The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROONEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, May 27, 2011.
I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS J. ROONEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.
We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.
May all the Members have the vision of a world where respect and understanding are the marks of civility and where honor and integrity are the marks of one’s character.
Raise up, O God, women and men from every nation who will lead toward the paths of peace and whose good judgment will heal the hurt between all peoples.
Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed halls this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
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. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC, May 27, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 27, 2011 at 9:23 a.m.:
That the Senate passed S. 627
That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 4
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

SENATE BILL AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED
A bill and concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker’s table and, under the rule, referred as follows:
S. 627. An act to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
S. Con. Res. 4. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that an appropriate site on Chaplains Hill in Arlington National Cemetery should be provided for a memorial marker to honor the memory of the Jewish chaplains who died while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; 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.

ADJOURNMENT
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the House stands adjourned until noon on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.
There was no objection. Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 4 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:
1706. A letter from the Chief, Planning &
Regulatory Affairs Branch, Department of
Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s
final rule — Food Distribution Program on
Indian Reservations: Amendments Related
to the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act
of 2008 [FNS-2009-0006] (RIN: 0584-AD65) re-
ceived May 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.
801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agri-
culture.

1707. A letter from the Director of Legisla-
tive Affairs, NRCS, Department of Agri-
culture, transmitting the Department’s final
rule — Wetland Conservation [Docket No.:
NRCS-2011-0010] (RIN: 0578-AA58) received
May 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A);
to the Committee on Agriculture.

1708. A letter from the Deputy Secretary,
Department of Defense, transmitting Annual
Report on the Activities of the Western
Hemisphere Institute for Security Coopera-
tion (WHINSEC); to the Committee on
Armed Services.

1709. A letter from the Chief Counsel,
United States Mint, Department of the
Treasury, transmitting the Department’s final
rule — Prohibition on the Exportation,
Melting, or Treatment of 5-Cent and One-
Cent Coins received May 2, 2011, pursuant to
5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Fi-
nancial Services.

1711. A letter from the General Counsel,
National Credit Union Administration, trans-
mitting the Administration’s final rule —
Corporate Credit Unions, Technical Cor-
rections (RIN: 3133-AD58) received May 3,
2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the
Committee on Financial Services.

1712. A letter from the Secretary, Depart-
ment of Transportation, transmitting the
Department’s annual report prepared in ac-
 accordance with section 203 of the Notification
and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination
and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act),
Pub. L. No. 107-174; to the Committee on
Oversight and Government Reform.

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:

Mr. BACHUS: Committee on Financial
Services. H.R. 1667. A bill to postpone the
date for the transfer of functions to the Bu-
reau of Consumer Financial Protection if the
Bureau does not yet have a Director in place
(Rept. 112–93). Referred to the Committee of
the Whole House on the State of the Union.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memo-
rials were presented and referred as fol-

 Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors
were added to public bills and resolu-
tions as follows:

H.R. 1195: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. STIVERS, and
Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1996: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr.
MARCHANT, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. COSTA, and
Mr. CARDOZA.

H.R. 2018: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FARENTHOLD,
Mr. CRAVAACK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

30. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of
the House of Representatives of the State of
Illinois, relative to House Resolution 73 en-
couraging the members of the Illinois con-
gressional delegation to vote against the F-
35 alternate engine appropriations measure;
to the Committee on Appropriations.

31. Also, a memorial of the House of Rep-
resentatives of the State of Illinois, relative
to House Resolution 19 urging Congress to
enact legislation that creates a mortgage
foreclosure moratorium to allow a thorough
review of foreclosure actions; to the Com-
mittee on Financial Services.

32. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of
the State of North Dakota, relative to House
Concurrent Resolution No. 3015 reaffirming
North Dakota’s sovereignty under the 10th
Amendment to the Constitution of the
United States; to the Committee on the Ju-
diciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors
were added to public bills and resolu-
tions as follows:

H.R. 1195: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. STIVERS, and
Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1996: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr.
MARCHANT, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. COSTA, and
Mr. CARDON.

H.R. 2018: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. FARENTHOLD,
Mr. CRAVAACK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
The Senate met at 9:30 and 9 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M., TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2011

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:30 and 34 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at 10 a.m.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPeECH OF
HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. BERMANT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment to strike section 1034 from the bill. Let's be clear what we are debating here today: the bill before us would amend the authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) that Congress passed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks—not just reaffirm the existing authorization.

As a threshold matter, I question the premise for this amendment. Proponents argue that Congress needs to act now lest a court change its interpretation of the AUMF. Proponents also argue that the President has been hamstrung in his ability to detain and target groups linked to al Qaeda, like al Qaeda in the Peninsula (AQAP).

Yet Defense Department General Counsel Jeh Johnson made clear in public testimony that DoD has all the authority it needs to fight terror. And I've seen no evidence that the Administration feels any restraints on its ability to target threats like AQAP. In fact, the White House stated yesterday it "strongly objects" to language in Sec. 1034, and the equally flawed proponent's interest in incorporating "associated forces," nor does it authorize the President to attack nations, organizations, and persons who are substantially supporting the Taliban.

We need to examine these provisions closely, some of which could have unintended consequences and which remain cutting edge legal theories. For example, Sec. 1034 authorizes the President to use force against "nations who are substantially supporting the Taliban." Would that allow the President to use force against Pakistan or Iran if they were providing material support to the Taliban?

That isn't what I signed up for when I voted to authorize the President to attack those responsible for 9/11 in the original AUMF.

With adequate due diligence, I would support giving the President authority to target so-called "associated forces." Indeed, the concept of co-belligerency is one well-founded in the laws of war, at least against nations. I could even envision authorizing the detention and targeting of those substantially supporting al Qaeda, as the McKeon provision suggests.

But there should be limits to these authorities. We need to ensure a sufficient link between an associated force and the Taliban or al Qaeda, and that such a group is hostile to the United States. We also need to make sure there are clear ways to determine whether an entity is "substantially supporting" al Qaeda. At a minimum, I would urge my colleagues to place a time limit on such authorities. I want to make sure we are not extending a war—something Jihadists might welcome—at the exact time when we should be narrowly focusing our counterterrorism efforts.

I tried to work with my colleagues to find a mutually agreeable text, one that would restrict the proposed text while addressing the proponents' interest in incorporating "associated forces" and detention authority into the 2001 AUMF.

Given the late hour, we could not reach a deal. But I remain willing to work with my counterparts across the aisle to find a mutually agreeable, bipartisan text.

Mr. Chairman, in light of the flawed language in Sec. 1034, and the equally flawed process, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to strike that section from the bill.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week was National Police Week honoring the service and sacrifice of U.S. law enforcement, especially those that paid the ultimate sacrifice. Every day peace officers put themselves in harm's way to protect the citizens of this great country.

Peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between good and evil. They are what separate us from the anarchy of the lawless.

They are real life heroes in our midst. One of these heroes is Officer Timothy Abemethy who lived and died serving the people of Texas and the City of Houston.

Fighting crime was a personal calling for Timothy, not just an occupation.

Officer Abemethy worked hard to protect the citizens of Houston, working overtime, all while earning a degree, and providing for his family.

He was killed in the line of duty, defending his community, in 2008.

We reflect on the sacrifice of Officer Abemethy, as well as other fallen peace officers, not only during National Police Week, but every day.

And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. HARLELL X. JONES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Harlell X. Jones, a civil rights leader and community activist whose determination and leadership helped strengthen the Cleveland community.

Prime Minister Jones devoted his life towards his community at a young age, helping African American youth to develop an individual identity within the community and foster a more peaceful neighborhood. He encouraged African American youth to demand economic empowerment by boycotting Cleveland stores to secure private ownership. He also led a movement to increase community safety by securing a truce and cease fire between police and Black Nationalists.

Harlell Jones spearheaded voter registration and get out the vote campaigns that resulted in the election of Carl Stokes as Mayor of Cleveland, as well as his brother, Louis Stokes, as a Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives. He also worked with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries and prominent civil rights leaders Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Harlell X. Jones, whose life is worthy of celebration and emulation. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Prime Minister Jones' family and friends. Additionally, he will truly be missed, his unwavering devotion to both African American youth and the Cleveland community will not be forgotten.
TRIBUTE TO DR. HARRY COURNIOTES
HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and fellow educator, Dr. Harry Courniotes. Dr. Courniotes served as a visionary in the advancement of my alma mater, American International College, throughout his distinguished fifty-eight years in academia and thirty-five years as AIC’s President.

Attached is a copy of the eulogy of Dr. Courniotes delivered by Richard Sphrinall at a memorial service on March 15, 2011.

First, I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here with us today to honor President Courniotes, and I know right now Harry is thanking you too. Over the years I have had the honor of introducing Harry Courniotes many times, but today we are not here to introduce Harry but bid him a farewell.

Harry was a member of what Tom Brokaw called the “Great Generation” who fought their way through the Great Depression and World War II. Harry served his country in WWII and when I told him I was from AIC he lit up and said “my father graduated from AIC” and when I told him he had been elected President, Harry Courniotes might have become Secretary of Education.

Harry was a superb teacher and academic administrator, he embodied that formula for success: a high IQ and a strong work ethic. Harry was a relentless worker, and totally dedicated to the college. He was there morning, noon, and night. Let me illustrate with a tad of hyperbole. Joe Ramah story...

Harry was a meticulous planner, who never let minor details, even something as simple as the name of the building, pass through without his approval. He was also a stickler for accuracy and detail. He would often say, “If you don’t know the name of a building, you can’t do your job.”

Harry was a master of organization. He was always prepared, always on top of things. He never lost track of important tasks, and he was always available to his students when they needed him.

Harry was a fierce competitor. He was known for his sharp mind and quick wit. He was always eager to debate and challenge others. He was a true gentleman, even in his disagreements.

Harry was a mentor to many. He had a special way of encouraging and inspiring his students. He was known for his ability to see the potential in others and help them reach their full potential.

Harry was a loyal friend. He was always there for those he cared about. He was a true follower of the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.”

Harry was a man of great integrity. He was always honest and ethical. His word was his bond, and he never broke a promise.

Harry was a devoted family man. He was a great husband, father, and grandfather. He was a wonderful example of leadership and commitment to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the men and women of the 34th Infantry Division, the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their next deployment.

HONORING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD’S 34TH INFANTRY DIVISION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the highly capable and courageous men and women of the Minnesota Army National Guard’s 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their third deployment overseas, and to commemorate the 150th anniversary of their predecessor, the First Minnesota Infantry. This May, the Red Bulls will begin their deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, the drawdown phase of U.S. military operations in Iraq. Since September 11, 2001, the Red Bulls have been called to duty three times to join U.S. military forces in Iraq. During their current deployment, they will include providing convoy security, route protection and base defense as other troops leave the war zone in Iraq. The Red Bulls have made tremendous contributions to our nation with their honorable military service.

The men and women of the Red Bulls comprise a highly skilled force which routinely accomplishes critical missions both on a federal and state level. During deployment from March 2006 to July 2007, they served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Minnesota Army National Guard’s 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division holds the record for the longest-serving unit in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the spring of 2009, more than one thousand Red Bulls were again tapped for deployment to Iraq. On this mission, the Division and their leaders were in charge of 16,000 multinational forces. The Division’s leadership abilities were proven as they commanded all the coalition military operations in nine of Iraq’s 18 provinces and had a direct partnership with more than 40,000 Iraqi Security Forces. We continue to display their excellence with their readiness and preparation for new missions.

Each deployment of the 34th Infantry Division has provided an opportunity for the men and women to share their knowledge and leadership to other troops and help lead operational trainings. The Red Bulls have proven to themselves again and again to be an essential part of the Total U.S. Army. Their dedication to United States is always evident through their selfless service and courage in under-taking each mission.

It is a fitting historical coincidence that the current deployment coincides with the 150th anniversary of their predecessors, the First Minnesota Infantry, which heroically supported the Union Army at the battle of Gettysburg. The First Minnesota’s great contributions and sacrifices during the Civil War were exemplary. They have helped to shape the men and women from our state and throughout the United States who choose to serve our great nation in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Red Bulls continue to carry on this sterling example of leadership and commitment to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the men and women of the 34th Infantry Division, the Red Bulls, as they prepare for their next deployment.

375TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article that appeared in The Reminder newspaper last week commemorating the 375th anniversary of the founding of the City of Springfield, Massachusetts.

It was truly a joyous occasion, and this article does an excellent job of recording what a wonderful event this was. Congratulations Springfield!

(Congressional Record article does an excellent job of recording what a wonderful event this was. Congratulations Springfield!)
Traffic lights along the route had the bulb slimming the street.

For many people, “Springfield” is the name of the Simpson’s hometown in the popular animated series.

For those who know a little about the history of this country, “Springfield” has a different meaning.

Springfield, Mass., the oldest and the largest city with that name, is known as the “City of Firsts” for a reason—actually many reasons. Springfield is where basketball was invented and where the Duryea Brothers built and tested the first American gasoline powered car. It’s the community where the first in-line shoveling plow was invented, and where the GeeBe racing planes that still awe aviation enthusiasts were built.

The first two stanzas are:

Trouble with crops, a narrowly averted war with the native people and even an earthquake were some of the early settlers faced. Pynchon was right, though, about the richness of the area for furs.

Bagg noted in his 1936 history of Springfield that, “there is no record of just how well Pynchon fared during his 15 years of trading furs in the area, his son John continued the business after his father returned to England and regularly shipped 2,000 beaver skins annually to merchants in his native country.

Pynchon has the additional distinction of being the first person to look for gold in Boston.” His 1650 book, “The Meritorious Price of a Man’s Redemption,” took exception to Puritan theology, the colony’s General Court condemned the book and copies were burned on Boston Common.

Pynchon was under great pressure to recant and after one appearance before the Court, he decided to transfer all of his holdings to his son John and return to England before he was forced to appear before the General Court once more. He left the colony in 1652. His daughter Elizabeth closed the first chapter in the city’s history.

Pynchon’s legacy was that his purchase of land just didn’t create one community, Springfield, but towns and cities as well: Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Southwick, Westfield, West Springfield, Wilbraham and Enfield, and Suffield, Conn.

No less a person than General George Washington had a hand in the next major development. In February 1777, Washington authorized an “establishment of the laboratory at Springfield.”

The armory became known as a center for technological advancement and undoubtedly led to Springfield becoming a center for skilled manufacturing.

Another famous gun maker, Smith & Wesson, made the city its home and is still in business today.

Early in its history, the Armory attracted the attention of a group of farmers enraged at the taxation of Massachusetts state government. In February 1787 as part of a series of armed protests, Daniel Shays, a Revolutionary War veteran and farmer from Pelham, led a group of men to capture the armory. Although Shays failed at the armory, his protest succeeded in showing the weakness of the Articles of Confederation and in May 1787, the Constitutional Convention was convened to re-shape federal government.

Thomas Jefferson expressed his reaction to Shays’ Rebellion previous to the attack on the Armory in a letter to James Madison on Jan. 30, 1877. Jefferson wrote, “I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. Unsuccessful rebellions, indeed, generally establish the virtues of the people, which have produced them. An observation of this truth should render honest republican governors so mild in their punishment of rebels as not to make them too much. It is a medicine necessary for the sound health of government.”

The armory inspired another kind of reaction from the armorist Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow and his second wife Frances visited Springfield and the Armory in 1845. The tour inspired what was considered to be Longfellow’s greatest antimilitary poem, “The Arsenal at Springfield.”

The first two stanzas are:

“This is the Arsenal. From floor to ceiling, Like a huge organ, rise the barned arms; But from their silent pipes no anthem, peal

Startles the villages with strange alarms.

“Aha! What a sound will rise, how wild and cruel!”

When the death-angel touches those swift keys!

What a loud lament and dismal Misereere’ll the messenger of death and misery utter!”

In the book “Springfield Memories,” published in 1876, Mason Green wrote about the development of the city: “Modern Springfield, born with the war of 1812. In the re-action from embargoes and war from 1812 to 1825 there was a general housecleaning and business re-adjustment.

The old tavern site was cleared off for a Common, a church and court-house was built by the side of it and another church (Unitarian) down Main Street, Union and Court Streets were opened, the river bridge, that was swept away by a flood was restored (1818), a line of boats was established between the village and Hartford, connecting with Boston and New York schooners, neighboring water powers were utilized, many mechanics and artisans were called in, who became residents, and the Weekly Springfield Republican was started, which insured the place a future.”

In 1906 when the city was celebrating its 300th anniversary, the unaccredited author of the commemorative booklets wrote, “Varied are the products of Greater Springfield: Intricate machines, radios and electrical appliances, tires, motorcycles, gun parts, games, and school materials, books and magazines, newspapers, wire, chains, machine tools, cigars, chemicals and medicines, valves, oil pumps, fine paper, jute, electrical products and in fact the city once were the pioneers in the manufacture of automobiles. Across the river are the railroad shops.

The first American-made gasoline powered car was built and tested in Springfield by Charles and Frank Duryea on Sept. 20, 1893.

The city would later be the site for a factory producing Duryea cars. The Knox Automobile Company produced cars from 1900 to 1914 in Springfield and stayed in business with tractors until 1924, and the city was known for their power and durability.

Also high on the list of invasions of one of the commemorative booklets.

The city was the first American-made gasoline powered car was built and tested in Springfield by Charles and Frank Duryea on Sept. 20, 1893. The Knox Automobile Company produced cars from 1900 to 1914 in Springfield and stayed in business with tractors until 1924, and the city was known for their power and durability.

Alpha-numeric series.

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Springfield was also a city of ideas as well as industry and technology. Abolitionist John Brown made the city his headquarters in 1856 when he established a business to represent the New England mill owners. Later, the city was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

G & C Merriam, Company, was founded in 1831 by printers and book-sellers and the pair of brothers—George and Charles—purchased the rights to the name and all copyrights to the best-known dictionary written by Noah Webster in 1842. Since that time, the nation’s best-known reference book has been written and published in Springfield.

When stumped about how to excite his winter physical fitness class, a young Canadian attending the International Y.M.C.A. Training School remembered Duck on a Rock, a game from his youth. Taking a soccer ball and a peach basket, James Nalsmith developed the game of basketball in 1891, quite possibly the most popular indoor sport.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame draws more than 250,000 visitors a year to its Springfield shrine to the game.

A number of people prominent in show business and the arts are natives of the city. During the 1920s and 30s, Broadway and radio star Julia Sanderson was a popular performer.

The classic movie musicals—‘‘Born to Dance’’ and ‘‘Broadway Melody of 1940’’—feature another Springfield native Eleanor Powell. The beautiful and athletic dancer was a star actress, married to actor Glenn Ford for a number of years and by the end of her life she turned her energies to religion.

Lawrence O’Brien, Kennedy family supporter, postmaster general, head of the Democratic Party and commissioner of the National Basketball Association, was another well known Springfield resident. His father had a tavern where the MassMutual Center now stands and he received his law degree from Western New England College.

Perhaps the most interesting favorite daughter is June Foray, whose family left their home on Orange Street and traveled to California where eventually she became one of the most highly regarded voice actresses in animation providing the voice for Rocky in ‘‘Rocky and Bullwinkle’’; Granny in the cartoon series Tweety; and many other characters.

Students at the former Classical High School could still find evidence of that school’s most controversial graduate, Dr. Timothy Leary. His name could be seen carved into at least one desk. Leary was one of the prominent leaders of the counter culture in the 1960s who urged people to ‘‘turn on, tune in and drop out.’’

Springfield’s most beloved native was Theodore Geisel better known to generations of American as Dr. Seuss. The author and illustrator of the city from the city of his birth from the names of streets—‘‘And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street’’—to his father’s position as superintendent of the city’s parks—‘‘If I Ran the Zoo.’’

The Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden at the Springfield Museum complex pays tribute to the innovative storyteller.

Springfield’s latest burst of national publicity came in 2007 with a contest that asked fans of movies to pick the Springfield that is actually home to the best known dysfunctional family. Although Springfield Mass., didn’t win in a surprising upset to Springfield, Oregon, the contest won the love of the animated series and film knew better. They had prepared a special poster before the contest’s final results that declared the movie was filmed in Springfield, Mass.

A community of rich diversity and history, Springfield today is the home of national companies, a law school. It was named the fourth ‘‘greenest’’ city in the nation and was recognized as one of the greatest centers of small business and entrepreneurship in the country. Its best days are not behind it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT MICHAEL TOUSSAINT-HYLIE WASHINGTON A UNITED STATES MARINE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. ADAM SMITH OF WASHINGTON IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Michael Toussaint-Hylie Washington, a United States Marine who was killed with three other Marines while supporting combat operations in the Farah Province, Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device struck their Humvee on June 14, 2008.

Michael T. Washington was born on October 6, 1987 at Camp Pendleton where his father Michael Washington Senior served also as a Marine. Michael would follow in his father’s and his grandfather’s footsteps to become his family’s third generation to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

Early on, young Michael Washington had a strong sense of faith and duty as a student at Stadium High School in Tacoma, Washington. Michael enjoyed playing soccer, reading, playing practical jokes on his family, and was a member of Stadium’s ROTC program.

While listening to a story on the radio with his father, Michael heard a journalist speak highly of the Marines after returning from Iraq. The journalist spoke of the Marines’ virtues and bravery on and off the battlefield. Michael Senior knew his son was destined to become a Marine when his son turned to him and said, ‘‘I want to defend people who can’t defend themselves. It takes a lot for people to stand up and do this.’’

Michael Washington did just that, joining the Marine Corps at age 17. On March 11, 2007, a year before his death, then-Corporal Washington’s squad was ambushed in Iraq. Washington provided the support fire necessary to enable his fellow endangered Marines to escape the kill zone and return to safety. He received commendations from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines for Outstanding Achievement in the performance of his duties as Fire Team Leader of the 3rd Platoon, Golf Company. Washington was promoted to Sergeant soon after to become squad leader in the 1st Platoon at only the age of 20.

Sergeant Washington died a proud Marine while serving in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Forces. Michael is survived by his father, Michael Washington Senior—a Seattle Fireman and former United States Marine who was killed with three other Marines in Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device struck their Humvee on June 14, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in paying tribute to Sergeant Michael Toussaint-Hylie Washington in honor of his love and sacrifice for our Nation.

In honor of Michael, I also ask that this poem, penned by Mr. Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

As Their Will Be Done, on earth as in Heaven

As all three were but United States Marines!
As you Michael so watched your Father,
As all were but our America’s very best, her cream!
As To Strength In Honor Michael, your fine heart would so convene!
As They Will Be Done, on earth as in Heaven you now reign!
As Michael, you live on .... all in our hopes and dreams!
Just, like the morning sun .... to you, our hearts so run!
Moments, are all we have!
To bring the light!
To fight the darkness!
To worship the good, and win that fight!
As you so boldly marched off to war!
All because of your most magnificent soul.
As why for you Michael, we so mourn!
All of the loss of you, and for all of our heart's so run!
Is but just that high price of freedom, that for us Michael you so paid!
And we so too suffer, living without you no more!
And across Washington on this night, as you so lay your head down and begin to cry ....
And that our Lord’s tears, for you Michael.
.... As he now so weeps!
Knowing, of your most sacred gift. .... And of your most devout life so lived!
To ease your pain.
So have a most gentle sleep, let not your hearts so weep. ....
For Michael is an Angel now, as ever with you to keep your eyes!
And you shall see him again. ....
Enlisted, In the Army of our Lord ....
Across the heavens he so reaches. ....
All because of Michael, what your fine life so meant!
Making A Difference With It All, as was how your precious time was spent!
As you so lived and died, so benevolent!
Answering, that call to arms. .... Your fine life so spent!
For, no greater pain can so be felt!
Then to lose your most precious son, as before our Lord you’ve cried and knelt!
As, I pray your most broken heart will heal!
Because, your fine son... . . . Your Marine Michael, so died for what is right! And what is real! As you must remember, one day in Heaven. Your son’s arms around you, you shall feel! And if ever I have a son, I but hope and pray, he could be like your Michael, His Father’s Son! And Mother’s only most brilliant one! Amen!

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN BRIAN DOHERTY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Chicago 41st Ward Alderman Brian Doherty. After twenty years of dedicated service, Alderman Doherty has decided to retire, and I wanted to thank him for his work. Elected to the City Council in 1991, Alderman Doherty represented the City of Chicago’s Northwest Side, including O’Hare International Airport, the nation’s number one airport for strong ethics reforms and government transparency. Two issues very important to me. He voted for a sunshine ordinance that makes it much easier to determine how taxpayer dollars are spent on Tax Increment Financing Districts. During Alderman Doherty’s time in office, he worked to bring economic opportunities to his communities and make his constituents safer. Since many 41st Ward residents are part of the city’s enormous workforce, such as police officers, firefighters and employees of Streets and Sanitation, we applaud his efforts for serving those who serve us.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Alderman Brian Doherty of the 41st Ward of Chicago. I appreciate his twenty years of hard work as Alderman and I wish him, his wife Rose and his two children Katie and Kevin all the best.

HONORING ANNIE KLEIN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Annie Klein was born on May 22, 1921 to Dora and Samuel Rutlic of Maynard, Massachusetts. Her parents were both immigrants of Warsaw, Poland. She was born into a family of three sisters and four brothers and her mother still had another daughter, at the age of 50. The family moved from small town Maynard to The Bronx in New York City. Early in her life, Annie lost her father to a heart attack, leaving her mother sole survivor and sole responsibility for her 9 children.

Annie was a graduate of Morris High School in 1940. On December 7, 1941 she got engaged to David Klein, a soldier in the U.S. Army. They moved from The Bronx to Hereford, Texas. While there, they had a son, Sam, in August 1944. Even though they were offered a “Hereford Cow” year every while they stayed in Texas by a local rancher, they decided instead to move back to the South Bronx with Annie’s mom. While developing skills that would enable David to get a job, he developed health issues. At the age of 41, David had a massive heart attack that made him a 100 percent totally disabled veteran.

With David unable to work and the addition of her younger son, Les, Annie had to find a job. She worked for the Social Security Office for 5 years. After that, she found a job at City College of New York and worked as a College Office Assistant. In 1968, her son Sammy married Sandy Desio. While tending to her husband David and son, Les, she managed to work, as well as help care for her mother who had become disabled with Parkinson’s disease.

In 1972, her husband David passed away, leaving Annie to once again be the sole caregiver of Les. In 1980, Les married Gail Labita and Annie became a mother-in-law once again. Annie finally decided to retire in the early 1980s. Annie became grandmother to Sammy and Sandy’s children, David and Dena’s as well as great-grandmother to David’s son Jake and Dena’s children Gia, Rocco and Sammi. She is also grandmother to Les and Gail’s children Douglas and Allison. Sadly in her lifetime she had the misfortune of burying 7 of her brothers and sisters who meant the world to her. Above all, in 2007 Annie received the greatest blow of her life, when her son, Sam passed away. Most people would have crumpled and given up but Annie, with her customary grace and dignity raised her head high and with the help of her family, continued on.

Annie Klein is a Woman of Valor who has shown us all how to live with love and grace even through life’s most challenging times. I join with her family and friends and thank her for her dignity and courage. As said in the Bible: “Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies?” Well, that woman is Annie Klein.

IN HONOR OF JOHN SHEPHERD AND THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of John Shepherd, the longest-living veteran of the American Revolution. This Memorial Day, the city of North Royalton will honor Mr. Shepherd, and all veterans who have served our country.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of John Shepherd, the longest-living veteran of the American Revolution. His spirit lives on through all soldiers and veterans that we proudly recognize, honor, and thank this Memorial Day.

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1560) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the Conyers, Clarke, Cohen, Duncan Amendment, opposing the deployment of ground troops in Libya. It is unconscionable for us to deploy our already strained troops into harm’s way again when many of them have served two, three or more tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is also irresponsible for us to spend more money on another open-end conflict without a cogent plan of action and withdrawal. As a Member of Congress, I cannot take part in another act of aggression further straining the budget we are so desperately working to fix and our troops who have answered above and beyond the call of duty.

My constituents and I already feel that the war in Afghanistan has gone on long enough without a clear and sufficient exit strategy. We cannot partake in another fruitless war. We must shift our focus to getting out of Iraq and Afghanistan, stabilizing our economy and creating jobs for the American people. Instead let us focus on securing funding for small businesses rather than spending money on another open-end conflict.

Madam Chair, as a representative of the 11th congressional district of New York, our hearts and minds go out to the people’s struggle for freedom in Libya. And as a nation, we should continue our support for their quest for freedom, through NATO forces. However it is our duty as a Member of Congress to protect and serve our fellow Americans first. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join us and support this amendment.
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish Family Service of Metro West, based in Morris County, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

Jewish Family Service (JFS) began its community assistance during the 1860s as the Hebrew Benevolent and Orphan Asylum dedicated to helping orphans and the needy in Newark, New Jersey. Over the past 150 years, JFS has become a well-known, comprehensive, social service agency which reaches more than 3,500 families each year. JFS proudly serves Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union and Hudson Counties with offices located in Florham Park, Livingston and Jersey City.

JFS is an inclusive, non-discriminatory agency offering more than 40 wide-ranging programs including, counseling, support groups and eldercare. Counseling is provided for individuals or families who are struggling with communication difficulties, life transitions, loss or abuse. Support groups for eldercare, those with Aspergers and those facing parenting issues and divorce are also available.

All services are preformed by highly skilled staff members consisting of clinical social workers, case managers, psychologists and psychiatrists. The dedication of the JFS staff is continually affirmed through their prompt and compassionate support.

JFS promotes family relationships with services such as family play therapy, parenting workshops and adoption services. Putting their clients and families at the center of their team-based approach helps strengthen positive family values. JSF also supplies a 24-hour crisis response line, offers financial assistance, debt management and volunteer services.

As one of New Jersey's oldest and well-respected family service agencies, the Jewish Family Service of Metro West clinical social work team offers the experience, expertise and compassion that deserves to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jewish Family Service of Metro West as it celebrates its 150th Anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jewish Family Service of Metro West, as they mark their 100th year of protecting the community.

CONGRATULATING AZERBAIJAN ON TWENTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ED PASTOR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an important ally of ours in the South Caucasus region, Azerbaijan, which is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence as a democratic nation. Despite the global recession, Azerbaijan has experienced strong economic growth in each of the past three years, in part due to increased immigration as people from surrounding nations have found that Azerbaijan affords the greatest opportunity for employment, stability and security for working families in the region.

Azerbaijan continues to face unique challenges that it must overcome to maintain the promise of its independent democratic principles. This country of eight million people occupies the Western shore of the Caspian Sea, bordering Russia to the North and Iran to the South. This region contains vast oil and gas resources equivalent to those of Saudi Arabia, with Azerbaijan owning one-third of these valuable deposits, but it must be vigilant in maintaining independence of action regarding the use and distribution of its extracted resources. Their main oil pipeline runs from the capital city, Baku, through Georgia and Turkey, and out to the Turkish port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea.

In the early 1990's, Azerbaijan was involved in a brutal conflict with its neighbor to the West, Armenia, and the repercussions from atrocities committed during that time still impact diplomatic and economic relations today. Since a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, these two nations have been locked in a dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, located within Azerbaijan but occupied by Armenian forces. The Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which the United States is a co-chair, was created to encourage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to this conflict, yet work remains in reaching this goal.

Azerbaijan is a secular, modern, Muslim nation that has practiced complete religious tolerance for hundreds of years, with some five Jewish synagogues in Baku alone. Israel is an important oil customer of theirs, and in the past year, honored Azerbaijani teams that worked alongside Israelis in fighting large wildfires that ravaged northern Israel. And of major importance, Azerbaijan bolsters U.S. efforts in Afghanistan through troops and airfields that provide logistical support.

It is important that America continue to encourage Azerbaijan in its democratic and economic growth, and highlight the progress made in these last twenty years. Congratulations, Azerbaijan.

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN’S DAY
OMS

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was National Missing Children’s Day, a reminder that although progress has been made, child protection must remain a national priority.

Each day, in the United States, more than 2,185 children are reported missing and approximately 800,000 children are reported missing each year. This past April marked one year since Ali Lowitzer of Spring, Texas went missing. Ali’s plans were to ride the school bus and go straight to work after school at the local burger shop. She did not come home after work though, and Mrs. Lowitzer put in a call to the police when she could not get in touch with her daughter.

The search began soon after and continues today. We cannot give up hope and must continue to be vigilant to guard our children and bring Ali and all other missing children back home. Congress has passed significant laws to keep children safe, but must always be looking to what we can do to further ensure the security of the most innocent.

And that’s just the way it is.
IN HONOR OF REVEREND ROMAN MISIEWICZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Reverend Roman Misiewicz, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Reverend Misiewicz’s continued dedication to serving God, his students, and his parishioners have made him a pillar of the community.

Reverend Misiewicz was born in Drohobycz, Poland shortly before the Second World War. After the war, during which his town was repeatedly bombarded, he and his family moved to Chorzow, where he graduated from high school. He went on to attend Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where he enrolled in the seminary and was ordained into the priesthood in 1961. During his time at Jagiellonian University, one of Reverend Misiewicz’s professors was Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II.

During the reign of Communism in Poland, Reverend Misiewicz served as a parish priest and as an academic chaplain. In addition, he lectured clandestinely on human rights despite the danger it posed to him. In 1973, he moved to America and began working as a pastor at St. Mary’s Church in Lublin, Wisconsin. In 1971 he married Jolanta Machnik in Chicago, Illinois, and soon moved to Cleveland.

Fr. Roman Misiewicz served as the pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Cleveland from 1972 until the close of the parish in 2003. At that time, he became the pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Parma, where he continues to preach. In addition to his priestly duties, Reverend Misiewicz teaches Information Technology and has served as a Dean of Education at a variety of institutions of higher learning in the Cleveland area.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring Reverend Roman Misiewicz, as he celebrates his Golden Jubilee. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Fr. Roman and look forward to his exemplification of faith and service in our community.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE. Madam Chair, I rise reluctantly to oppose the amendment offered by my distinguished colleague and friend, Mr. CONYERS, regarding Libya.

I share the gentleman’s concerns about the prospect of U.S. troops being dragged into a third war. Eight years after our ill-advised misadventure in Iraq and a decade after sending our troops to Afghanistan, we have extensive evidence of the many failings of a military strategy to address the world’s ills, including fanatical dictators bent on harming their own citizens as in Libya.

However, while I share the gentleman’s concerns, I am also troubled that the amendment, as written, would have unintended consequences and would unnecessarily hamstring the use of the military for a host of non-combat purposes in Libya.

For example, the amendment would prohibit U.S. ground forces from being used to provide humanitarian aid to the Libyan people. Whether we like it or not, one of the things our nation’s military is very good at is providing humanitarian aid to people in need around the world. We saw this after the earthquake in Pakistan in 2004 and again when massive floods hit Pakistan in 2010 and again in Haiti after last year’s earthquake.

The U.N. has warned of a humanitarian crisis unfolding in Libya with hundreds of thousands of people lacking access or in danger of losing access to basic necessities. Unfortunately, the amendment makes clear that the only authorized reason for U.S. troops in Libya is to rescue U.S. military personnel that are in danger. Such a narrow exception unduly harms the ability of the President to conduct a range of efforts well short of occupation that our military may be in the best position to undertake.

Additionally, under this amendment, our military could not be used to rescue allied NATO personnel, to help rescue U.S. citizens whose lives may be in danger in Libya or to conduct an airlift of U.S. citizens out of the country, or even to help provide aid to a U.N. or African Union peacekeeping mission should a political solution be found to remove Colonel Qadhafi from power.

Let’s be clear. My vote against this amendment is not a vote for sending U.S. troops to Libya to fight a civil war. Having voted a number of times for resolutions and legislation to restrict the use of and/or remove our troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, my record is very clear that I am not in support of occupation of foreign nations. Yet, even those efforts allowed a broad range of commonsense exceptions which I think are missing here.

If the Constitution still lives, the introduction of ground troops for the purposes of combat—which my colleagues are concerned would occur in Libya—any nation would clearly require an authorization of war by Congress. If that were to occur, Congress should and must hold an up or down vote to either authorize the use of such troops for combat or call for their withdrawal.

The U.N. Resolution authorizing international efforts to protect civilians in Libya explicitly rules out the use of foreign ground troops. The President has made very clear that U.S. ground troops will not be sent to Libya. I will take him at his word.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO COUNTER ANTI-MUSLIM SENTIMENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce this resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the federal government should take steps to counter anti-Muslim sentiment, along with additional cosponsors. Over the last decade, the American Muslim community has confronted a festering level of suspicion which has manifested itself in hostile government policies and bias from the general public. A CBS/New York Times poll released in mid-September showed that as many as 20 percent of Americans said they have negative feelings toward Muslims because of the September 11th terrorist attacks. While Congress has confronted some of the more violent manifestations of this bias, the general climate faced by the community has continued to create barriers to full participation in public life that should be addressed by official government policy.

As a member who represents a district with one of the greatest concentrations of American Muslims in the nation, I believe that this sense of Congress is a logical step toward sending the message that this group of proud citizens should be able to enjoy the rights guaranteed under the Constitution to the same extent as all other Americans. Throughout diverse cities and small towns across the country, American Muslims have a long history of playing crucial roles in law enforcement and the armed forces, and as business leaders, doctors, lawyers, and teachers. However, there exists in our nation today a disturbing and dangerous trend of anti-Muslim rhetoric and bigotry, evidenced by attacks against individuals, religious institutions and entire communities.

The United States is a country founded on the principles of tolerance and religious freedom, as embodied in the First Amendment of the Constitution. The protection of these principles is vital to the ongoing sense of community shared by the diverse peoples and religious groups of this nation. Targeting American Muslims for scrutiny based on their religion goes against the core principles of religious freedom and equal protection under the law. Moreover, the practice erodes trust in government and law enforcement at all levels, whether in turn, undermining the American Muslim community should be able to rely on the federal government to lead the effort in fostering an open climate of understanding and cooperation. These communities must be shielded from the threat of violence and suspicion that was at the heart of last January’s thwarted attack against the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, Michigan. They should also be able to rely on law enforcement’s fundamental integrity and respect for First Amendment protected rights. Only through a balanced examination of the issues facing the community can we establish a strong policy framework for protecting security, while respecting the Constitution and the interests of affected communities.
This sense of Congress is an attempt to set the record straight and counter the perception of growing anti-Muslim rhetoric. Congress has a solemn duty to ensure that its actions do not fuel misconceptions about, and prejudices toward, any faith community, including the American Muslim community and Islam. Scores of religious, civil rights, law enforcement, and national security leaders and organizations representing diverse Americans and areas of expertise are concerned about messages which appear to target the American Muslim community and Islam. The American people have made it clear they do not want the federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers’ efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents’ comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers’ access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with four federal court decisions vindicating consumers’ First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

Another one of Alderman Schulter’s achievements was the Affordable Neighborhoods (C-PAN) program, which provides hundreds of rental condominiums for constituents above the age of fifty-five. He wanted to make sure every resident was happy with their neighborhood. He served as teachers in our country’s most vulnerable schools. With more veterans returning to reduce neural tube defects for four years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,900 cases of preventable neural tube defects. The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures; and that vitamin D may reduce the risk of osteoporosis, hypertension, and cancer. The Health Freedom Restoration Act also stops the FDA from censoring truthful health claims. The Freedom of Health Speech Act requires the government actually prove that speech is false before the FTC acts against the speaker. This is how it should be in a free society where information flows freely in order to foster the continuous improvement that benefits us all. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes before the FTC censors the claim and imposes other punishments.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act requires the government actually prove that speech is false before the FTC acts against the speaker. This is how it should be in a free society where information flows freely in order to foster the continuous improvement that benefits us all. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes before the FTC censors the claim and imposes other punishments.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then shouldn’t we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to support the Freedom of Health Speech Act.

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN EUGENE SCHULTER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Eugene Schulter, Alderman of Chicago’s 47th Ward. Alderman Schulter retired this year, and his dedication to his ward and the City of Chicago will be missed. As Alderman for thirty-six years, Gene’s accomplishments and contributions to Chicago were numerous and helped make Chicago the world class city it is today. He was a great policy maker, but he also understood the importance of focusing on his constituents’ needs by keeping the neighborhoods safe and improving community schools. Gene was committed to making the 47th Ward family-friendly, and he did so by creating after-school programs, building parks and playlots, and sponsoring concerts, festivals and farmer’s markets. Additionally, he helped foster small businesses and economic growth.

Another one of Alderman Schulter’s achievements was the affordable housing program to keep longtime residents in the ward. Along with the Community Partnership for Affordable Neighborhoods (C-PAN) program, Alderman Schulter developed the Northcenter Senior Campus (NSC), which provides hundreds of rental condominiums for constituents above the age of fifty-five. He wanted to make sure every resident was happy with their neighborhood. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Alderman Eugene Schulter of the 47th Ward of Chicago. Thank you Alderman Schulter for truly providing a community that Chicagoans are proud to call “home.” I wish him, his wife Rosemary, and his children Monica and Phillip all the best on their future endeavors.
home from overseas we need to support pro-
grams such as Troops for Teachers that suc-
cessfully transition them from the military back
into civilian life.

I have seen firsthand the success of this
program by visiting teachers in my district who
returned from service and used the program’s
stipend to help pay for teaching certification
classes and exams. This amendment is a win-
win for our veterans and our students.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of
this bipartisan amendment.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN ON ITS 93RD ANNI-
VERSARY OF “REPUBLIC DAY”

HON. DAN BOREN
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, Speaker, as the
co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I ask my colleagues to join me today
in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan as it
celebrates its 93rd Republic Day on May 28,
2011. Later this year, Azerbaijan will also cele-
brate the 20th anniversary of its freedom from
the Soviet Union and the establishment of dip-
lomatic relations with the United States. These
events both represent important milestones in
Azerbaijan’s history.

Azerbaijan has progressed over twenty
years to become a key ally to the United States in a strategically important region.
Azerbaijan is located between Russia and Iran in the geopolitically dynamic region between
Europe and Asia. It is a secular democracy with a predominantly Muslim population that
has been home to vibrant Christian and Jew-
ishe communities for over a millennium.

Azerbaijan continues to offer multi-faceted
support for U.S. and NATO operations in Af-
ghanistan, in part by providing medical serv-
cices for injured Afghans and training for Af-
ghan Security Forces. As highlighted by Sec-
retary of Defense Robert Gates, Azerbaijan
plays a key role in supporting the Northern
Distribution Network, which provides passage
for Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan.
Finally, Azerbaijan provides vital support to
U.S. nonproliferation efforts.

In addition to supporting U.S. security inter-
ests in the region, Azerbaijan serves a para-
mount role in supplying the United States and
Europe with oil and gas. It is the only secular
Muslim country that maintains close ties with
Israel, supplying roughly a quarter of Israel’s
oil.

Again, as the co-chairman of the Congres-
sional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my pleasure to
honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occa-
sion of its 93rd Republic Day. For my col-
leagues who are interested in supporting Azer-
baijan, I encourage them to consider joining
the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, which
works to strengthen and grow the valuable
partnership between the United States and
Azerbaijan.

30 YEARS OF DEDICATED WORK BY
THE GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FREILINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FREILINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to honor the Great Swamp Watershed
Association (GSWA) located in Morris County,
New Jersey, which is celebrating 30 years of
successful natural resource protection in the
Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge.

Thousands of years ago, the melting waters
of large retreating glaciers formed a massive
glacial lake called Glacial Lake Passaic. Over
the years, the lake drained to leave wetlands,
which form a part of the Great Swamp in New
Jersey. This federally-protected land is home
to a large variety of plants, animals, and hu-
mans, as well as several federally-designated
threatened species.

After the creation of the Great Swamp Na-
tional Wildlife Refuge in 1964, a small group
of citizens became concerned with protecting
and improving water resources in the ten mu-
cipalities that bordered the Great Swamp. In
1981, this grassroots group created the
GSWA in order to defend and maintain water
in these towns. Through its efforts, the organi-
zation has acquired fifty-three acres of prop-
erty in the area surrounding the Refuge, while
working to preserve local streams and main-
tain local water quality.

The GSWA has grown from its roots to in-
clude 2,200 members in over 40 New Jersey
municipalities. Today, the organization con-
tinues to protect environmentally sensitive land
through land acquisition and promoting the
strengthening of environmental regulations in
New Jersey. With the support of its staff, trust-
ees, and many valuable volunteers, the Asso-
ciation helped develop the first-ever water
quality standards for the Great Swamp Water-
shed, which aid scientists, policy makers and
local officials in protecting water resources
from further degradation and in restoring those
resources that have been harmed. Although
the GSWA’s work is centered primarily within
the towns directly served by the Great Swamp
Watershed, the results of its persistence ex-
tend to the more than one million people in
Northern New Jersey who obtain their drinking
water from the Passaic River.

In addition, the GSWA fosters environmental
awareness and provides environmental edu-
cation for children and adults throughout the
state. Over 1,500 students have benefitted
from its three-dimensional watershed model
that illustrates individual and group ac-
tions affect water quality in the local area.
The organization invites teachers to participate in
programs that show them how to use their
own school grounds as areas for environ-
mental education. The GSWA also offers sev-
en family programs within the watershed that
introduce area residents to the natural history
in their own backyards. In providing these pro-
grams, the GSWA teaches communities of the
ecological value of the Great Swamp water-
shed, as well as the importance of restoring the
property and protecting it from land devel-
oment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to
join me in congratulating the Great Swamp
Watershed Association for its 30 years of
dedicated work on behalf of the great State of
New Jersey.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF
HON. NICK J. RAHALL II
OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union had under
consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize
appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for mili-
tary activities of the Department of Defense
and for military construction, to prescribe
military personnel strengths for fiscal year
2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, today, I rise on
behalf of all of West Virginia’s National Guard
and proudly support the Miller/Rahall amend-
ment based on my legislation, the Guardians
of Freedom Act of 2011—a bill to elevate the
Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a posi-
tion on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The body politic of the National Guard—
early a half-million strong supports this
amendment, as does the National Guard Coa-
tion, composed of Adjutants General Associa-
tion, the National Guard Association, and En-
listed Association of the National Guard.

The National Guard is one of our Nation’s
longest-standing institutions, empowered by
Congress and providing to the States a highly
drained and well-equipped force to protect life
and property. Over the course of its nearly
four-hundred-year history, the National Guard
has remained a dual State-Federal force, pro-
viding security on the home front and fighting
threats to our Nation and our freedoms all
over the globe.

The National Defense Authorization Act for
Fiscal Year 2008 brought about historic em-
powerment changes for the National Guard,
elevating the Chief of the National Guard to
the rank of four-star general and providing the
Chief a stronger voice inside the Pentagon.
This year, the 2012 Defense Authorization bill
also adds a vice-chief to assist with the in-
creasing responsibilities of the Chief of the
National Guard Bureau. But we must do more
in giving the Chief a seat at the negotiating
table.

As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,
the Chief of the National Guard Bureau would
have responsibility and authority to advocate
and coordinate the Guard’s war fighting sup-
port and force provider mission with its home-
land security and support missions to ensure
the Guard has the resources to perform its
multiple missions and fulfill its Constitutional
role to our States.

Madam Chair, from the battlefield to the
home fields, our National Guard—America’s
paramilitary arm exemplifies sacrifice and commit-
ment to duty.

West Virginians volunteer for the National
Guard at nearly double the national rate. The
West Virginia National Guard has 38 units and
activities stationed in 22 counties throughout
West Virginia, and currently has units de-
ployed in military operations around the world.

The American people owe an enormous
debt of gratitude to our nearly 500,000 men
and women members of the National Guard in

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service to these great United States. These extraordinary individuals maintain the Guard’s multi-mission role—providing nearly 33 percent of America’s combat power globally. Yet, simultaneously and with great skill, from approximately 3,400 community-based armories they serve their fellow citizens in defense of our homeland, and in support to States and local civil authorities and emergency response needs.

Now more than ever, this Nation is relying upon the Guard to wage combat on foreign soil, straining our resources here on the home front to respond to domestic disasters and the Guard’s traditional duties. The training, equipping, and deployment of the Guard, and their budget, ought to be matters decided with input from the National Guard Chief at the highest levels of the military echelon. Now more than ever, the Guard needs a seat at the head table.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY
HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chicago’s “idea a minute” Mayor Richard M. Daley. On September 7, 2010, Mayor Daley announced that after his 22 years in office, he would not seek re-election. But during those 22 years, Chicagoans were privileged to be served by a man with such vision, passion, and inimitable love for our city.

Mayor Daley not only improved the quality of life in Chicago, but also made it one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the world. He did so by encouraging businesses to use green technology and helping companies save money by becoming more sensitive to the environment. Mayor Daley directed the planting of thousands of trees, the building of green roofs, and construction of nearly one-hundred square miles of landscaped medians. Mayor Daley also built and improved infrastructure, such as the 1996 revamp of State Street and the 2002 rebuilding of Wacker Drive.

Many new tourist attractions were overseen by Mayor Daley during his time in office, as he was committed to ensuring Chicago remained a world-class city. In 1998, the Museum Campus opened to the public. The campus formed an uninterrupted, pedestrian-friendly green space for Chicago’s three natural science museums. Later, in 2004, he unveiled Millennium Park. Continuing Chicago’s tradition of sculpture and architecture, the park includes Anish Kapoor’s “Cloud Gate”, also known as “The Bean,” an interactive multimedia fountain of faces created by Jaume Plensa, and a beautiful garden designed by Kathryn Gustafson. Mayor Daley also played an instrumental role in the renovation and transformation of Navy Pier into Chicago’s most popular tourist attraction.

Along with beautifying the City, Mayor Daley made Chicago a safer place for our children and families. From creating the City’s first community policing programs to installing safety cameras outside schools to working closely with Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Mayor Daley has made fighting neighborhood crime and education a priority. He has improved the performance of Chicago’s public schools by enhancing school safety and creating after-school and early childhood education programs. Because of Mayor Daley’s focus on education, fewer students are dropping out of school and more are moving on to higher education.

Our city’s outgoing mayor was also a good friend to the LGBT community and a national trailblazer for equality, because it was the right thing to do. He formed an LGBT Advisory Council for the city, and Chicago remains the only city in the country to recognize the civic contributions of the LGBT community in an annual ceremony recognizing our LGBT Hall of Fame, into which Mayor Daley was inducted in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mayor Richard M. Daley, 45th mayor of the City of Chicago. I commend him for his 22 years of service on the fifth floor and throughout the neighborhoods that make our home the best city in the world. He leaves a legacy of service and passion for preserving and improving the city we all know and love, Chicago. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for everything. I wish you, Maggie, and your entire family nothing but the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 344, I was unavoidably detained and the amendment was gavelling closed before I could cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

THANKING AL POWERS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE
HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. LUNGREN. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on June 2nd 2011, we rise to thank Mr. Al Powers for his more than twenty-nine years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives.

Al began his career with the House working in the office of Representative Bob Whitaker as an Office Assistant, and when the Member retired, he was the office Press Assistant. Time spent handling press issues led to the idea for the House Enterprise Facsimile Service which he was instrumental in helping to develop when he joined House Information Resources (HIR) in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (Office of the CAO) as a Systems Engineer. This service is currently used by the House. Al was also instrumental in the inception of many services that are critical to the House today—including the current E-mail system.

Al’s knowledge, experience, dedication and consistently outstanding performance in his daily tasks has set a fine example in providing superior customer service and has earned the respect of his co-workers.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Al Powers for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. FRANK R. WOLF
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote on Campbell amendment #54 to H.R. 1540, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. Had I voted, I would have voted “no” on the amendment.
Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kate Swift, a recently deceased Connecticut writer who is best known for her tireless work to end sexism in the English language. Kate, a resident of East Haddam, died of abdominal cancer on May 14 at the age of 87.

Born in Yonkers, NY, Kate attended Connecticut College in New London, CT. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1944 with a degree in journalism and spent the next two years in the Women's Army Corps serving as an information and education specialist before being honorably discharged. In 1965 she made her way back to Connecticut to enter the news bureau at Yale University's School of Medicine.

She began her writing career in the 1970s with her companion, Casey Miller, also a writer, who spent some of her career working in naval intelligence. While working with Casey to edit materials for a junior high school sex education program, the two noticed the dominance of male pronouns and references to men. They changed the language in the program to give girls a more prominent role and followed up by publishing their first article on the topic of gender-neutral language.

Kate's proposals gained a great deal of traction over time. Newspapers, textbooks, and public programs initiated to avoid sexist language like "firemen" and "stewardesses", instead preferring more gender-neutral references. Articles by Kate and Casey have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and New York magazine on a wide variety of topics relating to sexism in language.

Since moving to East Haddam in 1972, Kate, a sharp intellect and incredibly talented writer, simply couldn't sit still. She was an activist heavily invested in women's rights and gay rights. She was a vocal advocate for Connecticut's marriage equality legislation and worked hard to help bring about its passage into law. She served on the Council of the Rathbun Free Memorial Library, the first Town Charter Commission, as well as the committee of the Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, and the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee for seventeen years. She traveled all over the world including to China for the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women.

Kate Swift, through her push to end gender discrimination in the English language and tireless activism, demonstrated that she was a true visionary. She was, in many respects, ahead of her time. Kate left her mark by forever changing how we use language and by fighting hard to root out injustice where she found it in the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the efforts and honoring the life of this remarkable woman.

Mr. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce important bipartisan legislation, the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act, which would close a serious gap in the law by requiring colleges and universities to clearly communicate policies regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and will increase awareness and prevention of these acts by requiring transparency of information, prevention programs and assistance for victims. Senator Bos Coy recently introduced the Senate companion bill (S. 834).

Sexual violence and violence in dating relationships are a serious problem on college campuses across the country. More than one in five female undergraduates will be victims of sexual assault during their time on a campus; only a fraction of incidents are reported and many victims go without adequate institutional support.

The Campus SaVE Act would increase the transparency of reports of sexual violence by institutions to include in their annual reports statistics on domestic violence, dating violence and stalking that were reported to campus police authorities or local police agencies; promote prevention and bystander responsibility by requiring colleges and universities to develop clear statements of policy regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking prevention programs; ensure victims get the help they need by requiring colleges and universities to provide clear statements regarding their procedures followed when a case of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is reported and provide victims an explanation of their rights in writing; and requires clear procedures for institutional disciplinary proceedings and provides assistance to institutions to implement these requirements.

This legislation will ensure our college campuses and universities are safe. I urge my colleagues to support it.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ILLYRIA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Illyria, the Albanian-American newspaper. Illyria has been in the forefront of supporting the aspirations of the Albanian people in the Balkans for 20 years.

As the Albanian people of Kosovo in the former Yugoslavia emerged from the domination of Serbia, and Albania emerged from the shadow of communism in 1991, Albanian-Americans were in need of information about their homeland, and the common voice to bring their community together. In that time of great transition, Harry Bajraktari, an Albanian immigrant from Kosovo who had built a successful real estate business from scratch in the Bronx, founded and published Illyria, and published it twice weekly in both English and Albanian.

From the beginning, Illyria provided a valuable bridge among Albanians in the U.S. and abroad, and our leaders in the United States. Through the dedication and passion of Mr. Bajraktari and his colleagues, Illyria championed the causes of human rights, democracy and freedom for the people of Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and for a free and independent Republic of Kosovo. During the Yugoslav wars and the struggles of Albanians in Kosovo against the regime of Slobodan Milosevic, Illyria promoted peaceful solutions for Albanians and their neighbors. Diplomats at the United Nations, members of Congress, officials at the State Department, the White House and think tanks in Washington were among those who used Illyria as a resource.

Now in more peaceful times for Albanians, Illyria, true to its immigrant roots, continues to build ties between the Albanians and the United States, promoting friendship between our countries and highlighting the contributions of Albanian immigrants to the United States.

The long list of distinguished Albanian-American introduced to readers by Illyria includes a Nobel Prize winner, an engineer who oversaw the flight of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, a former NASA astronaut who flew into space on the Space Shuttle Endeavour, famous actors, directors and TV personalities, and successful professionals of various fields.

The torch of owning and publishing Illyria was passed from Mr. Bajraktari to Ekrem Bardha, a successful Albanian-American business man from Michigan and then to Vehbi Bajrapi, a dedicated publisher. Through two decades and three owners, Illyria has been a consistent voice for tolerance and truth. As Ismail Kadare, the internationally-renowned Albanian writer said, Illyria has kept "only one passion as sacred: its dedication to the freedom and the happiness of the Albanian people." Mr. Speaker, these are two of the principles that have made this country the greatest democracy in the world, and which unite Albania and the United States in friendship today.

With thousands of readers from New York to Alaska, Illyria newspaper is truly an American institution—politically independent and true to the best values of American journalism. In short, Illyria embodies the American dream. I join with Harry Bajraktari and with Albanian-Americans in the United States and around the world, in wishing a happy 20th anniversary to Illyria newspaper.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLOOR PARK MEMORIAL FIRST AID SQUAD, INC.

HON. RODNEY P. FREILINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FREILINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad of Florham Park, New Jersey on celebrating their 60th Anniversary as of May 30th, 2011.

On May 30th, 1951 the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad was dedicated in fond
tribute to those who served or gave their all in our defense.

The all-volunteer Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad provides service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They cover 7½ square miles and service 12,600 residents along with businesses, schools, colleges, assisted living facilities, local streets and highways, as well as provide mutual aid to neighboring towns.

The Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad is a non-profit organization financially supported only by donations; comprised 100 percent of volunteers. Students, professionals and retirees from all walks of life lend time to serve their community. Auxiliary members also volunteer on committees to preserve the house and grounds, as well as organize special social events.

The Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad handles approximately 1,200 calls per year. A typical crew includes an experienced chief, an EMT–B and driver, and a probationary member (who has served less than 6 months on the squad). Responsibilities of the crew on call include responding in town during the shift, inspecting ambulance and equipment, and responding to 911 calls, along with drills and instruction.

Aside from time responding to calls, volunteers of the first aid squad complete numerous hours of rigorous training preparing for any situation that may arise. Their selfless donation of their time, tireless commitment to service and compassion for others sets these volunteers apart from others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF TURKEY’S FOUNDER

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, while Congress was in recess, the Republic of Turkey and Friends of Turkey commemorated the 92nd anniversary of the launching of Turkey’s national campaign to establish an independent nation by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. Turkey also celebrates May 19 as the birthday of Ataturk.

Ataturk was able to lift the 92 percent of the world. With the right leadership and determination, democracy can take root and lay the foundations for a prosperous future in the region.

HONORING ADOLFO ALVAREZ, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Former Frio County Commissioner Adolfo Alvarez, Sr. to honor his contributions to South Texas. On May 28, 2011, Mr. Alvarez celebrates his 80th birthday and a lifetime of achievements as a Veteran and Former County Commissioner.

Mr. Alvarez was born May 27, 1931, in Harlingen, Texas, to the parents of Gernaro and Dominga Alvarez. He attended Harlingen High School in 1950 and served his country in the Korean War upon graduation. Mr. Alvarez returned from battle and married Guadalupe Morales Alvarez soon after. The couple has been happily married for 55 years and their union produced 9 children, 19 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

Mr. Alvarez began working in the auto repair industry and has been the proud owner of A and A Auto Parts retail stores in Pearsall, Dilley and Cotulla, Texas since 1973. In 1980, he was elected Frio County Commissioner and devoted himself to the people for 20 years. In addition to his post as Commissioner, Mr. Alvarez also served on the State Democratic Executive Committee for the 21st Senatorial District, was an active member of the Mexican American Democrats, and was appointed to the Commission for Aging by Gov. Ann Richards during her time in office.

Residing in Pearsall, TX, Mr. Alvarez spends his days as the city’s first life member of VFW Post 9185, a life member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens. He remains spiritually active as a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in the city in which he resides. As a former County Commissioner, he remains devoted to his community through his volunteer activities, church involvement, and interests.

Former Commissioner Alvarez has lived in Pearsall, Texas for over 30 years and served Precinct 3 for 16 years beginning in 1980 and ending in 2000. In addition, he is a Korean War Veteran and founding member of the VFW post in Pearsall, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the remarkable life of Mr. Adolfo Alvarez, Sr. and his 80th birthday celebration. Thank you.)
video capture system which required raising more than $6,000 in addition to physically installing the new system. Alex also went above and beyond the requirements by completing more than the minimum required number of merit badges, a total of 33, as well as serving in a variety of leadership roles throughout his time in Boy Scouts.

In addition to his commitments as a Boy Scout, Alex is also a member of Waukee High School’s Marching Band, Show Choir, Jazz Choir, National Honor Society, Tennis team, and drama department. After high school Alex plans to pursue a career in either Aerospace and engineering or Computer Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Alex Jagim and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CONGRATULATING AND RECOGNIZING SUSAN EGAN

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Susan E. Egan and congratulate her on her forthcoming retirement. For the past 38 years, Mrs. Egan has served as the Head of Harbortlight Montessori School, which she co-founded in 1973. She has served as an active leader of the school and has made numerous contributions to the school’s development as well as to the community.

Under her leadership, Harbortlight grew from a 27-student, one-room school located in the basement of the First Baptist Church in Beverly, to now a model Montessori school enrollment more than 250 students in 17 classes. With the addition of several wings for a preschool, an expansive school library, and additional rooms for art, music and language lessons, Susan’s vision of making the Montessori method of teaching accessible to all children of the North Shore continues today.

An active member of the community, Susan serves on the Board of Symphony by the Sea as well as the Lynch Park Advisory Committee. Her dedication to service is instilled in the fabric of Harbortlight, where students are involved in community service projects that partner with local organizations.

Prior to serving as the Head of Harbortlight, Susan earned a master’s degree in education and completed post-graduate work in counseling psychology. She is a licensed Mental Health Counselor and a Marriage and Family Therapist, as well as a licensed teacher, school director and Registered Nurse.

As she concludes her tenure as the Head of Harbortlight Montessori School, I wish to recognize Susan Egan for her remarkable achievements as a teacher and mentor and wish her all the best in her retirement.

HONORING CHARLES D. “RUSTY” FLACK, JR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart because Northeastern Pennsylvania has lost a truly great man. Earlier today, Charles D. “Rusty” Flack, Jr., passed away after a long and courageous battle with lung cancer. He was married to his wife, Kathi Stine Flack; his eldest son and namesake, Chad; and twins Jamie and Alex. Rusty was only 56 years old.

Rusty was a tremendous civic leader who tirelessly strived to ensure the organizations he treasured thrived. He directed a number of non-profit organizations and took many leadership roles in the community. He served as chairman of the board of Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School and the Luzerne Foundation. Previously, he served as chairman of the board of trustees at Misericordia University and Wyoming Valley Health System.

Rusty was driven to serve his community, and he found his true calling by following in his father’s footsteps as a pioneer in the business world. When his father, Charles D. Flack, Sr., died in 1979, Rusty and his brother, Hal, took charge of Diamond Manufacturing Co., a fourth-generation family-owned business that has manufactured and sold perforated metal, plastic, and other materials in West Wyoming, Pennsylvania, since 1915. Rusty and Hal respected the company from financial difficulties and subsequently built it into the largest supplier of perforated metal in North America. The company’s products are seen in industrial, architectural, and design applications around the world. The Flack brothers sold the company just last year, but they remained connected to the company, and Rusty stayed on as chief executive officer.

On a personal note, I’ve had the privilege of knowing Rusty for almost a decade. He was a kind and generous man who loved his family, his community, and his business. I truly admire all that he accomplished both in his personal and his professional lives. I am honored to have had an opportunity to know Rusty, and I will treasure his loyal friendship. Mr. Speaker, Rusty Flack served Northeastern Pennsylvania with distinction. He leaves a remarkable legacy as a business leader, a civic leader, a patriot, and a family man.

Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in marking the passing of Charles D. “Rusty” Flack, Jr.

HONORING ANGELA Z. MCCOLLOUGH

HON. PAUL RYAN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Angela Z. McCollough, an employee of the Congressional Budget Office who is retiring next month after nearly 40 years of exemplary public service. In August of 1975, after spending three years at the Environmental Protection Agency, Angie started her career at the Congressional Budget Office—just a few months after CBO was founded. From 1975 until 2008, she served as the secretary and administrative assistant to the Assistant Director of the Natural Resources and Environment Division (since renamed the Microeconomic Studies Division). In October of 2008, Angie was promoted to Executive Assistant to the CBO Director.

Angie has been an invaluable member of the CBO team and over the years has exemplified the very best qualities of public service upon which the Congress and the Nation so heavily depend. Angie received two CBO Director’s Awards—in 1984 and again in 2003. She has also received several STAR awards for her work in the Microeconomic Studies Division and the Office of the CBO Director. Angie was honored in 2001 for her role in recreating CBO’s timekeeping and payroll system and for ensuring that CBO’s employees were paid during that difficult period in the Fall of 2001 when the Ford House Office Building was closed for the anthrax investigation in the weeks following the tragic events of 9/11.

Angie is one of the longest serving employees in the history of the Congressional Budget Office. Her tenure at CBO spans the agency’s lifetime. She has served under all 8 CBO Directors. And throughout her time at CBO Angie has set the standard for dedicated public servants throughout the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to acknowledge Angie’s time at CBO, to thank her on behalf of the Congress and the Nation for her years of dedicated service, and to wish her all the best in what we hope and trust will be many years of a well-deserved and fruitful retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted:

“Nay” on rollcall 338, On Agreeing to the Amendment—Foxx of North Carolina Amendment No. 7.

“Yea” on rollcall 339, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions—To amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations.

“Nay” on rollcall 340, Final Passage of H.R. 1216—To amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations.


“Yea” on rollcall 343, On Agreeing to the Amendment—Woolsey of California Amendment No. 2.
Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and retirement of the Interim Vice President for Extension and Outreach at Iowa State University, Dr. Jerry Miller. Dr. Miller is a professor of agronomy and is well known in the soil and conservation community for his numerous contributions to enhancing water quality and soil conservation. Dr. Miller has given 35 years of his life to Iowa agriculture and in the process has given Iowa greater clarity in a subject we hold very dear.

In addition to his illustrious career at ISU, Dr. Miller also served Iowa in an entirely different way through his efforts in the Iowa Army National Guard. Dr. Miller retired from service several years ago as the Commanding General of the 34th Infantry Division.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent Dr. Jerry Miller in the United States Congress. Dr. Miller is a true testament to Iowa’s reputation for preserving their ancestral homeland. He has a graduate degree from the Wharton School of Business and University of Pennsylvania School of Engineering and a bachelor’s degree in environmental engineering from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, every day we go about conducting the business of the American people. We are able to do this because of the tremendous men and women that support our efforts. Staffers in our personal offices, House Committees and the House Officers work tirelessly and with dedication. They perform a tremendous service for us and for the American people. Dr. Qureshi is an example of that commitment, dedication to excellence and loyal service that allows us to do what we do every day. I wish him all the best as he transitions to a new and exciting chapter in his life and sincerely thank him for his years of service to the House. He will be missed.

ANGELA Z. McCOLLOUGH
HON. STENY H. HOYER
OF MARYLAND

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angela Z. McCollough, an employee of the Congressional Budget Office, who is retiring on June 3, 2011 after nearly 40 years of service to the Federal government. Angie started her federal career in 1972 when she began working for the Environmental Protection Agency. In August of 1975, Angie joined the Congressional Budget Office, just a few months after CBO was founded. From 1975 until 2008, she served as the secretary and administrative assistant to the Assistant Director of the Natural Resources and Commerce Division (since renamed the Microeconomic Studies Division). In October of 2008, Angie was promoted to Executive Assistant to the CBO Director.

Angie has been an invaluable member of the CBO team. She received two CBO Director’s Awards—in 1984 and again in 2003. She has also received several STAR awards for her work in the Microeconomic Studies Division and the Office of the CBO Director. Angie was honored in 2001 for her role in recreating CBO’s timekeeping and payroll system and for ensuring that CBO’s employees were paid during that difficult period in the Fall of 2001 when the Ford House Office Building, where CBO is located, was closed for the anthrax investigation in the weeks following the tragic events of 9/11.

Angie is one of the longest serving employees in the history of the Congressional Budget Office. Her tenure at CBO spans the agency’s lifetime. She has served under all 8 CBO Directors. And throughout her time at CBO, Angie has exemplified the highest standards of dedicated public service. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again in opposition to the reauthorization of PATRIOT Act provisions. While it will come as no surprise to my colleagues that I find the PATRIOT Act objectionable in its entirety, the roving wiretap, “any tangible thing,” and lone wolf provisions of the law are by far the most toxic to our civil liberties.

Nothing has changed that makes the extension of wiretapping of citizens, searches of our private records and information, or warrantless surveillance of individuals not connected to terrorism more acceptable. Now is the time to end what was supposed to be a temporary, state-of-emergency response to the events of 9/11. Over a decade later, organizations from the Cato Institute to the American Civil Liberties Union have documented abuses of the law, and Osama bin Laden has been killed—though there is no evidence that the PATRIOT Act helped to find him.

The government’s extension of the PATRIOT Act is hypocry, pure and simple. Republicans support smaller government but continue to warrantless searches of their constituents. President Obama campaigned on the promise of abandoning the PATRIOT Act, calling it a “dangerous and shoddy” law, yet has done nothing to make good on that pledge. Let’s end this duplicity.

The importance of empowering our intelligence agencies to help protect us does not supersede the importance of preserving our civil liberties. Until a balance is reached, I will continue to vote against the PATRIOT Act and its provisions and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

A TRIBUTE TO LEROY AND LOUISE CHRISTIANSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM
OF IOWA

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize LeRoy and Louise Christiansen of...
The introduction of the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2011

HON. ROSA L. DELAURo
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. DELAURo. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2011, which will help provide accurate, evidence-based information to pregnant and breast-feeding women about medications, chemical exposures, foodborne illness, and other exposures associated with birth defects or health risks to a breastfed infant.

This bill would establish a grant program to revitalize the national network of pregnancy risk information services, more than half of which have closed over the last decade due to lack of funding. Over 70,000 women seek information from these essential services each year. It would also establish a national information campaign to help increase public awareness among health providers and at-risk populations.

The legislation has been endorsed by the Allergy and Asthma Network, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, March of Dimes Foundation, Mothers of the Uniting American Families Act.

The legislation will help provide accurate, evidence-based information to pregnant and breast-feeding women about medications, chemical exposures, foodborne illness, and other exposures during pregnancy and breastfeeding, helping them to both avoid risks and improve healthy behaviors like taking folic acid. This legislation will help mothers and health care professionals access critical information to help ensure their babies are healthy.

There is nothing more important than protecting our children, and this legislation will help expectant and breast-feeding mothers to obtain clear, accurate information about the potential risks of medications, illnesses, and other exposures during pregnancy and breastfeeding, helping them to both avoid risks and improve healthy behaviors like taking folic acid. This legislation will help mothers and health care professionals access critical information to help ensure their babies are healthy.

I urge my colleagues to support our efforts.

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology

Spina Bifida Association


HON. ROSA DELAURo,
House of Representatives, Rappahannock House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Ms. Delauro: On behalf of the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), the only national voluntary health organization working on behalf of the estimated 166,000 individuals who live with all forms of Spina Bifida and their families, I am writing to express our support to you and the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act. This legislation will provide much-needed support to pregnancy risk information services, which play a crucial role in educating women on how to reduce the risk of preventable birth defects, including Spina Bifida.

One of the primary goals of SBA is to increase awareness of the importance of folic acid consumption among the 65 million women in the United States of child-bearing age. The risk of Spina Bifida and other serious birth defects can be reduced by up to 70%, if women of childbearing age consume 400 micrograms (400 mcg) of folic acid (a B-vitamin) every day. Grants funded under the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act will help ensure that women who are considering becoming pregnant have access to information on the importance of folic acid supplementation, as well as other key steps they can take to ensure a healthy pregnancy.
SBA thanks you for recognizing the importance of pregnancy risk information services. If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at 202-944-3285. Ext. 14.

Sincerely,

Cindy Brownstein, President and Chief Executive Officer, Spina Bifida Association.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, April 20, 2011.

Hon. Rosa DeLauro,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Representative Delauro: on behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to share our support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2011. Your bill will address an important need as our under-standing of birth defects can be caused by genetic factors, environmental exposures, or a combination of the two. For the vast majority of birth defects, however, the cause remains unknown. Research continues to reveal important new information about the causes and prevention of birth defects.

The Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act seeks to provide a resource for pregnant women who have questions about whether certain medications, infections, or chemicals or environmental exposures might cause or increase the risk of a birth defect, or pose a risk to a breastfeeding baby. This bill would support the provision of pregnancy and breastfeeding information services to women and health care providers seeking information about known or suspected risks. Breastfeeding mothers will receive information about how potential risks should be weighed against the significant benefits of breastfeeding. These services will address an important need as our understanding of birth defects and their prevention continues to evolve.

The AAP appreciates your commitment to preventing birth defects and educating the public about potential risks. We are pleased to support the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act, and we look forward to working with you to improve the health of all our nation’s children.

Sincerely,

O. Marion Burton, MD, FAAP
President.

OTIS, April 11, 2011.

Hon. Rosa DeLauro,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear Ms. DeLauro: on behalf of the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, I write to express strong support for the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act. Our organization is made up of physicians, genetic counselors, nurses, researchers, and educators interested in the study and prevention of birth defects, and we fully support the goals of your legislation.

Many of our members work in pregnancy risk centers and inquire about the potential for birth defects. These programs provide accurate evidence-based, clinical information to patients and health care professionals about exposures during pregnancy or breastfeeding. If you have any questions, please contact ACOG’s Department of Government Affairs if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

Richard N. Waldman, MD, FACOG
President.


Hon. Rosa DeLauro,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Representative DeLauro: on behalf of the March of Dimes and 1,200 staff of the March of Dimes Foundation, I am writing to express support for the “Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction and Awareness Act of 2011.” As currently drafted, this bill authorizes funding to conduct a national media campaign, enhance surveillance and research on exposures that give rise to adverse birth outcomes such as birth defects or prematurity. It also authorizes funding to develop best practice guidelines to improve infant health.

Each year, an estimated 120,000 infants are born with major structural birth defects. One in five infant deaths is due to birth defects, making them the leading cause of infant mortality and a major cause of childhood and adult disability. It is critically important that the public—especially women of childbearing age—understand that health care professionals have access to clinical and evidence-based information about potential risks of medications, illnesses, and other exposures during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Readily accessible and accurate information holds the potential to decrease the incidence of birth defects and improve infant health. Unfortunately, studies show that up to half of pregnant women are not counseled by their health care providers about the potential teratogenic effects of prescription drugs that they are taking.

Thank you for your leadership on this very important issue, Senator Hagan, we look forward to working with you on this and other issues central to the health of our nation’s youngest children. We translate scientific research and knowledge about the unique needs of infants and toddlers for parents, early childhood practitioners, and policymakers.

In the United States, approximately one in every eight babies is born preterm; one in every two is born with low birth weight; and one in every 33 is born with a birth defect. Exposure to environmental toxins while in the womb contributes to all three of these statistics. Babies’ development is particularly vulnerable during the prenatal period, when cells are rapidly differentiating, organs are forming, and the brain is undergoing a critical phase of maturation. Environmental toxins are hazardous to these processes, especially because of the underdevelopment of fetal immune systems.

Prenatal and early exposure yields grave results. Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality, and babies born preterm are more than 15 times as likely to die in their first year of life. Love born our nation’s youngest children. We translate scientific research and knowledge about the unique needs of infants and toddlers for parents, early childhood practitioners, and policymakers.

Sincerely,

President.

May 27, 2011
HONORING THE CHILDREN OF THE TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America’s greatest resource—our children and in particular those of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, our Gold Star children, who are the loved ones of our fallen heroes. This Memorial Day and every day, I ask all Americans to keep a special place in their hearts for these wonderful and brave children. As with each coming year, we see in each child’s face the image of their parents and we are continually reminded of their heroism and selflessness and that freedom certainly does not come without a price. May these children of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our great nation always know that while their loved ones are up guarding Heaven’s gates, their spirit will continue to live on inside of each of them. I ask that the poem Albert Caswell penned in their honor, The Best Part of Them, be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

The Best Part of Them

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special teacher from Waukee, IA. His name is Brandon Schrauth and he was recently selected to receive the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This program recognizes our nation’s most outstanding teachers for their contribution to the teaching and learning of math and science. For his exemplary achievement, Brandon has received both a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation as well as a signed certificate from President Obama.

President Obama named only 85 teachers across the country to be worthy of this prestigious award saying that its recipients “demonstrate uncommon skill and devotion in the classroom, nurturing the young minds of tomorrow’s science and math leaders.”

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent Brandon and his students in the United States Congress. Brandon is a true testament to Iowa’s reputation of a strong work ethic and world class education. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Brandon and I wish him the best of luck in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO BRANDON SCHRAUTH

HON. TOM LATHAM
OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special teacher from Waukee, IA. His name is Brandon Schrauth and he was recently selected to receive the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

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Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent Brandon and his students in the United States Congress. Brandon is a true testament to Iowa’s reputation of a strong work ethic and world class education. I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Brandon and I wish him the best of luck in the future.
OPPOSING POLITICAL KILLINGS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the current campaign of extra-judicial killing being waged by the government of Rwanda. Political assassination has no role to play in the twenty first century. It must be condemned and it must cease. The government of Rwanda should understand that the large amounts of aid that Rwanda receives through American generosity can not and will not be given to a state that kills its own citizens overseas and at home for political ends.

The government of Rwanda is conducting a campaign of terror and murder against those it sees as enemies. On May 19, 2011, the New York Times reported that Rwandan dissidents in London had been warned by Scotland Yard that the Rwandan government “was plotting to kill them.” The BBC reported on May 21st that British police had told the men that “The Rwandan government poses an immediate threat to your life.”

These are not just empty threats. The British police prevented a Rwandan assassin from entering the UK. In June 2010, former Rwandan Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, survived a botched assassination attempt in South Africa. Later that same month, Rwandan journalist, Jean-Leonard Rugambage, working on a story on the attack on Mr. Nyamwasa, was himself shot dead in Kigali.

The Government of Rwanda is using every means at its disposal to harass those it sees as enemies but who are merely exercising their democratic rights. In January 2011, four former top officials—including Gen Nyamwasa—who have fallen out with President Kagame and gone into exile were sentenced in absentia to long terms in prison for threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions. My own constituent, American citizen and distinguished human rights lawyer and commentator Andrew Erlender, was arrested on bogus charges for several weeks in Kigali.

Rwanda’s recent history has been tragic, but a stable and prosperous country has been born from the ashes of the 1994 genocide. However, this tragic history does not give the current government the right to commit murder. The United States currently gives Rwanda over $200 million per year in aid. This generosity must surely be reexamined if the government continues to attack and kill those it disagrees with.

[From the BBC News, Africa]

Rwandan Exiles in London “Threatened by Hitman”

TWO RWANDAN EXILES LIVING IN LONDON WERE WARNED LAST WEEK BY UK POLICE THAT THEY FACED AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

It has emerged that the men were visited by officers who told them they were in danger of being killed by a hitman sent by the Rwandan government.

Shona Mugenzi and Rene Mugenzi have denied involvement in any alleged plot to kill the two exiles.

“The government of Rwanda does not threaten the lives of its citizens wherever they live,” High Commissioner Ernest Rwanwucyo said.

The government later said that the Metropolitan police had not approached it with evidence of the allegations.

“We are ready as always to work with them to ensure that they leave home,” he added. But be they Rwandan or not, is the victim of violence on British soil,” a statement said, quoted by the New Times website in Kigali.

The two men—Rene Mugenzi and Jonathan Musonera—have both been involved in political groups opposed to the ruling party of Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame.

A week ago, Rene Mugenzi knocked on their doors and told them that they could not guarantee their safety. They advised them to increase the security around their homes or move away.

The police gave them written statements saying: “The Rwandan government poses an immediate threat to your life. The threat could come in any form.”

It is understood that shortly before visiting the two men, counter-terrorism officers had stopped a car as he tried to enter the country at Folkestone.

They questioned the unidentified man and turned him away.

Mr. Musonera said he and his family were very scared.

“I was not surprised, because this is not the first time they’ve tried to disturb the opposition,” he said. The BBC’s Focus on Africa programme after learning about the death threat.

“I take this problem very seriously. I used to drive my car. Right now I stopped because the police told me to use limited movement or go out with friends.

“My wife, she is scared. We have cut off the phone. The children now they stay at home, they can’t go out. They can’t go out with friends. I stopped visitors coming to our home.”

OPPOSITION MEETING

BBC Africa analyst Martin Plaut says it is not the first time there have been reports of threats to Rwandan exiles living in the UK. The UK’s Security Service (MI5) has apparently been involved in an assassination campaign for some time, he adds.

In April, it was reported that MI5 had warned Mr Rwanwucyo to halt an alleged campaign of harassment against critics of his country’s government.

The police’s warning was issued just prior to a meeting in London of exiles last weekend that brought together Tutsi and Hutu opposition politicians.

The meeting heard from a former Rwandan chief of staff, Lt. Gen Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa, who addressed the gathering by videolink from South Africa, where he survived an assassination attempt in June 2010. The Rwanda government has denied links to the shooting of Gen Nyamwasa, who was a close ally of Mr Kagame before fleeing to South Africa last year.

The party of the imprisoned Hutu politician, Victorine Ingabire, was also at the meeting.

The possibility that Hutu and Tutsi political activists working together would be worrying for the Rwandan government, our correspondents say.

In January, four former top officials—including two who have fallen out with Mr Kagame and gone into exile were sentenced in absentia to long terms in prison for threatening state security and promoting ethnic divisions.

President Kagame’s Rwandan Patriotic Front came to power in 1994, ending the genocide in which some 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

Mr. Mugenzi is said to have been arrested in March after he asked a pointed question to Rwandan’s president, Paul Kagame, during a BBC call-in show about whether Mr. Kagame believed an Egypt-style revolution could happen in Rwanda.

He also helped organize a recent meeting of exiles in London in 2010. The Rwandan government has accused many opposition officials of working with a rebel group in eastern Congo that has been classified as a terrorist group by the United States and linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Mr. Mugenzi, who says he holds British as well as Rwandan citizenship, also works as a driver in London.

“Although I have always, to work with them to ensure that nobody, be they Rwandan or not, is the victim of violence on British soil.”

The form letters, signed by a member of the Metropolitan Police Service, did not vouch for the accuracy of the threat but said it came from a source whose account the pol had “no reason to doubt.”

One of the recipients of the warning, Rene Claude Mugenzi, has been actively working with Rwandan opposition groups in London and he said he was contacted by British police late on May 12. “They said it was important,” Mr. Mugenzi said. “that I should not leave home.”

Mr. Mugenzi, 35, said he was aware that the Rwandan government did not appreciate his political views. But when two police officers showed up at his door in east London around 10:30 p.m. and told him and his wife of a threat to his life, he said he was speechless.

“ать think they could think to kill me here in the UK,” he said.

Mr. Mugenzi says that in March he asked a pointed question to Rwanda’s president, Paul Kagame, during a BBC call-in show about whether Mr. Kagame believed an Egypt-style revolution could happen in Rwanda.

He also helped organize a recent meeting of exiles in London. The Rwandan government has accused many opposition officials of working with a rebel group in eastern Congo that has been classified as a terrorist group by the United States and linked to the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Mr. Mugenzi, who says he holds British as well as Rwandan citizenship, also works as a driver in London.

Mr. Kagame has long been a nemesis to the British. He ran with the Liberal Democrats in local London elections last year and lost.
Douglas Barr was born to Daniel and Lois Ray Barr for his more than 32 years as a firefighter career with the Pleasantville Fire Department and the Newark Air Force base where he volunteered for 12 years. He began working at the Violet Township Fire Department in 1990 where he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1996, and Assistant Chief in 2008.

Doug was extremely active in the community as well. He was very active in organizations such as the United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce and the Central Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Fairfield Union Local School District board of education where he served as a member from 2002 to 2009. He was also an instructor for the Ohio Fire Academy and Eastland Vocational School for fire and EMS training.

Among his numerous achievements, Doug received the American Red Cross Safety Hero award in 2006 and was a two-time recipient of the Knights of Columbus Blue Coat Award for his invaluable contributions.

On Sunday, February 27, 2011, Douglas Barr passed away at the age of 52, at Fairfield Medical Center surrounded by family and friends. We are all eternally grateful for the service and kind heart exemplify the characteristics of a Big Sister. Through her tireless dedication, Beverly Mayo has made an incredible impact on the lives of these young women, providing them a strong foundation for their future success. I am confident that her influence will continue to inspire them to achieve excellence as they grow to lead and serve our great nation.

Volunteers of Big Brothers Big Sisters play an integral role in the lives of all the young men and women of whom they mentor. Every year, thousands of people volunteer their service to this important organization. Last year, in Florida alone, over 15,000 men and women served as Big Brothers or Big Sisters, and from this exemplary group Beverly Mayo was selected as the Florida Big Sister of the Year. This honor is a reflection of the enduring impact Ms. Mayo has made in the lives of her Little Sisters, and Northwest Florida is blessed to have her a part of its community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Beverly Mayo for her accomplishments and her continuing commitment to the youth of Florida.
IN HONOR OF AVA BERRY TURNER
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated individual, a proud veteran, and an exemplary civil servant, Ms. Ava Berry Turner. She is retiring after almost thirty-five years of dedicated service to her country.

Ms. Turner has served her country in a number of ways over the last four decades. In 1974, she enlisted in the U.S. Army, where she rose through the ranks to serve as a Supply Sergeant. She honed her excellent communication skills in the Army and became an Army communications specialist. She was honorably discharged in 1980, and then went on to pursue academic endeavors, utilizing benefits under the GI bill.

In 1982, she enrolled at the North Carolina Central University in Durham. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1985, majoring in Public Administration, with a minor in Business Administration, and then began work at the Internal Revenue Service. She rose through the ranks of the IRS, starting her career as a Revenue Officer and advancing to the position of Bankruptcy Specialist. From there, she became Assistant Problem Resolution Officer, then Problem Resolution Officer. She was appointed to serve as the Local Taxpayer Advocate for the State of Arizona, then promoted to the national headquarters of the Taxpayer Advocate Office in Washington, DC, where she was the Manager in Systemic Advocacy, followed by appointment as the Manager in the office of Low Income Tax Payor Clinics.

Using her exceptional communication and management skills, she now serves as a Senior Program Analyst in Technical Analysis and Guidance. Her colleagues describe her work as outstanding, and her accomplishments are the result of years of hard work and dedication to her chosen profession.

There is no doubt that her service will continue, even into her retirement. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues at the Internal Revenue Service. It will be difficult to replace her, but her incredible work ethic is an inspiration to those who have served with her.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you today to congratulate Ms. Ava Berry Turner on her retirement and to thank her for her many years of distinguished service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am recorded as voting “aye” on rollcall vote No. 344; this was inadvertent. I intended to vote “no.” As I do not support Congressman Hunter’s amendment (#12) to H.R. 1540. Amendment #12 would create a five-year pilot program to provide school vouchers set at $7,500.00 to dependent children with special needs for the purpose of attending a public, private, or charter school of choice.

Because I oppose this initiative, I ask the record to reflect my intention to vote as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 344, I intended to vote “no.” Hunter Amendment (#11) to H.R. 1540.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPEDITING AGRICULTURE THROUGH SCIENCE (EATS) ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance to family farmers and agricultural businesses. The world’s population is predicted to be 9.1 billion by 2050, greatly straining the world’s food supply. Family Farmers across this country will lead the world in the production of a safe, secure food supply. In order for tomorrow’s agriculture community to meet the need of an ever growing population, we must have a clearly defined timetable for agriculture’s biotechnology approval process, while ensuring the safety of our environments.

This reason for this is simple; it is the law of supply and demand. As demand for food rises, more efficient, higher yielding crops, which are more resistant to weeds and pests will be needed to feed 9.1 billion people. Providing a defined timetable for the process of agriculture biotechnology will provide certainty to make decisions and encourage companies to make investments in biotechnology products, which in turn will create jobs and provide the United States with the ability to meet the world’s food needs.

The Plant Protection Act of 2000 (7 USC §7701 et seq.) as amended, directs the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to regulate biotech organisms and plants in order to ensure no biotech product poses a risk to the environment. However, the regulatory uncertainty created by APHIS not following their own timetable hinders job creation and stifles innovative agriculture breakthroughs that will lead to a safer, more secure food supply. That is why I am proud to introduce the Expediting Agriculture Through Science Act, otherwise known as the EATS Act, which clearly defines the amount of time to approve or deny a petition for non-regulated status for biotech crops.

Countries throughout the world are developing and implementing biotech crops that produce more and cost less. In today’s economy, the United States must act quickly to ensure family farmers in the United States maintain their superiority in the biotech field and continue to compete globally.

A clearly defined timetable to approve a petition for biotech crops allows businesses to plan and invest in the biotech field while maintaining the protections needed to ensure any biotech product introduced into the environment poses no threat to the environment. The EATS Act will simply codify the current time timetable in §340.6 of the Federal Code of Regulations which is currently 180 days. Under current agency practice, APHIS is not following the 180 day time limit for approval or denial of the petition. The EATS Act gives APHIS 180 days to approve or deny a petition for non-regulated status with an additional 60 days if needed to ensure the safety of our environment and compliance is met before deeming the petition approved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the EATS Act in order that the agricultural community can compete globally and meet the food supply needs of the world.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST HOSPITAL IN JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

HON. DAVID P. ROE
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary earlier this month of the construction of the first hospital in Johnson City, Tennessee. Johnson City Memorial Hospital opened on May 10, 1911, as a 10-bed facility in a white, wooden-framed house. High demand for medical care would lead to larger facilities, culminating with Johnson City Medical Center.

Today, JCMC serves its counties and a population of more than 1.1 million people in four states with its Level 1 trauma program, the region’s top heart program, a comprehensive cancer center, the region’s state-designated perinatal center, and Wings Air Rescue.

This facility, and the evolution of health care in Northeast Tennessee, illustrates the effect of consumer demand on health care, and its power to improve it. It did not take a 2,000 page bill for this network to evolve. Instead, medical professionals and members of the local community did what was necessary to meet changing needs. I congratulate Johnson City Medical Center on its 100 year anniversary, and wish it further success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, from Wednesday, May 25 until Thursday, May 26 at 3 p.m., I was unavoidably detained in Chicago, Illinois for personal reasons, and missed recorded votes for H. Res. 276, and H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

If present, I would have recorded my votes as the following: on rollcall vote 341 “no”; on rollcall vote 342 “no”; on rollcall vote 343 “aye”; on rollcall vote 344 “no”; on rollcall vote 345 “aye”; on rollcall vote 346 “aye”; on rollcall vote 347 “no”; on rollcall vote 348 “aye”; on rollcall vote 349 “aye”; on rollcall vote 350 “aye”; on rollcall vote 351 “aye”; on rollcall vote 352 “aye”; on rollcall vote 353 “aye”; on rollcall vote 354 “no”; on rollcall vote 355 “no”; on rollcall vote 356 “aye”; on rollcall vote 357 “no”; on rollcall vote 358 “aye”; on rollcall vote 359 “no”; on rollcall vote 360 “aye”; on rollcall vote 361 “aye”; on
HON. LOIS CAPPS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an American hero and my friend, Rear Admiral George H. Strohshahl. RADM Strohshahl passed away on Sunday, May 22, 2011. Over the course of his life, his vision and dedication to Naval Base Ventura County (NVBC) and the Ventura County community at large were greatly inspiring. It is truly an honor to pay tribute to him today.

Admiral Strohshahl's Navy career spanned 39 years starting as a Midshipman at the Naval Academy in 1955 and finishing as the Commander for the Western Pacific Air Warfare Center, the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation organization of Naval Aviation with 10 installations across the country and over 25,000 employees. During his career he flew jet attack aircraft from aircraft carriers in both the Pacific and Atlantic fleets which included two tours of combat flying in Vietnam and command of an A-6 squadron. He was the Air Boss on USS Nimitz and played himself in the popular Kirk Douglas movie “Final Countdown.”

He was the director of the Tactical Air Analysis office in the Pentagon which was part of the McNamara systems analysis team known as the “Whiz Kids.” He was Program Manager for the F/A-18 Hornet Family of aircraft which was and still is the largest aircraft acquisition program in the Navy. He commanded the Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu from 1988 to 1990 and as senior Naval officer for the South Central California area was active in many civic organizations in Ventura County at that time.

Over the years, I have worked with RADM Strohshahl on many issues that affect Naval Base Ventura County. I particularly appreciated his leadership during our fight against the Base Realignment and Closure Commission process. His testimony before the 2005 Commission was instrumental in minimizing the amount of technical work being removed and job loss from our base. He was a steadfast advocate for the Navy and worked endlessly to ensure others understood the importance of our military.

RADM Strohshahl was married for 44 years to the late Mavauln Fiske. They raised three children, one of whom resides now in Ventura with her husband and family. He is blessed today to be married to Mary Anne Vernallis of Newbury Park whose late husband, Sam, was a long-time associate of George’s in the Navy and a well-respected civic leader in Ventura County. Together, George and Mary Anne share 5 children and 8 grandchildren.

I know I speak on behalf of the entire Ventura County community when I say RADM Strohshahl will be greatly missed. His commitment and hard work on behalf of NVBC and our community at large will be felt for generations to come. While his resume is tremendously impressive, he might best be known by his family, friends and co-workers as a generous, patriotic and altruistic man. It is a great honor to pay tribute to his life.

HONORING GEORGE H. STROHSHAL
THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPENCE OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1450) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I was pleased to support Mr. LANGEVIN’s Amendment #49 to H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 earlier today. In the 111th Congress, I supported substantially similar language, H.R. 4900, offered by Representative Watson and approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

I agree with President Obama that the “cyber threat is one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a nation.” Given the increasing connectivity between information systems, the Internet, and critical infrastructure such as our electrical grid, telecommunications systems, and financial systems, we must be able to defend these systems against cyber attacks from any origin.

Cyber threats and attacks against information systems have continued to grow in both volume and intensity in recent years. Statistics from the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team indicate that the number of reported cyber incidents at federal agencies has increased over the last five years from approximately 5,000 in fiscal year 2006 to more than 41,000 in fiscal year 2010.

Mr. LANGEVIN’s amendment represents an important step to help secure our nation from cyber attacks by codifying multiple policy recommendations made by the Obama Administration, public-private sector working groups, and the Government Accountability Office. I am pleased to support these efforts, and I look forward to working with Mr. LANGEVIN and the rest of my colleagues in the House and Senate to develop a comprehensive legislative proposal to strengthen our nation’s cybersecurity.

I am also pleased that the Obama Administration released its initial legislative proposal on cybersecurity last week. The proposal represents the start of a serious bipartisan discussion on cybersecurity legislation, and I look forward to participating in those conversations.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I was pleased to support Mr. LANGEVIN’s Amendment #49 to H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 earlier today. In the 111th Congress, I supported substantially similar language, H.R. 4900, offered by Representative Watson and approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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HON. MIKE PENCE
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day Weekend means many things to Americans. It is a time to remember those who have taken up arms on our behalf and did not make it home. It is also the unofficial start of summer. But to Hoosiers and race fans across the country, this weekend also means that it is time for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for this year’s Indianapolis 500.

For just over one hundred years, the center of the auto racing world has been located in
central Indiana. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has been the testing ground that has led to the development of many of the technologies that we see in today’s passenger vehicles.

This weekend marks the 100th anniversary of the Speedway’s premier event: The Indianapolis 500 Mile Race. Over the last century, race fans from all walks of life have been treated to some of the most compelling stories ever seen in the sporting world.

The winner of the 1911 race completed the 500 miles with an average speed of 75 miles per hour, while the racers attempting to make history this weekend will circle the 2.5 mile track at speeds well in excess of 200 miles per hour.

Like many Hoosiers, I look forward to the Race, one of our proudest traditions each and every year. We have come to know the names of Harroun, Fayt, Unser and Andretti in the time since Carl Fisher, Arthur Newby, Frank Wheeler and James Allison helped found the Speedway back in 1909.

Following World War II, Indiana business-man Tony Hulman purchased the track from then-owner, World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker. Since that time, the Speedway has been owned by the Hulman-George family.

The stewardship of Mari Hulman and Tony George, along with along the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Board of Directors has helped the 500 Mile Race become the world’s largest single day sporting event, and you can bet that the more than a quarter of a million seats at the Speedway will be packed with race fans this weekend from Indiana and beyond.

So, this weekend my family and I will once again return to the Speedway to see history made at amazing speeds and I am eager to once again be Back Home Again in Indiana for the Greatest Spectacle in Racing.

HONORING BRIDGEPORT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 2011

HON. JAY INSLEE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011
Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the graduating Class of 2011 from Bridgeport High School in Bridgeport, Washington. These students were finalists in President Obama’s Commencement Challenge, and because of their inspiring story, deserve to be recognized.

Bridgeport is a public school in eastern Washington State where students are forging a way to bring energy and talent to a small, rural orchard community. Most of the students recognize today have overcome incredible challenges in order to graduate this June. Many of them will be among the first in their families to do so and all of them are on free or reduced lunch plans, an indicator of the difficult economic circumstances overcome by these students and their families.

Only two students in the class have parents that graduated from high school. Yet, 90 percent of the students will receive their diplomas and 82 percent of the students are college-bound. This is a remarkable accomplishment and something for which all schools should strive.

The principal, teachers, students, and families of Bridgeport High School should be commended for their success. They have demonstrated that by working together, we can close the academic achievement gap, improve graduation rates and, most of all, help students realize their dreams.

Congratulations to the exemplary graduating class at Bridgeport:
Adriana Gomez Saucedo—Valedictorian;
Ana Berta Sotomayor—Javiera Aguilera;
Elvis Alcaraz; Michael Baca; Norma Camacho; Brooke Desjardins; Fredy Eduardo Flores; Elizabeth Gameros Garcia; Maria Elizabeth Garcia Gomez; Miranda Garza Trevino; Alejando Jr. Gomez Camacho; Irma Gomez Garcia; Nadia Gonzalez Garcia; Lizbet Lopez Casillas; Maria Alexis Macedo Ruiz; Baltazar Muñoz Perez; Mauro Efrain Mosqueda; Marisol Vanessa Valdivieso Aleman; Carina Ochoa Valdivieso; Christian Perales Barboza; Ricardo Perez Rojas; Miguel Angel Ramos Parbo; Paige Leon Ramirez; Rosendo Rodriguez Hernandez Jr.; Erika Berenice Saucedo Rubio; Samuel Soto Rojas; Alfredo Ubaldo Rosas; Joaquin Valdivieso Infante; Xenia Valdivieso Perez; Daniel Velasco Velasco; Jasmine Mogollan Roa; Olivia Silva Dominguez; Veronica Nicole Saucedo; Elodia Isabel Jimenez Vazquez; Carina Velasquez.

VICKI GOTTLICH: A TRUE ADVOCATE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 26, 2011
Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Vicki Gottlich for her more than three decades of advocacy on behalf of senior citizens and their families. She has been a treasured resource for all of us concerned about protecting and strengthening Medicare and Medicaid and improving the wellbeing of older Americans. Along the way, she has also worked on issues that affect persons with disabilities and working families.

Vicki is leaving the Center for Medicare Advocacy, where she has served as Senior Policy Attorney since January 2000. Before that, she worked as staff attorney for the National Senior Citizens Law Center, the managing attorney for the Prince George’s County Senior Citizens Law Project, and the associate director of the National Law Center’s Institute of Law and Aging at George Washington University.

In each of those roles, Vicki demonstrated her absolute commitment to improving the lives of senior citizens. In my work as co-chair of the Seniors Task Force and a member of the House Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Health, I am able to work with many skilled policy analysts. Vicki is certainly one of the very best. She has provided my office with in-depth and cogent analyses of legislative proposals and regulations for years. We have come to rely heavily on Vicki’s knowledge and experience and she has always been available to answer questions, provide recommendations or undertake research. Vicki, though, brings more than policy astuteness to her work. She always keeps her eye on the real-life impacts that policies have on our constituents and their families. A typical conversation with Vicki will include plenty of discussion about legal points and policy precedents, but it will also include numerous examples of the specific problems facing actual people and how solutions can be crafted to solve those problems.

I want to thank Vicki for sharing her wisdom and skills over the past years. I wish her well in her new role at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight at CMS, where she will continue to work to improve access to affordable health care for all Americans.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF
HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 25, 2011
The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the Chaffetz Amendment to H.R. 1540, the Defense Authorization Bill. The amendment, if passed, would require the immediate withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan with certain limited counterterrorism operations permitted to remain on the ground.

I appreciate the motivation behind the amendment because I too question the wisdom of our continued presence in Afghanistan. We are engaged in a protracted war there, and unlike our operations in Iraq, have yet to see stability and a solid foundation for independence emerge. By withdrawing our forces, we can focus our men and women serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

While I believe that it is time to commence a timely discussion regarding Afghanistan, I do not believe that this amendment to the defense bill is the answer. The amendment short circuits the process necessary for thoughtful action and does not regard seriously the impact of the unintended consequences of immediate withdrawal on the stability of the region.

U.S. forces in Afghanistan have made great strides in the last 6 months. In light of the recent death of Osama Bin Laden, the U.S. military must have the opportunity to consider the ramifications of his death on our current Afghanistan strategy. We have a short window in which the intelligence gained in his death can be leveraged successfully.

How successful further action can or will be is unclear. Al-Qaeda may be able to regroup and retaliate. Regardless, immediate withdrawal will bring neither clarity nor stability to a region in which the United States has offered its highest currency, the blood of our young men and women in uniform.
The House in Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, today I will vote against the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (NDAA). While nothing is more important than providing the resources needed to keep America and our men and women in uniform safe, this authorization spends too much while falling short in important areas.

The bill authorizes $690.1 billion for defense programs in FY12. This level of defense spending is almost as much as the rest of the world combined—most of which is done by friendly allies such as NATO (approximately $350 billion). The bill also includes an additional $118.9 billion in specific funds for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan without a plan for a full redeployment from the region. I am disappointed that amendments to require a rapid and thoughtful withdrawal from Afghanistan were not approved. For me, this is reason enough not to support this legislation.

The bill continues the misguided affront on civil liberties by further stalling the implementation of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” and requires that “marriage” for any regulation or benefit program at DoD means only a legal union between one man and one woman. This is a step backwards and unacceptable.

It reverses the House victory from earlier this year that finally eliminated the unnecessary alternate engine for the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter. Similarly, the bill continues to fund the Marine Corps’ Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV) which has also been cited as uneconomic and unwanted by the Secretary of Defense.

Emarrassingly, this authorization contains two key provisions that continue to tie the President’s hands by restricting his ability to transfer detainees to the United States for trial in Federal court and to release detainees to countries willing to take them. It is absurd to think that the United States, which currently has thousands of dangerous criminals locked safely behind bars, is incapable of doing the same for terrorists. These provisions continue the Guantanamo quagmire which is ill-advised, and a sign of failure at home and to those observing abroad.

There are many positive elements in the bill, such as increased funding for veterans and for victims of sexual assault in the military and increased access to mental health providers for our Reserves. I am pleased three of my amendments were included in the legislation. One amendment lifts the veil on classified immunity for defense contractors, a practice that exposed 36 of our Oregon National Guardsmen to toxic chemicals in Iraq. The other two will help protect our troops on the battlefield and save billions of dollars through energy efficiency initia-
should not obscure the need for analysis in the future. In a similar vein, I opposed draft proposals which would have established across the board prohibitions on conducting work in-house if the tasks were not inherently governmental. While Federal employees certainly should conduct inherently governmental work, it is senseless in the cases for them to do work that the Office of Federal Procurement Policy has deemed "closely associated with inherently governmental," or other functions. For example, when I was Chairman of Fairfax County, our vehicle maintenance were county employees and we outsourced their work. There was nothing inherently governmental about oil changes, but Fairfax got the best deal with county employees. We should not preclude analogous arrangements from the Federal Government any more than we should preclude outsourcing vehicle maintenance. In addition to the Committee's thoughtful approach to insourcing and outsourcing, I greatly appreciate your support for other steps to improve the acquisition environment through improved Federal efficiency. These reforms include adoption of the Federal Acquisition Improvement Amendment that Mr. PLATT and I introduced as well as Mr. LANGEVIN's amendment to rationalize the responsibilities of the Chief Technology Officer and other executive branch officials with technology policy portfolios. This National Defense Authorization Act also represents significant progress for our procurement and technology communities, including both Federal employees and Federal contractors. Thank you for you and your staffs outstanding work on these important issues for our economy and the Federal Government.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF
HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, this will be the first time that I have voted against a Defense Authorization Act and I do so with great reluctance. But I also do so with confidence that it is the right decision.

Section 1034 of this bill gives this President and all future Presidents vastly expanded authority to take America to war without further congressional action. It gives the Executive a virtual blank check by authorizing the President to deploy an unlimited number of troops to anywhere and to do so without an approved declaration of war. It is a reckless surrender of the war-making authority. Under the umbrella of the war against terrorism, it expands the existing broad authority in at least three ways.

**DE-LINKS USE OF FORCE FROM 9/11 ATTACKS**

The original language gave the President the authority to use military force against any entities that he determined to be connected to the September 11, 2001 or any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by any nation, organization or person he determined harbored those entities. The new language expands the authority to target entities regardless of their connection to the September 11 attacks.

**PERMITS ATTACKS ON UNDEFINED "ASSOCIATED FORCES"**

The original language authorized all necessary force against the entities responsible for the 9/11 attacks, but did not provide the authority to wage war against entities that "harbored" the terrorist groups. The new language allows the President to apply that term with great elasticity to go to war without congressional approval in any number of situations.

**ALLOWS USE OF FORCE AGAINST ENTITIES THAT "SUPPORT" THE TALIBAN, AL QAEDA OR "ASSOCIATED FORCES"**

The original language allowed the use of force against entities that "harbored" the terrorist groups that perpetrated the attacks of 9/11. The new language allows the President to use force against any entities that substantially support the Taliban, al Qaeda or "associated forces." This is a much weaker standard than the existing requirement.

Had the Congress included this language in the 2001 AUMF, President Bush would have sent American troops into Iraq without seeking a separate resolution to use force. This language authorizes the Executive to launch military action against an entity that had nothing to do with the attacks of September 11, 2001 so long as the President determines that a country or organization is substantially supporting the Taliban, al Qaeda or "associated forces." The Bush administration claimed that the regime of Saddam Hussein was allowing Iraqi territory to be used to train al Qaeda elements.

While I believe the Congress made a mistake in voting to authorize President Bush to go to war in Iraq, at least Congress debated and voted on the decision. With this new provision in place, no such vote would have been required.

Under the Constitution, the President of the United States already has relatively broad powers to use military force as Commander in Chief. In addition, the existing Authorization of the Use of Military Force provides the President with additional authority to take military action in a wide array of situations without seeking additional congressional approval or a declaration of war. It is a reckless surrender of congressional responsibility for the Congress to write this new open-ended blank check for the use of military force. Not even the Executive has been brave enough to request this new broad grant of authority.

The language in Section 1034 is sloppy, ill-considered and poorly conceived. No hearings were held to consider the implications. This Congress should be ashamed of itself for its careless and cavalier approach to a question of such grave national significance.

I urge the Senate and the President to reject this provision and hope to have an opportunity to vote for a revised Defense Authorization Act that doesn’t undermine the constitutional responsibilities of the Congress.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF
HON. JAY INSLEE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my concern over a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 that would require the access to certain military retirees to the TRICARE Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP).

As you know, USFHP has been an extremely popular program within the Military Health System since its introduction in 1981, serving more than 115,000 active duty service members, veterans, and their families 16 states, including more than 11,000 in Washington state. USFHP consistently earns a 90 percent satisfaction rating among its enrollees—by far the highest among military beneficiary programs. In addition to its success and popularity, this program is an integral component in the Department of Defense (DoD) meeting its commitment to provide health care to those who have served our country in uniform.

The provision included in this year's Defense Authorization bill would terminate health care services under the plan when beneficiaries reach the age of 65 and become eligible to transfer to Medicare. Over one third of all USFHP beneficiaries are currently over 65 and are taking advantage of the USFHP managed care structure. Removing them from the program could undermine the highly effective disease management and prevention aspects of the USFHP, not to mention potentially ending longstanding patient-doctor relationships due to the change in coverage.

USFHP is a fully capitated program, providing quality and efficient care to beneficiaries. Even recently, Congress highlighted the effectiveness of USFHP in the 111th DoD authorization bill, while directing DoD to examine opportunities to improve the broader TRICARE Program. Nationally last year the Director of TRICARE Management engaged USFHP to assist in educating the rest of the DoD system about their highly successful prevention and disease management programs.
As we look to improve the quality of care while addressing high costs, we can learn from effective programs like USFHP, which provides managed care and includes a focus on preventative care and managing chronic illnesses to improve the lives of our service members and potentially creating savings in the long run. These courageous beneficiaries to Medicare will only shift costs, rather than improve the quality of care for those who have served our country.

In light of this, and the success this program has had in providing for those who have served in uniform, I wish to reiterate my support for USFHP. I hope we can avoid major alterations to the US Family Health Plan and continue to offer this service to all eligible beneficiaries, including those over the age of 65, who I believe have earned a right to this high quality program through service to our country.

SIXTH DISTRICT CHEERS AMERICAN IDOL SCOTTY McCREERY

HON. HOWARD COBLE OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, for years, the sounds and drama of American Idol have captivated the eyes and ears of Americans, gluing them to their TVs to find out who the next great singing star would be. Over the 11 seasons of American Idol mania, the state of North Carolina and the Sixth District have been well represented in the finals of this singing competition. This season's American Idol competition was no different, ending with 17-year-old Scotty McCreery, from Garner, North Carolina, crowned as the latest American Idol.

Scotty has strong connections to the Sixth District, as well. Several members of Scotty's family live in our area. His grandmother and grandfather, Paquita and Bill McCreery, reside in the Moore County town of Aberdeen, while his aunt and uncle, Tina and Billy Creech, live just down the road in Pinehurst.

The members of Scotty's family, however, are just some of a long line of connections to the Sixth District of North Carolina. We have been home to two previous finalists in the American Idol competition, Fantasia Barrino and Chris Daughtry. Fantasia, from High Point, won the American Idol competition during its third season. Daughtry, from McLeanville, though he did not win the competition, has gone on to become a successful recording artist, releasing several multi-platinum albums.

North Carolina is one of only two states that can boast more than three finalists over the competition’s history; the other is Alabama. North Carolina has had a total of seven finalists over the years.

Joel Daughtry, Scotty’s father, and Daughtry, as American Idol finalists are four other proud North Carolinians. Clay Aiken of Raleigh, Bucky Covington of Rockingham, Kellie Pickler of Albemarle, and Anoop Desai of Cary, a UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus, all represented North Carolina in the finals of the competition, as well.

Even Scotty McCreery’s grandmother, Paquita, got some face time on American Idol. Like any proud grandmother would do, she used her chance at the microphone to tell the world, “That’s my Scotty.”

On behalf of the residents of the Sixth District, we offer our congratulations to Scotty and his family who live in the Sixth District. And from the state of North Carolina, we say again, congratulations, “That’s our Scotty.”

IN HONOR OF MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT (RET) LEWIS JAY STACK

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR. OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, MGy Sgt (Ret) Lewis Jay Stack. Mr. Stack is being honored for his exemplary service to the nation, his commitment to his country, and his sacrifice for his country.

Mr. Stack served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps. He joined the Corps on February 28, 1937 and served in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Mr. Stack was born on March 1, 1924. He served in Korea in 1952 and 1953, and in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. For his service to our country, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

Mr. Stack's service is a testament to his dedication to his country and his commitment to duty. He is a true American hero, and we are all proud to honor him today.

DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

RECOGNIZING THE 21ST ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 21st annual DC Black Pride celebration, to be held in Washington, DC on May 26–30, 2011. The DC Black Pride celebration is a multi-day festival featuring music, dance, films, a poetry slam, a church service, community town hall meetings, and a health and wellness expo, among other things. The DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world’s preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the Nation’s capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

The DC Black Pride celebration celebrates the rich history of the Black community in the District and throughout the world. It is a celebration of the diversity and achievements of African Americans, including our local community here in Washington, DC.

The DC Black Pride celebration is a multi-day event that brings together thousands of people from across the country and around the world. It is a time for people to come together to celebrate their shared history and culture, and to connect with others who share their experiences.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 21st annual DC Black Pride celebration, and to welcome its attendees.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council (MSAC). For the past 30 years, the MSAC has served as a champion for low- and moderate-income seniors, achieving gains in promoting the rights and well-being of seniors.

Since its first meeting in April 1981, the MSAC has brought together thousands of area seniors to participate in public meetings, rallies and government hearings and has succeeded in bringing necessary services to seniors in need.

Shortly after its inception, the MSAC restored local bus routes, established medical programs for senior citizens, and advocated for policies that improved the lives of seniors. They have been a voice for change, fighting for better conditions and better care for seniors.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council, and to support their continued efforts to improve the lives of seniors.
and transportation services, and ensured the improvement of maintenance at local subsidized housing complexes. It has won hard-earned victories in creating low-cost drug programs for seniors, passing legislation to provide home care as an alternative to institutional care, and ending “balance billing” for Medicare patients.

Today, the MSAC has over 1,000 active members of all ages working at the grassroots level to continue to ensure that seniors have access to the resources they need most.

Seven chapters throughout Massachusetts provide support, leadership training, and opportunities to advocate for those members of the senior community who otherwise would have no voice.

I join my friends in the North Shore chapter and so many others in congratulating the Massachusetts Senior Action Council on 30 successful years. I wish them the best as they continue to serve as a voice for all vulnerable residents of Massachusetts.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF
HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my concerns with repealing Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act through the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This provision of the NDAA would undermine Department of Defense efforts to reduce oil dependence and could cripple America’s nascent algal biofuel industry.

Our Armed Forces are making great progress to reduce their dependence on oil in a manner that promotes climate security. For example, the Air Force plans to procure 50 percent of its domestic aviation fuel from alternative sources by 2016. It has already developed the “Green Hornet,” a fighter jet that runs on algae-based biofuel. The Navy is in the process of deploying its “Great Green Fleet,” which will run entirely on alternative fuels and be operational by 2016.

These improvements to national security parallel new economic opportunities for the biofuel industry. According to the Biotechnology Industry Association, “Section 526 is helping low carbon fuels bridge the ‘valley of death’ between development and commercialization,” and is “already helping the Air Force and Navy meet its alternative fuel goals and the country move toward greater energy independence and security and create jobs.

The domestic biofuels industry is now contributing more than 400,000 jobs and $53 billion in new activity to the Nation’s economy. A recent report found that additional job creation from advanced biofuels production could reach 907,000 by 2022.

Since its enactment, Section 526 has provided a clear signal that energy security and climate security will be advanced in parallel to federal alternative fuel procurement. This has helped to focus private investment and early DOD testing on advanced biofuels, which offer significant greenhouse gas reductions in addition to their energy security benefits.

The prospects of a stable and long-term customer in the DOD is a major driver of early investment in advanced biofuels for aviation and marine applications. Eliminating Section 526 could seriously undermine this investment opportunity, leading to less investment and capital access for advanced biofuels.

Congress must maintain Section 526 to assure continued U.S. leadership on biofuels, especially advanced and cellulosic biofuels for aviation and other military applications. Advanced Biofuels Companies and Projects That Could Be Negatively Affected if Section 526 Were Eliminated

The maps below illustrate existing and planned cellulosic biofuel biorefineries and algae production projects at various stages of development in North America. Currently, there are more than 70 pilot and demonstration advanced biofuel biorefineries across North America—including cellulosic, algae, and other advanced biofuel technologies—representing hundreds of millions of dollars in investment. There have been successes at each stage of research and development and all are in the process of scaling-up.

Commercial development was slowed by the recession but is regaining momentum as a result of supportive federal programs, such as Section 526, and some thawing of capital markets.

Many of the facilities and projects shown may be negatively impacted by the elimination of Section 526.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, May 27, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on rollcall 376. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted “yea” for rollcall 376. I am proud to support the intelligence community, as well as local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in their efforts to protect our homeland and combat global terrorism.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AZERBAIJAN ON THEIR 93RD REPUBLIC DAY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO
OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, May 27, 2011

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 93rd anniversary of Republic Day on May 28. Additionally, the Republic of Azerbaijan will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of its independence from the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan has become a critical ally of the United States due both to its location in the Caucasus Region and its access to rich energy sources in the Caspian Sea. Additionally, Azerbaijan has been an example of religious and ethnic tolerance. As a predominantly Muslim country, Azerbaijan has maintained strong and active Jewish and Christian communities.

Azerbaijan was one of the first nations to offer the United States support in the aftermath of 9/11. They have participated in many joint military efforts since their independence and recently doubled their military presence in Afghanistan. They have also offered logistical support for our efforts in Afghanistan, offering refueling stations and over-flight permission.

Once again, I am happy to honor and congratulate Azerbaijan on their 93rd Anniversary of Republic Day. Azerbaijan has been a great ally to the United States, and I think it is important that we highlight all the efforts they have made to support efforts to bring peace and freedom to parts of the world that have known nothing but tyranny.

OPPOSING REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE MEDICARE AS WE KNOW IT

HON. SILVESTRE REYES
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, May 27, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose the Republican’s plan to eliminate Medicare as we know it. The Republican budget ends the Medicare guarantee and replaces it with an inadequate voucher system where seniors will have to buy their own health insurance in 2022. These actions
will fulfill Republicans’ longtime goal of privatizing Medicare. Their plan eliminates critical provisions of the Affordable Care Act, including those that provide no-cost preventative screenings for all seniors and eliminates a 50 percent discount for brand-name drugs for seniors in the ‘donut hole.’ Above all, the Republican plan increases the age eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67, raising health care costs for millions of seniors who will have to wait longer to gain access to Medicare.

The plan to dismantle Medicare will have a devastating impact in my district. There are over 76,000 seniors in El Paso, and over 2.4 million seniors in Texas according to the most recent U.S. Census 2010 numbers. Based on Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis, the Republican plan would more than double a senior’s out-of-pocket health care spending in 2022, compared to what their costs would be under traditional Medicare—increasing their out-of-pocket costs by more than $6,000 annually. By 2030, the GOP plan would nearly triple this cost to seniors.

These drastic changes to Medicare are a clear reflection of continued efforts to cut vital services for hardworking families to subsidize tax breaks for millionaires. It is simply irresponsible to balance the budget on the backs of seniors, while millionaires who can afford the high cost of health care, benefit from more tax breaks. Republicans are wrongly targeting vulnerable seniors, many of whom survive on limited incomes. Their plan will undoubtedly place additional burdens not only on seniors, but on their children, who will bear more costs to help meet the health care needs of their parents. This plan will also have a disproportionate impact on low income communities, such as those in the district that I represent, that will be overburdened with uninsured patients who will use public hospitals to meet their health care needs.

We have an obligation to protect our seniors and ensure they continue to have access to Medicare and receive the health care they need in the years ahead. That is why I will strongly oppose any effort to privatize Medicare and to increase health care costs for seniors.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
Senate met at 9:30:09 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 9:30:34 a.m. until 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: There were no public bills or resolutions introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:
H.R. 1667, to postpone the date for the transfer of functions to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection if the Bureau does not yet have a Director in place (H. Rept. 112–93).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rooney to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H3761.

Senate Referrals: S. 627 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and S. Con. Res. 4 was referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD
Week of May 30 through June 4, 2011

Senate Chamber
Senate will meet in pro-forma sessions, with no business conducted on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 10 a.m., and Friday, June 3, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Senate Committees
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House Committees
Committee on Agriculture, June 2, Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, and Credit—Public, hearing to review recent investigations and audits of the USDA Inspector General, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.
Committee on Appropriations, May 31, full Committee, markup of Agriculture Appropriations FY 2012, 5 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.
June 1, Subcommittee on Defense, markup of the Defense Appropriations bill FY 2012, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This is a closed meeting.
June 2, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, hearing on U.S. Capitol Police FY 2012 Budget Request, 9 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.
Committee on Armed Services, June 1, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on efficacy of the Department of Defense’s 30 year aviation and shipbuilding plans, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.
Committee on the Budget, June 2, full Committee, hearing on Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and FHA: Taxpayer Exposure in the Housing Markets, 10:30 a.m., 210 Cannon.
Committee on Education and the Workforce, June 1, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled “Education Reforms:
Exploring the Vital Role of Charter Schools.” 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.


June 1, full Committee, markup of the H.R. 1705, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act of 2011; and H.R. 2021, the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011. 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Promoting Broadband, Jobs and Economic Growth Through Commercial Spectrum Auctions.” 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.


June 3, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “The Views of the Administration on Regulatory Reform: An Update.” 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.


Committee on Financial Services, June 3, full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of HUD’s HOME Program,” 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 1, full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing To Receive the Annual Testimony of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System.” 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology, hearing entitled “Federal Reserve Lending Disclosure: FOIA, Dodd-Frank, and the Data Dump.” 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, markup of legislation Securing American Jobs Through Exports Act of 2011, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.


June 1, Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, hearing entitled “Preserving Progress: Transitioning Authority and Implementing the Strategic Framework in Iraq, Part 1.” 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.


June 2, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing on Piercing Burma’s Veil of Secrecy: The Truth Behind the Sham Election and the Difficult Road Ahead, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia, hearing on European and Eurasian Energy: Developing Capabilities for Security and Prosperity, 2:30 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.


Committee on the Judiciary, May 31, Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Formal Rulemaking and Judicial Review: Protecting Jobs and the Economy with Greater Regulatory Transparency and Accountability, 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on the Constitution, hearing on the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet, hearing entitled “Promoting Investment and Protecting Commerce Online: The ART Act, the NET Act and Illegal Streaming.” 1:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 3, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 1793, the Clean Up Government Act of 2011, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, June 1, full Committee, hearing entitled “American Energy Initiative: Identifying Roadblocks to Wind and Solar Energy on Public Lands and Waters, Part II—The Wind and Solar Industry Perspective.” 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 2, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on H.R. 1837, to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 2, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Domestic Oil and Natural Gas: Alaskan Resources, Access and Infrastructure.” 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.


Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, June 1, full Committee, hearing entitled “Cybersecurity: Assessing the Nation’s Ability To Address the Growing Cyber Threat.” 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor Policy, hearing entitled “Official Time: Good Value for the Taxpayer?” 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 1, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending, hearing entitled
“Duplication, Overlap, and Inefficiencies in Federal Welfare Programs.” 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

June 2, full Committee, hearing entitled “Making the Gulf Coast Whole Again: Assessing the Recovery Efforts of BP and the Obama Administration After the Oil Spill.” 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Government Organization, Efficiency, and Financial Management, hearing entitled “IRS E-file and Identity Theft.” 12:30 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the National Archives, hearing entitled “FDA Medical Device Approval: Is There a Better Way?” 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.


June 1, full Committee, hearing on legislation for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, June 1, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Harmful Algal Blooms: Action Plans for Scientific Solutions, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Research: Oversight of the Need for Federal Investments and Priorities for Funding, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, June 1, full Committee, hearing entitled “Access to Capital: Can Small Businesses Access The Credit Necessary To Grow and Create Jobs?” 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

June 2, Subcommittee on Healthcare and Technology, hearing entitled “Not What the Doctor Ordered: Health IT Barriers for Small Medical Practices.” 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, June 1, full Committee, hearing on Putting America’s Veterans Back to Work, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

June 2, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on Transition Assistance Program and VetSuccess on Campus Program, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

June 2, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on An Examination of Poorly Performing VA Regional Offices, 1:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, June 2, full Committee, hearing on How Business Tax Reform Can Encourage Job Creation, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

June 3, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing on the findings in the 2011 Annual Report of the Social Security Board of Trustees, 9 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, June 2, full Committee, hearing entitled Israel/Palestinian Authority Update, 10 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, May 31

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 p.m., Tuesday, May 31

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

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