PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on September 13, 2004, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district while making preparations for the probable landfall of Hurricane Ivan. Unfortunately, I missed rollcall votes no. 441, 442 and 443. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of the rollcall votes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to enter my statement into the record at the appropriate location.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SEAN LINDSTONE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Sean Lindstone, whose outstanding academic achievement has given him the opportunity to continue his education abroad. Sean has earned the prestigious Fulbright award to teach English as a foreign language in South Korea during the 2004–2005 academic year.

The Fulbright Program is the oldest of its kind in the United States and is designed to increase mutual understanding amongst international academia. Since its inception in 1946, the program has seen some 285,000 grantees. Recipients are selected on the basis of their academic, professional, and leadership potential within their respective fields.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mr. Lindstone and his achievements, and wish him all the best to come in his travel and studies.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, September 13, 2004, the House had votes on H. Con. Res. 363, H. Res. 667, H. Res. 760. On House rollcall votes Nos. 441, 442, 443, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three.

COMMON SENSE AUTOMOBILE EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2004

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that provides a credit for the purchase of new qualified fuel cell, hybrid, or other alternative fuel motor vehicle.

The Common Sense Automobile Efficiency Act of 2004 encourages consumers to purchase environmentally friendly vehicles that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously reducing our country's oil dependence. It repeals the phase-out of the Qualified Electric Vehicles Credit and Deduction for Clean Fuel-Vehicles so that 100% of the credit can be claimed through 2006. Consumers would receive a tax credit of up to $1,000 for hybrid gas-electric powered vehicles and $4,000 for fuel-cell vehicles.

Making our environment cleaner and reducing our dependence on foreign oil requires the participation of all stakeholders, including both consumers and manufacturers.

Cars, SUVs and other light trucks consume millions of barrels of oil every day and emit harmful amounts of carbon dioxide, a principal greenhouse gas. Passenger vehicles alone account for one-fifth of all U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. With significant fuel economy and low tailpipe emissions, alternative-fuel and advanced-technology vehicles help to reduce the environmental impact of driving an automobile. Getting more miles out of a gallon of gas means lessening our dangerous reliance on oil, lowering levels of key air pollutants, and saving consumers money at the gas pumps.

All Americans need a choice in buying cars that can increase their fuel-efficiency. While the average fuel economy of vehicles on the road is at a twenty-one year low, gasoline prices continue to strain business and family budgets. Americans now spend more than $500 million per day to fuel their cars and light trucks. Families deserve a more affordable way to get to work, school, vacation, home or any destination on the road. Businesses that rely on vehicles to function need the cost-efficiency of driving hybrid vehicles.

Although major automakers currently offer advanced technology and alternative fuel vehicles and plan to produce a full range of fuel-efficient options, including SUVs, mini vans, and pickup trucks, the cleanest vehicles available to the public should be more economical.

The tax incentives provided by this bill would not only save consumers money—but spur market demand for more fuel-efficient vehicles. As people around the country embrace cleaner, more efficient cars, American automobile manufacturers must continue to improve fuel efficiency in order not to lose market share and jobs. This bill would help automakers invest in the production of alternative fuel motor vehicles—and accelerate the introduction of newer models into the marketplace.

The Common Sense Automobile Efficiency Act provides a win-win situation for consumers, the economy, and the environment. It offers valuable incentives for the purchase and production of alternative vehicles and fuels—and enables consumers to help limit fuel consumption, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and protect our air quality.

IN PRAISE OF SAM BUDNYK

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise Sam Budnyk, a remarkable coach in South Florida who is retiring this year as head football coach for the Cardinal Newman High School Crusaders in West Palm Beach.

After 43 years as the school's only head football coach ever, Coach Budnyk has decided to retire his position. He also coached men's basketball and women's softball and track over the course of his career.

As first coach and athletic director, Coach Budnyk was responsible for pushing both minority and women's rights in high school athletics in Palm Beach County.

In 1965, he hired the first African-American assistant football coach to work at a private school in the state. By 1967, he was the first coach in the county in an all-white high school to have a football game against the all-black John F. Kennedy High School. In 1973, he was recognized by the National Organization for Women for allowing the first girl in Palm Beach County to run varsity track.

Not only have his victories been represented on the playing field, they also have resonated through the student-athletes who went on to various college institutions on scholarships and completed their education successfully. As the winningest coach in Palm Beach County history, Coach Budnyk was responsible for sending at least three of his Crusader football players to the NFL.

Sam Budnyk is a legend in his own time among all those who have met him, learned from him, became better people because of him—including my own father, who had the honor of serving as his assistant coach in football, baseball, basketball and track in the late '60s.

Sam Budnyk will still contribute at Cardinal Newman by remaining its athletic director and by teaching there. But his presence on the football field will be missed.

I would like to congratulate and thank him for all his selfless years of giving that have affected countless Newman graduates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, due to a prior commitment in my district, I missed the following rollcall votes yesterday: rollcall number 441 on passage of H. Con. Res. 363, rollcall number 442 on passage of H. Res. 667, and rollcall number 443 on passage of H. Res. 760. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of these votes.

HONORING RANCHO SANTA FE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Rancho Santa Fe Historical Society on their 20th anniversary, commemorating two decades of public service. The Society dedicates itself to preserving and documenting local history; while educating members of the community and visitors on such matters.