, SGT Richard F. Cannon. Sergeant Cannon recently passed away at the age of 84. A true patriot, Sergeant Cannon played an instrumental role in ending WWII. Sergeant Cannon was a member of U.S. Army Air Forces and was part of the mission that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. Born and raised in Buffalo, Sergeant Cannon graduated from Bennett High School and earned a degree in accounting from Canisius College in 1950. During World War II, he served in the Army Air Forces as a radar operator, attaining the rank of Sergeant. As part of the 509th Composite Group, Sergeant Cannon normally flew aboard a B–29 named Necessary Evil. His crew was reassigned to the Big Stink, a B–29 Superfortress, to provide camera support to the Bockscar, a B–29 bomber, as it dropped the A-bomb on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

After the war, Sergeant Cannon returned to Buffalo and started a food broker company, the R.F. Cannon Company, which he ran until his retirement in 2000. He was president of Buffalo Food Brokers Association and served as commissioner of Williamsburg Junior Football for 8 years. He was also the president of the North Forest Civic Association.

Mr. Cannon is survived by his wife of nearly 61 years, the former Marion Dauphinee; two daughters, Kathleen Lane and Maureen Chiofalo; four sons, Richard Jr., Timothy, Kevin and Gregory; one sister, Annette Marimion; and 17 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, in recognition this brave patriot, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring the legacy of SGT Richard F. Cannon.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEAST TIMES

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate The Northeast Times for 75 years of community journalism. From its modest beginnings, The Northeast Times has served as an important chronicle for the people of Philadelphia's Northeast neighborhoods, providing them with a forum for information and dialogue on critical issues and fostering a sense of local history, community pride, and citizen empowerment.

In 1934, Temple University journalism student, Richard Thorpe Lawson, launched the Mayfair Times. With just a handful of pages in each issue, the paper covered local news and was supported by advertising from mom and pop stores in the area. Lawson eventually expanded his staff, purchased better printing equipment, and moved into a building on Frankford Avenue. The newspaper expanded to cover additional neighborhoods in the Northeast, including Frankford, Tacony, and Holmesburg.

After Richard Lawson's death in 1961, his wife Eleanor Smylie succeeded him in the business, expanding to almost 100 employees. She computerized operations, changed the publication's name to The Northeast Times, and updated the format to a smaller tabloid size. The Northeast Times continued to grow in the 1980's and 1990's, expanding throughout the Northeast and extending into some suburban neighborhoods in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

The Northeast Times continues to inform and give voice to the people, businesses, and community organizations of the Philadelphia's great Northeast on significant issues, as it has since 1934. Both the local coverage and opportunity for civic participation provided by The Northeast Times builds and maintains communities. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this milestone 75th year and recognizing the critical role played by The Northeast Times in our city.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG Bill Number: H.R. 3183 Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources
Requesting Entity: Saint Mary Rehabilitation Working Group, 74 Fourth Street N, Glasgow, MT 59230 Description: This project initiates the rehabilitation and construction of the St. Mary Diversion & Conveyance Works in Glacier County, MT. Identified in Section 5103 of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (P.L. 110–114). This funding would be used to rehabilitate the aging St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works before the system suffers a catastrophic failure.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG Bill Number: H.R. 3183 Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources Requesting Entity: Center for Zero Emissions Research and Technology, Montana State University–Bozeman, 207 Montana Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717 Description: The U.S.'s heavy reliance on foreign energy sources is an obvious national security issue that could be ameliorated if our ample national coal reserves could be used with a less damaging effect on the environment. U.S. coal reserves are projected to be capable of providing more than 200 years of the nation's energy needs, but current technologies do not sufficiently reduce or eliminate...
greenhouse gases and their impact on the environment. The Center for Zero Emissions Research and Technology focuses on developing and validating zero emission technologies for clean energy production from fossil fuels. This would provide an economic benefit in coal and power producing states, reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources, and contribute to a better environment.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Department of Energy—EERE

Description: Funding would be used to extend the geothermal test well to power-generations depth to determine viability of the resource for a future renewable energy source. The Hot Springs area in Lake County, Montana is a proven source for geothermal. The hot water is used as a spa. Shallow wells indicate that the source goes deeper. Preliminary work in the 1980s drilled to 250 feet. The cog-nizant hydrologist believes that a hot water source is hot enough for geothermal power production lies deeper in the earth at this spot. Flathead Electric would like to continue drilling this well to verify the potential source for development. Geothermal power is a valuable source of distributed, renewable power for this area.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction

Description: The purpose of the project is to develop a method to understand how far the Yellowstone river channel is likely to migrate through the next 50 years, allowing better planning for safe riverside development; and (4) improve conditions for the endangered pallid sturgeon while preserving and improving irrigation facilities.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction

Description: The Lower Yellowstone Project at Intake is a Bureau of Reclamation irrigation project located on the Yellowstone River. The Corps of Engineers received authority to utilize Missouri River Recovery Program funds to proceed with the Lower Yellowstone Project through WRDA 2007. The Yellowstone River is the largest tributary to the Missouri River and historically served as native habitat to pallid sturgeon. Providing fish passage at Intake Diversion Dam will open up a minimum of 165 river miles of additional pallid sturgeon habitat.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I have received in the Defense Appropriations Act, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act and the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS
Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: OP,A
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida National Guard
Address of Requesting Entity: 2510 U.S. Highway 2 East, Kalispell, MT 59901

Description: Funding would be used for research on fuels that will provide an alternative means to make carbon-neutral fuel from abundant biomass waste products such as straw, wood, mill waste, as well as non-food crops such as switch grass, for the production of renewable fuels.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations

Description: The purpose of the project is to better the management of the Yellowstone River, its waters and adjacent lands. The project study products have already been used to: (1) develop best management practices to control riparian spread of Russian olive, including bringing in demonstrated equipment and practices best suited for removing this negatively impacting invasive plant; (2) be a catalyst for fish passage projects on the Yellowstone main stem and the Tongue River. These projects have both increased habitat for warm water fish in the lower Yellowstone and improved forage and improved irrigation infrastructure by stabilizing diversion structures and/or helping purchase pumps and pump equipment; (3) develop a method to understand how far the Yellowstone river channel is likely to migrate through the next 50 years, allowing better planning for safe riverside development; and (4) improve conditions for the endangered pallid sturgeon while preserving and improving irrigation facilities.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction

Description: To control riparian spread of Russian River, its waters and adjacent lands. The request for this project is various towns, cities and counties across the state of Montana.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Department of Energy—EERE

Description: Funding would be used to extend the geothermal test well to power-generations depth to determine viability of the resource for a future renewable energy source. The Hot Springs area in Lake County, Montana is a proven source for geothermal. The hot water is used as a spa. Shallow wells indicate that the source goes deeper. Preliminary work in the 1980s drilled to 250 feet. The cog-nizant hydrologist believes that a hot water source is hot enough for geothermal power production lies deeper in the earth at this spot. Flathead Electric would like to continue drilling this well to verify the potential source for development. Geothermal power is a valuable source of distributed, renewable power for this area.

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Description: The Lower Yellowstone Project at Intake is a Bureau of Reclamation irrigation project located on the Yellowstone River. The Corps of Engineers received authority to utilize Missouri River Recovery Program funds to proceed with the Lower Yellowstone Project through WRDA 2007. The Yellowstone River is the largest tributary to the Missouri River and historically served as native habitat to pallid sturgeon. Providing fish passage at Intake Diversion Dam will open up a minimum of 165 river miles of additional pallid sturgeon habitat.

EARMARK DECLARATION

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OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

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Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and remarkable achievements of Daniel S. Hoffman. Dan Hoffman was an icon in the legal community, a teacher and mentor, a public servant who spent his life working for justice.

Dan Hoffman was a leader of Colorado’s legal community. He served as president of both the Colorado Bar Association and the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association (the only person who has held both those posts) and state chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In recognition of his outstanding work, Dan was honored with the Colorado State Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Jewish Committee Judge Learned Hand Award, and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law Outstanding Alumni Award.

Dan was an inspiring teacher at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where he also served as Dean from 1978 to 1984. The Hoffman Cup, Sturm’s most prestigious trial advocacy award, is named for Dan. Students remember Dan as a legal giant who was nonetheless accessible to everyone, including first-year law students, and made them feel that he cared. He mentored many law students and lawyers early in their careers, including my husband, Lino Lipinsky.

Dan was a stellar litigator and advocate. In the 1970s, Dan became part owner of the Denver Nuggets of the American Basketball Association and negotiated the merger of the ABA with the NBA. In one notable case, he represented Michael Jackson against a Denver woman who claimed she had written one of Jackson’s hits. Dan’s masterful direct examination of Jackson, which included having Jackson sing two songs a cappella, giving the jury a new view of Michael Jackson, is taught in law schools and at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy as a model of direct examination. Whether representing his corporate clients or the “little guy,” he was, in the words of Colorado Supreme Court Justice Michael Bender, “the ultimate model of a wonderful lawyer.”

Dan Hoffman was born May 4, 1931, in New York City. He graduated from high school at 15 and enrolled in college at the University of Colorado at 16. He received his law degree magna cum laude from the University of Denver. At age 32, he became the City of Denver’s youngest-ever public safety manager and led a successful campaign to clean up corruption in the Denver Police Department. Public service was always part of this life.

Dan’s commitment to justice and fairness was lifelong. In 1965, he joined Martin Luther King on a march in Alabama from Selma to Montgomery. He was state director for Sen. Robert Kennedy’s 1968 presidential campaign. He joined the protests later that year at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. As an activist and an advocate, he stood up for the injured and those without a voice.

The Colorado legal community has seen many notable lawyers pass through its diverse community, but none like Dan Hoffman. A champion of justice, a crusader for civil rights, a community leader and a teacher and mentor to many, Dan Hoffman has left an indelible mark on all those privileged to have known him. I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding religious institution, the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 175th Anniversary of dedicated service to its members, and by extension, the greater community.

It is only fitting that the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for the spiritual home it has provided to its members, and to the greater Paterson community that helps keep this deeply rooted Church family growing towards the future.

The documented history of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church begins in 1834, making it the oldest Black Church in Passaic County. The first Pastor in Charge of what was then the Paterson A.M.E. Zion Church was Rev. William Serrington, and he reported 22 members. They built a church on Godwin Street and adopted the name of Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, affiliating with the Zion Methodist Episcopal Connection. By 1836, the membership had grown to 26. The next documents report in 1845, that Rev. George Gerrard was in charge.

In 1846, the Trustees of the Church deeded property on Godwin Street, and contracted to have a church built. They leased a nearby house for the minister.

In 1847, the Pastor in Charge, Rev. Vanhass, serving as the first minister of the Godwin Street A.M.E. Zion Church, reported a membership of 13 people. Nine more ministers would succeed Rev. Vanhass over the next five decades. In 1888, during the pastorate of Rev. White, a great revival coupled with the failure of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Paterson added 105 more people to the congregation. The next Pastor was Rev. Anderson, whose plans to build a new edifice led to the demolition of the Godwin Street Church.

He was soon transferred, and the task of raising funds for a new building fell to Rev. Blalock, which was completed in 1897. Five other pastors followed before Rev. Williams was appointed in May of 1911. He led the congregation in the purchase of the current site in 1915, but the building was destroyed by fire in 1921. Rev. Donawa led the construction of a new sanctuary, and then in 1924, Rev. Cole erected the church which the congregation still worships in today.

Keeping the name of the Godwin Street A.M.E. Zion Church, the congregation now stood on the corner of Summer and Ellison Streets. It was led through this period by Rev. Robeson, then Rev. Cowan, and then Rev. Taylor who later became the Bishop. In 1945, the mortgage was paid off and the name of the church changed to First A.M.E. Zion.

During the pastorate of Rev. Roberts, a conflict resulted in a split in the congregation, and some left to establish the New A.M.E. Zion Church, also located in Paterson. A building fund started by Rev. Mapp left the Church with over $11,000 in the Treasury, among many other notable achievements.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding religious institution, the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 175th Anniversary of dedicated service to its members, and by extension, the greater community.

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The Colorado legal community has seen many notable lawyers pass through its diverse community, but none like Dan Hoffman. A champion of justice, a crusader for civil rights, a community leader and a teacher and mentor to many, Dan Hoffman has left an indelible mark on all those privileged to have known him. Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Daniel Hoffman.

Tribute to Daniel S. Hoffman

HON. DIANA DeGETTE
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and remarkable achievements of Daniel S. Hoffman. Dan Hoffman was an icon in the legal community, an educator, and a public servant who spent his life working for justice.
then Rev. Richardson led a renovation of the sanctuary and auditorium and property was purchased for a parking lot. Two choirs, the Young Voices of Zion and the Zionaires Gospel Chorus, were organized. Rev. Flowers led the renovation and refurnishing of the Parsonage. Rev. Tate was credited with inspiring many to restore their membership and with enhancing the administration of the Church, and Rev. Collins built on that by establishing a centralized treasury for more efficient management.

In 1991, Rev. Dr. Maven was appointed as Pastor. In the fall of that year, a new parsonage was purchased and the old one was converted into church offices and meeting space. Soon, a 15 passenger van was purchased, and the sanctuary renovated with the installation of new carpet, padding of pews and a new sound system. Slate roofs were replaced and the parking lot resurfaced.

Dr. Maven has led the establishment of many ministries, like the food pantry and clothing bank, a substance abuse support program, Holiday Basket for the needy and meals for seniors. In 1995, the Alfreda Van Rensailer Memorial Scholarship was established, and has awarded more than $75,000 in scholarships to college-bound Paterson students. The First Church CDC, now known as Zion CDC, also began in 1995. It cosponsored the development of housing for persons with disabilities and acquired property for future growth. It was awarded a grant in 1996 to provide First-Time Homebuyer Counseling services and continues to provide this service along with foreclosure counseling. Dr. Maven also founded the Paterson Family Success Center in 2006. Housed in the Paterson YMCA, it offers programs, information and referral services to strengthen families. To enhance the spiritual growth and development of the membership, the First Church Christian Training Academy was founded in 1996. Wednesday Worship, a non-traditional contemporary worship service, was started in 2007. Children’s Church was also organized.

Dr. Maven’s ministry and involvement have not gone unnoticed by the community nor by the A.M.E. Zion Church Denomination, and he is deeply involved in both. He is presently the A.M.E. Zion Church Denomination, and he has not gone unnoticed by the community nor by his fellow Americans on that dark day.

None of us will ever forget where we were and what we were doing on the morning of September 11, 2001. The images of the planes hitting the World Trade Center towers, the smoke rising above the Pentagon, and the scattered remnants of flight 93 in that Shanksville, Pennsylvania field will forever be seared in our Nation’s consciousness.

This resolution affirms that we continue to mourn the innocent loss of life that occurred on that horrific morning and extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of the victims. It also pays tribute to the heroism of the first responders, law enforcement personnel, and ordinary citizens who rushed to the aid of their fellow Americans on that darkest of days.

With this resolution, the House not only recognizes the extraordinary heroism of that day but acknowledges the significant strides we have made as a Nation to improve information sharing, strengthen our borders, and enhance our resilience. As a result, the United States is more secure today than it was on September 11, 2001. However, we must not lose sight of what still needs to be done or grow complacent about security. The nature of the terrorist threat demands vigilance at all levels of government and in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, this anniversary represents an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to these efforts and H. Res. 722 is a fitting remembrance of how September 11 changed the course of our Nation’s history.

Let us never forget the lives that were lost and the lessons that were learned that day.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE WILLIAM KIMBERLIN
HON. IKE SKELTON
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I ask that you join all of the members and clergy of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson, all those whose faith has been enriched throughout the years, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson to the church community and beyond.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards
on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks one of my district institutions received as part of Bill 3326, the “Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2010.”

Requesting Member: Congressman NATHAN DEAL

Bill Number: H.R. 3326
Account: O&M, Army Account
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Georgia College and State University
Address of Requesting Entity: North Georgia College & State University, The Military College of Georgia 82 College Circle, Dahlonega, GA 30597.

Description of Request: The DoD Language Transformation Roadmap requires language education for officers. This pilot establishes a cost efficient model for meeting this requirement. The hub concept provides for pre-commissioning a language education rather than while on active duty, saving annual pay and allowances in excess of $40K per year officer. Following the three year pilot, state funding based on credit hour production begins, resulting in a sustainable language hub program. Initial investment is repaid in savings within three years of pilot completion and subsequently represents an annual cost savings in excess of $2M.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY’S MERCY LIVONIA ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the doctors, nurses, and the entire staff of St. Mary Mercy Livonia, as they celebrate 50 years of providing compassionate care to the citizens of my district.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia was built in the tradition of the Sisters, who were found by the Blessed Mary Angela in Warsaw, Poland in 1855 as a ministry of healing and service. Her selfless dedication to her fellow citizens played an influential role in the creation of the hospital.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia opened its doors in 1959 with 170 beds, 99 physicians and 300 employees and the hospital has developed extensively since its origin. Today, the hospital includes an innovative Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, as well as a Heart & Vascular Center and an Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. The hospital is an essential part of our community and continues to provide caring and comprehensive health care.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say the hospital has received various honors over the years. In 2007, St. Mary Mercy Livonia received the HealthGrades 2007 Clinical Excellence Award for the third straight year. Last year, St. Mary Mercy Livonia was named a Top Hospital for 2007 by Thomson Healthcare. Congratulations to the talented and erudite doctors, nurses and staff who work tirelessly to improve the lives of countless numbers of humankind beings every day.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia has had a long and distinguished history as a sanctuary for those who need quality care. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Mary Mercy Livonia on its 50th anniversary and venerating the institution’s dedicated commitment to the community and our country.

HONORING MEXICO ON HER INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 199th anniversary of Mexican Independence Day, which celebrates the historic independence of Mexico from Spanish rule. This momentous day is significant because it represents a sign of justice and equality—rights valued and protected in our great country of the United States. It represents the day when Mexico was able to begin its quest for freedom for the people of that beautiful and spirited country. Our two countries will continue to make sure that the rights of the people come first.

Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on the date that Father Miguel Hidalgo y Castillo, a priest in Dolores, Guanajuato, frustrated with the Spanish rule, rang the church bell to gather the people of the town. Hidalgo ignited a fire in the listeners, thus starting Mexico’s War of Independence, requesting that the people of Mexico join him in rising against Spanish rule. Just as the soldiers in the American Revolutionary War fought on behalf of our country, these courageous, patriotic men fought to gain the independence of their beloved Mexico. The war lasted 10 years, finally giving Mexico its independence in 1921. Now, this event known as Grito de Dolores or “Cry of Dolores” is joyfully celebrated every year on September 16 by Mexicans all over the world. The red, white, and green flag is proudly displayed on this day during festivities. The green represents independence, the white represents religion, and the red represents union. This occasion is celebrated with food, parties, and the Mexican president delivering the speech that rallied the people to fight for Mexican freedom.

El Centro Comunitario Mexicano, or as it is popularly known, COCEMEX, is one of the oldest active, not-for-profit organizations for Mexican Americans in New York City. It has worked independently as a community organization in East Harlem, catering to the needs of the Mexican American population established in the tri-state area, specifically the area of El Barrio. El Barrio is home to about 35,000 Mexican immigrants or Mexican descendents there. COCEMEX has been organizing Mexican Independence Day festivities since 1996, with attendance growing every year. I would like to commend Consul Ruben Beltran and Ambassador Anuro Sarukhan for their hard work on behalf of the country of Mexico.

Let’s pay our respects to those courageous men who fought on behalf of Mexico to help position the country where it is today. I call upon my fellow Members Of Congress to join me in celebrating Mexican Independence Day in honor of all the Mexican immigrants and descendants, not only in my district, but throughout this great nation and world.

TRIBUTE TO FAMILY FARMS LIKE J & J FARM IN AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the continuing importance of family farming in America, well exemplified in my district by J & J Farm of Amherst, which marks its 100th anniversary this year, the same year of the 250th anniversary of the Town of Amherst. Family farming is a long and proud tradition in Massachusetts, and the positive community impact of these farms is as vital as ever. Family farms help maintain economically and socially vibrant rural communities. They serve to conserve and enhance our invaluable soil, water and wildlife habitat for future generations. Most important of all, they provide healthy, high-quality food for American families.

Because of the tremendous importance of family farms and rural communities to our nation and to western Massachusetts in particular, it is fitting that we should recognize the many years of hard work of farm proprietors, like the Waskiewicz family of J & J Farm.

Dimitro and Victoria Waskiewicz immigrated from southern Poland in 1895. Dimitro worked as a farm laborer in the North Amherst area for several years. By 1909 he had saved enough money to purchase a farm on Meadow Street in North Amherst from the Spear family. The original farm consisted of 40 acres with the Mill River running through the east side of the farm. Ten years later another 40 acres were added. Milk, tobacco and onions were the farm’s main products.

Dimitro died at the early age of 43. His two eldest sons bought the farm from Victoria in 1930. Joseph and John Waskiewicz began the farm as it is now known, J & J Farm. Joe’s son Joseph took over operations following John’s retirement in 1970. Joe Jr. retired in 1985 at the age of 86. The farm is now in its fourth generation: Joseph III and Michael now operate the farm with their father.

The past century has brought floods, hurricanes and droughts, but despite hardships and market changes the farm has continued to provide area residents with fresh produce and dairy products. J & J Farm is the last remaining dairy farm in Amherst. The farm operates a seasonal roadside stand that supplements the dairy products with sweet corn, another specialty.

We must sustain our rural communities so that future generations of family farmers, like the Waskiewicz family, will enjoy the dignity of a good day’s work and the reward of seeing the tangible yield of their labors with the land and animals in front of them. It is my hope that future generations will maintain the tradition of family farming that the Waskiewicz family built at J & J Farm, and that America will sustain its family farms through the 21st century and beyond.
HONORING JONATHAN BYRD
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sorrow to mark the passing of a true friend of the state of Indiana.

Jonathan Byrd will forever be regarded as a savvy businessman who grew a family-owned cafeteria into the world's largest banquet facility and founded a successful racecar team. But it was his generosity and deep faith that will cast Jonathan Byrd's most lasting legacy.

Jonathan Byrd often told people as a teenager that he would be a millionaire by the age of 25. Operating Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in central Indiana in the 1970's and 80's, Jonathan did in fact become a millionaire in his first quarter century on Earth.

However, those closest to Jonathan understood that those millions were not for himself, but instead a means in which to carry out the will of the Lord. He funded many Christian schools, financed mission trips, and helped put more than 500 million copies of Scripture in the hands of people around the world.

Millions of people have dined at Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria since it opened in 1988, but this enterprise wasn't the only business venture Jonathan Byrd found success in.

He Founded Byrd Enterprises of Arizona—their products include Intercontinental, Hilton and Marriott Hotels. Jonathan Byrd's Rare Books and Bibles quickly became the nation's largest dealer, importer, and restorer of ancient Bibles and theology books under his stewardship.

Like many Hoosiers, Jonathan had a passion for auto racing that led him to form his own race team. True to form, Jonathan apportioned those millions to the promotion of the sport and the racing industry. He was also blessed with a wonderful family: wife Virginia of 35 years; two sons, Jonathan and David; and many grandchildren. My family: wife Virginia of 35 years; two sons, Jonathan and David; and many grandchildren. My family: wife Virginia of 35 years; two sons, Jonathan and David; and many grandchildren.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jacob Costello from Wesley, Arkansas for achieving the Congressional Award Silver Medal.

The Congressional Award Silver Medal is achieved after participating in 200 hours of Public Service in the community as well as setting and achieving challenging goals in physical fitness and personal development and expedition/exploration.

Jacob's volunteer service was completed through involvement in the Washington County Historical Society, the Washington County Master Gardeners, and the Boy Scouts of America. He also worked with a local summer camp for children with parents in prison, helping prepare the facilities by painting, hauling gravel and removing fallen leaves. In addition to completing the requirements for the Silver Medal, he's already added 40 hours of volunteer work through his Boy Scout Eagle project which will go towards his Gold Medal aspirations.

In his role as a Junior Director of the Ozark Folk Center and traveled to New York City to play with the North Arkansas Youth Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Once there, the award, Jacob biked, swam, hiked, and backpacked for more than 100 hours. He actually completed more than half of the necessary hours to achieve the Congressional Gold Medal.

For the personal development requirement, Jacob joined the performance for Peter Pan at the Northwest Academy of Fine Arts. Playing his violin, he attended rehearsals and practiced on his own time, learning how to play in a group setting. He attended a Fiddle Workshop at the Ozark Folk Center and traveled to New York City to play with the North Arkansas Youth Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Once there,
Jacob had the unique opportunity to attend Philmont Boy Scout camp for his Expedition. To prepare for this, he worked toward his Physical Fitness goal of carrying 55 pounds in his backpack for a distance of 12 miles over two days by planning mini-hikes with his pack and cross-training in the pool and on the track. Among all of these achievements, Jacob is also involved in the White River Fellowship Camp as a youth leader and a worship team member. I congratulate Jacob in his achievements and wish him for his aspirations to continue on his path to accomplish the Congressional Gold Medal.

HONORING THOSE WHO COACH US TO GREATNESS

HON. HEATH SHULER
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, as football season kicks off, I am reminded of the exceptional coaches I’ve worked with over the years. I have been lucky to learn from great men like Mike Ditka, Johnny Majors, Chip Fulmer, Now Turner, and my high school football coach Boyce Deitz. During high school, Coach Deitz influenced me more than anyone outside of my immediate family. Of all the coaches I’ve had before or after, he has had the strongest and most-lasting impact on my life. Most adults still can remember the name or face of one childhood coach who taught them a better way to throw a ball, improve their time, or overcome an obstacle that seemed insurmountable.

Today, we live in a time when young people face serious challenges to their well-being. Childhood obesity has reached record proportions. School drop-out rates approach fifty percent in many urban school districts. Nearly one million minors report association with gang activity. Where these trends are at their worst, coaches can play a critical role in equipping young athletes with the tools to make better choices. Coaches dedicate countless hours of their time helping young people build strong work ethics, communicate effectively, and work as part of a team. The coaches, who have the vital role of parlaying those values to our youth, make up the backbone of youth sports programs.

To recognize the service of youth sports coaches for their tremendous contributions, I have been working with Rep. MIKE MCINTYRE and other Members of the U.S. House to enact the first ever National Coach Appreciation Week. This week can be a time to recruit new business and consumer interests to the historic Tudor Building on Washington Avenue, Smoking Joe’s truly holds steadfast to St. Louis’ rich musical culture and history alive. Each meal is a taste of St. Louis; from the succulent ribs and chicken dishes, to old-fashioned green beans and potato salad, the diners’ already superb experience is enhanced by the soulful sounds of live jazz entertainers who hold steadfast to St. Louis’ rich musical customs. This unique atmosphere has earned Smoking Joe’s the UrbanSpoons’ “Talk of the Town” distinction. Using self-developed dry rubs and staying true to St. Louis-style cooking, Chef Rozelle and his talented staff are to be applauded for their contribution to the neighborhood renewal and their respect of St. Louis culinary traditions.

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise before you and recognize a new addition to St. Louis’ Locust Business District, Smoking Joe’s Bar-Be-Que. The Locust Business District, located in the heart of the city, is tasked with spawing a renewed sense of community morale and revitalization. As it sits in the historic Tudor Building on Washington Avenue, Smoking Joe’s Bar-Be-Que fits in perfectly with this aim.

Owned and operated by Executive Chef Joel Rozelle, Smoking Joe’s has helped bring new business and consumer interests to the Locust Business District. Smoking Joe’s truly utilizes the culinary and performing arts to bring St. Louis culture and history alive. Each meal is a taste of St. Louis; from the succulent ribs and chicken dishes, to old-fashioned green beans and potato salad, the diners’ already superb experience is enhanced by the soulful sounds of live jazz entertainers who hold steadfast to St. Louis’ rich musical customs. This unique atmosphere has earned Smoking Joe’s the UrbanSpoons’ “Talk of the Town” distinction. Using self-developed dry rubs and staying true to St. Louis-style cooking, Chef Rozelle and his talented staff are to be applauded for their contribution to the neighborhood renewal and their respect of St. Louis culinary traditions.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished history of the Irving Park Baptist Church community on the occasion of its 120th Anniversary. Over the past 120 years, Irving Park Baptist Church has provided spiritual guidance to generations of families throughout the Irving Park Community on the northwest side of the City of Chicago. The Irving Park Baptist Church was originally established in 1889. The church’s multi-ethnic and multigenerational character has brought together a community of people to unite in one faith. Irving Park Baptist Church is actively involved with other churches and non-profits in the community. As an active and caring institution, the church is also a founding member of Hands to Help Ministries, which helps to provide housing and services for persons in distress.

Irving Park Baptist Church is a community of people from different cultures and backgrounds who are united in their belief. The community’s mission is to faithfully serve God by ministering to each other, to their neighbors, and to the world.

On September 13, 2009 parishioners and friends of the community came together to celebrate this momentous anniversary. The Anniversary Luncheon took place at La Villa Banquets. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I wish all the best for its clergy, for its families, and for its success in the future.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL—HELEN SNAPP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise before you today in recognition of Helen Snapp and her distinguished service with the U.S. Women’s Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) of WWII. In honor of Mrs. Snapp’s sacrifice to our nation, this Congress bestows upon her our highest gesture of appreciation, the Congressional Gold Medal. I am especially proud to serve Helen Snapp in Florida’s 23rd district.

Helen grew up in Washington, D.C., where she quickly realized a passion for flight. Helen is one of the spectators who sat on Pennsylvania Avenue, eagerly anticipating the parade in honor of aviation legend Charles Lindbergh. Like many young women, Helen admired female aviation pioneers, Amelia Earhart and Jacqueline Cochran. Helen would follow in their footsteps and go on to earn her license to fly. Jacqueline Cochran would eventually offer Helen a personal invitation for her to join the ranks of distinguished women pilots. Helen would go on to join the WASP and honor the inroads her heroines had paved.
At the outset of the Second World War, women were perceived as intellectually and physically inferior to their male counterparts. This stigma was well established throughout Air Force culture. Consequently, women were strictly prohibited from flying combat missions. Instead, women were limited to serving in non-combat roles. With this background, WASP was created to allow women to fly as service pilots. Unlike their uniformed sisters, WASP was created as a civilian division. In fact, WASP was the only women’s military branch in WWII not to receive congressional approval.

Women service pilots were mainly used as auxiliary pilots. By serving in this capacity, the women pilots released qualified men to fly in combat. WASPs were limited to the North American front. Their duties also included ferrying airplanes, towing targets, and training men to be pilots, navigators, gunners and bombardiers. In a two-year period, the women of the Air Force service pilot’s organization flew over sixty million miles and delivered 12,652 airplanes domestically. Thirty-eight of these brave women, who received no military benefits, sacrificed their lives serving our country.

Helen and the women of WASP defied the accepted belief that females should be relegated to remedial tasks. These civilian soldiers boasted higher admittance standards and a graduation percentage that surpassed their male counterparts. As the war continued, WASP played a pivotal role in our efforts to defeat the Axis powers. More importantly, these brave women proved to their skeptics that women were fully capable of operating aircraft during wartime. They matched, if not exceeded, male performance. In his closing address, General Henry “Hap” Arnold, a one-time WASP graduate, said, “You and nine hundred of your sisters have shown that you can fly wingtip to wingtip with your brothers. If dred of your sisters have shown that you can fly there ever was a doubt in anyone’s mind that women were fully capable of operating these brave women proved to their skeptics that women were fully capable of operating aircraft during wartime. They matched, if not exceeded, male performance. In his closing address, General Henry “Hap” Arnold, a one-time WASP graduate, said, “You and nine hundred of your sisters have shown that you can fly wingtip to wingtip with your brothers. If any of your sisters have shown that you can fly there ever was a doubt in anyone’s mind that women were fully capable of operating aircraft during wartime. They matched, if not exceeded, male performance. In his closing address, General Henry “Hap” Arnold, a one-time WASP graduate, said, “You and nine hundred of your sisters have shown that you can fly wingtip to wingtip with your brothers. If any of your sisters have shown that you can fly...
urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

BACKGROUND

The statistics surrounding colon cancer are startling. Colon cancer is the number two cancer killer in the United States. Nearly 50,000 people will die this year from this disease. According to the American Cancer Society (2009 Facts & Figures), of the nearly 50,000 people expected to die from colorectal cancer in 2009, early detection could save more than half. These statistics alone are a tragedy.

But the statistics become even more tragic when one considers that colorectal cancer is highly preventable with appropriate screening. And the disease is detectable, treatable, and curable. According to the American Cancer Society (2009 Facts & Figures), the 5 year survival rate is 90 percent for those diagnosed at an early stage; however, only 40 percent of the cases are diagnosed at the stage.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recognizes the preventable nature of this disease and provides its only grade ‘A’ recommendation of cancer screenings for colorectal cancer screening.

Unfortunately, almost half of the Medicare population is not being screened, despite the availability of a Medicare colon cancer screening benefit. According to CMS, Medicare claims indicate that only 52 percent of beneficiaries have had a colorectal cancer test and there is “clearly an opportunity to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in the Medicare population.” (CMS website “overview of colorectal cancer screening”)

Numerous barriers account for this fact, including structural issues in the Medicare program, significant Medicare cuts to providers, and lack of knowledge and preparation among patients.

SCREEN ACT

The SCREEN Act is designed to address these barriers and increase the participation of patients in this preventive service. The bill accomplishes this in several main ways.

REDUCING PATIENT BARRIERS

First, the bill would reduce patient barriers to being screened. The legislation would waive Medicare co-insurance for diagnostic and screening colorectal cancer tests in order to increase utilization.

In addition, the bill would provide coverage for a pre-operative visit with a physician prior to a screening colonoscopy. This is the standard of care, but is not currently covered by Medicare.

Finally, under the legislation all Medicare beneficiaries will be notified about the Medicare colorectal cancer screening benefit and reminded of their eligibility periodically. These common sense steps will ensure that more patients are screened and more lives are saved.

PROVIDER QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

We must also ensure that there are adequate numbers of high-quality physicians performing colonoscopies. The legislation reverses years of provider reimbursement cuts by creating a preventive services payment modifier for colorectal cancer screens that is adequate to incentivize physicians to perform colorectal cancer screens. It would base this incentive on a national colorectal cancer screening goal established by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The bill would also require the Secretary to establish a national minimum standard for basic knowledge, training, continuing education and documentation for physicians and facilities. A physician would not be permitted to receive the preventive services modifier if he or she did not meet this standard.

STATE INTERVENTIONS TO INCREASE SCREENING

The legislation would also support state-level interventions to increase colorectal cancer screening. The legislation authorizes grants to states for colorectal cancer programs that include: screening to high risk individuals; case management and referrals for treatment; follow up and care for individuals screened; health professional education, training, and skills; and public information and education programs.

INFORMATION ON WHAT WORKS

Finally, the legislation gathers information on best practices in incentivizing colorectal cancer screening. The bill requires reporting on screening rates and interventions in Medicare Advantage and commissions a study by the Secretary of HHS on levels of coinsurance for screening tests under private plans.

CONCLUSION

More than 50,000 Americans will die from colon cancer this year alone. Ninety percent of these cases might have been prevented. We cannot afford to wait another moment before doing something to eliminate these and other barriers that are standing in the way of preventing colon cancer.

Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to co-sponsor the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act and support its passage this year.

TRIBUTE TO MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) for its extraordinary record of athletic achievement.

Under the direction of head coach Gary Parker, the Women’s Outdoor Track and Field team finished the 2008–09 season with a 25–0 record against two-year college competition and earned first place at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III National Championship, marking the program’s fourth national title.

The Women’s Cross Country team, also under head coach Gary Parker, finished its season with an undefeated 25–0 record against two-year college competition, and rounded out the year by winning the NJCAA Division III National Championship, the program’s ninth national title. Coupled with the Men’s team’s second place finish, MVCC’s cross country program earned the coveted Pepsi Cup, an award given to the college with the best combined finish at the National Championships.

Looking more broadly at college’s 20 competitive intercollegiate athletics programs, MVCC won last year’s second place trophy at the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators Cup competitions for its overall performance in the non-scholarship division’s national championships. In the last six years this competition has been held, MVCC has never taken anything less than fourth place.

The aforementioned achievements represent the continuation of decades of success for MVCC’s athletic programs. With one of the largest and most diverse two-year college intercollegiate athletic programs in the country, MVCC is home to 17 national championships, 107 individual national champions and 330 NJCAA All-Americans. Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such talented and dedicated athletes in my district. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the MVCC Hawks and wishing them the best of luck in their future athletic and scholarly endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GRETCHEN WILSON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN
OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Grammy Award winner and country music recording artist, Ms. Gretchen Wilson, as she receives the 2009 National Coalition for Literacy Leadership Award at The Library of Congress. Gretchen is being recognized by the National Coalition for Literacy and the Center for the Book for her contributions to the advancement of adult education and literacy.

Until recently, the multi-platinum acclaimed singer/songwriter was one of millions of Americans who had not finished their high school education. Ms. Wilson left high school to pursue her music career; something she has since had three #1 albums. Last year at the age of 34, Gretchen earned her GED. Her friend and mentor, Charlie Daniels, was guest speaker at her graduation ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Lebanon, TN.

As a mother, it was important for Gretchen to lead by example and demonstrate to her eight-year-old daughter, Grace, just how important it is to have an education. Gretchen is currently teaming up with the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to honor GED students and organizations dedicated to the advancement of literacy.

Ms. Wilson has won Female Vocalist of the Year from both the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music and a Grammy Award for Best Female Country Vocal Performance. She also had her first book and autobiography, “Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life,” appear on the New York Times Best Seller List.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Gretchen on her hard work, resilience, and many notable achievements and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her dedication and contributions to adult education and literacy awareness.
CONGRATULATING DELANO AND THE MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY IN WOODBURY, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two schools from my state of Minnesota. Both Delano High School and the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury have recently been recognized as “Blue Ribbon Schools” by the U.S. Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Program honors public and private middle, junior and senior high schools that demonstrate academic superiority, especially with minority populations.

This is a great honor to the teachers, faculty and administration of these schools. And, in particular, Delano’s Principal Matthew Schoen and Woodbury’s Director Paul Simone, should be exceedingly proud of their efforts. Their dedication to foster a positive learning environment encourages families and students across the nation. Through the Blue Ribbon School program, other educators have a set of “Best Practices” in classroom tactics, school programming choices and administrative strategies like none other.

These schools are shining stars in America’s education system. It is my honor to recognize two of these schools, Delano High School and the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury, before this Congress today. I encourage every school in America to look at these Blue Ribbon winners not only as a resource but also a reminder of what our schools can be.

HON. NATHAN DEAL OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks one of my municipalities received as part of Bill 3288, the “Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2010.”

Requesting Member: Congressman NATHAN DEAL
Bill Number: H.R. 3288
Account: TCSP—Transportation & Community & System Preservation
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The State of Georgia, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District 100 West Ogletorpe Avenue P.O. Box 889 Savannah, GA 31402
Description of Request: CG funding of $33,725,000 is necessary to begin construction of the SHEP. While the Record of Decision will not be signed until mid-2010, these funds can be used for final pre-construction monitoring and engineering design of the channel and mitigation components for the project.

Additionally, these funds will be needed immediately after project approval for negotiation of the Project Partnership Agreement. Construction contracts cannot be awarded prior to the completion of this agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING EDGAR HAGOPIAN’S CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Edgar Hagopian, a compassionate humanitarian and public advocate who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow citizens.

Edgar grew up in metro Detroit. As a teen in the 1950s, he began working for his father, Haroutun Hagopian, who ran a cleaning business. Edgar worked hard under the leadership example set by his father. Buoyed by the devotion and support of his wife Sarah, the Hagopian Family of Companies grew and earned a reputation for excellence in business. Presently, Edgar serves as Chairman of the Hagopian Family of Companies, which encompasses Hagopian & Sons, Incorporated, Hagopian World of Rugs, Hagopian Cleaning Services, Incorporated, Hagopian Fire & Flood Services and The Ghiorides Knot. The Hagopian name has long been associated with carpet cleaning and fine Oriental Rugs and their cleaning slogan, “expect the best, expect the purple truck”, can be heard over local airwaves daily.

As 2009 marks the distinct recognition of 70 years in business, it is with great gratitude and appreciation that I recognize Edgar Hagopian. His leadership stands as a fine illustration of Southeast Michigan ingenuity and innovation. He has assertively fostered economic growth, created jobs and inspired hope in a state ravaged by mass unemployment. Additionally, Edgar has been involved in numerous charitable organizations and his generosity is well known throughout the community.

Edgar and his wife Sarah have worked to promote Armenian culture and unite the metro Detroit Armenian community. They have worked to help build a stronger Armenia by bridging the cultural gap and bringing people of all ethnicities and traditions together. Mr. Hagopian has spearheaded both large and small projects, each with qualitative impacts felt across all spectrums of life. Moreover, he has long worked tirelessly to better inform people of the Armenian Genocide on both a local and national level. These efforts resulted in the passing of Michigan Public Act 558 (2002) “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Days” signed into law by Governor John Engler.

Madam Speaker, Edgar Hagopian is a spirited political activist, caring benefactor, compassionate citizen and cultural icon whose generosity has shaped the lives of countless people in our community. We are all indebted to the countless sacrifices and contributions he has made to strengthen the social fabric of our society. He personifies a legacy of distinction. Madam Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Hagopian and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF KINGSPORT ON THE HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

SPREAD OF
HON. DAVID P. ROE
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Higher Education Initiative by the City of Kingsport. The Higher Education Initiative worked to capitalize the economy in Kingsport by improving the overall education level of its labor force.

Madam Speaker, I am not the only one praising Kingsport for their initiative. Kingsport has been awarded the 2009 Innovations in American Government Awards by The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University for its higher education initiatives. To win this prestigious award, Kingsport had to compete against 600 other federal, state, and local governments.

The Kingsport Center for Higher Education consists of five institutions: Carson-Newman College, King College, Lincoln Memorial University, Northeast State Community College, and the University of Tennessee. This unique partnership allows the Center to offer courses and programs ranging from associate to doctoral degrees.

Just recently, I moved my district congressional office to this impressive facility. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, I support this great initiative and I thank Kingsport for their dedication to their local economy and their commitment to education.

Since Kingsport has taken the initiative towards promoting higher education nearly a decade ago, there has been a 23 percent increase in high school graduates, a 27.5 percent increase in those with Associate Degrees and a 19.2 increase in those with Bachelor’s Degrees.

Education adds value and improves quality of life. I commend the City of Kingsport for their hard work and dedication that has truly made the city a better place.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PELAIA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Thomas Pelaia, who will be recognized by the John I. Crecco Foundation with its Public Safety Award on September 11, 2009 for his many years of dedication with its Public Safety Award on September 11, 2009 for his many years of dedication.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the outstanding members and citizen leaders who make up the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch.

It is a great honor to recognize the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch and I wish this group continued success.

The Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch took a firm stand in letting the criminals know that the activities that they were involved in were not going to continue in their community. Due to the efforts, participation and teamwork provided by the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch Group, the Dallas Police Department and the City Prosecutor, a 12 percent decrease in crime within the past year was noticed among the following criminal offenses: 5 percent decrease in Business Burglaries, 7 percent decrease in Burglary of Motor Vehicles, 6 percent decrease in Thefts and a 2 percent decrease in Auto Thefts. Officers of the Southeast Patrol Division made a total of forty-seven (47) Arrests and issued seven hundred and eighty-six (786) Citations involving Drugs, Prostitution, Urban Habitation, Alcohol Violations, Code Violations, Auto Thefts, Assaults, Traffic Violations and Outstanding Warrants.

They also have other successful community programs, including City of Hope, Eye on the Community, Treasure of Hope, National Night Out, Community Clean-up, Community Emergency Response Team, and the After School Program.

The Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch is a hard working group that believes in teamwork and accomplishing their goals.

I am pleased to congratulate the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch on their outstanding efforts and share their good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people. They’re making Texas a better place to live, work and raise a family.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF LILLIAN V. GERMAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and indispensable members of the Judiciary Committee, Lillian German. For the past 6 years, Lillian has served as a counsel to the Committee, working principally as the Deputy Chief Oversight Counsel during the 110th and 111th Congresses.

A proud native of Houston, Texas, Lillian graduated from the University of North Texas where she was a leader, student government and a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She earned her law degree from Southern Methodist University, and following
her graduation, served as a briefing attorney for the Texas Attorney General and in private practice in Dallas.

Lillian came to Washington 15 years ago to work on the Hill, and has served in the offices of many of our dear friends and colleagues. Lillian currently serves as press secretary and Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Eddie Ber- nicle Johnson. With Congresswoman Johnson, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., and the Na- tional Association for the Advancement of Col- ored People Legal Defense Fund, Lillian helped organize a historic bus tour throughout the south to highlight the impact of the Supre- me Court’s decision in Shaw v. Reno (1993) on voting rights and minority districts. Lillian went on to serve as the Legislative Di- rector for Congresswoman Barbara Rose Col- lins, with whom she worked to draft several amendments to the 1996 Telecommunications Act to increase minority ownership of commercial broadcasting companies. Lillian continued on as Press Secretary and Chief of Staff for Congressional Alcee Hastings. She organized Vice President Al Gore’s first environmental justice site tours of southern Florida’s minority communities and brownfield lands, and during the 2000 Presidential election, Lillian served as an area political director for the Gore re- count committee. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, Lillian helped usher through a $125 million appropriation to assist the Nation’s terrorist industry, and she successfully managed the effort to secure the Health Care Financing Administra- tion’s approval of the Dean Ornish Program for reversing coronary heart disease. Lillian then served as the Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Jackie-Lengendt where she worked with the Houston community in the wake of Enron’s collapse. During the 2002 Florida Governor’s race, Lillian worked as the Get-Out-the-Vote director for Miami-Dade County Democrats.

Lillian joined the Judiciary Committee in 2003 and has made numerous contributions to the committee’s civil rights, criminal justice, and government oversight work. She helped secure funding for the expansion of the U.S. Marshal Service’s Safe Surrender Initiative to seven additional States, including the District of Columbia and my home State of Michigan. She visited the Texas-Mexico border several times to investigate government’s response to the high-death tolls and helped with the com- mittee’s immigration field hearings in Texas, Michigan, California, and Iowa. She led the House’s investigation into the wrongful firing of rail workers under the Transportation Security Administration’s Transportation Worker Identi- fication Card program, which ultimately resulted in the reinstatement of 36 workers. She successfully worked to advance the Committee’s effort to re- lease three inmates wrongly incarcerated in solitary confinement for 36 years in the Angola Penitentiary in Louisiana, and she and I re- cently met with Governor Bobby Jindal to dis- cuss the prisoners’ final release. She organ- ized committee hearings on FBI whistle- blowers, President Clinton’s Justice Department’s role in the Jena Six cases; and voter intimid- ation during the 2006 elections, which featured then-Senator Barack Obama as a witness.

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank you for your time and the great respect you have for your colleagues on the Hill, she has been a stalwart voice for social justice and the under-represented. Lillian is a tour-de-force that will be sorely missed. Her spirit, loyalty, wit, generosity, and professionalism have made all of the offices in which she has worked places to belong and places to thrive. We are losing a dear advisor, mentor, and friend.

We wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRED BABER FAMILY AS THE 2009 OKALOOSA FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Fred Baber family for being selected the 2009 Okaloosa County Farm Family of the Year.

Mr. Baber, the family’s patriarch, celebrat- ed his 90th birthday this year, but he still loves to rise before dawn and head out to farm in Laurel Hill, Florida. He is the herd manager for Roger’s Ranch and manages 60 head of cattle. In their early days as Ohio farmers, Fred and his brother were pioneers in the fields of artificial insemination (AI) and dairy herd improvement association milk test- ing (DHIA). Fred brought his advanced knowl- edge of these techniques to Florida. He also built one of the first Harvester silos in the local area, and was instrumental in bringing the Tampa Independent Dairy Farmers Milk Co-op to the Florida panhandle.

Fred’s family is a huge part of his success- ful farming career. His son Andy helps him run the family farm, producing peanuts, soybeans, and hay. Andy, the oldest of eight Baber children, and his wife Barbara both work at Ruckel Properties. Andy also serves on the Okaloosa County Farm Services Agency Board.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my con- gratulations to Baber family’s tireless work and dedication to family, faith and trade. They are a role model for all of us. My wife Vicki and I wish their entire family best wishes for con- tinued success.

TRIBUTE TO SAN DIEGO POWER SURGE 96

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of San Diego Power Surge 96 for its championship victory in the Amateur Softball Association’s 2009 Girls National Fastpitch Tournament. The girls of Power Surge 96 competed against some of the most talented and formidable teams in the coun- try—and they did not disappoint their fans. Their national championship victory represents a great accomplishment for not only each team member, but also for the San Diego community.

Over the course of the tournament, Power Surge 96 won a total of nine games to com- pliment the team’s overall and quite impres- sive record of 92 wins, 7 losses and 1 tie. The team’s final matchup turned into a heroic test of endurance and skill after falling behind to their opponent, the SoCal Jynx, early in the game. In the seventh inning, Power Surge 96 tied the score at three, forcing the game into extra innings where they eventually took the lead and never looked back.

On their way to the top, the girls of Power Surge 96 prevailed through a qualifying tour- nament that included several tough oppo- nents. That tournament, the ASA Southern California State Championship was the first qualifying victory for any Power Surge team since forming in 1992 and competing at the national level.

In 2009, Power Surge 96 competed in a total of nine tournaments. The team won six of those tournaments outright, sharing a seventh as co-champion. Altogether, 2009 was a great year for the girls of Power Surge 96, high- lighted by their national championship victory. Surely, their victory will help motivate them to reach the same level of achievement next year, when they resume competitive play and prepare to defend their national championship.

The girls of Power Surge 96 deserve great credit and recognition for their success and re- markable accomplishment. Their national championship victory, as well as the time they have shared together and hours invested in practice and preparation, is an experience they will always remember. It is an experience that will stay with them well into their adult lives and, hopefully one day, be shared with their children to encourage and inspire them to reach the heights they have.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to rise in recognition of Power Surge 96 and I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this team of talented girls. Next year’s national championship tournament will not be easy but if there is any group up to the challenge, it is the girls of Power Surge 96.

WIND ENERGY RESEARCH AND DE- VELPMENT ACT AND HEAVY DUTY HYBRID VEHICLE RE- SEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Wind En- ergy Research and Development Act (H.R. 3165) and the Heavy Duty Hybrid Vehicle Re- search, Development and Demonstration Act (H.R. 445). I thank my colleagues on the Science and Technology Committee for their work on these important bills, which will help secure America’s role as a global leader in innovation.

An aggressive transition to a clean renew- able energy economy is necessary to mod- ernize America’s economy for the 21st cen- tury. In this historic moment, we have the re- sponsibility and the opportunity to secure America’s place as a global hub of techno- logical innovation, an economic leader, and a steward of our planet. Passage of H.R. 3165 and H.R. 445 will focus American ingenuity to achieve these important goals.
Wind energy is a critical component of America’s clean energy future. The growth potential for the industry is enormous: in 2008 alone the industry installed enough new wind energy production capacity to power over 2 million homes. My state of Minnesota is currently fourth in the nation for installed wind energy production capacity and is in the top ten states for wind energy production potential. However, like many new industries, the wind energy industry requires federal incentives to fuel its growth. The Wind Energy Research and Development Act authorizes an important new demonstration program at the Department of Energy to reduce the costs of construction, generation, and maintenance of wind energy systems. Developing these technologies will help reduce existing barriers to expansion of wind power around the country.

America’s shift to a clean energy economy requires the development of advanced vehicle technologies to save consumers money and reduce harmful emissions. In addition to clean passenger vehicles, we must modernize our commercial transport fleet. The Heavy Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Act will create a competitive grant program to support research, development and demonstration of advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicle technologies. This program will help make America’s commercial transport fleet the cleanest and most efficient in the world.

Transitioning to a clean energy economy and curtailing global climate change are two of the great challenges of our time—American innovation is the key to addressing them both. I urge my colleagues to support these two important pieces of legislation.

RECOGNIZING DAVID DAVIS FOR WINNING THE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. SAM JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate David Davis for winning the Volunteer of the Year Award. According to his peers, since 2003, David Davis has volunteered for the City of Dallas and has logged approximately 1,947 hours. This year David has logged 394 hours and in the month of June alone has logged 62 hours.

David Davis had made a significant contribution by taking charge of several Volunteer Programs which include being a Crime Watch Captain for the Oaklawn Crime Watch, a VIP Captain for Oaklawn Neighborhood and participates in every Central Patrol VIP training class. David Davis also sits on the CWEB Board as a NE and NW alternate. David is CERT trained and heads up CERT Teams for North and Northwest.

David Davis also volunteers for COPS, White Rock Lake VIP, VIP Traffic Safety Fairs, assists in traffic and crowd management for various parades throughout the city, CHIPS training assistance, CHIPS on the job training, VIP training and participated in the Citizens Police Academy.

In May 2009 Dallas Police Crisis Intervention Training Program (CIT) held the National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) walk at Fair Park and David Davis assisted by organizing a group of volunteers for additional crowd management in order to facilitate this successful fundraiser.

On numerous occasions David Davis has contacted the local police personally to offer his assistance with crime watch events, parades and volunteer training and has always shown a great dedication and reliability in his support of these Dallas Police events.

David Davis has also proven himself to be an accomplished crime fighter and has made a tremendous impact during his Volunteering in Patrol. David Davis leads by example in this area by explaining to new volunteers that crime may be brought down by the volunteers who patrol certain areas.

David Davis has also taken on patrol of the Katy Trail and Reverchon Park areas. He has organized newly trained volunteers for these areas and keeps track of current crime trends and passes along information to police officers who also work these parks.

Congratulations David Davis. I salute you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD HOLST

HON. STEVE ISRAEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Richard Holst, who died in the line of duty on September 9, 2009, while defending the community from a fire.

Mr. Holst served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War in the Atlantic Fleet on the U.S.S. Saratoga. In addition to his military service, after retirement, he joined the Huntington Manor Fire Department as a firefighter, eventually becoming the head of New York State Association of Fire Chaplains.

Mr. Holst was a true leader, who carried the torch of service throughout his life. He will be remembered by his family, friends, and community for his generosity and sincere commitment to helping those in need.

IN RECOGNITION OF RONNIE E. BELL UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ronnie E. Bell, a community leader who is retiring after over thirty years of public service with Walton County, Florida. Mr. Bell spent his career serving Northwest Florida, and I am proud to honor his dedication and service.

Ronnie is life-long resident of Walton County. He graduated from Walton Senior High School in 1977 and from Okalona-Walton Junior College in 1980. He began his career with Walton County in 1977 as an Emergency Medical Technician and Secretary. From 1976 through 1986, Ronnie served as an EMT and Paramedic for Walton County EMS, and was the Walton EMS Supervisor between 1986 and 1987. In 1988, Ronnie became the Walton County Administrative Supervisor, and served in that capacity for eleven years. In 1999, he became Public Works Director, and was selected as Walton County Administrator in 2004.

In over thirty years of service to the public as a Walton County Employer, Ronnie has shown a true dedication to helping his fellow citizens. He has always strove to make Walton a better place to live.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Ronnie Bell for his lifetime of service to North Florida. Walton County will miss his leadership. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for him and his family as they embark on this next journey in their lives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FORMER SENATOR JOSE “PING” ANDRES RAMIREZ DUENAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of former Guam Senator Jose “Ping” Andres Ramirez Duenas, a lifetime resident of the village of Dededo, Guam. Senator Duenas passed away on August 31, 2009 after a long illness. He was 78.

Born on October 17, 1930, in Hagåtña, Guam, Ping was the oldest of four sons of Julia Ramirez Duenas and Jesus Camacho Duenas. Ping and I were classmates at George Washington High School, where we both graduated from in June of 1951. On April 19, 1954, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he married his high school sweetheart, Rosario Cruz Perez, fondly known as “Ling”. Ping enrolled in Marquette University and later received his bachelor’s degree in accounting from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

After graduation from college, Ping returned home and began his twenty-eight year career of public service with the Government of Guam. Ping started as an auditor with the Department of Administration before being promoted to chief accountant. In 1962, Ping and nineteen others joined together to form the Government of Guam Employees Federal Credit Union (GGEFCU). From an initial membership of twenty founding members, the GGEFCU has grown to over 40,000 members, three branches, and is an important resource for financial services to the Government of Guam employees.

Ping sought political office in 1970 and was elected to four consecutive terms as a Senator in the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Guam Legislature from 1970 to 1978. He served on the Rules Committee; the Committees on Finance and Taxation; Federal and Foreign Affairs; and Natural Resources, Land and Community Development. He also served on the 1975 Legislative Task Force for the review of the territorial political relationship with its findings to be reported to the White House. Porter served as Chairman of the Democratic Party of Guam, Ping and I joined together as running mates in the 1990 gubernatorial election. While unsuccessful in our bid for Governor
and Lieutenant Governor of Guam. Ping would go on to continue his service to our community as Vice President of Financial Affairs for the University of Guam. While there, he helped in the growth of the university and was instrumental in the establishment of the Marine Laboratory.

I join our community in mourning the loss of former Senator Jose Ramirez “Ping” Dueñas. Ping was a good friend of Guam, and he devoted his life to serving our people. We extend heartfelt condolences to his wife, Rosario “Ling” Perez Duenas; his children, Joseph, Daniel, Anthony, Gerardyn, Carina, Thomas, Marcella, and Julienne; his 25 grandchildren; and his 16 great grandchildren; and his many family and friends.

God bless the family and friends of Senator Dueñas. He will be missed dearly.

HONORING ADAM DIAZ ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ED PASTOR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to praise and reflect upon the career of an outstanding public servant and community leader, Adam Diaz. He also like to take a moment to congratulate Mr. Diaz on his upcoming 100th birthday.

For more than seventy years, Mr. Diaz has been a champion for the Mexican American community in Phoenix. A lifelong Arizonan, Mr. Diaz was born in Flagstaff on September 29, 1919, before moving to Phoenix, where he has lived for the past 94 years. He began his career working at the Luhrs Hotel as a messenger boy with Western Union. From this humble beginning, he eventually became the Superintendent of Properties for Luhrs Properties, a position he held until his retirement. During the 1970’s, I had the occasion to see him and his brother at Luhrs and seek his counsel.

Mr. Diaz is noted for having been elected as Phoenix’s first Mexican American City Councilman in 1949. He served four years on the council and one year as vice-mayor of the city of Phoenix. Later, Diaz served for five years on the Phoenix Elementary School District Number One Governing Board.

Mr. Diaz has served on the board of directors of several community-based organizations including The Friendly House and Chicanos Por La Causa. He has also been actively involved in many other organizations, commissions, and committees such as the League for United Latino American Citizens, the Arizona Central City Commission, the Governor’s Conference on Youth, the Boy Scouts, and the Vesta Club.

While Chairman of the Board of Chicanos Por La Causa, his efforts to fund senior housing for low-income Hispanics resulted in establishing Casa de Primavera, a low-income senior housing complex near 43rd Avenue and McDowell Road. Later, President Bill Clinton appointed him to the Task Force on Aging. In this role, Mr. Diaz visited the White House to discuss Social Security, Medicare and other important senior issues with Second Lady Tipper Gore.

Mr. Diaz continued his work for senior citizens at the American Legion Post 41, where he organized numerous fundraising events to help indigent elderly buy dentures and hearing aids, items not covered by Medicare. When Mr. Diaz was in his 70’s, he still went daily to the YMCA gym and assisted seniors as a trainer in the swimming pool and weight room.

Mr. Diaz has been a mentor and friend to many community leaders. I have been fortunate to have him as a supporter, advisor, and a friend. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Adam Diaz for his extraordinary leadership and lifelong dedication to public service, and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Dr. Norman Borlaug, who passed away on September 12, 2009 at the age of 95. Dr. Borlaug combated world hunger by providing a global revolutionizing the science of agriculture. He developed and introduced high-yield, disease resistant crops and innovative agricultural techniques, which he then spread throughout the globe. These innovations started the “Green Revolution,” which allowed the world’s food supply to keep up with the growth in population. Through his work, he saved hundreds of millions of lives from hunger and starvation. His life is testament to the extraordinary change one person can make. He was a Great American and our world shall forever benefit from his life’s work.

Dr. Borlaug was born on a farm near Cresco, Iowa in 1914. He studied forestry and plant pathology at the University of Minnesota and completed his doctorate in 1942. Dr. Borlaug led a distinguished career that spanned more than 60 years. Much of his work was done in Mexico at Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo, or the International Maize and Wheat Center. In 1942 he began teaching as a Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture at Texas A&M–College Station. Throughout his life he continued to teach and inspire new generations of scientists and farmers. Agriculture in the 15th Congressional District of Texas and throughout the state has benefitted greatly from Dr. Borlaug’s contributions.

Dr. Borlaug transformed the way the world feeds its population. The exponential growth in crop yields created stability and prosperity in nations that were struggling to feed its citizens. Dr. Borlaug’s ultimate legacy is one of world peace, which he achieved through ensuring that a basic human need was provided for throughout the world.

We offer our deepest condolences to Dr. Borlaug’s friends and family: his daughter Jennifer Borlaug Laube, his son, William Gibson Borlaug, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

JOHNNY GRANT HOLLYWOOD POST OFFICE BUILDING
SPEECH OF
HON. DAVID DREIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, there could be no more appropriate moniker for a Hollywood post office than Johnny Grant’s. The unofficial mayor of Hollywood for more than half a century, Johnny’s name is synonymous with the community he loved and promoted so well.

It is especially appropriate that the post office at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue, just off of Hollywood Boulevard, would bear his name, as he managed to secure a Hollywood postmark, despite the fact that it’s not in its own city. Only Johnny Grant could have pulled that off. While celebrating his 84th birthday, Johnny said that the Hollywood postmark was one of three accomplishments of which he was most proud, along with the Hollywood sign and the Walk of Fame.

I had the privilege of knowing Johnny and calling him a friend for many years. I always admired his incredible zeal for life. He brought a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm to everything he did—which was never greater display than when he tirelessly supported our Nation’s veterans. While serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, his “Strictly GI” radio show was broadcast in New York City and North Carolina, featuring stories of interest to servicemen and women. He went on to do 60 USO tours and personally sponsored trips in Korea and Vietnam to show his deep support and commitment to our men and women in uniform, to encourage them and boost morale during very difficult times.

Johnny produced and hosted the Marine Corps’ Toys for Tots telethon for ten years, and organized countless other events raising millions for the USO, the Boy Scouts of America, police and fire services and veterans organizations.
Hollywood, the City of Los Angeles and the entire Nation mourned his death in January of last year. H.R. 2760 is a modest but fitting tribute to Hollywood’s favorite son, and I think he would appreciate seeing his name live on in the community he loved and called home for over fifty years.

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA POLICE OFFICER RICHARD CRITTENDEN

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and public service of North Saint Paul Police Officer Richard Crittenden who will be laid to rest tomorrow.

On Monday morning, Officer Crittenden was sent to respond to a domestic dispute call. He was killed protecting a woman from a man who had repeatedly abused her.

North Saint Paul is a wonderful community of 11,000 people where I raised my children and served on the city council. To lose an officer in the line of duty is a tragedy for every resident.

On behalf of my constituents and all Minnesotans, I extend our prayers and deepest sympathies to Officer Crittenden’s wife, Christine, his children, and grandchildren. Their loss is tremendous.

To North Saint Paul officials and residents, especially the members of the police department, I extend my condolences at this time of great pain and loss.

Officer Crittenden gave the ultimate sacrifice—his life—in the line of duty. His service as a peace officer was always respected, but his courage and sacrifice makes him a hero who shall always be remembered and honored.

Madam Speaker, at this time I also want to recognize Maplewood Officer Julie Olson who was injured in the line of duty in the incident that claimed Officer Crittenden’s life. I commend Officer Olson for her courageous service and wish her a full recovery.

SALUTING ED FOX FOR WINNING THE DORIS BERRY CRIME WATCH CHAIRPERSON OF THE YEAR 2009 AWARD

HON. SAM JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ed Fox for winning the Doris Berry Crime Watch Chairperson of the Year Award for 2009. According to his peers, Ed has served as the chairperson for the Prestonwood Estates Neighborhood Association West (PENA West) Crime Watch since its inception in October 1999. He has also served as chairperson for their Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) program for seven years. Ed is also currently serving a third term as the North Central Patrol Division’s Crime Watch Executive Board (CWEB) representative and was recently elected president of CWEB.

In addition to the time required to fulfill his duties as CWEB president and PENA West CW chairperson, Ed spends countless hours attending crime watch and VIP start up meetings to assist new groups in getting started. Based on his reputation in the North Central Division, many citizens request to have Ed speak at their crime watch meetings. Being a retired salesman, Ed uses his skills to sell the VIP concept to various homeowner groups. Not only does he help them organize a neighborhood meeting, but he also speaks at the meeting himself to promote the CW and VIP programs. In the past year alone, Ed has attended over 120 CW and VIP meetings and also spoken at the majority of them.

Ed is always trying to think of ways to expand the CW/VIP programs in North Dallas. Last year he contacted the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce to inquire about using their organization to spread the word about neighborhood crime prevention programs. Ed has proposed the idea to them to consider establishing a permanent crime prevention committee to provide advice and information for their members.

For his tireless work ethic, enthusiasm and dedication to the Crime Watch and VIP programs in the North Central Division, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Ed Fox for winning the 2009 Doris Berry Crime Watch Chairperson of the Year Award.

God bless you and I salute you.
SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 16

Time to be announced

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Winslow Lorenzo Sargeant, of Wisconsin, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, and Peggy E. Gustafson, of Illinois, to be Inspector General, both of the Small Business Administration.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the use, impact, and accomplishments of Federal appropriations provided to improve the education of children in the District of Columbia.

SD–192

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Daniel I. Werfel, of Virginia, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget.

SD–342

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

SD–226

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard Serino, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

SD–342

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine exploring three strategies for Afghanistan.

SD–419

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine options from the review of the United States Human Space Flight Plans Committee.

SR–253

SEPTEMBER 17

Time to be announced

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Michael H. Posner, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

SD–419

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' disability compensations, focusing on benefits in the 21st century.

SD–192

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine countering the threat of failure in Afghanistan.

SD–419

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 448 and H.R. 985, bills to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 369, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and the nominations of Paul Joseph Fishman, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, and Jenny A. Durkan, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, both of the Department of Justice.

SD–419

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine strengthening security and oversight at biological research laboratories.

SD–226

SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs contracts for health services.

SR–418

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 16

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine southern border violence.

SD–342

SEPTEMBER 17

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving transparency and accessibility of federal contracting databases.

SD–342
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9301–S9334

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1664–1668, and S. Res. 263–265.

Measures Reported:

S. 599, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee’s duty, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 111–75)

Measures Passed:

Kennedy Caucus Room: Senate agreed to S. Res. 264, designating the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building as the “Kennedy Caucus Room”.

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse 100th Anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 258, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Honoring Fallen Firefighters in Southern California: Senate agreed to S. Res. 265, honoring the firefighters who sacrificed their lives while battling the Station Fire in southern California in August 2009.

Measures Considered:

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Adopted:

By 83 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 275), Johanns Modified Amendment No. 2355, prohibiting use of funds to fund the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, September 15, 2009.

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Senator Rockefeller, ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Senator Cantwell, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Eric L. Hirschhorn, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

Barbara J. Bennett, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

Barbara Short Haskew, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2014.

Jeffrey L. Bleich, of California, to be Ambassador to Australia.

Leslie V. Rowe, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique.

Michael W. Punke, of Montana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Laurie O. Robinson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Barbara Milano Keenan, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.
3 Army nominations in the rank of general.
1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.
1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.
Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy.

Executive Communications: Pages S9324–26
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S9326–28
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S9328–32
Additional Statements: Pages S9332–33
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S9333
Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—275)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:34 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S9334.)

Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)

HEALTH EFFECTS OF CELL PHONE USE
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the health effects of cell phone use, after receiving testimony from John R. Bucher, Associate Director, National Toxicology Program, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; Dariusz Leszczynski, Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, Helsinki, Finland; Siegal Saderetzki, Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, Israel; Linda S. Erdreich, Exponent, New York, New York; Devra Lee Davis, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Olga V. Naidenko, Environmental Working Group, Washington, D.C.

CYBER ATTACKS
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine cyber attacks, focusing on protecting industry against growing threats, after receiving testimony from Michael P. Merritt, Assistant Director, Office of Investigations, United States Secret Service, and Philip Reitinger, Deputy Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs Directorate, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Robert Carr, Heartland Payment Systems, Princeton, New Jersey; and William B. Nelson, The Financial Services Information Sharing & Analysis Center, Leesburg, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 3556–3562; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 183–184; and H. Res. 737–743 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H9490–91
Report Filed: A report was filed on September 11, 2009 as follows:
H.R. 3246, to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–254).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hirono to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 12:42 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measures:

   Recommending that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior year: H. Res. 686, amended, to recommend that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior year;

   Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established: H. Res. 737, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established;
Recognizing the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and supporting the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week: H. Res. 6, to recognize the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and to support the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 696; Pages H9450–52, H9462–63

Expressing support for designation of “National Safety Month”: H. Res. 459, to express support for designation of “National Safety Month”, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 697; Pages H9452–53, H9463–64

Supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability: H. Con. Res. 59, amended, to support the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 387 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 698; Pages H9453–55, H9464

Expressing the importance of swimming lessons and recognizing the danger of drowning in the United States, especially among minority children: H. Res. 57, amended, to express the importance of swimming lessons and to recognize the danger of drowning in the United States, especially among minority children; and Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children.” Page H9459


Recess: The House recessed at 3:23 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H9462

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States: H. Res. 260, amended, to support efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States. Pages H9455–57

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9462–63, H9463–64, H9464. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—DAILY DIGEST September 14, 2009

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael G. Mullen, for reappointment as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and reappointment to the grade of admiral, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the Hudson River midair collision and the safety of air operations in congested space, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine potential costs and price volatility in the energy sector, focusing on the greenhouse gas trading program, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.
Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine unemployment insurance benefits, 10 a.m., SD–215.
Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alan D. Solomon, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to Andorra, Lee Andrew Feinstein, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Barry B. White, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Norway, and Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, all of the Department of State, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine security clearance reform, focusing on modernization, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, to hold hearings to examine human rights, focusing on mental illness in United States prisons and jails, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House
Committee on Energy and Commerce, hearing to review the nation’s readiness for the probable surge of cases of seasonal and pandemic H1N1 influenza, 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.
Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Mandatory Binding Arbitration: Is It Fair and Voluntary? 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization

Committee on Rules, to consider the following bills: H.R. 3221, Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009; and H.R. 3246, Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.


Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, hearing to review implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P. L. 110–351), 1 p.m., B–318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on FBI Counterterrorism Issues, 3:30 p.m., 304 HVC.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, September 15
Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 3288, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. (Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 15
House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 3146—21 Century FHA Housing Act of 2009; (2) H.R. 2947—Securities Law Technical Corrections Act; (3) H.R. 3527—FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act; (4) H. Res. 215—Congratulating the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary; (5) H.R. 3179—SIG TARP Small Business Awareness Act; (6) H. Res. 317—Recognizing the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor; (7) H. Con. Res. 95—Recognizing the importance of the Department of Agriculture Forest Service Experimental Forests and Ranges; (8) H.R. 511—To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to terminate certain easements held by the Secretary on land owned by the Village of Caseyville, Illinois, and to terminate associated contractual arrangements with the Village; (9) H.R. 3175—To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Miami-Dade County certain federally owned land in Florida; (10) H.R. 940—To provide for the conveyance of National Forest System land in the State of Louisiana; (11) H. Res. 81—Recognizing the importance and sustainability of the United States hardwoods industry; (12) H.R. 1002—Pisgah National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act; (13) H.R. 3386—The ‘Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office’ Designation Act; (14) H. Res. 679—Supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day; (15) H.R. 3137—To provide clarification relating to the authority of the United States Postal Service to accept donations as an additional source of funding for commemorative plaques; and (16) H.R. 22—To allow the United States Postal Service to pay its share of contributions for annuitants’ health benefits out of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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