

Stabenow—are in stalled negotiations with the White House over judges.

HONORING SAMUEL FISHER FOR  
HIS HEROIC SERVICE IN WORLD  
WAR II

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2003*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Samuel Fisher, for his heroic service in World War II. As a rifleman with Company B, 49th Armored Infantry Battalion, Eighth Armored Division he helped participate in the final drive of the American and Allied armies that drove the Nazis from France and ended Hitler's rule over Germany. He, and the other brave soldiers of the 49th Armored Infantry, were instrumental in capturing the Ruhr Valley, the center of the German armament industry. By capturing the Ruhr, they deprived the Nazis of the weapons they had used for so long to bring oppression and death across Europe. I am proud to represent Samuel Fisher, and so many other American heroes from the Second World War, and urge this House to join me in thanking Samuel Fisher and all World War II veterans for saving our country, and the world, from fascism.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NANCY  
RATZLAFF

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a talented artist from Craig, Colorado. Nancy Ratzlaff uses her creative gift to inspire people to think outside the box. Her enthusiasm spirals through the community as she passes her knowledge of art to her students. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing Nancy's tremendous service to the Craig community.

At sixty-one years old, Nancy Ratzlaff has been painting for more than 4 decades. She is both a commissioned artist and a teacher of her trade. Three years ago, Nancy suffered a heart attack that caused her to lose her leg and spend 5 months in the hospital. However, despite cumbersome crutches and an artificial leg, she continues to find time to teach painting at Craig's Colorado Northwest Community College. Nancy encourages her students to learn from each other and let art open them up to new challenges. She maintains that everyone has a creative drive inside because anyone who can dream can create.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy Ratzlaff is a dedicated individual who uses her talent to enrich the lives of members of her Craig community. Nancy has demonstrated a love for art that resonates in her compassionate and selfless service to her town. Nancy's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2003*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed the votes. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: Rollcall number 620—"yes"; rollcall number 621—"yes"; rollcall number 622—"yes"; and rollcall number 623—"yes."

AMERICANS PUSH FOR RENEWED  
FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 19, 2003*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, Congress has made good progress over the past 20 years in combating drunk driving, culminating when we passed legislation creating a national .08 blood alcohol content level in 2000. I am pleased that New York recently passed .08, which will save 500–600 lives in the U.S. annually when it is adopted by all states. All but a handful of states have .08 laws on the books—a testament to the effectiveness of the sanction.

Despite this progress, a disturbing complacency about drunk driving seems to have settled upon the nation. In 2002, alcohol-related fatalities rose for the third year in a row, and now account for well over 40 percent of all traffic fatalities. Last year, drunk driving took nearly 18,000 lives. Public policy experts are now beginning to grasp the full economic costs of drunk driving. When one factors health care costs, lost work time, collision repairs, and insurance, the price tag exceeds \$200 million annually.

Almost 6 years ago, a constituent, Burton Greene, was killed by a repeat offender with a .18 blood alcohol content. Mr. Greene's death inspired me to introduce legislation requiring tougher penalties for repeat offenders and high-BAC drivers.

About one-third of all drunk drivers are repeat offenders. Unfortunately, the lack of a national minimum standard for punishing repeat offenders and high-BAC drivers has created an easily exploitable, unwieldy patchwork of laws that varies from state to state. My legislation would require states to pass laws that employ a comprehensive approach to fighting drunk driving, including license restrictions, effective vehicle sanctions, treatment programs, ignition interlocks, fines, and imprisonment. This comprehensive system of penalties builds on the recommendations of numerous studies, as well as measures proven to be effective on the state and local level.

I am proud that Good Housekeeping magazine, which has always tackled the leading issues of the day, has become a partner in the effort to combat drunk driving. An article about Brigid Kelly, a young woman killed by an impaired driver with a suspended license, appeared in the July 2003 issue of the magazine. Brigid's senseless death, which has brought untold grief to her family and friends, is a wake up call to the nation and a powerful reminder of the stakes in the battle against drunk driving.

I was also touched by the response to the article. Over 6,000 readers took the time to write Good Housekeeping in support of national minimum standards for punishing repeat offenders. This outpouring leaves no doubt about where Americans stand on tougher penalties for chronic drunk drivers.

More than 40 people die daily from drunk driving. We should do all we can to prevent such tragedies. I encourage my colleagues to listen to the voices of Good Housekeeping's readers and support swift passage of the Burton Greene bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6,  
ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, this House considered H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003. Our country has been waiting almost three years for a sound and comprehensive energy bill, and I am sad to say that they will still be waiting if H.R. 6 is signed into law.

It was my hope that rolling blackouts in California three years ago, the terrorist attacks on September 11 two years ago, and the massive blackouts in the northeast this past August would have provided Congress with the will and fortitude to pass a truly comprehensive energy bill. This bill should have presented a clear vision of what our energy policies should be well into the 21st century; provided us with the tools and resources to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and improve the security of our nation; and made investments in alternative and renewable fuels to provide better answers to our energy needs than simply encouraging more drilling and more pollution. It is crystal clear that H.R. 6 fails on all these counts.

The Republican leadership crafted this 1,700-page bill in secret and sold out to special interests. For months, Republican leaders presided over meetings in which they were supposed to be laying the foundation for the nation's long-term energy priorities. Instead, they chose to negotiate the bill alone, refusing even to tell their Democratic colleagues where or when important sessions were being held. I believe that covering under the cloak of darkness and cutting backroom deals are not the ways a bill of this magnitude should be debated, discussed, and crafted.

The Energy Policy Act makes a number of changes to our nation's electricity system. The blackouts that wreaked havoc across parts of the Midwest and Northeast four months ago prompted legislators to include much-needed electricity reliability standards in the final bill. I believe this is a good first step in improving the transmission and distribution of the electricity that powers our homes and businesses. Despite this sound provision, H.R. 6 is wrong to repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA). PUHCA was designed to oversee mergers and prevent power companies from investing in unrelated businesses. PUHCA has been the linchpin in protecting investors and consumers from market fraud and abuse by utilities. By repealing PUHCA and not replacing it with a better alternative, the