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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRSTSESSION

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House of Representatives

This being the day fixed by the 20th amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Public Law 108–433 for the meeting of the Congress of the United States, the Members-elect of the 109th Congress met in their Hall, and at noon were called to order by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Hon. Jeff Trandahl.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and eternal God, before You all Nations rise and fall.

We ask You to bless the United States of America with security, prosperity, generosity and peace.

Those who have been rightly elected by the people of the congressional districts across the Nation now stand before You, as the grateful inheritors with a great tradition of government by free people.

May they serve faithfully the people who have chosen them as their representatives in the 109th Congress.

With personal integrity, enable them to exercise day-to-day decisions that will uphold this Nation's Constitution and bring enlightened hope to a troubled world desirous of knowing a free democracy in action.

Let all Americans join in their own way of blessing these women and men, that they may establish justice, ensure lasting tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty.

In doing so, they will serve both You, our God, and our beloved Nation.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The CLERK. The Members-elect and their guests will please remain standing and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The Clerk 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.

The CLERK. Representatives-elect, this is the day fixed by the 20th amendment to the Constitution and Public Law 108–433 for the meeting of the 109th Congress and, as the law directs, the Clerk of the House has prepared the official roll of the Representatives-elect.

Certificates of election covering 435 seats in the 109th Congress have been received by the Clerk of the House, and the names of those persons whose credentials show that they were regularly elected as representatives in accordance with the laws of their respective States or of the United States will be called.

Without objection, the Representatives-elect will record their presence by electronic device and their names will be reported in alphabetical order by States, beginning with the State of Alabama, to determine whether a quorum is present.

There was no objection.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Representatives-elect responded to their names:

[Roll No. 1]

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—424

ALABAMA

Aderholt, Bachus, Bonner, Cramer, Davis, Everett, Rogers

ALASKA

Young

ARIZONA

Flake, Franks, Grijalva, Hayworth, Kolbe, Pastor, Renzi

ARKANSAS

Berry, Boozman, Ross, Snyder

CALIFORNIA

Baca, Becerra, Berman, Bono, Calvert, Capps, Cardoza, Costa, Cunningham, Davis, Doolittle, Dreier, Eshoo, Farr, Filner, Gallegly, Harman, Herger, Hunter, Issa, Lantos, Lee, Lewis, Lofgren, Zoe, McKeon, Millender-McDonald, Miller, Gary, Miller, George, Napolitano, Nunes, Pelosi, Pombo, Radanovich, Rohrabacher, Roybal-Allard, Royce, Sánchez, Linda T., Sanchez, Loretta, Schiff, Sherman, Solis, Tauscher, Thomas, Thompson, Waters, Watson, Waxman, Woolsey

COLORADO

Beauprez, DeGette, Hefley, Musgrave, Salazar, Tancredo, Udall

CONNECTICUT

DeLauro, Johnson, Larson, Shays, Simmons

DELAWARE

Castle

FLORIDA

Bilirakis, Boyd, Brown-Waite, Ginny, Crenshaw, Davis, Diaz-Balart, L., Diaz-Balart, M., Feeney, Foley, Harris, Hastings, Keller, Mack, Meek, Mica, Miller, Putnam, Ros-Lehtinen, Shaw, Stearns, Wasserman Schultz, Weldon, Wexler, Young

GEORGIA

Barrow, Bishop, Deal, Gingrey, Kingston, Lewis, Linder, Marshall, McKinney, Price, Scott, Westmoreland

HAWAII

Abercrombie, Case

IDAHO

Otter, Simpson

ILLINOIS

Bean, Biggert, Costello, Davis, Emanuel, Evans, Hastert, Hyde, Jackson, Johnson, Kirk, LaHood, Lipinski, Manzullo, Rush, Schakowsky, Shimkus, Weller

INDIANA

Burton, Buyer, Carson, Chocola, Hostettler, Pence, Sodrel, Souder, Visclosky

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IOWA

Boswell
King
Latham
Leach
Nussle

KANSAS

Moore
Moran
Ryun
Tiahrt

KENTUCKY

Chandler
Davis
Lewis
Rogers
Whitfield

LOUISIANA

Alexander
Baker
Boustany
Jefferson
Jindal
McCrery
Melancon

MAINE

Allen
Michaud

MARYLAND

Bartlett
Cardin
Cummings
Gilchrest
Hoyer
Ruppersberger
Van Hollen
Wynn

MASSACHUSETTS

Capuano
Delahunt
Frank
Lynch
Markey
McGovern
Meehan
Neal
Olver
Tierney

MICHIGAN

Camp
Conyers
Dingell
Ehlers
Hoekstra
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Knollenberg
Levin
McCotter
Miller
Rogers
Schwarz
Stupak
Upton

MINNESOTA

Gutknecht
Kennedy
Kline
McCollum
Oberstar
Peterson
Ramstad
Sabo

MISSISSIPPI

Taylor
Thompson
Wicker

MISSOURI

Akin
Blunt
Carnahan
Clay
Cleaver
Emerson
Graves
Hulshof
Skelton

MONTANA

Rehberg

NEBRASKA

Fortenberry
Osborne
Terry

NEVADA

Berkley
Gibbons
Porter

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bass
Bradley

NEW JERSEY

Andrews
Ferguson
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Holt
LoBiondo
Menendez
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Rothman
Saxton
Smith

NEW MEXICO

Pearce
Udall
Wilson

NEW YORK

Ackerman
Bishop
Boehlert
Crowley
Engel
Fossella
Higgins
Hinchey
Israel
Kelly
King
Kuhl
Lowey
Maloney
McCarthy
McHugh
McNulty
Meeks
Nadler
Owens
Rangel
Reynolds
Serrano
Slaughter
Sweeney
Towns
Velázquez
Walsh
Weiner

NORTH CAROLINA

Butterfield
Coble
Etheridge
Foxx
Hayes
Jones
McHenry
McIntyre
Miller
Myrick
Price
Taylor
Watt

NORTH DAKOTA

Pomeroy

OHIO

Boehner
Brown
Chabot
Gillmor
Hobson
Jones
Kaptur
Kucinich
LaTourette
Ney
Oxley
Portman
Pryce
Regula
Ryan
Strickland
Tiberi
Turner

OKLAHOMA

Boren
Cole
Istook
Lucas
Sullivan

OREGON

Blumenauer
DeFazio
Hooley
Walden
Wu

PENNSYLVANIA

Brady
Dent
Doyle
English
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Gerlach
Hart
Holden
Kanjorski
Murphy
Murtha
Peterson
Pitts
Platts
Schwartz
Sherwood
Shuster
Weldon

RHODE ISLAND

Kennedy
Langevin

SOUTH CAROLINA

Barrett
Brown
Clyburn
Inglis
Spratt
Wilson

SOUTH DAKOTA

Herseth

TENNESSEE

Blackburn
Cooper
Davis
Duncan
Ford
Gordon
Jenkins
Tanner
Wamp

TEXAS

Barton
Bonilla
Brady
Burgess
Carter
Conaway
Cuellar
Culberson
DeLay
Doggett
Edwards
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Granger
Green Al
Green, Gene
Hall
Hensarling
Hinojosa
Jackson-Lee
Johnson, E.B.
Johnson, Sam
Marchant
McCaul
Neugebauer
Ortiz
Paul
Poe
Reyes
Sessions
Smith
Thornberry

UTAH

Bishop
Matheson

VERMONT

Sanders

VIRGINIA

Boucher
Cantor
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Drake
Forbes
Goode
Goodlatte
Moran
Scott
Wolf

WASHINGTON

Baird
Dicks
Hastings
Inslee
Larsen
McDermott
McMorris
Reichert
Smith

WEST VIRGINIA

Capito
Mollohan
Rahall

WISCONSIN

Baldwin
Green
Kind
Moore
Obey
Petri
Ryan
Sensenbrenner

WYOMING

Cubin

□ 1234

The CLERK. The quorum call discloses that 424 Representatives-elect have responded to their name. A quorum is present.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The CLERK. The Clerk will state that credentials, regular in form, have been received showing the election of the Honorable LUIS FORTUNO as Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2005; the election of the Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia; the election of the Honorable DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN as Delegate from the Virgin Islands; the election of the Honorable ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA as Delegate from American Samoa; and the election of the Honorable MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO as Delegate from Guam.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CLERK

The CLERK. The Clerk will state that since the last regular election of Representatives to the 109th Congress, a vacancy now exists in the Fifth District of the State of California, occasioned by the death of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CLERK. Pursuant to law and to precedent, the next order of business is the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 109th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Clerk, for the past 6 years, this House has been led by a man with great strength, passion and a sense of fairness. With a steady hand and quiet conviction, he has helped to guide this body and this Nation through periods of both trial and triumph.

Therefore, Mr. Clerk, as chairman of the House Republican Conference, I am directed by the unanimous vote of that conference, and am very honored to present for election to the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 109th Congress of the United States of America the name of the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a Representative-elect from the State of Illinois.

The CLERK. The Clerk recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Clerk, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I am directed by a unanimous vote of that caucus to present for election to the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 109th Congress a lady of great distinction, a lady of integrity, a fighter for America's children and families and a leader not only of House Democrats but a leader for our Nation and this Congress, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, a Representative-elect from the State of California.

The CLERK. The Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT, a Representative-elect from the State of Illinois, and the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, a Representative-elect from the State of California, have been placed in nomination.

Are there further nominations?

There being no further nominations, the Clerk will appoint tellers.

The Clerk appoints the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), the gentleman

from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The tellers will come forward and take their seats at the desk in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The roll will now be called, and those responding to their names will indicate by surname the nominee of their choice.

The reading clerk will now call the roll.

The tellers having taken their places, the House proceeded to vote for the Speaker.

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 2]

HASTERT—226

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, Lincoln
Diaz-Balart, Mario
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

PELOSI—199

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

MURTHA—1

Taylor (MS)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Hastert

NOT VOTING—7

Cannon
Cox
Gutierrez
Honda
Northup
Norwood
Shadegg

Stated for Mr. HASTERT:

Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. Clerk, on rollcall No. 2 I missed the vote due to airline problems. Had I been present, I would have voted for the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT for Speaker of the House.

Mr. COX. Mr. Clerk on rollcall No. 2 I was in consultation with the leadership staff outside the chamber and was therefore not present when my name was called. Had I been present I would have voted for J. DENNIS HASTERT of Illinois as Speaker of the House.

□ 1337

The CLERK. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total of number of votes cast is 427, of which the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois has received 226, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI of the State of California has received 199, and the Honorable JOHN MURTHA of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has received 1 vote, with 1 recorded as ''present.''

Therefore, the Honorable J. DENNIS HASTERT of the State of Illinois is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 109th Congress, having received a majority of the votes cast.

The Clerk appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair: the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY); the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT); the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER); the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS); the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT); the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL); the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN); and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

The committee will retire from the Chamber to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair.

The Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 109th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, first may I thank my Democratic colleagues. What an honor it is to have my name placed in nomination as your leader to be Speaker of the House as the first woman and as the first Italian-American. I was honored by the kind remarks of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

It is a privilege, as the gentleman from New Jersey knows and as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) knows for us to represent this magnificently diverse caucus. Thank you for the honor of being your leader. It is a privilege to represent one of the greatest forces, in my view, for idealism, integrity and innovation in our country.

My thanks to the members of the Democratic Caucus.

I want to thank and acknowledge my husband, Paul. Thank you, Paul. In acknowledging Paul, I want to acknowledge all of the spouses who are here today for the contributions they make. I know Members all share my view when I say our husbands and wives, our spouses, and in my case my five children and five grandchildren, represented by Ryan and Madelaine here today, are the source of our strength and inspiration. Our children and grandchildren are the future. Many children are here today. We want them to know that we know and think it is our responsibility to make the future better for them.

To my constituents, I am grateful for the privilege of representing them.

I know Members all want to join me and the Speaker in acknowledging our courageous men and women in uniform.

□ 1345

As we end this holiday season, we know it is their service that makes it possible for us to strive for peace on earth and good will to mankind every day of the year.

A special congratulations and welcome to the Capitol to our newest Members of Congress, to our freshmen Members. You as freshmen are the fresh recruits. You are here to reinvigorate the Congress with your fresh ideas, straight from campaigns. We are all straight from campaigns. Our Founding Fathers planned it so that every 2 years Congress would be reinvigorated with new membership to bring new ideas and new energy to the debate. As you take your oath of office today, you not only enter the Congress, you enter the annals of history. You are colleagues not only with each other, you are colleagues with all those who have served before you.

Sadly, this weekend, we lost two of our most pioneering and courageous colleagues. Shirley Chisholm was the first African-American woman elected to Congress. Imagine the courage. She said of her service that it demonstrated the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo. We must make that legacy part of ours. When Shirley Chisholm came to Congress as the first African-American woman, it was not only a breakthrough for African Americans, it was not only a breakthrough for women, it was a breakthrough for America.

And we mourn the passing of someone who was a dear friend to so many of us here. BOB MATSUI would have been sworn in today. BOB was the living combination of intellect and passion, someone who understood the complexities, for example, of the Social Security system but never forgot what it meant simply to the lives of America's seniors. President Bush rightly called BOB a dedicated public servant and a good and decent man who served with distinction and integrity. Thank you, President Bush, for that acknowledgment.

As a small child, BOB MATSUI was in a Japanese internment camp. He was a third-generation American but nonetheless he was in an internment camp. But that never dampened his spirit about America or his family's spirit. He went on in his words and his deeds with a commitment to guide us to the better America that was his dream. Let that be our legacy as well.

And we cannot gather here today without talking about the unspeakable devastation the world has witnessed in South Asia. It presents a special challenge to us, not only for the millions of people who are struggling to recover and rebuild but for all of us who are called by our faith and by our common humanity to help those in need. When the victims of disasters in Asia see our soldiers bringing food and supplies, they see the best of America, an America that is compassionate. We need to work even harder, not only to present that America to the world but also to create that America here at home by staying true to our core American values. We do that by widening the circle of prosperity, because it is unacceptable that one in five children in America live in poverty.

Our sense of fairness demands that we expand access to health care because health care is a right, not a privilege. We must promote opportunity with a vibrant public education system and by making college education affordable to all Americans. We need to strengthen community, working to build safe communities free of crime and drugs and with a clean and healthy environment. And we must do this in a fiscally sound way by promoting accountability, by restoring fiscal discipline and paying as we go.

Above all, we must guarantee our national security with a military that is second to none, a strong commitment to homeland security, and a resolve to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction. How we respond to times of difficulty is what will define us as leaders and the ability to draw hope from times of challenge is what defines us as Americans. Each generation of Americans has made our country stronger and better for the next. I do not want anyone because we are talking about losing our colleagues and our former colleagues and the devastation in South Asia, to have any of that diminish the cause for celebration here today for our new Members, their families, their friends, indeed for all of us. The lives of Shirley Chisholm and BOB MATSUI should be cause for celebration and they give us hope and proof that each one of us can make a difference.

A better America is our inheritance. I believe that for all of us serving in the 109th Congress, it can also be our legacy. Though we are divided by party and this aisle, we are joined by our common oath to protect and defend the Constitution and to form a more perfect union.

To our freshmen, again welcome to Congress. On this day of celebration, I join the Speaker and all of our colleagues in congratulating you and your families. Again I will say that our Founding Fathers made special provision for this House to be constantly reinvigorated and every person here must be elected. We cannot let again the sadness in the past weeks diminish this cause for celebration.

The lives of Shirley and BOB offer us hope and proof, as I said. The tragedy in South Asia and its ramifications raises the expectations for leadership. How we respond to times of difficulty will define us.

When I was a young girl, a college student here in Washington, D.C., I had the privilege of hearing President Kennedy's inaugural address. In his inaugural address, he ended his remarks in the following way, and I think it was appropriate then and it is appropriate now. He said, ''With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own.''

Again I have the privilege to present the gavel, this is getting tiresome, Mr. Speaker. And it is not about you. Two years ago when I had the privilege of presenting the gavel, I said of the Speaker that all of us are called honorable because of the title we hold as Members of Congress. But DENNIS HASTERT is honorable because he is a man of great character and dignity and he deserves the title. It is now my privilege to present the gavel to a man, a gentleman of character, integrity and skill who brings the values of heartland America to this highest position in the Congress of the United States, and I speak on behalf of all of our House Democrats, Mr. Speaker, in saying we look forward to working with you in the days ahead to create a better America, the gentleman from Illinois, the Speaker of the House, DENNIS HASTERT.

Mr. HASTERT. Thank you, NANCY, for those gracious remarks. You have been an able leader for the Democratic Caucus in this House and you have helped lead this Congress with honor and distinction. We have disagreed on policy matters in the past, and I suspect we will disagree again in the future, but we both love this House of Representatives and the great democratic process of representative government.

NANCY, we have some serious issues to confront in this new Congress and I look forward to a vigorous debate in the months ahead, for it is through debate that we arrive at the policy decisions that will keep this Nation safe and make it stronger. This House is where we fight the battle of ideas and at the end of the day we make the laws that govern this Nation, and so it is a great honor to serve in this institution. It is a special honor to sit in this chair.

I thank each of you for allowing me once again to serve as your Speaker.

The new year confronted us with two sad tragedies. First came the images from the tsunami that ravaged countries bordering the Indian Ocean. Our deepest condolences go to all those who lost loved ones in this terrible event. Just as former Presidents Clinton and Bush will join together to coordinate private relief efforts here in the United States, we in the Congress will work together on a bipartisan basis to get the necessary relief to those in need.

Second, we lost one of our own on New Year's Day. I too want to pay tribute to our fallen colleague, BOB MATSUI. BOB holds a special place in the hearts of Members on both sides of the aisle. He was a man of strong principle but a kind and gentle spirit. He was a proud Democrat, but he also knew how to reach across the aisle when the interests of his country demanded it. He will be greatly missed in this House and we are a better House of Representatives because he served here.

Now let me welcome our new Members. We have 38 new Members, three of whom are returning after previous service here. Twenty-two of the new Members served in the State legislatures. Ten served in local government. For only the second time in House history, this class includes a Member whose ancestry is from the world's largest democracy, the nation of India. This is a motivated and talented group whom I believe will make a positive impact on the Congress for years to come.

I will not spend a great deal of time in these remarks to give you new Members a lot of advice, but I will say this. I hope that you will take the time to get to know your colleagues, to find mentors in this great body. There is a lot of wisdom and experience in this place. Even as each of you bring a new and fresh perspective to this place, there is also much to be learned from the past.

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to Europe to participate in the ceremonies commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, to see our young soldiers as we visited the hospitals and bases across Europe and also visit with old soldiers who had served and given their all 60 years ago to help keep this country free. It was a great experience.

□ 1400

Our former colleague and Republican leader, Bob Michel who was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, accompanied me along with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the dean of this House, another distinguished veteran, who will soon celebrate his 50th year in this body. And to you incoming Members, I must tell you I have learned much from these great men. In fact, I continue to learn from them. So, new Members, seek out the Henry Hydes and the Charlie Rangels and the Bill Youngs and the John Lewises and the many talented people who serve here. Get to know them and follow in their footsteps of distinguished service.

As we open the doors to the 109th Congress, we close the doors of the 108th Congress. Those returning Members can look with pride at the accomplishments of the last Congress: the historic reform of the Medicare system that includes a prescription drug package for our seniors, health savings accounts that give American consumers more power over their health care dollars, creation of the National Intelligence Director and a complete overhaul of our intelligence capabilities, tax relief that kept us out of a deep recession and will propel us into better economic growth in the future.

But there is still much work to do.

''Make no little plan,'' said Daniel Burnham, the architect who helped design the great city of Chicago. ''For they have no magic to stir men's blood.''

In this Congress, big plans will still stir men's blood. The 109th Congress will be the Reform Congress. We have big challenges that face this country, and we need big ideas to meet those challenges. Today we must seize the initiative. Today we must start anew the process of reforming our government. Security and prosperity only come with hard work and responsible government. Today let us get to that hard work.

First and foremost, we must make this country safe from those who would do us great harm. Every day that I look out the window of my office towards the Pentagon building, I am reminded of that monstrous attack on September 11, 2001, that killed 3,000 of our fellow citizens. And each day this Congress has taken important steps to make this country safer from the terrorists who seek to attack us again.

In the 107th Congress, we created the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. PATRIOT Act and the Visa and Border Security Act. In the 108th Congress, we created the Director of National Intelligence. And in this 109th Congress we have to continue making progress. We need to strengthen our borders, reform our asylum laws, and improve the national standards for driver's licenses.

The terrorists who attacked us did so by exploiting gaps in our border security system, by abusing our immigration laws, and by abusing the everyday freedoms that every American takes for granted, yet holds so dear to their hearts. We must fill those gaps.

As the Congress works to reform the executive branch, we must also work to reform our congressional oversight functions. In the 108th Congress, we created a Select Committee on Homeland Security. Today in the rules of the House that we will adopt shortly, I have proposed that we make the Select Committee on Homeland Security a permanent standing committee. Better oversight of the Department of Homeland Security will lead to better security for all Americans. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this effort.

As we secure the homeland, we must do everything we can to support our troops around the world who are on the front lines fighting the war on terror. I am troubled by accounts that our soldiers do not have the equipment and the armor to protect themselves against roadside bombs in Iraq. This cannot stand. This Congress, on a bipartisan basis, will continue to provide the resources needed to take care of our fighting men and women. Protecting our homeland and winning the war on terror are critical components of making this country more secure.

But long-term security means more than fighting the war on terror. It also means taking important steps to get our fiscal house in order. The President has laid out a bold reform agenda. We need to move aggressively on his reform agenda to protect our Nation from a looming fiscal crisis. This Congress and its predecessors have a covenant with older Americans. We have repeatedly promised to keep Social Security strong, and so it is there to protect today's seniors and is available to our children and our grandchildren. But to keep it safe, we need to make some important changes. If we wait too long, the consequences of inaction could be catastrophic.

And let me be clear. We do this without changing the system for those who receive Social Security benefits now. As we strengthen the Social Security system, we must also start a national debate on completely overhauling our Tax Code. In the last Congress, a lot of words were spoken on this floor about jobs leaving our country, about outsourcing. This Congress must do everything in its power to protect American jobs, and the one thing that kills American jobs is our Tax Code. Let me say that again. Our Tax Code is killing jobs in America. It disadvantages those who produce here to sell overseas and gives real great advantage to those who produce overseas to sell their products here. Our Tax Code is too complicated, it is too unfair, and it punishes job creators. It costs American taxpayers over $250 billion every year just to fill out their tax forms and comply with the IRS. America must have a simpler Tax Code, one that makes sense for all Americans.

As we debate the larger issues of reforming the Tax Code, we should keep in mind that increasing taxes just as the economy is getting its footing is simply wrong. This Republican majority will not raise taxes. We should continue to keep taxes low by making permanent the tax cuts we passed in the 107th and 108th Congresses. I disagree with the position of some of my colleagues who believe that we should raise taxes to cut the deficit. The best way to close the deficit gap is to keep the economy growing as we control spending. I appreciate the hard work of

the Committee on Appropriations slowing the growth of discretionary spending. We need to keep that kind of fiscal discipline in this Congress.

But we also need to take a look at entitlement spending. We must apply cost-savings technology to the government to improve efficiency, to cut down on waste, fraud, and abuse.

And as we look for ways to improve our Nation's economic future, we can start by finally passing laws to stop lawsuit abuse. Most people know how abusive lawsuits have driven many doctors, especially OB/GYNs, out of business. This is just one example of how lawsuit abuse hurts our citizens, particularly women and children. We have to bring common sense to our legal process. And, yes, there needs to be accountability for those who do harm, but abuses must be ended. That is why we must pass class-action reform this year.

Another impediment to our continued economic prosperity is the volatile energy market. We passed an energy conference report out of the House the last Congress, only to see it die in the other body. We need to finish the job this year.

And, finally, as we prepare our economy for the next 50 years, we must keep our transportation system on the cutting edge. Our roads, bridges, and ports not only move people; they also move products. And we must make at home those products to sell abroad, and we must keep those institutions viable that move them from the marketplace to the markets. To keep our products moving, we must finish the work on the transportation bill early this year.

As we move this aggressive reform agenda, let us ever be mindful of our responsibilities laid out in the Constitution. The Constitution begins by describing the legislative branch. Article I, section 1 says that all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Congress. The mission of the Congress, as laid out in the Constitution, is stark: establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, and provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. One hundred nine times, newly elected Members of Congress have gathered together to be sworn in, to pledge a solemn oath to uphold that Constitution. The size of the delegations have increased, the numbers of constituents have multiplied, and the demands on the Members seem more complex than ever. But the basics of doing the job have never really changed. Those Members who do best in this place are those who never lose sight of where they came from or whom they represent.

My congressional district lies in the heartland of America. My home is in the Fox River Valley, not the Potomac River. And I want to thank my constituents of the 14th District of Illinois for giving me the opportunity to serve them again. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to represent these great Americans.

And as I thank my constituents, I must also thank my most important constituent, my wife, Jean, who, by the way, is the Speaker in our house.

Jean, thank you for your patience, your guidance, your sense humor, and your wonderful common sense.

As elected representatives of the people, each of us shoulders a great burden of responsibility. Our families often bear the brunt of that burden. And let me thank all of the spouses and the children, many of whom are here in this Chamber today. We want to thank you for your sacrifices on behalf of the American people.

And as we begin this historic 109th Congress, let us also give thanks to our Creator for the blessings that He has bestowed upon us. May God bless this House and all who serve in it, and may God bless this great Nation we call America.

□ 1415

I now recognize the Dean of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), my good friend and colleague, who will administer the oath.

Mr. DINGELL then administered the oath of office to Mr. HASTERT of Illinois, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which you are about to enter. So help you God.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. According to precedents, the Chair will swear in all Members of the House at this time.

If the Members will rise, the Chair will now administer the oath of office.

The Members-elect and Delegates-elect and the Resident Commissioner-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now Members of the 109th United States Congress.

MAJORITY LEADER

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as their majority leader the gentleman from Texas, the Honorable TOM DELAY.

MINORITY LEADER

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as Minority Leader the gentlewoman from California, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI.

MAJORITY WHIP

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Republican Conference, I am directed by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority whip the gentleman from Missouri, the Honorable ROY BLUNT.

MINORITY WHIP

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority whip the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable STENY HOYER.

ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE, SERGEANT AT ARMS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND CHAPLAIN

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 1) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

Resolved, That Jeffrey J. Trandahl of the State of South Dakota be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Wilson S. Livingood of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives;

That James M. Eagen, III, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That Father Daniel P. Coughlin of the State of Illinois be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the resolution, but before offering that amendment, I request that there be a division of the question on the resolution so that we may have a separate vote on the Chaplain.

The SPEAKER. The question will be divided.

The question is on agreeing to that portion of the resolution providing for the election of the Chaplain.

That portion of the resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MENENDEZ

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the remainder of the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. MENENDEZ:

That Jerry Hartz of Iowa be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Dean Aguillen of Texas be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That Terri McCullough of California be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

The amendment was rejected.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

The remainder of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. Will the officers-elect of the House of Representatives please come forward.

The officers-elect presented themselves at the bar of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You have been sworn in as officers of the House.

NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 2) to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled and of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that J. Dennis Hastert, a Representative from the State of Illinois, has been elected Speaker; and Jeffrey J. Trandahl, a citizen of the State of South Dakota, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 3) authorizing the Speaker to appoint a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 3

Resolved, That a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 3

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled, and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 4) authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 4

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected J. Dennis Hastert, a Representative from the State of Illinois, Speaker; and Jeffrey J. Trandahl, a citizen of the State of South Dakota, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 5) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 5

Resolved, That the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, including applicable provisions of law or concurrent resolution that constituted rules of the House at the end of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, with amendments to the standing rules as provided in section 2 and with other orders as provided in section 3.

SEC. 2. CHANGES IN STANDING RULES.

(a) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—

(1) In clause 1 of rule X, insert after paragraph (h) the following new paragraph (and redesignate the succeeding paragraphs accordingly):

''(i) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.

''(1) Overall homeland security policy.

''(2) Organization and administration of the Department of Homeland Security.

''(3) Functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to the following:

''(A) Border and port security (except immigration policy and non-border enforcement).

''(B) Customs (except customs revenue).

''(C) Integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information.

''(D) Domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism.

''(E) Research and development.

''(F) Transportation security.''.

(2) In clause 1(I) (as redesignated) of rule X—

(A) insert after subparagraph (6) the following new subparagraph (and redesignate the succeeding subparagraphs accordingly):

''(7) Criminal law enforcement.''; and (B) amend subparagraph (9) (as redesignated) to read as follows:

''(9) Immigration policy and non-border enforcement.''.

(3) In clause 1(r) (as redesignated) of rule X—

(A) in subparagraph (18) insert before the period ''(except the Transportation Security Administration)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (20) after ''automobile safety'' insert ''and transportation security functions of the Department of Homeland Security''.

(4) In clause 1(t)(1) (as redesignated) of rule X, strike ''Customs'' and insert ''Customs revenue''.

(5) In clause 3 of rule X, insert after paragraph (e) the following new paragraph (and redesignate the succeeding paragraphs accordingly):

''(f) The Committee on Homeland Security shall review and study on a continuing basis all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security.''.

(6) In clause 10 of rule I, strike ''1(i)(1)'' and insert ''1(j)(1)''.

(7) In clause 1(j)(4) (as redesignated) of rule X, strike ''(q)(11)'' and insert ''(r)(11)''.

(8) In clause 1(j)(5) (as redesignated) of rule X, strike ''(q)(11)'' and insert ''(r)(11)''.

(9) In clause 9(f) of rule X, strike ''1(i)(1)'' and insert ''1(j)(1)''.

(10) In clause 1(c) of rule XI, strike ''1(i)(1)'' and insert ''1(j)(1)''.

(11) In clause 4(a)(2)(B) of rule XIII, strike ''1(i)(1)'' and insert ''1(j)(1)''.

(12) In clause 5(a)(3) of rule XIII, strike ''1(i)(1)'' and insert ''1(j)(1)''.

(13) In clause 10 of rule XXIV, strike ''1(i)(1)'' and insert ''1(j)(1)''.

(b) COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES.—In clause 2(d)(1) of rule X—

(1) in subdivision (C), strike ''and'';

(2) in subdivision (D), strike the period and insert ''; and''; and

(3) add at the end the following new subdivision:

''(E) have a view toward insuring against duplication of Federal programs.''.

(C) MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES.—

(1) In clause 5(a)(2) of rule X—

(A) amend subdivisions (A)(ii) and (A)(iii) to read as follows:

''(ii) one Member designated by the elected leadership of the majority party; and

''(iii) one Member designated by the elected leadership of the minority party.''; and

(B) amend subdivision (B) by striking ''one from the elected leadership of a party'' and inserting ''one described in subdivision (A)(ii) or (A)(iii)''.

(2) In clause 5(c)(2) of rule X, strike ''A member'' and insert ''Except in the case of the Committee on Rules, a member''.

(d) COMMITTEE AUTHORITIES.—

(1) In clause 1 of rule XI, amend paragraph (a) to read as follows:

''(a)(1)(A) The Rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable.

''(B) Each subcommittee is a part of its committee and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee and to its rules, so far as applicable.

''(2)(A) In a committee or subcommittee—

''(i) a motion to recess from day to day, or to recess subject to the call of the Chair (within 24 hours), shall be privileged; and

''(ii) a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution shall be privileged if printed copies are available.

''(B) A motion accorded privilege under this subparagraph shall be decided without debate.''.

(2) In clause 2(a) of rule XI, add at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(3) A committee may adopt a rule providing that the chairman be directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII whenever the chairman considers it appropriate.''.

(e) MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES.—In clause 1 of rule XV—

(1) amend the caption to read: ''SUSPENSIONS''; and

(2) in paragraph (a) amend the second sentence to read as follows: ''The Speaker may not entertain a motion that the House suspend the rules except on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and during the last six days of a session of Congress.''.

(f) REPEAL OF CORRECTIONS CALENDAR.—

(1) In rule XV, strike clause 6 (and redesignate the succeeding clause accordingly).

(2) In clause 1 of rule XIII, strike paragraph (b) (and redesignate the succeeding paragraph accordingly).

(3) In clause 4(a)(2) of rule XIII, strike subdivision (C) (and redesignate succeeding subdivisions accordingly).

(4) In clause 6(c)(1) of rule XIII, strike ''clause 7'' and insert ''clause 6''.

(5) In clause 2(a) of rule XVIII, strike ''clause 7'' and insert ''clause 6''.

(6) In clause 8(a)(2) of rule XX—

(A) strike subdivisions (E) and (G) (and redesignate succeeding subdivisions accordingly); and

(B) amend subdivision (E) (as redesignated) by striking ''(D), or (E)'' and inserting ''or (D)''.

(g) REFERENCES IN DEBATE TO THE SENATE.—In clause 1 of rule XVII, amend paragraph (b) to read as follows:

''(b) Remarks in debate (which may include references to the Senate or its Members) shall be confined to the question under debate, avoiding personality.''.

(h) PROVISIONAL QUORUM.—In clause 5 of rule XX, redesignate paragraph (c) as paragraph (d) and insert after paragraph (b) the following new paragraph:

''(c) (1) If the House should be without a quorum due to catastrophic circumstances, then—

''(A) until there appear in the House a sufficient number of Representatives to constitute a quorum among the whole number of the House, a quorum in the House shall be determined based upon the provisional number of the House; and

''(B) the provisional number of the House, as of the close of the call of the House described in subparagraph (3)(C), shall be the number of Representatives responding to that call of the House.

''(2) If a Representative counted in determining the provisional number of the House thereafter ceases to be a Representative, or if a Representative not counted in determining the provisional number of the House thereafter appears in the House, the provisional number of the House shall be adjusted accordingly.

''(3) For the purposes of subparagraph (1), the House shall be considered to be without a quorum due to catastrophic circumstances if, after a motion under clause 5(a) of rule XX has been disposed of and without intervening adjournment, each of the following occurs in the stated sequence:

''(A) A call of the House (or a series of calls of the House) is closed after aggregating a period in excess of 72 hours (excluding time the House is in recess) without producing a quorum.

''(B) The Speaker—

''(i) with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader, receives from the Sergeant-at-Arms (or his designee) a catastrophic quorum failure report, as described in subparagraph (4);

''(ii) consults with the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader on the content of that report; and

''(iii) announces the content of that report to the House.

''(C) A further call of the House (or a series of calls of the House) is closed after aggregating a period in excess of 24 hours (excluding time the House is in recess) without producing a quorum.

''(4)(A) For purposes of subparagraph (3), a catastrophic quorum failure report is a report advising that the inability of the House to establish a quorum is attributable to catastrophic circumstances involving natural disaster, attack, contagion, or similar calamity rendering Representatives incapable of attending the proceedings of the House.

''(B) Such report shall specify the following:

''(i) The number of vacancies in the House and the names of former Representatives whose seats are vacant.

''(ii) The names of Representatives considered incapacitated.

''(iii) The names of Representatives not incapacitated but otherwise incapable of attending the proceedings of the House.

''(iv) The names of Representatives unaccounted for.

''(C) Such report shall be prepared on the basis of the most authoritative information available after consultation with the Attending Physician to the Congress and the Clerk (or their respective designees) and pertinent public health and law enforcement officials.

''(D) Such report shall be updated every legislative day for the duration of any proceedings under or in reliance on this paragraph. The Speaker shall make such updates available to the House.

''(5) An announcement by the Speaker under subparagraph (3)(B)(iii) shall not be subject to appeal.

''(6) Subparagraph (1) does not apply to a proposal to create a vacancy in the representation from any State in respect of a Representative not incapacitated but otherwise incapable of attending the proceedings of the House.

''(7) For purposes of this paragraph:

''(A) The term 'provisional number of the House' means the number of Representatives upon which a quorum will be computed in the House until Representatives sufficient in number to constitute a quorum among the whole number of the House appear in the House.

''(B) The term 'whole number of the House' means the number of Representatives chosen, sworn, and living whose membership in the House has not been terminated by resignation or by the action of the House.''.

(i) POSTPONEMENT OF CERTAIN VOTES.—In clause 8(a)(2) of rule XX, add at the end the following new subdivisions:

''(G) The question of agreeing to a motion to reconsider or the question of agreeing to a motion to lay on the table a motion to reconsider.

''(H) The question of agreeing to an amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole.''.

(j) OFFICIAL CONDUCT.—

(1) In rule XXIV, amend clause 1 to read as follows:

''1. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may not maintain, or have maintained for his use, an unofficial office account. Funds may not be paid into an unofficial office account.

''(b)(1) Except as provided in subparagraph (2), a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commission may defray official expenses with funds of his principal campaign committee under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq).

''(2) The funds specified in subparagraph (1) may not be used to defray official expenses for mail or other communications, compensation for services, office space, furniture, or equipment, and any associated information technology services (excluding handheld communications devices).''.

(2) In clause 6 of rule XXIII, amend paragraph (c) to read as follows:

''(c) except as provided in clause 1(b) of rule XXIV, may not expend funds from his campaign account that are not attributable to bona fide campaign or political purposes.''.

(3) In clause 8 of rule XXIV, strike ''60 days'' and insert ''90 days''.

(4) In clause 5(b)(4)(D) of rule XXV, strike ''either the spouse or a child of the Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee'' and insert ''a relative of the Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee''.

(k) PROCEDURES OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.—

(1) DUE PROCESS.—In clause 3 of rule XI—

(A) in paragraph (k), add at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(3) The committee shall adopt rules providing that before a letter described in subparagraph (1)(A) is issued, the committee shall transmit written notification to the Member, officer, or employee of the House against whom the complaint is made of the right of such person to review the contents of the letter. Such person shall have seven calendar days after receipt of such notification in which either to accept the letter (in which case the committee may issue the letter), to contest the letter by submitting views in writing (which shall be appended to the letter when issued and made part of the record), or to contest the letter by requesting in writing that the committee establish an adjudicatory subcommittee as if the letter constituted an adopted statement of alleged violation (in which case the committee shall establish an adjudicatory subcommittee and shall not issue the letter).

''(4) The committee shall adopt rules providing that, if a letter described in subparagraph (1)(A) references the official conduct of a Member other than one against whom the complaint is made, the committee shall transmit written notification to such Member of the right of such Member to review

the contents of the letter. Such Member shall have seven calendar days after receipt of notification in which either to submit views in writing (which shall be made part of the record and appended to the letter, if issued), or to request in writing that the committee establish an adjudicatory subcommittee as if the letter constituted an adopted statement of alleged violation (in which case the committee shall establish an adjudicatory subcommittee).'';

(B) in paragraph (p), insert after subparagraph (5) the following new subparagraphs (and redesignate succeeding subparagraphs accordingly):

''(6) whenever notification of the committee's decision either to dismiss a complaint or to create an investigative subcommittee is transmitted to a respondent, such respondent shall have seven calendar days after receipt of such notification in which to submit views in writing, which shall be appended to the notification and made part of the record;

''(7) whenever notification of the committee's decision either to dismiss a complaint or to create an investigative subcommittee is transmitted to a respondent and the notification references the official conduct of a Member other than the respondent, the committee also shall send the notification to such Member, who shall have seven calendar days after receipt of such notification in which either to submit views in writing (which shall be appended to the notification and made part of the record), or to request in writing that the committee establish an adjudicatory subcommittee as if the notification constituted an adopted statement of alleged violation (in which case the committee shall establish an adjudicatory subcommittee);''; and

(C) in paragraph (q)—

(i) amend subparagraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) Whenever an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a statement of alleged violation—

''(A) it shall transmit a report to that effect to the respondent, who shall have seven calendar days after receipt of such report to submit views in writing, which shall be appended to the report and made part of the record;

''(B) it shall thereafter transmit the report (together with views received under subparagraph (2), if any) to the committee; and

''(C) the committee may by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members transmit such report to the House;'' and

(ii) insert after subparagraph (1) the following new subparagraph (and redesignate succeeding subparagraphs accordingly):

''(2) whenever an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a statement of alleged violation and prepares a report to that effect, and such report alleges that a Member (other than one who is the subject of the statement of alleged violation) has or may have violated the Code of Official Conduct—

''(A) the subcommittee shall transmit a copy of the report to such Member; and

''(B) such Member shall have seven calendar days after receipt of the report (after which the report shall be transmitted to the committee and handled in the manner prescribed in subparagraph (1)) to—

''(i) submit views in writing, which shall be appended to the report and made part of the record; or

''(ii) request in writing that the committee establish an adjudicatory subcommittee as if the allegations in the report constituted an adopted statement of alleged violation, in which case the committee shall establish an adjudicatory subcommittee;''.

(2) DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINTS.—In clause 3 of rule XI—

(A) in paragraph (b), strike the undesignated text following subparagraph (2)(B);

(B) in paragraph (k)(1)(B), insert after ''subcommittee'' the following: ''(unless, at any time during the applicable periods of time under this subparagraph, either the chairman or ranking minority member has placed on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee, in which case an investigative subcommittee may be established only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the committee)''; and

(C) in paragraph (k)(2), strike ''then they shall establish'' and all that follows and insert ''and an investigative subcommittee has not been established, then such complaint shall be dismissed.''.

(3) CHOICE OF COUNSEL BY RESPONDENTS AND WITNESSES.—In clause 3(p) of rule XI—

(A) amend the caption to read ''DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF RESPONDENTS AND WITNESSES'';

(B) amend subparagraph 9 (as redesignated) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(C) amend subparagraph 10 (as redesignated) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) add at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(11) a respondent shall be informed of the right to be represented by counsel of his or her choice (even if such counsel represents another respondent or a witness), to be provided at his or her own expense; and

''(12) a witness shall be afforded a reasonable period of time, as determined by the committee or subcommittee, to prepare for an appearance before an investigative subcommittee or for an adjudicatory hearing and to obtain counsel of his or her choice (even if such counsel represents a respondent or another witness).''.

(I) TECHNICAL AND CODIFYING CHANGES.—

(1) In clause 1(s) (as redesignated) of rule X—

(A) in subparagraph (6), strike ''servicemen'' and insert ''servicemembers''; and

(B) in subparagraph (7), strike ''Soldiers'' and sailors''' and insert ''Servicemembers'''.

(2) In clause 5(b)(2)(B)(iii) of rule X strike ''must'' and insert ''may''.

(3) In clause 3(a)(2) of rule XIII, after ''clause 4'' insert ''or clause 6''.

(4) In clause 6 (as redesignated) of rule XV—

(A) in paragraph (e) strike ''rule'' and insert ''clause''; and

(B) in paragraph (f) strike ''for a recess'' and insert ''that the Speaker be authorized to declare a recess''.

(5) In clause 5(b) of rule XX, strike ''a majority of those present'' and insert ''a majority described in paragraph (a)''.

(6) In clause 5(d) (as redesignated) of rule XX, strike ''or removal'' and insert ''removal, or swearing''.

(7) In the second sentence of clause 2(f) of rule XXI, strike ''is not subject'' and insert ''are not subject''.

(8) In clause 7(c) of rule XXII, amend subparagraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) During the last six days of a session of Congress, a motion under subparagraph (1) shall be privileged after a conference committee has been appointed for 36 hours without making a report and the motion meets the notice requirement in subparagraph (1).''.

SEC. 3. SEPARATE ORDERS.

(a) BUDGET MATTERS.—

(1) During the One Hundred Ninth Congress, references in section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to a resolution shall be construed in the House of Representatives as references to a joint resolution.

(2) During the One Hundred Ninth Congress, in the case of a reported bill or joint resolution considered pursuant to a special order of business, a point of order under section 303 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 shall be determined on the basis of the text made in order as an original bill or joint resolution for the purpose of amendment or to the text on which the previous question is ordered directly to passage, as the case may be.

(3) During the One Hundred Ninth Congress, a provision in a bill or joint resolution, or in an amendment thereto or a conference report thereon, that establishes prospectively for a Federal office or position a specified or minimum level of compensation to be funded by annual discretionary appropriations shall not be considered as providing new entitlement authority under section 401 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(4)(A) During the One Hundred Ninth Congress, until a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2005 is adopted by the Congress, the provisions of the conference report to accompany Senate Concurrent Resolution 95 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress shall have force and effect in the House as though the One Hundred Ninth Congress has adopted such conference report.

(B) The allocations of spending authority included in the conference report, as adjusted during the 108th Congress, shall be considered the allocations contemplated by section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(b) CERTAIN SUBCOMMITTEES.—Notwithstanding clause 5(d) of rule X, during the One Hundred Ninth Congress—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services may have not more than six subcommittees;

(2) the Committee on International Relations may have not more than seven subcommittees; and

(3) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure may have not more than six subcommittees.

(c) NUMBERING OF BILLS.—In the One Hundred Ninth Congress, the first 10 numbers for bills (H.R. 1 through H.R. 10) shall be reserved for assignment by the Speaker to such bills as he may designate.

Mr. DELAY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise for a constitutional point of order.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, the resolution we are preparing to consider, the proposed rules for the 109th Congress, in my judgment violates the United States Constitution which we were just sworn to uphold and defend. It does so by allowing a very limited number of Members, potentially only a handful, to constitute the House of Representatives.

□ 1430

Article 1, section 5 of the Constitution states that ''each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its Members, and a majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a small Number adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent Members.''

Unfortunately, H. Res. 5 seeks to allow a small number not just to adjourn or compel attendance, as the Constitution stipulates, but to enact laws, declare war, impeach the President, and fulfill all other article I responsibilities.

The very first act of the very first Congress of the United States was to recess day after day after day because they lacked a quorum. Just moments ago everyone in this body took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution, and now our first official vote is by rule to undermine a fundamental principle of that Constitution, i.e., what is a quorum. It is my understanding that the Speaker is reluctant to judge on matters of constitutionality. I respect that. But I would reserve and inform the Speaker it is my intent to ask the question of consideration to be put.

The SPEAKER. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me respond by saying that the gentleman is absolutely right when he states that the Chair does not rule on questions of constitutionality.

I would also like to say that on this question that is being brought forward by my friend, it is very clear to me based on statements that have been made by a wide range of constitutional scholars that what we are doing in the rules package that we are about to consider is in fact constitutional. In fact, before the Committee on Rules the very distinguished former Solicitor General Walter Dellinger said the following: ''It is simply inconceivable that a Constitution established to provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare would leave the Nation unable to act in precisely the moment of greatest peril. No constitutional amendment is required to enact the proposed rule change because the Constitution as drafted permits the Congress to ensure the preservation of government.''

Let me further, Mr. Speaker, say that the Committee on Rules intends to conduct further examination of the best way for the House to assure a continuity of government during a national emergency, and it is our hope that as we proceed with this work that further discussions will take place with the members of that very distinguished panel, the Continuity Commission, which included our former colleague, Senator Simpson, and Speakers Foley and Gingrich and former minority leader Bob Michel, Leon Panetta, Kwasi Mfume, and I believe we will have a chance to proceed with this; but I think it would be very appropriate for us to proceed with consideration of the rules package that we have.

The SPEAKER. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the point of order. The Constitution defines a quorum to conduct business as the majority of each House.

The question of course before us in this debate is, a majority of what? What is the denominator in that equation?

The precedent holds that the total number of the membership of the House is those Members who are chosen, sworn and living and whose membership has not been terminated by action of the House. Removal by action of the House is also a defined term, expulsion by a vote of two-thirds in article 1, section 5.

The Constitution also gives the House the authority to compel attendance when Members do not answer the call of the Chair in such manner and under such penalties as each House may provide. And, in fact, the Sergeant at Arms has been sent to gather Members by force on prior occasions.

This amendment before us to the rules gives the Speaker nearly unfettered authority to change the number of the Members of the whole House to exclude Members who are chosen, sworn, and living but who do not answer the call of the Chair. This would seem to amount to a constructive expulsion without a two-thirds vote of the whole House.

For example, suppose the House is at its full complement of 435 Members. A quorum would then be 218. Now, suppose only 400 Members answer the Speaker's call for whatever reason. They are still living. They are still chosen. They are still sworn. They have not been expelled. Now a quorum by order of the Speaker would be 200. The House may conduct its business with only 200 Members present. If this is triggered in a time of national emergency, the consequences could be dire.

Mr. Speaker, we heard the distinguished chair, or maybe he is only the presumptive chair, of the Committee on Rules, at this point; but in any event, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) said a moment ago that this proposed rules change is constitutional because the Constitution could not have contemplated that the House could not function. But the Constitution did not contemplate that the majority of the Members of the House might in fact be the victims of an act of mass terrorism. Those things were not contemplated at the time.

The fact is we do need to amend the Constitution to take care of this very serious question; but this provision for the reasons stated by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD), for the reasons that I stated a moment ago, is clearly unconstitutional. Certainly, before we take such a measure, it deserves much more extensive debate and hearings and discussion than it can have by three or four speakers in this context now.

So I urge that Members take careful consideration to the question of constitutionality here. This may provoke court action, and we should not adopt this now in the context of an overall rules change with this very serious amendment to the Constitution, which is what it amounts to; it cannot receive adequate consideration in terms of its constitutionality either in terms of its merit.

The SPEAKER. Does any other Member wish to be heard on this point of order?

The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I realize that September 11 was a tragic day in America, certainly a wake-up call within the States.

I also remind the Members of this body that in the War of 1812 this building was occupied by a foreign army. So for the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) to say that they could not have foreseen these circumstances taking place, what in the heck is he talking about? This building was occupied and set on fire by a foreign army. And yet the Congress at that time did not try to change the rules so that a minority within a minority could govern.

If we are going to amend the Constitution, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is exactly right: someone should offer a constitutional amendment. If we are going to change the law, then someone should offer a change to the law; but let us not through the House rules try to rewrite the Constitution of this Nation.

This Nation has been around for a long time. It is going to be around for a long time, but only if we continue to do things as the Founding Fathers would have wanted us to do them and not some backdoor-approach like this.

The SPEAKER. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from Washington makes a point of order that the resolution adopting the rules of the House for the 109th Congress is not in order because it contains a provision that the House does not have the constitutional authority to propose.

As recorded in section 628 of the House Rules and Manual, citing numerous precedents including volume 2 of Hinds' Precedents at sections 1318–1320, the Chair does not determine the constitutionality of a proposition or judge the constitutional competency of the House to take a proposed action, nor does the Chair submit such a question to the House as a question of order. Rather, it is for the House to determine such a question by its disposition of the proposition, such as by voting on the question of its consideration, as recorded in volume 2 of Hinds' Precedents of section 1255, or by voting on the question of its adoption, as recorded in volume 2 of Hinds' Precedents at section 1320. The Chair would apply these precedents even before the adoption of the Rules of the House as a matter of general parliamentary law.

As such, the House may decide the issues raised by the gentleman by way

of the question of consideration of the resolution or the question of adopting the resolution. The point of order is not cognizable.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Before the gentleman proceeds, the Chair would like to announce that any Member-elect who failed to take the oath of office may present himself or herself in the well of the House prior to any vote.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), kindly come to the well of the House and take the oath of office at this time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. MALONEY and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which you are about to enter. So help you God.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, consistent with the oath of office that I just took, I would request that the question of consideration be put to the body.

The SPEAKER. The question is, Will the House now consider House Resolution 5.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, this will be an electronic vote on the question of consideration.

There was no objection.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 192, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 3]

YEAS—224

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Conaway
Cox
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Nunes
Nussle
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—192

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

PRESENT—1

Rohrabacher

NOT VOTING—11

Barrow
Capps
Cole (OK)
Feeney
Johnson (CT)
Larsen (WA)
Millender-McDonald
Pascrell
Serrano
Simmons
Solis

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER-ELECT

The SPEAKER (during the vote). Will the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) kindly come to the well of the House and take the oath of office at this time.

Mr. COX appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which you are about to enter, so help you God.

□ 1508

Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OWENS and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. RADANOVICH changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the question of consideration was decided in the affirmative.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 3 on consideration of H. Res. 5, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) or her designee, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rules package. I am also rising in support of the historic legislative agenda it will govern, for today marks the beginning of what historians will likely look back upon as the most productive and significant Congress in decades.

The mandate granted the majority, evidenced by our increased majorities in both Houses of Congress and the first Presidential majority in 16 years, is clear. The American people have entrusted the state of their security, prosperity and families to us; and over the course of the next 2 years, that sacred trust will be honored by action.

We will continue to defend our homeland and prosecute the war on terror without retreat, and without excuses. We will provide our military, and their families, with the resources they need to do their heroic work on behalf of the Nation they serve.

We will hold rogue regimes accountable for their mischief, and hold fast to our friends around the world, from defiant democrats in Israel and Taiwan, to longstanding comrades-in-arms like the British and Australians, to our resurgent allies in New Europe.

We will work with our ever-expanding coalition of the willing to secure the fledging democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq, and with every political, economic, diplomatic and military tool at our disposal, see the war on terror through to victory.

Domestically, our agenda will be no less audacious. We will continue the work begun in President Bush's first term to cultivate an opportunity society of economic choice and independence. We will continue to break down the walls, erected by 40 years of liberal policies, between the American people and their dreams. We will continue to provide seniors with access to affordable, quality health care while empowering them with unprecedented retirement security.

We will continue to take on the three-headed monster of over-taxation, over-litigation and over-regulation that cuts the legs out from every sector of our economy.

And while the 109th Congress helps increase our national security and prosperity, we will also help American families raise their children in a society defined by the values that made our Nation secure and prosperous in the first place. We will continue to better protect and educate our children, to protect the institution of marriage, to protect the Constitution from judicial activism, and protect the role of family and faith in the public square.

This rules package before us now will help us do this important work, work the American people have hired us to do.

And yet, rather than laying out a positive vision for the next 2 years, or for that matter even discussing the substance of the rules package itself, some may choose this debate to launch the first of what I imagine will be countless personal attacks against the integrity of the majority and, ultimately, the integrity of this institution.

It is a new year, Mr. Speaker, but an old game, and one to which we cannot afford to stoop. Too much is at stake; too much depends on the success of this historic 109th Congress.

To my friends on the other side of the aisle, I would remind them all that I know what it means to be in the minority, to go into contentious votes certain of defeat, to always react to an agenda set by opponents. But I must also remind them that when Republicans were in the minority, we engaged in the battle of ideas. We developed, and specifically proposed, a substantive vision for the future of our Nation.

In the 10 years since that vision was endorsed by our countrymen, we have been honored to work with all members of the minority on one issue or the other to develop successful legislative coalitions.

With our close partisan margins and 24-hour media culture, we sometimes forget we are opponents, not enemies. We would all do well to remember that, especially given the stakes, the significance and, frankly, the sheer weight of the agenda before us.

So I urge all Members to support the rules package before us so we can immediately get to work on behalf of the men and women who sent us here.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to once again serve as leader; but even with all of the gratitude I feel toward you, our conference and toward this body, the source of the honor I feel today is not all in this Chamber. The source of the honor each of us rightfully feels today is our friends and families who have given us their love, the American people who have given us their trust, the men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line for us every day, and our heavenly Creator who knitted us together in the womb.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless the work and workers of the 109th Congress, may God bless the cause of justice and freedom around the world, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the balance of the time allocated to me be controlled by the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) for his fine statement and for yielding me the time to discuss this opening-day rules package.

Mr. Speaker, the House is an institution built upon its rules. Accordingly, it is very appropriate that one of the first orders of business for this 109th Congress will be to adopt a rules package which is both true to the traditions and very forward thinking in its outlook for the work of this Congress that lies ahead.

The package we have before us represents the work product of many Members. During the initial stages of compiling this rules package back in November, the Committee on Rules received 40 different proposals from both Democrats and Republicans. In addition to that, our committee staff has actively sought the input of the officers of the House, its committees and its caucuses to get their perspectives on the kinds of changes we can make to facilitate the work of the House.

All of the ideas contained in this resolution reflect the considered judgment of our colleagues and will ultimately improve our ability to carry out our constitutional responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD at this point detail on each of these changes in a section-by-section analysis.

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY OF H. RES. 5, ADOPTING HOUSE RULES FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

SECTION 1. RESOLVED CLAUSE.

The rules of the House of Representatives for the 108th Congress are adopted as the rules of the House for the 99th Congress with amendments as provided in section 2 and with other orders as provided in section 3.

SEC. 2. CHANGES IN STANDING RULES.

(a) Committee on Homeland Security. Creates a standing Committee on Homeland Security, and grants it legislative and oversight jurisdiction. First, the Committee's jurisdiction includes overall homeland security policy so that it can focus on national policies affecting the Federal government. Second, the jurisdiction includes authority over the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s internal administration. Third, the Committee would have jurisdiction over functions of the DHS relating to six specified areas. These include: (A) Border and port security (except immigration policy and non-border enforcement); (B) Customs (except customs revenue); (C) Integration, analysis and dissemination of homeland security information; (D) Domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism; (E) Research and development; and (F) Transportation security. Additionally, the Committee would have broad oversight authority over government-wide homeland security matters. Finally, changes are made to the jurisdictions of three committees. First, the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction is modified by adding new subparagraphs for Criminal law enforcement and Immigration policy and non-border enforcement. Second, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdiction is modified to exclude transportation security by adding exceptions in two subparagraphs. Third, the Committee on Ways and Means' jurisdiction is modified by adding the word ''revenue'' to the clause containing customs. [Rule X]

(b) General oversight responsibilities—insuring against duplicative programs. Adds to the required list of content included in each standing committee's adopted oversight plan as submitted to the Committees on Government Reform and House Administration a review of Federal programs with a view to insuring against duplication of such programs. [Rule X, clause 2(d)(1)]

(c)(1) Membership of Budget Committee. Permits one member of the Budget committee majority and one member of the minority to be ''designated'' by the respective elected leaderships. Current rules require such members to be ''from'' elected leadership. [Rule X, clause 5(a)(2)]

(c)(2) Rules Committee Organization. Authorizes the chairman of the Committee on Rules to serve as chairman, notwithstanding the prohibition on serving more than three consecutive terms. [Rule X, clause 5(c)(2)]

(d)(1) Privileged motions in committee—Recess subject to the call of the chair. Allows for a privileged motion in committee to

recess subject to the call of the chair for a period less than 24 hours. Currently only a motion to recess from day to day is privileged. [Rule XI, clause 1(a)(1)(B)]

(d)(2) Motion to go to conference. Allows committees to adopt a rule directing the chairman of the committee to offer a privileged motion to go to conference at any time the chairman deems it appropriate during a Congress. Currently a motion to request or agree to a conference with the Senate is privileged if the committee authorizes the chairman to make such a motion. [Rule XI, clause 2(a)]

(e) Motion to suspend the rules. Extends suspension authority beyond Monday or Tuesday to include Wednesday. [Rule XV, clause 1(a)]

(f) Repeal of Corrections Calendar. Removes Corrections Calendar from the Standing Rules of the House. [Rule XV, clause 6]

(g) Allows references to the Senate. Allows remarks in debate to include references to the Senate or its Members. Remarks are to be confined to the question under debate, avoiding personality. [Rule XVII, clause 1]

(h) Provisional quorum. Provides for continuity of legislative operations in the House in the event of catastrophic circumstances. The rule allows for the House to conduct business with a provisional quorum only after a motion to compel members attendance, as prescribed under clause 5(a) of rule XX, has been disposed of and the following occur in sequence without the House adjourning: (A) A call of the House or a series of calls of the House totaling 72 hours without producing a quorum; (B) the Speaker, with the Minority and Majority Leaders, receive from the Sergeant-at-Arms (or his designee) a catastrophic quorum failure report and shall consult with the Minority and Majority Leaders on the contents of such report and shall announce the contents of such report to the House; and (C) A further call of the House or series of calls are conducted for a total of 24 hours without producing a quorum. A catastrophic quorum failure report is defined as a report advising that the inability of the House to establish a quorum is attributable to catastrophic circumstances involving natural disaster, attack, contagion, or similar calamity rendering Members incapable of being present. The report shall be prepared on the basis of the most authoritative information available after consultation with the Attending Physician, the Clerk and pertinent public health and law enforcement officials. A catastrophic quorum failure report shall describe the number of vacancies in the House, the names of Members considered to be inacapacitated, the names of Members not incapacitated, but otherwise incapable of being present, and the names of Members unaccounted for. The report shall be updated every legislative day and such updates shall be made available to the House. [Rule XX, clause 5(c)]

(i) Postponement of certain votes. Adds the motion to reconsider, tabling motions to reconsider and amendments reported from the Committee of the Whole among those votes the Speaker may postpone to a designated place in the legislative schedule within two additional legislative days. [Rule XX, clause (a)(2)]

(j)(1)–(2) Allowing the use of campaign funds to pay for certain official expenses. Allows Members to use campaign funds to pay certain, limited types of official expenses (e.g., handheld communication devices). This change conforms House Rules to current law (Sec. 105, P.L. 108–83), and mirrors Rules that took effect in the Senate in 2002. [Rule XXIV and Rule XXIII, clause 6(c)]

(j)(3) Use of frank for mass mailings before an election. Amends the rule to conform to section 3210 of title 39 United States Code, stating that a mass mailing is not frankable when it is postmarked less than 90 days before the date of a primary or general election which he is a candidate for public office. Currently the rules states 60 days. [Rule XXIV, clause 8]

(j)(4) Gift rule on officially connected travel. Expands the category of individuals who may accompany a Member or staff person on such a trip at the sponsor's expense to include a relative of the Member or the staff person. Under a provision of the current gift rule (clause 5(b)(4)(D) of the House Rule XXV), a Member or staff person may be accompanied on a privately funded, officially connected trip, at the sponsor's expense, only by either his or her ''spouse or a child'', and not by any other relative. [Rule XXV, clause 5(b)(4)(D)]

(k)(1) Due process for Members. Affords Members the opportunity to be heard in the event the Standards Committee alleges the Member has violated or may have violated the Code of Conduct. Members may opt for either an adjudicatory proceeding or they can submit a response to the Committee report/letter with their response being made public with Committee report/letter. Under the current rule, the Chairman and Ranking Member, or the Committee, may take action against a Member without a complaint, notice, or the opportunity to be heard. [Rule XI, clause 3]

(k)(2) Restore presumption of innocence. Provides that no action will be taken on a complaint unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority member of the Standards Committee, or the Committee itself, find within 45 days that further investigation is merited by the facts of the complaint, maintaining the presumption of innocence. Currently, if the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member take no action on a properly filed complaint within 45 days, the matter automatically goes to an investigative committee. [Rule XI, clause 3]

(k)(3) Right to counsel. Provides that Members may select a counsel of their choice even if that counsel represents other Members. [Rule XI, clause 3]

(1) Technical and codifying changes. Technical and grammatical changes are made throughout the rules of the House.

SEC. 3. SEPARATE ORDERS.

(a)(1)–(a)(3) Continuation of budget enforcement mechanisms from the 108th. Clarifies that section 306 of the Budget Act (prohibiting consideration of legislation within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction, unless reported by the Budget Committee) only applies to bills and joint resolutions and not to simple or concurrent resolutions. It also makes a section 303 point of order (requiring adoption of budget resolution before consideration of budget-related legislation) applicable to text made in order as an original bill by a special rule. Specified or minimum levels of compensation for federal office will not be considered as providing new entitlement authority.

(a)(4) Continuation of budget ''deeming'' resolution from the 2nd Session of the 108th Congress. Establishes that the provisions of the Senate Concurrent Resolution 95 of the 108th Congress, shall have effect in the 109th Congress until such time as a budget resolution for the fiscal year 2005 is adopted.

(b) Extra subcommittees for Armed Services, International Relations, and Transportation & Infrastructure. A waiver of Rule X, clause 5(d), is granted for Armed Services and Transportation & Infrastructure for 6 subcommittees, and International Relations for 7 subcommittees in the 109th Congress.

(c) Numbering of bills. In the 109th Congress, the first 10 numbers for bills (H.R. 1 through H.R. 10) shall be reserved for assignment by the Speaker to such bills as he may designate when introduced.

□ 1515

The gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) is the author of one important provision directing committees to review matters within their jurisdiction to ferret out duplicative government programs as part of their oversight planning at the beginning of each Congress.

We are also making the ability to consider suspensions on Wednesdays permanent in this Congress after the very successful experiment we had with suspensions on Wednesday in the 108th Congress.

The package includes important provisions to allow us to function in situations where large numbers of Members are incapacitated. We discussed that earlier, Mr. Speaker. The provisional quorum language includes a number of safeguards to ensure that this institution can continue to operate during times of turmoil and to ensure that democracy will be preserved. We are living in a post-9/11 world and it is very important that we continue to expend a lot of time and energy dealing with the institutional challenges as well as the challenges that our Nation faces under these circumstances.

I would like to say, also, Mr. Speaker, that we will eliminate the corrections calendar. This was originally intended to make it easier to consider legislation making corrections to outright errors that are in law but it turned out to after a while become more cumbersome than other procedures that we already have to deal with that, such as the suspension calendar.

And, yes, Mr. Speaker, in a change guaranteed to draw applause from my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the House rules will now allow us to make reference to the Senate and its members, so long as those references are confined to the question under debate and that they avoid personality. The Senate has long had a similar provision and this new rule merely conforms our rules to theirs. I know that my colleagues and I share the desire to maintain our traditions of dignity and decorum in proceedings, and I believe that we can do that even with the rules change that I have just discussed.

On another topic, the package makes a series of changes to our ethics rules. We included two provisions suggested by the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, number one, clarifying the rule on officially connected travel to allow a family member other than a spouse or child to travel with the Member at the sponsor's expense and, two, conforming the rules of the House to current law which allow the use of campaign funds to pay for certain official expenses, such as cell phones.

By the way, we also have included a provision suggested by the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut

(Mr. LARSON) to conform the rules of the House to current law with regard to the 90-day preelection limit on franked mail.

The package also includes two other provisions addressing our ethics rules. The first gives Members the same rights to choose their counsel before the Ethics Committee that they would enjoy if they were a respondent in a court case. The second change addresses an inequity in the Standards Committee process requiring an investigative subcommittee if the chairman and ranking member do not act within 45 days. This change restores the presumption of innocence in our process. Let me say that we are going to be hearing from the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in just a few minutes, Mr. Speaker.

As important as each of those changes are, perhaps the most important change in this resolution will be, as the Speaker said in his very thoughtful opening statement here today, the creation of a new standing Committee on Homeland Security. It represents a far-reaching and critically important part of our overall strategic effort to protect the American people. The 9/11 Commission unanimously called for this action. They saw the need, and we believe most Members do as well.

Over the past 3 years, the Congress has asked the American people to accept change in countless ways. We have mandated change at the Federal, State and local levels. We have asked for change from our allies and forced change upon our enemies. And we saw the need for change over 2 years ago, and we responded here, first with the enactment of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and then with the formation of the Select Committee on Homeland Security. Their final report, a thorough and complete study of homeland security jurisdiction as it relates to House rules, was transmitted to the Committee on Rules at the end of last year. This change in House rule X, which governs the committees and their legislative jurisdictions, is a delicately crafted architecture. It creates a primary committee while recognizing the other legitimate oversight roles of existing committees. We envision a system of purposeful redundancy. By that, we mean more than one level of oversight and an atmosphere in which the competition of ideas is encouraged.

With this jurisdiction and the legislative history that I will be placing in the RECORD, the Department of Homeland Security will have more certainty as to which committee has the primary responsibility for homeland security. At the same time, the American people will live with the assurance that we are working to prevent anything from falling through the cracks.

Mr. Speaker, the new committee will have jurisdiction over, first, overall homeland security policy; second, the organization and administration of the Department of Homeland Security; and, third, functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to border and port security, except immigration policy and nonborder enforcement; customs, except customs revenue; the integration, analysis and dissemination of homeland security information, domestic preparedness for, and collective response to, terrorism, research and development, and transportation security as well.

By approving this resolution, Mr. Speaker, the House will do what the Speaker and the 9/11 Commission as well as the President has asked us to do, consolidate jurisdiction of the House into one committee. This committee will be dedicated to setting national homeland security policy and to effectively overseeing that the Department of Homeland Security carries out its mission.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as we discuss this resolution, I will look forward to questions from my colleagues about jurisdictional matters, but I will say that clearly the issue of referral lies solely in the hands of the Speaker. I will in no way be responding in a manner which would infringe on that power of the Speaker. Once again I want to say on all of these issues, and especially the last one, which was a great challenge in trying to fashion a new Committee on Homeland Security with jurisdiction that emerged from many other committees was not an easy task. I want to congratulate Speaker HASTERT for the leadership that he has shown on this and I want to thank all of the committee chairmen who were involved in this process. I believe that with the passage of this House rules package, we will be able to create a stronger and a safer America, which is a priority for every single one of us who has taken the oath of office today.

I urge support of this package of rules.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, all over Washington and in the country, people are talking today about the majority's last-minute decision to abandon rules changes that would have eviscerated longstanding ethical guidelines in this House, and, with that, the integrity of the institution. And while in the end the majority was right to withdraw these provisions, they hardly deserve our congratulations. The Republicans simply succumbed to tough criticism from every major ethics group in Washington, several major news organizations and House Democrats. The rules changes in question were so egregious that rank-and-file Republicans would not support their leadership's plan. The proposals were so offensive that the Ethics Committee chairman broke with his own leadership on the issue.

One of the changes would have permitted Members, indicted by a grand jury on felony counts, to continue to hold House leadership positions. The measure was similar to a conference rule the House Republican Conference passed last fall to protect its leadership in the event that one of them is indicted. The fact that they ever considered changing the rules of the House in this disgraceful manner is a sad commentary on the ethical compass of this body's leadership.

They also planned to eliminate a 30-year standing rule that Members of Congress could be disciplined for actions that brought dishonor and discredit on this House, the people's House. This standard is similar to the one that exists for the men and women serving in our military. How could they even think about changing the House rules in this regard when to do so would mean demanding a higher ethical standard from an 18-year-old private in the Army than we who sit in this hallowed Chamber? How could we ask more from our young people than we ask of ourselves?

It is hard to believe that there was a time in the not too distant past when the Republicans touted their high ethical and moral standards. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that this entire episode has been a violation of the public trust. When Americans enter their voting booths and cast their ballots for Congress, they give us a very precious gift, their trust. American voters expect, and rightly so, that we as Members of Congress will conduct ourselves at the highest ethical standard and uphold democratic principles such as integrity and accountability. How can we as the guardians of democracy spread the values of self-governance across the world if we refuse to govern ourselves right here in this Chamber?

Mr. Speaker, though we should all be relieved that the Republicans were shamed into abandoning the most overtly egregious provisions, the remaining ethics provisions in today's legislation will still destroy the House ethics process. I cannot say it more plainly than that. The ethics process will be destroyed. The tactics have changed, but the end result is the same. The House ethics system will be gutted.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is the only evenly divided committee in the House. As the rule stands today, if the five Republicans and five Democrats on the committee do not reach agreement about the merits of an ethics complaint, it is automatically referred to investigators. This approach was designed to take the partisan politics out of the equation and to ensure that meritorious complaints would be investigated regardless of the political winds of the day. Under the Republican rules package, one-half of the committee will now have the power to bury complaints, even the most meritorious ones. Under the rules package before us today, if the committee is deadlocked,

the ethics complaint dies. This one provision gives the Republicans an enormous amount of control over who is and who is not investigated by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

In practical terms, the Republicans have granted themselves veto power over any complaint it does not deem palatable. Mr. Speaker, this rules package would effectively eliminate the 45-day deadline the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct currently has to act on complaints. The 45-day requirement was designed to prevent ethics complaints from being buried away from public view and to ensure that those Members who should be held accountable for corruption would be. This provision ensures that no ethics complaint will move forward against a Republican without their leadership's consent.

Mr. Speaker, we can be sure that if these rules changes had been in place in the last Congress, no ethics complaints would have seen the light of day. Under the Republicans, the ethical climate in Washington has eroded enormously. When I speak to constituents, I find myself telling them to forget what they learned in school about how a bill becomes a law. In times past, our laws were written to serve the public interest. But today the sad reality is that corporations like Enron write our Nation's policies. The Medicare drug bill that was rammed through Congress in the dead of night stands as a potent example of the ethical erosion of the House of Representatives. When the dust settled on the prescription drug vote, former Representative Billy Tauzin, the key author and then chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, had himself a $2-million-dollar-a-year job lobbying with the drug industry. After the ethical circus surrounding the prescription drug vote, this body should be acting to strengthen the ethics systems in this House, not to destroy it. We were even unable, Mr. Speaker, to ascertain from any official of the Federal Government how much the bill actually cost.

The Republican rules package will reduce this committee to a paper tiger. The American people deserve much better than to have a ''for sale'' sign placed on the United States House of Representatives. They deserve to be able to trust their elected leaders and have faith in the integrity of this institution. They should be able to expect accountability from their government. Unfortunately, the lesson we have here today is if you have the power and you break the rules, you can just change the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are Members on the other side of the aisle, because I know them, who care greatly about the integrity of this Chamber, and I know that there are freshmen Members here today eager to cast their first vote on behalf of the constituents whose trust they hold and the Constitution they love. I challenge those new Members, and any other Republican who values integrity and the sanctity of the democratic process, to stand up for the values of those who trusted you to represent them.

Mr. Speaker, at the close of this debate, I will be asking Members to vote ''no'' on the previous question so I can strike from the rules package language that would allow the Republicans to run out the clock on serious ethics complaints. Immediately following that vote, I will ask for a ''yes'' on a motion to commit the resolution so that we can add two important rules changes. The first would prohibit Members from negotiating lucrative job deals that capitalize on their committee membership. The other would guarantee that Members have at least 3 days to read a House report before voting on it. When bills are rushed to the floor, cobbled together at the last minute, warm from the machine, pages are missing or, worse, outrageous provisions are slipped in by committee staff.

□ 1530

Lest we forget, the provision that opened up private taxpayers' records that was sneaked into last year's omnibus spending bill was by just such a staff member.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote to strike the egregious ethics changes in this package. We owe it to the constituents we serve, to this institution, and to the Constitution that we adore and revere to restore the ethics and integrity to the people's House.

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

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

I just want to say to the gentlewoman from Rochester, New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) that every single Member of this institution, Democrat and Republican alike, is very concerned and focused on the integrity of this institution; and I believe that that is something which is an extraordinarily high priority for all of us. I believe that the package that we have coming before us is one which addresses many of the concerns that frankly were raised by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Miami, Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), my colleague on the Committee on Rules.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise in strong support of the rules package this afternoon. The different aspects that compose it are very important, and they will contribute to this House's being able to function in a more efficient and effective manner in the next 2 years. The due-process-for-Members aspect of this rules package is extremely important precisely because of the integrity of the House. The integrity of the House includes the integrity of Members whose reputation may be impugned or unfairly attacked, and thus all Members that make up this House deserve due process. And that is what we are trying to achieve today.

I have worked long and hard in the last 2 years, along with the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules, the Speaker, and their staffs, to try to formulate a most difficult proposal for something that is, despite its difficulty, very necessary, and that is a standing Select Committee on Homeland Security. Due to the leadership of the Speaker of this House, that is becoming a reality today. We are doing it in this rules package. The provisional quorum safeguard is historic in nature, and it is constitutional. It is a constitutional means to prevent the possibility that terrorists could paralyze our representative government.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support and urge the adoption of this rules package.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the first day of a new Congress should be a day for hope. It should be a day when all of us look forward with optimism to the work ahead. But today is not that kind of day. Instead, the leadership of this House is beginning the new year in the worst possible way, by gutting the ethical standards of the United States House of Representatives. Talk about starting off on the wrong foot.

In the rules package before us today, the Republican leadership is sending a very clear message. They are admitting that they are so ethically challenged that they cannot conform to the rules they previously adopted, so they must now relax those rules. What an awful example to the Nation and to the rest of the world. We should be strengthening the ethical standards of this House, not weakening them.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party regained a majority of seats in this body in 1994, in part by promising greater accountability and a more honest system in the Nation's capital. Their actions have been anything but honest; and now with this rules package, their rush to the bottom continues. Today is just one more example of the ethical lapses we have seen in this House, a House where major legislation is now written by industry lobbyists, a House where Members are not even given the courtesy of being able to read bills before they are voted on, and a House where bad behavior is not reprimanded, but rewarded.

As Members of Congress, we should be held to the highest possible ethical standards. That means not breaking the law. That means not dancing around the law, and that means conducting ourselves in a manner that reflects credibility on the House at all times.

Facing the possible indictment of a Member of their leadership, the Republicans attempted in secret to change the rules to protect their ethically challenged colleagues. However, in the face of mounting public controversy, the public leadership caved last night and rescinded the change. They blinked and they buckled. But the Speaker's spokesman commented on this flip-flop saying that the issue had become a ''distraction.'' Not wrong, mind you, but just distracting. I am getting whiplash just watching all this stuff.

But, Mr. Speaker, let us be clear that the Republican leadership did not find religion in this issue. If they believed that what they were about to do was truly wrong, they would not have proposed these rule changes in the first place. But while Republicans try to pull a fast one claiming that the majority leader fell on his sword for the good of his party, the truth is that the rules package for the 109th Congress still in a very meaningful way fundamentally weakens the ethics system here in the House of Representatives.

I strongly urge the American people and members of the press and my colleagues to closely examine these rule changes, especially those made to the ethics standards. Under the old rules, a properly filed ethics complaint is automatically investigated if that complaint is not acted upon within 45 days.

Remember, as the gentlewoman from New York stated, that the ethics committee is evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans; and to ensure that partisan politics did not prevail in the ethics process, a tie vote ensures a formal investigation.

But under this proposed rules package, there must be a majority vote to investigate a properly filed ethics complaint; and if that complaint is not acted upon with within 45 days, that ethics complaint dies. In other words, Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the committee, whoever that may be, could stonewall the process, refuse to call for a vote, and ultimately kill any ethics complaint without any action. But this also allows any Member potentially under investigation to run the clock out by stonewalling investigators until the 45 days are up.

The American people deserve better than this from their elected representatives. We serve at the pleasure of our constituents, and we have a responsibility to uphold the highest ethical standards. Over the past decade, the Republican leadership has careened down the pathway of irresponsibility, and now we are at a crossroads. There are those of us who truly believe Members of Congress should be held to a higher standard and who will make a stand and fight for real accountability from our colleagues, and there will be those who blindly follow their leadership, who vote to weaken the rules of this institution, first written by Thomas Jefferson, because they fear the retribution of their leaders.

This should be a place where honesty and integrity are the standard, not a place where the rules are changed merely to protect a powerful few from their own ethical shortcomings.

Mr. Speaker, we can stop this debacle. Let us start over. Let us make this right. Let us make the House of Representatives an example of high standards and ethical decency. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rules package.

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

Let me say after having heard from two of my Committee on Rules colleagues that I anxiously look forward to working with them in a bipartisan way to try to proceed with the deliberations in consideration of measures of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

I am going to support this rules package. I was not. I came here today fully expecting not to support it; but because of the action taken last evening where we reconsidered some of the suggestions that had been made, I think we have a package now that we can live with. I think some of the recommendations that are in here are ill conceived, and I would hope to work with the chairman again in a bipartisan way with him and his committee and with the leadership to make some additional changes as we go through the process.

But I want to thank him and thank the Speaker and the leadership for accommodating my concerns about some of the amendments that I thought were the most difficult and the ones that created the biggest problem in trying to implement the Code of Official Conduct.

Each of us, in fact all of us, individually and collectively, have a responsibility to maintain the highest standard of conduct for this House. And changes in the rules, as was said by the previous speaker, should strengthen, not weaken, those standards. As it stands now, I think the previous speaker said we are gutting the ethics committee standards now. We are not as it stands now. I would not be standing up here encouraging people to support the rules package if in any way I thought we were gutting it. We are tweaking it, and as I said earlier, we are tweaking some of it in a way that I wish we were not tweaking it, but it does not gut it. It is something that the rules work pretty well the way they are now, and this does not change that that much.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct since 1997 and have had an additional responsibility as serving as chairman since 2001. And during that time, I have learned one paramount lesson: ethics must be bipartisan. The ethics process must be bipartisan. Ethics reform must be bipartisan, and the ethics committee must be bipartisan. And I can tell the Members the ethics committee is bipartisan.

I see our ranking member over here. I could not have a better partner in this ethics process than the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN). The ethics committee is a bipartisan committee that follows the evidence wherever the evidence leads. Meaningful ethics reform must be genuinely bipartisan. To have a bipartisan process, any significant change in the ethics rules must be made only after careful, thorough bipartisan consideration, as was done in 1989 and 1997.

In 1989 and 1997, ethics reform came only after a broad consensus developed for change. I have always strongly supported reevaluating the ethics rules and procedures and making changes wherever a need is shown. I think a number of the criticisms of the ethics process that have been made over the past year are well taken and should be looked at. On the other hand, since I joined the committee, almost every significant decision, I believe every significant decision, has been made on a unanimous vote.

Despite the deletion of the amendment that I found the most objectionable to the Code of Conduct, the rules package includes a number of provisions that would make major changes in the ethics-related rules, but as to which neither the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct nor Members outside the rules process were consulted. While I will not vote against the rules package because of these provisions, I urge the leadership to reconsider all the amendments added to the committee's procedural rules without a bipartisan process.

In 1997 the House, through a bipartisan task force, carefully studied the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct's enforcement procedures, made a series of changes. The rules package includes provisions that would significantly alter those procedures. It would be a mistake to reverse these bipartisan determinations without a bipartisan process of our own.

The 45-day thing that has been mentioned, I do not like that. I think that creates a problem in trying to implement a fair and even-handed ethics process. I would like to see that removed.

When in 1997 the Bipartisan Task Force Report was before the House, the House significantly rejected, on a bipartisan vote of 181 to 236, an amendment that would have required automatic dismissal of any complaint after 180 days, not 45 days. The reason for rejection of that amendment, as set out in the floor debate, is that such an artificial time limit on the life of a complaint would serve to encourage deadlock within the committee and partisanship among committee members.

I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker. I think that is something we need to look at. The ranking member and I and

the members of the ethics committee have been considering a group of suggestions that we would like to bring to the full House. We would like to do that, Mr. Speaker, shortly after the new session of Congress convenes, when we are ready for that process. I think that is the way it ought to be done. These are the people that struggle with these issues every day. I think they ought to be concerned about what we think would make the process better. They do not have to follow it, but at least be concerned about it. The process in the House is not perfect. Let us strive to make it perfect. On this one issue, let us act together on a bipartisan basis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) will control the time for the minority.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) for his presentation.

We were told the President wants to proceed on a bipartisan fashion in the next 4 years to deal with the important issues that confront our Nation.

□ 1545

I think that is appropriate and, hopefully, we will do that. However, on this first day, the rules package is usually a partisan package. It was when Democrats were in charge; it is now when Republicans are in charge. That is understandable. But as the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) has so correctly pointed out, there was an exception, and that exception was dealing with the ethics of this institution which, in fact, deals with the confidence that the American public has in this institution.

Mr. Speaker, the opening day of a new Congress should be one in which the interests of this institution are paramount. The body of rules we adopt to govern debate, decorum, and the actions of our Members should reflect that. To be sure, the American people who elected us to this great body can expect to see sharp differences on this floor over the substance of legislation. That is as the framers of the Constitution planned.

But the framers also intended, I believe, and the American people deserve to know, that this House is committed to holding its Members to the highest ethical standards.

Today, as I think has been attested to by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), the House moves in the wrong direction. The rules proposed for the 109th House ignore the fundamental principle of protecting the ethics of this House. The proposed Republican rules before us will seriously weaken the ability of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to enforce standards of integrity by providing that no action will be taken on a properly filed ethics complaint after 45 days unless the committee votes by a majority vote to take action. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) will speak, who chaired with Bob Livingston, our former colleague, the amendment of these rules.

Under the current rules, which have functioned well since 1997, a properly filed complaint that has not been addressed by the chair and ranking member or the committee itself automatically goes to an investigative subcommittee. That is as it should be. Inaction ought not to be tantamount to dismissal. That is what this proposal does. The Republican proposal would make it extremely difficult to investigate properly filed complaints.

Under this new rule, either side, either side will be able to guarantee a deadlock when a legitimate, factually strong ethics complaint against a Member is filed, provided the chair or ranking member take no action.

We have been told that the most egregious attempts to weaken the ethics systems have been abandoned. I beg to differ. The most egregious attempt is the one before us now currently remaining in this rule. Let no one miss this distinction: the proposal to protect an indicted leader, a proposal that has been withdrawn by the majority, always was speculative, because we do not know if a leader will be indicted. In sharp contrast, however, the rule before us will have a concrete, demonstrable effect on every ethics complaint filed from this day forward.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is the only mechanism that this institution has to police itself. When we weaken the committee, we weaken the standards that we are all expected to uphold, and we erode public confidence in this institution.

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) spoke eloquently to the maintenance of the status quo when he was in the minority urging us to be vigilant in rooting out unethical behavior in this institution. He was right then. He is not correct now in offering this rule which weakens that process.

The adoption of this rule will substantially weaken our commitment to ensuring ethical conduct. I think the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) was right in his letter. I think he had the intellectual honesty and integrity on this floor when he spoke. He is going to vote for the rule because he believes that some offensive aspects of the proposal have been taken out. But I tell my friend that the most egregious, long-lasting, impacting change remains in this package.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues on behalf of the American people, on behalf of the integrity of this institution, on behalf of our commitment to ensure ethical conduct on behalf of the American people, that this not be passed.

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

I would like to respond to my very good friend from Maryland by saying that I may not be as eloquent today as I was when I was in the minority, but I continue to share my very strong commitment to ensure the integrity and the behavior of Members of this institution. I also will say as my friend said, it is very clear that the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, has made it clear that he is supportive of this package. I and my colleagues looked at these recommendations, all of which emerged from members and former members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. I also believe that it is very possible for us to maintain the highest ethical standards and to continue to ensure, to now ensure that due process is entitled to Members of this institution as they proceed with matters before that committee.

So I believe that this package is one which should enjoy strong bipartisan support, because when it comes to matters of ethics it will address the concern and the protection of Members of both the minority and the majority, as well as this institution as a whole.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the ranking member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

(Mr. MOLLOHAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the ethics-related provisions that are in this package at the insistence of the Committee on Rules. I had the honor of serving as ranking member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the last Congress. It was an honor to serve with the gentleman from Colorado (Chairman HEFLEY), as he always managed to chair the committee in a completely bipartisan manner.

The headlines in this morning's paper say ''GOP Abandons Ethics Changes.'' It turns out that the headline is at best only half right. It is true that the most outrageous ethics undermining provision has been deleted from the rules package, but other provisions, provisions that would make major changes in the way the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct handles enforcements of the rules, they remain.

There should be no misunderstanding that these provisions that remain would seriously undermine the ethics process in the House, both because of the changes they would make in committee procedures, but, and equally important, because of the partisan way in which they are being adopted. If there is to be a meaningful, viable ethics process in the House, it must be a genuinely bipartisan process. That

point should be self-evident. How could there be a legitimate ethics process that is operated on a partisan basis? And to have a bipartisan process, it is absolutely essential that any major changes in the rules be made on a truly bipartisan basis. What is more, because of the importance and the sensitive nature of the ethics rules, it is also essential that any proposed changes be considered in a thoughtful, considered, and open way, with all Members being given the opportunity for input, Democrats and Republicans.

Until today, the House recognized these fundamental points. Until today, the House has not attempted to make major changes in the ethics rules or the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct procedures in a slapdash way, with literally only hours of consideration, and on a party line vote.

It will probably come as no surprise that the materials issued by the Committee on Rules that attempt to justify these amendments are based entirely on misstatements of the current rules. For example, under the benign sounding heading, ''Restore Presumption of Innocence,'' the Committee on Rules memorandum states, ''Currently, if the chairman and ranking minority member take no action on a properly filed complaint within 45 days, the matter automatically goes to an investigative subcommittee.'' Fine. But that statement is incomplete and, therefore, misleading.

The rules that have been in effect since 1997 clearly provide that at any time that a complaint is before the chairman and ranking member for consideration, either one of them may place the complaint on the committee's agenda and when either one of them does that, an investigative committee cannot be established without a majority vote of the committee.

Another example, Mr. Speaker. Under the heading ''Due Process for Members,'' the Committee on Rules memorandum states that, ''Under the current rule, the chairman and ranking member or the committee may take action against a Member without a complaint, notice, or the opportunity to be heard.''

This statement clearly implies that the committee may determine that a Member has committed a violation or impose a sanction without the Member having such rights, and that suggestion, Mr. Speaker, is flatly wrong. The rules are replete with the rights for Members who are accused of any violation.

When you turn to the actual text of the ''due process'' amendments, you find that what these amendments are concerned with is not committee actions that impose sanctions or determine violations, but instead on committee letters or statements that ''reference the official conduct of a Member.'' It may be well that the rules should provide certain rights to a Member whose conduct is going to be discussed in a letter or statement that the committee issues publicly, but what should those rights be? They should be determined through a deliberative, fair, bipartisan process.

But one specific right that this proposed rule provides to those Members is the right to demand an immediate trial in front of an adjudicatory subcommittee of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. But in the circumstances that the rule addresses, that trial would take place before the committee has conducted any formal investigation of the matter. No committee that is serious about conducting its business would allow itself to be put in that circumstance. So the effect of this amendment would be that whenever any alleged misconduct is brought to the committee's attention, the committee may be forced to choose between either launching a formal investigation of the matter or dismissing it entirely. Both of these rule changes lack careful consideration and, more seriously, are brought to us today through a partisan process.

I'd like to address the ethics-related provisions that are in this package at the insistence of the Rules Committee. I had the honor of serving as ranking member of the Ethics Committee in the last Congress, and I also served on the committee for 6 years during another time of controversy in the late 1980s. It was an honor to serve during the last 2 years with Chairman HEFLEY, as he always managed the committee in a completely bipartisan manner.

A headline in this morning's newspaper says, ''GOP abandons ethics changes.'' It turns out that the headline is at best only half right. It's true that the most outrageous ethics-undermining provision has been deleted from the rules package, but other provisions—provisions that would make major changes in the way the Ethics Committee handles enforcement of the rules—remain.

There should be no misunderstanding that these provisions that remain would seriously undermine the ethics process in the House, both because of the changes they would make in committee procedures, and, equally important, because of the partisan way in which they would be adopted.

If there is to be a meaningful, viable ethics process in the House, it must be a genuinely bipartisan process. That point should be self-evident—how could there be a legitimate ethics process that is operated on a partisan basis? And to have a bipartisan process, it's absolutely essential that any major changes in the rules be made on a truly bipartisan basis. What's more, because of the importance, and the sensitive nature of the ethics rules, it's also essential that any proposed changes be considered in a thoughtful, considered, and open way, with all Members being given the opportunity for input—Democrats and Republicans.

Until today, the House recognized these fundamental points. Until today, the House has not attempted to make major changes in the ethics rules or the Ethics Committee procedures in a slapdash way, with literally only hours of consideration, and on a party-line vote.

It will probably come as no surprise that the materials issued by the Rules Committee that attempt to justify these amendments are based entirely on misstatements of the current rules. For example, under the benign-sounding heading, ''Restore Presumption of Innocence,'' the Rules Committee memorandum states, and I quote:

''Currently, if the chairman and ranking minority member take no action on a properly filed complaint within 45 days, the matter automatically goes to an investigative subcommittee.''

That statement is incomplete—and therefore misleading. The rules that have been in effect since 1997 clearly provide that at any time that a complaint is before the chairman and ranking member for consideration, either one of them may place the complaint on the committee's agenda, and when either one of them does that, an investigative subcommittee cannot be established without a majority vote of the committee.

Another example: under the heading, ''Due Process for Members,'' the Rules Committee memorandum states that, and I quote:

''Under the current rule, the chairman and ranking member, or the committee, may take action against a Member without a complaint, notice, or the opportunity to be heard.''

This statement clearly implies that the committee may determine that a Member has committed a violation or impose a sanction without the Member having such rights, and that suggestion is flatly wrong. The rules are replete with rights for Members who are accused of any violation, and because of the bipartisan makeup of the committee, Members are typically accorded rights well beyond those required by the rules.

When you turn to the actual text of the ''due process'' amendments, you find that what these amendments are concerned with is not committee actions that impose sanctions or determine violations, but instead committee letters or statements that ''reference the official conduct of a Member.'' It may well be that the rules should provide certain rights to a Member whose conduct is going to be discussed in a letter or statement that the committee issues publicly, but what should those rights be?

They should be determined through a deliberative, fair, bipartisan process. But one specific right that this proposed rule provides to those Members is the right to demand an immediate trial in front of an adjudicatory subcommittee of the Ethics Committee. But in the circumstances that the rule addresses, that trial would take place before the committee has conducted any formal investigation of the matter. No committee that is serious about conducting its business would allow itself to be put in that circumstance. So the effect of this amendment would be that whenever any alleged misconduct is brought to the committee's attention, the committee may be forced to choose between either launching a formal investigation of the matter, or dismissing it entirely. There would be no chance for an expedited resolution of the case, even in those instances in which the committee believes it already has all the basic facts, and the conduct involved probably does not warrant a formal sanction. Both of these rule changes lack careful consideration and, more seriously, are brought to us today through a partisan process.

But the proposed amendment that raises even more concern is the one that provides for automatic dismissal of any complaint that

is not acted upon within a period as short as 45 days. When the House last considered Ethics Committee procedures, in 1997, it rejected, on a bipartisan vote, an amendment that would have required the automatic dismissal of any complaint that is not acted upon within 180 days.

The reason that amendment was rejected is that it was recognized that such a time limit would encourage deadlock on the committee, and partisanship among the committee members. Under a time limit, if one side or the other is uncomfortable about dealing with a particular complaint, those Members don't have to discuss it or otherwise try to deal with it—by their just doing nothing, the complaint will disappear. Yet now this provision for automatic dismissal has reappeared, and this time it has a far shorter time frame for committee consideration than the nearly identical provision that the House soundly rejected in 1997.

I want to close by asking all Members, including all Members of the leadership on both sides of the Aisle, to give some serious consideration—not just today, but in the weeks and months ahead—to whether you genuinely want to have a meaningful ethics process in the House, and what we as Members, individually and collectively, have to do in order for such a process to exist. As I said at the outset, for this process to exist, it has to be a truly bipartisan one, and it has to be treated with seriousness and respect. It has to be recognized that the basic purpose of the process is to consider and address legitimate ethics concerns, and if Members are successful in using the process for partisan, political purposes, it is going to fail. The approval of these amendments would seriously undermine the process and, for that reason alone, this rules package should be defeated.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the very distinguished chairman of the Committee on Science.

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this balanced rules package. I want to speak particularly to the provisions regarding homeland security. To determine whether a proposed regime to oversee homeland security is appropriate, one cannot just look at a flow chart. The simplest structure is not necessarily the best, nor is one that is unduly complex. One has to look at how a proposed structure will actually function and what it can and cannot accomplish.

The homeland jurisdiction being proposed in this package strikes the right balance between a system that is too centralized and one that is too diffuse. First, I should say that the most important and necessary change regarding governance of the Department of Homeland Security was made 2 years ago when we created a Subcommittee on Homeland Security on the Committee on Appropriations. But having a single committee that can look across the Department of Homeland Security from an authorizing perspective is also a sensible move, and the new committee created in this package will do that.

□ 1600

What would not make sense, however, simple as it might seem, is giving sole authority over all aspects of homeland security to the new committee. Homeland security is too diffuse and important a government activity to rest with one committee. Almost every activity of every Federal agency has some relationship to homeland security, and almost every activity of the Department of Homeland Security impinges on the activities of other agencies.

An appropriate congressional oversight structure has to take account of that basic fact. A structure that overly centralized homeland security oversight would make it harder to evaluate the Department of Homeland Security in the context of the other activities of the Federal Government. An overcentralized structure could also make a congressional committee a captive of the agency that it oversees.

I know that it is very easy to denigrate arguments against a single, centralized Select Committee on Homeland Security as so much turf fighting. But in reality it is simply intellectually lazy to assume that a centralized structure would enable Congress to do its work more effectively.

I found especially ironic a Washington Post editorial that called for a highly centralized structure. The editorial argued that a centralized committee would be more efficient because the Department of Homeland Security would not have to answer questions from a lot of different committees. Well, it would also be more efficient if the Department did not have to respond to questions from a lot of different news outlets, but presumably The Post would argue that there are advantages to forcing the Department to respond to reporters with a variety of areas of expertise and a variety of perspectives.

The Post certainly would not want the only news outlet to be an in-house publication. So I want to applaud the House leadership for doing what it has done, and I stand in strong support of this rules package.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, the chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is correct when he says that ethics reform must be bipartisan and if the House is to have meaningful bipartisan ethics process, changes of this magnitude can be made, as they were in 1997, only after thoughtful, careful consideration on a bipartisan basis. There has been no effort to look at the rules changes on ethics in a bipartisan manner.

In 1997 when I co-chaired the Committee on Ethics Reform along with Bob Livingston, the changes that we made were done after deliberation, and after Democrats and Republicans, working together, came before the House and we did make major changes. And we instituted the 45-day rule for assigning a proper complaint for investigation; but we changed the rules in 1997. We made it clear that you can move towards an informal investigation without a finding that it merits further inquiry or a resolution of preliminary inquiry because we did not want any matter of guilt or wrongdoing for the committee to be able to get the facts necessary to decide whether to go to formal investigation.

Yet this rules change which would allow after 45 days inaction to dismiss a complaint makes inaction action, and it can be done on a very partisan basis. Now, that is wrong. That is not how it should be.

The rules as they are currently configured in order to move a complaint past the committee, you have to have the bipartisan agreement of the committee because you have to have a vote in the committee. It guarantees a process will move forward in a bipartisan manner and, in fact, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has operated in a bipartisan manner because of the way the rules are configured.

If this rule is changed, you are making it much more likely that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct will act in a very partisan matter because they will be able to delay for 45 days, which does not take a lot of effort to figure out how to delay for 45 days. We have enough lawyers on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct that will be able to figure out that one. And it will be done on a partisan basis that will leave a cloud on the Member and a cloud on this institution. You should not have that in this rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rules package.

Every House Member should vote to put the House on record against ethical and procedural abuses that contaminate this institution.

The stench of special interest corruption is overwhelming Congress, and repulsing the public. It is time the House Rules reflected the ethical standards and common sense of the American people.

I came to this House 30 years ago, and our historic incoming class brought with it one of the strongest tides of reform ever seen: rules were changed, chairmen were replaced, procedures were modernized so that the voice of the people was heard, and respected, in this House of the people.

Ten years ago, the Republicans took control of the House, promising a new era of reform. To read the national newspapers, it is evident to everyone—except themselves—that the Republicans have betrayed their promise of reform. They have tolerated misconduct and enshrined special interests as never before.

Today, we give them, and all Members, an opportunity to restore public trust by voting for

two commonsense amendments to the House rules.

First, no sitting Member should negotiate for a new job with any organization that has had business before his or her committee for a year. That's not hard to understood: no one should be shaping public policy with an eye on a future private sector salary.

Second, no bill should be brought to the House floor unless Members have had 3 days to read it first. That's not hard to understand: we should not be passing bills that are hundreds of pages in length—sometimes over 1,000 pages—without ever having seen what is in the bill. Ronald Reagan thought it was a bad idea; surely today's House Republicans can agree.

Let's be honest about it: 99 percent of the American people outside the Beltway will agree with both of these principles—no negotiating for new jobs with special interests; Members should know what they are voting on before it becomes law. We shouldn't even have to have a debate. But we do.

Less than a month ago, the Nation was stunned to learn that the committee chairman who had fashioned a blatantly pro-drug industry, anti-senior, anti-consumer prescription drug law was retiring and taking a job with the pharmaceutical industry. In fact, our former colleague assumes his job with PhRMA today, just as we are taking our oaths of office.

Mr. Tauzin will reportedly be earning a salary nearly 13 times what he earned when he wrote that pro-industry bill—one of the best paid lobbyists in Washington.

He earned it. That prescription drug law will enrich him, but it takes billions of dollars out of the pockets of America's senior citizens—by prohibiting them from purchasing cheaper drugs from Canada, and by prohibiting the Federal Government from negotiating with the pharmaceutical industry—his new employer—for lower drug prices. That's worth billions to the drug industry.

While the deal was not announced until last month, the discussions began a year ago, as was widely reported at the time. In fact, a top aide to the Republican leadership was quoted last January 24 on CNN.com as saying that Republican Congressman Tauzin's negotiation with PhARMA "doesn't look very good."

It doesn't look "very good" today either, as millions of seniors face higher drug prices thanks to the Tauzin bill, and Bill Tauzin takes office to improve the tattered image of the drug industry.

We all know this stinks. And so do our constituents. Let's put an end to it today by barring negotiations for private jobs by Members of Congress. That's what our constituents would want us to do.

And at the same time, let's put an end to the outrageous practice of voting on complex and lengthy bills before Congress has had time to read them—bills like that prescription drug bill Bill Tauzin wrote while he was listening to PhARMA's whispers in his ears.

Isn't it bad enough that Republicans majority writes the bills in secret, without input from the Democrats who represent 48 percent of the country? Without scrutiny by the press? Without review by the public

Must we also vote on secret legislation, without reading it, without knowing the tax breaks and earmarked spending for special interests that have been stuck in without any review?

I urge all Members to put party aside and vote the way your constituents would want you to vote: an end to private job negotiations while serving in public office, and full disclosure of the contents of legislation before we vote.

Mr. Speaker, I also vigorously oppose the proposed rule change that would allow an ethics investigation to end after 45 days of the Ethics Committee of five Democrats and five Republicans remained deadlocked.

Today, the Republicans are once again putting partisan politicians ahead of ethics by moving forward with their plan to shield their embattled majority leader—TOM DELAY—from any further investigation.

The goal of this change is to block the Ethics Committee from considering pending and future matters that could prove to be damaging to their party.

Under the present rules, if the chair and the ranking minority member of the Ethics Committee cannot agree whether to investigate a complaint, the committee begins an initial investigation into the matter.

But, under the Republicans' proposed rule change, the Republican chairman of the Ethics Committee—who is handpicked by the Speaker—could simply refuse to examine a complaint.

After 45 days, the complaint would be dropped, without even an initial investigation into the matter.

This new rule would allow Republicans to block pending ethics matters and prevent future investigations from moving forward. And the reason is very simple: there are at least two matters currently pending against Republican leaders, including Majority Leader TOM DELAY.

Contrary to this morning's press reports, the Republicans haven't backed away from their attempts to shield DELAY from further investigation, they've simply become a little more deceptive in how they're doing it.

Last year, when the Ethics Committee admonished DELAY three times, it deferred action on another serious charge—his role in funneling illegal soft money into Texas races through his State PAC—until after the investigation against him had been completed.

The rule change now proposed by his Republican colleagues would allow the Republican chairman of the committee to block any further investigation of DELAY's activities, shielding the minority leader from further admonishments even if he is indicted by a grand jury.

Also pending is an investigation of Republican lobbyist, Jack Abramoff, and former DELAY staffer, Michael Scanlon, and their ties to several Republican members. Changing the ethics rules would permit the Republicans to halt any investigation of the Abramoff scandal and the Members who could be implicated in their outrageous looting of Native Americans.

I urge a "no" vote on this unbalanced and improper rules package.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, we are making a terrible mistake here today by changing the rule in terms of the provision that would simply require no action after a 45-day period because, as the earlier speaker immediately preceding me indicated, what we will have done is change a nonpartisan committee that is based on a nonpartisan process into one that provides for a partisan veto over action where the behavior of an individual Member or Members is at question. That, I suggest and submit, is something that this institution will suffer from.

There has been much discussion recently regarding this package. It was anticipated that there would be additional provisions that were not submitted today, but let us be clear what is at risk here. It is the confidence of the American people in the integrity of this institution. Perception, as we all know, is reality. And when the American people understand very clearly that we now have a Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in which either side has a veto, it will undermine the confidence of the people in our ethical process.

My question to the proponents would be, what is wrong with the current rules? We have operated on them.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), a member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

The gentlewoman is correct: I currently serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. And despite what I read in the morning papers, the Republican leadership is eliminating a major traditional ethics standard of the House. While we are relieved that the Republican leadership did not go as far as they wanted to, I do not think we can be happy with the trend that is clearly downwards as it is today.

The new rule means no ethics violations will be investigated of party leaders, whether they be Republican or Democratic, control their members, since a tie vote means a dismissal. The logical result is more partisan political pressure on the committee members.

America was intended to be a city on a hill with the highest standards for the government in the world; and sadly, today we are lowering those standards.

The majority is proud of their political power and their skills at political games, and politics is an important part of our business; but principles must be held above politics because no man can serve two masters, both principles and politics.

When we are guided by only political consideration in the House leadership today, the House abandons its principles and the moral compass.

I do not enjoy serving on the committee. I do know something about legislative ethics, having first been elected to the State house of representatives after a tremendous Sharpstown bank scandal in Texas 1972. Born and raised in Texas, I understand what it means about conservative government, but I cannot begin to explain how

eliminating a traditional ethics standard is conservative in the slightest.

The House leadership can fool some of the people some of the time, like they did today when the papers said they were dropping ethics changes, when they clearly continue to weaken the standards. However, the people recognize this for what it is, a weakening of our government's ethics in pursuit of political parity by one party, be it Democrat or Republican.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the proposed changes in the ethics rules.

I served for 8 years on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and it is not an enviable assignment. But Members who have never served on the committee would be proud of how these tasks are approached. It is a committee that is evenly split. In the 8 years I served, we had unanimous votes.

The Members who serve think about the institution. They are there to serve the American people and the institution. It has not been a partisan body. It has been one that holds other Members to a high ethical standard. These rules will undermine the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and the process of using the Committee on Rules rather than the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to deliberate on the changes is also undercutting the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

I recommend that we do not support these rule changes. And I also want to mention on the homeland security provision of the rule, it is a huge mistake to ''murky up'' the jurisdiction over cybersecurity. We are at tremendous risk for a cyberattack, and the changes in that area will make us less safe.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) for purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the gentleman concerns the change to the rules that would allow Members to use campaign funds to purchase cell phones. As you know, there is a law that prohibits a Member of Congress from using the resources of their office or their office to solicit campaign funds.

It is my hope that allowing campaign cell phones to be used in a congressional office is not in any way a backdoor attempt to allow a Member to use a campaign cell phone from their congressional office or any Federal facility to raise funds to get around this prohibition that currently exists in law.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to respond to the gentleman.

Let me say we are in the midst of a discussion about ethics at this point. Obviously, it is our goal to maintain the highest ethical standards. We have a law, which is actually a criminal law, which states that it is a violation of 18 U.S. Code 607 for the solicitation of campaign contributions from Federal property.

The idea behind this change that is included in this rules package is that Members should not be required to carry two separate cell phones with them. This would allow campaign funds to be used for the purchase of a cell phone that might be used for calling your office or other official purposes. But the law which prevents the solicitation of campaign contributions from Federal property in fact is maintained and is one we that feel very strongly about.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Just for a clarification, the use of a campaign cell phone in this building?

Mr. DREIER. In any Federal building whatsoever. On Federal property is what the law says. It is a violation of the law.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. To solicit campaign funds with a campaign cell phone.

Mr. DREIER. It is a violation of the law.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to what I consider a shameless rules package which will undermine the ethical standards held by this House.

After the elections in November, the first thing the Republican majority did was to lower the House's ethical standard. In an act of unprecedented shamelessness, they changed the rule of their party to permit an indicted member of their party to remain in a leadership position. Yesterday, in the face of an overwhelming bipartisan and public condemnation they changed their rules back.

This is not shocking. What is shocking is that they ever considered it in the first place. Even more shocking, just if you think you have seen it all, is that the majority considered deleting the most fundamental of ethics rules which says that Members of the House should be held to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

□ 1615

It says a Member shall conduct himself at all times in a manner that should reflect creditably on the House of Representatives.

Dropping this rule is unthinkable. Yet Republicans only decided to keep it last night when the issue became too hot for them to handle.

Thank heavens it became too hot for them to handle, but what is completely apparent to the public and those who follow the Congress is that the Republicans did not leave it at that. They went on to make new mistakes, to undermine the ethical standard of the House.

Instead of a bipartisan effort to strengthen the ethical process, the Republicans have engaged in a completely partisan exercise that should be an affront to every Member on either side of the aisle who has served in this body. The proposed changes which are still in this rules package are destructive, and they are unethical.

Mr. Speaker, I know of what I speak. I served on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for 6 years, and then for a seventh year I served as a part of the bipartisan committee to rewrite the ethics rules. It is bipartisan, evenly divided, and we came up with new ethics rules, some of which survived the floor that year in 1997.

The package that was put together was meant to be fair to Members as well as uphold the high ethical standards. It says that Members should be judged by their actions and by the rules of the House and the law. So it was only about what took place, the facts and the law. It was not about rumor. It was not about hearsay. It was about the facts, the rules of the House and the law.

There was a process which was fair to Members because, as I say, as someone who has 7 years on the ethical process, that it is very hard to make judgments about our peers. It is a very, very difficult task, and we want to be fair, but we have a higher responsibility to uphold that ethical standard.

So it was put forth and has been the rules of the House and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct that in order to cease or dismiss a case, we had to have a majority of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. That would be eliminated today. That would be eliminated today.

So, on a partisan basis, there could be no cases that go forward. Either party with half the votes in the committee, evenly split, could cease and desist any complaints from going forward. That is simply not right.

The point of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is to have a process in which to deal with ethics complaints against Members. The point of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is not to whitewash or to have a system that says nothing will ever move forward.

What could the Republicans be afraid of that they would so fundamentally undermine the ethical process of the House to say we are going to establish a system where nothing will ever go forward? This simply is wrong. We owe it to the public, we owe it to each other to uphold that ethical standard.

So, as I say, on the first day of this new Congress, the Republican majority is publicly demonstrating what has been evident for some time, and that is its arrogance, its pettiness, its shortsighted focus on their political life

rather than to decide how we are each of us fit to govern.

Here is the thing. We have this rules package before us. They did some flash last night so that the press is saying, oh, they blinked. They did blink on a couple of different scores, but the fundamental challenge to the ethical standard of the House being enforced is still in this rules package, and it should be rejected.

Democrats have made two proposals. One of them is to remove this change, and that would be a vote on the previous question, and then on the motion to recommit we address two other abuses of power that should be addressed in this bill.

One is what I will call the Tauzin rule, and the Democratic motion to commit would forbid a Member of Congress to negotiate with an outside entity that has business before his or her committee and before the Congress, in the current Congress or in a previous Congress, called the Tauzin rule because Mr. Tauzin, who managed the Medicare bill, was at the time being courted by the pharmaceutical industry which was to benefit from provisions in the prescription drug bill, a rumored $2 million a year salary for selling America's seniors down the river. That is simply wrong. Has this become an auction house?

The public has to think and believe that when we are here and we are on the public payroll and we are Members of Congress that our accountability is to them and not to our next job. I call that the revolving door, shorthand for the Tauzin rule, and the impact of that is a very, very bad prescription drug bill that put pharmaceutical companies first, seniors last.

In our motion to commit we also address the 3-day rule. As many of my colleagues recall in recent memory, there was occasion on the floor when a huge bill of many thousands of pages, containing nine appropriations bills, seven of which never appeared on the floor of the United States Senate, came before this House where the matter was overnight passed in the Committee on Rules, came to the floor the next morning without any chance of Members being able to read the bill. It came under the martial law rule the Republicans use by which they say we waive the 3-day rule by a simple majority. It should take two-thirds, but by a simple majority we waive the 3-day rule. Well, why was it important? It was important that day because there was a great deal in that bill that Members did not know about that they were voting on and should not they know that, but very specifically in that bill and it was not found out until the bill went to the Senate, who had more time to read the bill because it went over there several hours after it was heard here, and in that bill it said that the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in the House and the Senate or his or her designee could look at the tax returns of American taxpayers. Where did that come in? It is a total orphan. It is a total orphan. No one was going to take responsibility for that.

Because of the egregiousness of that and the violation of privacy of the American people, I insisted that the Members come back to vote on that rather than just have it be done by unanimous consent to remove that provision from the law. Why did I call Members back? So that the American people will know because of the abuse of power in this House, ignoring of the 3-day rule, that Members cannot even see what they are voting on before they vote on it, and something like looking at your tax returns could be sneaked into the bill, without any safeguards to protect people from that.

That is just one example. Another example is the Medicare prescription drug bill which came to the floor without proper time for review as well. The list goes on and on.

In our motion to commit, we address the abuse of power of a powerful chairman, negotiating for a job while he was a Member of Congress, who had control of the bill over the industry, which was offering him $2 million a year. That is how much it cost to sell the American seniors down the river, and I hope that even if you separate yourself from any of the examples and just say I sent you to Congress to represent me, you do that in what you say there and how you vote, and I expect that you know what you are voting on.

The message to the American people here this afternoon is a vote for the motion to commit, is a vote for Members to be able to read a bill before they vote on it. Is that asking too much? The Republicans say it is. So a yes vote on the motion to commit gives Members the 3 days which under the rules of the House they are entitled to. A vote for the motion to commit stops the unethical process of Members negotiating with people outside, whose bills they are managing inside this Congress, in this Congress or in the previous Congress.

The previous question vote would say no to the Republicans in their evisceration of the ethical process of this House by saying that you do not need a majority to dismiss a case; you can just do it if all the Members of your party on the committee decide to stick with you on it. It is simply not right, and this should not be partisan. That is really what is really sad about it.

Everything that we have done in the ethics process has had some level of respect to the extent that it has because it has been bipartisan, bipartisan in writing the rules, evenly divided committee, cooperation between the chair and ranking member.

Today is a major departure from that, and I guess maybe I have just spent too many long hours for too many long years in the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct room trying to respect the rights of Members and our higher responsibility to uphold an ethical standard. To see the Republicans today run roughshod, rigging the rules, negotiating for jobs, no reading of the bill, it is an outrage. It is an absolute outrage.

So I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the previous question, yes on the motion to commit, and by all means, however you vote on those, no on this very shameful rules package.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman because ethics equals integrity. I will submit my statement into the RECORD. Vote a resounding no on the resolution that is on the floor, and I hope that we will come before our peers and recognize that ethics equals integrity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the proposed changes to the House Rules under the Privileged Resolution before the committee of the Whole House. Taken together, this package of proposals will gut the House Rules.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to completely gut and render ineffective the current Rule XI, which provides that a properly filed ethics complaint that has not been addressed by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Ethics Committee gets referred to an investigative committee. The Republican proposal would provide that, unless the committee votes by majority to take action on a properly filed complaint, no action will be taken after 45 days.

This change to Rule XI would take away an important oversight power and allow partisan politics to kill legitimate and colorable ethics complaints. A change like this would be an embarrassment to what this nation calls a "democracy." Furthermore, by allowing members to intentionally deadlock the vote of the Ethics Committee to kill a claim, we would be acting in contravention of the spirit of the U.S. Constitution that guarantees procedural due process.

We should strengthen the House ethnics rules rather than eviscerate them for the American people whom we represent. Rules so relaxed that Members can negotiate with a corporation, lobbying firm, or trade association that has business before their committee should not be further stripped. The honor that was bestowed upon this House upon its establishment must be maintained. Members must be held accountable for their action.

Moreover, Members should be given adequate time in which to read legislation that will be voted upon. Since the legislation that we pass in this august body affects the entire nation—which includes the Districts represented by Minority Members, it is an injustice that insufficient time has been given for review of legislation.

In the proposal that has been brought before the House does not contain the changes that are needed. It would be irresponsible for this body to accept what is before us.

The proposed Rule X amendment to create a Standing Committee on Homeland Security, on the other hand, is a smart one. It is only appropriate that this Committee be made permanent and be given jurisdiction over "overall homeland security policy." Important organizational and admnistrative aspects of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, require oversight to ensure effective and efficient operation.

DHS is a conglomeration of 22 federal agencies with more than 180,000 employees and a budget of $36 billion. Because the Department is still in its infancy stages, it is critical that committee oversight be applied to track and quickly eradicate deficiencies.

The Congress has just passed the National Intelligence Reform Act, or S. 2845, that will change the way our intelligence is collected and processed. DHS will be an important partner to our intelligence agencies in order to keep America safe. In addition, with the challenges that we have had with adequately funding first responders, it is very important that Congress retain a close relationship to the Department.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose the rules package that is before this body, and I urge my colleagues to defeat it. I yield the balance of my time. Further, a rules change that changes the quorum for this body without a constitutional change is minimally undermining our constitutional values.

Vote "no" on this resolution and "yea" on the motion to recommitt.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I urge every Member of this House to vote no on the previous question. If the previous question is defeated, I will offer an amendment to strike from the proposed rules package a provision that effectively guts our already ailing ethics process. This provision would halt the investigation of properly filed ethics complaints if, after 45 days, the chair and ranking Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct have not set up an investigation committee.

I urge the Members on both sides of the aisle to vote no on this previous question so we can delete this offensive provision.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, after the vote on the previous question, I will call for a yes vote on the motion to commit. My motion to commit will prohibit sitting Members of Congress from negotiating for future employment with any person who has a direct interest in the legislation referred to any committee on which that Member serves.

It also includes a rules change that would require a two-thirds vote in the House to waive the requirement in our standing rules that Members must have 3 days to read the committee reports.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert a statement as part of that immediately prior to the vote on the motion to commit.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge a no vote on the previous question.

I call on all Members of this House, particularly the freshmen casting their first vote, please vote for ethics today. Do not vote against the Constitution. Vote for this House that you will love and revere as all of us do on both sides of the aisle. Please vote no on the previous question and vote yes on the motion to recommit.

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

□ 1630

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair may reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on the motion to commit and the vote on the adoption of H. Res. 5 if the votes immediately follow a 15-minute vote, notwithstanding intervening proceedings attending the administration of the oath of office to Members-elect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this rules package.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great rules package that is coming before us, a rules package which I believe is deserving of bipartisan support. The reason I say it is deserving of bipartisan support is that is the word that has been used by Members on both sides of the aisle to describe exactly what we have been doing here and should be doing here.

Mr. Speaker, this package includes a number of very important provisions. It allows us to deal with the prospect of a horrendous attack on this institution, and it allows us to continue this institution's operations so the American people will understand that this institution stands even at a time of great crisis. This rules package allows for the establishment of a new permanent standing committee on homeland security, as the Speaker outlined in his opening remarks here today. I believe that is something that will allow Democrats and Republicans to spend time working on that issue.

Mr. Speaker, this is a rules package which allows for bipartisan process at the ethics committee level. The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is the committee which has the responsibility of working to ensure the integrity of all of the Members of this institution. The package we have before us does just that.

I believe that the statement made by the chairman of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY), is very clear. He understands that the provisions included in this package will in fact maintain the integrity of this institution. He was not going to support the earlier package; he is supporting this package. The issue of bipartisanship is important because in this package we ensure that we will not see the politicization of the ethics process which tragically we have seen in the past, because it will require bipartisanship, which all Members are talking about, if we do proceed with the investigatory process.

That is the right thing to do, and I believe this package should in fact enjoy the support of Democrats and Republicans alike because it is designed to protect this institution and its Members.

Mr. Speaker, the House is an institution built upon its rules. Accordingly, it is appropriate that one of the first orders of business of the 109th Congress will be to adopt a rules package which is both true to its traditions and forward-thinking in its outlook.

The package we have before us represents the work product of many Members. During the initial stages of compiling this package, back in November, the Rules Committee received 40 difference proposals form both Democrats and Republicans.

In addition, our committee staff has actively sought the input of the officers of the House, its committees, and its caucuses to get their perspectives on the kinds of changes we can make to facilitate the work of the House.

While not every proposal we received was incorporated into this package, I assure you that each received substantial consideration by the Speaker and the Rules Committee. And, as always, the Rules Committee will continue to review our rules and operations to see where other improvements can be made.

Mr. Speaker, all of the ideals contained in this resolution reflect the considered judgment of our colleagues, and will ultimately improve our ability to carry out our constitutional responsibilities. While I will detail each of these changes in the section-by-section that I will place in the RECORD, I want to elaborate on just a few of these changes.

The gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) is the author of one important provision directing committees to review matters within their jurisdiction to ferret out duplicative government programs as part of their oversight planning at the beginning of each Congress.

There are a number of instances where we are conforming the rules to reflect current House practice, such as with the designation of leadership members of the Budget Committee and the taking of recesses in committee to allow flexibility on our schedules.

We are also making the ability to consider suspensions on Wednesdays permanent in

this Congress after our successful experiment in the 108th Congress.

The package includes important provisions to allow us to function in situations where large numbers of Members are incapacitated. The ''provisional quorum'' language includes a number of safeguards to ensure that this institution can continue to operate during times of turmoil and democracy will be preserved.

As we search for permanent solutions to the problems facing us in the post-9/11 era, this is an important step in meeting our responsibilities.

We will also eliminate the Corrections Calendar. While this was originally intended to make it easier to consider legislation making corrections to outright errors in law, it turned out to be more cumbersome than other procedures, such as consideration under suspension of the rules.

And yes, Mr. Speaker, in a change guaranteed to draw applause from my colleagues, the House rules will now allow us to make reference to the Senate and its Members, so long as those references are confined to the question under debate and avoid personality. The Senate has long had similar provisions and this new rule merely conforms our rules to theirs.

I know that my colleagues and I share the desire to maintain our traditions of dignity and decorum in proceedings, and will do so even with this rules change.

On another topic, the package makes a series of changes to our ethics rules.

We included two provisions suggested by the chairman and ranking member of the Standards Committee: (1) clarifying the rule on officially connected travel to allow a family member other than a spouse or child to travel with the member at the sponsor's expense, and (2) conforming the rules of the House to current law which allow the use of campaign funds to pay for certain official expenses, such as a cellphone.

We also included provision suggested by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) to conform the rules of the House to current law with regard to the 90-day pre-election limit on franked mail.

The package also includes two other provisions addressing our ethics rules. The first gives Members the same rights to choose their counsel before the Ethics Committee that they would enjoy if they were a respondent in a court case.

The second change addresses an inequity in the Standards Committee process requiring an investigative subcommittee if the chairman and ranking member don't act within 45 days. This change restores the presumption of innocence in our process.

As important as each of those changes are, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most important change in this resolution will be the creation of a new standing Committee on Homeland Security.

It represents a far-reaching and critically important part of our overall strategic effort to protect the American people. The 9/11 Commission unanimously called for this action. They saw the need, and we believe most Members do, too.

Over the past 3 years, the Congress has asked the American people to accept change in countless ways. We have mandated change at the Federal, State, and local levels. We have asked for change from our allies and forced change upon our enemies.

And we saw the need for change over 2 years ago, and we responded, first with the enactment of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, and then with the formation of the Select Committee on Homeland Security. Their final report, a thorough and complete study of homeland security jurisdiction as it relates to House rules, was transmitted to my committee at the end of last year.

These measures made it clear to me and many other Members that steps need to be taken to further ensure the safety of the American people. The Rules Committee thoroughly reviewed the Select Committee's report and recommended a comprehensive and thoughtful reform effort that mirrors the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission: the formation of a permanent Committee on Homeland Security.

This change in House rule X, which governs the committee and their legislative jurisdictions, is delicately crafted architecture. It draws to the new committee only jurisdiction directly related to our defense against terrorism. Thus, it creates a primary committee while recognizing the other legitimate oversight roles of existing committees. It acknowledges the expertise and experience residing in other committees and leaves with them jurisdiction that may have a homeland security implication but not a direct policy relationship.

The House must have one central point where we, as national legislators, sort out the critical questions of securing our homeland without sacrificing our free society or a stable economy.

However, we envision a system of ''purposeful redundancy.'' By that we mean more than one level of oversight and an atmosphere in which the competition of ideas is encouraged.

With this jurisdiction and the legislative history that I will place in the RECORD, the Department of Homeland Security will have more certainty as to which committee has the primary responsibility for homeland security. At the same time, the American people will live with the assurance that we are working to prevent anything from falling through the cracks.

Mr. Speaker, the new committee will have jurisdiction over: (1) Overall homeland security policy; (2) the organization and administration of the Department of Homeland Security; and (3) functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to border and port security (except immigration policy and non-border enforcement), customs (except customs revenue), the integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information, domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism, research and development, and transportation security.

By approving this resolution, the House will do what the Speaker and the 9/11 Commission has asked it to do: consolidate jurisdiction of the House in one committee. This committee will be dedicated to setting national homeland security policy and to effectively overseeing that the Department of Homeland Security carries out its mission.

Mr. Speaker, in making these changes, I want to note several points for the record.

First, referrals to the Select Committee on Homeland Security in the 108th Congress will not be considered a precedent for referrals in the 109th Congress.

Second, at the request of Mr. THOMAS, I am placing a document into the RECORD regarding understandings between the Department of Treasury and the Department of Homeland Security.

Third, because the Department continues to evolve, references to a department, agency, bureau, office, or subdivision include a reference to successor entities to the extent that the successor engages in homeland security activities now conducted by the department, agency, bureau, office, or subdivision referred to in the legislative history.

For example, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 transferred the Office of Domestic Preparedness to the Department of Homeland Security, to ''have the primary responsibility within the executive branch of Government for preparedness of the U.S. for acts of terrorism.'' Subsequently, its name has been changed by the Department to ''Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP)'' although its mission stays the same.

Finally, I welcome questions from my colleagues about jurisdictional matters related to this change. However, I want to caution all Members that referrals are solely within the Speaker's power, and, in my answers, I will not infringe upon the power.

Once again, I appreciate the input from all of you regarding the 109th rules package, and I feel that with your assistance, we will make the rules of the House stronger and make for a safer country.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the changes in the House ethics rules that the Republican majority is seeking to adopt today. The proposed Republican rule changes would cripple the ethics process in the House and dramatically lower the bar for standards of official conduct.

Late yesterday, the Republican majority in the House released the details of its rules package for the 109th Congress. Some of the newspapers reported this morning that the majority had abandoned its efforts to loosen rules governing Members' ethical conduct, but this is not the case. While the majority backed away from some of its rule changes, the most egregious ethics change remains. This provision would make it much more difficult for the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to investigate allegations of wrongdoing by Members of the House.

Under current rules, if the Ethics Committee deadlocks on whether or not to pursue an ethics complaint against a Member of the House, the matter automatically goes to an investigative subcommittee. Under the proposed change, a complaint against a Member would be tabled unless a majority votes to take action on it within 45 days. Since the committee is evenly split with five Republicans and five Democrats, either political party could simply block an ethics complaint by stonewalling and running out the clock.

There is no doubt that if the proposed rule change had been in effect during the last Congress, no action would have been taken against the Members of the House who were reprimanded as a result of the Ethics Committee's investigation of bribery allegations raised in connection with the vote on the Medicare Prescription Drug Act of 2003. The committee would have deadlocked and the entire matter swept under the rug 45 days after the complaint was made.

I was listening to the debate on this earlier. The chairman of the Ethics Committee said

that he does not favor this change. He said he would like it removed. Why then is the majority leadership pursuing this change, when it is opposed by the ranking Republican on the Ethics Committee?

At a time when public confidence in Congress is so low and the Nation faces so many challenges, it is inexplicable that the first order of business in the new session is to water down the ethics rules in the House and make it even more difficult to discipline lawmakers who abuse their office.

This should not be a partisan matter. The proposed rule change harms the integrity and credibility of the House as an institution, and that reflects badly on all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike. I urge all my colleagues to join me in opposing this assault on ethics enforcement in the House.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rules package that we have before us today.

It is outrageous that my Republican colleagues have placed before us a rules package that at best lacks integrity, and at worst is completely unethical.

As the highest body of elected officials in our country, we should be held to the highest ethical standards.

But instead, my Republican colleagues have opted to put before us a rules package that actually lowers our ethics standards, so that they may promote their own agenda, at whatever cost.

This rules package makes it far more difficult for ethics investigations to take place. By requiring a majority of the ethics committee before an investigation can even begin, we are in great danger of diminishing the integrity of our great institution.

With this new rule, the majority party can effectively block any ethics investigation of a member of their party. This is an abuse of power.

And it's not just Democrats who oppose this plan. Americans across the country have expressed their opposition to this plan.

My Democratic colleagues and I have a better plan that will strengthen the ethics rules to improve congressional accountability and to make sure that legislation is properly considered.

The Republican plan fails to close a loophole that allows legislation to be considered before members have read it. Last year this led to the passage of a provision that would have let the Federal Government deeply invade citizens' privacy by reading their tax returns. I am appalled that the Republicans have failed to include the Democratic provision to tighten this loophole.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the resolution, so that we do not allow this rules package to become law.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting for the RECORD the following legislative history regarding the changes made by this resolution to Rule X, along with supporting materials.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY TO ACCOMPANY CHANGES TO RULE X

RULE X AND THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Legislative history

Overall homeland security policy—The jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security over "overall homeland security policy" is to be interpreted on a government-wide or multi-agency basis similar to the Committee on Government Reform's jurisdiction over "overall economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities. . . ." Surgical addresses of homeland security policy in sundry areas of jurisdiction occupied by other committees would not be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security on the basis of "overall" homeland security policy jurisdiction. For example, the Committee on Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over a bill coordinating the homeland security efforts by all of the critical infrastructure protection sectors. Jurisdiction over a bill addressing the protection of a particular sector would lie with the committee otherwise having jurisdiction over that sector.

Organization and administration of the Department of Homeland Security—The jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security would apply only to organizational or administrative aspects of the Department where another committee's jurisdiction did not clearly apply. The Committee's jurisdiction is to be confined to organizational and administrative efforts and would not apply to programmatic efforts within the Department of Homeland Security within the jurisdiction of other committees.

Homeland Security Oversight—This would vest the Committee on Homeland Security with oversight jurisdiction over the homeland security community of the United States. Nothing in this clause shall be construed as prohibiting or otherwise restricting the authority of any other committee to study and review homeland security activities to the extent that such activity directly affects a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of that committee.

Individual committee concerns

Agriculture—The jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security over "border and port security" shall be limited to agricultural importation and entry inspection activities of the Department of Homeland Security under section 421 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The Committee on Agriculture shall retain jurisdiction over animal and plant disease policy including the authority reserved to the Department of Agriculture to regulate policy under section 421 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, and the Animal Health Protection Act, the Plant Protection Act, the Plant Quarantine Act, and the Agriculture Quarantine Inspection User Fee Account. The Committee on Agriculture shall retain jurisdiction over the agricultural research and diagnosis mission at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

Armed Services—The Committee on Armed Services shall retain jurisdiction over warfighting, the military defense of the United States, and other military activities, including any military response to terrorism, pursuant to section 876 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

Energy and Commerce—The Committee on Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over measures that address the Department of Homeland Security's activities for domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism. The words "to terrorism" require a direct relation to terrorism. The Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdiction over "collective response to terrorism" means that it shall receive referrals of bills addressing the Department of Homeland Security's responsibilities for, and assistance to, first responders as a whole. The Committee on Energy and Commerce (and other relevant committees) shall retain their jurisdiction over bills addressing the separate entities that comprise the first responders. For example, the Committee on Energy and Commerce shall retain its jurisdiction over a bill directing the Department of Health and Human Services to train emergency medical personnel.

Financial Services—The Committee on Financial Services shall retain jurisdiction over the National Flood Insurance Program and Emergency Food and Shelter Program of FEMA, and the Defense Production Act. The Committee on Financial Services shall retain its jurisdiction over the anti-money laundering, terrorist financing, and anti-counterfeiting activities within the Department of the Treasury and the financial regulators.

Government Reform—The Committee on Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over "the organization and administration of the Department of Homeland Security." The Committee on Government Reform shall retain jurisdiction over federal civil service, the overall economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities, including Federal procurement, and federal paperwork reduction. The Committee on Government Reform shall retain jurisdiction over government-wide information management efforts including the Federal Information Security Management Act. The Committee on Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information by the Department of Homeland Security, and the Committee on Government Reform shall retain jurisdiction over measures addressing public information and records generally including the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act. The Committee on Government Reform shall have jurisdiction over the policy coordination responsibilities of the Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement.

Intelligence—The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence shall retain jurisdiction over the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of all departments and agencies of the Federal Government, including the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the National Counterterrorism Center as defined in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

Judiciary—The Committee on the Judiciary shall retain jurisdiction over immigration policy and non-border enforceme4tn of the immigration laws. Its jurisdiction over immigration policy shall include matters such as the immigration and naturalization process, numbers of aliens (including immigrants and non-immigrants) allowed, classifications and lengths of allowable stay, the adjudication of immigration petitions and the requirements for the same, the domestic adjudication of immigration petitions and applications submitted to the Department of Labor or the Department of Homeland Security and setting policy with regard to visa issuance and acceptance. Its jurisdiction over non-border enforcement shall be limited to those aspects of immigration enforcement not associated with the immediate entry of individuals into the country, including those aspects of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Committee on Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over border and port security including the immigration responsibilities of inspectors at ports of entry and the border patrol. As used in the new Rule X(1)(l)(9) and this legislative history, the word "immigration" shall be construed to include "naturalization" and no substantive change is intended by the new rule's not containing the word "naturalization."

Science—The Committee on Science shall retain some jurisdiction over the research and development activities of the Department of Homeland Security as such matters are incidental to the Committee on Science's

existing jurisdiction (except where those activities are in the jurisdiction of another committee).

Transportation and Infrastructure—The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure shall retain jurisdiction over the Coast Guard. However, the Committee on Homeland Security has jurisdiction over port security, and some Coast Guard responsibilities in that area will fall within the jurisdiction of both committees. Jurisdiction over emergency preparedness will be split between the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure shall retain its jurisdiction under clause 1(r)(2) over ''federal management of emergencies and natural disasters.'' This means that the committee retains its general jurisdiction over the emergency preparedness and response operations of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Bills addressing FEMA's general preparation for disaster from any cause shall be referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Committee on Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security's responsibilities with regard to emergency preparedness only as they relate to acts of terrorism. Thus, the Committee on Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over the responsibilities of the Office for Domestic Preparedness, in accordance with section 430 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

As indicated earlier, the Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdiction over ''collective response to terrorism'' means that it would receive referrals of bills addressing the Department of Homeland Security's responsibilities for, and assistance to, first responders as a whole and not over measures addressing first responder communities individually.

The Committee on Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over the functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to transportation security, while the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure shall retain its jurisdiction over transportation safety. In general, the Committee on Homeland Security would have jurisdiction over bills addressing the Transportation Security Administration and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure would have jurisdiction over bills addressing the various entities within the Department of Transportation having responsibility for transportation safety, such as the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security does not include expenditures from trust funds under the jurisdiction of other committees, including but not limited to the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, the Federal Buildings Fund, and the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

Ways and Means—The jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means over ''customs revenue'' is intended to include those functions contemplated in section 412(b)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and includes those functions as carried out in collection districts and ports of entry and delivery.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,
Date: May 15, 2003.

SUBJECT: Delegation from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Secretary of Homeland Security of general authority over Customs revenue functions vested in the Secretary of the Treasury as set forth in the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

By virtue of the authority vested in me as the Secretary of the Treasury, including the authority vested by 31 U.S.C. 321(b) and section 412 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–296) (Act), it is hereby ordered:

1. Consistent with the transfer of the functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service to the Department of Homeland Security as set forth in section 403(1) of the Act, there is hereby delegated to the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority related to the Customs revenue functions vested in the Secretary of the Treasury as set forth in sections 412 and 415 of the Act, subject to the following exceptions and to paragraph 6 of this Delegation of Authority:

(a)(i) The Secretary of the Treasury retains the sole authority to approve any regulations concerning import quotas or trade bans, user fees, marking, labeling, copyright and trademark enforcement, and the completion of entry or substance of entry summary including duty assessment and collection, classification, valuation, application of the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedules, eligibility or requirements for preferential trade programs, and the establishment of recordkeeping requirements relating thereto. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a copy of all regulations so approved to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance every six months.

(ii) The Secretary of the Treasury shall retain the authority to review, modify, or revoke any determination or ruling that falls within the criteria set forth in paragraph 1(a)(i), and that is under consideration pursuant to the procedures set forth in sections 516 and 625(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1516 and 1625(c)). The Secretary of Homeland Security periodically shall identify and describe for the Secretary of the Treasury such determinations and rulings that are under consideration under sections 516 and 625(c) of the Tariff act of 1930, as amended, in an appropriate and timely manner, with consultation as necessary, prior to the Secretary of Homeland Security's exercise of such authority. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a copy of these identifications and descriptions so made the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance every six months. The Secretary of the Treasury shall list any case where Treasury modified or revoked such a determination or ruling.

(b) Paragraph 1(a) notwithstanding, if the Secretary of Homeland Security finds an overriding, immediate, and extraordinary security threat to public health and safety, the Secretary of Homeland Security may take action described in paragraph 1(a) without the prior approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. However, immediately after taking any such action, the Secretary of Homeland security shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Treasury and to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance the specific reasons therefor. The action shall terminate within 14 days or as long as the overriding, immediate, and extraordinary security threat exists, whichever is shorter, unless the Secretary of the Treasury approves the continued action and provides notice of such approval to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) The Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the Customs Service (COAC) shall be jointly appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Homeland Security. Meetings of COAC shall be presided over jointly by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Homeland Security. The COAC shall advise the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Homeland Security jointly.

2. Any references in this Delegation of Authority to the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Homeland Security are deemed to include their respective delegees, if any.

3. This Delegation of Authority is not intended to create or confer any right, privilege, or benefit on any private person, including any person in litigation with the United States.

4. Treasury Order No. 165–09, ''Maintenance of delegation in respect to general authority over Customs Revenue functions vested in the Secretary of the Treasury, as set forth and defined in the Homeland Security Act of 2002,'' dated February 28, 2003, is rescinded. To this extent this Delegation of Authority requires any revocation of any other prior Order or Directive of the Secretary of the Treasury, such prior Order or Directive is hereby revoked.

5. This Delegation of Authority is effective May 14, 2003. This Delegation is subject to review on May 14, 2004. By March 15, 2004, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance to discuss the upcoming review of this Delegation.

6. The Secretary of the Treasury reserves the right to rescind or modify this Delegation of Authority, promulgate regulations, or exercise authority at any time based upon the statutory authority reserved to the Secretary by the Act.

JOHN W. SNOW,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 5, to the Republican rules package. Specifically, I oppose the proposed changes to rule X, which among other things creates a permanent standing Committee on Homeland Security and grants legislative jurisdiction to that committee. I am not opposed to the creation of a permanent Homeland Security Committee. Indeed, I believe that the Homeland Security Committee should be made permanent and should be granted jurisdiction over the overall homeland security policy of the Federal Government. Further, I believe that a Homeland Security Committee is needed to oversee the internal administration of such a large Federal agency as the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, which has over 180,000 employees.

Although H. Res. 5 includes these provisions, I oppose its grant of legislative jurisdiction to the new committee of areas that have previously been the jurisdiction of other committees. I oppose this grant of jurisdiction, not because of some desire to protect existing committees' ''turf'', but because transfer of these security issues to a new committee divests from the responsibility for those issues from those Members who have substantial experience and expertise—in some cases developed through decades of work—on them. The existing committees are best equipped to give the full House the benefit of carefully thought out recommendations that provide effective security without unnecessary risks to safety or economic efficiency. It will take years for a new committee to be able to develop the expertise to provide the House and the Nation with reports and recommendations of the quality that existing committees provide.

It is not enough to say that members with particular areas of expertise will have an opportunity to be heard on these issues. The most effective way to influence policy is to be part of the debate and discussion in the early stages of policy formation; simply voting yes or no when legislation makes it to the House floor is generally not sufficient participation to craft policy.

I take this position on the basis of my 30 years of experience in the House, during which time I have given high priority to security, particularly the security of our transportation system.

H. Res. 5 would divest responsibility for DHS' transportation and port security functions from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, T&I Committee, and transfer it to the Homeland Security Committee. However, transportation and port security cannot be considered in a vacuum. Developing sound security legislation requires balancing security risks against the economic and safety impacts of such measures on transportation industries and their customers. For example, we would not want to install technology on aircraft to protect against missile attacks if that technology would create disproportionate safety risks.

In addition, security mandates are only one type of requirement imposed on transportation industries. Other requirements include safety, consumer protection, environmental, accessibility, and competitiveness statutory or regulatory mandates. Any security legislation or regulation must be considered in the context of the costs and benefits of all such requirements governing transportation industries.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has the responsibility and the expertise to broadly consider security risks, weigh all costs and benefits of proposed requirements, and determine the likely effects of such actions on transportation industries, their customers, and the existing framework of other statutory and regulatory requirements. The T&I Committee, time and again, has proven it's capable to ensure that the U.S. transportation system is efficient and safe, as well as secure. In the aftermath of the Pan Am Flight 103 tragedy, the T&I Committee developed the landmark Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990 (P.L. 101–604), which mandated background checks for airline and airport employees and the deployment of bomb detection equipment for baggage at our Nation's airports. During the 1990s, our committee continued to respond to the changing security needs through oversight and legislation.

In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, the T&I Committee developed and considered the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001, ATSA. ATSA established a new Transportation Security Administration, TSA, federalized the screening workforce, and required the screening of all checked baggage to protect against terrorist threats. The Aviation Subcommittee alone has held 19 hearings on aviation security issues since September 11. Since September 11, the T&I Committee has also spearheaded important maritime and port security legislation including the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, and the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004.

The T&I Committee has the member expertise, the staff, and the institutional memory to deal with these issues. I believe that the quality of congressional oversight and legislation on these issues will suffer if these issues are simply transferred wholesale to a new committee. It will take years for the new committee to develop the institutional background and expertise that currently resides in our committee.

Finally, the Republican Conference drafted these changes to rule X in isolation. Democrats were afforded no role in crafting this critical security policy.

I believe the proposed changes to rule X do not further the security of this Nation. Instead, I fear that they will hamper security by divesting from those Members with the experience and institutional knowledge of these issues the direct responsibility to craft security policy.

For all of these reasons, I oppose H. Res. 5.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the rules package includes a provision that will make the Homeland Security Committee a permanent committee. More importantly, we will be giving the committee real oversight and legislative jurisdiction. But I am disappointed that the majority has only given shared jurisdiction to the Homeland Security Committee in some areas. This creates the potential for ongoing turf battles that the 9/11 Commission warned against.

I am also discouraged that the majority has decided to add a third day of suspension bills to the legislative calendar each week. An increasing amount of legislation is being passed by the House under a suspension of the Rules. This is unnecessary and keeps us from doing the real business of the House—budgeting, appropriations and oversight.

A perfect example of this is the massive omnibus appropriations bill passed for fiscal year 2005 just a few weeks ago. This bill was rushed to the floor, ignoring the House rule requiring a 3-day review period before voting on conference reports. Only after the House voted on the bill, careful scrutiny of the language uncovered a provision allowing certain Members and staff access to any American's tax return.

Not only was this an embarrassing episode for the House leadership, it continued a troubling trend. In 4 out of the last 5 years, the majority has made a massive omnibus bill the only option to fund the government. This take-it-or-leave-it approach is not acceptable and is fiscally irresponsible.

Congress has also been asleep at the switch when it comes to funding for Iraq and the war on terrorism. This administration continues to fund the war on terrorism by supplemental appropriations. This is not a temporary war. Congress needs to stand up to this White House, stand up for honest budgeting, and require that funding for Iraq and the war on terrorism be made on-budget, and through the regular appropriations process.

By appropriating through omnibus bills and budgeting by supplemental, Congress is surrendering its constitutional duties. The results of this practice are ballooning deficits—the CBO confirmed that the 2004 deficit is the largest in history, $413 billion—a lack of follow-through to determine how appropriated funds are being spent.

Without proper oversight as a backstop, problems in the executive branch can spin out of control. Members are learning about problems for the first time through the newspapers, not as a result of tough oversight hearings. This kind of lax or nonexistent oversight contributes to situations like we saw in Abu Ghraib prison. Now we have learned about secret, permanent detention facilities in the United States where possible terrorists are held indefinitely, without any legal status.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take a hard look at our priorities and get back to doing the business of the House. We should be moving forward with a tough, focused oversight agenda, and a schedule that devotes more time to priority, must-pass legislation and less time to suspension bills. Instead, it appears that we are adopting a rules package today that will bring us more of the same.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, as has been the case for a number of years, the rules package put forward by my Republican colleagues continues to trample on the rights of the minority. It will do nothing to stop the abusive practices in this House such as the 3-hour vote on the Medicare bill in the middle of the night. In fact, it allows the Speaker added discretion to reconsider votes that the Republican majority loses. In addition, the new rules require an affirmative vote by the Ethics Committee before any action can be taken. This, in effect, gives my Republican colleagues the right to block any investigation.

I would like to focus on one portion of the package that will create a permanent Committee on Homeland Security. While I am sure some of my colleagues believe that the new committee will improve our security, unfortunately this new committee will be nothing more than a costly addition to the expenditures of the legislative branch, and it will likely breed a new wave of "turf warfare" among the committees of the House. We simply do not need a special committee every time we face a crisis.

The process under which we are being asked to approve this change is particularly troublesome. I call your attention to the last time the House felt compelled to create a new committee. In 1980, some Members of the House believed that it would be wise to create an energy committee. It used a careful process in which a committee on committees was created, consisting of Democrats and Republicans. When that committee reported its recommendations to the House, substitutes were permitted, and the result reflected a thoughtful understanding of how best to achieve the objectives.

In contrast, we are now being asked to consider a proposal which was sent to us just yesterday. It was hatched in secret by our Republican colleagues without the input of any Democrats. While many of my Democratic colleagues may agree with the need for a new committee, the right of the minority to have their views considered and voted upon has been trampled once again.

I also oppose the notion that a new committee is needed. If the main concern is one of oversight, we can use our existing committees to do the job. If Members still believed that a new committee was necessary, it need not have legislative jurisdiction.

I am certain that is such a committee had legislative recommendations of merit, the appropriate committees along with proper actions by respective party leaders would ensure the bill would come to the floor.

Instead, I foresee a new committee that will seek to increase its powers by introducing bills granting all manner of new authorities to the Department of Homeland Security. In addition,

thoughtful bills addressing aspects of homeland security reported by the existing committees will now be delayed as the new committee will seek referrals. And needed responsiveness by the executive branch to the existing committees may be hindered.

While the 9/11 Commission urged a reorganization of congressional committees to deal with homeland security, it is odd that this new committee will have no jurisdiction over the issues that were identified by the Commission that led to the 9/11 tragedy. The new committee will have no jurisdiction over the intelligence community, the law enforcement community, or immigration enforcement.

It is a shame that the first day of this new Congress should be marked by an attempt to authorize a new committee without so much as an open markup to consider its merits. Moreover, it would be extremely unwise to ignore the expertise and experience of existing committees as we address homeland security issues, but we are starting down that path today.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the radical new provision included in this rules package resolution which would violate the Constitution by allowing the Speaker and a small group of Members to usurp the powers of a majority of the House and act with only a ''provisional quorum'' instead of the real thing.

The proposal would deny the plain language of section 5 of article I of the Constitution and create a new category of quorum—a ''provisional quorum''—which the Constitution expressly forbids. It destroys the very idea of the quorum. It would also demolish a 99-year-old precedent, based on the Constitution, that a quorum of the House consists of a majority of the membership chosen, sworn, and living.

For each House Member deprived of the right to exert an impact on the work of the House, either through physical presence in or absence from the Chamber, the approximately 600,000 persons represented by each Member would be deprived of their rights to democratic representation in the legislative body structured to be closest to the American people. This proposal transfers the rights of those ''closest to the people'' to those closest to the House floor.

The proposal takes the guise of a rules change which the House has no power to pass, since the Constitution determines what kind of body the House is, and what it can—and can not—do.

Under this proposal, a majority of Members of the House could be alive and well and fully cognizant, but unable to reach the floor, while the few who are present could usurp their authority and the powers of the House.

Article I, section 5 of the Constitution states that a quorum consists of a majority, and, in the absence of a majority, all that the remaining minority of Members of the House can do is either adjourn from day to day or vote to compel the attendance of absent Members. There are no other options—no matter how inconvenient that fact may be for any faction on the floor of the House during a time of emergency.

The fact that the Constitution authorizes a minority to compel the attendance of the absentees clearly indicates that the absentees are needed to conduct business. The Constitution does not guarantee that a minority of the House will necessarily succeed in compelling the attendance of absent Members to create a constitutional quorum. And such a result could indeed cause a crisis, which H. Res. 5 would do nothing to remedy. Unfortunately, during the last Congress the House refused to make serious progress toward ensuring continuity of government.

Let's consider how the plan before us today actually might operate.

Suppose that, in the aftermath of a catastrophic emergency which caused mass casualties and disrupted transportation and communications nationwide, a presiding officer existed in the House who might either be the Speaker or another Member of the House acting as ''Speaker pro tempore'' from a list of names left by a deceased Speaker.

Suppose that the presiding officer decided, if a quorum of the majority of Members failed to appear within a specified time period, that Members who weren't present on the House floor or any other designated place of meeting ceased to be Members for purposes of determining a quorum.

Suppose the rump minority of Members who had managed to reach the floor wanted to pass major legislation, including a declaration of war or authorization for use of military force, send constitutional amendments to the States for ratification, expel Members from their seats, or elect a new Speaker to become Acting President of the United States, all using a ''provisional quorum'' of one-half of the Members present, plus one.

Could they do these things? The proposed rule says they could. The Constitution says they could not.

The resolution gives the Member presiding the effective power to temporarily define out of existence those Members who don't respond to a specified series of quorum calls. These Members' seats would not be considered vacant, but they would fall into a kind of extraconstitutional limbo until the missing Members—or a majority of the total membership—reappeared in the House. It is even possible that some states might seek to replace Members who do not answer the ''provisional quorum'' call in the House by ordering special elections even though the Members might be known to be alive.

All Members are equal under the Constitution, and the right to membership in this House is not determined by a Speaker, Speaker pro tempore, or a rump of a minority of the body. It is determined by a vote of the people, and only a constitutionally constituted House may exercise the power to determine the qualifications of its Members and whether they have been duly elected.

The Supreme Court has ruled that the House may not add qualifications for membership beyond those expressly stated in the Constitution. If a Member has been duly elected and taken the oath, he remains a Member, and can only be removed through resignation, or through expulsion. There is no constitutional requirement that a Member must appear on the floor to maintain membership, or that House membership can somehow lapse.

It is surprising that some who only last year during debate on the ''Continuity of Representation Act'', H.R. 2844, spoke eloquently about the status of a House consisting only of Members elected by the people are now supporting a proposal to define those elected Members out of existence.

Members who are trapped at an airport because the transportation system is inoperative, for example, do not simply cease to exist, nor can their powers be vested in other Members, willingly or not. Their absence has potential consequences, including the inability of the House to act until the collective body is ''assembled'' again, as the Constitution requires.

The resolution would also do an end run around the issue of ''disability'', a matter not addressed in the Constitution and one which requires a constitutional amendment to resolve, as the 25th Amendment did in the case of the President. Disabled Members—whom we might describe as those either physically injured or mentally incapable so as to be incapable of participating in the work of the House—have the same status as those who are fully functional. The Constitution makes no mention of disabled Members, but it does not give the House the power to pretend they don't exist. The House has never expelled or otherwise attempted to remove a sitting Member on the grounds of disability.

Proponents of the proposal before us today claim to address the problem of incapacitated Members, but only by effectively ignoring it. Under the provisional quorum rule, these Members would presumably not be able to appear on the floor and would be automatically excluded from the provisional quorum. It's a very convenient solution to the disability problem, though blatantly unconstitutional.

The House could adopt the provisional quorum plan as a House rule if the Constitution were amended to authorize it to do so; however, the Constitution does not.

The argument that the House is somehow exercising a constitutional power to make its own rules is also spurious. The House may only make rules which the Constitution permits it to make. The House may not reinvent itself at will as a different kind of legislative body by pretending that it is simply changing its rules.

At the very least, the House should debate the provisional quorum issue as a separate resolution, following hearings by the Rules Committee, with the Speaker in the chair to signal the historic nature of the debate and the radical action proposed to be taken. Burying the issue within this resolution with other controversial rule changes is an outrage.

The 108th Congress proved to be a huge disappointment because of its failure to effectively address many issues involving the stability of our structure of government, deficiencies brought to the forefront by the September 11 attacks, as well as a disturbing tendency to paper over controversies with legislation which fails to substantively address the problem.

For example, the House rejected a constitutional amendment offered by Representative BAIRD of Washington which would have reconstituted the House quickly through temporary appointments, pending special elections, if a large number of Members were killed. I had introduced a different version of the proposal, H.J. Res. 89. Members opposed to the concept—which is admittedly extremely controversial—refused to allow real hearings and debate. Even though prospects for passage of a constitutional amendment were extremely slim, a substantial debate would have served to educate the Congress and the American people on the importance of these issues, and perhaps provide impetus in a search for alternatives. A major effort like this has to start somewhere.

Instead, the House passed, but the Senate subsequently did not consider, H.R. 2844, the

"Continuity of Representation Act", which created an unrealistically fast, unfair, undemocratic and unworkable scheme to fill vacant House seats through a mandatory national 45-day special election period. This bill was referred principally to the House Administration Committee, where I was able to make an official record of its many flaws.

Neither House passed simple legislation which would have corrected an oversight in the legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security in 2002, which failed to place the supposedly critical new cabinet officer somewhere—anywhere—in the statutory line of success to the Presidency.

Though hearings were held, neither House addressed significant issues of Presidential succession, such as the role of the Speaker and President pro tempore and lame duck Cabinet members in the succession lineup, and the ability of some officials to "bump" others serving as acting president under the current Federal statute.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to urge further action on congressional continuity issues in the new year, to work with my colleagues on the Committee on House Administration to assert our own jurisdiction more effectively and to push other relevant committees to do the same. We need both more effective action, and better internal cooperation, to accomplish these goals.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

EXPLANATION OF 3-DAY LAYOVER SUPERMAJORITY VOTE REQUIREMENT

1. Committee Reports. Clause 4(a)(1) of Rule XIII requires committee-reported bills to lay over for three days before consideration in the House. The purpose of this rule, which dates from the legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, is to give Members who did not participate in committee deliberations time to consider the committee's work. The three-day layover period gives Members time to familiarize themselves with the legislation and to prepare for House debate, which could include drafting amendments to the committee-reported bill. When he was a minority Rules Committee Member, Chairman Dreier explained the importance of this rule in the following way:

"Why is it that we have the 3-day layover? Very simple, Mr. Speaker, I do not think you would enter into a business agreement or purchase a home or engage in any kind of major activity without having read it first. The idea behind the 3-day layover is very simple. It is there so that we may in fact allow Members to have the opportunity to review legislation before they exercise their constitutional right and vote for it or against it."

Althoug Chairman Dreier was very critical of special rules that waived the 3-day layover when he was a minority Rules Committee member, his committee routinely reports special rules waiving 3-day layover of committee-reported legislation. In the 108th Congress, the Rules Committee waived the 3-day layover of committee-reported legislation 31 times.

The purpose of this amendment is to restore regular order to the committee reporting process. It would allow the House to adopt a rule waiving the 3-day layover of committee-reported legislation only with a two-thirds vote—in the same way the House must approve a rule calling for same-day consideration of a bill by a two-thirds vote.

2. Conference Reports. House-Senate conferences are a critical part of the Congressional deliberative process because they produce the final legislative product that becomes the law of the land. The conference is where the final compromises are made and the final statutory language on the bill's toughest issues is negotiated and drafted. As Chairman Dreier wrote back in 1993:

"Deliberative democracy is just as important at the end of the legislative process as it is at the formative subcommittee stages or the amendatory floor stage. In fact, the case can be made that it is even more important that Congress be fully informed and deliberate on that final product since that is the version that will become law."

Because only a restricted group of House Members participate in conferences and because conference reports can contain significant policy changes from the House-approved version of a bill, the standing House Rules provide Members a number of protections against the conference process. Perhaps the most important protection is the one found in clause 8(a)(1)(A) of House Rules XXII, which requires conference reports and joint explanatory statements to lay over for three days after publication in the Congressional Record. The purpose of this rule is very clear. Since most Members do not participate in the conference, they need time to study and familiarize themselves with the conference product. Conference reports on major legislation run sometimes hundreds of pages and often contain small, technical-looking changes in bill language that can have large policy effects. They can also contain provisions that serve the interests of a small group of conferees, but do not reflect the intentions of the broader house membership.

Although conference reports are privileged and could come directly to the Floor for consideration without a rule, they are routinely considered under special rules because they are often in technical violation of one or more sections of Rule XXII or the Budget Act of 1974. While it is understandable that the majority may need to use special rules to waive certain points of order against the content or consideration of conference reports in particular situations, the Majority has made it the practice to grant "blanket waivers" to virtually every conference report the House considers. Twenty-five of the 28 special rules the Rules Committee granted on conference reports in the 108th Congress waived 3-day layover. In other words, it has become standard practice to jam conference reports through the House before most Members know what is in them.

One of the troubling consequences of this policy is that Members only learn about the details of a conference report after it has already passed the House. Some of these conference reports reconfirm the truth of the old saying that "the devil is in the details." Chairman Dreier made this very same argument, when, as a minority Rules Committee member, he opposed waiving the 3-day layover on conference reports. He wrote:

"The House and Senate have been repeatedly embarrassed over the years by conference reports on voluminous pieces of legislation which have been voted on before even properly printed or distributed, let alone understood. Only after their enactment have some of the provisions come back to haunt the Congress."

The 108th Congress has had its share of embarrassing episodes involving the quick approval of conference reports that were later discovered to contain controversial provisions added into bills during the conference stage. For example:

One of the earliest actions of the 108th Congress was to repeal the embarrassing provision Republican leaders had slipped into the Homeland Security conference report at the end of the 107th Congress that protected Eli Lilly and a number of other pharmaceutical companies from civil liability for their production of the vaccine preservative Thimerosal.

The Energy Bill conference added scores of obscure provisions that had not appeared in the House or Senate bills, including the embarrassing "greenbonds initiative," which turned out to be subsidy to build a Hooters restaurant in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The recent conference report for the FY05 Omnibus funding bill included a provision giving Appropriations Committee Members and staff access to the Internal Revenue Service tax returns of U.S. Citizens.

To avoid future embarrassing episodes such as these and to restore Members' rights to have three days to study a conference report, this section would allow the House to adopt a rule waiving the 3-day layover of conference report only with a two-thirds vote.

PREVIOUS QUESTIONS FOR H. RES. 5—109TH CONGRESS OPENING DAY RULES PACKAGE

In section 2:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 5 OFFERED BY MS. SLAUGHTER OF NEW YORK

Strike section 2(k)(2) (relating to dismissal of complaints) and redesignate the succeeding paragraph accordingly.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, this vote will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to commit and a 5-minute vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 196, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 4]

YEAS—222

Aderholt	Cantor	Flake
Akin	Capito	Foley
Alexander	Carter	Forbes
Bachus	Castle	Fortenberry
Baker	Chabot	Fossella
Barrett (SC)	Chocola	Foxx
Bartlett (MD)	Coble	Franks (AZ)
Barton (TX)	Cole (OK)	Frelinghuysen
Bass	Conaway	Gallegly
Beauprez	Cox	Garrett (NJ)
Biggert	Crenshaw	Gerlach
Bilirakis	Cubin	Gibbons
Bishop (UT)	Culberson	Gilchrest
Blackburn	Cunningham	Gillmor
Blunt	Davis (KY)	Gingrey
Boehlert	Davis, Jo Ann	Gohmert
Boehner	Davis, Tom	Goode
Bonilla	Deal (GA)	Goodlatte
Bonner	DeLay	Granger
Bono	Dent	Graves
Boozman	Diaz-Balart, L.	Green (WI)
Boustany	Diaz-Balart, M.	Gutknecht
Bradley (NH)	Doolittle	Hall
Brady (TX)	Drake	Harris
Brown (SC)	Dreier	Hart
Brown-Waite, Ginny	Duncan	Hastings (WA)
	Ehlers	Hayes
Burgess	Emerson	Hayworth
Burton (IN)	English (PA)	Hefley
Buyer	Everett	Hensarling
Calvert	Ferguson	Herger
Camp	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Hobson

Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Nunes
Nussle
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—196

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—9

Capps
Feeney
Jones (NC)
Larsen (WA)
McHugh
Miller, Gary
Northup
Serrano
Watson

□ 1705

Messrs. SANDERS, DeFAZIO, and MEEHAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. WELLER changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOTION TO COMMIT OFFERED BY MS. SLAUGHTER

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Clerk will report the motion to commit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. SLAUGHTER moves to commit the resolution H. Res. 5 to a select committee composed of the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

In section 2, add at the end the following new subsections:

WAIVER OF THREE-DAY LAYOVER REQUIREMENT REQUIRES TWO-THIRDS VOTE

SEC. . Clause 6(c) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (2) and by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(3) a rule or order proposing a waiver of clause 4(a)(1) of rule XIII or of clause 8(a) or 8(b) of rule XXII by a vote of less than two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present; or

''(4) a rule or order proposing a waiver of subparagraph (3) by a vote of less than two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present.''.

POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR MEMBERS

SEC. . Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by redesignating clause 13 as clause 14 and by adding after clause 12 the following new clause:

''13. No Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may negotiate for future employment with any person who has a direct interest in legislation referred to any committee during this or the preceding Congress while that Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner serves on that committee.''.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to commit be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to commit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to commit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 196, nays 219, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 5]

YEAS—196

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Shays
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NAYS—219

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer

Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cox
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Nunes
Nussle
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—12

Capps
Doyle
Feeney
Fortenberry
Jones (NC)
Larsen (WA)
McHugh
Miller, Gary
Northup
Peterson (PA)
Serrano
Watson

□ 1719

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin and Mr. COX changed their votes from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

Stated against:

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 5 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

So the motion to commit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

□ 1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minutes vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 195, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 6]

YEAS—220

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cox
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Nunes
Nussle
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—195

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, AL
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—12

Capps
Doyle
Feeney
Hastings (WA)
Jones (NC)
Larsen (WA)
McHugh
Miller, Gary
Northup
Peterson (PA)
Serrano
Watson

□ 1530

Miss McMORRIS changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 3—"nay"; rollcall No. 4—"nay"; rollcall No. 5—"yea"; rollcall No. 6—"nay."

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON RULES

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 6) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 6

Resolved, That the following Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Rules: Mr. Dreier, Chairman; Mr. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida; Mr.

Hastings of Washington; Mr. Sessions; Mr. Putnam; Mrs. Capito; Mr. Cole and Mr. Bishop of Utah.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN MINORITY EMPLOYEES

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 7), and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 7

Resolved, That pursuant to the Legislative Pay Act of 1929, as amended, the six minority employees authorized therein shall be the following named persons, effective January 3, 2005, until otherwise ordered by the House, to-wit: George Crawford, George Kundanis, Lorraine Miller, Brendan Daly, Mike Sheehy and Arshi Siddiqui, each to receive gross compensation pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 119, Ninety-fifth Congress, as enacted into permanent law by section 115 of Public Law 95–94. In addition, the Minority Leader may appoint and set the annual rate of pay for up to three further minority employees.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent Resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2005, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

S. Con. Res. 2. Concurrent resolution to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the provisions of S. Con. Res. 93 and S. Con. Res. 94 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress.

The message also announced that the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

DAILY HOUR OF MEETING

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 8) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 8

Resolved, That unless otherwise ordered, before Monday, May 16, 2005, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be 2 p.m. on Mondays; noon on Tuesdays; and 10 a.m. on all other days of the week; and from Monday, May 16, 2005, until the end of the first session, the hour of daily meeting of the House shall be noon on Mondays; 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. on all other days of the week.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

REGARDING CONSENT TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 1) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That pursuant to clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, during the One Hundred Ninth Congress the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, may notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to assemble at a place outside the District of Columbia if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION TO COUNT ELECTORAL VOTES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) to provide for the counting on January 6, 2005, of the electoral votes for the President and Vice President of the United States.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, the sixth day of January 2005, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter ''A''; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONTINUATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE TO MAKE INAUGURATION ARRANGEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the provision of S. Con. Res. 93 and S. Con. Res. 94 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 2

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That effective from January 3, 2005, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 94 (108th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration, is hereby continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. Effective from January 4, 2005, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 93 (108th Congress), to authorize the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF JOINT COMMITTEE TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENT FOR THE INAUGURATION ON JANUARY 20, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, 109th Congress, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment as members of the joint committee to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States on the 20th day of January, 2005, the following Members of the House:

Mr. HASTERT of Illinois,
Mr. DELAY of Texas,
Ms. PELOSI of California.

PROVIDING FOR ATTENDANCE AT INAUGURAL CEREMONIES ON JANUARY 20, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 9) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 9

Resolved, That at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2005, the House shall proceed to the West Front of the Capitol for the purpose of attending the inaugural ceremonies of the President and Vice President of the United States; and that upon the conclusion of the ceremonies the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, pursuant to such concurrent resolution of adjournment as may so permit.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 2) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 2

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, January 6, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, January 20, 2005, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, January 6, 2005, or Friday, January 7, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Thursday, January 20, 2005, or at such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER, MAJORITY LEADER, MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the first session of the 109th Congress, the Speaker, majority leader, and minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

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

There was no objection.

GRANTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE PRIVILEGE TO EXTEND REMARKS AND INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the first session of the 109th Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the RECORD entitled ''Extensions of Remarks.''

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair customarily takes this occasion on the opening day of Congress to announce his policies with respect to particular aspects of process. The Chair will insert in the RECORD announcements by the Speaker concerning: privileges of the floor; introduction of bills and resolutions; unanimous-consent requests for the consideration of bills and resolutions; recognition for 1-minute speeches, morning-hour debate, and special orders; decorum in debate; conduct of votes by electronic device; distribution of written materials on the House floor; use of wireless telephones or personal computers on the House floor; and jurisdictional issues.

These announcements, where appropriate, will reiterate the origins of the stated policies. The Speaker intends to continue in the 109th Congress the policies reflected in these statements.

The announcements referred to follow and, without objection, will be printed in the RECORD January 4, 2005:

There was no objection.

1. PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

The Chair will make the following announcements regarding floor privileges, which will apply during the 109th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO STAFF

The SPEAKER. Rule IV strictly limits those persons to whom the privileges of the floor during sessions of the House are extended, and that rule prohibits the Chair from entertaining requests for suspension or waiver of that rule. As reiterated by the Chair on January 21, 1986, January 3, 1985, January 25, 1983, and August 22, 1974, and as stated in Chapter 10, section 2, of House Practice, the rule strictly limits the number of committee staff on the floor at one time during the consideration of measures reported from their committees. This permission does not extend to Members' personal staff except when a Member's amendment is actually pending during the five-minute rule. It also does not extend to personal staff of Members who are sponsors of pending bills or who are engaging in special orders. The Chair requests the cooperation of all Members and committee staff to assure that only the proper number of staff are on the floor, and then only during the consideration of measures within the jurisdiction of their committees. The Chair is making this statement and reiterating this policy because an increasing number of Members have insisted on strict enforcement of the rule. The Chair requests each chairman, and each ranking minority member, to submit to the Speaker a list of those staff who are allowed on the floor during the consideration of a measure reported by their committee. The Sergeant-at-Arms, who has been directed to assure proper enforcement of rule IV, will keep the list. Each staff person should exchange his or her ID for a ''committee staff'' badge, which is to be worn while on the floor. The Chair has consulted with the Minority Leader and will continue to consult with her.

Furthermore, as the Chair announced on January 7, 2003, in accordance with the change in the 108th Congress of clause 2(a) of rule IV regarding leadership staff floor access, only designated staff approved by the Speaker shall be granted the privilege of the floor. The Speaker intends that his approval be narrowly granted on a bipartisan basis to staff from the majority and minority side and only to those staff essential to floor activities.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO FORMER MEMBERS

The SPEAKER. The guidelines announced by the Chair on August 1, 1996, and May 25, 1995, with respect to the prohibition against former Members exercising floor privileges during the consideration of a matter in which they have a personal or pecuniary interest or are employed or retained as a lobbyist will continue to apply in the 109th Congress.

Clause 4 of rule IV and the subsequent guidelines issued by previous Speakers on this matter make it clear that consideration of legislative measures is not limited solely to those pending before the House. Consideration also includes all bills and resolutions that have been called up by a full committee or subcommittee or on which hearings have been held by a full committee or subcommittee of the House.

Former Members can be prohibited from privileges of the floor, the Speaker's lobby, and respective Cloakrooms should it be ascertained they have a direct interest in legislation that is before a subcommittee, full committee, or the House. Not only do those circumstances prohibit former Members but the fact that a former Member is employed or retained by a lobbying organization attempting to directly or indirectly influence pending legislation is cause for prohibiting access to the House Chamber. First announced by Speaker O'Neill on January 6, 1977, again on June 7, 1978, and by Speaker Foley in 1994, the guidelines were intended to prohibit former Members from using their floor privileges under the restrictions laid

out in this rule. This restriction extends not only to the House floor but adjacent rooms, the Cloakrooms, and the Speaker's lobby.

Members who have reason to know that a former Member is on the floor inconsistent with clause 4 of rule IV should notify the Sergeant-at-Arms promptly.

2. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER. The policy that the Chair announced on January 3, 1983, with respect to the introduction and reference of bills and resolutions will continue to apply in the 109th Congress. As Members are aware, they have the privilege today of introducing bills. Heretofore on the opening day of a new Congress, several hundred bills have been introduced. The Chair will do his best to refer as many bills as possible, but he will ask the indulgence of Members if he is unable to refer all the bills that may be introduced. Those bills that are not referred and do not appear in the Record as of today will be included in the next day's Record and printed with a date as of today.

The Chair has advised all officers and employees of the House that are involved in the processing of bills that every bill, resolution, memorial, petition or other material that is placed in the hopper must bear the signature of a Member. Where a bill or resolution is jointly sponsored, the signature must be that of the Member first named thereon. The bill clerk is instructed to return to the Member any bill which appears in the hopper without an original signature. This procedure was inaugurated in the 92d Congress. It has worked well, and the Chair thinks that it is essential to continue this practice to insure the integrity of the process by which legislation is introduced in the House.

3. UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUESTS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER. The policy the Chair announced on January 6, 1999, with respect to recognition for unanimous consent requests for the consideration of certain legislative measures will continue to apply in the 109th Congress. The Speaker will continue to follow the guidelines recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual conferring recognition for unanimous-consent requests for the consideration of bills, resolutions, and other measures only when assured that the majority and minority floor leadership and committee chairmen and ranking minority members have no objection. Consistent with those guidelines, and with the Chair's inherent power of recognition under clause 2 of rule XVII, the Chair, and any occupant of the Chair appointed as Speaker pro tempore pursuant to clause 8 of rule I, will decline recognition for the unanimous-consent requests chronicled in section 956 without assurances that the request has been so cleared. This denial of recognition by the Chair will not reflect necessarily any personal opposition on the part of the Chair to orderly consideration of the matter in question, but will reflect the determination upon the part of the Chair that orderly procedures will be followed; that is, procedures involving consultation and agreement between floor and committee leadership on both sides of the aisle.

4. RECOGNITION FOR ONE-MINUTE SPEECHES AND SPECIAL ORDERS

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO ONE-MINUTE SPEECHES

The SPEAKER. The Speaker's policy announced on August 8, 1984, with respect to recognition for one-minute speeches will apply during the 109th Congress. The Chair will alternate recognition for one-minute speeches between majority and minority Members, in the order in which they seek recognition in the well under present practice from the Chair's right to the Chair's left, with possible exceptions for Members of the leadership and Members having business requests. The Chair, of course, reserves the right to limit one-minute speeches to a certain period of time or to a special place in the program on any given day, with notice to the leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER WITH RESPECT TO SPECIAL-ORDER SPEECHES

The SPEAKER. The Speaker's policy announced on February 11, 1994, and February 24, 1994, with respect to restricted special-order speeches, will also continue through the 109th Congress with the further clarification that reallocations of time within each leadership special-order period will be permitted with notice to the Chair. Upon consultation with the Minority Leader, the Speaker's policy, which began on February 23, 1994, was reiterated on January 4, 1995, and was supplemented on January 3, 2001, will continue to apply in the 109th Congress as outlined below:

On Tuesdays, following legislative business, the Chair may recognize Members for special-order speeches up to midnight, and such speeches may not extend beyond midnight. On all other days of the week, the Chair may recognize Members for special-order speeches up to four hours after the conclusion of five-minute special-order speeches. Such speeches may not extend beyond the four-hour limit without the permission of the Chair, which may be granted only with advance consultation between the leaderships and notification to the House. However, at no time shall the Chair recognize for any special-order speeches beyond midnight.

The Chair will first recognize Members for five-minute special-order speeches, alternating initially and subsequently between the parties regardless of the date the order was granted by the House. The Chair will then recognize longer special orders speeches. A Member recognized for a five-minute special-order speech may not be recognized for a longer special-order speech. The four-hour limitation will be divided between the majority and minority parties. Each party is entitled to reserve its first hour for respective leaderships or their designees. Recognition will alternate initially and subsequently between the parties each day.

The allocation of time within each party's two-hour period (or shorter period if prorated to end by midnight) is to be determined by a list submitted to the Chair by the respective leaderships. Members may not sign up with their leadership for any special-order speeches earlier than one week prior to the special order, and additional guidelines may be established for such sign-ups by the respective leaderships.

Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule V, the television cameras will not pan the Chamber, but a ''crawl'' indicating morning hour or that the House has completed its legislative business and is proceeding with special-order speeches will appear on the screen. The Chair may announce other television camera adaptations during this period.

The continuation of this format for recognition by the Speaker is without prejudice to the Speaker's ultimate power of recognition under clause 2 of rule XVII should circumstances so warrant.

5. DECORUM IN DEBATE

The SPEAKER. The Chair's announced policies of January 7, 2003, January 4, 1995, and January 3, 1991, will apply in the 109th Congress. It is essential that the dignity of the proceedings of the House be preserved, not only to assure that the House conducts its business in an orderly fashion but also to permit Members to properly comprehend and participate in the business of the House. To this end, and in order to permit the Chair to understand and to correctly put the question on the numerous requests that are made by Members, the Chair requests that Members and others who have the privileges of the floor desist from audible conversation in the Chamber while the business of the House is being conducted. The Chair would encourage all Members to review rule XVII to gain a better understanding of the proper rules of decorum expected of them, and especially: to avoid ''personalities'' in debate with respect to references to other Members, the Senate, and the President; to address the Chair while standing and only when, and not beyond, the time recognized, and not to address the television or other imagined audience; to refrain from passing between the Chair and a Member speaking, or directly in front of a Member speaking from the well; to refrain from smoking in the Chamber; to disable wireless phones when entering the Chamber; to wear appropriate business attire in the Chamber; and to generally display the same degree of respect to the Chair and other Members that every Member is due.

The Chair would like all Members to be on notice that the Chair intends to strictly enforce time limitations on debate. Furthermore, the Chair has the authority to immediately interrupt Members in debate who transgress rule XVII by failing to avoid ''personalities'' in debate with respect to references to the Senate, the President, and other Members, rather than wait for Members to complete their remarks.

Finally, it is not in order to speak disrespectfully of the Speaker; and under the precedents the sanctions for such violations transcend the ordinary requirements for timeliness of challenges. This separate treatment is recorded in volume 2 of Hinds' Precedents, at section 1248 and was reiterated on January 19, 1995.

6. CONDUCT OF VOTES BY ELECTRONIC DEVICE

The SPEAKER. The Speaker's policy announced on January 4, 1995, with respect to the conduct of electronic votes will continue in the 109th Congress.

As Members are aware, clause 2(a) of rule XX provides that Members shall have not less than 15 minutes in which to answer an ordinary [rollcall] record vote or quorum call. The rule obviously establishes 15 minutes as a minimum. Still, with the cooperation of the Members, a vote can easily be completed in that time. The events of October 30, 1991, stand out as proof of this point. On that occasion, the House was considering a bill in the Committee of the Whole under a special rule that placed an overall time limit on the amendment process, including the time consumed by [rollcalls] record votes. The Chair announced, and then strictly enforced, a policy of closing electronic votes as soon as possible after the guaranteed period of 15 minutes. Members appreciated and cooperated with the Chair's enforcement of the policy on that occasion.

The Chair desires that the example of October 30, 1991, be made the regular practice of the House. To that end, the Chair enlists the assistance of all Members in avoiding the unnecessary loss of time in conducting the business of the House. The Chair encourages all Members to depart for the Chamber promptly upon the appropriate bell and light signal. As in recent Congresses, the cloakrooms should not forward to the Chair requests to hold a vote by electronic device, but should simply apprise inquiring Members of the time remaining on the voting clock.

Although no occupant of the Chair would prevent a Member who is in the well of the Chamber before the announcement of the result from casting his or her vote, each occupant of the Chair will have the full support

of the Speaker in striving to close each electronic vote at the earliest opportunity. Members should not rely on signals relayed from outside the Chamber to assume that votes will be held open until they arrive in the Chamber.

7. USE OF HANDOUTS ON HOUSE FLOOR

The SPEAKER. The Speaker's policy announced on September 27, 1995, which was prompted by a misuse of handouts on the House floor and made at the bipartisan request of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, will continue in 109th Congress. All handouts distributed on or adjacent to the House floor by Members during House proceedings must bear the name of the Member authorizing their distribution. In addition, the content of those materials must comport with standards of propriety applicable to words spoken in debate or inserted in the Record. Failure to comply with this admonition may constitute a breach of decorum and may give rise to a question of privilege.

The Chair would also remind Members that, pursuant to clause 5 of rule IV, staff is prohibited from engaging in efforts in the Hall of the House or rooms leading thereto to influence Members with regard to the legislation being amended. Staff cannot distribute handouts.

In order to enhance the quality of debate in the House, the Chair would ask Members to minimize the use of handouts.

8. USE OF EQUIPMENT ON HOUSE FLOOR

The SPEAKER. The Speaker's policy announced on January 27, 2000, as modified by the change in clause 5 of rule XVII in the 108th Congress, will continue in the 109th Congress. All Members and staff are reminded of the absolute prohibition contained in clause 5 of rule XVII against the use of a wireless telephone or personal computer upon the floor of the House at any time.

The Chair requests all Members and staff wishing to receive or send wireless telephone messages to do so outside of the Chamber, and to deactivate, which means to turn off, any audible ring of wireless phones before entering the Chamber. To this end, the Chair insists upon the cooperation of all Members and staff and instructs the Sergeant-at-Arms, pursuant to clause 3(a) of rule II and clause 5 of rule XVII, to enforce this prohibition.

9. JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES

The SPEAKER. Based on discussions with the relevant committees, the further mutual understandings contained in the final two paragraphs of the ''Memorandum of Understanding Between Energy and Commerce Committee and Financial Services Committee'' dated January 30, 2001, shall no longer provide jurisdictional guidance.

The policy announced in the 102d Congress with respect to jurisdictional concepts rebated to clause 5(a) of rule XXI—tax and tariff measures—will continue to govern but need not be reiterated, as it is adequately documented as precedent in the House Rules and Manual.

The 109th Congress established the Committee on Homeland Security. The Chair would announce that the Speaker's referrals of measures to the Select Committee on Homeland Security of the 108th Congress will not constitute precedent for referrals to the new committee.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House today, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. HOEKSTRA of Michigan, Chairman.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 40 United States Code, 175 and 176, and the order of the House of today, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) as members of the House Office Building Commission to serve with himself.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, your committee appointed on the part of the House to join a like committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has been assembled and is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make has performed that duty.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 4, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Under Clause 2(g) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I herewith designate Mr. Gerasimos C. Vans, Deputy Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts for me under the name of the Clerk of the House which he would be authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

If Mr. Vans should not be able to act in my behalf for any reason, then Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Assistant to the Clerk or Mr. Daniel J. Strodel, Assistant to the Clerk should similarly perform such duties under the same conditions as are authorized by this designation.

These designations shall remain in effect for the 109th Congress or until modified by me.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL.

PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR INTERIM EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 10) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) to explain the purpose of the resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for yielding to me.

I rise today in support of the resolution to provide interim funding for the Committee on Homeland Security in the first session of the 109th Congress. The Committee on Homeland Security was not established as a permanent committee until this Congress. It was a select committee previously. Therefore, they did not fall under the House rules providing interim funding for other committees. We have a series of interim funding for our existing committees.

This resolution will provide the necessary funds for the committee to continue its work from January 3 through March 31. The committee will then receive funding, we hope, for the duration of the 109th Congress; and that is when we will attempt by that time to bring out a permanent funding resolution for all committees so it would then receive its funding for the duration of the 109th Congress, all the public committees of the House.

Once the committee funding resolution is adopted, then the system will go back to its regular order. I ask support for this legislation.

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, further reserving my right to object, I want to take a moment to both thank and applaud the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for his diligence in determining the need for and pursuing the necessary funding for the authority for the new Committee of Homeland Security.

I think he has described amply the need and the necessity under which the circumstances arose and why this resolution is so important.

Third, I wanted to just take a brief moment to reflect on the extraordinary efforts of the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and the former ranking minority member, Jim Turner, who is no longer with us, who took a skeletal concept of a committee and have turned it into a robust working reality.

I would like to extend my own deep sense of appreciation to former representative Jim Turner for his extraordinary leadership and contributions on national security issues and, in particular, homeland security during the 108th Congress.

As the first ranking member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, he vigorously pursued oversight

and legislation to enhance the security of the American people. His diligent and purposeful efforts have prompted the leadership of our country to move faster with a strong and smart sense of purpose to preserve and protect the security of our Nation.

During the first 2 years of the Select Committee on Homeland Security's existence, his work resulted in a number of significant initiatives and related efforts that we pause and honor today. In particular, in April of last year former Representative Turner released a 90-page comprehensive plan to eliminate the threat of al Qaeda to the United States. The report, which includes over a hundred specific recommendations, sets forth a strategy to win the current war against al Qaeda and like-minded groups. Produced with the assistance of Democratic leadership and other committees, winning the war on terror reaffirms the commitment and need to prevail in the U.S. struggle against terrorism.

□ 1745

The comprehensive plan played a large role in the introduction later in the 108th Congress of winning the War on Terror Act, H.R. 5291, designed to implement a series of initiatives and defeat terrorists and enemies.

Mr. Turner's accomplishments and what he was able to do in conjunction with the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) serve as a standard for the way that committees should proceed in this area. I cannot commend him enough and will present further accolades attesting to the attributes of Mr. Turner and the outstanding job he did on behalf of the State of Texas and this great country of ours. His service was exemplary, and I think this body owes him a great deal of gratitude for the performance that he undertook, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) on this committee, and to see this committee today come to fruition as a full standing committee I think is a tribute to both of their hard work and zeal.

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) will continue on. Mr. Turner, of course, is no longer in this body but will long be remembered for his diligent effort, his straightforward manner, his gentleman-like way that he dealt with both sides of the issue and the manner in which he was able to bring these very important issues to the floor of this House to proceed in protecting this great Nation of ours from threat, from dangers abroad and here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say three things. First, I want to thank Chairman NEY for his diligence in determining the need for, and in pursuing the necessary funding authority for the new Committee on Homeland Security.

Second, as the original co-sponsor of this resolution with Chairman NEY, I want to take a moment to ensure that Members understand its purpose. Although House rule X provides temporary interim funding for committees which existed in the 108th Congress, and which the House rules have recreated in the 109th Congress, this temporary interim funding provision only applies to committees which succeed themselves in the new Congress. The former Select Committee on Homeland Security no longer exists, and the House rules have created a new, permanent standing Committee on Homeland Security to take its place. Because of this change, and in the absence of this resolution, the new Committee on Homeland Security would not have resources to operate until the House adopts the Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution sometime in March.

By adopting the resolution, the House puts the new select committee on essentially the same temporary funding basis as other committees.

Third, I want to take a moment to reflect on the extraordinary efforts of Chairman COX, and Ranking Minority Member Jim Turner, who took the skeletal concept of a committee, and turned it into a robust, working reality.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my own deep sense of appreciation to Representative Jim Turner for his extraordinary leadership and contributions on national security issues and, in particular, homeland security during the 108th Congress. As the first ranking member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, he vigorously pursued oversight and legislation to enhance the security of the American people. His diligent and purposeful efforts have prompted the leadership of our country to move faster, with a strong and smart sense of purpose, to preserve and protect the security of our nation. During the first 2 years of the Homeland Security Committee's existence, his work resulted in a number of significant initiatives and related efforts that I honor today. In particular:

In April of last year, Representative Turner released a 90-page comprehensive plan to eliminate the threat of al-Qaeda to the United States. The report, which includes over 100 specific recommendations, sets forth a strategy to win the current war against al-Qaeda and like-minded groups. Produced with the assistance of the Democratic leadership of other committees, Winning the War on Terror reaffirms the commitment needed to prevail in the U.S. struggle against terrorism. The comprehensive plan played a large role in the introduction later in the 108th Congress of the Winning the War on Terror Act, H.R. 5291, designed to implement a series of initiatives to defeat our terrorist enemies.

In February, 2004, Representative Turner, in concert with his Democratic colleagues on the Select Committee on Homeland Security, released a comprehensive report, entitled America at Risk: Closing the Security Gap, identifying the significant security gaps that continued to remain across the United States more than 2 years after the attacks of September 11. The comprehensive 135-page report identifies shortcomings in our homeland security efforts and recommends specific actions to ensure America is as safe as it needs to be from terrorist attack. An additional six oversight reports were subsequently issued on specific homeland security topics.

In September 2004, Representative Turner released a comprehensive 130-page report, entitled Transforming the Southern Border: Providing Security and Prosperity in the Post-9/11 World, calling for the transformation of the U.S. Southern Border to enhance security and promote economic prosperity. The result of a 6-month oversight effort, which included visits to multiple U.S. border communities, the report highlights the many security gaps that exist on the southern border and offers policy recommendations to close them. The comprehensive report was followed later in the 108th Congress with the introduction of the Secure Borders Act, H.R. 5130, to strengthen U.S. border security.

In addition to these efforts, Representative Turner, either alone or in concert with his Democratic colleagues, sponsored 12 homeland security legislative initiatives during the 108th Congress. Among other subjects, Representative Turner's efforts resulted in the introduction of the Prepare Act (H.R. 3158), containing unprecedented proposals to reform the U.S. first responder grant system by determining—for the first time—the essential capabilities needed to protect American communities; and the Rapid Cures Act (H.R. 4258), designed to develop a national plan to develop countermeasures to protect Americans against the threat of bioterrorism.

Mr. Speaker, these are only a few examples of the extraordinary contributions made by Representative Turner to our national homeland security effort. His leadership within the Democratic Caucus, and as a Member of the House on national security matters, has set a heightened standard for all of us to emulate. On the day that we create the first-ever permanent Committee on Homeland Security, it is fitting that we remember and honor the service and dedication of Representative Jim Turner.

Mr. Speaker, needless to say, as an original co-sponsor of this temporary funding resolution for the new Committee on Homeland Security, I urge each of my colleagues to support our country's continuing efforts to fight terrorism by voting in favor of this resolution.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut, our ranking member, for supporting the resolution and also agree with his good and kind words about Mr. Turner.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 10

Resolved,

SECTION 1. INTERIM EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.

For interim expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives not more than $1,396,480.26.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION.

Amounts shall be available under this resolution for expenses incurred during the period beginning at noon on January 3, 2005, and ending at midnight on March 31, 2005, except that the amount available during any month may not exceed $465,493.42.

SEC. 3. VOUCHERS.

Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee on Homeland Security, signed by the

chairman of such Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.

Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 10.

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

There was no objection.

MORNING HOUR DEBATE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the first session of the 109th Congress: One, on legislative days of Monday when the House convenes pursuant to House Resolution 8 the House shall convene 90 minutes earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution solely for the purpose of conducting morning hour debate; and

Two, on legislative days of Tuesday when the House convenes pursuant to House Resolution 8:

(a) before May 16, 2005, the House shall convene for morning hour debate 90 minutes earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution; and

(b) after May 16, 2005, the House shall convene for morning hour debate one hour earlier than the time otherwise established by that resolution; and

Three, on legislative days of Monday or Tuesday, when the House convenes for morning hour debate pursuant to an order other than House Resolution 8, the House shall resume its session 90 minutes after the time otherwise established by that order;

Four, the time for morning hour debate shall be limited to the 30 minutes allocated to each party, except that on Tuesdays after May 16, 2005, the time shall be limited to 25 minutes allocated to each party and may not continue beyond 10 minutes before the hour appointed for the resumption of the session of the House; and

Five, the form of proceeding for morning hour debate shall be as follows:

(a) the prayer by the Chaplain, the approval of the Journal and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag shall be postponed until resumption of the session of the House;

(b) initial and subsequent recognitions for debate shall alternate between the parties;

(c) recognition shall be conferred by the Speaker only pursuant to lists submitted by the majority leader and by the minority leader;

(d) no Member may address the House for longer than 5 minutes, except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip; and

(e) following morning hour debate, the Chair shall declare a recess pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I until the time appointed for the resumption of the session of the House.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS THAT OCCURRED ON DECEMBER 26, 2004, IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 12) expressing condolences and support for assistance to the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis that occurred on December 26, 2004, in South and Southeast Asia, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 12

Whereas on December 26, 2004, a powerful earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter Scale occurred off the west coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia;

Whereas the undersea earthquake created massive tsunamis that struck several countries throughout South and Southeast Asia, as well as on the coast of East Africa;

Whereas the giant waves caused death and destruction on a nearly unprecedented scale, killing more than 140,000 people and leaving millions homeless;

Whereas many thousands of people were killed in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand, and numerous others were killed in Somalia, Malaysia, Maldives, Bangladesh, Kenya, Burma, and elsewhere;

Whereas an estimated one-third of the earthquake and tsunami victims were children, and many thousands more have been left orphaned or separated from their families;

Whereas thousands of visitors and tourists from nearly 40 countries were killed in this natural disaster;

Whereas between 3,000,000 and 5,000,000 people throughout the affected region are lacking basic survival requirements as a result of the tsunamis and there remains the risk of numerous additional deaths due to shortages of clean water, adequate shelter, food, sanitation, and basic healthcare;

Whereas the United States and other donors have, to date, pledged an estimated $2,000,000,000 in emergency and long-term reconstruction assistance; and

Whereas the human cost of this disaster transcends mere statistics and has resulted in deeply personal tragedies for countless families in the region and throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the horrific loss of life caused by the earthquake and tsunamis that occurred on December 26, 2004, in South and Southeast Asia;

(2) expresses its deep condolences to the families of the many earthquake and tsunami victims;

(3) applauds the prompt humanitarian response to the tsunami tragedy by governments, the United Nations and other international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations;

(4) recognizes the generous outpouring of support for relief efforts from private citizens around the world, including in the United States;

(5) affirms its commitment to additional generous United States support for relief and long-term reconstruction efforts in areas affected by the earthquake and tsunamis; and

(6) urges continued attention by donors and relief agencies to the needs of vulnerable populations in the stricken countries, particularly the thousands of children who have been left parentless and homeless by this disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) is recognized for 1 hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 12, the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield half my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and ask unanimous consent that he may control that time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of House Resolution 12 which the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and I introduced earlier today with numerous of our colleagues. It expresses the deep condolences of the House of Representatives for the victims of the massive earthquake and tsunamis that struck South and Southeast Asia on December 26, 2004, and affirms our commitment to additional generous support for relief and reconstruction efforts.

The destruction wrought by this disaster is nearly incomprehensible. The confirmed death toll is nearly 150,000, approximately one-third of whom were children. Those countries that were hardest hit, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand, each lost many thousands, and the deadly effects were felt as far away as the eastern coasts of Africa. Millions of people are affected and lack the basic food, water, shelter and medical care necessary for survival. But, as the resolution notes, the human cost of this disaster transcends mere statistics and has resulted in deeply personal tragedies for countless

families in the region and throughout the world. Our prayers are with the victims, their families and the many men and women working tirelessly to provide critical assistance to those still at risk.

I am proud of the swiftness and the magnitude of the relief effort that has been organized during the past week and a half. The United States has stepped forward with an initial commitment of $350 million, and we are providing crucial transportation and logistic support for the larger relief effort. The current total of international commitment stands at approximately $2 billion. I fully expect additional resources will be required, and we must all recognize that reconstruction from this epic catastrophe will not be a short-term project.

It is fitting we consider this resolution on the first day of this new Congress. This effort is the latest instance in a long American tradition of humanitarian generosity, and our actions demonstrate our belief that the earthquake and the tsunamis of December 26 were not primarily an Asian tragedy but a human tragedy. The people of the United States and all people of goodwill stand in solidarity with the many victims.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), my good friend and distinguished colleague, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for sponsoring this critical resolution, and I want to express my thanks to the chairman and ranking member of our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific for their outstanding work on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the people of the countries so deeply stricken by the earthquake, the tsunamis and their after-effects.

This disaster has taken some 150,000 lives and left millions homeless, separated from their families, with no access to clean water, shelter, food, sanitation or health care.

Mr. Speaker, late in December we all watched in shock as the news emerged detailing the horrors from the earthquake and tsunami-affected region. The initial reports of some 14,000 killed were simply stunning at the time, but a week later the numbers are 10 times higher, and with the horrendous death toll, we find there are countless more who are missing, including many American citizens.

The numbers of people killed, missing, wounded or left homeless are nothing short of overwhelming, and the mind struggles to grasp that a tragedy of such dimensions is possible. But the destruction and the numbers are all too real, and the needs of the survivors are real as well.

Our resolution affirms the rock-solid commitment of the American people and the government of the United States for relief and long-term reconstruction assistance in the areas affected by both the earthquake and the tsunamis, and it urges continued attention by all donors to the needs of the survivors, particularly the most vulnerable population, the children.

Mr. Speaker, every country has the moral obligation to help the millions of people affected by the earthquake and the tsunamis. There is a human imperative to ensure that the survivors of this tragedy obtain much-needed humanitarian relief, but we must also work with the international community to help in the long-term reconstruction of the disaster-stricken countries, reconstruction efforts which will be needed for many years to come.

I want to pay particular tribute to our military for their heroic assistance in this gigantic humanitarian crisis. No organization on the face of this planet could perform the miracles that our men and women in our military are doing every minute of every day as this crisis unfolds.

Mr. Speaker, I find it an outrage that some of the wealthiest oil-rich States have pledged only a pittance, even though since oil prices are at sky-high levels they have received an enormous windfall; in the case of Saudi Arabia, some $50 billion last year, that is $50,000 million.

Our resolution applauds the prompt humanitarian response of the United States, the American people, many of our friends and allies, international organizations and relief bodies. We must continue to support these efforts as long as they are necessary.

The gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and I will continue to work to determine the best way the Congress and the American people can continue to help the affected countries over the long run. It is only fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the first legislative act of this Congress is a truly bipartisan effort to demonstrate the generosity and the caring of the American people.

□ 1800

I firmly hope that this spirit of bipartisanship may spread to some of our other efforts in the 109th Congress. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 12.

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

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished chairman and distinguished ranking member for bringing this very thoughtful resolution to the floor.

What the world is witnessing with this tsunami in the Indian Ocean is a tragedy of awesome dimensions which the executive branch of the United States, the Congress, and the American people are determined to address in the most compassionate way possible.

I stress the word ''compassion'' because in international affairs today, the issue of motives is on everybody's mind. I would like to make it very clear that the only motive of the American people is compassion. There may be geopolitical spinoffs to any actions any government at any time makes or does not make, but this is an issue of people; and it is the obligation of the people's House of the United States to reflect the heart and soul of our constituents, and this we are doing in this resolution.

It is true that this issue is a long way from home. It is also true that it is expensive. Beyond that, it is impressive to me how unprecedented the initial reaction has been. In less than 2 weeks, hundreds of millions of dollars of assistance have already been brought to bear. Indeed, a kind of competitive compassion has been precipitated involving nation states, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and faith-based institutions.

As the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) mentioned, it is particularly impressive what the United States military has been able to do in very short order. It is the institution of our society that can act the quickest in the face of every kind of emergencies. Our military has become, in essence, an instrument of peace in a way that it was not necessarily designed to be, but which we as the American people want it to perform.

Finally, let me stress that in addition to the issue at stake, this is an incredibly important time in human history to attempt to develop models of concern and action that bring people together rather than tear them apart. To the degree that a model of compassion which may or may not be competitive is contrasted with models of accelerating hate, we have hope that other kinds of disasters that may be man-made instead of nature-made can be addressed in similar kinds of ways.

This is a beginning, somewhat hortatory resolution of the United States Congress; but it is meaningful because it is a commitment. I would simply like to stress how impressed I am how every Member of Congress, every constituent that has talked to me, every member of the executive branch is committed to doing the utmost we conceivably can.

This is an issue, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) mentioned, of a human dimension, not any other kind.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations and the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, for his early work on this, along with the chairman.

As a cosponsor, I rise in strong support of this resolution expressing our condolences and our support for additional assistance to the victims of the natural disasters in South and Southeast Asia. It is hard to find words to express our sympathy, our condolences, and for that fact our admiration for the strength and courage of the people in the many countries who survived the devastating earthquakes and tsunamis only 10 days ago.

I am proud that the United States has pledged $350 million in aid, bringing the total aid pledged worldwide to approximately $2 billion; but we will be called upon to do more.

It is almost impossible to comprehend that over 150,000 people died and that an additional 3 to 5 million are living without the basic necessities to survive. Unfortunately, these survivors now face a new threat from disease and starvation. Right now, ruined transportation, infrastructure, and communication systems are hampering some aid efforts. The international community needs to address these serious problems to ensure aid reaches all those who need it. We must house, feed, and protect the people who survived and help these same people rebuild their homes, their economies, and their lives. That is why the United States and other donor countries have pledged our involvement now and in the future. But it is also the individual contributions of Americans that make the difference and show our collective compassion and understanding.

It is impossible to calculate the number of people who lost family members or whose homes, towns, and villages were destroyed; and I often think about how would we feel if this catastrophe happened in our homes, our towns, our States, or our country. We must also remember that each person lost was an individual whose life touched many others. In New Jersey in my own district, we have families from the impacted countries; and I extend my deepest sympathy to anyone who has lost a family member or a loved one.

I also want to recognize the generosity of Americans and private citizens around the world. Just as the world supported the United States and the victims of the families of the victims of the 9/11 attacks, our citizens have shown their sympathy and commitment to the victims of the tsunami. In particular, I want to thank our troops who are on the front lines in the disaster areas, bringing food, water, medical assistance, and other relief to those who need it most.

Finally, even in the midst of our mourning, I believe that from the ashes of this tragedy new opportunity will arise. In Sri Lanka, rebels and the government are working to provide relief together. In Indonesia, the United States and the international community are all working to provide assistance to those affected by the disaster. In the United States, we have a great opportunity to show our empathy and our generosity to the world. I believe we can lead not only in war but in relief, and that we need to be as committed to fighting disease, famine, and tragedy as we are to fighting the war on terror. Then we will win the hearts and minds of many people in this country, as well as show America to be the beacon of light that it is.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), my learned colleague.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his kind remarks.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very solemn occasion on which we meet here tonight: 150,000 people have perished in an unforeseen disaster that took place a little over a week ago. The world has joined hands to try to help these people who suffered in Indonesia and the entire region.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) and I are co-chairmen of the Indonesian Caucus, and we have been working with people in the Indonesian Government because they have moved so rapidly towards democracy and the things that we believe in in this country. It is tragic at this moment in history that they have suffered, along with Sri Lanka, India, and the rest of that region, so heavily because of this horrible tragedy that occurred just a short time ago. President Bush has responded. This country has responded to the tune of $350 million, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) have just recently stated. That is great. Our military has responded very rapidly. That is important as well.

But the American people, if I were able to talk to them tonight, could respond in an equal fashion. If I were allowed, Mr. Speaker, and I know I am not allowed to speak directly to the American people, but if I were, I would say, if they want to make contributions to help our government help the people of that region, they could contact and make contributions through www.usafreedomcorps.gov. I know I cannot say that because we are not able to make that kind of a plea from the well to the American people. But if I could, I would once again ask them to make contributions through www.usafreedomcorps.gov because that would help augment what the United States Government is trying to do to help the people of this region.

As many as 5 million people, as many as the people in the whole State of Indiana, could adversely be affected if they do not get the resources necessary to help with the potential health problems and the infrastructure problems that occur over there. We want to make sure that the world tragedy that has occurred in that region does not get any worse, and the best way to do that is to make sure the resources they need get there as quickly as possible.

We are doing our part as a government, but the American people and the rest of the people could help as well if they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for bringing this resolution forward tonight, along with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH). We really appreciate what our government and the President is trying to do. The President has appointed former President Bush and President Clinton to head up an effort to raise additional resources. We appreciate that, and we urge the American people to help as well in any way that they can.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), an indefatigable fighter on behalf of suffering people across the globe.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me add my great appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for recognizing the need for this Congress on the very day of our swearing-in ceremonies to offer to the people of the world our deepest sympathy, and also our ability to be able to understand a horrific tragedy that is unspeakable.

We note 140,000 who may have died by the tsunami, but it may be growing, 150,000, 160,000. As I listened to the remarks being made by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), I noted as we have worked together on these issues that more than one-third are children, and how we can all recall the day of 9/11 when it came to our attention in New York that so many children had been left behind because of the tragedy and death of their parents.

Now not only do we have children that have died, but we have children that are left behind. So I say to those in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, Thailand and India, Somalia, Malaysia, Maldives, Bangladesh, Kenya, Burma, and many other places, that we recognize that no words can comfort you for this tragedy.

But out of this enormous tragedy I believe that the world can now take its rightful place as a healer, as a place where there is caring, there is nurturing. And so for the $350 million, although many of us recognize that the initial response was not what we wanted it to be, today we come in celebration and acknowledgment of the leadership that has been given by this Nation. We are grateful for the $350 million; but more importantly, I am grateful for the words of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) that we will do more.

I think it is also important to state for the record $2 billion around the world has been promised. That shows that the world can work together for peace for humanitarian causes. Might I also say in a special note and special prerogative that I would like to congratulate those in the city of Houston

and acknowledge the work that was done by that city.

On December 27, 2004, over 75 persons joined in a very small room in my Federal building and organized a Houston's Solution For Tsunami Victims. The representatives were from the council offices of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Council Office of Thailand, Pakistan, India and the Vietnam community and others.

□ 1815

What we wanted to do is not to be selfish and to separate ourselves but we wanted to have the Houston mark on this terrible tragedy. And so to my colleagues, the City of Houston is organizing as a city. Some of our ideas will be, of course, to adopt cities in those regions to be part of the long-term rebuild of schools and hospitals and as well to provide medical supplies and other dollars to be part of the larger effort. My hat is off to that effort. In fact, our first event will be this Sunday, January 9, in Houston, Texas.

Might I close by saying this is what can be done all over the Nation and I know it is being done. I will also ask my colleagues to join me in supporting legislation that I am filing, a resolution on temporary protective status of those individuals in this country whose documentation may be expiring and therefore are not able to go back to these devastated countries will be allowed to stay here until their nations are rebuilt. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important effort.

I thank the leaders who have put forward this resolution. They are visionaries but most importantly they are humanitarians. I am glad today this Congress is standing up to be called not just a Congress but people who care, who believe in the world family.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I would like to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) again leading, being the moral leaders of this body concerning issues of human rights and humanitarian concerns. I appreciate their leadership. I am a very grateful follower. I would like to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for his leadership on this issue as well.

This resolution does express our condolences to the people of Asia and East Africa devastated by this incredible tsunami which on December 26 hit this region and has cost at least 140,000 lives. It is a staggering number of lives. It is hard to comprehend how many people have lost loved ones and are suffering. In this time of need, the world has responded in a manner unprecedented in its size and scope to a catastrophe that is unprecedented. Between private and public donations, the relief effort so far has totaled over $3 billion. The distorted characterization of a confused United Nations official notwithstanding, America can be especially proud that in this time of need our people and our government have stepped forward. In addition to government aid, which sometimes people overseas only recognize the government aid, a significant amount of donations have come from charitable organizations and private donations in which our people voluntarily give out of a loveness in their heart and a concern for humanity. As we speak, financial and material donations, private sector as well as public, continue to be pledged.

However, all the relief does not diminish the anguish and personal pain of so many tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of people who have lost loved ones. And to those people, you have the prayers of the American people and our hearts are with you. Every day there are new stories of a family having lost both mother and father or parents who have lost their children. Communities have been demolished and the hard work in piecing these people's lives together will take many, many years.

The people of the United States stand with these people who are in need and who have been affected by this horrible tragedy. Incidentally, many of those who have been suffering from this natural disaster are Muslims. I would hope that these people in the Islamic world understand that America is stepping forward with generosity to help these people not because they are Muslims or whatever their faith is but because we care about them as human beings. We hope that they put that in perspective when they are trying to analyze what the United States is all about.

Compounding this tragedy, of course, is an economic issue that we need to discuss as well and that is the lapse of a 30-year-old WTO agreement for manufactured apparel. This would not even come up and people would not understand it had it not been for the tsunami. A critical part of Sri Lanka's and Thailand's as well as Indonesia's economy deals with producing this apparel. With the ending of this agreement, of the quota system for apparel, we can expect that China will benefit dramatically even though China has not suffered from this natural disaster. It will benefit and $2.5 billion of trade will be taken from Sri Lanka alone, for example.

I think in light of this tsunami tragedy and the current labor practices in China that an extension of this agreement is not only in the best interests of our friends in Thailand and Sri Lanka but for all countries who believe in standards of labor and human rights practices. I would suggest that we go back to those quotas as of January 1 and postpone the elimination of the quotas for 2 years in order to help those countries that are now suffering.

I would also like to recognize the people of Thailand and the royal family of Thailand who have cared for thousands of refugees and people over the years from Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. For over 30 years they have taken in refugees and so generously cared for them. Now they are in need of help and it is up to us to help the people of Thailand. Our relief efforts and our donations go with a great deal of understanding that the Thais have themselves been generous and it is our time to be generous to them. Relief workers are now struggling to reunite families and find loved ones that are dead and their remains brought back to the family. As they do, the people of Thailand are going to be suffering. We know that. I know those people. Let us keep them in mind and their suffering in mind. As we move forward, let us do ourselves proud by doing what is right and that is what is happening throughout America and the free world today.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me also thank the chairman and the ranking member for putting forth House Resolution 12, of which I am a cosponsor, which I do think is very significant in light of what we have witnessed in the aftermath of the tsunami over the last 10 days.

I want to say, first of all, that this resolution as we know talks about a number of things that we need to do and that to some extent we have already done. One is to provide humanitarian assistance. I know the President has pledged $350 million, which may seem like a lot, but I frankly think that we probably will end up needing significantly more in terms of humanitarian assistance. In addition to that, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) mentioned long-term reconstruction, development assistance because we must remember that many of the people no longer have a means of livelihood, fishermen who no longer have their fishing boats, farmers whose land may be salted and have no longer the ability to farm. We have to think in terms of long-term reconstruction and development aid.

And finally what I call the early warning system. There has been a lot of discussion and I think there is a need to expand the tsunami early warning system that exists in the Pacific not only to the Indian Ocean but also possibly to the Atlantic Ocean and throughout the world. We know that this can be done fairly inexpensively. We are talking about maybe 5 to $10 million for the Atlantic, maybe $20 million at the most for the Indian Ocean. I think this has to be part of our effort to make sure that this event never occurs again.

I just also wanted to say I was, of course, disappointed with the early stages of the President's response, but when he said that he wanted now to provide all appropriate assistance, I

certainly take him at his word and I appreciate the fact that now we are moving forward. He has not only provided a public element with the $350 million but sent his brother and Secretary of State Powell overseas and now we have the private element with the two former Presidents that are involved. We should be very happy with the fact that more private American assistance has been pledged than even the $350 million in government assistance that the President has promised. I know that at some point we may have to do an appropriations bill, perhaps an emergency appropriations bill to replenish the assistance that has already been out there, and I certainly know that over the next few weeks that the chairman and the ranking member and the members of the Appropriations Committee will be looking at that. I think it is very important.

The last thing that I did want to mention is the fact that in my district, as many of my colleagues have mentioned, we have a large number of Indian Americans, Sri Lankan Americans, South Asians from many of the countries that have been impacted. It is amazing to see the outpouring from these communities and from the public in general in terms of providing money, providing clothing, providing medical supplies. The outpouring that we have seen I think is really a symbol and a reality of what Americans are all about from all walks of life.

Again I want to thank my colleagues for putting this resolution together and the other commitments that I expect will be forthcoming over the next few weeks.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and thank the gentleman from California as well for bringing this resolution to the floor. As a mark of respect for the victims of the Indian Ocean earthquake and the resulting tsunamis, I rise today in strong support of this resolution, as a cosponsor of this resolution, to honor the victims and to show my support for the humanitarian aid that our country is helping to provide with our partners from around the world. My prayers go out to the victims and their families who have been struck by this horrific tragedy, in particular, the large Asian and Indian community that resides in my district and, in fact, in all of our State of New Jersey.

Currently the estimated death toll is more than 140,000, in some cases over 150,000 people in South and Southeast Asia and East Africa. Between 3 and 5 million people throughout the affected region are lacking basic survival requirements, access to clean water, adequate shelter, food, sanitation and health care. Contaminated water sources in the affected countries have increased the risk of cholera, dysentery and malaria. Approximately 500,000 people have been displaced in Indonesia; more than 889,000 are displaced in Sri Lanka; 3.5 million people are affected in India; and more than 10,000 are injured in Thailand. In addition, between 15,000 and 30,000 may be affected in Somalia; 12,000 are displaced in Malaysia; and approximately 12,000 are displaced and 300,000 affected in the Maldives. These numbers are astounding. We must continue to do all that we can to help the millions who have been affected by this disaster. I strongly support all efforts by our country and the many others that are helping to meet the call for financial and voluntary relief. In fact, it is my hope to travel to the affected areas very soon to help do my part in seeing that the relief effort under way is a success.

Further, I would like to recognize the strong support of the American people. They have heeded the call to help their neighbors across the globe with a dedication and a determination that is an embodiment of our American spirit. We have banded together as a Nation and have continued our longstanding tradition of donating our considerable resources to our fellow men and women around the world. Again, let me thank Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS for bringing this important resolution to the floor. I am proud to be a cosponsor.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time. I also want to commend him and the chairman of the committee, my colleague from Illinois, and all of those who have spoken. I rise in strong support of this resolution. I also want to commend the people of my district and people throughout America who have risen to the occasion.

I noted with pride on New Year's Eve African-American churches in my district who had turned their traditional watch meeting night into an appeal for the people who have been affected. I took great pride in Chinatown in my district a few days ago when my Chinese constituents, Chinese Americans, were organizing relief efforts to send money and medical aid. I also took great pride when my Tamilian friends from Sri Lanka came to express the support that they not only were seeking but were also giving. This is a tremendous effort on the part of not only organized governments but organized citizens throughout America. I am pleased to be a part of it. Again I commend Chairman HYDE, Ranking Member LANTOS and all of those who have spearheaded this resolution.

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Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

I rise in support of this resolution. I think we all watched in shock at the devastation caused by the December 26 earthquake and the subsequent tsunami. I led a delegation to Gujarat in 2001 to assess the damage after the earthquake that shook India, and that devastation, that tragedy, was indescribable. And after that quake, the world community pulled together, as did the people of India, including Indian Americans, to address the humanitarian disaster. But the quake there in magnitude was less than this quake. This quake was 9.0. And the effect has been such that the death toll today is over 150,000.

As we have heard on the floor, millions have been left homeless. Indeed the images of death and destruction that we have seen on television are sobering. It is difficult to comprehend the extent of the damage because the devastation stretches across 5,000 miles and 12 countries. It stretches across geographical and cultural and religious lines.

As is often the case in extreme disaster, we also see the best in the human spirit. There has been an outpouring of support across our country from both individuals and from businesses. Members from the Los Angeles County Fire Department's disaster response team have been dispatched to Sri Lanka. Niagara Water Company of Irvine, California, has donated 55,000 gallons of water.

The actions taken by the United States Government speak louder than any statement can. Not surprisingly, first on the scene was the United States military. An aircraft carrier task force was immediately diverted from Hong Kong to the Gulf of Thailand, and a Marine Expeditionary Force from Guam was dispatched to the Bay of Bengal. No other organization in the world can tackle the logistical challenge of getting these types of assets on location to assist the people in need. As a matter of fact, the local governor in Aceh said that the U.S. Navy helicopters appeared to him like ''angels,'' in his words, as they arrived to deliver supplies to those people in need.

Through this challenge we see opportunities for the United States to make a lasting impression in South and in Southeast Asia. Cooperation between the U.S. and India is expanding like never before. The U.S. regional command center for this unprecedented relief operation has been established in Thailand. And the U.S. and Indonesian military forces are working together for the first time in many years.

The United States stands by the people of South and Southeast Asia during this catastrophe.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN), the dean of the California delegation.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I give thanks to the chairman and ranking member for having this resolution before us this evening. When we turn on the TV, when we read the

news and we learn of just the scope of the magnitude of this disaster, it is simply staggering. In India and Sri Lanka and Thailand and Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Burma, even Kenya and Somalia on the African coast, the devastation is simply stunning. And it is important that the United States show leadership to the world and to the victims in coming to grips with this. I really cannot think of an event in my lifetime that has been this enormous in terms of loss of life and long-term implications for this part of the world. So I am glad that we are here on this first day of the 109th Congress to show the world that we stand ready and in solidarity with those who have lost their lives, those who have lost members of their family, and certainly there are those from other parts of the world visiting South Asia.

I want, as others have mentioned, to give great thanks to my constituents in Silicon Valley first started by Americans who were from South Asia or whose families were originally from South Asia, organizing volunteer efforts; and the response has been dramatic and huge from every corner of Silicon Valley to step forward and to help with the relief effort. However, as others have mentioned, our assistance is going to be needed for some time to come.

I heard on the radio news this morning that in some of the towns, 80 percent of the teachers have been lost, 85 percent of all the police officers have died. The infrastructure of civilization for many of the towns and localities is simply gone. So we will look to so many of our fellow citizens to do volunteer efforts and to donate generously. They are not disappointing us. But it is the institution of the United States Government that is going to have to be in with a helping hand to help these parts of the world become civilized again, to come up from the muck that the tsunami brought to them and to take once again their place in the world. I am pledged to work with all of my colleagues in the House towards that end. I am proud that the Speaker and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our leader, each made this tragedy part of their opening remarks at the start of the 109th Congress. I thank them for that.

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

Long before she joined the Congress, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) was a fighter for all humane and humanitarian endeavors across the globe. She expresses the views of all Democrats on this important humanitarian crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the committee for his kind words and for his great leadership. And I thank the gentleman from Illinois, the two of them, for bringing this very important resolution both to the floor. They both have been champions for humanitarian causes and human rights throughout the world. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), especially for his work on the Human Rights Caucus. And, in fact, the definition of human rights and our attention to the condition of mankind extends to the issue that is before us today.

As the world knows, 9 days ago we witnessed on television the most destructive power of nature, a powerful earthquake and subsequent tsunami that took more than 150,000 lives and seriously injured hundreds of thousands more across Asia. The unspeakable devastation the world has witnessed in these areas presents a challenge not only for the millions of people who are struggling to recover and rebuild but also for all of us who are called by our faith and our common humanity to help those in need.

Nothing can give back all that has been lost, but the actions we take today and in the days ahead help to keep the epic disaster from becoming even more far reaching. In a tragedy such as this one, there is only the smallest measure of inspiration that can be taken from the devastation.

But if there is anything hopeful to be found in the aftermath of the tragedy, it is that the worst of Mother Nature has brought out the best in human nature. Americans have donated hundreds of millions of dollars in private donations. The coordinated efforts by USAID, the International Red Cross, UNICEF, OXFAM and Care and many others are providing quick and vital resources. Relief workers are struggling 24 hours a day to distribute supplies and medical care to the injured and homeless. The United States Government has pledged $350 million in emergency assistance for the region. And when the victims of the disaster in Asia see our soldiers and ships and helicopters bringing food, supplies, and medical care, they see the compassion that is the best of America.

The chairman and ranking member of the Committee on International Relations and I in my capacity as ranking member on the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations, we have traveled the world to see our assistance at work, and we know that when the U.S. military becomes involved in humanitarian assistance, they are the best. They are well organized. They get the job done in record time. We are very proud of them and all that they do and certainly in the case of the tsunami.

All of these things are critical, but much more needs to be done. It is estimated by the United Nations that 1.8 million people will need food aid, 1.8 million people. Roads and bridges will need to be rebuilt to get that aid to the people who need it. Millions of people are homeless and in need of shelter. The statistics are daunting, but we must not lose sight of the power of the United States to soften nature's blow. The statistics are staggering, but we remember every single individual as a person who is affected by this. A compassionate and generous response from the United States is essential to save these individual lives and to stabilize the entire region.

While there has been a strong initial response to the crisis, there must be initiative to assist in the longer-term reconstruction process. The United States must take the lead by providing a multi-year assistance package that does not come at the expense of other disaster relief efforts around the world. I hope that a package of aid and assistance for the victims of last week's tsunamis will be the first significant bipartisan accomplishment of this 109th Congress, and I know under the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and our distinguished Speaker in his beautiful words today about the disaster that we have a good chance that that will be possible.

There is a passage in the Bible that speaks to the power of the spirit at times such as this: ''The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone; the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars.'' As one who kind of likes victories, I understand the strength of cedars, but we will replace and rebuild.

I kind of think another passage from the Bible is appropriate here. It is appropriate on many occasions, but I thought of it the minute I saw the tsunami, and that is in the Old Testament they tell us that to minister to the needs of God's creation is an act of worship, to ignore those needs is to dishonor the God who made us and them. So we can have an act of worship by ministering to the needs of these people.

I especially want to mention the country of Indonesia that has been devastated by the crisis. Indonesian health authorities reported Sunday that the tsunami may have killed 100,000 people in the Aceh province alone. This natural disaster comes after the Indonesian Government has performed massive military operations and frankly brutal acts of violence against the civilian population of Aceh in recent years.

The international response presents an opportunity for the government of Indonesia to form a new partnership, a fresh start, with the people of Aceh. It is critical that the Indonesian Government continue to open the region to relief organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the media. It will take a long time. It will require a great deal of help. The scars may never heal entirely, and the memories of loved ones lost will linger forever. But with the help of people of the world, the people of the affected countries will recover and rebuild.

Already we see people who were strangers to each other before the disaster standing together, some of them

right in this very room, and today with this resolution and with the actions that will be necessary in the coming days to give substance to our words, we say to them the people of the United States stand with them. We can say that with great assurance because of the leadership of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and those kind words, again, of the Speaker this morning.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leader for her powerful and eloquent statement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations and ranking member of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time and also extend my appreciation to the chairman of our committee for the support and cosponsorship of this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this certainly has been a tragic crisis in Southeast Asia, and I do not know if my colleagues know that I am probably one of the few Members who has ever personally experienced what it means to go through a tidal wave and so sad to hear from the media reports and learning in some parts of this region when the reefs and the beaches are sucked into the ocean and the water recedes some 300 yards from the reefs and the children and people not knowing the nature, that this is how a tidal wave comes about.

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And then, the children playing and the fish flopping all over the place thinking this is a blessing from God, and then knowing that they should be running in the opposite direction when the tidal wave hits. This is really a sad situation.

Mr. Speaker, what I really wanted to address and share with my colleagues is a certain criticism that has been brought not only to the world community, but to our Nation, suggesting that our country has been stingy in giving assistance to those who are in need. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr. Speaker, in the Wall Street Journal article on 31 January, and according to a USAID report, in the year 2000, our country donated over $56 billion in international assistance. Eighteen percent of that alone came from the government. $33.6 billion, or 60 percent, came from private donors, $3 billion from corporations, $3.4 billion from religious organizations, $18 billion from individual donations alone, not even counting foundations and from public organizations and universities.

I suggest that the next time we get criticisms from others suggesting that our Nation has not been generous in giving assistance to those in need really needs to be corrected. And I am very, very glad not only from Secretary Powell, but from President Bush, that we need to make certain corrections.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert for the RECORD the full text of this editorial commentary in the Wall Street Journal of 31 January. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 3, 2005]

FAR FROM STINGY

Across the world, the reaction to Asia's tsunami is bringing out the best in human nature. Fund-raising appeals, disaster-relief teams, military assets—all are being marshaled for the victims of this tragedy.

Which makes it all the more outrageous that a top United Nations official chose this week to accuse the U.S. and other Western nations of being stingy with assistance to poorer nations. ''We were more generous when we were less rich,'' Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland lectured on Monday. ''And it is beyond me why we are so stingy, really.''

Now, complaints about U.S. miserliness are more routine than the earthquakes and floods that strike the globe. A favorite ''fact'' of international critics is that while the U.S. government nearly always ranks first in absolute amounts of foreign aid, it tends to fall last among industrial countries in aid as a percentage of gross national product. The one-tenth of one percent that Washington devoted to foreign assistance, they say, is nothing compared with what the U.S. could afford.

The problem is that, as with so many questions of accounting (say, Oil for Food), the U.N. and other international bodies rely on unreliable ledgers. Groups like the Development Assistance Committee (part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) tend to look only at ''official'' government aid. What this misses is that Americans have never trusted government institutions to dole out assistance. Instead, we open our wallets for private groups that are better at targeting money where it's needed, tracking projects, cutting waste—and getting results.

When it comes to this sort of giving, nobody beats Americans. According to a 2003 report from the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. international assistance to developing countries in 2000 was $56 billion. Yet just 18% of that was ''official'' government assistance. Some $33.6 billion—or 60%—came from the private sector. Corporations shelled out nearly $3 billion. Religious groups weighed in with $3.4 billion. Individuals provided $18 billion. To say nothing of funds from foundations, private and voluntary organizations, or universities.

Cynics mark this generosity down to a U.S. tax code that encourages giving. Yet most research shows that Americans view donations as a duty. Philanthropy magazine reports a study showing the average U.S. contribution outweighs the average German or French one seven- or eight-fold. This sense of responsibility is often motivated by faith; some 60% of American donations go to religious groups or causes.

None of this sits well with the U.N., whose own budget relies on state dollars. A chastened Mr. Egeland was forced later this week to claim he'd been misinterpreted and to acknowledge U.S. generosity. But behind this apology is the U.N.'s longstanding belief that what's really needed is for the U.S. and others to raise taxes to pay for more public foreign aid.

That approach reigns in Western Europe and explains what's wrong with so much of current foreign aid. Europeans have come to view private donations as a failure of the state and expect their governments to collect billions in taxes to shuffle along to slow-moving and unaccountable international bureaucracies. The result is a lose-lose situation. Giving countries see their own economies depressed by higher taxes and receiving countries find the aid too often enabling strongmen or perpetuating poor policies.

A far better approach, at least in the public sphere, are initiatives such as President Bush's Millennium Challenge Account. By tying long-term assistance to improvements in specific economic and political goals—such as cracking down on corruption or establishing rules of law—foreign aid brings about real reform. This approach drives U.N. bureaucrats nuts, a sure sign it's on the right track.

Today's priority in Asia is immediate humanitarian relief. The list of U.S.-based private and religious organizations already working in the area is stunning. And it's good to see the U.S. decision effectively to go around U.N. bureaucracy by working directly with a coalition of Japan, Australia and India to coordinate relief. Meanwhile, we can expect the federal government to continue its tradition of generosity in the upcoming weeks—a tradition that resulted in $2.4 billion in humanitarian relief last year along, or 40% of the world total.

But future money, both public and private, should be aimed at developing the sort of governments and economies that will be equipped to deal with disasters on their own.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional requests for time. In concluding, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I again want to express my deep appreciation to my friend and distinguished colleague, the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE). I want to say that all of us here are profoundly proud of the generosity of the American people, the generosity of our government, and the extraordinary skill and heroism of our military in facing up to this crisis. Those who cannot get over their mindless anti-Americanism should look at what the American people, the American government, and our military have done in the last few days concerning this crisis, and they will need to rethink their mindless hatred of this great Nation.

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

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER).

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 12 expressing the condolences of this House and the support for the people of the countries that have been impacted by the tsunami in Asia.

A friend of our country, Sri Lanka, was one of the countries most devastated. Sadly, Sri Lanka lost at least 30,000 of its citizens, and that toll may rise well into the 40,000 range. I serve as co-chairman of the Sri Lanka Caucus in the House and I have traveled personally to Sri Lanka. I have seen firsthand many of the areas now devastated by the tsunami, and my heart and prayers and those of my colleagues go out to the people of Sri Lanka at this difficult time.

Today many Americans are still unaccounted for who were in Sri Lanka when this tragedy struck, but as we deal with that loss and also work to help the nearly 1 million living survivors who are now displaced in Sri Lanka, we continue to move forward and we want to express our support.

Secretary of State Colin Powell plans to be in Sri Lanka this Friday to express our support and to see firsthand what more we can do, and I am proud of the support that the United States Government has been providing. In the early hours of the day after Christmas, top U.S. Government officials began the work of aiding Sri Lanka and the entire region, immediately moving money to the affected areas and sending out teams to survey the damage for accurate assessment of needs. To date our President, President Bush, has pledged $350 million in relief in recovery assistance, and already $13 million has been allocated to our friend Sri Lanka alone.

The Department of Defense and USAID have established a regional coordination center in Sri Lanka to coordinate our relief efforts to the region as well as this friendly country. Hundreds of USAID and military personnel are on the ground in Sri Lanka helping to assist the relief efforts. I would also note that the men and women of the United States military are fully engaged helping Sri Lanka. In this region, the United States has committed a vast majority of military assets to the region: 20 ships, 14 strategic lift cargo planes, and 48 helicopters. The USS Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group is in route to Sri Lanka, as well as a ship capable of producing 90,000 gallons of fresh water every day. We have also instituted a cash for work program, helping the local economy and cleanup efforts at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much that we can do, and I want to thank our friends in the private sector who have stepped forward. We in the United States are doing our part and we want to do more. We are working in partnership with the world in this effort to aid Sri Lanka, and the Indian government in particular has been very helpful in the Sri Lanka mission.

The United States will continue to help Sri Lanka and the entire region as long as needs are there. We stand in support and we express our condolences, and our prayers go out to the people of Sri Lanka.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, like people everywhere, I mourn the devastation and loss of life caused by the massive tsunami in South Asia. The enormity of the disaster is staggering and I extend my condolences to those around the world touched by this tragedy. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families in this time of overwhelming need.

I applaud the outpouring of support by the many nations, organizations and individuals across the world who have responded quickly to the disaster. By working together, we will help rebuild the lives of the residents of South Asia.

I will travel to South Asia next week and, through the generosity of numerous hospitals in my district of El Paso, Texas, will deliver medical supplies to assist in some small way with the relief and rebuilding process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution before us today, and ask all Americans to continue to keep the victims of this terrible tragedy in their prayers.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my family and the constituents of the 17th District of California, I would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families of the tsunami natural disaster. As the number of victims continues to increase, America is united in mourning the staggering loss of lives—many, many of whom are children.

In the last week, the millions of people affected by the tsunami have faced terrifying obstacles. But the global community stands in solidarity with the 12 affected nations. While the United States and other governments have promised humanitarian aid, private citizens in the United States have also shown an amazing outpouring of generosity and compassion. In my own congressional district, which has experienced a number of natural disasters, a number of compassionate people are reaching out to the South Asia disaster victims. For example, the Salinas Rotary Club, along with other Rotary Clubs across the country, is organizing to supply "Shelter Boxes" that contain basic necessities like tents and sleeping bags.

Humanitarian assistance is desperately needed on an unprecedented global scale. The international community has pledged $2 billion, with a contribution of $350 million from the United States, but it is clear that more will be required of many. I intend to support an emergency funding bill for U.S. tsunami aid and I urge the President and the Republican leadership to be generous, as the world community was to the United States in the wake of 9/11.

In addition to our efforts to help the survivors of this tragedy, we must also work to ensure that we can better alert people to similar events in the future. The United States should lead the world in implementing a global ocean observing system. The recently-released U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy final report noted the importance of using observation systems to help us to prevent the loss of life and property and be better stewards of the oceans. One of my priorities in the coming year will be to continue pushing for implementation of the U.S. Commission recommendations.

Millions of people were left homeless and facing terrifying obstacles as a result of this tsunami. But I hope they can take some solace in knowing that people across the globe stand in solidarity with them. Not only have governments promised extensive support, but private citizens everywhere are digging into their own pockets to give what they can. This outpouring of generosity and compassion is amazing and reaffirming. No matter cultural differences or physical distance, in times of crisis we always come together to help one another. As the New Year begins, I pray for the quick recovery of those affected by the disaster and hope that the compassion shown during this crisis continues far into the future.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the resolution and join all Americans in an expression of condolences to the people and countries that have been devastated by last week's tsunami. In particular, I want to offer my personal sympathy to: Ambassador Sen of India, Ambassador Brotodiningrat of Indonesia, Ambassador Subasinghe of Sri Lanka, and Ambassador Piromya of Thailand.

Tsunamis are walls of water that inundate coastal areas with little or no warning, often taking many lives and causing extensive property damage. They are initiated by sudden underwater disruptions and in this regard they differ from wind generated waves because the power they pack is not limited to the surface. Tsunamis are usually started as a result of an undersea earthquake, which for years was considered to be the sole cause of tsunamis. Research is now showing that tsunami generation involves intricate interactions between earthquakes, landslides, and sympathetic vibrations between the quake and the ocean above it.

Tsunamis have been known since 426 B.C., and between 1990 and 2001 there were 11 major tsunami events in the Pacific Rim, killing over 4,000 people and causing hundreds of millions in property damage. Before this week, the most devastating tsunami occurred in 1755 in the Atlantic which killed 60,000 people and destroyed much of Lisbon. By comparison, the death toll from the Banda Aceh tsunami could exceed 150,000 on top of the unthinkable numbers of displaced, orphaned, and injured. Subsequent disease and untreated injuries will undoubtedly add to these statistics.

The President has already pledged $350 million in direct support to the affected countries on top of the medical, infrastructure, and logistics support from the U.S. Military. I want to encourage my colleagues in the Congress to work together as we did last fall to provide nearly $14 billion in relief to the Southeastern states and Caribbean nations following the four devastating hurricanes.

Former Presidents Clinton and Bush are leading the Nation's private fundraising activities, and I want to ask all Americans, to contribute whatever they can to the relief efforts for what is likely history's most deadly natural disaster.

Beyond these immediate needs, I want to encourage you to work with me in developing programs that will help to minimize losses suffered in future natural disasters. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey lead the United States in the research, monitoring, and warning of tsunamis and other natural disasters. For example, the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis Project (DART) can detect ocean level anomalies as small as ½ inch in 20,000 feet of water to determine if a tsunami event is occurring in the deep sea. This system was useful to avoid a false alarm in response to an Alaskan earthquake in 2001. DART stations cost about $250,000 to purchase and around $125,000 per year to maintain. Stations are now located off the coasts of Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, and Chile, but we need to consider how this system can be expanded to other parts of the world.

Even with detection systems such as DART, notification alarms and awareness programs must be implemented for them to be effective. The first waves took 2–3 hours to hit Phuket

(Thailand), Sri Lanka, and India after the initiating quakes. Even a few minutes of warning can make a huge difference if preceded with the proper awareness training. For example a 1993 tsunami followed an earthquake in Japan by a mere 6 minutes. Although 200 people perished, 1,200 people escaped the waves by running inland as soon as they felt the shaking.

Research on the causes of tsunamis is also needed. One of the most severe tsunamis in recent history occurred in Papua New Guinea in July 1998. The initiating earthquake was unexceptional at a magnitude of 7.1—the size of an earthquake that strikes somewhere in the world about every 3 weeks. Geological modeling strongly suggested that the quake caused an underwater landslide that together triggered the exceptional size tsunami. Other preliminary research indicates that under some conditions, tsunamis may be detectable from aircraft or satellites using radar or radiometers miles away from coastal areas.

In this regard, I look forward to working with the Science Committee to identify opportunities for natural disaster detection and warning, and I look forward to hearing tomorrow's briefing from Dr. David Applegate from USGS and General D.L. Johnson from NOAA.

In addition to these financial and research initiatives, I want to remind my colleagues of the friends and families of the victims within the United States who also need our assistance.

Many national from affected countries that reside in the United States on either a permanent or temporary basis. Some have no one left to provide monetary support and no home due to demolition by the violent waves and flooding. It is in the spirit of rebuilding and internationalism that I will introduce legislation to give nationals from affected countries that reside in the United States an opportunity to establish eligibility for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

This legislation would grant TPS to eligible nationals from specified countries who presently reside in the United States. TPS relief under this proposal will provide a necessary but temporary respite from deportation that will permit eligible applicants to work and live lawfully in the United States pending the restoration of a habitable homeland that is not laden with disease. Additionally, this proposal will allow eligible aliens to travel abroad and to return to the United States and be treated the same as any returning alien provided TPS—which will be helpful to family members of tsunami victims. I ask all of you to support this legislation and to join together in pledging the maximum level of resources to make the recovery of the affected areas expedient.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I join my House colleagues in extending condolences to the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis that recently battered South and Southeast Asia as well as parts of East Africa. Generated by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake on December 26, massive tsunamis devastated whole villages in Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India.

The degree of this calamity has shocked and saddened all Americans, and I am pleased that through their representatives, the American people have an opportunity to formally express their grief for the more than 150,000 people who perished.

Our sorrow for those lost, however, should not distract us from the immediate humanitarian crisis gripping the region. The World Health Organization (WHO) has suggested that between three to five million people lack basic survival requirements, including access to clean water, adequate shelter, food, sanitation, and health care.

The WHO is also warning of an imminent health crisis, as contaminated water sources increase the risk of cholera, dysentery, malaria, and dengue fever.

As the world community responds to this natural disaster, I hope and expect that the United States Government and the American people will be on the forefront of efforts to provide immediate and long-term aid. President Bush has so far committed $350 million for disaster relief, and I am hopeful that this amount will increase as we get a clearer picture of the devastation that has taken place.

In the meantime, U.S. Government agencies are on the ground. The U.S. Air Force has transported 43,000 lbs of food, supplies, and equipment to the region, and helicopters from the USS *Abraham Lincoln* are shuttling supplies into northern Sumatra. The Defense Department is deploying Navy and Marine Corps supply ships and dispatching military medical teams to the most isolated and hard-hit areas.

In addition, USAID, the federal agency responsible for the distribution of foreign aid, is now assessing the damage and individual country needs. These assessments will help better direct the emergency aid that is already flowing to the region. USAID will also identify the long-term goals to rebuild local economies, housing and infrastructure.

The President has also enlisted former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton to lead nationwide private fundraising efforts which are sure to generate large amounts of private donations. The American people are compassionate, and they will certainly give generously to help tsunami victims regain their health and their livelihoods.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all those impacted by the tsunamis, including the estimated 5,000 Americans in the region who have not yet been heard from. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to share my condolences with the victims of the tsunami in South Asia. The magnitude of destruction and devastation left in the wake of this tragic disaster is incomprehensible. I join all Americans who are heartbroken by the images of towns and villages washed away and of the thousands of orphaned children who will grow up as survivors of this disaster.

As the United States and the international community work to provide relief for the victims of this tragedy, I urge my colleagues to ensure that our efforts to assist in the reconstruction not be short-lived. While it is imperative that we immediately provide the necessary funds for relief work and humanitarian aid, we must ensure that as we assist in this recovery effort, and provide long term assistance to rebuild the infrastructure and communities devastated by this disaster. Beyond financial and humanitarian assistance, the United States must lead an international effort to implement a global tsunami warning and detection system so we can avoid future tragedies.

During this time of recovery, governments and citizens from around the world have worked together to help those in need, regardless of politics, race and religion. It is my sincere hope that out of this tragic situation a lasting spirit of cooperation and mutual respect can emerge. Hopefully this unprecedented cooperation can be used as a trigger to jumpstart the prospects for peace and coexistence throughout the region.

My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, it is a peculiar and embarrassing mark of man's fallen nature that so often it takes tragedy for human beings to see past our differences and into each others' hearts. Two weeks ago, a tragedy of incomprehensible magnitude struck our brothers and sisters on the other side of the world. It was the day after Christmas, actually, when much of the world was still celebrating, that an earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean set off massive tsunamis that have devastated island and coastal countries in southeast Asia and east Africa. The sum total of those killed, injured, diseased, and orphaned by the tsunami is larger than the populations of many countries. And yet, it is also a mark of the dignity of man that, in the face of such tragedy, we do see beyond our differences—cultural, political, religious—and see to it, with all our strength, that right is done.

The tsunami's waters will recede, Mr. Speaker, but the waves of prayers, love, and generous support—already making their way over the ocean—will not. Nor will the attention of the world—nor the attention of this body—until the victim nations recover.

As we meet today, millions of people have been displaced from their homes and communities, and millions more are without the basic needs of survival—food, shelter, clean water, and health care. Countless children have lost their parents, and are now at the mercy of, at best, the crippled social institutions of their homelands, and at worst, we now learn, human traffickers. When faced by devastation and misery of this magnitude, when we see the grief of parents who had to choose which of their children to save, or hear stories of entire villages destroyed by the waves, there seems so little we can do.

But on the contrary, Mr. Speaker, there is so much we must do. President Bush has pledged $350 million in relief and recovery assistance, dispatched Secretary of State Powell and Florida Governor Bush to the region to assess the situation, and tasked former Presidents Clinton and Bush to lead American fund raising for the relief effort. Thousands of our armed forces and America's civilian relief agencies are already on the scene helping the relief effort—transporting food, medical supplies, mobile hospitals, and water-purifying equipment to the scene. And the generosity of the American people will continue to lead the way in the recovery, and in the effort to mitigate the long-term consequences of the disaster. The waters will recede, and life will one day return to normal. All humanity's mission is to bring that day about before another life is needlessly lost. And the world should know that the American people and their Congress will help until no more help is needed.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my most sincere condolences to everyone affected by the devastating tsunami that ravaged Southeast Asia on December 26. My thoughts and prayers go out to those who perished that day and to their families.

The destructive tsunami that shook Southeast Asia claimed the lives of over 156,000.

Just this morning, I read the heart-wrenching story of a 13-year-old boy in Indonesia who lost his father, mother, and brother to the shocking natural disaster. Countless other families have been altered: thousands of children have lost their mothers and fathers, parents have lost their sons and daughters, men and women have lost their husbands and wives. The world has not seen a tragedy of this magnitude in decades, and my heart breaks for those who grieve the death of their family and friends.

Despite the horrendous impact of this overwhelming tragedy, I am moved by the international outpouring of support and compassion to help the tsunami victims as they struggle to overcome the loss of loved ones and piece their lives together. The people of the world and of Southeast Asia have come together to take care of one another. Strangers, who themselves are struggling to find sufficient food and clean water, are taking in orphans who lost their families. International aid workers from countries, rich and poor, and large and small, have traveled to Southeast Asia to help provide essential materials to tsunami victims.

Back in my district, a telethon hosted by a local television station along with efforts of the local branch of the American Red Cross helped Rochesterians raise $365,000 to help fund the disaster relief efforts. In Buffalo, various religious organizations have come together to raise money. The India Association of Buffalo raised $38,000 in a benefit held last Thursday and plans to continue fundraising.

The number of people attempting to give money overwhelmed charity organizations collecting money for tsunami relief. Donations have ranged from $10 to thousands of dollars, and people from all economic brackets are giving what they can to help alleviate the suffering of their fellow fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, and children.

When speaking of international natural disaster relief, President Dwight Eisenhower once said, ''These are deeds of peace. They speak more loudly than promises or protestations of peaceful intent.'' I hope that the worldwide generosity will continue until the need no longer exists, and that the solidarity among people from around the world will persist.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise representing the great people of South Florida and join with them in extending our most heartfelt condolences and thoughts to the people who have been devastated by the most recent tsunami in Asia. We offer them our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, as the world continues to focus on the wrath of this dreadful disaster, it is important to remember the people who have perished. It is important to help the people who have survived and are now picking up the pieces and restarting their lives.

Across 11 nations, over 155,000 people are dead and millions were left homeless. These incredulous numbers, rising by the day, hide the human facet of this appalling disaster. Countless images of men and women holding their children tight, frantically running towards the helicopters with aid. Never-ending lines of families hoping for clean water and food. Thousands upon thousands of men, women and children desperately looking among the rubble upon what was once their homes and lives.

Mr. Speaker, this catastrophe is one of unbelievable magnitude and challenges all nations to join in the relief efforts. I am proud of our brave men and women in the military who are currently manning the lifeline to the devastated regions. From the crew of the USS *Lincoln* to the Seahawk pilots, these young Americans continue to show the generosity—the heart and conscience of—our Nation. I am also tremendously proud of the volunteers across the globe who, in a moment's notice, picked up and journeyed to Asia to help in any way they could. I applaud President Bush's decision to call upon former Presidents Clinton and Bush to raise money for victims.

As we know Mr. Speaker, the greatest source of America's generosity—our essence—is not our government; it's the heart of the American people. I call upon all Americans to give and give generously to organizations that are on the ground, helping the countless victims in the devastated region. In South Florida, organizations such as the American Red Cross of Greater Miami & The Keys, The Association of Indians in America, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, and the Greater Miami Jewish Federation; to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, we in Congress also have an obligation to help the people who have been devastated by the tsunami. As the newly selected co-chair of the India Caucus, I am confident that Congress will do its part in bringing assistance to the peoples of the regions that were hit. In India itself Mr. Speaker, the government increased its death toll to 9,571 dead and also raised its missing total to 5,914 people missing. As horrific as these numbers are, it is encouraging to hear of the joint cooperation between our two peoples and nations. The joint cooperation between the two nations to aid the people of India is clearly evident Mr. Speaker, as the Navies of India and the United States continue to work together and share information. America stands ready to aid the people of India.

Again, I would like to extend our deep condolence to the families of the many earthquake and tsunami victims. We also affirm our commitment to the peoples of the affected regions and urge continued attention by relief agencies to the needs of the vulnerable populations. Our prayers and thoughts are with the victims of this horrible devastation.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution expressing support and condolences to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in South and Southeast Asia. I also want to commend Chairman HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS for their leadership on the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the people of South and Southeast Asia are faced with a natural disaster of an unprecedented scale. Over 150,000 people are dead and the World Health Organization estimates that between 3 and 5 million people are lacking basic survival requirements. Unfortunately, these numbers seem to rise with each passing day. Our condolences and prayers go out to all of those who have been affected by this deeply personal tragedy. But beyond our prayers, the people affected will need the assistance of the international community to prevent the outbreak of disease which threatens to take as many lives as the tsunami.

The humanitarian response by the affected governments, the United Nations, and NGOs working in the region has been impressive in the face of tremendous need and daunting logistics. The outpouring of private contributions from all over the world should reaffirm our faith in humanity. But the magnitude of the need will remain long after the initial humanitarian response has provided people with shelter, food, clean water, and medical care.

The $2 billion already pledged by the United States and other donors is an excellent downpayment, but I think we are only beginning to glimpse the massive undertaking that reconstruction will be. I hope that the House will rapidly consider the legislation that Chairman HYDE and Mr. LANTOS are working on to provide substantial emergency assistance to the affected survivors, to help them rebuild their homes and their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution and to commit themselves to supporting the additional relief we can certainly expect to be necessary.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences to the hundreds of thousands affected by the tsunami in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, Malaysia, and other countries.

December 26 will ever be a day etched in our memories and in our hearts as we struggle to comprehend the magnitude of loss associated with this disaster.

Our great country is often viewed as a leader in the world and I know that the President will ensure that our country maintains this role by mobilizing the necessary humanitarian and economic assistance for both immediate and long-term relief, whether it be the $350 million already pledged or more as each day brings us a deeper understanding of the total impact of this disaster.

We have long held prosperous relationships on economic and security issues with many of the countries that have been affected such as India and Malaysia.

If we fail to adequately meet the needs of those affected by committing to advancing a strong recovery in both the Asian and African nations that have been affected, the long-term worldwide economic and political consequences of this natural disaster could be even more severe.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest condolences and support to those affected by the earthquake-generated tsunamis that struck numerous countries in South Asia and East Africa on December 26, 2004. This enormous natural disaster, which has so far claimed more than 150,000 lives, including many Americans, requires a robust response from the international community.

I am pleased that the United States is taking a leading role in the relief and recovery efforts. We should continue to partner with the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, and other members of the international community to render humanitarian assistance throughout the region. I look forward to working in Congress to increase America's contributions to this effort as additional needs required for long-term rebuilding are identified.

Over the past 10 days, the outpouring of condolences and financial support from the American people has been tremendous. The efforts of the thousands of Americans who are giving of their time, money, and resources are truly reflective of the American spirit, and they exemplify our Nation's values and ideals. I join with my colleagues today in support of the House resolution.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects and give my deepest condolences to those who have suffered through one of the worst natural disasters in history.

As our nation celebrated the holiday season with our loved ones, a tragedy of epic proportions was occurring half a world away. An earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 off the coast of Indonesia triggered a massive tsunami that engulfed several countries throughout South and Southeast Asia. The total aftermath is not yet known as the number of lives lost continues to rise to immeasurable levels.

Though this tragic disaster destroyed lives, families, and entire economies, it did not destroy the strength of character and sense of purpose displayed by the victims who continue to fight daily for survival. The victims of this tsunami are not alone in their struggle. Across our great Nation, Americans, together with the world community, have exhibited their generosity of spirit as they pray for the suffering families and continue to give monetary assistance to those in need.

More than 150,000 people have been killed with millions more affected. These numbers are already impossible to comprehend yet countless others are missing.

We are now presented with a defining historical moment as a nation and as an international community. We must share the fiscal and emotional burden that will only get worse for our brothers and sisters in Southeast Asia. We cannot under-fund, undercut, or undermine our relief efforts by failing to follow through on our promises as a government or our compassion as Americans.

9/11 will always be remembered in our nation as a time of crisis and devastation, yet also a time of perseverance and unity. We survived this horrific event because of the resolve exhibited by our Nation's people and the support received from the international community. The tragedy that has struck Southeast Asia is no less of a crisis and no less devastating.

It is the responsibility of the United States and the world community to continue the aid and assistance of these countries during their time of need. During times of crises are when the integrity of a nation and its people are judged in history. I am encouraged by the overwhelming response and generosity shown by the people across this world. It is the human way to respond; it is the American way to respond.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 11) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 11

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Robert T. Matsui, a Representative from the State of California.

Resolved, That a committee of such Members of the House as the Speaker may designate, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as the dean of the California delegation, I offer this privileged resolution expressing the profound sorrow of all of us within the House of Representatives at BOB MATSUI's passing. I am honored to sponsor this resolution in an attempt to memorialize BOB's contributions to Congress and to our Nation.

Like all of us, I was shocked to hear the news that someone as vibrant as BOB MATSUI is no longer with us. He has been a forceful leader in Congress, and he will be missed. I will miss his counsel and his friendship, having been honored to serve with him during his time in Congress as a fellow Californian and on the Committee on Ways and Means.

But first of all, my thoughts and condolences go to his family, BOB's wife Doris, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna.

I just got around I guess to opening his Christmas card a day or so before the sad news came and was reminded of a night early on when Brian, who is now an adult with an adult life, and he could not have been more than 5 or 6 at the time, and he was at a reception with BOB and Doris and myself and choked on a chicken bone, and the consternation we all had, patting Brian on the back and getting him through the chicken bone incident. So as I say to Brian and to Doris, BOB's memory will live with them and give them great support as they move ahead in their lives.

In his time here, BOB demonstrated and embodied the utmost integrity. He knew and understood the purpose, the greater purpose, really, which we in the House are entrusted with. He lived by and set high standards in public service. In a word, he was a statesman. He went through the experience of being interned during World War II, and it never made him bitter. He never lost his spirit. Rather, it gave him resolve for his own convictions and his sense of public service.

He started in Sacramento after a brief career in law, and then he came to Congress in 1979, starting out with the Committee on the Judiciary and then with the Committee on Government Operations, and then later joining the Committee on Ways and Means where he really became our resident expert on Social Security and was active in trade and tax policy issues as well. He tackled those issues, as I am sure any of my colleagues who have discussed Social Security with him know, with sharp intellect, deep convictions, and compassion for what was right. But he was fair. He had a sense of humility and one of respect I think of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I do know one thing, that BOB MATSUI would have wanted to be here to lead the Democrats in the fight to protect Social Security in this coming session of Congress. He was prepared for it. He was geared up for it. He had been spending his time over the last several weeks before his sad passing to lead us in the effort to protect Social Security. His convictions of compassion mark his work on behalf of disadvantaged children and families in our country as well.

BOB championed expanded health care coverage for children and was a tireless advocate for child welfare. Indeed, he joined many of us in opposing our own administration during the welfare reform issues in 1996, and he introduced key legislation to expand job training and education programs to help people in poverty. We lost that battle in 1996, but he remained steadfast in his commitment to ensure that people got lifted out of poverty, not just kicked off the welfare rolls.

So as the new year began, I had looked forward to his counsel and working with him side-by-side as it were on our committee on important issues.

His spirit will continue to inspire us in the days ahead and with gratitude for all he has done, we will carry on his work and do all we can to honor his life and his contributions to the American people. I know that the House tonight will adjourn in his honor, and on New Year's he adjourned sine die. We say so long, old friend.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to my California

colleague (Mr. STARK). We have worked jointly on this resolution, and it is with a great deal of sadness obviously that we are here at this moment.

We just completed the debate on the resolution that had to do with the loss of now it appears about 150,000 lives from the tsunami that has taken place in South and Southeast Asia. And then we come to the next resolution, talking about one man, an individual who has made a great contribution. And when you juxtapose the resolution with the loss of 150,000 lives and now we are talking about BOB MATSUI, we cannot help but think about the fragility of life.

BOB MATSUI is an individual who offered so much to this institution, but he offered so much to me personally, just as I know he did to others of my colleagues who are going to be speaking tonight and many of those who are not going to be able to be here this evening.

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The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) in her statement when she was turning the gavel over to the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) this morning I think said it very well when she talked about the combination of intellect and passion that BOB MATSUI demonstrated in his life.

We all know that BOB was a tremendous intellect, very thoughtful, very deliberative on issues that he tackled, but he also at the same time had a deeply felt passion in the pursuit of his agenda, and I will tell my colleagues that I shared that agenda in some areas and I shared his passion. I do not know that I have quite the intellect that BOB had, but I shared his passion.

We worked together through the 1980s and the 1990s in pursuit of the global trade agenda, and I know there is a lot of controversy in this House on that issue, but BOB and I worked arm in arm to try and get Bill Clinton trade promotion authority. I remember the kind of energy and the thought that BOB put into this, and he had boundless energy when it came to this. He was a slight person, but boy, I will tell my colleagues, when he put his mind to an issue, he really was very, very diligent in pursuit of that.

We worked together on a wide range of individual trade agreements, going back to the North American Free Trade Agreement. Every single year, BOB MATSUI and I worked together to try and grant what we used to call most-favored nation trading status for the People's Republic of China, and then ultimately we worked together on the granting of permanent normal trade relations.

I happen to believe that that vision that BOB had was a very positive one and has played a big role in improving the quality of life and the standard of living for people all over the world, and I think that when we look at this institution it is a tragic irony, I mean, that this has come. We are not only sad but we are very shocked.

The gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) and I, Mr. Speaker, were just talking about the news and what BOB went through at the end because it did come as a great surprise to him and to Doris and to Brian and Amy and little Anna that he was going in for a checkup, and then it ended up, of course, that because of this infection he was going to not survive. So when this news came out it was a shock to all of us.

I heard it just as I was getting on the airplane to fly back here on Sunday, and I was just taken and I could not help but think about immediately all of the great experiences that I had traveling, working on joint California issues, working, as I said, on the trade agenda and realizing how dedicated this guy was and what a horrible loss this will be for this institution and for us as individuals.

So I join, as the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) has just said, in extending personally my thoughts and prayers to Doris and Brian and his family as well. We all got that picture of their family that was just sent to us, and we could not help but be moved seeing that photograph of them, knowing what a wonderful, wonderful family they are.

I just have to say that I am very, very saddened, and my thought and prayers go to those family members. We have learned how fragile life truly is.

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

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am both saddened and honored to rise today in memory of our friend BOB MATSUI. We can barely glimpse a man's greatness in a single floor statement, but I will try.

American heroes have customarily run toward towering figures of many words, but today, our Chamber and our Nation honors a man whose contribution was not the quantity and volume of words but, rather, the quality and the effectiveness of both his spirit and his skill.

Many will speak from the floor tonight of the landmark, legislative achievements of this extraordinary man. Many more will honor his lifetime of legislative victories and how they directly improved the lives of millions of Americans spanning several generations. Single mothers with infants. Civil rights. Our Nation's most vulnerable seniors. BOB provided more than a voice for those who could not speak for themselves. He provided victory. He provided results. He won monumental battles, not by being the loudest but by being the smartest and the most informed person in the debate.

The Greeks have told us that death is hardest on those it leaves behind. This House has lost a rare statesman. Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna have lost a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. I have lost a mentor and my best friend in this Congress, and our Nation has lost a tireless, compassionate and brilliant leader. To the Members I say, in the year that lies ahead of us, let us make sure that this Chamber is worthy of his grace and his legacy.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), my very good friend from Rocklin.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for the time.

Mr. Speaker, while I, like our other colleagues, was really shocked to learn of this sad news, I think it was exactly a month ago today on the final day of the 108th Congress that BOB and I exchanged a warm greeting in the elevator, wished each other happy holidays and fully expected to see him back here with all the rest of us starting out today in the 109th Congress.

I had the privilege of representing the adjoining region to BOB MATSUI, who represented the City of Sacramento and certain surrounding areas. He and I got to know each other pretty well. We had some real contentious issues, one specific contentious issue that the Chamber is aware of dealing with water supply and flood control in our region, and we battled over that for a long time.

BOB was a fearless advocate for his constituency, and it always impressed me as we went through this process of advocating our points of view and coming to the realization that we would be best served by trying to find some common ground and putting that into law. We got to know each other on a personal basis, and it was really a delightful experience. I think our constituents assumed we were bitter enemies, but that was not the case. The disagreements were never personal, and we actually became friends, and I always enjoyed seeing him.

I knew he was a good family man. He cared a great deal about that, and from time to time we would sit back there in the back rows and visit with each other a little bit about that. He was very proud of his son Brian, first love Doris a great deal, and proud of his daughter-in-law and of his new granddaughter, relatively new, 16 months old I believe.

Like the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), I was opening that Christmas card myself, well, just last week in Rocklin. That was one of the ones I saw, big beautiful card and filled with pictures of his family, and he was a very committed man, a very effective representative.

Sacramento has a lot today because of work that he did, a lot of fine accomplishments from improving the airport to light rail taking off, getting started with him, and developing and extending the lines and so forth, the

massive amount of flood control work on the levies and so forth that is going on, a lot. He has left quite a legacy.

I shall miss him and I am truly sorry that this has happened. It is a shocking event, and my prayers are with Doris and Brian and Amy, his daughter-in-law, and Anna, the granddaughter. I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to offer my thoughts.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to come to terms with BOB's loss. It was a shock and so tragic. He was kind and decent beyond measure. He put a human face on the all too often theoretical debates on health care, Social Security, child welfare and tax policy, and he was always a voice of reason.

BOB cared about the challenges real people faced, children in foster care, workers struggling for a fair shot and seniors whose Social Security checks make the difference between life in or out of poverty.

In 1988, BOB helped the Nation come to terms with the terrible wrong our government committed against Japanese Americans during World War II. BOB and his family were forced into an internment camp when he was 6 months old. His parents were both U.S.-born citizens, but they lost their home and family business during the three-and-a-half years their family was interned.

BOB became the first Japanese American elected to the Sacramento City Council and one of the first Japanese Americans in Congress. He spent his career fighting injustice. Among his many efforts, he established a task force I was privileged to co-chair with him to give Members of Congress with diverse backgrounds a better understanding of the grave threats that Israel and the Israeli people face.

On a personal level, I considered BOB one of my closest friends in this institution. We spent time together, often when I took advantage of the fact that our Bethesda homes were close by each other and hitched a ride with him.

I know BOB's center of gravity was his family, his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and what he made clear was the most adorable granddaughter in the whole world, Anna. He was so proud of Brian and his accomplishments, his clerking for the Supreme Court of the United States and making more money in his first year in a law firm than even Members of the United States Congress.

He cared deeply about his efforts to make a difference through public service and the principles and values of the Democratic Party, and this took him to the position of sacrifice as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Janet and I were so grateful for our friendships over the decade with BOB and Doris. We want to extend our deep condolences to the family, the entire family during this sorrowful time. This is an enormous loss for his family, for his friends and for this entire country.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the very distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for the time.

Mr. Speaker, today we mourn a friend and able colleague. It is a tremendous loss to each of us and to our country.

BOB MATSUI was someone that virtually everyone in the Sacramento area knew and respected. Indeed, I was not elected to Congress until 1986, almost 10 years into BOB's service in the House, but my wife Pam and I already knew BOB and his wife Doris. One really could not be from the Sacramento area and not know and have tremendous respect and admiration for the Matsuis and for their work in the community.

As a representative of a congressional district to the north of Sacramento, I worked frequently with BOB on issues of regional importance to northern California. He was a passionate and effective advocate for his constituents on a myriad of issues, particularly on flood control, one of the most critically important issues for those of us who live in flood-prone northern California.

He will certainly be remembered by all of us as a leader on these and many other issues important to the region and as an able and dedicated voice for his constituents.

I also had the pleasure of serving with BOB for many years on the House Committee on Ways and Means. A long-time supporter of free trade, BOB was willing and determined to reach across the aisle and work together on the challenging issue of trade policy.

□ 1915

He worked hard for policies that expanded trade, but that also ensured that it was fair and that the playing field was level for American companies and agricultural producers. Those efforts went a long way to helping expand economic opportunities for our northern California region as well as the Nation.

In all his dealings, both public and private, BOB MATSUI personified integrity. It was an honor to have called him a friend. On behalf of my wife, Pam, and me, I would like to extend our personal, heartfelt condolences to the Matsui family, his wife, Doris; his son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Amy; and his granddaughter, Anna, for their tremendous loss. They can be proud knowing that their husband, father, and grandfather worked incredibly hard to serve the people he represented, always with the noblest of intentions and always with the level of intellectual honesty, ability and skill that commanded enormous respect from everyone who knew and worked with him. He will be greatly missed by all.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise to join my colleagues in paying tribute to an extraordinary human being, BOB MATSUI. Like so many others across this country, the celebration of this new year was for me shaken by the incredibly sad news of BOB's demise. I awoke this Sunday expecting to be consumed with the challenges and work of the new year, only to be stunned to learn of the passing of an old friend.

Libby and I had only a couple of days before shared the beauty of BOB's family that he and Doris send out each year at this time, reflecting on the last time we shared a meal with them, only a couple weeks before at a dinner table here in Washington, knowing of the pride that BOB felt in Doris' professional accomplishments and how often he mentioned Doris and Brian and his family in conversations on subjects here in Washington.

There is a Greek proverb: ''The measure of man is what he does with power.'' By this measure, or really by any measure, BOB was indeed a great human being. Although he had significant power here in Washington as a senior Member of this House, he was viewed as a soft-spoken advocate for the things that he believed in and the people he represented. And yet on more than one occasion I have seen his temper flare at injustice.

BOB was a great and principled policymaker. He gave a great deal of thought to the issues and the decisions before he spoke, and often took positions that were not popular but that represented his principles. He also was willing to grow and adjust those principles, certainly being committed to more trade, and yet over time he recognized that trade was more than just counting how many widgets crossed country lines, but how that trade affects people.

He was committed to not only Social Security but to retirement security, and took a very forceful stance in this House about the concern that we do more to help those who have no retirement, not just to add to the retirement of those who already have much.

It was my good fortune to serve with him on the Committee on Ways and Means, to come on that committee as a new member and find BOB as someone that I could turn to when I had a problem for personal advice and always get a thoughtful hearing and sound advice.

While his passing is most premature, we can only seek to renew our strength inspired by his very strong example, to remember the causes that he championed and how he championed them, and to be strengthened in our efforts by his spirit and his fight for fairness, to stand up for what is right for the American people.

It is fitting for us to honor BOB with our words, but certainly we must honor him in this Congress with our actions, to continue to champion the causes that he would champion and had so often, from this very microphone. Certainly that is true with regard to Social Security, as he stood up to those who would destabilize, privatize and piratize it. Without our ally, our work will be harder, our burden will be greater, and our responsibility will also be greater.

As the Los Angeles Times editorialized about BOB recently, ''He epitomized an ideal of public service that has largely vanished in a partisan Congress.''

Mr. Speaker, we salute BOB by our deeds as well as our words tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, a committee that BOB MATSUI served on for many years.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is true that BOB and I were on the Committee on Ways and Means together; but, frankly, BOB and I go back a long way.

This is especially difficult since just a very short time ago I was going through the Members' Christmas cards. If you have been around a long time one tends to see the march of time in the cards. You get a very formal card from a new Member. Maybe he is not married. Or if married, it is just a very bright, young couple. Over the years, the family grows, not just in stature but in numbers. We just received one from the Matsui's with a grandbaby prominently displayed.

In 1978 in November in Sacramento, Members who had been elected to Congress in that election got together as Members-elect in Sacramento. I had known BOB by virtue of his being on the Sacramento City Council. I was an assemblyman at the time and of course spent some time in Sacramento. There were three other Democrats, colleagues in the assembly, Vic Fazio, Julian Dixon, and Tony Coelho who had been an aide to a Congressman and been elected in that same election. To show Members how much things do not change, one of the freshmen in that class was the gentleman from California (Mr. LUNGREN) who has joined us once again as a Member. Another member from the State Assembly who joined us that year, was the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

All of us got together as newly elected Members from California. We stayed together because when you are in the same class, even if you are of a different party, you have common ties, notwithstanding the differences of policy positions that you take or oftentimes the different committee directions that you take. It was my privilege and pleasure to serve not only at the same time as BOB, but for a significant number of years on the same committee.

He was, as we now know even more so than we thought, in many ways a very private person. It was, I think, personality as well as culture. But if one could get inside there, all of the comments that Members have made in a very public way were also true of the private person. You often wonder, as is the case with some Members, how BOB would get elected if he had to go out and be gregarious among people. But when one meets Doris, you figure out how he did it easily: he just kept her in front of him. As some people have said with my wife, Sharon, they understand better once they have met the spouse how you get elected. But the most important thing was the couple and the union they formed.

One of the things that some of the newer Members need to realize is that what occurs in committee and on the floor is business, and people go about their business in different ways. The reason we are going to hear a number of Members talk about BOB in the way that we will talk about BOB is because if you spend a little time getting to know the other businessmen, you cannot help but get to know them as a person. All of us are lamenting the passing of Congressman BOB MATSUI, but those of us who knew the person of BOB MATSUI are perhaps lamenting even more.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN).

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a gentleman and a gentle man, BOB MATSUI.

I will sorely miss my good friend and colleague BOB MATSUI. California and America have lost a champion for justice, Social Security, fair trade and opportunity for all.

BOB's courage was remarkable. Imprisoned in an internment camp as a young child, he worked to give freedom and dignity to others.

Serving more than 25 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, most recently as a Senior Member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, and Ranking Member of its Social Security Subcommittee, as well as Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB was an unfailing gentleman and a loyal friend.

I met him early in his House career. Long before I thought of running for Congress I consulted him, and he offered his support.

Shortly thereafter, my key advisor and law firm colleague Vic Raiser died in a plane crash. BOB knew our relationship and called me. He said, "I cannot take Vic's place, but I'll sure try." He made my race his top priority and personally contacted his donor base on my behalf. His efforts were critical to my victory and I referred to him thereafter as my "mother."

At this time of sadness, my thoughts and prayers are with BOB's extraordinary wife, Doris, son Brian and beautiful granddaughter, Anna. BOB leaves a huge void in this nation and a big hole in my heart.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank all Members for participating in this tribute to someone whom we all believe was our best friend. This is so very unusual in a Congress that does not allow us to meet often or travel very much together that each one of us treasures so much those special personal relationships that we have.

At a time when hundreds of thousands of lives are being lost in Asia and in the Middle East, God has a way of reducing all of this and making it a lot more personal when it appears in the middle of the night. He just snatches away someone that you may have just taken for granted. Certainly the loss of BOB had everyone startled. How could a person with such fierce commitment to legislation and to the Congress who was so involved, and appeared to be looking so hard toward the next challenge, how could God have just snatched him away without any warning? But I have found over the years that it eases the pain, it does not remove it, but it eases the pain if during times like this you can think of how fortunate you were that in your lifetime you came across a person like BOB MATSUI.

It also helps if you can thank God that you do not have to say I wish I had spent more time with him or I wish I had gotten to know him better or I wish I had told him how fond I was of him, or how much I appreciated his dedication to the committee, to the Congress, to the causes that he so truly believed in. And then it makes you feel a little better that you had a chance to say BOB MATSUI, we love you.

It is hard for me to think of anyone that felt so strongly about his beliefs, and at the same time we hear over and over tonight that he was indeed a gentle man, how we can hear Members from both sides of the aisle saying we are human beings, we are dedicated, we do have different beliefs, but here was a guy who was able to take all of this and still manage to have friends on both sides of the aisle.

□ 1930

Yes, the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means is so correct, because we always felt that we had two Members as being friends, because Doris was a partner, she was a friend, she was a supporter and, of course, Brian and Amy, they all had an opportunity to share their love and dedication to their father, to her husband, before he left. He did not just walk away from our lives but in his classy way he said good-bye to the family and left us here in the Congress and especially us in the Democratic Caucus with such a sense of pride and feeling how proud we were to be able to have a person of his caliber not only politically being our leader but on the Committee on Ways

and Means where so often we hear that he was an expert in Social Security legislation, but those of us who were privileged to serve on the committee knew that he was an expert in anything that came before the committee. He was an expert in trade, he was an expert in pensions, he was an expert in welfare issues. And not because he was just a good lawyer and a good lawmaker but because he was compassionate and understood where he came from and his commitment was trying to improve the quality of life of Americans and human beings all over. He never forgot the struggles that he and his family had gone through and he always led us to believe that we could achieve even things beyond our expectations in working with him.

And so with all of this loss and in searching for something to thank God for doing, I can say I thank Him for sharing BOB with us and I thank Him for giving me the opportunity of having told BOB MATSUI how much I loved him.

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

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am happy at this point to yield 3 minutes on behalf of the Congressional Asian and Pacific Islanders Caucus to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, today we stand together here in the people's House to honor and mourn the loss of one of its true servants, BOB MATSUI. I am filled with sadness as we remember an outstanding Member of Congress, an inspiration to a generation of Asian Americans, a leader and a good friend. It is not only a loss for those of us who had the privilege to serve with him, not just a loss for Asian Americans but a loss for this Congress and all Americans. His wisdom and counsel will certainly be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time, with Doris, with Brian and Amy.

BOB MATSUI believed in the value of public service. As a Congressman for 26 years and as a city councilman and vice mayor of his beloved Sacramento before that, he understood that government had a positive role to play in people's lives. Inspired by the calling of President Kennedy's speech challenging Americans to ask what they could do for their country, BOB MATSUI dedicated his life to that challenge.

BOB MATSUI was a mentor, a statesman and a role model. As a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Caucus, he was able to provide his insight and experience about the importance of public service and how to get the job done to many of us junior Members. Several members of that caucus join me today in honoring BOB MATSUI's life and selfless service.

As a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, BOB MATSUI was intricately involved in that committee's complex portfolio and important public policy issues, including tax policy, international law and trade, Social Security, health care and welfare reform. Most notably in recent years, BOB fought to preserve Social Security because he believed that the elderly and the disabled are entitled to the stability of a guaranteed income that allows them to live in dignity. Many of us will miss his voice in the coming debates on the future of Social Security.

Those of us who had the privilege to know BOB MATSUI and to serve with him will be forever in his debt. His intellect, his passion for justice, his dedication to the value of public service will continue to be guideposts for us all. BOB, wherever you are, it is a far, far better place now that you are there. Thank you for all the sound advice that I received from you over the years. My only regret is that I did not take a little bit more of it. Today we mourn the loss of a great man and a friend. He will be missed.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to a great leader, to an extraordinary human being, our beloved BOB MATSUI. I rise with a heavy heart tonight as we remember BOB. I remember him as a fighter for justice, for our senior citizens, and for all those who have yet to realize the American dream. BOB's quiet strength always amazed me. He was brilliant, yet he always listened and valued ideas and input from others.

When I first ran for Congress, I remember that BOB came to my district and he helped me with my campaign with a variety of constituencies. Of course, my colleagues know I have a very vibrant port in my district and trade is such a critical issue. BOB taught me a lot about trade and helped me tremendously as we debated our trade policy in this body. Like myself, my constituents were inspired by BOB's life as they got to know him, knowing that he spent his first formative years in an internment camp. But rather than turn bitter, BOB worked to ensure that those interned during those dark moments of American history were granted reparations for such a shameless act. BOB MATSUI used his personal experiences not in a selfish way but to heal the wounds of so many Japanese Americans and our entire country. For that, we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Several years ago, BOB asked me to come to Sacramento to keynote the NAACP, I think it was the Sacramento NAACP's annual Martin Luther King dinner. The respect and the love that BOB's multiracial constituency had for him and for Doris was something to behold. He was the epitome of a public servant and his constituents knew it, year after year after year.

As we move into this very critical debate to save Social Security, let us remember BOB's commitment to save Social Security and to ensure that our seniors in their golden years live the life that they deserve. We will have to fight, of course, twice as hard now that we do not have BOB with us, but BOB would want us to do just that. May the insights and the inspiration that BOB MATSUI brought to this and so many of our debates guide us to do the right thing and to uphold his extraordinary legacy. To BOB's loving family, to Doris, to Brian, Amy and Anna, my thoughts and my prayers are with you. Thank you for sharing this giant of a human being with all of us. Our country and the world is a better place. May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I rise to pay tribute to a great American, a dear colleague, a good friend, one of our own, the late Congressman BOB MATSUI.

I would like to offer my condolences to Doris, to Brian, to Amy, to Anna, and to his staff, both in California and in Washington, for the wonderful job they have done for him and the people of his State over the past 26 years. It is unique when a colleague of ours dies because we are called to look back at their accomplishments over the years and we begin to realize what a great human being they really were. We see our colleagues on the floor every day and we obviously know them, we like them, we have friendships but unfortunately not until they leave us do we have an opportunity to think back on their careers. Looking at BOB's career, it is easy to see that his passing is a great loss for America, a great loss to his constituents, a great loss to the United States Congress. He was and will be remembered for his work in the House of Representatives, for being a leading opponent of Social Security privatization, a supporter of free and then fair international trade, and a fair-minded tax writer who was a strong proponent of fiscal responsibility. These contributions as a public servant over the past decades helped move our Nation towards a better and brighter future and that will be his lasting legacy. BOB MATSUI was held in the highest regard by all who knew him for his unquestionable honor, his keen intelligence and his heartfelt kindness.

All of us in this institution are referred to as the gentlelady or gentleman from the day we are sworn in as a Member of this body. However, BOB MATSUI truly deserved that title since he was truly the gentleman from California.

On a different level, BOB was a loving husband, father and grandfather. To ascribe so many positive qualities to one individual might be seen as the usual gilding of the lily. In case of BOB MATSUI, it was simply the truth. My life, this House, and our country are better

off thanks to his life here on Earth with us. God bless you, BOB.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), who does not realize that among the other things that he has to thank BOB for is the fact that he will learn now he will have to sit next to me on the committee and he has been spared that all these years.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that but I must say I loved sitting next to BOB MATSUI.

When I came here Monday morning, having heard the news a few hours before, here is what I said to myself: This place is truly a different place without BOB MATSUI. There is for us a large hole in our ranks and in our hearts. He added so much to this institution that he loved. He added his exceptional vitality to the notion we often say, this is the people's House. BOB underlined, this was the House of all the people. He identified with the underdog, with those trying to climb up the ladder of life more than those who were already at the top. Opportunity meant everything to BOB. Tax policy, his interest in EITC, to help those working lift themselves up, his interest in child care and health care for those who were leaving welfare for work. He fought also, we know, for the seniors of this Nation. And how hard he was fighting as illness overtook them, trying to make sure that there was opportunity for elder citizens and not deprivation.

In trade policy, as has been mentioned, my brother the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) is here, I think I would describe it this way about BOB. He saw opportunities in expansion of trade, but more and more he came to believe that as globalization expanded it was critical that expanded trade leveled up and not leveled down. Where all of his ardor came from, I am not sure. Some no doubt from his family's life experience and some of my colleagues knew more about that than I did. From him, he did not talk very much about it. I read in some of the reports that BOB was described as low-key and quiet and I see some of my colleagues shaking their heads. Those press reports did not quite capture BOB MATSUI.

□ 1945

He was gentle, that is true. And he was very dignified and in a way quiet. But he was a gentle person, focused, dedicated, tenacious, and tough. He did not claim to know all of the answers; but when witnesses came before the committee, he was insistent that they give straight answers to his questions. And the mightier they were, the witness, the mightier was BOB MATSUI's determination. I will not mention the members of administrations who learned that firsthand.

There has been reference to this Christmas card and I wish everybody who may be viewing this could see this picture, how it moved us. And let me close by reading just the last paragraph of this card: ''As we look at this special season through Anna's eyes,'' the granddaughter, ''we feel a renewal of our family's traditions. Let us cherish these special moments and be thankful for what is most important in our lives, our family, our friends, and the blessings of everyday life. BOB, Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna Matsui.''

Our condolences to the family, to Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna. BOB MATSUI was always looking to the future. Now it is up to us to look to the future on behalf of BOB MATSUI. BOB, we love you.

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

It has really been a great honor and privilege for me to be able to at least control part of the time on our side on someone who is one of the most respected and most honorable and outstanding individuals that I have known in my lifetime, my friend BOB MATSUI.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK).

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time, and I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I remember BOB MATSUI from younger days. We were all Sacramentons. I was newly married. Shary and I went to Sacramento to work in California State politics. And there in Sacramento was this new enthusiastic political community rising because California had just amended its constitution to set the legislature to hire full-time staff, and so it was a can-do city.

And in the midst of this was this young graduate from the University of California who was a big champion of Berkeley and the Cal Bears, and he chose to run for city council. And a wonderful staff member named Steve Thompson introduced BOB to everybody, and Steve was a staff member and active in Democratic clubs and political social life. My wife, Shary, was working for John Moss, who was the predecessor to BOB MATSUI. He was the Congressman at the time; and when John Moss retired, the city Democrats were split over who to support for that seat: the mayor, Phil Isenberg, a great popular person in Sacramento; or the young BOB MATSUI. And it was a raucous grass roots primary battle. BOB won, and as they say, the rest is history.

It is a shock that BOB is gone. He was too young, too talented, too much going for him as a new grandfather to have been taken from us. As Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, he raised a record amount of money for the congressional Democrats. We counted on him to lead us into battle against the President's proposals to privatize Social Security.

When one is speaking about BOB, one has to talk about Doris, who conquered Washington politics in her own right and ended up in the Clinton White House. She and BOB were a classic political couple, really well known in D.C. as well as Sacramento. My heart goes out to Doris and the family, to Brian, Amy, and little Anna.

BOB's congressional district is one of the most significant in the United States because he represents the best staffed, most productive, best known political celebrities in the Nation's biggest State capital, Sacramento. He was the Congressman for the Federal tax issues relating to California's tax needs. I remember that BOB MATSUI had to carry the tax exemption for State legislators' per diem. Can my colleagues imagine the likes of Jess Unruh, Willie Brown, Jerry Brown, and the entire 120 members of the senate and assembly counting on his ability to convince Chairman Rostenkowski that the California State legislators should have something that no Member of Congress had, a tax exempt per diem 7 days a week for the entire legislative session? BOB had every legislator in California breathing down his throat. Their power in Sacramento meant absolutely nothing here in Washington. They needed BOB to do it for them. No one thought he could pull it off, not against Rosty. But he did.

California Democrats had a lot of political sorrow this last year. They lost the governorship in a recall election, lost many seasoned politicians like John Burton and Willie Brown and John Vasconcellos and Bryon Sher, just to name a few notables, to term limits. They lost in the unexpected death of former State senator Henry Mello and even lost their long beloved staffer, Steve Thompson. And now Congressman BOB MATSUI is lost to us all, the biggest loss of all.

BOB was a Member's Member. His death has sent the State capital into a frenzy trying to decide who will run in the special election to replace him. Congress is abuzz with who will take his seat on the Committee on Ways and Means. The political world is wondering who will succeed him as Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

But the fact of the matter is that no one can take his place. The son of Japanese immigrants, whom our own government interred, he rose to be one of our Nation's most respected Congressman. No one will take his place. They can only try to emulate what his service means to the American spirit of public service in a democracy. When the Nation is experiencing what most people will certainly remember as a horrible year in the annals of modern history, a year that encompasses war, pestilence, and disease, thank God we had the goodwill of BOB MATSUI, a real American role model.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate a number of speakers on both sides of the aisle, I ask unanimous

consent to extend my time for 1 hour and that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) control my time.

Pending that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEUGEBAUER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished dean of the California Democratic delegation for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with a broken heart. And the way I would like to formulate my remarks tonight is having a conversation with BOB, because it is the best way I know how. I would say to him almost every time we were on the floor together, BOB, I want to tell you something. So, BOB, tonight I want to tell you some more things.

We are broken hearted that you are gone and we cannot believe it. We have a hole in our hearts, and we have a hole in our caucus; and everywhere we have turned, we have seen you on the floor today. Our joy in being sworn in as new Members of Congress has been diminished because you are not standing here physically next to us. Thank you for being the kind of friend that you were. Just the best. Loyal, fun, serious, aggressive on all the right things. Thank you for never being embittered by the experience that your family, American citizens, third-generation Americans, were subjected to by their own government. And you grew and you rose, and you were an example to our country of what one can become because of the opportunity of America.

You understood, BOB, thank you, that America is the best idea that was ever born. But you went beyond that because you reached deep inside of yourself and brought out the best in everyone, in the ideas that you brought here, in the ideas that you fought for.

Remember how grateful we are to you that you carried us in the last 2 years, that you believed and we were so proud that you were a Democrat, and you were the kind of Democrat that understood that if it was only good for the Democratic Party that that was not good enough, that we needed to be great for our country; and you believed that.

Thank you for believing in Social Security. Thank you for the countless times that you said we are going to win that battle. Thank you for what you said to me the last time we were together: you know, Anna, that corporations by the law of the Congress cannot dip into their pension funds and borrow from them. Now why would it stand to reason that the American government, the Congress, the administration continues to dip into Social Security? That is not the right way to go.

So all of your dignity, BOB, that magnificent face of yours that took on age with wisdom, thank you for laughing when I said to you how proud I am, BOB, that your granddaughter bears the name Anna. He really laughed when I said that, said, I did not realize that you loved me so much.

BOB, we all loved you. You showed us what it is to be a Member of the Congress of the United States. In the House of the people of all of the people, you are always going to be standing next to us. What you did here is not lost.

Thank you, Doris, for being the partner that you are and always will be. Thank you, Brian, for being the son that you have been. Thank you, Amy, and thank you, Anna. We are going to treasure you always. But the most important thing is, BOB, we will never ever lose what you did here. We are going to carry it every day. It is the gold and the myrrh of all of us. Thank you, BOB. We love you.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

(Mr. SPRATT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with heavy heart to pay tribute to a dear friend, an exemplary Member of this institution, and a great American. BOB MATSUI did more than represent the Fifth District of California. He represented the best in American politics. Indeed, if one asked me to describe an ideal Congressman, BOB MATSUI would be Exhibit A. In an institution that is sometimes short on comity and civility, BOB was mellow and civil by nature. He had a first-class temperament as well as a first-class intelligence.

□ 2000

But make no mistake about it: he was a fighter for what he believed in. He was a politician of principle and passion and prodigious energy as proved by the way he stumped the country for Democratic candidates, even as he suffered from the blood condition that finally claimed his life. Whether the issue was taxes or trade or Social Security, the earned income credit, he always had an arsenal of facts at his disposal. On whatever the issue, your issue, you were always better off if you ran your arguments by BOB and sought his support here in the well of this House. He became a leader in this House and an influence, not so much because of seniority or position, but because everyone liked him, respected him, and knew his intelligence.

When BOB spoke, he knew his stuff. He spoke with authority. He spoke substance and sense. I was last with him on December 15 for the better part of the day. We had a teleconference with 36 reporters calling in. It lasted for more than an hour. We literally had to cut it off. Afterwards when I spoke with BOB, he was on the ceiling, just delighted with the response we had gotten, and ready to suit up, ready to do battle over Social Security. It was this sort of zest that made BOB MATSUI a delight and a joy to work with.

On our side we have a deep bench and we will fill his committee position with a competent successor, but no one can surpass BOB's mastery of the subjects which were his domain on either side of the aisle. The Congress has lost a great leader and the country a true patriot, a citizen, a third generation American who was interned as a child with his family who suffered an awful, terrible, unforgivable injustice. But he loved his country nevertheless and committed his life to making it better.

We do not ask today for whom the bells toll. They toll for all of us, but especially for those of us who served with BOB MATSUI, loved him as a friend, and wonder if we will ever see his like again. To Doris and to Brian and Amy and little Anna, our hearts go out. But just as BOB lives on in all of you, he lives on in all of us who worked with him for years and years. His legacy is one that will last in this institution. Indeed, this great old institution of the Republic is a better place because he served here sacrificially for 26 years.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and speak in honor of a wonderful colleague and a beloved friend, BOB MATSUI. No one, but no one, was more able and more respected in this body than BOB MATSUI. I came here a little over 18 years ago, and I met this man who was so thoughtful, kind, and gentle. Sometimes in this body we call each other ''the honorable, the gentleman, the gentlewoman.'' BOB MATSUI was honorable, and he was a gentleman. He was honorable in the truest sense of that word.

I remember when I first came here in the fall of 1986. During freshman orientation, we had a dinner at Statuary Hall. My 10-year-old son, John Miles, came with me; and BOB MATSUI took the time to engage my son in conversation. My young son, only 10 years old, really appreciated that. BOB MATSUI took the time to talk to him and almost treated him like another member of the freshman class. He grew to admire and like BOB MATSUI. When I informed him that BOB MATSUI had passed, he said, ''Daddy, I really liked him. I am sorry. I am so sorry.''

We lost a colleague, and some of us have lost a friend. The American people have lost a champion and a warrior who fought to protect Social Security and looked out for the young and all of those who have been left out and left behind in America.

There are people in this business that we meet from time to time who love the world, but they do not necessarily like people. BOB MATSUI not only liked people, but he loved. He loved all of us, and we loved him.

A few short years ago, I had the opportunity to spend a weekend in BOB's district. He took me to a university where we had a community meeting

with students and faculty. We listened, we spoke, and we listened. As a matter of fact, on the campus when we arrived, there were chickens running all around. I said, BOB, I feel really at home with all of these chickens. So when I got up to speak, I said to the president of the university, I said, Mr. President, I know there is some controversy about chickens on the campus, but do not move the chickens; let the chickens stay here. And BOB laughed and laughed, and we got an agreement out of the president that the chickens would remain on the campus.

We visited schools, we visited a synagogue, a church, and a service in memory of Dr. King. During that trip, I witnessed the love that BOB MATSUI had for his people and the love that they demonstrated for him.

I tell my colleagues, it seems so unreal, so unbelievable; it is almost impossible to comprehend the loss of a friend, the loss of a brother, a colleague, a husband, a father, a grandfather. What more can be said about this man? His life was not in vain. He gave of himself. He was just a warm, decent, good human being who treated each and every one of us with respect.

When I was walking across the grounds of the Capitol today a few hours ago, a police officer came up to me and said, ''Congressman, when you speak to Mrs. Matsui, please tell her on behalf of all of the Capitol Police officers that her husband was a good man and he treated us well.''

As a Nation and as a people, this is a great loss. BOB MATSUI represents something very special. I, for one, I do not believe that we will ever be so lucky or so blessed to witness his likeness again. May God bless his soul.

At this very difficult time, our prayers and our thoughts are with his beloved wife, Doris; his son, Brian; his daughter-in-law, Amy; his granddaughter, Anna; his staff; and the people of the Fifth Congressional District of California. May they find comfort and peace in the love and memory of this great and beloved man.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to our fellow Californian and BOB's colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for yielding me this time.

To Doris Matsui, Brian, Amy and Anna, we grieve with you; but more, we celebrate the life of a wonderful human being, as I know you will have an opportunity to do over the coming months and years as we all remember BOB MATSUI.

I would like to talk to you, Anna, because right now it is perhaps difficult for you to grasp all that is being said about your grandfather, given that you are just a little over a year old. But in time, with the wonders of technology and the beauty of a democracy in the people's House where every word that we speak in the well of this body is recorded for time immortal, perhaps you will have an opportunity to take a glimpse at what so many people thought of your grandfather.

I will tell you he was a wonderful human being, a superb legislator and public servant and, perhaps most of all, a great American. I will tell you also that he graduated from a great high school 17 years before I did, at C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento, California.

He cared a great deal about the people he represented. He was a fighter and a champion. He knew when to fight, he knew how to fight, and he knew for whom he was fighting all the time.

If you ever had an opportunity to converse with BOB MATSUI, you knew that his deepest conversations were spoken with his eyes. He had these eyes that somehow could convey what oftentimes words cannot, and you knew that when he spoke with his eyes he was speaking to you from conviction, with determination, focus, and experience. And if it were not his words, for sure his eyes would convince you of a direction to take, of what he was trying to say, of where to go, of how to do it right. A handshake from BOB MATSUI was as sure a bet as the sun rising in the morning.

If you knew BOB MATSUI, you knew that he cared deeply about family, about this country, and about what would happen to the next generation. We are going to miss him in this fight to create a better America, to preserve Social Security for our seniors and for the next generations to come. We are going to miss him when we talk about our relations with all of our friends around the world in trade. But we will carry on that fight, because he is a champion to us now as he was before he passed on.

Anna, I say to you as you grow and have an opportunity to speak to your grandmother and your parents more about your grandfather, and as you read more about his many accomplishments, I hope that you will look back at some of the words that were spoken by people who respected him so dearly and considered him friend, mentor, confidant, that this is a man who left so much for you to glean, to learn from, and this is a man from whom you will have an opportunity to say we can admire an American and certainly America can say that we can appreciate this American.

So, Doris, with all due respect to you and to Brian and to Amy, I think it is most appropriate for me to address myself to Anna because I believe the greatest gift that BOB MATSUI left us was the fact that he thought about the future; and, Anna, I suspect that he was thinking about you as much as anyone else. So with you Anna, Godspeed as you learn from a great man, BOB MATSUI.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to pay tribute and honor to our good friend and fallen comrade, BOB MATSUI. My wife, Stephanie, and I just came from visiting with Doris at their home, and we put our arms around Doris and told her how much we loved her and loved BOB MATSUI.

I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to pay to BOB MATSUI than to say this: I have never heard BOB MATSUI say anything unkind about any other human being, and I have never heard any person in this Chamber say anything unkind about BOB MATSUI. And that is somewhat unique, I suppose, because there are some unkind things said about other people in this Chamber, but never about BOB or from BOB.

I feel that we are going to miss BOB. I know we will miss BOB, and we will miss his intellect, his passion, his compassion, and the history that he brought to this body. I know Congress will miss BOB. I know that I am a better person for having known BOB. And when God looks down on some cold, wintry night on this beautiful Earth and there are 1 million stars shining in the sky, I know one of those stars will shine brighter, and that will be BOB. We will miss you, BOB, and we love you.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this is a House of diverse and talented Members, but among these Members, BOB MATSUI stood out in many, many ways. He stood out as an effective legislator; a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the third ranking Democrat. BOB was a leader on trade issues. He was a prominent spokesman among Democrats for those of us who favor an expansive trade policy for our country, with safeguards, to level the playing field in terms of environmental and labor standards. He was the foremost Democratic expert on Social Security, determined to fortify that program for future generations.

BOB MATSUI stood out as a committed leader of the Democratic Caucus. He did an extraordinary job in what is our party's toughest assignment, that is, the chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, recruiting our candidates, raising untold amounts of money, keeping us motivated and focused.

□ 2015

He had the toughest assignment in our caucus, and he did it with grace and with great effectiveness.

BOB MATSUI stood out for his extraordinary and distinctive personal story. As a child he was one of 120,000 Japanese Americans interned in camps during World War II. I learned about BOB's

story early in my service in Congress as he helped many of us understand the need for the Japanese American Redress Act, belatedly passed by this Chamber in 1988.

BOB MATSUI stood out as a warm friend and supportive colleague. He was a man who took time to get to know his colleagues. He was a wonderful listener, a great encourager, always willing to share credit and to seek a common basis for action.

BOB was one of our most reasonable Members. Surely he was one of our most reasonable colleagues. He was persuasive precisely because we knew he was a man of his word, and we knew he was a man of utter integrity.

Like many here, I considered BOB a close friend, generous with his counsel, with ready encouragement and will miss him greatly.

My wife and I have also treasured our friendship with BOB and Doris Matsui as a couple. Doris has made major contributions of her own to our country, particularly as a Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison in the White House for the Clinton administration, and she has been a strong and loyal partner to BOB in his endeavors.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Doris and her family, hoping that she may draw comfort and strength from the outpouring of affection and respect from BOB's and her many friends and admirers this evening and in the days to come.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I say to Doris, she married a nice man.

The Congressman that we mourn tonight can be described in many, many ways. It is not often that we use the word ''nice'' and people understand the fullness of what it means. BOB MATSUI was a nice person and a nice man. He was a committed man and a dedicated public servant.

I enjoyed talking to him because we had a commonality. He started on the Sacramento City Council, and he made me feel that, coming from the city council in my town.

He loved Sacramento. He rose to be the vice mayor of that town, but it made him sensitive to the local needs of people. So, even though I would view him to be the crafter, the definer of the modern day Social Security in these days, I know that he also understood when a pothole got your last tire, that made him a man who cared about the little things but understood the big things.

I note his love and affection for the Committee on Ways and Means. Yes, if one can love a committee, BOB loved his committee. He loved his fellow committee persons. He loved his ranking member, who he called chairman. They had a special bond and a special unity, cared about each other, and of course BOB was not a narrow thinker. One may have come from Texas, may have come from New York, Missouri or somewhere else, but he embraced you.

I will never forget his steady hand in this last very challenging election cycle. If you did not toe the line, BOB had a way of giving you a call and making sure that what you needed to do to get good folk elected were elected. He stayed steadfast in the last days of the Louisiana election, but most of all his special story is worth noting, and to his wife Doris, his son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna, he will go down as an icon of American history.

I cannot imagine an internment. I have a history that relates to that, but I never was a slave, but yes, this humble Congressperson started his early life interned in the United States of America. His story is unfortunately part of America's story, but even with that experience this giant of a man rose to be a leader in this Congress and to be able to turn us away from those ways that were wrong.

Thank you, BOB, Congressman MATSUI, for living amongst us. Thank you for being a man of honor. Thank you, Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna, for giving him to us. God bless you and may your soul rest in peace.

I rise today to honor a fallen colleague, one who embodied everything a true public official is supposed to be. But ROBERT T. MATSUI was more than a Member of Congress, he was a husband, a father and a grandfather, but more than that he was a man of great character. His presence in this hallowed chamber for the last 26 years will not soon be forgotten, but his presence in our hearts will live on even longer.

ROBERT MATSUI was a dedicated public servant who had a long and illustrious career in California and here in Washington. He rose to great national prominence, but ROBERT MATSUI always had his heart and his values in his district in Sacramento. His dedication to local issues was shown by his years of service in the Sacramento City Council where he rose to the position of Vice Mayor of Sacramento. Throughout his tenure in Congress, ROBERT MATSUI never forgot the constituents who voted fourteen times to send him back to Washington. He championed the fight for adequate flood control in the region and was integral in Sacramento's transformation. He had big ideas for our Nation, but he never forgot the value of individuals and the importance of taking care of your district. All those who had the honor of knowing him could see he was a genuine person with real values.

The thing I will always remember ROBERT MATSUI for was that his voice was gentle, but you knew that his spirit was strong In Congress he was a tireless advocate and national spokesman for the preservation of Social Security. When he first campaigned in 1978 for the congressional seat serving Sacramento, California, he persuaded voters to elect him by promising that he would bring to the office "a new form of statesmanship," anyone who knew him know that he brought statesmanship to a new level. His excellence and grace was known on both sides of the aisle. His presence will sorely be missed,but his heart and determination will stay with us all.

At this time of grief it is hard to understand why a good man passed away in the prime of his life. But I hope his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy, and granddaughter Anna will take solace in the fact that ROBERT MATSUI lived a full life of honor. There may be those who will live longer, but there will be few who lay claim to that same statement. We are all at a loss for a great leader in this body, but we suffer a greater loss of a good human being.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sorrow to join my colleagues in remembering and honoring our colleague, our dear friend, BOB MATSUI.

BOB MATSUI was a fine man. He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved this House, the institution he served for 26 years, and in return, we loved him.

He loved his family. He loved his country. We loved his gentle manner and incisive mind. We loved his tenacity and fair-mindedness, his policy expertise and political skill. He was a true leader of this caucus and the California delegation, a real hero to Japanese Americans and a true fighter for economic opportunity, fiscal accountability and social justice. Like so many, I cannot imagine debating the future of Social Security and many other issues without BOB.

While the Nation will suffer from his loss, the family's loss is deeper and greater than we could possibly imagine. My heart goes out to Doris, Brian, Amy and little Anna. He was so proud of Anna and was so happy to share pictures of her with all of us, and Doris, you were truly his partner, and he spoke so often of Brian and Amy and their joy at Anna's birth. I know he loved them and he was so proud of them.

I also want to extend my condolences to his wonderful, hardworking staff, both here on the Hill and at the DCCC, his close circle of former staff, as well as to the people of the Fifth District of California. BOB was a kind, principled man, a valued colleague and a very dear friend. I will miss him greatly.

We love you, BOB. You will always remain in our hearts and your outstanding work will always be an example to this House of Representatives.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), our colleague.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, in my 30 years in the Congress you have the honor and the privilege of meeting so many people from so many different walks of life, not just my colleagues that I have served with in the House of Representatives but obviously the people that I represent and the people who come to the Nation's

capital to seek our help in so many endeavors that they are engaged in their families and their livelihoods, but there are a few who are very special. They stand out in our professional life. They stand out as our peers and our colleagues.

BOB MATSUI was a very special person, for all of the reasons that my colleagues have said here tonight. We all know that at his core was the gold standard in conviction, in morality and integrity and in giving us the unvarnished truth from time to time when we did not agree with him.

I think that is one of the reasons we were so fond of him. When you had a disagreement with him, he sought you out and he wanted to discuss it with you, face-to-face, person-to-person, colleague-to-colleague, trying to work out the difficulties to make this a better country, but when you discussed it with him, you understood that he was clinging to principle, and he was clinging to integrity because it was the core of his existence.

Many have referred to the fact of this family's experience in the internment camp, and I do not think there is any question but that gave him a compass to set a course on the issues of social justice and opportunity in this society and civil rights. It is unparalleled, I think.

We all work in these fields, and we have some outstanding individuals in this Congress that I have served with over 30 years who have fought these fights. BOB was one of those.

I had the opportunity to work with him on the reparations bill and in the Manzanar Historic Monument bill of one of the internment camps so that this country could remember what happened in the Tule Lake and the other internment centers.

I do not know what else to say except that this is the loss of a really, really special person who was a wonderful friend, who was a great, great credit to this institution and who leaves behind a magnificent legacy along with a magnificent family, a family that no spouse or father could have been more proud of than he was of Doris and Brian and daughter-in-law Amy and this new granddaughter Anna.

To see him and Doris at public events, engaged in their community and the partnership that they had and their conferring back and forth on the issues and the battles that he was engaged in, was a wonderful experience. I am going to miss him greatly. I think this country is going to miss him even more.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), our wonderful colleague.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much for the time.

I very much apologize being as late as I am. I meant to be here earlier, but I am glad I walked in as my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) was making his remarks, for the emotion that we could feel in his very presence and voice is a reflection of how all of us feel, and I join in this celebration of our friend BOB MATSUI.

All of us who care about public affairs and the Congress absolutely know that fundamental to our success in solving people's problems involves our understanding of just how important people are to our entire process.

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and I got to know each other first in Sacramento, and at that very time, overlapping our service, our friend BOB MATSUI was serving on the city council. I learned to get to know BOB in a different venue, however, for he and I were elected in 1978 and came here as freshman, not so long ago.

BOB MATSUI, as you have heard from many a person, is a fabulous, fabulous reflection of the best of public affairs.

I would like my colleagues to know that while we all believe public policy is what we should really be about, looking for the solutions to problems that the people care about, looking for alternative avenues for making a difference, when it comes to it in the final analysis we are all in this together.

□ 2030

The American public has grown tired of that rhetoric that we hear all too often that reflects the fringe of our dialogue; and far from that fringe but rather right in the heart of the best of us was a personality we have been discussing today, ROBERT MATSUI of Sacramento, of the Committee on Ways and Means, a wonderful, wonderful human being, who was willing to look you in the eye, tell you what he thought when he disagreed with you. All too often, and much more, he was putting his arm around you and telling you what you did well and what he thought of you on the positive side.

If we could take the extreme from our rhetoric and the dialogue around here and remember BOB MATSUI suddenly because of that, this House, great as it is, would indeed be an even better place.

I am pleased to take just a moment to express to Doris, their family, all their friends in Sacramento, how much we will miss them and how much we pain for especially his personal family. Our own friends in Sacramento who remain have talked often about the greatness of this man. We only had a chance by getting to know that by having the privilege of serving with him here.

With that, let me bid BOB adieu and join with all of his dear friends here in expressing our love and prayers for not just his family, but the future, the future of those he served, and know that we will all miss his service.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

We have heard tonight so many of our colleagues speak of BOB and describe BOB in so many different ways. He was a great American. We are in mourning in this House. His constituents are in mourning. California is in mourning, and the Nation has lost a giant.

BOB was a giant through and through. He grew up in Sacramento out in the valley, went to Cal Berkeley, went to law school at Hastings College of Law. He was the first Asian American to hold a leadership position in the House of Representatives. When I became the chairperson of the California Democratic Delegation in the 108th Congress, and he had always been a mentor to me, he upped his mentorship of me at that time. It is something I have always been immensely grateful for.

We have talked about his leadership on a variety of issues: Social Security, the reparations bills, and health care for children. The list goes on and on. But we are mourning him today as someone we knew also as a friend.

Some in the papers have said he was mild-mannered, and my thought was that the BOB I knew was tough as nails and focused. Yes, he was mild-mannered. He was polite is what he was, but he never lost focus on what he was for. He loved his parents because they gave him a framework to understand the world. And it is important to understand that a great injustice was done to his family and to him, but he was never bitter about that because it allowed him to appreciate also the gift he was given, as so many of us were, of opportunity here in America.

I believe that is really what fueled his passion here for the issues he fought for, the opportunity that others should have that was given to him. It was not just limited to his constituents, whom he loved dearly, but was for all Americans.

I can recall several years ago a situation in Silicon Valley. He was very interested in technology. Entrepreneurs had been hit with a weird tax and had lost everything in the AMT-ISO disaster. These were Silicon Valley people, but BOB came from Sacramento and sat all day in San Jose to listen to their stories because he cared about them, whether they were his constituents or not.

BOB was one of our most compassionate Members, one of our most focused Members, but I also want to talk about BOB the family person. I do not think there was ever a son as brilliant as Brian, if you listened to BOB. Nor was there a daughter-in-law as wonderful as Amy; and never a grandchild as creative and adorable as Anna; not to mention his wonderful spouse, Doris. Many of us have spouses. We love our spouses, but Doris had almost a unique relationship among spouses in the House because not only was she BOB's life partner, she was BOB's partner in political life and in policy life. She stood up for the people of the Fifth District of California every bit as much as BOB MATSUI stood up for those people.

We thank Doris for her many, many years of service with BOB for those constituents and for Americans.

Just a final word. BOB had said he was having a few health problems. I had no idea how serious they were; but certainly BOB MATSUI knew how serious they were. Even though BOB knew he was ill, he kept working for us. He was chair of the DCCC, not because he was on an ego trip. In fact, he did not want the job; we made him do it. He fought those fights because he believed that the ideals of the Democratic Party for Social Security, for a safety net, for education, for opportunity for hard-working people who play by the rules to get ahead, those were values that were core to him. And even though he put his own health at risk, he fought on for us.

I want to thank Doris for allowing him to do that. It is a sacrifice that is immense. We all feel the loss today. I thank Doris; his wonderful son, Brian; Amy; his granddaughter, Anna. I think back on the many times we spent in California enjoying ourselves. He was a Cal graduate, but it did not stop him from being a Stanford fan as well, which I always appreciated.

I loved BOB MATSUI, as did the entire delegation. We miss him a great deal. Other people will follow his steps, but no one will be able to fill them completely in our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of our California Democratic Delegation for her wonderful words about BOB MATSUI.

Anyone who did not know BOB MATSUI and just turned on the television tonight would have to be impressed by the array of comments from so many different Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle about this exceptional person. There is no way to exaggerate how wonderful he was. He was a person of great intellect and great passion. He was a person of great gentility and of great strength when it came to debating his points.

Ever since Members and colleagues and staff on the Hill and reporters and the media learned of his death, they have come and said, BOB MATSUI would go out of his way to come by and say hello. He always smiled, he always asked about people's well-being and how they were doing and could he be helpful. He was a gentle man. But again, he had a strength about him that if he thought on a matter of public policy someone was abandoning the children of America or the seniors of America or America's working families, he made it quite clear to them that in his eyes he was losing respect for them because he thought that is what we came here to do.

So many Members have talked about his talent, his personality, his love of family which was preeminent because at the end of the day that is, of course, what matters most. I visited Doris Matsui on Sunday evening to extend the condolences of BOB's colleagues to her, and to say how magnificently received BOB was after the election; that even though we did not win, every time his name was mentioned or he was introduced, he would receive a standing ovation from the members of the Democratic Caucus because he dealt with them honestly. He worked so hard and so smartly for our success, it just was not to be; but they appreciated the leadership he provided.

Just to talk about a few things, we had the occasion the last night that we were here, December 8, to have a dinner in appreciation of those who helped us in our efforts. We surprised BOB because it was turned on him, and we expressed our appreciation to him. The gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the ranking member, was so eloquent and spoke from the heart about BOB MATSUI. It really was stunning to BOB. It was a gift that God gave us that we would have that opportunity to express appreciation to him. This is a very, very modest man and all of that attention was stunning to him.

So when I said to Doris, remember the dinner and it was so wonderful, she said he talked about it so much and he talked about the toast of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and how the Members expressed their appreciation and how surprised he was and how much it meant to him.

So to my Democratic colleagues, thank you for the generosity that you extended to BOB MATSUI. I hope it is a comfort to those of us who loved him and all of us in our caucus that we did have an opportunity to say thank you to him in a very special way. It was quite remarkable. I think all of my colleagues will agree that my colleagues were clamoring for BOB to be reappointed to the DCCC. Indeed, he had that opportunity, and he was willing to serve, except God had other plans.

It is important to note that in the summer of this year one of BOB's very closest friends, Steve Thompson, exactly BOB's age, was diagnosed just a few weeks before he died, and it was a complete and total surprise. He, like BOB, was a very respected member in the Sacramento, California, community. They were very dear friends since seventh grade. When BOB came to his new school, not a very athletic appearance anyway, Steve was a big man on campus and he said he just wrapped his arm around BOB MATSUI and that made it okay for everybody, and they were friends for life.

Nobody would have ever expected 6 months ago that death would mean this summer for Steve and now for BOB. In any case, Steve's death took a lot out of BOB. He seemed so saddened by it, as we are saddened by his passing. In any event, Doris told us that BOB left us peacefully, just the way he lived, surrounded by people who loved him. Again, Anna saying Da-da. He took her to his office on December 23, had their pictures taken in front of the Capitol. Well, when you have been here 26 years, a picture in front of the Capitol is a picture at your desk because he had a special office. It was his plan, and he was bragging about it that he was going to take Anna to be here today with him because she was born since the last swearing-in. Again that was not to be.

In any event, when Anna is old enough to read about her grandfather, she will know he was one of the most dedicated public servants in our country. He was a true patriot, he was a decent man, he loved his family, and he was a best friend to almost everybody in the Congress of the United States.

There is so much to say, but everybody knows that our thoughts and prayers are with Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna who shared BOBBY with us and inspired his commitment for a brighter future for America.

Imagine that his family and he as a small child were in a Japanese internment camp. Again, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) said, it only heightened his love for America because he knew that we could do better and he would be a part of that. I will close by saying that one of the pleasures we had at this dinner on December 8, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) reminds me, I always said during the campaign that BOB MATSUI was a maestro, that he was orchestrating all of this activity all over the country. This man who unbeknownst to us had this diagnosis, and it was not supposed to be fatal, but the pneumonia was.

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In any event, he would be working so hard for senior citizens all day on a Social Security issue and orchestrating hundreds, thousands of young people throughout the country to be involved in campaigns to make the future better. He had a way of channeling the enthusiasm that he had for issues into the activism that was necessary to make a difference.

At this party we gave him a baton recognizing the maestro that he was and is. We will just miss him terribly.

The poet Longfellow wrote:

"Were a star quenched on high,
For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky,
Shine on our mortal sight.
So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The life he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men."

BOB MATSUI's light will always shine, one that will guide us to a better America, and that was his dream.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of those who have participated this evening as well as some of our colleagues who were unable to actually physically be here but who have prepared their statements for our colleague, a giant of the legislature, a man who warmed our hearts, who

broke our hearts when he died, someone who was never petty, always modest but always a leader, always someone who could make America proud.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my remarks to the glowing ones we have heard regarding the untimely passing of our dear colleague, BOB MATSUI. To have known BOB MATSUI is to be heartbroken by his death. I believe that our Republican colleagues would agree. Especially for Democrats, however, the loss is profoundly felt three times over. First, there was the man whose human dimensions of kindness, consideration, and friendly persuasion made him instantly likeable and one of the most admired and respected members across the political spectrum. Second, there was the successful party leader, who had just completed his term as a hugely successful chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. And third, there was the Democratic seer of social security whom we were depending upon to lead us through the coming crucial social security debate, one of the several subjects whose byzantine complexities BOB had mastered as third ranking on the Ways and Means Committee. Congress and the country could not afford to lose even one of these three BOB MATSUIs. Now, sadly we have lost all three. As we mourn the loss of one of the country's most effective public servants, we celebrate our good fortune that BOB MATSUI gave his life to public service.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my condolences to the family of BOB MATSUI. BOB was my friend for 13 years. Even though we sat on opposite sides of the aisle we shared a bond as fellow Californians, and he always had my utmost respect.

In this House BOB always strove to do the best for his district, his State, and his country. He entered Congress with a distinguished class in 1978 and made a lasting impression. His 26 years here were an example of how a man can be an effective promoter of his party and the consummate gentleman at the same time. Even in the most partisan of positions, chairman of his party's Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB took the high road and set an example for us to follow. He was a man of unparalleled integrity, compassion, intelligence and dedication.

I will miss BOB MATSUI. I know that the people of California, the United States, and the Members of this body share my sentiments.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in profound sadness to express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the Honorable ROBERT MATSUI. I was shocked to learn of the untimely death of our colleague and friend BOB, with whom I was so fortunate to serve for 24 years.

BOB was truly a great man who triumphed over adversity to help lead our Nation. During World War II the United States wrongfully interned 120,000 American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. From his earliest days, BOB faced this brutal devastation as he and his family were rounded up, torn from their home and sent to the desolation of a detention camp in Tule Lake, CA.

Tempered by tragedy, BOB walked from the darkness of that detention to lead the fight for passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. That historic legislation acknowledged the fundamental injustice of the internment, apologized on behalf of the people of the United States and made restitution to those interned. He called upon us to serve a high purpose and reminded us that while we addressed the injustice done, we were also protecting fundamental American values enshrined in our Constitution.

This remarkable accomplishment gave added weight to United States human rights policy and credibility to our statements about other countries' human rights violations. While no amount of apology or restitution fully rectifies the denial of human rights, BOB understood that the acknowledgment of this past injustice was an important step forward. BOB and I shared that commitment to improve civil rights and human rights all over the world.

BOB MATSUI's long involvement in public service resulted in an impressive record of success in Sacramento and Washington. Among other achievements he was a legislative leader on Social Security as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. He rallied House Democrats with integrity and spirit as Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

We mourn the loss of a good and decent man, a leader with such virtue, a fellow Californian, and a friend. We will carry a heavier burden without his strength to depend upon. My wife Annette and I extend our wishes of solace and peace for his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and his granddaughter Anna during this most difficult time.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a dedicated public servant and great friend, ROBERT T. MATSUI.

It was a privilege and honor serving with BOB. Although we only served together for one term, I learned a great deal from BOB—starting when I worked at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue—about protecting Social Security, expanding free trade, welfare reform, and giving American families more opportunities to prosper.

His selfless determination, borne from his early childhood experiences—resulted in a lifelong commitment to heal our Nation's wounds and make amends for past wrongs.

Answering President John F. Kennedy's call, BOB inspired generations of Americans who dedicated themselves to public service, including minorities and the Asian-American community in particular.

His leadership in this Chamber resulted in a formal apology for the treatment of Japanese-Americans interned and discriminated against during World War II.

BOB never shied away from difficult debates. While seeking innovative ways to help America's employees stay competitive in the global economy, he championed President Clinton's North American Fair Trade Agreement and secured a strong, bipartisan vote in the House for permanent free trade relations with China.

His efforts helped fuel the largest economic expansion in our Nation's history, and opened new lines of communication and cultural understanding around the world.

We will miss BOB's strong and uncompromising leadership on Social Security, a void in this Chamber that will be very difficult to fill.

Mr. Speaker, ROBERT MATSUI was a man I was proud to call my friend. May God bless his wife Doris and the Matsui family in this difficult hour as we honor the memory of a man truly loved and respected by his peers and his country, and whose contributions will always be remembered in this Chamber.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing profound sorrow on the loss of one of this House's most highly respected and widely regarded members, the Honorable BOB MATSUI of Sacramento.

With his passing, we have lost a national conscience in Congress. Although I had the privilege to serve with him for only 2 of his 26 years of distinguished service in the House, it did not take long for me to realize after arriving here as a freshman, that he was truly a man of distinction. His leadership in many ways was subtle, but firm and strong.

I had the honor of serving with him on the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and recognize today, along with many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, his long-standing commitment and contributions to the progress of our communities. It was through his diligence, as many have recounted and memorialized this evening, that healing and justice was brought through the enactment of Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which authorized reparations and a formal apology to surviving Japanese Americans who had been detained in U.S. concentration camps during World War II. This is just but one of the lasting landmark accomplishments of his leadership.

On so many other accounts and in so many other ways, he was there for those in need of a voice in Congress. A reliable and true public servant, for the disadvantaged, for our seniors, and for our young Americans, who he inspired with his example and character.

BOB MATSUI was gifted leader who epitomized the noblest qualities of public service. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Doris and their family and to the people of the fifth District of California.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, when I opened my holiday cards this season, one in particular stood out. It was bigger than the others. It was more colorful. It had several pictures instead of just one. It was from the Matsui family, and just about every picture included young Anna Matsui, BOB's only grandchild.

The love that this man had for his family, and this little girl in particular, practically jumped off the page. It saddens me deeply that Anna won't grow up knowing more of her grandpa, but I am certain that her parents and her grandmother will not let her forget him. She will grow up strengthened by his leadership, his integrity, and his kindness.

I couldn't look at Anna's pictures without thinking that, when BOB was her age, he was living in an internment camp with other Japanese-Americans who had been rounded up and incarcerated after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was, of course, one of the great stains on our Nation's history, and BOB spent his public life trying to somehow correct that ugly injustice. I imagine that BOB's connection to Anna was stronger because his own early years were so unsettled, because he wanted his granddaughter to have a childhood full of innocence and happy memories.

BOB MATSUI stood out in this Chamber—for his policy intellect; for his sense of compassion and justice; for the esteem he earned on both sides of the aisle; but most of all for his fundamental decency. That decency was apparent in his work, whether he was securing flood protection for Sacramento or fighting for Social Security. And there's no question that we'll miss BOB MATSUI's expertise as we debate the future of Social Security this year.

There was no separation between BOB MATSUI's private virtues and public virtues. They were one and the same. He treated everyone with respect; he didn't raise his voice a lot; he was a lot more steak than sizzle. To be honest, these are qualities that are not in abundance around here these days. I hope that our memories of BOB MATSUI will lead us to conduct ourselves with greater civility in this new Congress.

Very few of us knew that BOB was sick, which is why the news of his death came as such a shock. But that modesty was consistent with the way BOB lived. Rather than go public with his illness, he preferred simply to be surrounded by the love of his family.

Of course, even the most unassuming among us have another side to them. As I was reading the obituary in the Sacramento Bee, I was taken aback by one friend's remembrance—of a shirtless BOB MATSUI in the stands at a Cal football game rabidly rooting for his team and challenging the other team's fans.

Now, if you asked the Members of this body to rank their colleagues in order of most likely to remove their shirt off at a football game . . . BOB would've finished close to 435th of 435. And remember that includes more than 70 women.

Our thoughts and prayers are with BOB's wife, Doris Matsui, whom all of us know as an impressive advocate and public servant in her own right. And with Brian, Amy and Anna Matsui and everyone who loved this dear man. BOB MATSUI—rest in peace.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a man who represented the best in American politics and government.

Congressman MATSUI was what many of us aspire to be as lawmakers. He was a passionate advocate for his constituents, upheld the highest ethical standards, and conducted himself with the utmost civility.

He never failed to be there for others who were less experienced. When I first ran for Congress, he served as my mentor. BOB visited my district several times, and we became good friends. I appreciated his advice and benefited greatly from his expertise on issues such as Social Security.

But I was most impressed with how BOB went about his daily business calmly and with a composure that helped him gain the respect that he deserved.

His devotion to others was remarkable and unrelenting, and he could always be relied upon to do the right thing. His contributions to our country, particularly on behalf of Japanese Americans, will never be forgotten.

We are all better for his efforts. While I am greatly saddened that he is no longer with us, it is my honor to be able to recognize and pay tribute to such a fine American.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution to express profound sorrow upon the death of Congressman MATSUI. I join my colleagues to honor and remember my good friend Congressman BOB MATSUI, a true leader in the House of Representatives whose passing leaves us all with a sense of great loss.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressman STARK and Congresswoman LOFGREN, and the rest of the California Democratic Delegation for their swift leadership to pay tribute to our friend, BOB.

I would like to say "thank you" to Doris, his wife and life-long partner, to his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy, and to his granddaughter for sharing him with us in Congress. In addition to the adoration of his wonderful family, BOB had the love and respect of both his constituents and his colleagues. He was a courageous and passionate leader who served California's Fifth Congressional District for 26 years.

As a Member of Congress and as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, I had the honor of working with Congressman MATSUI. BOB was instrumental in making CAPAC a reality, and served as a CAPAC executive board member since its inception in 1994.

Throughout his career, Congressman MATSUI championed causes affecting civil liberties and immigrants' rights. As a dedicated member of the Asian Pacific Islander American, APIA, community, BOB fought for a formal apology from our government for its wrongful internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Congressman MATSUI and Secretary Norman Mineta led the way in passing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. As an American of Japanese ancestry, Congressman MATSUI helped obtain the land necessary for the National Japanese American Memorial, which recognizes Japanese American patriotism and honors members for never losing faith in the basic principles embodied in our Nation's Constitution.

Along with Congressman MATSUI and Secretary Mineta, I experienced internment as a young Japanese American during World War II. BOB was only 6-months old when he and his family were interned at the Tule Lake camp just months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. BOB understood the injustice of internment and sympathized with the other loyal Americans who suffered at the hands of the government in which they never lost faith.

BOB MATSUI listened to people, and set about helping them with compassion and dignity. Whether he was fighting for flood control on behalf of his constituents in Sacramento or defending those without a voice, BOB dedicated his entire career to public service. From the time he worked as a member of the Sacramento City Council, to serving as the vice mayor of Sacramento, and finally as a U.S. Representative starting in 1978, BOB MATSUI served as a constant reminder of what integrity and dedication can accomplish in public office.

Congressman MATSUI truly believed in the U.S. Constitution and its promise of "a more Perfect Union." He relied on those values embedded in the Constitution in fights to ensure adequate healthcare for children and provide a safety net for needy families and the elderly. BOB's leadership as the third ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee and the ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee earned him the reputation as an expert on tax and trade policy, Social Security and welfare programs. In the 109th Congress, BOB's presence, heart, and soul will be missed during the great debate over Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, BOB MATSUI should ultimately be remembered for his civility, his dignity, and his service to others. He was a selfless role model whose footprint will forever be imprinted on our Nation's history.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of the Honorable ROBERT MATSUI who served Sacramento, CA, for 27 years. Just last month, Representative MATSUI was reelected to another term by a winning percentage of 71.4 percent. Sadly, he passed from this life on New Year's Day, January 1, 2005.

For the past 2 years, I have been honored to serve with Representative MATSUI on the Ways and Means Committee and its Social Security Subcommittee. During that time, I observed that BOB had a deep understanding of Social Security and tax policy, which was reflected in his masterful handling of committee work and interactions with colleagues.

He was a Congressperson's Congressperson. He was a great leader. He was generous with his time and his talent. He was willing to share the limelight. On several occasions he invited me to serve as ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee, what a privilege. His generosity will be sorely missed.

As the 109th Congress convenes today, it is fitting that we honor BOB MATSUI's legacy. During the 109th Congress we will undertake discussions on gutting the Social Security program, a program that BOB understood as an important safety net for not only senior citizens but also disabled persons and minor children of deceased parents. BOB was a strong proponent of the idea that privatizing Social Security would lead to its demise by making it financially unviable. He worked tirelessly to reform the program and make it operate more efficiently, without compromising its purpose.

A biblical proverb states that "Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names." Representative ROBERT MATSUI's legacy will live on in the Congress as we continue his longstanding work to preserve Social Security and our country's ideals of helping those who need and deserve it. We will miss him, but his name will not be forgotten.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the death of Congressman ROBERT MATSUI is a tremendous loss for his family, the families he represented in California and everyone who knew him. BOB was a wonderful man, a kind and gentle spirit who loved his job and the people he worked for, and I feel privileged to have served as his colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout his distinguished career in public service, Congressman MATSUI, a third generation American, vigorously defended justice and fairness—values forged very early in his life when his family was imprisoned in the Tule Lake internment camp in California during World War II. Despite being interned as a young boy, BOB remained optimistic and determined that everyone should be treated equally and with respect. He believed in the promise of America and took from his experience, a strong belief in civil rights as well as a passion for public service.

In Congress, Mr. MATSUI was steadfast in acting on these values, championing basic rights for all Americans and leading the effort in which the U.S. Government formally apologized to Japanese Americans for the World War II internment program. In the 26 years that he served in the U.S. House of Representatives, BOB rose to national prominence as a senior member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, a national spokesman for Social Security, and as the first Asian American in the leadership of Congress.

As a crusader for America's seniors, Mr. MATSUI led the fight to preserve Social Security. He reached out to Members, new and old,

helping them understand the complexities of Social Security as well as its impact on the daily lives of our seniors.

BOB truly exemplified a gentleman. He served with distinction and integrity, winning the respect and admiration of all who worked with him.

I extend my deepest condolences to the Matsui family—his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna—as well as to his staff and the people of California. BOB's integrity, devotion and compassion will be greatly missed.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sad heart to honor a great man, a dedicated public servant and a good friend. In our own ways, each of us will miss something special about BOB MATSUI. Let me share with my colleagues my own experience with him.

BOB MATSUI gave me my first job on Capitol Hill. In July, 1979, I went to work for him as a part-time assistant, entering constituent information into a computer, and then helping to write legislative correspondence. BOB was a freshman Member then, but even at that time I realized he was to have a long and brilliant career in the Congress. Twenty-two years later we reunited on the floor. Just recently I showed him a photograph we took together on the steps of the Capitol. The color was faded and the paper brittle. But I kept it throughout the years to remind me of the first Member of Congress who gave me an opportunity in public service.

BOB MATSUI embodied the best values of public service. He believed so strongly in opportunity here at home and through sensible trade policies abroad. It was an honor to have had the opportunity to learn from a man who put the good of his constituents and of Americans generally over partisanship and political one-upsmanship. It is a lesson I have strived to apply during my own tenure in this body.

BOB MATSUI set an example for all of us with his integrity and dedication. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to express my deepest regrets over the loss of my friend and colleague, BOB MATSUI.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Matsui family—especially Doris, Brian, Amy, and Anna.

Our country has lost a great leader. BOB MATSUI personified integrity and passion. He served California and America with great conviction and dedication to his beliefs.

BOB MATSUI was an inspiration to all Americans. Although he was taken to a Japanese American internment camp at only 6 months old, he never gave up his dedication to bettering our great country. He later became a leader of the movement for redress of Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. Even though much time had passed, he still sought justice for all Americans.

BOB MATSUI also fought tirelessly for America's senior citizens. As ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee, he worked diligently to protect seniors' retirement funds He strongly opposed risky schemes to privatize Social Security and worked to make seniors aware of the faults of these plans.

As chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, BOB MATSUI passionately believed in the message of the Democratic Party, and dedicated himself tirelessly to spreading that message.

BOB MATSUI is an inspiration to all Americans. His strong desire to serve his community and his country led him to become one of the most beloved leaders of this Congress.

BOB MATSUI will be missed by his country, his community, his family and his friends. He will long be remembered as a great American statesman.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our departed college, BOB MATSUI. BOB was an extraordinarily talented patriot and Member of this House.

BOB's generation of House Members struck out to change the world—or at least change their government in the aftermath of Watergate and the abuses of power in the Nixon administration. He did change the world, representing a district in California and representing the House on the world stage.

He was a unique political mind and political talent. While he was passionate for caring for the less fortunate in our society, he was also pragmatic about how democratic ideals and reforms come about on the world stage.

We shared the philosophy that world trade engenders better relationships between nations and offers a greater opportunity to spread democracy to developing nations or nations that were not traditionally democratic.

BOB's greatest legislative talent—and there were many—was his down-to-earth ability to comprehend and explain in laymen's terms all matters related to Social Security. In this political season when the President has made clear his intention to raid Social Security, we will most certainly miss BOB's leadership in this important and fundamental debate in Congress.

Today the Nation says goodbye to a decent and big minded colleague. BOB was not afraid to learn. And he was not afraid to forgive. Even after his family was interned as a child—with Japanese Americans at the outbreak of WWII—BOB forgave the people who imprisoned his family. He forgave his country, then he went on to serve this Nation with enormous talent.

BOB wanted to make the world better. He did make the world a better place and he made the House of Representatives a better place given his presence in it. He deeply believed in what he said, but he was open enough to listen to—and hear—the ideas of others, as well.

I will miss him . . . we will all miss him. And we offer our deepest condolences to his dear wife, Doris, and his son, Brian.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor one of our country's great leaders, and a dear friend Congressman ROBERT MATSUI.

BOB MATSUI was a valued colleague to every member of the House. He was a leading expert on countless issues that have a profound effect on the lives of millions of Americans, not the least of which is Social Security. From his seat on the Ways and Means Committee, BOB fought on behalf of seniors and children, and sought to build thoughtful bipartisan consensus on one tough issue after another.

BOB approached this job with grace, fairness, and dignity. Even though he was chairman of our Party's political committee, he never put partisanship above principle. His intelligence was only exceeded by his compassion. We always refer to one another as ''gentleman'' and ''gentle lady'' on this floor, but there is no Member of Congress for whom the term ''gentleman'' is more appropriate. It is indeed fitting to hold this tribute on the day we swear in the new Congress, because the way BOB conducted himself should be a model for all of us—freshmen and senior Members alike.

BOB was a cherished friend and valued mentor to both my late husband Walter and me. When Walter was first elected to Congress, BOB was one of the first people he sought out to ask for advice on his new job. As usual, BOB was generous with his time and his wisdom. We both learned much from him and I have relied on his policy insights and his political instincts more times than I can remember. I know that I will still instinctively look for him on the floor during a tough vote.

Mr. Speaker, BOB and Doris Matsui were there for my family and for me when Walter passed away. Today I extend to Doris, Brian, Amy, Anna, and BOB's staff my most heartfelt condolences. I understand how difficult this time is for them. But I am buoyed by knowing that strength in families is never more evident, and important, than during times of adversity and grief. The Matsuis are a strong and wonderful family, and that, perhaps, is BOB's finest legacy of all.

We will miss BOB MATSUI very much. But we will never, ever forget him.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, our country lost two beloved public servants. Representative ROBERT T. MATSUI and former Representative Shirley Chisholm leave us behind, but our national consciousness will never forget their considerable contributions to pursuing equality and social justice for all Americans. Representatives MATSUI and Chisholm dedicated so much of themselves to others, and the outpouring of support demonstrates the deep impact each had on the lives of others.

Both leaders rose from humble beginnings to the heights of Congress. Representative MATSUI, one of the thousands of Japanese Americans taken to an internment camp during World War II, became an influential member on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. His passion for social justice shaped the core of his being, reverberating through his promotion of adequate job training, equal access to health care coverage for children, and the preservation of Social Security for our nation's seniors and disabled citizens. In 1988, he helped win restitution from the U.S. Government for the internment program that negatively affected many surviving Japanese Americans.

Representative Chisholm too overcame great obstacles. As the product of the working neighborhoods of Brooklyn, Shirley Chisholm became the first African American woman elected to Congress in 1968. Her advocacy on civil rights issues, particularly women's rights, was unparalleled as she reached out beyond her local constituency to all Americans. Never willing to allow America to mire in the status quo, Representative Chisholm again broke new ground by offering herself as the first woman to be considered for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972.

Though I never had the honor of serving with Representative Chisholm, her legacy echoes throughout the halls of Congress. I witness her strength in my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, which she helped establish in 1969. I hear her voice in our continued pleas for justice in underserved communities. And I see her focus and passion

in the eyes of American children who won't accept discrimination or barriers to opportunity.

Connected by the common bond of their love for humanity, Representatives MATSUI and Chisholm treaded down unmarked paths with determination, fortitude, and notable grace. As a generation of civil rights activists move into the twilight of their advocacy, we must honor their work by passing along their vision for what we our country can still become, a land of equality and opportunity for all Americans. Though we have lost these dear friends too soon, we continue to be led by their unmistakable footprints.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in paying tribute to one of our colleagues whom we lost so unexpectedly on New Year's Day.

BOB MATSUI was one of the most respected Members of this House. During his 26 years of service in Congress, he was an advocate for our Nation's seniors, our children, and for social and economic justice.

From his family's experience in the Japanese internment camps during World War II, BOB learned the importance of protecting the liberties and civil rights that are the foundation of this great country. As an Asian-American he understood the obstacles that minorities face in building opportunities for themselves and their families.

BOB MATSUI rose quickly to become a leader in this House because of his political savvy and his detailed knowledge of the issues.

He was dedicated to this House and its institutions. He was also dedicated to the ideals of the Democratic party. We all know how tirelessly he worked as the chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Many will remember BOB for his leadership in our party and on the critical national issues of trade and Social Security.

It is true that he understood the values of free trade and the economic prosperity it can provide to communities. He was not afraid to stand up against even his own party on issues in which he passionately believed. As the ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee, BOB was also a national expert on the subject of retirement and pension.

His knowledge of the intricacies of the social security system and his wisdom will be sorely missed during this year's upcoming debate on Social Security reform.

I, however, will remember BOB for something else. I will remember him as a friend and champion of migrant children and their families. BOB helped us in the fight for funding for Migrant Education Programs. For years he also hosted a college assistance migrant intern in his office.

Many of his former interns are now leaders in their professions and communities because of the start BOB gave them.

I want to express my deepest condolences to his family: his wife Doris, his son Brian, his daughter-in-law Amy and his granddaughter Anna. I know how proud BOB was of all of them. The people of California and of this Nation have truly lost a great advocate.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, my family and I would like to convey our heartfelt sympathy to the Matsui family upon the death of Congressman ROBERT MATSUI on Saturday, January 1.

BOB's passing is a tragic loss to all who knew him. It is also a loss to all Americans who didn't know him personally but whose lives were enhanced by the legislation and the leadership he provided. BOB was one of the smartest and most principled people in Congress, a dedicated public servant, and a friend. He will be greatly missed in Congress, especially by me.

First elected 26 years ago, Congressman MATSUI and I entered the U.S. House of Representatives in the same incoming class. We were colleagues and friends throughout these years; our families each moved to the Washington area and our wives Sylvia and Doris also became good friends. One of my fond memories together was attending Brian and Amy's wedding in California a few years ago. Brian also gave me my first official tour of the U.S. Supreme Court facilities where he clerked recently. His parents were so proud.

Sylvia and I are shocked and deeply saddened by BOB's passing, and we offer Doris and the Matsui family our most sincere condolences.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my late colleague ROBERT T. MATSUI. While his life was cut tragically short, his many achievements and contributions to our Nation will serve as a constant reminder of his hard work, integrity, and determination to advocate for those who were not able to fight for themselves.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978, BOB served the people of Sacramento for 14 terms focusing on the city's public safety by bringing adequate flood protection to his hometown. He also served as a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means, covering an array of policy issues such as preserving Social Security for future generations, as well as having adequate basic healthcare rights for children. Most recently he served as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee leading the Democratic Party's congressional effort for the 2004 cycle.

When he was 6 months old, BOB, a third-generation Japanese American, and his family were taken from their home in Sacramento and interned at the Tule Lake Camp after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1942. He carried this experience with him throughout his life. In 1988, he helped steer the Japanese-American Redress Act through Congress, in which the government formally apologized for the World War II internment program and offered compensation to victims. This experience helped shape his strong belief that every American is entitled to basic civil rights despite their ethnicity.

BOB was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Because of his many achievements and contributions, he was and always will be a role model to the more than eleven million Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in our country.

His presence and driving force will certainly be missed. However, his legacy will live on through the people of Sacramento, the Asian Pacific Islander American community and our Nation as a whole. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Doris, son, Brian, daughter-in-law, Amy and granddaughter, Anna. We will miss you, BOB. All Hawaii sends with you on your final journey our deepest and most loving Aloha.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, BOB MATSUI. As Members of Congress, many factors determine who we form close relationships with. One of those factors is committee assignment. I had the tremendous fortune of serving on the Ways and Means Committee with BOB MATSUI for 15 years. As we worked on tax reform, trade, health, and many other issues, I learned many valuable lessons from him. His dedication to the people of his district and to all the people of this Nation shone through at every hearing and markup.

He had a lifelong commitment to public service and the public good. Even though his early years were spent in a Japanese-American internment camp in California, that injustice did not dim his love and devotion to our country. He remained in California, served on the Sacramento City Council, and as vice mayor of Sacramento, and eventually came to this House, which he also loved so very much.

For his entire career, he was devoted to the welfare of children, the promotion of free trade, and the preservation of Social Security for future generations. I know that the committee will miss his expertise and good counsel for many Congresses to come. I want to personally extend my heartfelt condolences to his wonderful wife Doris, his son Brian, daughter in-law Amy, and his granddaughter Anna. We will miss BOB and forever treasure his camaraderie.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, this week our Nation has lost a great leader and statesman from my home State of California, BOB MATSUI. And it is with a great deal of sadness that I join my colleagues to pay tribute to BOB's life and his distinguished record of service and accomplishments during his 26 years as a Member of the House of Representatives. A model of integrity and commitment to his district, his State and our Nation, BOB exemplified the best of this great institution.

By having the privilege of representing an area of Los Angeles with a rich and diverse Asian-American population that includes Little Tokyo, Koreatown, Filipinotown, and Chinatown, I am very aware of the positive impact BOB had on the Asian-Pacific Islander community and the Japanese-American community in particular. Like so many Japanese-Americans, BOB's early years were spent with his family in an internment camp during World War II. Anyone viewing the large photo of a youthful BOB MATSUI with his little league baseball teammates which adorns his office wall was reminded of the difficult challenge an Asian-American faced growing up in 1950's California. As a young man in that volatile ethnic environment, BOB MATSUI was a stand-out student who gained admittance to the University of California at Berkeley and distinguished himself academically both there and at the Hastings College of Law.

His early experience became the foundation of his academic success as a young man, and ultimately led him to a career of distinguished public service, first for his local Sacramento City Council, then to this great House. His respect for this institution and his personal and professional integrity were well-known and helped BOB become a persuasive advocate on the issues he cared deeply about.

As a member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I was honored to work with him on one of the most important issues to California—water. BOB's knowledge of water issues affecting our State, including southern California, and his

long record of support for adequate flood control protection for the Sacramento area were brought to bear each year during our committee deliberations as we set priorities for funding the water projects so crucial to Sacramento and to California.

BOB was also a strong advocate of trade and of protecting the rights of our senior citizens. In fact, as the ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security, BOB was our Democratic expert and a leading advocate for the protection of this critical program. BOB was to be our Democratic point person for the upcoming and pivotal debate on Social Security. Understanding the importance of Social Security to our Nation's seniors and the need for the Democratic Party to effectively and successfully confront attacks on the system, his wife Doris told me that BOB continued to plan a Democratic strategy to the very end at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

It was this kind of commitment coupled with his integrity and sincerity that helped to make BOB one of the most respected Members of Congress. This respect also made him one of the most successful chairmen of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. We all know that the DCCC set many records during the 2003–2004 election cycle. I believe this success stemmed from the leadership model that BOB conveyed at the DCCC's helm, and it was also a result of the great esteem in which BOB was held by all segments of our party. I was proud to serve with him as vice-chair of the DCCC, and BOB made sure it was indeed a working position. Few Members could have motivated me in quite the same way as BOB MATSUI.

In short, I will miss BOB as a friend and colleague. This House, the Democratic Party, and our Nation have lost a great statesman and a quiet and effective leader. His legacy of accomplishments as a trail-blazing Asian-American Californian is unlikely to be surpassed. His dedication, dignity, and bipartisan approach to addressing the Nation's problems will be the hallmark of his legacy for both Republicans and Democrats.

In this time of extreme partisanship and frequent legislative gridlock, it is my hope that we can all learn from the example of our friend and colleague, BOB MATSUI.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Congressman BOB MATSUI of California. The American people will miss this outstanding public servant, and we in the House of Representatives will miss a skilled legislator who approached every issue with a fair mind.

I've lost a friend. BOB and his wife Doris were friends of my wife Pat and me. Our son Chadd and their son, Brian, grew up together as congressional kids.

For the past 2 years, BOB and I were hallmates. In fact, I moved into his old office on the third floor of the Rayburn building. He always had a smile and hello for anyone he passed in the hall, whether it was a fellow Member, a staffer, or a visitor.

BOB MATSUI was a courageous legislator. He showed great resolve in helping to win approval for the North American Free Trade Agreement. There isn't a tax or trade bill in the last 20 years that doesn't have his stamp on it. He was positively heroic when he had Congress squarely face the issue of the treatment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. BOB MATSUI showed us the meaning of dignity and humility as he helped us to acknowledge a wrong. He and his parents were among those held in internment camps, but what was more important to him than his personal history was righting history for thousands of innocent Americans.

Our thoughts and prayers are with BOB's family. As we start a new session of Congress, we should all look to the distinguished career of BOB MATSUI as an example of how we can remain true to our ideals and beliefs while ultimately working together for the good of all Americans.

Ms. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a respected colleague in the U.S. Congress whose recent passing will be mourned by all who knew him. With Congressman ROBERT MATSUI's untimely death, America has lost a tireless leader.

As a fellow Californian, I had the pleasure of working with Congressman MATSUI on several issues of importance to our State. I admired his leadership and dedication to his constituency as well as the high level of integrity with which he served.

Congressman MATSUI's 26 years of service are filled with a remarkable number of legislative achievements such as his commitment to free trade that have bettered the lives of many Americans. He was a powerful and respected voice whose memory will continue to be an inspiration for many years to come.

Congressman ROBERT MATSUI was a true leader and served his constituents and country with honor and distinction. The people of Sacramento, California were fortunate to have such a talented person for their Representative in Congress.

I will always remember Congressman MATSUI's thoughtfulness; he was always quick with a smile and a kind word. He was a bridge for communication between both sides of the aisle. His legacy of effective leadership will be a model for those that follow him.

My thoughts and prayers are with Doris and the entire Matsui family during this difficult time. Congressman MATSUI's positive impact on his country will be remembered forever.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor a valued colleague and true gentleman, the late Congressman BOB MATSUI. I met him when I served as a state legislator within his congressional district in Sacramento. Since that time, I have been taken by his approachability and his ability to make those around him feel that he is truly listening to their concerns.

During his 26 years in Congress, he has been a champion on issues that affect the lives of all Californians and Americans, from protecting Social Security to working for civil rights. Congressman MATSUI's fight against privatizing Social Security showed his deep commitment to fighting for the poor or less fortunate in our country. He led the efforts to ensure its fundamental purpose was never compromised.

Congressman MATSUI's strong belief in social justice is apparent by looking at the legislation he championed. He drafted bills that became the backbone for child welfare reform, proposing to expand the social services available to at-risk children and families in the child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice systems. He also fought welfare changes, arguing that adequate job training and education programs were essential to helping parents become self-sufficient. And his bipartisan work to provide health care coverage to uninsured children became the basis of the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

His personal journey, however, could be his most lasting legacy. After spending his infancy in an internment camp during World War II, Congressman MATSUI led the legislative effort to compensate victims of the camps and officially apologize to those held there. A grateful Japanese-American community is indebted to his work, as are the rest of us.

I want to send my prayers and condolences to his family: his wife Doris, son Brian, daughter-in-law Amy and granddaughter Anna. For those of us who remain in Congress, we would like you to know that we will continue to fight for the causes and ideals that BOB fought for his entire life.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by the sudden loss of ROBERT MATSUI, and I would like to join my colleagues in honoring him today. BOB was one of the finest members to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. His strength of character, wisdom, civility, and attention to detail were inspiring to many of us serving with him. His thoughtful and helpful nature has been remembered by many today, but I will always be grateful for his desire to seek out and befriend younger and less senior Members of Congress like me. I join my colleagues in mourning the loss of a friend, a mentor, and a great leader in Congress.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I recognize the death of a former colleague and a great Californian, Representative ROBERT MATSUI, who passed away earlier this week.

A third-generation Japanese-American, BOB was born in Sacramento and was just a 6-month-old baby when he and his family were imprisoned at the Tule Lake internment camp following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Forty years later, he was instrumental in passing the Japanese-American Redress Act, which produced an official apology from the Federal Government for the World War II internment program and offered compensation to victims.

BOB was a quiet and admired Member of Congress. His passion for issues he believed deeply in was respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He brought dignity and honor to the House of Representatives. BOB was a tax and trade maven on the House Ways and Means Committee, and his knowledge and expertise in these areas will be sorely missed. He was one of a small number of Democrats who pushed for passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

First elected in 1978 following his service to the City of Sacramento, BOB and I were in the same freshman class of Congress as I too was elected that year. I got to know, and become very good friends with BOB during the 26 years we served in the House together.

The people in the Sacramento-based 5th district lost a good legislator when BOB passed away on January 1, and he will be missed by his friends and family.

It is with a heavy heart that I say good-bye to BOB. My wife Cheryl and I would like to express our condolences to his wife, Doris, and the entire family, in this time of sorrow and sadness. They will be in our prayers.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise today to honor my colleague, the Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI. Far before

these past 4 years where I had the opportunity to work with him in Washington, BOB's work effort, faith and determination were a constant source of inspiration for me.

BOB fought in Congress for 28 years on principles that were unshakeable for the betterment of all. He took a genuine interest in Members' concerns, visited Members' districts—including mine in the San Gabriel Valley—and fought hard to ensure equality for the underserved and to bring justice to those wronged. BOB was a champion for Social Security, fought for all of our children and was determined to achieve economic justice.

I am proud to say that BOB MATSUI is among those I consider a close personal friend. I send my condolences to his family and I am consoled only by knowing that BOB's legacy will live on, and the world will be better for it.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that the whole number of the House is 428.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REMARKS ON THE DEATH OF THE LATE HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) for taking out this special order on our dear friend BOB MATSUI and to all of our colleagues who participated in it.

I hope it is a comfort to the Matsui family, to Doris, Brian, Amy and Anna, that so many people in this Chamber and I know throughout the country share their grief and are praying for them at this sad time.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BACA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FARR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MOORE of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. POMEROY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. HINOJOSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORTING THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the previous cochair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I rise to express our solidarity with the people of India and the Indian American community in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami that has affected so many nations in the Indian Ocean.

Earlier tonight, a resolution of sympathy for South Asia was presented by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), chairman and ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, along with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), who is leading a delegation to the affected areas, and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), Indonesian Caucus cochairman.

Nearly 140,000 people in 11 countries in South Asia and East Africa have died, approximately 3 to 5 million people have been displaced and citizens of over 40 countries have been affected by the tsunami. The most devastating death toll was in the nation of Indonesia, which is appreciated as the world's largest Muslim democracy of nearly a quarter of a billion people. India has nearly 15,000 casualties. In this time of need, the American people and our government are demonstrating the generosity and compassion that have been the hallmark of American society and culture since our Nation's founding.

As we grieve for the dead, we must also continue to work hard to save those now living in the wake of this terrible disaster. Under the leadership of President George W. Bush, America has committed $350 million in relief to the nations in need. This substantial funding will go a long way to helping the estimated 3 to 5 million people who now face numerous hardships as they lack access to the basic necessities of life.

Our country and our people are also contributing to this effort in countless other ways. Almost immediately after the disaster occurred, the United States military dispatched aircraft and ships to survey the damage and deliver supplies. Presently there are disaster relief assessment teams on the ground and 20 ships and 80 military aircraft in the area and en route, with 12,600 American military serving the relief effort. The U.S. Pacific Command said this week it is deploying 20 ships from docks in Hong Kong, Guam and the island of Diego Garcia. The ships are loaded with medical equipment and mobile hospitals, 41 helicopters, 2,100 Marines, 1,400 sailors and the capacity to generate 600,000 gallons of fresh water daily. Our Secretary of State Colin Powell and Governor Jeb Bush of Florida are tonight visiting the devastated nations of South Asia, proving our sincere efforts for reconstruction and recovery. Additionally, the United States Department of Defense and USAID have established coordination centers in Bangkok, Thailand, and Colombo, Sri Lanka. These centers will help coordinate the massive U.S. relief efforts.

As the world has witnessed throughout our history, the American men and women in uniform always act boldly to help those in need.

Over the past week, I have been most encouraged by the outpouring of support from the American people. Since December 26, Americans have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to help those in need. Yesterday President Bush asked President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton to head a nationwide charitable fund-raising effort. In the coming days they will urge all Americans to donate directly to reliable charities already providing help to tsunami victims. My colleagues, as you advise your constituents as you receive inquiries where to send contributions, I have two suggestions that I would want to suggest to you that I have learned in working with the Embassy of India here in Washington. First is the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund which is the Embassy of India at 2107 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest, Washington D.C. 20008. Additionally in India itself, the Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund of the American Chamber of Commerce of India, the AmCham, which is Room 1262, Maurya Sheraton Hotel, S.P. Marg, New Delhi, India. Both of these are organizations that will work to help in the recovery and restoration for the people who have been affected by the tsunami.

I am confident that this effort will further highlight the tremendous decency of the American people. In the 1840s, historian Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, "When America asks for the cooperation of its citizens, it is seldom refused. And I have often seen it afforded spontaneously with great good will."

Most importantly, we should all remember that no contribution is too small. President Bush has asked that we all contribute as we are able to do so and fortunately citizens are responding in innovative ways. In my home State of South Carolina, an 11-year-old girl donated $11 she collected at her birthday party. In Columbia, South Carolina, Jack Edgerton, corporate president of Adluh Flour Company, and the Allen family recently demonstrated another example of the concern and compassion exhibited by the American people. They have offered to send nearly 100,000 pounds of flour from the farmers of South Carolina to affected countries, and I do appreciate their generosity. I am also grateful to Dr. Jim Carpenter of Oconee County, South Carolina, who has practiced medicine in Indonesia and speaks Indonesian. He has volunteered to return to provide medical assistance.

These efforts exemplify the President's statement that "the greatest source of Americans' generosity is not our government, it is the good heart of the American people." While the full impact of this disaster may never be known, the significant contribution of the American people will be remembered. I join President Bush in urging all Americans to give generously to this important cause.

Since citizens of over 40 nations have been affected by the tsunami, this is truly a global event. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I am pleased that President Bush visited the Indian Embassy here in Washington yesterday to pledge that we would help the Indian government and the Indian people in any way we can. After losing over 15,000 of its own people, the country of India has responded selflessly to this tragedy. India is now part of a disaster relief coalition with Japan, Australia and the United States. Yesterday, India began deploying Israeli-made unmanned aerial vehicles in round-the-clock searches for victims of the tsunami. By providing significant financial and military assistance to neighboring tsunami affected countries, India is already playing a vital role in this coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the new India Caucus cochair who succeeded me today, has also expressed her support to the people of India. It was an honor for me to cochair the largest country caucus in Congress and I am pleased to have worked with people like the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) my predecessor, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), and other leaders in our work with the Indian American community.

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As a real estate attorney in South Carolina, I worked with Indian Americans for nearly 30 years in the hospitality, medical, and business sectors; and I have always appreciated the strong family values, entrepreneurship, and patriotism they have shown in our communities. There has been no better or finer example of this than the recent elections of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL) to Congress and Nikki Randhawa of Lexington, South Carolina to the South Carolina statehouse where she recently was elected president of the freshman class. They embody the hard work and drive that so many Indian Americans have fulfilling the American Dream.

At such a critical time, it is important we stand beside the people of India

identified today in the gentleman from Illinois's (Speaker HASTERT) acceptance speech as the world's largest democracy, as America is the world's oldest democracy. Our two nations share the same values. I am confident with the proven generosity of Americans we will again demonstrate by our assistance to the people of South Asia to help recover from this terrible tragedy.

Tonight I am very grateful to be joined by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), a person of extraordinary credentials, a person serving in Congress who is a dedicated scientist, a graduate, a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from the University of California at Berkeley, a professor at Calvin College in Michigan, and a person, again, who has a deep understanding and appreciation of science and what it can mean to improve the lives of the American people and the people of South Asia.

I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I certainly appreciate his sponsoring this particular Special Order and particularly his encouragement of the American people to contribute.

We are impressed that the President has designated $350 million to deal with this tragedy, but I would like to point out that that is very little more than $1 per person this country and very little more than $2 for every working person in this country. Certainly we can do better than that, and I encourage all Americans to send contributions to the charities that the gentleman mentioned. I would also mention the American Red Cross will play a role in this through its international arms. I am also aware in my community of relief organizations such as the Christian Reform World Relief Committee, which is very active in this. International Aid is another organization in Spring Lake, Michigan, which has dispatched $3 million of medical equipment and other supplies already. And I am sure every American can look around their own community and find similar organizations that they can contribute to to help during this incredible tragedy.

We certainly want to express our sympathy as the American Congress and the American country to the people who have suffered this tragedy. It is almost incomprehensible. For years scientists have talked about the possibility of a mega-tsunami and it has largely been dismissed even though tsunamis can be very large, but the idea of a mega-tsunami has been dismissed by most scientists. This one does not quite measure up to that in terms of the power and the energy it contained, but it certainly is a mega-tsunami in terms of the damage and the death, the destruction that it has caused. So I do want to express my personal sympathy and that of the Congress for those who are suffering and encourage all Americans to help.

But the main thrust of my comments this evening are going to be about the science of tsunamis. That may seem inappropriate at this point when we are all dealing with a tragedy, but I know there is a lot of interest because I have fielded a number of questions from colleagues and staff in the Congress, and so I think it is worth time talking to our colleagues about what a tsunami is, how it happens, particularly as it relates to the possibility of developing a warning system for tsunamis.

First question, how do tsunamis occur? They have four major sources. Earthquakes are the primary source but also volcanos can cause tsunamis either through eruption or collapse. Other possibilities are landslides, slumps, or rock falls. If they are large enough, they can cause tsunamis. The last category is more esoteric. Asteroids, meteorites. They are very rare, but they cause the largest tsunamis. And also man-made explosions, which many people think could cause them, but, in fact, it would be very difficult to do that. I will discuss each of these a bit later.

But let me also address, first of all, why we cannot warn people. And I should mention some have asked me why the name ''tsunami,'' why do we use that. Do we not have an American term? Actually we do not have an equivalent American term. It is from two Japanese words that mean harbor and wave, and that is literally what it is. It is primarily waves in harbors or coastlines.

If we look at the natural disasters we have in this world and the warning systems that we have, if we look at the very largest natural disasters, such as volcanic explosions, we generally have hours to months of warning time before a volcano will explode, and the emphasis is generally on months provided we have seismic devices measure the activity within the volcano. Hurricanes, we have days in which to prepare and to evacuate or to tighten up our homes or other buildings. Tsunamis, we could have hours of warning if we have a good warning system, and that is the big ''if,'' which I will talk about a bit later.

Tornadoes we generally have 10 minutes to an hour of warning. And earthquakes we have no warning whatsoever. We know of no good warning system for earthquakes. Although there are some precursors, we can never predict an earthquake precisely. And since earthquakes cause most tsunamis, that means it is very difficult to predict tsunamis. But because they take from minutes to hours to reach the shore once we detect the earthquake and detect whether or not it causes a tsunami, we do have some warning time available and we have a warning system in the Pacific Ocean, which has been quite successful.

Let us talk about some of the science behind tsunamis. Why do they occur? What is going on? How does an earthquake cause a tsunami? First of all, not all earthquakes do. If it is an earthquake that does not cause much shifting of the surface under the ocean, there is generally not much of a tsunami. Also if it is a weak earthquake, it generally does not create a tsunami. But if we have a large earthquake, let us say above about 7.0, in that neighborhood, on the Richter Scale, and if it involves substantial motion of material, we will get a tsunami.

And the most common way in which these are called is when there is a subdeduction, when a tectonic plate sliding under another tectonic plate in the ocean and if there is a big movement and if it extends for many miles or many kilometers in the direction, we get a lot of motion in a very quick time. The water pours in to try to fill up that space. It is sort of like throwing a rock in a pond, and we get ripples coming up. But if we are talking about an ocean, and a typical ocean depth is in the neighborhood of, let us say, 15,000 feet, we have a huge amount of water being moved in a very short time, and it is like throwing a very, very, very large rock in the ocean.

The waves that spread out from this disturbance are not very big. Typically the wave that is caused by an earthquake or an underwater volcano will only have a height ranging from a few inches to a few feet. So the waves that are traveling across the ocean are barely noticeable to a ship that is sailing on the ocean. And that is why we have this strange situation, terrible destruction around the Indian Ocean now, but the fishermen who were out in their ships were not injured. They scarcely even knew that they were lifted up a foot and then let down again as the wave went under. But the waves are very deep; and as they approach shore, it becomes shallower. All of that energy of motion is condensed together and the waves add together and create huge walls of water that hit the coast and travel inland from the coast.

So if we have an earthquake, a volcano, a landslide, a slump, a rock fall, anything that generates motion of a lot of water, as that spreads out across the ocean, it loses a little energy but not very much, and depending on the depth of the ocean, it can travel very rapidly. If the ocean is deep, we can get speeds of these waves on the order of the speed of a jet airplane. And it is just a tremendous speed to travel. That is why we do not have much warning time, because they travel very rapidly.

As they approach shore, as I said, they slow down, mount up, and we get this huge wall of water. And it depends entirely upon the geology of the area, the shape of the land, the nature of the source of the earthquake. One of the most destructive that occurred was the one up in Alaska some years ago, and it was not that large an earthquake, but the wall of water that hit the land was over 100 feet high. It hit a reinforced concrete lighthouse and demolished it and killed everyone inside. It had that kind of force, much more force than we had in the Indian Ocean last week, but it did not have as great

an extent. Interestingly enough, that tsunami which was close to Alaska did cause substantial damage in Hawaii and killed more people in Hawaii than it did in Alaska because Alaska is not very heavily populated and Hawaii is.

So we have many different sources of tsunamis, and I hesitate to go into a great deal of detail on that. I do want to point out for the people who like to be terrified or those who like to make movies to terrify people that the largest tsunamis, as I mentioned, would result from asteroids or meteorites. If one of those lands in an ocean area, we would have a tsunami that could totally decimate all of the surrounding coastal area for miles inland. That has happened in the past geological history of this planet; but, in fact, it is quite rare. Usually the time between those is measured in millions of years, sometimes many millions of years.

What about the warning system? As I said earlier, we do have the Pacific warning system. It has worked fairly well. What we have to do is have a good system to detect earthquakes since they are the main cause and seismographs that could not only detect earthquakes but could detect a volcanic explosion or a volcanic collapse, anything that would move a lot of material and therefore create a big hole for the water to pour into or else an explosion that would make the water move out.

So if we have the seismographs that can detect that, then we have to have a method of calculating where the earthquake occurred, and we have that in many parts of the world. Unfortunately it took a while to establish the exact location of the earthquake in the Indian Ocean and find out its magnitude and find out really what the danger was. And then that tells us the starting time of the tsunami.

Then we have to be able to detect the motion of it, the velocity. So we have to have buoys displaced around that can measure these waves I mentioned, which are not all that large; but we have to have a buoy system that can detect that so we can calculate the speed.

And above all we need a warning system that will send out a warning to the people in the countries that are going to be hit. That is where we completely failed in the Indian Ocean, because no one expected a tsunami of this size in the Indian Ocean. The Pacific system has worked reasonably well, but even then we cannot always predict far enough in advance exactly where it is going to hit and how hard it is going to hit. And as I said before, not every earthquake results in a tsunami.

So we are going to have false alarms. We may send out the alert and the people will all quickly evacuate the coastal areas, get to high ground, and there is just a minor little wave that comes in. It is like the boy who cried wolf. If this happens several times, people say, well, it is a good warning system, but we really do not need it. But we never know when the big one is going to come, so people have to be trained to follow the warning system no matter what and recognize that not every time will it result in a major tsunami in every location that is warned, but sometime it will.

I believe it is incumbent upon us to lead the way as we have in developing the Pacific Ocean tsunami detection system which has saved a lot of lives. We cannot protect against a tsunami; so we cannot stop the property damage. But at least we can save the lives.

□ 2115

We know how to do it. The problem is, the nations around the Indian Ocean and in other threatened areas are going to have to join the effort and, above all, they are going to have to develop a warning system and train their people how the warning system will work and how tsunamis work so that they will take the warning seriously and flee to high ground at the first indication of any disaster of this sort.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I hope I have not taken too much time. But as I said, since so many people are interested in the nature and the science behind tsunamis, I thought this might be helpful, particularly as this Congress will be involved in the next year or 2 in helping to decide on what type of warning system should be developed worldwide and what our role is going to be in that.

Lest we think that all the tsunamis are in the Pacific, just because the majority are, be aware that there is potential for huge tsunamis in the Atlantic and, as we all know, we have a heavily populated Atlantic coastline, New York City just to name one major population center, but all the way from Maine down to Miami. We will have to worry about it. And the likelihood of it is small, but if it occurs, the probability of major damage is so high that we should not just concentrate on the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, but we should also worry about the Atlantic Ocean and our eastern seaboard.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. It was certainly very helpful to have the gentleman explain tsunamis and the effect and how precautions can be taken. We greatly appreciate the gentleman's excellent scientific background that can be so helpful. I know I particularly represent the low country of South Carolina, and we are certainly observing what has occurred in south Asia and we identify with our beaches of Hilton Head Island; it is a concern. But I thank the gentleman so much for his service.

Mr. Speaker, as I complete my service as the cochair of the India Caucus, I want to give a special thanks to Dino Tepparo who is the legislative assistant and attorney of the office of the second district of South Carolina. I give so much credit to him for helping build the largest caucus on Capitol Hill. He also developed the website for the India Caucus, and he has really made a difference in trying for better relations between the world's largest democracy of India and the oldest democracy of the United States. And Dino Tepparo is a person, I greatly appreciate his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, also I want to review the significance of this tragedy on so many different points, because it is so massive that it is almost overwhelming, as was indicated by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) of the magnitude of what the people of the world are facing. As to the disaster background itself, on Sunday, December 26, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake off the West Coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia triggered massive tsunamis that affected several countries throughout South and Southeast Asia as well as Somalia, Tanzania, and Kenya in East Africa. Aftershocks continued to occur in the region through January 1, when a magnitude 6.5 earthquake occurred off the west coast of northern Sumatra.

The current situation. The estimated death toll from the December 26 earthquake and tsunamis is more than 140,000 people in South and Southeast Asia and East Africa and may be as high as 150,000. Between 3 million to 5 million people throughout the affected region are lacking basic survival requirements, access to clean water, adequate shelter, food, sanitation, and health care. Contaminated water sources in the affected countries have increased the risk of cholera, dysentery, malaria, and dengue fever.

Approximately 500,000 people are displaced in Indonesia. More than 889,175 are displaced in Sri Lanka. Mr. Speaker, 3.5 million people are affected in India, and more than 10,000 are injured in Thailand. In addition, between 15,000 and 30,000 may have been affected in Somalia, 12,000 are displaced in Malaysia, and approximately 12,000 are displaced and 300,000 affected in the Maldives.

The American response. On December 31, President Bush pledged $350 million in relief and recovery assistance, bringing the total amount of pledges from donor countries and the World Bank to an estimated $2 billion. The United States is leading a core group of nations to help with immediate humanitarian relief, rehabilitation, and long-term reconstruction efforts, including India, Japan, and Australia.

On January 2, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell led a delegation of U.S. officials, including Florida Governor Jeb Bush, to visit the disaster-stricken areas of Asia. The United States Pacific Command said this week it is deploying 20 ships from the docks in Hong Kong, Guam, and the island of Diego Garcia. The ships are loaded with medical equipment and mobile hospitals, 41 helicopters, 2,100 Marines, 1,400 sailors, and the capacity to generate 600,000 gallons of fresh water daily.

On December 27, the United States provided more than 3,000 metric tons of

rice to the U.N. World Food Program for use in the affected region. The United States Department of Defense and the United States Agency for International Development have established regional coordination centers in Bangkok, Thailand, and in Colombo, Sri Lanka. These centers will help coordinate the massive U.S. relief efforts.

In addition to the hundreds of U.S. embassy and USAID mission staff who are now dedicated to the response to this disaster in their respective countries, USAID disaster assistance response team members and other U.S. assistance team members are already on the ground and moving into the affected countries.

Of course, all of us want to advise our constituents, what can Americans do? Government officials on the ground are advising Americans wishing to offer support in the relief effort to focus on cash donations as opposed to shipments of used clothing, canned goods, or other commodities. While all assistance is greatly appreciated, cash donations are proving to be the most helpful form of assistance for tsunami victims for the following reasons: cash is the fastest and most direct way to get assistance to specific affected areas through nongovernmental and charitable organizations that are established and respected in the disaster response field. The cost of shipping these types of goods exceeds the value of the goods themselves, and many of these goods may not be culturally appropriate or timely in their arrival. Cash will also be used to help the purchase of goods on the ground in the affected areas in order to help jump start the local economies which were so severely impacted by the tsunami.

At this time, unless there is further response and there is, thank goodness, from Congressman EHLERS.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to mention one point which I did not include, a very practical point for anyone who is in an area that might suffer a tsunami. There is a very natural warning system that nature provides, but it is very short term and that is before a tsunami, before the big waves roll in, the water recedes, not always, but almost always, and that is precisely what happened in this case. In fact, that killed more people because they did not recognize it. Any time one is on the coast and you see the water receding for some unexplained reason, head for high ground. That is your first warning. But, in fact, what happened, all the fish were left stranded on the shore, people rushed out, and especially children rushed out to grab the fish because obviously they need the food and they were out there beyond where they should have been when the water hit. They had no chance of survival whatsoever.

So there is one good warning system every person in every country should be aware of, in case you are ever on shore, you see the water running out, you run in, and head for high ground as fast as you can.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Again, Mr. Speaker, we appreciate so much the gentleman's practical advise, his expertise, and his obvious compassion for the people of south Asia.

As we conclude, I certainly want to say God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BACA, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FARR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MOORE of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. POMEROY, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. ESHOO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 11, I move that the House do now adjourn in memory of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, January 6, 2005, at 11 a.m., in memory of the late Honorable ROBERT T. MATSUI of California.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 108TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION AND FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL EDITION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THE 108TH CONGRESS

APPOINTMENT BY THE SPEAKER AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by Division P of the Consolidated Apropriations Resolution, 2003 (P.L. 108–7), and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Speaker reappointed the following Member on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission:

Mr. Larry Wortzel, Alexandria, VA, for a term to expire December 31, 2006.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER, AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
December 31, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (P.L. 106–398), I hereby appoint Mr. Michael Wessel of Virginia, for a term of two years, to the United States-China Security Review Commission.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter indicating the President's concurrence with Congress in the designation of funds provided as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2005 (H.R. 4818) as an emergency requirement to support the African Union security force in Darfur, as well as to construct a mail irradiation facility in Washington, D.C.; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2. A letter from the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Program Acquisition Unit Cost and the Average Procurement Unit Cost for the Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) Program exceeds the Acquisition Program Baseline values by more than 15 percent, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433(e)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Captain Gerald R. Beaman, United States Navy, to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Egypt pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's Report to Congress Under Sections 318 and 319 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6. A letter from the Chairperson, National Council on Disability, transmitting a report entitled, ''Livable Communities for Adults with Disabilities,'' pursuant to 29 U.S.C.

781(a)(8); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting a copy of the Energy Information Administration's report entitled ''Annual Energy Outlook 2005,'' pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 790f(a)(1); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on the Department's Implementation of Title II, Section 351A(b) of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9. A letter from the Secretaries, Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on Prescription Drug Importation, pursuant to Public Law 108–173; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 15-04 informing of an intent to sign a Memorandum of Agreement Concerning Combating Terrorism Research and Development with Israel, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

11. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 15-04 informing of an intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Research and Technology Projects (RTP) between the United States, France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

12. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

13. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Tresury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, the final six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 7, 1986, and terminated in Executive Order 13357 of September 20, 2004; to the Committee on International Relations.

14. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of intent to obligate funds for purposes of Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) activities; to the Committee on International Relations.

15. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a Drawdown to support the Government of Afghanistan, pursuant to Section 202 and other relevant provisions of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act (Pub. L. 107-327, as amended) and Sections 506 and 652 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on International Relations.

16. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to Section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with section 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313, a report prepared by the Department of State and the National Security Council on the progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1, 2004 through November 30, 2004; to the Committee on International Relations.

17. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2005-10, ''Waiver of Restrictions on Providing Funds to the Palestinian Authority,'' pursuant to Section 552, Section 515, and Section 529 of the FY 2004 Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act (Div. D, Pub. L. 108-309), as carried forward under the FY 2005 Continuing Resolution (Pub. L. 108-309, as amended), as well as Section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; to the Committee on International Relations.

18. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, President's Pay Agent, transmitting a report justifying the reasons for the extension of locality-based comparability payments to categories of positions that are in more than one executive agency, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5304(h)(2)(C); to the Committee on Government Reform.

19. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the thirty-first Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-Up, covering the six-month period ending September 30, 2004 in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

20. A letter from the Executive Director, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability report for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

21. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2004, through September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

22. A letter from the Chair, CPB Board of Directors, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

23. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two Semiannual Reports which were prepared separately by Treasury's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) for the period ended September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

24. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Report of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2004 (Financial Report), pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 331(e)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

25. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

26. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

27. A letter from the Director, Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270) and OMB Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities, the Department's FY 2004 inventory of commercial activities performed by federal employees and inventory of inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Government Reform.

28. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004, pursuant to PUb. L. 95–452, section 5; to the Committee on Government Reform.

29. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

30. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 04-07, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004 and 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

31. A letter from the Secretary, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2004 and a copy of the Department's Office of Inspector General Program Performance Report for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

32. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

33. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

34. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2004 Annual Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

35. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General and management's report for the period ending September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

36. A letter from the Director, Financial Management, General Accounting Office, transmitting the FY 2004 annual report of the Comptrollers' General Retirement System, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9503(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform.

37. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's thirty-first report on audit final action, as well as the semiannual report on the Office of Inspector General auditing activity, pursuant to Public Law 100–504, section 5; to the Committee on Government Reform.

38. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

39. A letter from the Executive Director for Operations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of

the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270) and OMB Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities, the Commission's FY 2004 inventory of Commercial Activities and Inherently Governmental Functions; to the Committee on Government Reform.

40. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

41. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 04-07, the Corps' report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

42. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the Peace Corps' Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

43. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 04-07, the Board's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

44. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period of April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004 and the Management Response for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

45. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 04-07, the Administration's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

46. A letter from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting a report discussing the Congressional Office recycling programs for traditional and electronic equipment waste (E-waste) for the fourth quarter of FY 2004, pursuant to the directions issued in House Report 107-576; to the Committee on House Administration.

47. A letter from the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting list of reports pursuant to clause 2, Rule II of the Rules of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Rule II, clause 2(b), of the Rules of the House; (H. Doc. No. 109–4); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

48. A letter from the Coordinator, Forms Committee, Federal Election Commission, transmitting revisions to Schedules H1, H2, H3, and H4 of FEC Form 3X, Report of Receipts and Disbursements for Other than an Authorized Committee, revisions to the instructions for FEC Form 3X, and the Explanation and Justification for these revisions; to the Committee on House Administration.

49. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the ''U.S. Ocean Action Plan,'' a report and statement of proposals prepared by the Council on Environmental Quality in response to the Commission on Ocean Policy's final recomendations, pursuant to Public Law 106–256, section 4 33 U.S.C. 857–19; to the Committee on Resources.

50. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting The activites of the Department of Justice regarding prison rape abatement for the preceding calendar year, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 15604 Public Law 108–79, section 5(b)(1); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

51. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the designation as ''foreign terrorist organization'' pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1189; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

52. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the designation as ''foreign terrorist organization'' pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1189; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

53. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter supporting the authorization as modified herein of construction of a flood damage reduction project for Antelope Creek, Lincoln, Nebraska, pursuant to Section 101(b)(19) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000, and plans to implement the project through the normal budget process at the appropriate time; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

54. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW), Elizabeth River, Southern Branch, Virginia [CGD05-04-233] (RIN: 1625-AA-09) received December 27, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

55. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mississippi River, Iowa, and Illinois [CGD08-04-040] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received December 27, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

56. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Warrensburg, MO. [Docket No. FAA-2004-1933; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-62] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

57. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Dodge City, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19325; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-54] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

58. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Napa, CA [Docket No. FAA-2004-18697; Airspace Docket No. 04-AWP-4] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

59. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Harvard, NE. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19331; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-60] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

60. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Hartington, NE. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19332; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-61] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

61. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Sedalia, MO. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19334; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-63] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

62. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Prescott, AZ [Docket No. FAA-2004-18815; Airspace Docket No. 04-AWP-2] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

63. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Scribner, NE. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19327; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-56] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

64. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Nebraska City, NE. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19328; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-57] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

65. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Imperial, NE. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19329; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-58] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

66. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Oberlin, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19326; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-55] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

67. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Somerset, KY [Docket No. FAA-2004-18465; Airspace Docket No. 04-ASO-8] received Decemebr 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

68. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Restricted Area 2306C, Yuma West, AZ [Docket No. FAA-2001-17180; Airspace Docket No. 03-AWP-03] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

69. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D Airspace; Riverside March Field, CA [Docket No. FAA-2004-17738; Airspace Docket No. 04-AWP-5] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

70. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Dodge City, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2004-19325; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-54] received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

71. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and Model MD-88 Airplanes [Docket No. 2000-NM-169-AD; Amendment 39-13860; AD 2004-23-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

72. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -300, -400, -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-324-AD; Amendment 39-13862; AD 2004-23-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

73. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135 and -145 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-346-AD; Amendment 39-13864; AD 2004-23-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

74. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767-200, -300, and -300F Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19569; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-179-AD; Amendment 39-13869; AD 2004-23-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

75. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757-200 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-182-AD; Amendment 39-13867; AD 2004-23-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

76. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757-200, -200PF, -200CB, and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-74-AD; Amendment 39-13861; AD 2004-23-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

77. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model MD900 Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2004-19613; Directorate Identifier 2004-SW-38-AD; Amendment 39-13870; AD 2004-23-15] received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

78. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Model GV and GV-SP Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19492; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-200-AD; Amendment 39-13844; AD 2004-22-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64] received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

79. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 206L-1 and 206L-3 Helicopters [Docket No. 2004-SW-03-AD; Amendment 39-13841; AD 2004-22-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

80. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Model B100 Airplanes [Docket No. 2004-CE-11-AD; Amendment 39-13856; AD 2004-22-28] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

81. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-11-AD; Amendment 39-13851; AD 2004-22-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

82. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 Series Airplanes; and Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, and F4-600R Series Airplanes; and Model C4-605R Variant F Airplanes (Collectively Called A300-600) [Docket No. FAA-2004-18603; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-14-AD; Amendment 39-13850; AD 2004-22-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

83. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600R and A300 F4-600R Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-97-AD; Amendment 39-13863; AD 2004-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

84. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-700 and -800 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-18996; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-40-AD; Amendment 39-13865; AD 2004-23-10] received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

85. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319 and A320 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-153-AD; Amendment 39-13859; AD 2004-23-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

86. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 and -11F Airplanes [Docket No. 2000-NM-32-AD; Amendment 39-13846] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

87. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company 65, 90, 95, 100, 200, and 1900 Series Airplanes, and Models 70 and 300 Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-CE-51-AD; Amendment 39-13857; AD 2004-23-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

88. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-18573; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-71-AD; Amednment 39-13847; AD 2004-22-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

89. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Model PC-7 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-18579; Directorate Identifier 2004-CE-19-AD; Amendment 39-13856; AD 2004-23-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

90. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 and -11F Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-54-AD; Amendment 39-13845; AD 2004-22-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 29, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

91. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135 and -145 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19767; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-139-AD; Amendment 39-13900; AD 2004-25-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

92. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767-300 and -400ER Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2004-NM-33-AD; Amendment 39-13898; AD 2004-25-10] received Decmeber 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

93. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19023; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-123-AD; Amendment 39-13899; AD 2004-25-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

94. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Mooney Aircraft Corporation Models M20B, M20C, M20D, M20E, M20F, M20G, and M20J Airplanes [Docket No. 98-CE-64-AD; Amendment 39-13891; AD 2004-25-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

95. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 707 Airplanes and Model 720 and 720B Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19228; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-77-AD; Amendment

39-13897; AD 2004-25-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

96. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100, 747-100B, 747-100B SUD, 747-200B, 747-200C, 747-200F, 747-300, 747SP, and 747SR Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19811; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-201-AD; Amendment 39-13893; AD 2004-25-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

97. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 and A340 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19816; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-231-AD; Amendment 39-13895; AD 2004-25-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

98. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Schempp-Hirth Flugzeugbau GmbH Model Duo-Discus Gliders [Docket No. FAA-2004-19556; DIrectorate Identifier 2004-CE-37-AD; Amendment 39-13887; AD 2004-24-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

99. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19817; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-237-AD; Amendment 39-13896; AD 2004-25-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

100. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100, 747-100B, 747-100B SUD, 747-200B, 747-200C, 747-200F, and 747-300 Series Airplanes; and Model 747SP and 747SR Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19815; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-215-AD; Amendment 39-13894; AD 2004-25-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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:

[The following report was filed on December 27, 2004]

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Summary of Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–799). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[The following report was filed on December 29, 2004]

Mr. MANZULLO: Committee on Small Business. Summary of Activities of the Committee on Small Business for the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–800). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[The following reports were filed on January 3, 2005]

Mr. YOUNG of Florida: Committee on Appropriations. Report on Activities of the Committee on Appropriations, 108th Congress (Rept. 108–801). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OXLEY: Committee on Financial Services. Report on the Activity of the Committee on Financial Services for the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–802). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BARTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. Report on the Activity of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 108th Congress (Rept. 108–803). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on Agriculture. Report of the Committee on Agriculture on Activities During the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–804). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. Report on the Activities of the Committee on the Judiciary During the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–805). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HEFLEY: Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Summary of Activities of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–806). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HUNTER: Committee on Armed Services. Report of the Activities of the Committee on Armed Services, 108th Congress (Rept. 108–807). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Activities Report of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 108th Congress (Rept. 108–808). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HYDE: Committee on International Relations. Legislative Review Activities of the Committee on International Relations, 108th Congress (Rept. 108–809). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. THOMAS: Committee on Ways and Means. Report on the Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Ways and Means During the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–810). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Resources During the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–811). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. COX: Select Committee on Homeland Security. Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security During the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–812). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BOEHNER: Committee on Education and the Workforce. Report on the Activities of the Committee on Education and the Workforce During the 108th Congress (Rept. 108–813). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. Survey of Activities of the House Committee on Rules, 108th Congress (Rept. 108–814). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (for himself, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. HERSETH, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KIND, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, and Mr. HALL):

H.R. 11. A bill to extend the temporary increase in payments under the Medicare Program for home health services furnished in a rural area; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HAYWORTH:

H.R. 12. A bill to amend the Education Land Grant Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to pay the costs of environmental reviews with respect to conveyances under that Act; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. NUNES, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. RADANOVICH, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. COX, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 13. A bill to respond to the illegal production, distribution, and use of methamphetamines in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, Education and the Workforce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HAYWORTH:

H.R. 14. A bill to limit the United States share of assessments for the United Nations regular budget; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 15. A bill to provide a program of national health insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HAYWORTH (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 16. A bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HAYWORTH:

H.R. 17. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for residential solar energy property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BACA (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California):

H.R. 18. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of

Reclamation and in coordination with other Federal, State, and local government agencies, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term groundwater remediation program in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. MCINTYRE (for himself, Mr. HAYES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee):

H.R. 20. A bill to establish the SouthEast Crescent Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCINTYRE (for himself and Mr. HAYES):

H.R. 21. A bill to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. MCHUGH (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 22. A bill to reform the postal laws of the United States; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 23. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, and title II of the Social Security Act to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California):

H.R. 24. A bill to encourage the preservation and restoration of copyrighted works for research, scholarly, and educational purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LINDER (for himself, Mr. DELAY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. PRICE of Georgia):

H.R. 25. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and other taxes, abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PORTER (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. MCKEON, and Mr. TIAHRT):

H.R. 26. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a Personal Reemployment Accounts grant program to assist Americans in returning to work; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCKEON (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PORTER, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 27. A bill to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. BOEHLERT):

H.R. 28. A bill to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991; to the Committee on Science.

By Mrs. BONO (for herself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BUYER, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. HALL, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. OTTER):

H.R. 29. A bill to protect users of the Internet from unknowing transmission of their personally identifiable information through spyware programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MICA (for himself, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 30. A bill to provide compensation for certain World War II veterans who survived the Bataan Death March and were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MICA:

H.R. 31. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to take such action as may be necessary to have the Federal Trade Commission vacate the building located at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in the District of Columbia and to make that building available for occupancy by the National Gallery of Art; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KNOLLENBERG (for himself, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CAMP, Mr. UPTON, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 32. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit marks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. EHLERS:

H.R. 33. A bill to amend the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 to require Federal agencies to impose certain requirements on recipients of awards for scientific and engineering research; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. COBLE, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. RENZI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 34. A bill to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 35. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a project to widen Interstate Route 35 East in Denton County, Texas; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 36. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a small agribiodiesel producer credit and to improve the small ethanol producer credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 37. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums for high deductible health plans required with respect to health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 38. A bill to designate a portion of the White Salmon River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 39. A bill to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound and job creating program for the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WATT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. WATSON):

H.R. 40. A bill to acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to examine the institution of slavery, subsequently de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COX, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PITTS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. GOODE):

H.R. 41. A bill to establish a commission on tax reform; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:

H.R. 42. A bill to ensure that the right of an individual to display the flag of the United States on residential property not be abridged; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:

H.R. 43. A bill to recognize the birthdays of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:

H.R. 45. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:

H.R. 46. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to repeal the requirement that persons making disbursements for electioneering communications file reports on such disbursements with the Federal Election Commission and the prohibition against the making of disbursements for electioneering communications by corporations and labor organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:

H.R. 47. A bill to protect the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms in defense of self, family, or home, and to provide for the enforcement of such right; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:

H.R. 48. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act with respect to penalties for powder cocaine and crack cocaine offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself and Mr. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 49. A bill to amend title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to raise awareness of eating disorders and to create educational programs concerning the same, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 51. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the dollar limitation on employer-provided group term life insurance that can be excluded from the gross income of the employee; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 52. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect rail and mass transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 53. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on chloroneb; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASTLE:

H.R. 54. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide reasonable standards for congressional gold medals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DREIER:

H.R. 55. A bill to make the Federal employees health benefits program available to individuals age 55 to 65 who would not otherwise have health insurance; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan):

H.R. 56. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish health empowerment zone programs in communities that disproportionately experience disparities in health status and health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 57. A bill to amend titles XI and XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the cap on Medicaid payments for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa and to adjust the Medicaid statutory matching rate for those territories; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 59. A bill to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Resources.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WU, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA):

H.R. 60. A bill to designate Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Somalia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Maldives, Tanzania, Seychelles, Bangladesh, and Kenya under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to render nationals of such foreign states eligible for temporary protected status under such section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 61. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the St. Croix National Heritage Area in St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself and Mr. RAHALL):

H.R. 62. A bill to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. WATT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WEINER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CARSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. LEE, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. WYNN):

H.R. 63. A bill to treat the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in the same manner as any legal public holiday for purposes of Federal employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. COX (for himself, Mr. BONILLA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WELLER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. COBLE, Mr. WAMP, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CHOCOLA, Miss MCMORRIS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. DREIER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. OTTER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. HALL, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. BONO, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ISSA, Mr. PENCE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. MACK, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. BOEHNER, Mrs. KELLY, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina):

H.R. 64. A bill to repeal the Federal death tax, including the estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GIBBONS:

H.R. 65. A bill to amend the age restrictions for pilots; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COX (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BASS, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOYD, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HALL, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. OTTER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 66. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve health care choice by providing for the tax deductibility of medical expenses by individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 67. A bill to establish the National Commission on the Modernization of the United Nations; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. DELAY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 68. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 69. A bill to require assurances that certain family planning service projects and programs will provide pamphlets containing the contact information of adoption centers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 70. A bill to authorize States to regulate the receipt and disposal of out-of-State municipal solid waste; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 71. A bill to support the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 72. A bill to define marriage for all legal purposes in the District of Columbia to consist of the union of one man and one woman; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 73. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the

Northern Neck National Heritage Area in Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 74. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose limitations on wetlands mitigation activities carried out through the condemnation of private property; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 75. A bill to require the Comptroller General to prepare statements for bills and resolutions reported by committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate on whether any new entities, programs, or functions authorized by the bills or resolutions are redundant with existing Federal entities, programs, or functions and could be more efficiently performed by an existing Federal entity, program, or function, and to require such statements to accompany reports on legislation; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 76. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access to medical services for veterans seeking treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinics with exceptionally long waiting periods; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 77. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to allow remarried widows, widowers, and surviving divorced spouses to become or remain entitled to widow's or widower's insurance benefits if the prior marriage was for at least 10 years; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 78. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for payment of lump-sum death payments upon the death of a spouse; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. EMERSON:

H.R. 79. A bill to establish the Medicare Eligible Military Retiree Health Care Consensus Task Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. EMERSON:

H.R. 80. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved benefit computation formula for workers affected by the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977 who attain age 65 during the 10-year period after 1981 and before 1992 (and related beneficiaries) and to provide prospectively for increases in their benefits accordingly; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 81. A bill to amend the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act to improve the access of the victims of crimes to information concerning the outcome of disciplinary proceedings by institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 82. A bill to regulate the use by interactive computer services of Social Security account numbers and related personally indentifiable information; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 83. A bill to require customer consent to the provision of wireless call location information; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 84. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe regulations to protect the privacy of personal information collected from and about individuals who are not covered by the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 on the Internet, to provide greater individual control over the collection and use of that information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 85. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to issue rules which prohibit expiration dates and fees on gift certificates; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 86. A bill to prohibit a State from imposing a discriminatory commuter tax on nonresidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 87. A bill to establish the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 89. A bill to require air carriers to honor tickets for bankrupt air service; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 90. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a comprehensive program for testing and treatment of veterans for the Hepatitis C virus; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 92. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit Medicare beneficiaries upon request to use an identification number other than a social security account number under the Medicare Program in order to deter identity theft; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GILCHREST:

H.R. 93. A bill to assist in the conservation of flagship species throughout the world; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. GILLMOR:

H.R. 94. A bill to provide Capitol-flown flags to the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GILLMOR (for himself, Mr. POMEROY, and Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota):

H.R. 95. A bill to establish a National sex offender registration database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAVES:

H.R. 96. A bill to amend section 302 of the PROTECT Act to modify the standards for the issuance of alerts through the AMBER Alert communications network; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAVES:

H.R. 97. A bill to establish requirements with respect to the terms of consumer credit extended by a creditor to a servicemember or the dependent of a servicemember, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DREIER (for himself, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. ISSA, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. REYES):

H.R. 98. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to enforce restrictions on employment in the United States of unauthorized aliens through the use of improved Social Security cards and an Employment Eligibility Database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 99. A bill to designate California State Route 99 as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System and a future route on the Interstate System; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DREIER (for himself and Mr. SENSENBRENNER):

H.R. 100. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify provisions relating to judicial review of orders of removal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 108. A bill to provide that no more that 50 percent of funding made available under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 for any fiscal year be provided for home heating purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HERSETH:

H.R. 109. A bill to provide compensation to the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes of South Dakota for damage to tribal land caused by Pick-Sloan projects along the Missouri River; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 110. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to require local educational agencies and schools to implement integrated pest management systems to minimize the use of pesticides in schools and to provide parents, guardians, and employees with notice of the use of pesticides in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. BACA, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CASE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. WOLF, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. WEINER, Mr. FORD, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. GORDON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CARDOZA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr.

NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. WAMP, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. BONO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. OTTER, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 111. A bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Revised Statutes of the United States to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 112. A bill to require the videotaping of interrogations and other pertinent actions between a detainee or prisoner in the custody or under the effective control of the armed forces of the United States pursuant to an interrogation, or other pertinent interaction, for the purpose of gathering intelligence and a member of the armed forces of the United States, an intelligence operative of the United States, or a contractor of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota:

H.R. 113. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation, in computing the estimated tax payments attributed to highway users for purposes of title 23, United States Code, to take into account the replacement of the reduced rates of tax on gasohol with an excise tax credit; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KIND, Mr. WU, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota):

H.R. 114. A bill to limit the applicability of the annual updates to the allowance for State and other taxes in the tables used in the Federal Needs Analysis Methodology for the award year 2005-2006, prescribed on December 23, 2004; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 115. A bill to strengthen the national security through the expansion and improvement of foreign language study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 116. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to preserve all budget surpluses until legislation is enacted significantly extending the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 117. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make higher education more affordable by providing a tax deduction for higher education expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOOLEY:

H.R. 118. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit to small businesses for the costs of qualified health insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HOOLEY:

H.R. 119. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to employers for hiring new employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 120. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, as the ''Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 121. A bill to make technical corrections in patent law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, and Mrs. BONO):

H.R. 122. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, and Mrs. BONO):

H.R. 123. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Wildomar Service Area Recycled Water Distribution Facilities and Alberhill Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility Projects; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 124. A bill to provide an environmentally sound process for the expeditious consideration and approval of a high-voltage electricity transmission line right-of-way through the Trabuco Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest in the State of California and adjacent lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 125. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina:

H.R. 126. A bill to amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself, Ms. LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 127. A bill to provide loan forgiveness to social workers who work for child protective agencies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DICKS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WEINER, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 128. A bill to establish a demonstration incentive program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems, or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing and dormitories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. JONES of Ohio:

H.R. 129. A bill to allow a waiver or exemption of certain requirements for restricted airspace if security is not reduced; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. WALSH, Mr. BOEHLERT, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FARR, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. KIND, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. TOWNS):

H.R. 131. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reform funding for the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 132. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prevent sex offenders subject to involuntary civil commitments from receiving Federal student financial aid; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KELLER:

H.R. 133. A bill to increase the maximum Pell Grant; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 134. A bill to prevent abuse of the special allowance subsidies under the Federal Family Education Loan Program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LINDER (for himself, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 135. A bill to establish the ''Twenty-First Century Water Commission'' to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 136. A bill to provide that Executive Order 13166 shall have no force or effect, and to prohibit the use of funds for certain purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 137. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 increase in income taxes on Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 138. A bill to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Jekyll Island Unit GA-06P; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. LANTOS:

H.R. 139. A bill to provide for the recapture of unused employment-based immigrant visa numbers in order to facilitate improved health care for all persons in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 140. A bill to promote the use of anaerobic digesters by agricultural producers and rural small businesses to produce renewable energy and improve environmental quality; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 141. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a permanent extension of the credit for producing electricity from wind; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 142. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for farmers' investments in value-added agriculture; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 143. A bill to provide job creation and assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 144. A bill to bridge the digital divide in rural areas; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 145. A bill to establish a grant program to support cluster-based economic development efforts; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 146. A bill to establish a grant program to support broadband-based economic development efforts; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCKEON (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BAKER, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. WYNN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. BONNER, Mr. PORTER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. NEY, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. HAYES, Ms. LEE, Mr. KIND, Mr. FILNER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. WEINER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. WALSH, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. NUNES, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. OLVER, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FARR, Mr. EVANS, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HOLT, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BACA, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. HALL, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. WELLER, Mr. GALLEGLY, and Mr. ALLEN):

H.R. 147. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 148. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to report to Congress regarding the ownership and control of broadcast stations used to serve language minorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 149. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Celia Cruz; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 150. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide a grant to the State of New Jersey for the construction of a memorial to the New Jersey victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 151. A bill to ensure that all college students and their families have the tools and resources to adequately save for, finance, and repay their postsecondary and post-baccalaureate expenses; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 152. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the coordination of prescription drug coverage provided under retiree plans and State pharmaceutical assistance programs with the prescription drug benefit provided under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 155. A bill to provide additional appropriations for the fiscal year 2005 for the MTCT-Plus Initiative at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 156. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress regarding the requirements applicable to the inscription of veterans' names on the memorial wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 157. A bill to direct the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to prepare a report about how the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 has been used by public and private sector employers to foster or exacerbate pay inequity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 158. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to conduct a study of the rate at which Native Americans and students who reside in American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam drop out of secondary schools in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 159. A bill to provide, with respect to diabetes in minority populations, for an increase in the extent of activities carried out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 160. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States to expand Medicaid eligibility to uninsured, poor adults; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 161. A bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct minority health programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 162. A bill to authorize the use of Federal funds for research on human embryonic stem cells irrespective of the date on which such stem cells were derived, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 164. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide for the establishment of a network of pediatric centers in certain developing countries to provide treatment and care for children with HIV/AIDS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 165. A bill to improve the safety of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 166. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to allow more joint ventures, leader-follower arrangements, and teaming arrangements under the section 8(a) minority business development program; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 167. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to establish a pilot program for lending to small, nonprofit

child care businesses; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD:

H.R. 168. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a goods movement program to improve the productivity, security, and safety of freight transportation gateways; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD:

H.R. 169. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate a high priority corridor in California; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD:

H.R. 170. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD:

H.R. 171. A bill to restore the standards used for determining whether technical workers are not employees as in effect before the Tax Reform Act of 1986; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD:

H.R. 172. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs regarding the prevention and management of asthma, allergies, and related respiratory problems, to establish a tax credit regarding pest control and indoor air quality and climate control services for multifamily residential housing in low-income communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD:

H.R. 174. A bill to encourage greater use of geothermal energy resources; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD:

H.R. 175. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the use of qualified family caregivers in the provision of home health aide services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 176. A bill to facilitate homeownership in high-cost areas; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DREIER, Mr. COX, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 177. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California:

H.R. 178. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Dichloroethyl Ether; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 179. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 increase in taxes on Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 180. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the inclusion in gross income of Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. FEENEY):

H.R. 181. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for any universal or mandatory mental health screening program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 182. A bill to provide dollars to the classroom; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 183. A bill to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CANNON, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM):

H.R. 184. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to provide authority to the Attorney GENEral to authorize any controlled substance that is in schedule I or II or is a narcotic drug in schedule III or IV to be exported from the United States to a country for subsequent export from that country to another country, if certain conditions are met; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PLATTS (for himself and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 185. A bill to require the review of Government programs at least once every 5 years for purposes of evaluating their performance; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. POMBO:

H.R. 186. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and in coordination with other Federal, State, and local government agencies, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term groundwater remediation program in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. POMEROY:

H.R. 187. A bill to prohibit the operation during a calendar year of the final rule issued by the Secretary of Agriculture to establish standards for the designation of minimal-risk regions for the introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy into the United States, including designation of Canada as a minimal-risk region, unless United States access to major markets for United States exports of cattle and beef products is equivalent or better than the access status accorded such exports as of January 1, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 188. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Shirley Chisholm; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 190. A bill to restore the Federal electoral rights of the residents of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. KANJORSKI):

H.R. 191. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act with respect to the limitations on member business loans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:

H.R. 192. A bill to authorize increased funding for research at the National Institutes of Health relating to Alzheimer's disease, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize an education and outreach program to promote public awareness and risk reduction with respect to Alzheimer's disease (with particular emphasis on education and outreach in Hispanic populations), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:

H.R. 193. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to States incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:

H.R. 194. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase the maximum amount for which a loan can be made under the Microloan Program; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. SAXTON:

H.R. 195. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the required beginning date for distributions from individual retirement plans and for distributions of elective deferrals under qualified cash or deferred arrangements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAXTON:

H.R. 196. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals to defer recognition of reinvested capital gains distributions from regulated investment companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 197. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require a State to charge in-State tuition rates to active-duty members of the Armed Forces domiciled or stationed on active duty in that State and to the dependents of such members; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 198. A bill to authorize funding for student loan repayment for public attorneys; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 199. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to preserve the educational status and financial resources of military personnel called to active duty; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 200. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to States, units of GENEral local government, and nonprofit organizations for counseling and education programs for the

prevention of predatory lending and to establish a toll-free telephone number for complaints regarding predatory lending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 201. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize the amount of the Medicare part B premium; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 202. A bill to provide for identification of members of the Armed Forces exposed during military service to depleted uranium, to provide for health testing of such members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 203. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to expand the fruit and vegetable pilot program to 5 States, including New York, and to include Head Start programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 204. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to restore audit funds under the Child and Adult Care Food Program to 1.5 percent from 1 percent for fiscal years 2005 through 2007; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 205. A bill to permit members of the House of Representatives to donate used computer equipment to public elementary and secondary schools designated by the members; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 206. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a business credit relating to the use of clean-fuel vehicles by businesses within areas designated as nonattainment areas under the Clean Air Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 207. A bill to amend the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the egg, meat, and poultry inspection laws to ensure that consumers receive notification regarding food products produced from crops, livestock, or poultry raised on land on which sewage sludge was applied; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 208. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Financial Services, Government Reform, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 209. A bill to waive certain prohibitions with respect to nationals of Cuba coming to the United States to play organized professional baseball; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 210. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for designation of overpayments and contributions to the United States Library Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. DELAY):

H.R. 211. A bill to reorganize the ninth judicial circuit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 212. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into two circuits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. DINGELL, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. STUPAK):

H.R. 213. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require a national primary drinking water regulation for perchlorate; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEARNS (for himself and Mr. BOUCHER):

H.R. 214. A bill to promote deployment of and investment in advanced Internet communications services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEARNS (for himself and Mr. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 215. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the education and training of allied health professionals in exchange for a service commitment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 216. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to nonprofit tax-exempt organizations for the purchase of ultrasound equipment to provide free examinations to pregnant women needing such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 217. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 2 percent excise tax on the net investment income of tax-exempt foundations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 218. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for amounts paid for health insurance and prescription drug costs of individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. MICA, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. GOODE):

H.R. 219. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to ensure the integrity of the Social Security trust funds by requiring the Managing Trustee to invest the annual surplus of such trust funds in marketable interest-bearing obligations of the United States and certificates of deposit in depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and to protect such trust funds from the public debt limit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. HINCHEY):

H.R. 220. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect the integrity and confidentiality of Social Security account numbers issued under such title, to prohibit the establishment in the Federal Government of any uniform national identifying number, and to prohibit Federal agencies from imposing standards for identification of individuals on other agencies or persons; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 221. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain interest amounts received by individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 222. A bill to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds to conduct or support research on the cloning of humans, and to express the sense of the Congress that other countries should establish substantially equivalent restrictions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 223. A bill to provide that no automatic pay adjustment for Members of Congress shall be made in the year following a fiscal year in which there is a Federal budget deficit; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STRICKLAND (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 224. A bill to amend part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding adequate yearly progress and assessments; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SWEENEY (for himself and Mr. MCNULTY):

H.R. 225. A bill to require investigations by institutions of higher education of violent felonies occurring on campus; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SWEENEY (for himself and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 229. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for failure to pay certain obligations to spouses and exspouses that are similar to the penalties imposed for failure to pay child support obligations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SWEENEY:

H.R. 230. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to provide regulatory compliance assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 231. A bill to designate the parcel of land containing the facility of the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture located at State Highway 26 West in Poplarville, Mississippi, as the ''Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory Site''; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 233. A bill to designate certain National Forest System lands in the Mendocino and Six Rivers National Forests and certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Napa Counties in the State of California as wilderness, to designate the Elkhorn Ridge Potential Wilderness Area, to designate certain segments of the Black Butte River in Mendocino County, California as a wild or scenic river, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 234. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to authorize the use of clinical social workers to conduct evaluations to determine work-related emotional and mental illnesses; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina:

H.R. 235. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect the religious free exercise and free speech rights of churches and other houses of worship; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 236. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to ban toys which in size, shape, or overall appearance resemble real handguns; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 237. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the exemption from income tax for social clubs found to be practicing prohibited discrimination; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding presidential election voting rights for residents of all United States territories and commonwealths; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.J. Res. 2. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to permit persons who are not natural-born citizens of the United States, but who have been citizens of the United States for at least 20 years, to be eligible to hold the Office of President; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H.J. Res. 3. A joint resolution to acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. EMERSON:

H.J. Res. 4. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the right to life; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. EMERSON:

H.J. Res. 5. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress and the States to prohibit the act of desecration of the flag of the United States and to set criminal penalties for that act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. EMERSON:

H.J. Res. 6. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution to provide for a balanced budget for the United States Government and for greater accountability in the enactment of tax legislation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. EMERSON:

H.J. Res. 7. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to voluntary school prayer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to repeal the twenty-second article of amendment, thereby removing the limitation on the number of terms an individual may serve as President; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DREIER:

H. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DELAY:

H. Con. Res. 2. A concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H. Con. Res. 3. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that schools in the United States should honor the contributions of individuals from the commonwealths, territories, and possessions of the United States by including such contributions in the teaching of United States history; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia:

H. Con. Res. 4. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue commemorative postage stamps honoring Americans who distinguished themselves by their service in the armed forces; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. GIBBONS (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. PORTER):

H. Con. Res. 5. Concurrent resolution providing for the acceptance of a statue of Sarah Winnemucca, presented by the people of Nevada, for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HEFLEY:

H. Con. Res. 6. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution entitled the ''English Plus Resolution''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. PRYCE of Ohio:

H. Res. 1. A resolution electing officers of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DELAY:

H. Res. 2. A resolution to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled and of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DELAY:

H. Res. 3. A resolution authorizing the Speaker to appoint a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DELAY:

H. Res. 4. A resolution authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DELAY:

H. Res. 5. A resolution adopting rules for the One Hundred Ninth Congress; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. PRYCE of Ohio:

H. Res. 6. A resolution electing certain members to a standing committee; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. PELOSI:

H. Res. 7. A resolution providing for the designation of certain minority employees; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DREIER:

H. Res. 8. A resolution fixing the daily hour of meeting of the First Session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, considered and agreed to.

By. Mr. DELAY:

H. Res. 9. A resolution providing for the attendance of the House at the Inaugural Ceremonies of the President and Vice President of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NEY (for himself, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H. Res. 10. A resolution providing amounts for interim expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security in the first session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress; considered and agreed to.

By. Mr. STARK:

H. Res. 11. A resolution expressing profound sorrow on the occasion of the death of the Honorable Robert T. Matsui, a Representative from the State of California; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HYDE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEACH, Mr. DELAY, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PITTS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WELLER, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. ROYCE):

H. Res. 12. A resolution expressing condolences and support for assistance to the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis that occurred on December 26, 2004, in South and Southeast Asia; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BIGGERT:

H. Res. 13. A resolution encouraging increased public awareness of eating disorders and expanded research for treatment and cures; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DREIER (for himself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. OXLEY, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. KLINE):

H. Res. 14. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Bureau of Labor Statistics should adopt statistical measures that accurately reflect the United States workforce of the 21st century; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DUNCAN (for himself and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin):

H. Res. 15. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Campus Safety Awareness Month; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. GILLMOR:

H. Res. 16. A resolution supporting the goals of National Manufacturing Week, congratulating manufacturers and their employees for their contributions growth and innovation, and recognizing the challenges facing the manufacturing sector; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GILLMOR (for himself and Mr. KINGSTON):

H. Res. 17. A resolution recognizing the thousands of Freemasons in every State in the Nation and honoring them for their many contributions to the Nation throughout its history; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H. Res. 18. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should issue a postage stamp commemorating Juan Nepomuceno Seguin; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. HAYWORTH:

H. Res. 20. A resolution expressing the disapproval of the House of Representatives of the Social Security totalization agreement between the United States and Mexico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. GINNY

BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WATT, Ms. LEE, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. OWENS):

H. Res. 21. A resolution honoring Shirley Chisholm for her service to the Nation and expressing condolences to her family, friends, and supporters on her death; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

H. Res. 22. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BAKER, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BACHUS):

H. Res. 23. A resolution honoring the contributions of Catholic schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LANTOS:

H. Res. 24. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should declare its support for the independence of Kosova; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LEACH, Mr. CASE, and Ms. WATSON):

H. Res. 25. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to establish a standing Committee on Homeland Security and a standing Committee on Intelligence and to allow the Committee on Appropriations to have 14 subcommitees (of which one is a Subcommittee on Intelligence), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself and Mrs. BIGGERT):

H. Res. 26. A resolution congratulating the Downers Grove North High School Trojan football team and the students and fans of Downers Grove North High School on their outstanding sportsmanship and on winning the 2004 Illinois Class 8A Football State Championship; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MEEKS of New York:

H. Res. 27. A resolution congratulating Wangari Maathai for winning the Nobel Peace Prize and commending her for her tireless work promoting sustainable development, democracy, peace, and women's rights in Africa; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H. Res. 28. A resolution commending Tincher Preparatory School in Long Beach, California, for the school's innovative efforts to fight childhood obesity, including by designating one day each week as ''Healthy Snack Day''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H. Res. 29. A resolution honoring the United States Army Volunteer Reserve for its dedicated and distinguished service to veterans and communities in need in the United States; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California:

H. Res. 30. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a ''Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day'' should be established; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H. Res. 31. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a portrait of Dilip Singh Saund should be displayed in an appropriate place in the United States Capitol or in a House Office Building; to the Committee on House Administration.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2005 No. 1

Senate

The fourth day of January being the day prescribed by House Concurrent Resolution 531 for the meeting of the 1st Session of the 109th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol and at 12:01 p.m. was called to order by the Vice President [Mr. CHENEY].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us bow reverently as we pray.

Sovereign God, Creator and sustainer of us all, our hearts ache for the tsunami victims and for all touched by this tragedy. In our sadness, our eyes turn to You. We confess that we do not fully understand why bad things happen to good people. Nonetheless, by faith, we believe that You can carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair.

Lord, make us Your eyes, ears, feet, and hands to bring solace to those who suffer. Guide us as we seek to help the hurting and empower the global humanitarian effort. Comfort those who mourn, and strengthen the widows and orphans.

Today, bless our 109th Congress. Give our new Senators wisdom and courage as You order their steps. Help them trust You so completely that Your will may be done on Earth.

We pray this in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The VICE PRESIDENT 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, these last 9 days have brought upon each of us, our fellow Americans, and, indeed, the entirety of the civilized world profound sadness and sympathy. We both as individuals and as a body will speak later today about the epic tragedy in Southern Asia that has taken upwards of 150,000 lives. But for now, I would like to begin our session by taking a moment of silence to show respect for those who lost their lives and our sincere hope that the loved ones left behind may heal.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senate will observe a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificates of election of 34 Senators elected for 6–year terms beginning on January 5, 2005. All certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate or contain all the essential requirements of the form suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the above-mentioned certificates will be waived, and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF INDIANA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November 2004, Evan Bayh was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Indiana a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Joseph E. Kernan, and our seal hereto affixed at Indianapolis, this the eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, 2004.

By the Governor:

JOSEPH E. KERNAN,
Governor.

STATE OF UTAH

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, Robert F. Bennett was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Utah a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning at noon on the third day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand at Salt Lake City, this 29th day of November, 2004.

OLENE S. WALKER,
Governor.

STATE OF MISSOURI

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Christopher ''Kit'' Bond was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Missouri, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness His Excellency our Governor Bob Holden and our seal hereto affixed at 11:00 a.m. this 1st day of December, in the year of the Common Era 2004.

BOB HOLDEN,
Governor.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States of America:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Barbara Boxer was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of California a Senator from said State to represent California in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 14th day of December 2004.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
Governor.

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

Printed on recycled paper.

STATE OF KANSAS

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Samuel D. Brownback was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Kansas, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2005.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor Kathleen Sebelius, and our seal hereto affixed at Topeka, Kansas this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Governor.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

Know Ye That, Honorable Jim Bunning having been duly certified, that on November 2, 2004 was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Kentucky a Senator from said state to represent said state in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd day of January 2005.

I hereby invest the above named with full power and authority to execute and discharge the duties of the said office according to law. And to have and to hold the same, with all the rights and emoluments thereunto legally appertaining, for and during the term prescribed by law.

In testimony whereof, I have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the Commonwealth to be hereunto affixed. Done at Frankfort, the 23rd day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and four and in the 213th year of the Commonwealth.

By the Governor:

ERNIE FLETCHER,
Governor.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Richard Burr was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of North Carolina, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capital City of Raleigh, this the 3rd day of December, 2004.

MICHAEL F. EASLEY,
Governor.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Tom Coburn was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Oklahoma, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Brad Henry, and our seal hereto affixed at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma this 12th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

BRAD HENRY,
Governor.

STATE OF IDAHO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Mike Crapo was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Idaho a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Dirk Kempthorne, and our seal hereto affixed at Boise this 17th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

DIRK KEMPTHORNE,
Governor.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, the Honorable James W. DeMint was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of South Carolina, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Mark Sanford, and our seal hereto affixed at Columbia, South Carolina this eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, 2004.

MARK SANFORD,
Governor.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, two thousand and four, Christopher J. Dodd was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Connecticut Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January two thousand and five.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor, M. Jedi Rell and our seal hereto affixed at Hartford, this twenty-fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and four.

M. JEDI RELL,
Governor.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

At the General Election held on the 2nd day of November 2004, Bryon L. Dorgan was elected to the office of United States Senator for the State of North Dakota. The 6-year term of office begins at noon on January 3, 2005.

In witness whereof, we have set our hands at the Capitol City of Bismarck this 18th day of November 2004, and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Dakota.

JOHN HOEVEN,
Governor.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Russ Feingold was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Wisconsin a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Jim Doyle, and our seal hereto affixed at Madison this 6th day of December, 2004.

By the Governor:

JIM DOYLE,
Governor.

STATE OF IOWA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Charles Grassley was duly elected as Senator to the Senate of the United States to represent the State of Iowa for a term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2005.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 1st day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand four.

THOMAS J. VILSACK,
Governor.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, two thousand and four, Judd Gregg was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New Hampshire to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the third day of January, two thousand and five.

Witness, His Excellency, Governor Craig Benson and the Seal of the State of New Hampshire hereto affixed at Concord, this first day of December, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and four.

By the Governor, with advice of the Council:

CRAIG BENSON,
Governor.

STATE OF HAWAII

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November 2004, Daniel K. Inouye was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Hawaii a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor, Linda Lingle, and our seal hereto affixed at Honolulu this twenty-second day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

LINDA LINGLE,
Governor.

STATE OF GEORGIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Johnny Isakson was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Georgia a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Sonny Perdue, and our seal hereto affixed at this 29th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

SONNY PERDUE,
Governor.

STATE OF VERMONT

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Patrick Leahy was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of

Vermont a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor James H. Douglas, and our seal hereto affixed at Montpelier this 9th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

JAMES H. DOUGLAS,
Governor.

STATE OF ARKANSAS

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Blanche Lambert Lincoln was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arkansas, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed at this Capitol in Little Rock, on the 2nd day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

MIKE HUCKABEE,
Governor.

STATE OF FLORIDA

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Mel Martinez, was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Florida as Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Jeb Bush, and our seal hereto affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 14th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the governor:

JEB BUSH
Governor.

STATE OF ARIZONA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, John McCain was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arizona a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd Day of January 2005.

Witness: Her excellency the Governor of Arizona, and the Great Seal of the State of Arizona, hereto affixed at the Capitol in Phoenix this 22nd day of November 2004.

JANET NAPOLITANO,
Governor.

STATE OF MARYLAND

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Barbara A. Mikulski was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Maryland a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd Day of January 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., and our seal hereto affixed at the Capitol of Annapolis this 6th day of December, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

By the Governor:

ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.,
Governor.

STATE OF ALASKA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Lisa Murkowski was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Alaska, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd Day of January 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Frank H. Murkowski, and our seal hereto affixed at Juneau this 18th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Governor.

STATE OF WASHINGTON

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, Patty Murray was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Washington a Senator from said State to represent said State beginning the 3rd day of January 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Gary Locke, and our seal hereto affixed at Olympia, Washington this 30th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

GARY LOCKE,
Governor.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, two thousand and four, Barack Obama was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Senate of Illinois, a Senator from said State, to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the third day of January, two thousand and five.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Rod R. Blagojevich, and our seal hereto affixed at the City of Springfield, Illinois this third day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand and four.

By the Governor:

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH,
Governor.

STATE OF NEVADA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

This is to certify that at a general election held in the State of Nevada on Tuesday, the second day of November, two thousand four, Harry Reid was duly elected a Member of the United States Senate, in and for the State of Nevada, for the term of six years from and after the third day of January, two thousand five:

Now, Therefore, I, Kenny C. Guinn, Governor of the State of Nevada, by the authority in me vested in the Constitution and laws thereof, do hereby commission him, the said Harry Reid as a Member of the United States Senate, for the State of Nevada, and authorize him to discharge the duties of said office according to law, and to hold and enjoy the same, together with all powers, privileges and emoluments thereunto appertaining.

In Testimony Thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol at Carson City, Nevada this seventh day of December, two thousand four.

KENNY C. GUINN,
Governor.

STATE OF COLORADO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Ken Salazar was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Colorado a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Bill Owens, and our seal hereto affixed at Denver, Colorado, this 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

BILL OWENS,
Governor.

STATE OF NEW YORK

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, two thousand four, Charles E. Schumer was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New York a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for a term of six years, beginning on the third day of January two thousand five.

Witness: His excellency our Governor George E. Pataki, and our seal hereto affixed at Albany, New York, this sixteenth day of December in the year two thousand four.

By the Governor:

GEORGE E. PATAKI,
Governor.

STATE OF ALABAMA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Richard C. Shelby was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Alabama a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Bob Riley, and our seal hereto affixed at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

BOB RILEY,
Governor.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, Arlen Specter was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a United States Senator to represent Pennsylvania in the Senate of the United States for a term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Edward G. Rendell, and our seal hereto affixed at Harrisburg this fourteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord, 2004.

By the Governor:

EDWARD G. RENDELL,
Governor.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

This is to certify that on the second day of November, 2004, at the general election, John Thune was elected by the qualified voters of the State of South Dakota to the office of

United States Senator for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed at Pierre, the Capital, this 9th day of November, 2004.

M. MICHAEL ROUNDS,
Governor.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States

I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that, in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, on the 2nd day of November, 2004, David Vitter was elected by the qualified electors of the state of Louisiana a Senator to represent the state of Louisiana in the United States Senate for the term of six years, beginning at noon on the 3rd day of January 2005. The votes cast: 943,014 for David Vitter (Republican); 542,150 for Chris John (Democrat); 275,821 for John Kennedy (Democrat); 47,222 for Arthur A. Morrell (Democrat); 15,097 for Richard M. Fontanes (Other); 12,463 for R.A. ''Skip'' Galan (Other) and 12,289 for Sam Houston Melton, Jr. (Democrat) are on file and of record in the Office of the Secretary of State of Louisiana.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 19th day of November, 2004.

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO,
Governor.

STATE OF OHIO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November 2004, George V. Voinovich was duly elected by the qualified electors of the State of Ohio as the Senator from said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2005.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the great seal of the State of Ohio to be hereto affixed at Columbus, Ohio, this 6th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2004.

By the Governor:

BOB TAFT,
Governor.

STATE OF OREGON

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 2nd day of November, 2004, Ron Wyden was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Oregon, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2005.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Theodore Kulongoski, and our seal hereto affixed at Salem, Oregon this 2nd day of December, 2004.

By the Governor,

THEODORE KULONGOSKI,
Governor.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senators to be sworn will now present themselves at the desk in groups of four as their names are called in alphabetical order, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The clerk will read the names of the first group.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BOND, and Mrs. BOXER.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HATCH, Mr. TALENT, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, and Mr. COBURN.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. DOLE, former Senator Helms, Mr. INHOFE, and former Senator Nickles, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DORGAN.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. CONRAD, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. INOUYE.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. KOHL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. AKAKA, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. MARTINEZ.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. CHAMBLISS, former Senator Mattingly, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, former Senator Hawkins and former Senator Brock, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. MURRAY.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. KYL, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. STEVENS, former Senator Murkowski, and Ms. CANTWELL, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. SCHUMER.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ALLARD, and Mrs. CLINTON, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. VITTER.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. JOHNSON, former Senator Abdnor, and Ms. LANDRIEU, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. VOINOVICH and Mr. WYDEN.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. DEWINE and Mr. SMITH, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice

President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The absence of quorum having been suggested, the clerk will call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1, Leg.]

PRESENT—92

Akaka	Domenici	McCain
Alexander	Dorgan	McConnell
Allard	Durbin	Mikulski
Allen	Ensign	Murkowski
Baucus	Enzi	Murray
Bayh	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Frist	Obama
Bond	Graham	Pryor
Boxer	Grassley	Reed (RI)
Brownback	Gregg	Reid (NV)
Bunning	Hagel	Roberts
Burr	Harkin	Salazar
Cantwell	Hatch	Santorum
Chafee	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Chambliss	Inhofe	Schumer
Clinton	Inouye	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith
Coleman	Johnson	Snowe
Collins	Kohl	Specter
Conrad	Kyl	Stabenow
Cornyn	Landrieu	Stevens
Corzine	Lautenberg	Sununu
Craig	Leahy	Talent
Crapo	Levin	Thomas
Dayton	Lieberman	Thune
DeMint	Lincoln	Vitter
DeWine	Lott	Voinovich
Dodd	Lugar	Wyden
Dole	Martinez	

ABSENT—8

Biden	Carper	Rockefeller
Burns	Kennedy	Warner
Byrd	Kerry	

The VICE PRESIDENT. A quorum is present.

The majority leader is recognized.

SERVING IN THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me welcome everyone here and everyone watching at home to the Chamber of the U.S. Senate and to this historic first day of the 109th Congress.

When the Senate family gathers, it is always a special occasion. But this is a day when the entire Senate family comes together and celebrates this unique institution that indeed binds us as one.

So, for being here, I thank the distinguished Members of the Senate—past, present, and near future—Senate friends and our beloved families, and our loyal and hardworking Senate staff.

My colleagues, our roots as representatives of the people are not recent. They are ancient. They reach beyond the founding of our Republic, to our earliest days as colonies. The first legislative assembly in the New World gathered during the scorching summer months of 1619 on Jamestown Island, Virginia. Twenty-two burgesses, a governor and his council, a clerk, and a sergeant of arms met to propose and pass ''just laws for the happy guiding and governing of the people . . .''

If you visit Jamestown today, you can still see the stone foundation of the church where that first assembly conducted its business. It is on those rocks that this House in which we stand today was built.

Over the course of nearly four centuries, the seeds of American democracy have swept across oceans and over mountains and through jungles and deserts, taking root in land barren of the supposed ''prerequisites'' for self-government. These seeds have grown into what President Reagan boldly called at the height of our war against Soviet totalitarianism ''a not-at-all-fragile flower.''

As U.S. Senators, we, with our colleagues in the House and our respected President, are the stewards of this ancient and yet still living and thriving tradition. And this, my friends, is no small burden to bear.

The American people—and indeed the people of the world—look upon this Capitol and those of us who serve here for inspiration and leadership and unwavering devotion to our common cause.

So what is expected of us over the course of the next 2 years? What is our duty as the 100 Members of the world's greatest deliberative body, the U.S. Senate?

We all take the same oath to support and defend the same sacred document. So, first and foremost, we are obligated—as individuals, as equals and, above all, as a body—to discharge our Constitutional duties.

We also have, as Senator Mike Mansfield once said, ''a primary responsibility to the people whom [we] represent to face the legislative issues of the nation.''

And I would add not just the issues of today, but the issues of tomorrow. This Senate must lead today on tomorrow's challenges.

Lastly, we have what our longest serving Member, ROBERT C. BYRD, calls ''the duty beyond our duties.'' It is, as he so eloquently and accurately once stated: ''The duty to endeavor to inspire others and to demonstrate, through personal example, that public service of all types ought to be an honorable calling.''

Senator BYRD, I too believe public service is an honorable calling. And, my fellow Senators, you are all honorable men and women. It is a privilege both to serve with you and to serve you as majority leader. God bless you, our proceedings, the country we love, and the people we all aspire to faithfully represent.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Democratic leader is recognized.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the remarks of the Republican leader, and I think there is no better example of public service than BILL FRIST, a person who, if not the most prominent transplant surgeon in the country, is one of the most prominent transplant surgeons in the country, and he decided to become involved in public service and he has done it very well.

I repeat, there isn't a better example of public service than the leader.

When I was less than a week old, my father was working in the mine in Chloride, AZ. It was a short way over the river from Searchlight. He was working in a vertical shaft. They were sinking a shaft. He was working with another man by the name of Carl Myers. They drilled holes and set the dynamite charges. In those days they did not have all the product liability protection we have today.

He lit the 10 fuses. One of them went off way before it was supposed to. He was hurt very badly. It blew him into the air, blew the soles off his shoes. He was in a state of shock. He knew he had to get out of there because the other holes were burning. When they were sinking the shaft, they had a 10-foot ladder they would bring down, take it out when they climbed out of the hole, and leave it at the next level. He knew he had to get out of there. He put the ladder down and it would keep falling. He did not realize a leg of the ladder had blown off and when he tried to climb out, it would fall.

On the next level was Carl Myers. He knew one of the holes went off; he knew there were nine others. He did something heroic, to say the least. He could not stop the other holes from going off because they were covered with muck at the time, covered with dirt. So Carl Myers climbed down. He was a smaller man than my dad. My dad was 6 feet tall and probably weighed 185 pounds. He carried him up to the next level and saved his life. As soon as he got up there, the holes went off.

I tell this story because the acts of one man did much. Among other things, it allowed my mother not to be a widow, allowed her to have a husband and a father for three boys. Later, another brother came into the family.

Carl Myers received a Carnegie medal for heroism for what he did to save my father's life. Lowell Thomas wrote about this episode involving my father. He quoted Carl Myers as saying: To hell with the medal, Harry's alive, isn't he?

Carl Myers, from the time I was a little boy being raised in Searchlight, was a hero to me. Because of his decision our family was allowed to function.

Actions of U.S. Senators and the President of the Senate have consequences, just as Carl's actions had consequences. In the Senate we make decisions. We have a lot more time to make these decisions than Carl had deciding to go back down in the hole. The decisions we make touch the lives of Americans. People all over America are affected by what we do in the Senate.

The citizens are counting on the Senate to make sure public schools are institutions that we as Americans are proud of. The American people are counting on us to make their life better by making medical care easier for them to come by. People are counting on the Senate so a child's ability to go to college will not be determined by how much money the parents have. People are counting on Congress to make sure Social Security is a stable fund they can depend on. People are counting on Congress to make sure the environment is good, so the water we drink is pure, the air we breathe is good. Women are depending on us. They are counting on us to make sure their wages are no longer 75 cents of every dollar we make as men. There is an article in the Washington Post today discussing a problem with more unintended pregnancies than we anticipated. They are depending on us to do something about that. Citizens are depending on us to make sure our fiscal house is in order. They are depending on us to do our work in a bipartisan fashion to effect change in our country to the good.

I spoke to Senator FRIST this past week. We are working on items for when we return in late January, items we can work on, on a bipartisan basis, to show the American people that, yes, we can work together. There are issues we can work on—maybe the highway bill. We did not do it last Congress; maybe we can do it this time. There are many other issues the leader and I talked about.

There are bipartisan opportunities, and I as the new Democratic leader speak on behalf of 45 Democratic Senators. We are here with our arms open to work with the administration, the Speaker, the Republican leader, to accomplish good for this country. There is much we can do that is going to make this country a better place.

Our decisions will affect the American people. We should never as a Senate forget that what we do has an impact on everyone.

I look forward to this new Congress, that we can forget what went on in the past, only call upon that which was positive in the past and look to the future with a greater day, a nicer day, a more pleasant day ahead.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. FRIST. I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 1) informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 1) reads as follows:

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider that vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Resolution 1, the Chair appoints the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) as a committee to join the committee on the part of the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum is assembled and the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 2) informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 2) reads as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST. I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 3) fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 3) reads as follows:

Resolved, That the hour of daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING OF ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. On behalf of myself, Senator REID, Senator LOTT, and Senator DODD, I send a concurrent resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) to provide for the counting on January 6, 2005, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) reads as follows:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, the sixth day of January 2005, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter ''A''; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The chair appoints the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. LOTT, and the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, on the part of the Senate to count electoral votes.

TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. FRIST. I send a concurrent resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 93 and S. Con. Res. 94 for the 108th Congress.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the concurrent resolution is agreed do.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) reads as follows:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That effective from January 3, 2005, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 94 (108th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration, is hereby continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. Effective from January 4, 2005, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 93 (108th Congress), to authorize the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have 13 unanimous consent requests which have been cleared on the other side. The requests are the routine requests agreed to at the beginning of each Congress and include the allocation of leader time, floor privileges, the filing of reports, and the like. I now ask unanimous consent that the requests be agreed to en bloc and that the requests be printed separately as part of the RECORD.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The unanimous consent requests agreed to en bloc are as follows:

1. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate;

2. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any rollcall vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the last 7½ minutes, and when rollcall votes are of 10–minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7½ minutes;

3. That during the 109th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate;

4. That the Majority and Minority leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer and disposition of the reading of, or the approval of, the Journal;

5. That the Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives and his five assistants be given the privileges of the floor during the 109th Congress;

6. That, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report printed;

7. That the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 109th Congress to file reports during adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend rule XVI, pursuant to rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed;

8. That, for the duration of the 109th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to House bills or resolutions;

9. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment, the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives; and that they be appropriately referred; and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions;

10. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal Clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate such staff members as space allows;

11. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day; and

12. That for the duration of the 109th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

13. That it not be in order to introduce bills or resolutions until January 24, 2005.

FINAL ASCERTAINMENT OF ELECTORS

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate communications from the Archivist of the United States transmitting, pursuant to law, certified copies of the final ascertainment of the Electors for President and Vice President, which are ordered to lie on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI THAT STRUCK SOUTH ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND AFRICA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 4) expressing the sympathy and pledging the support of the United States Senate and the people of the United States for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and other areas of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa, on December 26, 2004.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the resolution and its preamble are considered and agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 4), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 4

Whereas on December 26, 2004, a tremendous earthquake, registered at 9.0 on the Richter scale and centered 100 miles off the coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a deadly tsunami that swept throughout the Indian Ocean and beyond, devastating cities, towns, and communities, and killing or injuring persons in Southeast Asia and South Asia, through the island nations of the region, to Eastern Africa;

Whereas, as a result of the earthquake and ensuing tsunami, more than 140,000 people have lost their lives to date, tens of thousands of people are injured or missing, and the final death toll could climb into the hundreds of thousands;

Whereas the victims also include thousands of nationals who were visiting the region when the tsunami hit, including significant numbers from Europe and North and South America;

Whereas millions of people throughout Southeast Asia and South Asia have been left without food, shelter, or clean water, and now face deadly diseases such as cholera, dengue fever, dysentery, malaria, and typhoid;

Whereas thousands of children have been killed or injured, by this disaster;

Whereas, as a result of this tragedy, thousands of children have been separated from their families or orphaned and are in need of re-unification or adoption;

Whereas whole coastal communities and cities throughout the region were obliterated;

Whereas recovery, reconstruction, and clean-up of the devastated areas likely will take years, billions of dollars, and the concerted leadership of the United States working together with the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States immediately responded and expressed their sympathy and concern by sending financial aid and other assistance currently totaling more than $100,000,000, through nongovernmental organizations and other means, to the victims of this disaster, and by offering to volunteer in the disaster rescue, recovery, and rebuilding;

Whereas soon after the earthquake and tsunami hit the region, the United States

Government expressed its condolences and invoked six disaster declarations for the nations hardest hit by this natural disaster, thus triggering the release of emergency funding to these countries;

Whereas less than 24 hours after these tragedies became known, the United States announced an initial pledge of $15,000,000 for emergency humanitarian assistance, which was increased to $35,000,000 in the following days as the scope of the tragedy unfolded;

Whereas President George W. Bush also dispatched more than 20 United States military cargo and patrol aircraft, redirected a Marine expeditionary unit and a carrier task force, and deployed several hundred United States military personnel to the region to assist with the disaster response, recovery, and delivery of relief supplies;

Whereas, in response to an early appeal by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for $7,500,000, the United States provided $4,000,000 for the distribution of emergency shelter materials and other relief commodities, and provided more than 3,000 metric tons of rice to the United Nations World Food Program for use in the affected region;

Whereas President George W. Bush has established a regional core group with Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and the Netherlands, with the United Nations, to help coordinate relief efforts, and sent a senior delegation of experts, led by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Florida Governor Jeb Bush, to meet with regional leaders and international organizations to assess what additional aid can be provided by the United States;

Whereas on December 31, 2004, President Bush increased the United States pledge to $350,000,000 in aid and stated that the United States' contributions to disaster relief and recovery ''will continue to be revised as the full effects of this terrible tragedy become clearer'';

Whereas pledges of assistance from all international organizations, multilateral development banks, and governments, including the United States, now exceed $2,000,000,000; and

Whereas, on January 3, 2005, the President appointed former Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton to lead a nationwide charitable fund-raising effort to elicit greater relief and assistance to the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck cities, towns, and communities throughout Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Africa, and the region on December 26, 2004;

(2) conveys its most sincere condolences to the families, communities, and governments of the more than 140,000 people that lost their lives in this terrible natural disaster;

(3) expresses its gratitude and respect for the courageous and committed work of all aid and relief personnel, including United States military personnel, who are saving lives and providing relief assistance in the devastated areas of the region;

(4) supports President George W. Bush's pledge of $350,000,000 in direct financial assistance, and tens of millions of dollars in additional indirect assistance through the dispatch of United States military aircraft, naval vessels, and personnel, and through the United States Government's substantial voluntary and annual contributions to international organizations and bodies;

(5) commends the ongoing international relief effort that includes the work of individual countries, numerous international organizations, and various relief and other nongovernmental entities;

(6) reaffirms that the United States Government is committed to providing relief and assistance in the most effective and efficient means possible, and will continue to assess, anticipate, and provide further assistance as needed in the weeks and months ahead;

(7) recognizes that the support of the United States Government will be greatly supplemented by private donations and assistance from thousands of United States citizens, charitable organizations, religious groups, and corporations that routinely provide generous and significant amounts of aid, support, and volunteers; and

(8) fully supports the long-term commitment and engagement of the United States to provide financial aid and other forms of direct and indirect assistance to the countries and peoples of the region impacted by the powerful earthquake and the devastating tsunami.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on the morning of December 26, one of the worst catastrophes the world has ever seen slammed the coast of Southeast Asia, South Asia, and eastern Africa.

Deep in the Indian Ocean, an enormous earthquake, estimated at a magnitude of 9.0 on the Richter Scale—possibly one of the most powerful earthquakes ever in history—caused a devastating tsunami which has now killed over 150,000 people, seriously injuring another half a million, and displacing as many as 5 million individuals from their demolished homes.

Thousands of people were literally washed out to sea as the enormous wall of water, traveling at speeds of up to 500 miles per hour in the open ocean, struck the coasts of the Indian Ocean Rim. As those waves receded, they took with them whole towns and villages. They took with them families on holiday, fishermen at sea, and children who had gone down to the beach that morning to play.

One only begins to comprehend the enormity of the tragedy as the individual stories emerge, as they have over the last several days, such as the father who helped his daughter climb on to the roof of their hotel and drowned in his act of heroism or the 13-year-old boy who held his grandmother afloat as long as he could before she succumbed to the waves.

The tragedy continues for these already devastated people. Survivors now face the ''disaster after the disaster''—the risk of death from cholera, dysentery, malaria, typhoid, and diarrhea, all potentially on an epidemic scale. The lack of potable water and potential emergence of waterborne illnesses pose an enormous public health threat.

In the last week, I have spent hours on the phone with ambassadors from the affected countries, with senior U.S. officials and private citizens, to help coordinate some of those relief efforts. I am gratified—overwhelmed, in fact—by the generosity and commitment so many people have shown at every level, from local communities to our Government. Their outpouring of support and concern is truly remarkable.

One friend of mine, Carl Lindner, has a son who is putting together medical and relief supplies on a 747 charter to India this week.

Franklin Graham and my friends from Samaritan's Purse are in the field right now with assessments and are investing heavily through Samaritan's Purse, especially in rural areas that are far from airports or far from towns or far from those areas we can reach as easily.

Condoleezza Rice and our U.S. officials are working tirelessly to coordinate our efforts.

Fred Smith's company, FedEx, is transporting 150,000 pounds of Pedialite formula donated by Ross Labs. The shipment was loaded onto a FedEx aircraft yesterday morning in Columbus, Ohio, and should arrive in Sri Lanka tomorrow.

And, of course, the American people have shown extraordinary compassion and sympathy and empathy. By their own initiative, private individuals and charities and nongovernment organizations and businesses have raised millions of dollars to aid the tsunami victims. I am filled with admiration for the compassion demonstrated by our fellow citizens.

As we return to Congress, we will act quickly on a clean tsunami supplemental. President Bush announced on Friday that America has pledged $350 million in relief assistance, with $15 million already speeding toward the hands of relief organizations in the affected countries. The administration will continue to revise this number as the full extent of the disaster becomes known.

American military ships, airplanes, and helicopters are right now delivering food. Over 48 helicopters right now are operating, delivering these medical supplies and food and water. Medicine, tents, water, ladders, food—all being delivered through the compassion of the international community. We have more than 20 patrol and cargo aircraft that have been made available to assess the disaster and deliver relief supplies. Twelve thousand of our men and women in uniform are working around the clock right now to reach survivors in remote corners of the region and to participate in the delivery of that relief. Evacuation helicopters are bringing stranded victims to safety.

The United States has set up a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week Disaster Response Command Center at the U.S. Agency for International Development headquarters here in Washington, along with regional coordination centers in Thailand and Sri Lanka. Together with governments from around the world, America is leading the largest international relief effort in history.

As we speak, a delegation, led by Secretary Colin Powell and Governor Jeb Bush, is meeting with leaders of the affected countries to show America's support and solidarity, and to determine how we can continue to be effective, to maximize our effectiveness.

Later tonight I too will travel to the region to survey the damage, spending

Thursday in Sri Lanka touring disaster sites and visiting hospitals, surveying our relief efforts, and lending my help wherever I can, including medical assistance. Following that, I and others will travel to the southeast coast of India on a similar mission.

The purpose of our trip is several fold: to assure the people of the region that we are engaged and fully committed. The Senate is taking these first steps as an institution by adopting the resolution expressing our sympathy for the countries and victims affected and promising our full support of America's relief efforts.

While in the region, we will also make a personal assessment of what U.S. assistance is needed and will have the opportunity to meet with leaders of the affected countries and ask personally how America can best help. I intend to ensure that aid is following as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Senate is taking its first step here today as we consider and adopt the Senate resolution expressing sympathy and pledging support to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the peoples of Southeast Asia, South Asia, the island nations of the region, and eastern Africa.

Senator REID and I have worked closely on this effort in a bipartisan manner to express the unanimous agreement of this body, the U.S. Senate.

I also thank Senator DICK LUGAR, who has shown steadfast leadership in this time of crisis and who has worked closely on this resolution with us as well. I know his committee in the coming weeks and months ahead will be delving into many matters relating to this disaster. We extend our great thanks to him.

Let me close my remarks by offering, on behalf of myself, the U.S. Senate, and the American people, our deepest sympathies to the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Our hearts and prayers are with you—the victims, the survivors, and their families. The struggle to recover will be long. We all know that. It will be difficult. There will be many sorrow-filled days as we learn the full impact of this tragedy, but throughout the United States will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of these devastated lands. We are determined to help rebuild their communities and restore their hope.

America is a great nation because it is a compassionate nation. It is our solemn commitment and obligation as a free people to share the blessing of liberty, especially with those who are so desperately in need.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the day after the tsunami, I had the opportunity to meet with scores of people from Southeast Asia. There were people from Sri Lanka. The person who put the event together was from Bangladesh. We had people from Thailand, India, many people. It was an event in my honor. They had bought out a restaurant that night. It was a festive occasion, but there was a pall over what we were doing as a result of the tsunami that had taken place.

This tsunami was so difficult. These people in Reno, NV, had come to our country for the opportunity to realize their hopes and dreams. Each one of them love America, but of course they also feel an abiding love for their native lands and cultures.

I have trouble comprehending the power of nature. I read that the earthquake that took place was a million times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Nagasaki—not one thousand times, a million times. It was so powerful it threw off the Earth's rotation. This was a powerful act of nature.

In today's world, there is no such thing as an isolated event. It hit 11 countries. We are all connected to those countries. One hundred or so years ago that wouldn't have been the case. Fifty years ago it would have been less the case. The earthquake that caused the deadly tsunami was estimated at 9.0 on the Richter Scale. It was first picked up in Hawaii. They thought it was 8.0. I thought to myself, 8, 9, is that a big difference? It is 100 times different.

The President pro tempore is from Alaska. It is my understanding that the only earthquake in recent history that was stronger took place in Alaska. Fortunately, there were not a lot of people in Alaska and there wasn't the deadly tsunami that occurred following that earthquake.

We don't know the death toll. They found 6,000 more dead people yesterday, 9 or 10 days after the event. It is probably 150,000 and counting. Tens of thousands of people are missing. Millions have lost their homes. We are all affected by this catastrophic loss. We all share the anguish of a mother who lost a child, a father who lost a child. We feel the bewilderment and fear of children who lost their parents. That is why I am happy this resolution contains a paragraph dealing with adoption.

We all want to help. Since this tragedy took place 9 days ago, the world has seen an outpouring of aid for the victims of this tsunami. I spoke with the Democratic ranking member on the Finance Committee. He also has to deal with Senator GRASSLEY, the chairman. They are concerned that the outpouring of charity by the people of the United States will be recognized taxwise. We need to do that so they can get some benefit for the money they gave before the end of the year. I hope we can.

The American people have opened their hearts and wallets, donating millions of dollars to groups such as the Red Cross that are working to provide relief from this disaster. Two former Presidents with whom I had the good fortune of serving in the Congress, Bill Clinton and George Bush the first, have agreed to lead the charitable efforts for the United States.

We got off to a slow start. There is no question about that. At the event I talked about in Reno, we talked about Secretary Powell's press conference where he said we were going to provide $15 million. We were all terribly disappointed in that. I hoped that the Secretary didn't realize the full impact of the tragedy that had taken place. I couldn't imagine he would have done that had he known. Fifteen million is half as much as we are spending on the inaugural ceremonies this month. And then it took a while for the President to step forward. Let's put all that behind us. America has now stepped forward. I am proud of what we have done and what we are doing. We have a lot more to do.

I was glad to see the U.S. military, as stretched as we are, step forward with aircraft carriers and other resources that only the military can put forward. I listened to something on Public Radio today. It said that on one island in Indonesia, they had instructed the American helicopter pilots not to bring in any more wounded: People who are sick, we cannot take care of them. The American pilots brought them in anyway. As a result of that, the American military responded by setting up a field hospital that will take care of those people. We are doing a lot. We have more to do.

The magnitude of the disaster that befell this part of the world is unbelievable to most of us. I am glad that America is now responding. That is why this resolution is so important. We have increased our commitment. I have already talked about the aircraft, the ships, the helicopters that deliver the food and water and clothing. One of those aircraft carriers makes thousands and thousands of gallons of pure, fresh water every day. That will be taken off the aircraft carrier to people who have despoiled water, water that is contaminated.

The response of the American people and our Government is important for many reasons. Obviously, our efforts help relieve the suffering of these victims, but they also help show the world what kind of a nation and people we are. David Ignatius wrote a wonderful column in the Washington Post where he talked about our ability to respond to world situations when there is such a disaster. We are not going to be able to win the war against terror unless we are able to show the world that we are a country based upon laws, not men, that we are a charitable nation, that we are a nation that is concerned about people's rights, human rights.

If we are able to show by virtue of the example we are setting with the disaster that befell these 11 nations, we will be able to convert people who are sympathetic to evil terrorists. We have a lot of people who are sympathetic to what these evil terrorists are doing. With actions such as this, we will be

able to show to those people who are sympathetic to the terrorists that maybe their sympathy is not well placed. I am confident we can do that, and in the process we will win the war on terror that is being perpetrated against not only us but against the world.

I commend and applaud the majority leader for working to make the resolution the first order of legislative business in this session of Congress. It is important that we do that. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the tidal waves, tsunamis, that traversed the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific on December 26 have caused death and destruction in at least 12 countries, particularly India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The tsunami disaster constitutes a humanitarian tragedy of incredible proportions. Currently, experts estimate that more than 150,000 people have perished and countless people are injured. Millions are homeless and at risk from disease. These tragic numbers are expected to rise as we obtain additional information.

The United States is a compassionate country that will respond generously to this human catastrophe. Under the leadership of President Bush, the agencies and resources of the U.S. Government have been mobilized to assist in the initial humanitarian effort. In addition, innumerable individual Americans and U.S. businesses have donated millions of dollars directly to international relief efforts. As the world leader in international disaster assistance, the United States must work closely with the international community to implement the most effective response possible in the coming weeks and months.

Beyond the compelling humanitarian reasons for swift action, a stable and prosperous Asia is essential to the global effort on a range of shared problems, including weapons proliferation, terrorism, narcotics, and contagious diseases. The worldwide economic and political consequences of this natural disaster could be even more severe unless we commit ourselves to advancing a strong recovery in the region.

This resolution explains the gravity of the situation, offers condolences to the victims and their loved ones, and sets the stage for Congress to make additional appropriations that will aid in the recovery. Congress must work with the President for a generous supplemental appropriation that goes well beyond the amounts of money already committed.

A summit pledging conference is scheduled to occur in Jakarta, Indonesia on Thursday. The United States should be there in a leadership position. This will be an important opportunity to work with the world community in responding to this tragedy. American humanitarian, diplomatic, and national security interests will be deeply affected by the outcome of this conference.

My heart goes out to the victims of this tragedy. While financial and in-kind assistance cannot replace the huge loss of life that countries in the region have suffered, the United States' contribution will, at least, help the survivors rebuild their lives.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I express my sincere sympathy for the millions of people affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Africa on December 26. The scale of this disaster is overwhelming, and the human losses are horrifying. Families have been shattered and whole communities lost, and because so many international tourists were in the region, virtually every part of the world—including the United States—is represented in the list of casualties.

I know the sorrow that I feel as I review the reports of devastating losses is shared by the people of Wisconsin and by all Americans. I know that we also share a sense of resolve—resolve to provide whatever assistance we can to the survivors and the affected communities, and resolve to be steadfast partners in the long-term reconstruction efforts that must follow the relief operations.

I vividly recall the powerful voices that rose up from all corners of the globe in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I remember how they conveyed a sense of solidarity and support that gave our country comfort and affirmed the bonds that unite all of humanity, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or religion. Now, countless American voices are also sounding loudly and clearly in that same spirit.

I am grateful for the efforts of so many around the world to come to the aid of those in need, including U.S. military personnel who are working day and night to help. Businesses and individuals from around Wisconsin have contacted my office, looking for ways that they can help. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the resolution before the Senate that expresses our sympathy and pledges our support to the victims of this catastrophe, and I pledge to continue working with my colleagues to ensure that our words continue to be matched by our actions.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today the Senate expresses its condolences over the recent tsunami disaster. Like most Americans, I watched in horror over the holidays as a tsunami battered thousands of miles of coastline across South Asia and Africa. The damage left in the wake of this disaster is almost overwhelming, and I feel a sense of personal and professional obligation to do whatever can be done to help those in need. Though the grim reports have varied in the days following this disaster, it is becoming clear that nearly 150,000 people have already lost their lives, and hundreds of thousands of others are in grave jeopardy because of the damage inflicted by the tsunami. Still more families are searching for loved ones, hoping for any news regarding their family members' whereabouts.

In trying to guide a humanitarian effort through the aftermath of this tragedy, the United States and the larger international community must help these countries face longer term obstacles of disease, the destruction of basic infrastructure, complete damage to coastal economies and other fundamental hardship. America has itself been the victim of great tragedies such as this, and indeed it appears that thousands of Americans living or traveling in South Asia and Africa have themselves been affected by this horrible natural disaster.

My heart goes out to all these victims of the tsunami. It is time for the world, particularly those nations that are most fortunate such as the United States, to move rapidly with a relief and recovery effort that is worthy of the size of this tragedy. I am encouraged that our Government, in cooperation with private sector charities and the business community, has now begun to focus on what can be done to help the affected countries. This tragedy provides America with an opportunity to show that we can lead the world, not just when it is our military that is needed, but when we can offer our generosity and expertise for a massive humanitarian effort. So many nations affected by this tragedy are looking to America for help and we have an opportunity to provide the world our leadership. In addition to it being the right thing to do, it is clearly in America's national interest to be a leader in helping these countries to recover.

In this spirit, I wholeheartedly support the administration's pledge of $350 million to the relief effort. I also commend the involvement of former Presidents Clinton and Bush in helping to organize a private relief effort. I would also like to commend the work being done by our private sector, particularly by nongovernmental organizations and the business community, to help those in need. This charitable work is quintessentially American, and these efforts are something for which we can all be proud.

I also want to share with my colleagues that we should be aware that the generosity of the American people in response to this disaster extends to the knowledge we have to share with the world regarding the monitoring and reporting of oceanic and climatic events.

There is important research and monitoring already being done by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on tsunami events, work that involves the University of Washington in my State. Scientists are learning how better to monitor patterns or impending developments in our oceans so we can be prepared for future possible events. We do not always focus on the good work being done by NOAA, until something tragic like this tsunami occurs. Congress has

an obligation to people on our coasts to fund NOAA and see that it can do its job well, and we should work to fulfill that obligation.

In the United States, NOAA's National Weather Service operates two tsunami warning centers, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii and the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska. In the event of a tsunami, the Centers will issue local tsunami advisories to the Emergency Managers Office of each potentially affected State. The decision to evacuate a coastal area rests with each responsible EM. The Seattle Post Intelligencer reported that the current U.S. network consists of six deep-sea sensors in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, and near the equator off the coast of Peru. In addition to the six tsunami buoys, the warning system takes advantage of existing tidal monitoring stations and USGS seismic monitoring and reporting capabilities. The NOAA official in charge of the system described the current configuration as the ''bare minimum'' needed for adequate warning. There are plans to expand the system to 20 tsunami buoys in the next five years, 10 of which will be placed in the Aleutian Islands. NOAA is estimating one-time costs of $8.7 million and recurring costs of $8.5 million to enhance the current system.

NOAA also runs a Tsunami Research Program out of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle. The objective of the Tsunami Research Program is to improve warning guidance, hazard assessment, and implementation planning. The Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean, a partnership between NOAA and UW, has also worked with the Tsunami Research Program on hazard assessment modeling.

PMEL has also developed instruments it has named tsunameters. With six deployed in the middle of the Pacific since 2001 in waters 2.5 to 4 miles deep, the tsunameters can detect the perturbations in water pressure as a tsunami passes above. When it detects something, it sends a signal by sound waves to a buoy on the surface. The signal is relayed to a satellite and then back to Earth to tsunami warning centers in Hawaii and Alaska, a process that takes only 2 minutes.

No significant tsunamis have yet occurred in the Pacific for the tsunameters to detect, but they have prevented a false alarm. In November 2003, a magnitude 7.8 undersea earthquake occurred near the Aleutian Islands, spurring officials to issue a tsunami warning. When the wave passed over a tsunameter, they saw it was small and canceled the warning.

In conclusion, I again express my condolences and those of Washingtonians to those who have lost family members in this tragedy. The Senate should do all it can to help all those who face a long and difficult cleanup.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I wish to express my profound condolences for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Africa. I commend our two leaders for writing S. Res. 4, passed unanimously by the Senate earlier this afternoon. It is right and fitting that on our first day of business in this Congress the Senate has united to send a message of hope and leadership to the victims of this horrible disaster.

We were all mortified to learn of the devastation caused by this disaster as we awoke after a day of Christmas celebrations. The news from this disaster has been arriving so fast and furious that it is hard to put the kinds of numbers we are talking about in perspective. We know there are more than 150,000 people dead—that is 150,000 personal tragedies. And there are hundreds of thousands of others who are homeless and whose lives have been turned upside down by this tragedy. We said clearly to their families and loved ones in our resolution today that we are here to help them recover and rebuild.

The generosity and compassion of America will be felt in Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Thailand. In fact, our troops and humanitarian assistance professionals are already bringing hope to those countries in the form of water, food and comfort. We thank our troops for their hard work and for showing the world the best of America, as they always do.

I am also mindful this afternoon that this terrible disaster has wreaked havoc in our own country and in my own state of Colorado. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims and their families.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR IGNATIUS McDERMOTT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the life of a great friend, a great man who passed away on December 31. His name was Monsignor Ignatius McDermott and he was known as Father Mac, from the city of Chicago. He was a model of compassion, commitment, and service.

On December 31, when he left this Earth, he was 95 years old. He made his name in Chicago because of his dedication to some of the poorest people who lived in that city. When he was a young priest, he had many options. He worked in parishes and had different assignments, but he knew there was a special calling in his life, a calling that very few priests, very few people would even consider. Monsignor McDermott, Father Mac, dedicated his life to walking Chicago's meanest streets, skid row, and becoming the priest, the chaplain, of thousands of people on those streets addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Ironically, he died on the 29th anniversary of the day that he cofounded Chicago's largest addiction treatment center, Haymarket Center.

He was born in the ''Back of the Yards'' neighborhood. If you read Upton Sinclair's book ''The Jungle,'' you know what the stockyards meant to the city of Chicago. That is where the immigrant families headed. That is where they could find a job that required hard work and a strong back and barely make a living. That is where he grew up.

He was known in his youth as just the kid brother of the famous alderman, Jim McDermott. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1936. He was assigned to what is now known in Chicago as Maryville Academy, a home for neglected and abandoned orphaned children. It was there that he saw for the first time in his ministry how alcoholism affected families.

He disagreed with the common sentiment in Chicago and across the country that alcoholism was just a character flaw: If you had a little better character, you might overcome that problem. He understood it was a disease and it needed to be treated. So Father McDermott brought Alcoholics Anonymous, which in the late forties was really a creation for the middle class of America, to the people of skid row in Chicago, people whose alcoholism had left them in the worst possible plight.

In 1963, he founded the Central States Institute of Addiction because he recognized the need for qualified treatment counselors and educators. It was there that Illinois's first program for offenders convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol was created.

In the 1970s, he led the charge in our State to decriminalize public drunkenness. On New Year's Eve 1975, along with Dr. James West, who would go on to direct the Betty Ford Center in California, Father McDermott founded Haymarket Center.

I have had the privilege in public life to meet some amazing people, and I count Monsignor McDermott—Father Mac—as one of those people.

When I first came to the Senate, the Irish-American clubs of Chicago came to me and suggested we should have a postage stamp that would acknowledge the contribution of Irish immigrants to America. I was surprised it had never happened. So the first phone call I made in the Senate was to my colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY. If there is anything dealing with Irish Americans, you better get TED KENNEDY on board. He thought it was a great idea. So we worked together, and we were successful.

The Postal Commission decided to commission a commemorative stamp commemorating the immigration of the Irish to Chicago. TED and I tried to decide which one of us would announce the stamp. By seniority, he was able to announce the first-day issue in Boston, the same day I would unveil the stamp in Chicago.

I thought to myself: Who will I invite from this city of so many great Irish Americans to come and represent those of that ethnic origin at the unveiling of the stamp? I looked around at some of the obvious: Father John Smith of Maryville, the institution I mentioned earlier, who did so much to help so many young children; Sister Rosemary of Misericordia Center, just an amazing, wonderful, and warm, touching center for children who were born with mental affliction and mental illness. I thought of Father Jim Close, who runs Mercy Home for boys and girls in Chicago. I thought what a great contribution he made. I thought of my pastor from my parish, Father Jack Wall from old Saint Pat's, a downtown parish that serves so many people in that community. But I also thought of Father Mac.

I brought them all together. They were up there with me on that stage when we unveiled the stamp. When I got up, I said: If you want to know the contribution of the Irish people to the city of Chicago, look at these five people and the dedication of their lives and what they have done to help so many people. Had the Irish been pushed away and shunned from coming to America, would someone else have stepped into their roles?

I thought about that again when Father Mac passed away. He took an assignment most priests would not even consider: going to those mean streets, those poor areas of Chicago. That was his ministry. How many times would each one of us, as we are walking along with our family on the street, see someone who is obviously intoxicated or sick with addiction and maybe pick up our pace and walk a little faster? For Father Mac, that is exactly when he would slow down and stop to try to determine what he could do.

He dedicated his life to these people. There were so many amazing stories that came from it, lives that were saved, people who were given a chance to succeed. When he opened the Haymarket Center—it is right behind Greek Town in Chicago, if you happen to know the city a little bit. It used to be a part of the city that mainly was warehouses. Now it is becoming pretty gentrified with a lot of lofts and condominiums, with a lot of people moving in, a lot of trendy restaurants, but when it was one of the poorest parts of Chicago, Father Mac established Haymarket Center because that is where he could find the people who needed his help.

I have been there several times. He had a little chapel in Haymarket where he would hold mass on Sundays, and many people came to join him at that little service. As they walked around Haymarket Center, they understood that even though those were some of the poorest people in some of the worst places in our city, Father Mac always treated them as his brothers and sisters. He went out of his way to give them the dignity and attention they deserved.

Those of us who were privileged to have known Father Mac will remember his wonderful ability to always see good in people and to convince those same people not to give up on themselves. He was a visionary, he was a leader, and he was a friend. But he was more. When I think back on my life, on those I have met who made a profound impression on me and who if they did not reach the level of sainthood were knocking at the door, Father Mac was one of those people.

I extend my deepest condolences to all of those who join me in treasuring the fond memories of Monsignor Ignatius McDermott. We start the new year with a heavy heart but with a renewed commitment that each of us in some small way will try to continue the ministry of this wonderful man.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ASBESTOS LEGISLATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss briefly the status of efforts to have asbestos tort reform legislation, a matter which has been before the Congress of the United States for more than two decades.

I had my first contact with the issue back in 1984 when then-Senator Gary Hart of Colorado brought in a constituent to talk about asbestos. It has been an issue which we have labored with long and hard, and in the last Congress, Senator HATCH, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, advanced legislation with the concept of a trust and a schedule of payments to avoid the costs and risks of litigation and to treat asbestos injuries very much like workers' compensation.

A bill was passed out of the Judiciary Committee last July, pretty much on a party-line vote, as the distinguished Presiding Officer, Senator CORNYN of Texas, knows because he was and is on the Judiciary Committee and did a prodigious amount of work on this issue. The bill was passed out with a number of problems. I voted for it to move it along. I then enlisted the assistance of the former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Edward R. Becker, who was in senior status. Judge Becker convened a large group of so-called stakeholders in his chamber. For two full days in August, he met in his chambers with representatives of the manufacturers, representatives of the AFL–CIO, representatives of the insurance industry, the reinsurance industry, and trial lawyers to start to work through a large number of problems which appeared to be intractable. We have worked through many of those problems, but some still remain.

There had been some talk about a draft bill being offered, but it is not appropriate to offer legislation until later this month under the procedures established by the majority leader, and the proposed draft legislation is not quite ready, although a great deal of work has been done on it.

There have been major issues raised as to what the total amount of the trust fund should be. There have been issues raised as to how much money should be in the startup fund; how long the trust fund ought to function before giving the claimants the right to revert to the judicial system because the legislation necessarily takes away their right to jury trial in consideration of a certain amount of money to be paid under the trust fund; and the problems that many victims are having where they are unable to collect from anyone—people with mesothelioma, a deadly disease, with cancer, with many ailments from the exposure to asbestos.

This would be the offset to giving up the right to a jury trial.

We have adopted an approach of reverting back to the right to jury trial if the elaborate system does not work. I think the system is realistically calculated to be successful.

Following the meetings in Judge Becker's chambers last August, there have been some 32 sessions held in my conference room, presided over by Judge Becker with myself in attendance for most of those meetings.

To repeat, a lot of progress has been made. It is my hope to be able to circulate a draft bill as a vehicle for discussion. I call it a discussion draft bill. My hope is that it could be circulated before the end of the week, but it is not possible to make any firm commitments because candidly every time we come upon a sequence of negotiations, other problems arise. If there is any way to reconcile them and to have a consensus before going into print, we are trying to do that.

It had been my hope last year, as we worked through the process, to have a bill by consensus. Senator FRIST and the then-Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, did a great deal of work and exchanged letters. At one point we thought we were on the verge of a consensus, but it did not work out.

In order to pass a bill, as we all know, in the last stages of a legislative session, it has to be by consensus because any single Senator can hold up a bill in its final stages. That consensus was not possible, and although we were very close on many issues, there are some issues where there is still some difference of opinion. The differences have been narrowed, and we have come a long way.

It is my hope to circulate a draft discussion bill, and there likely will still be some blanks. We will fill in as many of the blanks as we can, and then Judge Becker and I will be available to meet with the stakeholders in my conference room on Monday to talk about the areas where there has been agreement, to talk about the specifics on a draft discussion bill, and to talk about the areas where there are still differences as to how we might bridge that gap.

I have worked with Senator LEAHY. I commend him for his work with Chairman HATCH on this matter. We have talked about having a hearing next Tuesday on January 11. I am not unaware of the fact that it is not a convenient time, but Senator LEAHY will be present and I think there will be some other Senators present. We have given several weeks notice. We are aware it is a difficult time, but there are many hearings held in the Senate with just a few Senators, the chairman, and the ranking member present. I think it is important to move ahead.

At that time, it is the expectation that we will hear testimony from Judge Becker to lay out the draft discussion bill and then to hear testimony from the stakeholders identifying the parts of the bill which they choose to comment about where there are agreements or where there are disagreements. We know from experience that the early part of a legislative session is necessarily slow, but that early on in February, certainly in March, sometimes by mid-February, we begin to move ahead and the calendar begins to be crowded.

There are many items which the President has identified as legislative priorities. We will have confirmation hearings starting with White House Counsel Gonzales on Thursday and there will be other confirmation hearings. So it is my hope to be able to present a bill through markup at a very early date. Whether that can be done in late January or early February, frankly, remains to be seen.

When we marked up this bill the last Thursday of July of 2003, it was a very long markup. It lasted more than 12 hours, as the distinguished Presiding Officer will recollect. In a sense, we had the longest markup in the history of the Senate with the sessions in Judge Becker's chambers and the 32 sessions in my conference room. I thought it would be useful to briefly describe where we have been and in a sense where we are going so our colleagues will know what the status is as fully as it can be described without actually circulating a draft discussion of the bill, which will be done at the earliest possible time.

I thank the Chair. I commend him for his lonely vigil. This was a thriving Chamber three hours ago with standing room only and suddenly the business of the Senate is not quite so pressing with only the Presiding Officer and this Senator present. So in the absence of any other Senator, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for as much time as I consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DELIVERING SOLUTIONS TO THE NATION'S PROBLEMS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to expand on what I discussed at the outset of this session, now about 3 hours ago. I would like to focus not just on what we must do as individual Senators, but also on what this Senate can do and can achieve together, as a body. With the President and the House as partners, we can deliver meaningful solutions to the real problems that confront our Nation. We can secure freedom and safety and a healthier future for generations of Americans to come.

We made much progress toward these goals in the last Congress and we did so in a very narrowly divided Senate. Even with the rough and tumble of election year politics, we found ways to work together for the common good of our country. We can, we must, and I believe we will achieve at least the same and hopefully even greater success in the Senate.

No doubt it will be a challenge. The makeup of this Senate is unique. The margins between the majority and the minority may be wider, but the margins at the ends of the ideological spectrum are wider still.

We also have our own prerogatives as equals, as individual Senators, as members of our respective caucuses. And we have principles, principles to which I hope each and every one of us will hold tight during the next 2 years and throughout our careers in public service. But we also have an obligation to this body and to the people and to the Nation we serve to conduct that business with civility and with foresight and a sharp focus on those meaningful solutions. The agenda before us is simply too ambitious, too urgent, and too important to the future of our country and the world to do otherwise. Every Member of this body can take pride in the accomplishments of the last Congress, the 108th Congress. We took on big issues. We took on huge challenges. And our actions translated into solutions. Together we proudly moved America forward.

For years Congress talked about providing seniors with relief from the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs through Medicare. Finally, in 2003, Congress took action and passed the first substantial improvement to Medicare since the program was created 40 years ago. Today, more than 6 million seniors have prescription drug discount cards that are saving them 10 percent to 25 percent on their medicines; tens of thousands more are signing up every week; and within 12 months every senior on Medicare will have affordable access to a comprehensive prescription drug benefit. Challenge; action; solutions.

Before President Bush took office, our economy was tilting toward recession. Then the Internet bubble burst, corporate scandals rattled investor confidence, and terrorist attacks devastated our economy. We took action. We cut taxes for every American who pays taxes and we reduced taxes on businesses, helping them invest and expand and be more competitive in the global economy. Since August 2003, our businesses have created over 2.4 million jobs, we reduced the unemployment rate from a peak of 6.3 percent last June to 5.4 percent today, and aftertax income is up by more than 10 percent since 2000. Challenge; action; solutions.

On September 11, 2001, the United States was ruthlessly and brutally attacked by terrorists. More than 3,000 innocent men, women, and children were murdered. America and indeed the world changed forever. I am proud of the support this body has given to our Commander in Chief and the brave men and women who risk their lives every day to defend our country. We provided $87 billion to help our military buy equipment and support operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. To date, our forces have killed or captured three quarters of al Qaida's leadership. They have toppled two terrorist regimes, and in the process they have liberated 50 million people and put them on the path to self-government.

The Senate also adopted the most sweeping overhaul of our intelligence system since the creation of the CIA itself. This will bolster and better organize our intelligence efforts to win the war on terror and face those new security threats of the 21st century. Again: Challenge; action; solutions.

These are just several of the achievements of the last Congress. But the

pattern that has been set is clear. America faced urgent challenges. We acted with solutions, and with the heart and drive and genius of our people we moved America forward.

Earlier today we witnessed 34 Members take that oath of office of a U.S. Senator. It is a wonderful tradition that dates back to that first Congress in 1789. The oath at that time was a simple 14–word phrase:

I do solemnly affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States.

Those same 14 words form the vital core of today's oath, the oath that 34 Senators took now 3 hours ago. They bind us and all who have served in this body before us, many of whom joined us today, to a common, a timeless, and a paramount cause.

Our first responsibility above all else is to do our constitutional duty. Nothing should come before it. Nothing should stand between it—not party, not ideology, and certainly not politics.

Yet, in the last Congress I believe the Senate failed to perform an essential constitutional duty. It failed to offer advice and consent to the President by filibustering ten judicial nominees and threatening to filibuster another six. These filibusters were unprecedented. Never in the history of the Senate has a minority filibustered a judicial nominee who had clear majority support. This was an abrupt and an unfortunate break in more than 200 years of Senate tradition, of Senate history. This tradition must be restored, not merely because we honor the traditions of the Senate, but because this tradition reflects the proper role for this body, the Senate, as designed by our Framers in the constitutional arrangement.

Next month we will have the opportunity to restore Senate tradition. I will bring one of the President's very capable, qualified, and experienced judicial nominees to the floor. We can debate that nomination. We can vote to support it or to oppose it. And we must offer the President advice and consent by giving this and future judicial nominees who are brought to the floor up-or-down votes.

Some, I know, have suggested that the filibusters of the last Congress are reason enough to offer a procedural change today, right here and right now, but at this moment I do not choose that path.

Democratic colleagues have new leadership. And in the spirit of bipartisanship, I want to extend my hand across the aisle.

I have a sincere hope that we can move forward past difficulties—beyond the past difficulties we saw in the last Congress—and look forward to a future of cooperation.

I seek cooperation, not confrontation. Cooperation does not require support for the nominees. Cooperation simply means voting judicial nominees brought to the floor up or down.

So let me say this: If my Democratic colleagues exercise self-restraint and do not filibuster judicial nominees, Senate traditions will be restored. It will then be unnecessary to change Senate procedures. Self-restraint on the use of the filibuster for nominations—the very same self-restraint that Senate minorities exercised for more than two centuries—will alleviate the need for any action. But if my Democratic colleagues continue to filibuster judicial nominees, the Senate will face this choice: Fail to do its constitutional duty or reform itself and restore its traditions, and do what the Framers intended.

Right now, we cannot be certain judicial filibusters will cease. So I reserve the right to propose changes to Senate rule XXII, and do not acquiesce to carrying over all the rules from the last Congress.

As a public servant who has twice taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution, I cannot stand idly by, nor should any of us, if the Senate fails to do its constitutional duty. We, as Senators, have our constitutional duty to offer the President advice and consent.

Although our constitutional duties are paramount, we also have a legislative responsibility to the people we serve and to the Nation. This is our opportunity to take on the challenges that each of us sought public office to pursue. After all, we are here not just to occupy our offices but to lead, to be bold, to take action, and to get things done.

First, there is work left undone from the last Congress, and we need to act on it.

America is long overdue for an energy policy. We need a plan in place to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bolster conservation efforts. Last Congress, the Senate passed an energy bill that would have done just that. I am hopeful we will be able to do the same this year and work with House leaders and the President to finish the job.

We also need to eliminate frivolous lawsuits by reforming asbestos liability, medical liability, and our class action system. Frivolous lawsuits cost our economy more than $250 billion per year. That is more than 2 percent of our gross domestic product—the equivalent of over $800 on every American. To keep our economy growing and competitive, we need to act now.

I will bring class action reform to the floor early next month. I am confident we will pass this bill and take a big first step to restoring sanity and fairness to our legal system.

Second, in the last Congress, we led on the most urgent issues facing America. And we still need to keep our focus on issues such as protecting our homeland from biological threats. But we must also lead today on tomorrow's challenges. We need to look to the horizon and ask ourselves: What will be the cost in the future if we fail to act now?

The President has put Social Security reform among his top priorities for his second term. He has laid out wise and essential principles: protecting the benefits of today's seniors, not raising payroll taxes, and giving younger Americans the opportunity to save, own, and invest a portion of their own Social Security dollars. But in the end, the details on how to accomplish Social Security reform will fall to Congress. This will require a tremendous amount of work, especially from our skilled committee chairmen. It will also require us to work together across the aisle—both parties in both Houses. If we do so, I believe we will be able to achieve the goal of putting a bill that addresses the short-term and long-term gaps in Social Security on the President's desk.

As we consider Social Security reform, we cannot turn a blind eye to other entitlements. Gathering on the horizon is a Medicare perfect storm: skyrocketing health care costs that are affecting every family and an increasing number of seniors—a doubling in the number of seniors—over the next 30 years, and fewer and fewer workers paying into the program.

Keeping the promise of Medicare to seniors will place an untenable burden on younger Americans and their children and their grandchildren. In fact, the total unfunded liability in the Medicare Program far exceeds Social Security's unfunded liability. We have a moral responsibility to begin to have a conversation about the long-term challenges facing Medicare.

In the short term, we can work to reduce health care costs in general. The fact is, our health care system—it is not even really a system. Our health care sector is fantastically inefficient. We can make it much more productive.

Just think about it for a minute. We can access our bank accounts from nearly anywhere in the world with our ATM cards, but we can't transfer our CAT scan results digitally from one hospital to another hospital across the street for a second opinion. We can pay bills on line, we can order groceries on line, and we can even apply for a mortgage on line—all in a matter of minutes. But if we happen to be in a car accident, if we are knocked unconscious with our lives at stake, paramedics and emergency room doctors cannot quickly check for blood type or allergies to our medicines.

It doesn't make sense. We can fix it by encouraging the use of information technology. By reforming our broken medical liability system, by expanding portable tax-free accounts, among other things, we can begin to hold that line on health care costs and improve our system.

I am pleased the President is firmly committed to working with Congress to make health care more affordable and accessible.

He is also committed, as I am, to protecting the values that serve as the foundation of a healthy society: Marriage, family, and a culture of life that protects human dignity at every stage of development.

Finally, we need to elevate global issues of moral consequence.

This is becoming increasingly apparent in the past week. During the last 9 days, we have all been deeply saddened by the unfolding tragedy in Southern Asia. Estimates now put the death toll at more than 150,000, more than a third of which are children. And the statistics don't capture the sorrow, the sadness, that sense of loss, the psychological impact that will leave longstanding scars.

When we resume our business later this month and the President requests our assistance, we will set aside what we are working on to provide funding quickly and cleanly.

Later tonight I will be leaving with several of our colleagues to travel to the devastated areas. We will report back about what America can do to aid relief and recovery efforts.

America is the most generous Nation in the world. We will step up with all the resources, all the compassion, all the hope that we can muster in these next few weeks and beyond. We have done so as a nation. We have done so as a people many times before.

Last Congress we stepped up in the fight against global HIV/AIDS. We stepped up with an unprecedented $15 billion commitment. We will keep that commitment strong. We need to work hard to bring peace, stability, and humanitarian support to war-torn nations such as Sudan.

Americans are a compassionate people. We, as Senators, can help capture that and channel it for the good of the world. It is our responsibility. We will do just that.

In his most recent news conference, President Bush said this about his second-term agenda:

> All of these goals require the energy and dedication of members of both political parties. Working in a spirit of bipartisanship, we will build the foundation of a stronger, more prosperous country.

The President is exactly right. The challenges before this Congress are so vital to the future of our country. We must work together to address them. Through our history, America has been served best by leaders who treat each other and their offices with respect and civility and decency.

I think of George Washington who, at the age of just 16, copied out by hand a list of 110 Rules of Civility and Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation. This act shaped the early character of Washington and in turn the indelible character of our Nation.

In recent history, Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill come to mind. Although they stood on opposite sides of the ideological spectrum, they enjoyed a wonderful relationship, a fruitful friendship. On the Speaker's 70th birthday, President Reagan invited him to the White House for a celebratory lunch. At the end of the meal, the President raised a glass of champagne and toasted the Speaker:

> Tip, if I had a ticket to heaven and you didn't have one, too, I'd sell mine and go to hell with you.

Many have enjoyed friendships just like that in the Senate. I know I do, and so do many of our spouses. The Senate, as I have often said and referred to in my remarks earlier today, is a family. The sense of family does not come across on the television screen and certainly doesn't come across in the newspapers. What the American people too often see and what I don't believe they like is an extreme partisanship, a partisan bickering and a lack of cooperation. Some of that is just the nature of the news. Conflict, as we all know, sells advertising and catches people's attention, but it is also the nature of Washington today with all of the competing special interests.

There is still something else at work. Somehow, we have become more defined by the forces that divide us than the common cause that unites us. The civility that once was the hallmark of this body has eroded over time. I recognize, we all recognize, it will take time to regain it. But we must begin. We must begin now and we will begin.

I applaud the orientation for new Members that Senators CARPER and ALEXANDER and others helped organize just this November. Our nine newly elected Senators worked with veterans of this body to learn, as my colleague from Tennessee said, what it takes for the Senate to function as an institution and fulfill its constitutional role. We need more efforts just like this, such as in Senate policy forums, bipartisan leadership meetings, all of which would be a good start.

These are issues I have discussed with the Democratic leader. I ask our colleagues to come to Senator REID and me with other suggestions they may have over the next several weeks. Leaders on both sides of the aisle need to set an example, but the whole body needs to share in this effort. We all need to commit to restoring civility in the Senate. If we do, with time, I believe, the Senate again can become what it was in the so-called golden age, what the great statesman and Senator, Daniel Webster, called in his last major address:

> . . . A body not yet moved from its propriety, not lost to a just sense of its own dignity and own responsibilities, and a body to which the country looks, with confidence, for wise, moderate, patriotic and healing counsels.

I close by expressing a concept that is by no means new but is essential to our deliberations and, in the end, to the future for America. It is the concept that this body, the Senate, act as one.

During my decade of service in this body, I have seen extraordinary acts of courage. I have seen men and women endure overwhelming currents of political pressure. Sometimes they have done this standing alone and independent; sometimes they have crossed the aisle and cast a deciding vote with the opposing party. Every time, however, it has been for one simple reason: to do what their hearts told them was right for the people they represent and for the Nation.

Where leaders perform such acts of courage, they subjugate their own political interests to the higher purpose of the whole. Although they may pay a political price, they are rewarded with honor and with pride and with respect.

In the end, those rewards are priceless. Those rewards last—not only in the hearts of public servants but in the hearts of the people they represent.

The Senate's longest serving majority leader, the late Mike Mansfield, said of this body:

> In the end, it is not the Senators as individuals who are a fundamental importance. In the end, it is the institution of this Senate. It is the Senate itself as one of the foundations of the Constitution. It is the Senate as one of the rocks of the Republic.

Let us do the duty of U.S. Senators, our constitutional duty and our duty to our people and our Nation. Let us do so with respect and civility and decency for this body and for each other. As we do, let us secure for every American a freer, safer, and healthier future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The Senator from Oregon.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before he leaves the Chamber, I commend the majority leader for his interest in health care, in particular. I have always thought it is far away the most important issue at home. I have come to the Senate to talk about some of the opportunities in this session to work in a bipartisan way on these critical issues. In fact, I was going to mention that the Senator and I have pursued legislation to tackle the problem of child obesity. I appreciate the majority leader's interest in health care and look forward to working with him in this session.

Mr. President, colleagues, I have believed health care is the most important issue at home since my days as director of the Oregon Gray Panthers. I have thought health care was the most important issue because, in a sense, if our folks do not have their health, it is not possible to work, to learn, to raise children, or do much of anything the American people value.

For me, this is the big priority at home. When we look at what is happening today with medical costs gobbling up everything in sight, the demographic revolution with so many more older people, the tremendous lifesaving technologies we have today which, of course, carry a big price tag, all of these forces come together to present an issue that just cannot be ducked any longer. To put it in perspective, David Walker, the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office, put it pretty well, saying that the Medicare problem is about seven times greater than the Social Security problem and it has gotten much worse. It is

much bigger. It is more immediate. It is going to be much more difficult to effectively address.

That is the view of the Comptroller General. He is talking about Medicare. But in my view, the concerns that David Walker talks about with respect to Medicare extend to the health care system as a whole.

This afternoon for a few minutes I will chart a course as it relates to health care: first, a number of steps that could be taken right now that would significantly help the American people as we deal with this health care challenge. Then I will discuss, for the longer term, another bipartisan effort I have had a chance to team up with Senator HATCH on that will be implemented over the next few weeks.

But if I might, I would like to start with Medicare. I think Senator FRIST is right; these Medicare costs are soaring. For the prescription drug legislation alone, it is clear now the price tag will be in the vicinity of $100 billion more than Congress originally calculated. That is the current estimate. Many have said it will be much greater. I think it is critically important that steps be taken to contain costs, particularly as relates to this fast-growing area that we will be faced with, that is prescription drugs.

We all hear about it from our constituents. Every time we are home, folks tell us about how skyrocketing prescription drug costs are such a hardship on them. They want to know what Congress is going to do to respond to it.

One of the things I think has been so exacerbating about this issue of cost containment as it relates to prescription drugs is that the Medicare program is not even employing the kind of cost containment tools you see in the private sector. If you are talking, for example, about a big timber company, the Presiding Officer (the Senator from Idaho) and I know big timber firms and other natural resources firms use their bargaining power in order to try to hold down the cost of medicine and other essentials. The Medicare program is not doing that. The Medicare program is not using the kind of bargaining power that exists in the private sector today.

In fact, if you are an older person, and you go off and purchase your medicine, either now or even in the future, under many of the plans that will be offered under the new program, you have no bargaining power, and in effect you are subsidizing those big private-sector buyers, whether they are steel firms, timber firms, auto companies, or various other kinds of concerns. I do not think that is right.

(Mr. TALENT assumed the chair.)

Mr. WYDEN. I am very pleased I have had a chance over the last few years to team up with Senator SNOWE of Maine on a bipartisan effort to contain those prescription drug costs, using essentially the model of more bargaining power the way private sector firms have.

Part of the Medicare prescription drug bill that I think is very unfortunate is a statutory ban on Medicare using its bargaining power to hold down the cost of medicine the way big private-sector buyers would use their bargaining power. So Senator SNOWE and I would like to change that. We would like to lift that bargaining power restriction so Medicare would be in a position to use marketplace forces to hold down the cost of prescription drugs.

A few weeks ago, we got a big boost for our bipartisan legislation when the outgoing Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary Tommy Thompson, said he wished he had had the power the bipartisan Snowe-Wyden legislation would provide. Secretary Thompson gave a press conference, I believe on the day he announced his resignation, and specifically said he wished he had had the tools that the bipartisan legislation the Senator from Maine and I have authored would provide at the time of his service because he could have made those scarce Medicare dollars stretch further.

So I think Secretary Thompson gave a pretty ringing bipartisan endorsement for the legislation Senator SNOWE and I will be reintroducing very shortly. It seems to me to make sure that seniors get the best value in the marketplace, that taxpayers get their money's worth under the Medicare program, a program that is, of course, soaring in costs, we ought to make sure we use the kinds of tools the private sector uses.

In the bipartisan legislation I have written with Senator SNOWE—it is called the MEND bill, the Medicare Enhancement for Needed Drugs legislation—we would have a chance, in my view, to significantly rein in these costs using the power of the marketplace. But I bring this up first by way of saying this is just the beginning of what I think we could do in this session of Congress.

I want to move now to the issue of catastrophic illness. The Senator from Missouri and I represent a lot of small businesses. We enjoyed our service on the Small Business Committee when we were in the House. I think we and our colleagues all understand if you have a small business, say a hardware store with six people, and one or two of them get particularly sick, that essentially blows the whole health care system for that small hardware store or furniture shop or what have you. In effect, if one or two of the people get sick at the small business, the premiums go through the roof for everybody, and they essentially can go so high that it is not possible for the firm to offer coverage at all.

I was struck in the campaign by Senator KERRY's proposal because I thought it was a very innovative way to help those small businesses rein in their costs. In effect, he was going to use the concept of reinsurance for very large bills that would be faced by a small business. If you have the Government picking up the very large bills for the one or two people at the hardware store in Missouri who have these illnesses, that can stabilize the rate system for everybody.

I thought the Kerry proposal was a good idea. I come to the floor to bring it up because I think if you compare the Kerry proposal to some of the ideas offered by the distinguished majority leader, Senator FRIST, who was just on the floor, his Healthy Mae proposal, while different than the Kerry proposal, certainly in a number of respects both of them are looking at the same core concept, which is to use this idea of reinsurance to pick up the very large bills that would be faced by some of our small businesses.

I think when you look at the Kerry proposal, when you look at the Frist proposal, there is a lot of common ground there to tackle a health care issue of enormous concern to millions of families. All across this country we have citizens who face the prospect of going to bed at night knowing that if the medical bills soar through the roof, they could lose everything. They could lose their home, the capacity to educate their kids. They could lose virtually everything.

So I think it is important we enact a catastrophic illness program. This idea, by the way, has percolated around for decades. Democratic Presidents have talked about it. Republican Presidents have talked about it. Senator KERRY has authored an innovative proposal. Senator FRIST has come up with ideas that I happen to think are attractive. What we ought to be doing as a body is looking for common ground and the opportunity to work together. As Senator SNOWE and I have done with prescription drug cost containment, I would hope the Senate could come together for a bipartisan catastrophic illness proposal that I think would make a very meaningful dent in these huge expenses we so often face for catastrophic illness.

There are other areas that lend themselves to immediate action as well. In this regard, I particularly commend the distinguished senior Senator from New Mexico, Mr. DOMENICI, and the senior Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, for their outstanding work on mental health. We have been working for some time to try to ensure that there would be mental health parity. Having had my late brother, Jeff, suffer from schizophrenia, I have watched these families jostled around in the health care system for years. I know colleagues of both political parties have as well. There is no reason why we cannot get a bipartisan mental health parity effort, a Domenici-Kennedy bill, working with the other body, get that enacted into law, and get it sent to the President—again, a chance for immediate action.

Finally, I mentioned briefly the issue of childhood obesity. It is obvious that

we now have literally an epidemic of childhood obesity problems occurring early on in life that produce other deadly and costly illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. Senator FRIST and I, working with a group of health advocates for children and independent scientists, have put together a bipartisan bill. I hope we can use that legislation as an opportunity for the Senate to come together.

Our proposal essentially involves a modest Government role, particularly at the outset of the program. Then we use a foundation approach to generate additional funds in the private sector. But at the end of the day, under that legislation, we would have a grassroots juggernaut all across the country focused on our schools, on our families, tackling this issue of childhood obesity. Again, there is no reason why we could not act immediately.

On these kinds of issues—and I have outlined four of them now—I believe Congress is on the cusp of success. Bipartisan efforts are underway. Certainly they need some tweaking and some changes, going through the committee process and the negotiations that are essential to pass legislation, but for all practical purposes, in each of these areas—prescription drug cost containment, a program to deal with catastrophic illness, mental health parity, and fighting childhood obesity—we have legislation that is camera-ready to tackle these very serious health care concerns. We ought to have it.

As the Congress moves on these initiatives, we have to also move to address the health care system of tomorrow. In this regard, Senator HATCH and I have worked for several years on the Health Care That Works for All Americans Act. We got it funded finally last year as part of the appropriations legislation. Now the Government Accountability Office is moving to set in place the first stage of the legislation, which would involve naming the 14 individuals who would be part of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group.

The bipartisan effort Senator HATCH and I have pursued for several years is built on the proposition that it is time for the country and the Congress to try something different and to look at this in a dramatically altered way. This may be of some interest to the Presiding Officer because essentially Harry Truman, in the 81st Congress in 1945, tried on the health care issue what Bill Clinton tried back in 1993 and 1994, and essentially all Presidents have tried in between the 1940s and the 1990s. That was to write legislation in Washington, DC. The American people would find these big Federal health reform bills incomprehensible. The various powerful interest groups would attack each other. And essentially nothing would happen. It was essentially driven in the confines of the beltway in Washington. Literally for more than five decades in the debate about creating a health care system that works for everybody, we would essentially have paralysis.

What Senator HATCH and I have sought to do is to try something different; that is, to essentially start this debate outside the beltway, to try to involve the American people in the most important questions, not the various arcane issues about what every single payroll tax level ought to be, but the big kinds of questions—I will outline a couple of those in a moment—and then use that kind of effort, where citizens could be involved in community meetings, citizens could weigh in online, citizens could participate in a variety of ways, to try to build a consensus for the kinds of reforms that would be needed to create a health care system that works for everyone.

Under our legislation, after the Citizens' Working Group is named by Mr. Walker, the head of the Government Accountability Office, what happens next is the working group essentially would put out for the American people, in simple, straightforward English, information—it could be available online, in booklets, senior centers, other places where folks gather—about where the health care dollar goes today. This year we are going to spend in the vicinity of about $1.8 trillion on health care. That is what we are spending on health care, yet it is clear that as far as the country is concerned, there really is no sense where that $1.8 trillion goes now and what the alternatives are for perhaps spending it in a different fashion.

That would be the first task of the Citizens' Working Group, to put out online, in booklets available throughout our communities, information about where the health care dollar goes today and what the various options are for where it might be targeted as an alternative so Americans would have a chance to say: Look, what I am interested in is this kind of approach. Let's say a health savings account or the Associated Health Plan concept, the health plan concept the Senator from Missouri has advocated.

Other citizens might say: I am interested in a single payer kind of system, perhaps in a small community. They think that is the approach that makes sense for them. The point is, until you tell the American people where the health care dollar is going now, it is hard to have a debate with respect to changes that might be necessary so the Congress, on a bipartisan basis, could in effect move forward with legislation that would create a system that works for everybody.

When Senator HATCH and I began this effort, we made a systematic effort to make it as inclusive as we possibly could. The legislation early on won the support of the Chamber of Commerce, the AFL–CIO, and the American Association of Retired Persons—certainly a coalition that doesn't agree all the time on health care or other kinds of issues. We have had many groups endorse the effort since. The reason they have is they believe it is critical that something new be tried.

What happens under our legislation, after the Citizens' Working Group has made it possible for folks to see where the $1.8 trillion we are spending on health care goes now, is that our citizens will have a chance to participate in open community meetings, online, and other kinds of sessions so that they would have a chance to be heard on the second stage of this very different approach with respect to health care reform.

After our citizens have had a chance to be heard, then the Citizens' Working Group in effect takes that kind of sentiment they have heard from all corners of the Nation and tries to synthesize it into a set of recommendations to the Congress. And under our legislation, within 60 days after the Citizens' Working Group has provided the recommendations to the Congress with respect to what the American people have said, each committee of jurisdiction has to begin hearings on what has come from the Citizens' Working Group in terms of the recommendations of the American people.

I want to close by giving a few examples of the kind of areas where I think we have to have the input of the American people where they have never been asked. For example, the issue of end-of-life care is absolutely essential in terms of a new focus for health care reform. We know that many of our health care dollars are spent in the last few months of an individual's life. We are told by many medical experts—doctors, hospitals, and others—that in many of those instances there is nothing they can do that is medically effective, and there is nothing they can do to enhance the quality of life for the individual. So the question for the country and for courageous political leadership is: What should we do with respect to end-of-life care?

If we are being told by our best doctors and hospitals that they cannot do anything that is medically effective, cannot do anything to promote a better quality of life for individuals, do we want to refocus the health care dollars to make sure, for example, that there are better hospice programs and better end-of-life care programs for individuals facing those kinds of health challenges? I personally think that is where the American people are going to end up. Let's ask them, for the first time, how they want to deal with these very difficult social and ethical issues with respect to American health care. I submit that financial issues with respect to health care are very difficult, no question about that. I think the social and ethical issues, with respect to end-of-life care, where much of the health care dollar gets spent today, are even more challenging, but we have to act. That is the kind of question that would be posed by the Citizens' Working Group. I think other issues are important.

I am particularly interested in the issue of personal responsibility. I think that has been part of what has been driving the debate with respect to health savings accounts and other such

approaches. I have been discussing with my constituents in town hall meetings the idea that if we are to have a system that works for everybody in terms of affordable quality health care, I am prepared to say that an individual should, every time they use a medical service, if they are not destitute, have to make a payment on the spot so as to ensure that there is a clear requirement of personal responsibility. Certainly, that will be controversial, but that is the kind of issue that has to be discussed with respect to health reform.

Finally, I think the question of addressing health care—and particularly Senator HATCH and I have tried to do it in a bipartisan way—means you have to get beyond the blame game. Sometimes when you have a discussion about health care, the topic comes up that Republicans say it is the trial lawyers' fault; nail the trial lawyers and everything is going to be fine. Then you go meet with Democrats and Democrats say, yes, we have to have health reform. Go nail the insurance companies; do that and everything will be fine. I think—and Senator HATCH and I have talked about this—if we are going to have a health care program that works for all Americans, we are going to have to get beyond the blame game. You bet changes need to be made in the insurance sector, because they do skim the cream and take the healthy people, and they do send sick people to Government programs that are sicker than they are. There do need to be changes in those insurance practices. I think we also understand that there are frivolous cases and abuses in the legal sector, and changes would be necessary there if we are to have meaningful reform and a health care program that works for all Americans.

It seems to me this is an issue that we cannot duck because come 2010, 2011, 2012, medical costs will clearly consume just about everything in sight. I submit that the problems we are seeing today in terms of small business premium hikes, folks falling between the cracks—they are not old enough for Medicare or not poor enough for Medicaid; our Medicare providers are understandably frustrated by the reimbursement system—if we keep nibbling at the Medicare health care system, the problems we are seeing today are going to seem like small potatoes compared to what happens in 2010, 2011, and 2012. On New Year's Day in 2008, this demographic influx, in effect, of 7 million-plus retirees we will see over the next few years is going to start to retire. That happens New Year's Day 2008. So the reason I have come to the floor this afternoon is I wanted to outline a number of steps—four, specifically—that I thought Congress could tackle in a bipartisan way that would make a meaningful difference right now: the legislation Senator SNOWE and I have authored in terms of prescription drug cost containment, using marketplace forces to hold down prescription drug costs; catastrophic illness, and looking particularly at ideas that Senators KERRY and FRIST have talked about; the question of mental health parity; childhood obesity. Again, we can build where there is a bipartisan foundation for congressional action. These are steps we ought to take now. Then we ought to use the next couple of years—as Senator HATCH and I have tried to do in a bipartisan kind of way—to build a health care system that works for all Americans. Our legislation is moving ahead.

The Government Accountability Office is appointing the Citizens' Health Care Working Group right now. The $3 million appropriated for the legislation—and I am grateful to Senators SPECTER and HARKIN for that particular work—is going to allow us, in our Health Care That Works For All Americans Act, to take a very different approach to break this spiral which dates back to 1945, tried by Harry Truman in the 81st Congress, and continued literally up through the time of President Clinton. Making sure the public has the facts is the first task of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group established in the legislation I have authored with Senator HATCH. Second is to make sure the public gets a chance to weigh in. Finally, to ensure public accountability, the Congress is under a requirement to move forward with hearings after the Citizens' Working Group has reported.

So I think it is appropriate on this first day of the new session to zero in on the health care issue. I have been very closely following the discussions colleagues on both sides of the aisle have made with respect to the tragedy that has taken place overseas. I am very pleased to hear that Majority Leader FRIST is leading a trip to the area and will come back with ideas for bipartisan action on that terrible tragedy. I wanted to talk about what I think is the most pressing issue at home, the health care challenge, and particularly to outline bipartisan steps that could be taken now. I also look forward to working with my colleagues as the legislation I have authored with Senator HATCH is implemented in the weeks ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 45 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first let me say to my friend, Senator WYDEN, he has always been a champion of that cause. A lot of us with different political philosophies rely on his judgment, his experience, his background, and those things he has accomplished in the field of health care. I look forward to working with him in this coming year.

GLOBAL WARMING DEBATE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as I said on the Senate floor on July 28, 2003, much of the debate over global warming is predicated on fear rather than science. I am the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. In addition to its normal expected jurisdictions, the committee also has a lot to do with the Energy bill. We have probably as many provisions in the Energy bill as the Energy Committee does. It is one with which we have great concern.

We recognize we have an energy crisis in America. The House passed a very good Energy bill last year. We should have passed it in the Senate. We did not. I hope we will pass it this time. In the meantime, we need to do what I committed to do when I became chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee 2 years ago. We are going to encourage decisions that are made in Government to be made on sound science.

Many times that is not the case, and such a case is the hoax referred to as ''global warming.'' I called the threat of catastrophic global warming the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people in a statement, to put it mildly, that was not viewed very kindly by the environmental extremists and their elitist organizations.

I also pointed out in a lengthy committee report that those same environmental extremists exploit the issue for fundraising purposes, raking in millions of dollars, even using Federal taxpayers' dollars to finance the campaigns.

For these groups, the issue of catastrophic global warming is not just a favored fundraising tool. In truth, it is more fundamental than that. Put simply, man-induced global warming is an article of religious faith to the radical far left alarmists. Therefore, contending that its central tenets are flawed to them is heresy and of the most despicable kind. Furthermore, scientists who challenge its tenets are attacked sometimes personally for blindly ignoring the so-called scientific consensus. That is not all. Because of their skeptical views, they are contemptuous, dismissed for being ''out of the mainstream.''

This seems to me highly ironic. Aren't scientists to be nonconforming and question consensus? Nevertheless, it is not hard to read between the lines. ''Skeptic'' and ''out of mainstream'' are their thinly veiled code phrases meaning anyone who doubts the alarmists' orthodoxy is, in short, a quack.

I have insisted all along that the climate change debate should be based on fundamental principles and science, not religion. Ultimately, I hope it will be decided by hard facts and data and by serious scientists committed to the principles of sound science instead of censoring skeptical viewpoints, as my alarmist friends favor.

These scientists must be heard, and I will do my part to make sure they are

heard. I am sure the Presiding Officer from Rhode Island is very much concerned with the sound science with which we address this subject.

Since my detailed climate change speech in 2003, so-called skeptics continue to speak out. What they are saying is devastating to the alarmists. They amassed additional scientific evidence convincingly refuting the alarmists' most cherished assumptions and beliefs. New evidence has emerged that further undermines their conclusions, most notably those of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, one of the major pillars of the authorities cited by the extremists and climate alarmists.

I guess what I am saying is we are going to be looking at this new evidence. Just since we have adjourned and have come back in today to swear in our new Members, the scientists are almost entirely on the side that there is no sound science behind the idea that, No. 1, the climate is changing and, No. 2, if it is that it is the result of manmade gases. Evidence has come to light in very interesting times.

Just last month, the 10th Conference of the Parties—that is called the COP–10—to the Framework Convention on Climate Change met in Buenos Aires to discuss Kyoto's implementation and measures to pursue beyond Kyoto.

As most of my colleagues know, Kyoto goes into effect on February 16. I think, with the exception of Russia, an exception I will explain later, the nations that ratified Kyoto and agreed to submit to its mandates are making a very serious mistake.

I went to this meeting, the conference, COP–9, last year in Milan, Italy. It was shocking to see what was actually going on there. I was involved in a mission in west Africa. I saw a person I deal with on a regular basis from a little country in west Africa who was there. It happens that his title in his country's government is Minister of the Environment. I said: What are you doing here? Do you really believe in this Kyoto stuff?

He said: Oh, no, this is the biggest party of the year.

These people are paid for by the United Nations and paid for by this country, in an inordinate amount, percentage, to come up with and have big parties for 3, 4, 5 days in some of the most exotic places in the world just to show support for Kyoto. It is outrageous.

In addition, last month, a popular author, Dr. Michael Crichton, who has questioned the wisdom of those who trumpet a scientific consensus, released a new book called ''State of Fear.'' You all know who Dr. Michael Crichton is. He is a medical doctor as well as a scientist and best-selling author. This is all premised on the global warming debate.

I am happy to report Dr. Crichton's new book reached No. 3 on the New York Times bestseller list. I highly recommend this book to the Presiding Officer. I will supply him with this book because I think it is imperative people see some of what is going on right now and how public opinion is catching on to this hoax that has permeated our country for so long.

Dr. Crichton, as I said, is a medical doctor and scientist. He very cleverly weaved a very compelling presentation of the scientific facts of climate change—with ample footnotes and documentation throughout, I might add—into a gripping plot. From what I can gather Dr. Crichton's book is designed to bring some sanity to the global warming debate. In the author's message at the end of his book, he refreshingly states what scientists have suspected for years. He says:

> We are also in the midst of a natural warming trend that began about 1850—

I do not know who will argue with that.

> —as we emerged from a 400 year cold spell known as the Little Ice Age.

Dr. Crichton states that ''nobody knows how much of the present warming trend might be a natural phenomenon,'' and ''Nobody knows how much of the present trend might be man-made.''

For those who see impending disaster in the coming century, Dr. Crichton writes:

> I suspect that people of 2100 will be much richer than we are, consume much more energy, have a smaller global population, and enjoy more wilderness than we have today. I don't think we have to worry about them.

For those who do worry or induce such worries in others, ''State of Fear'' has a very simple message: Stop worrying and stop spreading fear. Throughout the book, fictional environmental organizations are more focused on raising money, principally by scaring potential contributors with bogus scientific claims and predictions of the global apocalypse, than they are with saving the environment.

As the saying goes, here we have art imitating life. As my colleagues will remember from a floor speech I gave last year, this is part and parcel of what these organizations peddle to the general public. Their fearmongering knows no bounds. Just consider the debate over mercury emissions. President Bush proposed the first ever cap to reduce mercury emissions from powerplants by 70 percent. True to form, these groups said he was allowing more mercury into the air. Now stop and think about it. Right now there is no cap on mercury. It is proposed by this President for the first time.

As I mentioned earlier, several nations, including the United States, met in Buenos Aires in December for the 10th round of the international climate change negotiations. I am happy to report that the U.S. delegation held firm both in its categorical rejection of Kyoto and the questionable science behind it.

Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs and the leader of the U.S. delegation, put it very well when she told the conference:

> Science tells us that we cannot say with any certainty what constitutes a dangerous level of warming, and therefore what level must be avoided.

Ms. Dobriansky and her team also rebuffed attempts by the European Union to drag the United States into discussions concerning post-Kyoto climate change commitments. With the ink barely dry on Kyoto ratification, not to mention what the science of climate change is telling us, Ms. Dobriansky was right in dubbing post-2012 talks premature.

It was clear from discussions in Buenos Aires that Kyoto supporters desperately want the United States to impose on itself mandatory greenhouse emissions controls. Moreover, there was considerable discussion but no apparent resolution over how to address emissions from developing countries such as India and especially China, which over the coming decades will be the world's leading emitter of greenhouse gases.

Developing nations, most notably China, remained adamant in Buenos Aires in opposing any mandatory greenhouse gas reductions now or any time in the future. Securing this commitment was a necessary component for the U.S. ratification of Kyoto.

Now, some may not have been here at the time, but 2 years ago we passed the Byrd-Hagel resolution that said that if Kyoto treats developing nations any different than developed nations, we will not ratify it. That passed 95 to 0. Every Senator voted that way, and it was very clear. So I think one can say with that commitment at least in the United States that Kyoto is dead.

Kyoto goes into force on February 16. According to the European Union Environmental Ministry, most EU member states will not meet their Kyoto targets. That is kind of interesting because the very people who are behind it and are so adamant that, yes, we must do this, are the ones who have not met their voluntary targets and have no real intention of doing so. They may do so only on paper due to Russia's ratification of the treaty.

Russia, of course, ratified Kyoto not because its government believes in catastrophic global warming—it does not—but because ratification was Russia's key to joining the World Trade Organization. Also, under Kyoto, Russia can profit from selling emission credits to the European Union and continue business as usual without undertaking economically harmful emissions reductions.

Just stop and think about this now. We are talking about the huge, massive country of Russia. I have been active in aviation for 48 years now, and I had occasion a few years ago to fly an airplane around the world, replicating the flight of Wiley Post. In doing so, I went all the way across Siberia. I can remember going not just hour after hour but time zone after time zone, seeing no signs of civilization, just great forests. Well, they ended up getting credits for all of that. When I talked to the

Russian people last year in Milan, Italy, they were very straightforward, saying: No, there is no science to it, but we stand to make millions of dollars if we sign on to this thing.

That was my first indication that they were going to do so.

So as the talks in Buenos Aires revealed, if alarmists cannot get what they want at the negotiating table, they will try other means. I was told by reliable sources that some delegation members of the European Union suddenly hinted that America's rejection of Kyoto could be grounds for a challenge under WTO. I surely hope this was just a hypothetical suggestion and not something our European friends are actively and seriously considering. I predict such a move would be devastating to the United States and the United States-European Union relations, not to mention the WTO itself.

I suspect it is not just hypothetical. The lawsuit is the stock and trade of environmental activists. We are witnessing a new crop of global warming lawsuits now being leveled at individual U.S. companies and at the United States itself.

In Buenos Aires, Earth Justice, a San Francisco-based environmental group, and the Center for International Law announced plans to seek a ruling from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights that the U.S., because of its supposed contribution to global warming, is causing environmental degradation in the Arctic and therefore violating the human rights of Alaska's Inuits, or Eskimos. As the New York Times wrote:

> The commission, an investigative arm of the Organization of American States, has no enforcement powers. But a declaration that the United States has violated the Inuits' rights could create the foundation for an eventual lawsuit, either against the United States in an international court or against American companies in a U.S. court, said a number of legal experts, including some aligned with industry.

The Times did not mention that such lawsuits already have been filed with the U.S.

Eliot Spitzer, New York's State attorney general, along with eight other State attorneys general, mainly from the Northeast, last year sued five coal burning electric utilities in the Midwest. The reason: ''Given that these are among the largest carbon dioxide polluters in the world,'' Mr. Spitzer wrote, ''it is essential that the court direct them to reduce their emissions.''

To me, this is a clear-cut sign of desperation by the alarmists, but I am not surprised. President Bush has rejected Kyoto. The Senate has rejected Kyoto 95 to 0. The Senate rejected the McCain-Lieberman bill by 55 to 43, and there is little hope that Congress will pass mandatory greenhouse gas reduction, at least not in the near future. So resorting to the courts is their last hope. I hope the courts have enough sense in moderation to reject these lawsuits out of hand.

I am interested, for one, to see how Mr. Spitzer quantifies with scientific precision just how these particular companies have contributed to climate change. How is it, one might ask, that emissions, specifically from American Electric Power, are causing rising sea levels, droughts, or hurricanes? Such efforts fly in the face of compelling new scientific evidence that makes a mockery of these lawsuits.

By now most everyone familiar with the climate change debate knows about the hockey stick graph constructed by Dr. Michael Mann and his colleagues which shows that temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere remained relatively stable over 900 years and then spiked upward in the 20th century. The hockey stick graph was featured prominently in IPCC's third assessment report published in 2001. The conclusion inferred from the hockey stick is that industrialization, which spawned widespread use of fossil fuels, is causing the planet to warm.

I spent considerable time examining this work in my 2003 speech because Dr. Michael Mann effectively erased the well-known phenomena of the medieval warming period. In other words, he never even recognized—I wish we had the chart because I have a chart that shows this, and one can see the shaft of the hockey stick over 900 years go like this, but all of a sudden in the 20th century it starts up like this, and they failed to realize that there was another blade in the hockey stick that was the medieval warming period where the temperatures were warmer than they are today. This has been going on since creation. I think the fact that he did it—I was challenged in a speech that I made in Italy on this subject. I said I believe Michael Mann must have intentionally left that off because that completely destroys the credibility of his findings.

But don't take my word for it. Just ask Dr. Hans Von Storch, a noted German climate researcher, who, along with colleagues, published a devastating finding in the Sept. 30, 2004 issue of Science magazine. As the authors wrote: ''We were able to show in a publication in Science that this [hockey stick] graph contains assumptions that are not permissible. Methodologically it is wrong: Rubbish.''

Dr. Von Storch and colleagues discovered that the Mann hockey stick had severely underestimated past climate variability. In a commentary on Dr. von Storch's paper, T.J. Osborn and K.R. Briffa, prominent paleoclimatologists from the University of East Anglia, stressed the importance of the findings. As they wrote, ''The message of the study by von Storch et al. is that existing reconstructions of the NH [northern hemisphere] temperature of recent centuries may systematically underestimate the true centennial variability of climate'' . . . and, ''If the true natural variability of NH [northern hemisphere] temperature is indeed greater than is currently accepted, the extent to which recent warming can be viewed as 'unusual' would need to be reassessed.'' In other words, in obliterating the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age, Mann's hockey stick just doesn't pass muster.

Dr. Von Storch is one of many critics of Michael Mann's hockey stick. To recount just one example, three geophysicists from the University of Utah, in the April 7, 2004 issue of Geophysical Research Letters, concluded that Mann's methods used to create his temperature reconstruction were deeply flawed. In fact, their judgment is harsher than that. As they wrote, Mann's results are ''based on using end points in computing changes in an oscillating series'' and are ''just bad science.'' I repeat: ''just bad science.''

As to the arctic climate assessment, these findings, alongside a spate of new reports, at least in the eyes of the media supposedly confirm the ''consensus'' on global warming. ''The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment,'' released last fall, perfectly fits that mold. ''Arctic Perils Seen in Warming,'' blared a headline by the New York Times. As the Times wrote: ''The findings support the broad but politically controversial scientific consensus that global warming is caused mainly by rising atmosphere concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, and that the Arctic is the first region to feel its effects.''

What do we really know about temperatures in the Arctic? Let's take a closer look. As Oregon State University climatologist George Taylor has shown, Arctic temperatures are actually slightly cooler today than they were in the 1930s. As Dr. Taylor has explained, it's all relative—in other words, it depends on the specific time period chosen in making temperature comparisons. The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, Dr. Taylor wrote: ''appears to be guilty of selective use of data. Many of the trends described in the document begin in the 1960s or 1970s—cool decades in much of the world—and end in the warmer 1990s or early 2000s. So, for example, temperatures have warmed in the last 40 years, and the implication, 'if present trends continue,' is that massive warming will occur in the next century.''

Dr. Taylor concluded this way: ''Yet data are readily available for the 1930s and early 1940s, when temperatures were comparable to (and probably higher than) those observed today. Why not start the trend there? Because there is no net warming over the last 65 years?

This is pretty convincing stuff. But, one might say, this is only one scientist, while nearly 300 scientists in several countries, including the United States, signed onto the Arctic report. I want to submit for the record a list of scientists, compiled by the Center For Science and Public Policy, from several countries, including the United States, whose published work shows current Arctic temperature is no higher than temperatures in 1930s and 1940s.

For example, according to a group of 7 scientists in a 2003 issue of the Journal of Climate: ''In contrast to the global and hemispheric temperature, the maritime Arctic temperature was higher in the late 1930s through the early 1940s than in the 1990s.'' Or how about this excerpt from the 2000 International Journal of Climatology, by Dr. Rajmund Przybylak, of Nicholas Copernicus University, in Torun, Poland: ''The highest temperatures since the beginning of instrumental observation occcured clearly in the 1930s and can be attributed to changes in atmospheric circulation.''

I ask unanimous consent the list of scientists be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

[See exhibit 1.]

Mr. INHOFE. Despite this evidence, alarmism is live and well. As you can see behind me, the Washington Post today ran an editorial cartoon that, yes, actually blames the Sumatra tsunami on global warming. Are we to believe now that global warming is causing earthquakes? The tsunami, of course, was caused by an earthquake off Sumatra's coast deep beneath the sea floor, completely disconnected from whatever the climate was doing at the surface. Regrettably, the tsunami-warming connection merely confirms the state of fear extremists are so eager to create. As Terence Corcoran of Canada's Financial Post wrote: ''The urge to capitalize on the horror in Asia is just too great for some to resist if it might help their cause . . . Green Web sites are already filling up with references to tsunami risks associated with global warming.''

There is something inhumane about that, that they would capitalize on the tragedy of a hundred thousand people to push a hoax like global warming.

To address this, let's ask some simple questions: Is global warming causing more extreme weather events of greater intensity, and is it causing sea levels to rise? The answer to all of these is emphatically no. Just look at this chart behind me. It's titled ''Climate Related Disasters in Asia: 1900 to 1990s.'' What does it show? It shows the number of such disasters in Asia, and the deaths attributed to them, declining fairly sharply over the last 30 years.

Let's take hurricanes. Alarmists linked last year's hurricanes that devastated parts of Florida to global warming. But this is patently false. Credible meteorologists were quick to dismiss such claims. Hugh Willoughby, senior scientist at the International Hurricane Research Center of Florida International University stated Plainly: ''This isn't a global-warming sort of thing. . . It's a natural cycle,'' A team led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Dr. Christopher Landsea concluded that the relationship of global temperatures to the number of intense land-falling hurricanes is either non-existent or very weak. In this chart you can see that the overall number of hurricanes and the number of the strongest hurricanes fluctuated greatly during the last century, with a great number in the 1940s. In fact, through the last decade, the intensity of these storms has declined somewhat.

What about sea level rise? Alarmists have claimed for years that sea level, because of anthropogenic warming, is rising rapidly. Based on modeling, the IPCC estimated that sea level will rise 1.8 millimeters annually, or about one-fourteenth of an inch.

But in a study published this year in Global and Planetary Change, Dr. Nils-Axel Morner of Sweden found that sea level rise hysteria was overblown. In his study, which relied not only on observational records, but also on satellites he concluded that: ''there is a total absence of any recent 'acceleration in sea level rise' as often claimed by IPCC and related groups.'' Yet we still hear of a future world overwhelmed by floods due to global warming. Such claims are completely out of touch with science. As Sweden's Morner puts it, ''there is no fear of massive future flooding as claimed in most global warming scenarios.''

What I have outlined today will not appear in the New York Times. Instead you will read much about ''consensus'' and Kyoto and hand wringing by its editorial writers that unrestricted carbon dioxide emissions from the United States are harming the planet. You will read nothing, of course, about how Kyoto-like policies harm Americans, especially the poor and minorities, causing higher energy prices, reduced economic growth, and fewer jobs. After all, that is the real purpose behind Kyoto, as Morgot Wallstrom, the EU's environment minister, said in a moment of candor. To her, Kyoto is about ''leveling the playing field'' for businesses worldwide—in other words, we can't compete, so let's use a feel-good treaty, based on shoddy science, fear, and alarmism, which will have no perceptible impact on the environment, to restrict America's economic growth and prosperity. Unfortunately for Ms. Wallstrom and Kyoto's staunchest advocates, America was wise to the scheme, and it has rejected Kyoto and similar policies convincingly. Whatever Kyoto is about—to some, such as French President Jacques Chirac, it's about forming ''an authentic global governance''—it's the wrong policy and it won't work, as many participants in Buenos Aires conceded.

I recommend—and I will include at the end of my remarks—the economic study which was done by the Wharton School of Economics talking about what would happen to America and the cost of global warming. If we should sign on to Kyoto, what would it cost? They go into detail. They talk about doubling the price of energy. They talk about the price of fuel more than doubling.

Keep in mind this is the economic survey. They talk about the cost to the average family of four in America being $2,715 a year by 2010.

People have to understand that the economic destruction of our country is something that would inure to the benefit of the European Union and many others who are in competition with us. We have to understand that there is an economic motive behind it which one would have to seriously consider.

Despite the bias, omissions, and distortions by the media and extremist groups, the real story about global warming is being told and, judging by the success of Michael Crichton's ''State of Fear,'' much to the dismay of certain groups, it is now being told to the American public.

I think one thing which we all have to understand in this body is we have to recognize the fact that we have an energy crisis in America today. Right now, there are a few people around the country who are now catching on that it is true. We need all forms of energy to run this great machine called America. Our forms of energy can be nuclear, they can be renewable, they can be fossil fuel, coal, oil, gas, all of the above. It is what we will have to have in order to be competitive.

Chairing the committee and being active in the upcoming energy bill, we anticipate being realistic in thinking about not just ourselves today—not just my four kids or my 12 grandchildren and future generations—but you are going to have to run this most successful, highly industrialized machine ever conceived in the history of the world. And you can't do it sitting around closing the door on all opportunities that we have for energy. Certainly one is coal.

Certainly we need to look at this whole issue of global warming and what the real motives are of these people who are behind this.

I gave a speech on this floor the last session and talked about the amount of money—I am also going to insert that for the RECORD—being paid to elect people, money that is being filtered through a lot of these organizations. There is a lot of money made out there by causing people to be fearful, by making people afraid, by making people feel that the world is coming to an end. It is not.

EXHIBIT I

SCIENTIST

Rajmund Przybylak, Department of Climatology, Nicholas Copernicus University, Torun, Poland

PAPER

Temporal and spatial variance of surface air temperature over the period of instrumental observations in the Arctic, International Journal of Climatology, 20, 587–614, 2000.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''A detailed analysis of the spatial and temporal changes in mean seasonal and annual surface air temperatures over the period of instrumental observations in the Arctic is presented . . . The presented analysis

shows that the observed variations in air temperature in the real Arctic (defined on the basis of climate as opposed to other criteria, e.g. astronomical or botanical) are in many aspects not consistent with the projected climatic changes computed by climatic models for the enhanced greenhouse effect. The highest temperatures since the beginning of instrumental observation occurred clearly in the 1930s and can be attributed to changes in atmospheric circulation. The second phase of contemporary global warming (after 1975) is, at most, weakly marked in the Arctic. For example, the mean rate of warming for the period 1991–1995 was 2–3 times lower in the Arctic than the global average. Temperature levels observed in Greenland in the last 10–20 years are similar to those observed in the 19th century.''

SCIENTISTS

Igor V. Polyakov, Roman V. Bekryaev, Uma S. Bhatt, Roger L. Colony, Alexander P. Maskshtas, David Walsh, International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska

Genrikh V. Alekseev, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia

Mark A. Johnson, Institute of Marine Science, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

Variability and trends of air temperature and pressure in the Maritime Arctic, 1875–2000, Journal of Climate, 16, 2086–2092, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''Arctic atmospheric variability during the industrial era (1875–2000) is assessed using spatially averaged surface air temperature (SAT) and sea level pressure (SLP) records. Air temperature and pressure display strong multidecadal variability on timescales of 50–80 yr. Associated with this variability, the Arctic SAT record shows two maxima: in the 1930s–40s and in recent decades, with two colder periods in between. In contrast to the global and hemispheric temperature, the maritime Arctic temperature was higher in the late 1930s through the early 1940s than in the 1990s.''

SCIENTISTS

James. E. Overland, Harold O. Mofjeld, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pacific Marine Laboratory, Seattle, Washington

Michael C. Spillane, Donald B. Percival, Muyin Wang, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

PAPER

Seasonal and regional variation of pan-arctic surface air temperature over the instrumental record. Journal of Climate, 17, 3263–3282, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

This paper presents results that show that there are seasonal and regional differences in the patterns of historical temperature in the Arctic. With the exception of spring, the authors report that the current climate in the Arctic is not unique in the instrumental record (which begins in the late 1800s).

SCIENTISTS

Vladimir A. Semenov, Lennart Bengstsson, Max Plank Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg, Germany

PAPER

Modes of the wintertime Arctic air temperature variability. Geophysical Research Letters, 30, 1781–1784, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

The researchers present results which show that average Arctic temperature undergoes large variations, driven by the dominance of different internal modes. The most recent temperature rise is shown to be related to atmospheric circulation factors in the North Atlantic Ocean while an early 20th century warming of nearly equal magnitude was possibly related to long-term sea ice variations.

TOPIC: RECENT CLIMATE CHANGE IN ALASKA

As a U.S. Senator, you were rightly concerned about the state of the conditions in Alaska, and on repeated instances you asked for specifics about observed climate changes there. On each and every occasion, you only received a partial collection of facts about historical temperature and temperature trends that would lead an interested listener to believe that anthropogenic global warming was responsible for the large change in Alaskan temperatures observed over the past 30 to 40 years. In fact, a natural climate shift in the Pacific Ocean that occurred in 1976 is responsible for the observed climate changes in Alaska. Below is a list of researchers, many from the Alaska Climate Research Center at the University of Alaska, who could have supplied you with these facts that were missing from your hearing:

SCIENTISTS

Gerd Wendler, Director and Professor Emeritus, Martin Stuefer, Research Associate, Martha Shulski, Climatologist, Brian Hartmann, Assistant Climatologist, Alaska Climate Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 903 Koyukuk Drive, P.O. Box 757320, Fairbanks, AK 99775–7320

WEB SITE

Temperature Change in Alaska, 1949–2003, http://climate.gi.Aaska.edu/ClimTrends/Change/4903Change.html

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''The topic of climate change has attracted widespread attention in recent years and is an issue that numerous scientists study on various time and space scales. One thing for sure is that the earth's climate has and will continue to change as a result of various natural and anthropogenic forcing mechanisms.

''This page features the trends in mean annual and seasonal temperatures for Alaska's first-order observing stations since 1949 (Fig. 1), the time period for which reliable meteorological data are available. The temperature change varies from one climatic zone to another as well as for different seasons. If a linear trend is taken through mean annual temperatures, the average change over the last 5 decades is about 3.0°F. However, when analyzing the trends for the four seasons, it can be seen that most of the change has occurred in winter and spring, with less of a change in summer and even slight cooling in autumn (see Table below).

''Considering just a linear trend can mask some important variability characteristics in the time series. Figure 2 shows clearly that this trend is non-linear: a linear trend might have been expected from the fairly steady observed increase of CO_2 during this time period. The figure shows the temperature departure from the long-term mean (1949–2003) for the average of all stations. It can be seen that there are large variations from year to year and the 5-year moving average demonstrates cyclical behavior. The period 1949 to 1975 was substantially colder than the period from 1977 to 2003, however since 1977 no additional warming has occurred in Alaska with the exception of Barrow and a few other locations. In 1976, a stepwise shift appears in the temperature data, which corresponds to a phase shift of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation from a negative phase to a positive phase. Synoptic conditions with the positive phase tend to consist of increased southerly flow and warm air advection into Alaska during the winter, resulting in positive temperature anomalies. Click on the table above to see temperature change after the 1976 shift, and for other time periods.''

SCIENTISTS

Brian Hartmann, Gerd Wendler, Alaska Climate Research Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

Manifestations of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation shift of 1976 within Alaskan climatology. Seventh Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography and Joint Symposium on High-Latitude Climate Variations. May 12–16, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''During the year of 1976, the index of the PDO [Pacific Decadal Oscillation] underwent a shift from one of strongly negative phase to one of strongly positive phase. The general circulation and temperature differences witnessed during each of the phases is generally well known, but a fine scale study to understand specific climatological effects within Alaska, including the differing regional effects and responses to the abrupt change, has not been conducted. The present study is an effort to clearly discern the specific manner in which the regime shift was experienced throughout Alaska.''

''The magnitude and sudden nature of the shift in the PDO Index is paralleled by strong local temperature increases in Alaska, suggesting that significant local changes in other meteorological variables should be seen as well . . .

''[Atmospheric circulation patterns associated with the 1976 PDO regime shift] explain the immense warming of 10 °C observed in January from one decade to the next in the Interior, a value far beyond that which can be explained by increased CO_2 and other green house gases.''

SCIENTISTS

Brian Hartmann, Gerd Wendler, Alaska Climate Research Center, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

On the significance of the 1976 Pacific climate shift in the climatology of Alaska, Journal of Climate, under review.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''The 1976 Pacific climate shift is examined and its manifestations and significance in Alaskan climatology during the last half-century are demonstrated. The regime shift is quantified by the Pacific Decadal Oscillation Index shift in 1976 from dominantly negative values for the 25-year time period 1951–1975 to dominantly positive values for the period 1977–2001.

''Mean annual and seasonal temperatures for the positive phase were up to 3.1 °C higher than for the negative phase. Likewise, mean cloudiness, wind speeds, and precipitation amounts increased while mean sea level pressure and geopotential heights decreased. The pressure decrease resulted in a deepening of the Aleutian Low in winter and spring. The intensification of the Aleutian Low increased the advection of relatively warm and moist air to Alaska and storminess over the state.

''The regime shift is also examined for its effect on the long-term temperature trends throughout the state. The trends that have shown climatic warming are strongly biased by the sudden shift from the cooler regime to a warmer regime in 1976. When analyzing the

total time period from 1951 to 2001, warming is observed, however the 25-year period trend analyses before 1976 (1951–1975) and thereafter (1977–2001) both display cooling. In this paper we emphasize the importance of taking into account the sudden changes that result from abrupt climatic shifts, persistent regimes and the possibility of cyclic oscillations, such as the PDO, in the analysis of long-term climate change in Alaska.''

SCIENTISTS

Feng Sheng Hu, University of Illinois, Urbana Illinois
Emi Ito, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Thomas A. Brown, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California
B. Brandon Curry, Illinois State Geological Survey, Champaign, Illinois
Daniel R. Engstrom, Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix, Minnesota

PAPER

Pronounced climatic variations in Alaska during the last two millennia, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 98, 10552–10556, 2001.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''We conducted multiproxy geochemical analysis of a sediment core from Farewell Lake (62° 33′ N, 153° 38′ W, 320m altitude) in the northwestern foothills of the Alaska Range. These analysis provide the first high-resolution (multidecadal) quantitative record of Alaskan climate variations that spans the last two millennia. . . . Our SWT [surface water temperature] reconstruction at Farewell Lake indicates that although the 20th century, represented by the uppermost three samples, was among the warmest periods of the past two millennia, two earlier intervals may have been comparably warm (A.D. 0–300 and A.D. 850–1200). These data agree with tree-ring evidence from Fennoscandia, indicating that the recent warmth is not atypical of the past 1000 years.''

TOPIC: SEA ICE DECLINES

During your Senate Committee hearing, you also heard testimony about the observed declines in Arctic sea ice during the past several decades and how that in some climate model prognostications, summer sea ice totally disappears from the northern oceans by the end of the 21st century. However, no one told you that a large portion of the observed sea ice declines is related to natural variability, or that in some regions it does not appear that current conditions are any more or less unusual than sea ice condition during the 19th century. Had you invited the scientists below to testify, you would have been made aware of these opinions.

SCIENTISTS:

James E. Overland, Pacific Marine Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Seattle, Washington
Kevin Wood, Arctic Research Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, Maryland

PAPER

Accounts from 19th-century Canadian Arctic Explorers' Logs Reflect Present Climate Conditions, EOS Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, 84, October 7, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''The widely perceived failure of 19th-century expeditions to find and transit the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic is often attributed to extraordinary cold climate conditions associated wit the ''Little Ice Age'' evident in proxy records. However, examination of 44 explorers' logs for the western Arctic from 1818 to 1910 reveals that climate indicators such as navigability, the distribution and thickness of annual sea ice, monthly surface air temperatures, and the onset of melt and freeze were within the present range of variability.''

SCIENTISTS

Ignatius G. Rigor, John M. Wallace, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Roger L. Colony, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

Response of Sea Ice to the Arctic Oscillation, Journal of Climate, 15, 2648–2663, 2002.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''Increased advection of the ice away from the coast during winter during high-index conditions of the AO [Arctic Oscillation] enhanced the production of thin ice in the flaw leads of the East Siberian and Laptev Seas. The cyclonic SIM [sea ice motion] anomaly also enhances the production of thin ice during winter because of the increase in divergence over the eastern Arctic. Both of these processes contribute to thinning of sea ice. These changes in SIM have contributed to the observed trends in sea ice, such as the decreases in ice area and extent, and the thinning of sea ice.

''The changes in SIM also appear to be at least partially responsible for the trends in SAT [surface air temperature] reported by Rigor et al. (2000); that is, the increased latent heat released during the formation of new ice in the diverging leads, and the increased heat flux through thinner ice have contributed to the pronounced warming that has been observed in the East Siberian and Laptev portions of the warm anomaly. Intuitively, one might have expected the warming trends in SAT to cause the thinning of sea ice, but the results presented in this study imply the inverse causality; that is, the thinning ice has warmed SAT by increasing the heat flux from the ocean.''

SCIENTISTS

Greg Holloway, Tessa Sou, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Sidney, British Columbia

PAPER

Has Arctic Sea Ice Rapidly Thinned? Journal of Climate, 15, 1691–1701, 2002.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''Reports based on submarine sonar data have suggested Arctic sea ice has thinned nearly by half in recent decades. Such rapid thinning is a concern for detection of global change and for Arctic regional impacts. Including atmospheric time series, ocean currents and river runoff into an ocean-ice-snow model show that the inferred rapid thinning was unlikely. The problem stems from undersampling. Varying winds that readily redistribute Arctic ice create a recurring pattern whereby ice shifts between the central Arctic and peripheral regions, especially in the Canadian sector. Timing and tracks of the submarine surveys missed this dominant mode of variability.''

SCIENTIST

P. Windsor, Department of Oceanography, Earth Sciences Centre, Göteborg University, Göteborg, Sweden

PAPER

Arctic Sea Ice Thickness Remained Constant during the 1990s. Geophysical Research Letters, 28, 1039–1041, 2001.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''The ice cover of the Arctic Ocean is considered to be a sensitive indicator of global climate change. Recent research, using submarine-based observations, suggests that the Arctic ice cover was thinner in the 1990s compared to an earlier period (1958–1979), and that it continued to decrease in thickness in the 1990s. Here I analyze subsurface ice thickness (draft) of Arctic sea ice from six submarine cruises from 1991 to 1997. This extensive data set shows that there was no trend towards a thinning ice cover during the 1990s. Data from the North Pole shows a slight increase in mean ice thickness, whereas the Beaufort Sea shows a small decrease, none of which are significant. Transects between the two areas from 76 N to 90 N also show near constant ice thicknesses, with a general spatial decrease from the Pole towards the Beaufort Sea. Combining the present results with those of an earlier study, I conclude that the mean ice thickness has remained on a near-constant level around the North Pole from 1986 to 1997.''

SCIENTIST

Torgny Vijne, Norwegian Polar Institute, Oslo, Norway

PAPER

Anomalies and Trends of Sea-Ice Extent and Atmospheric Circulation in the Nordic Seas during the Period 1864–1998. Journal of Climate, 14, 255–254, 2001.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

Vinje constructed a 135-yr time series of sea ice extent in the Nordic Seas and found that while April sea ice extend has declined by about 33 percent during this period, more than half of the decline occurred before 1900. Vinje concluded that ''the time series indicates that we are in a state of continued recovery from the cooling effects of the Little Ice Age, during which a maximum sea-ice expansion was observed around 1800, both in the Iceland Sea and the Barents Sea.''

SCIENTISTS

Igor V. Polyakov, Mark A. Johnson, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

PAPER

Arctic decadal and interdecadal variability, Geophysical Research Letters, 27, 4097–4100,2000.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS:

''The rapid reduction of arctic ice thickness in the 1990s may be one manifestation of the intense atmosphere and ice cyclonic circulation regime due to the synchronous actions of the AO [Arctic Oscillation] and LFO [low-frequency oscillation]. Our results suggest that the decadal AO and multi-decadal LFO drive large amplitude natural variability in the Arctic making a detection of possible long-term trends induced by greenhouse gas warming most difficult.''

TOPIC: GREENLAND MELTING

Another topic one which you heard testimony was the rapid melting of Greenland ice sheets and their potential contribution to rapid global sea level rise. However, none of the panelists told you that there has been an overall decline in Greenland temperatures during the past 60s years, and that despite the warming trend in Greenland during the last decade or so, temperatures still have not reached levels as high there as they were during the 1930s and 1940s.

SCIENTISTS

Petr Chylek, Space and Remote Sensing Sciences, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico
Jason E. Box, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico
Glen Lesins, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

PAPER

Global Warming and the Greenland Ice Sheet, Climatic Change, 63, 201–221, 2004.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''The Greenland surface air temperature trends over the past 50 years do not show persistent warming, in contrast to global average surface air temperatures. The Greenland coastal stations temperature trends over the second half of the past century generally exhibit a cooling tendency with superimposed decadal scale oscillations related to the NAO. At the Greenland ice sheet summit, the temperature record shows a decrease in the summer average temperature at the rate of about 2.2° C/decade, suggesting that the Greenland ice sheet at high elevations does not follow the global warming trend either.

''A significant and rapid temperature increase was observed at all Greenland stations between 1920 and 1930. The average annual temperature rose between 2 and 4 °C in less than ten years. Since the change in anthropogenic production of greenhouses gases at that time was considerably lower than today, this rapid temperature increase suggests a large natural variability of the regional climate.

''High anticorrelations (r = −0.84 to −0.93) between the NAO index and the Greenland temperature records suggest a physical link between these processes. The recent negative shift of the NAO correlates with 1990s warming in Greenland. The NAO may play a crucial role in determining local Greenland climate during the 21st century; resulting in a local climate that may defy the global climate change. This possibility should be considered in models of ice sheet melt and future sea level rise. Forecasting changes in the NAO may be a primary factor in predicting the future Greenland ice sheet mass balance.''

SCIENTISTS

Edward Hanna, Institute of Marine Studies, University of Plymouth

John Cappelen, Danish Meteorological Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark

PAPER

Recent cooling in coastal southern Greenland and relation with the North Atlantic Oscillation, Geophysical Research Letters, 30, doi:10.1029/2002GLO15797, 2003.

KEY QUOTE OR SYNOPSIS

''Analysis of new data for eight stations in coastal southern Greenland, 1958–2001, shows a significant cooling (trend-line change -1.29 °C for the 44 years), as do sea-surface temperatures in the adjacent part of the Labrador Sea, in contrast to global warming (+0.53 °C over the same period). The land and sea temperature series follow similar patterns and are strongly correlated but with no obvious lead/lag either way. This cooling is significantly inversely correlated with an increased phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) over the past few decades (r = -0.76), and will probably have significantly affected the mass balance of the Greenland Ice Sheet.''

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ASIAN TSUNAMI

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the world's thoughts and prayers continue to be focused on the victims of the Asian tsunami. The international community, including governments, private businesses, and ordinary citizens, is providing financial aid and material assistance to affected countries in that region. President Bush and other world leaders deserve praise for quickly providing substantial assistance and resources to disaster response efforts across that region. They have brought hope and relief in the midst of despair.

I want to recognize in particular Japan's substantial pledge to ongoing relief efforts. As chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I intend to continue to work closely with the administration in the days and weeks to come to assess damage and provide targeted relief.

Let me close with an observation on Burma. Predictably, information on the extent of damage in Burma is unknown—this is the way the Burmese junta operates—with the official casualty tally placed by the illegitimate State Peace and Development Council at 59 people. Do international donors, regional governments, or humanitarian NGOs trust this figure? The simple answer, as articulated by Secretary Powell earlier today, is we don't. We don't trust the figure. We don't have any idea how many people either died or are suffering in Burma.

The lack of action or interest in the welfare of the people of Burma, by the military junta, should not be lost on all of the ASEAN members and their dialog partners ahead of the SPDC's chairmanship of that organization in 2006.

I thank everybody on the ground—from personnel at the State Department, USAID, and the Department of Defense to the dedicated staff of humanitarian organizations—for working around the clock with respective governments in those hard-hit countries. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed in the Senate. As we move forward with this relief effort in the near future, our prayers are for those efforts that are being made to ease the incalculable suffering of the people affected by the tsunami.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID ARMAND DEKEYSER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Armand DeKeyser, my chief of staff for 8 years, who is going out into the commercial world. This is a big event for me. It is painful, indeed, to lose one with whom I have been so closely associated for so long. I have known him and worked with him for more than 25 years. We met as we served together for nearly 10 years in the U.S. Army Reserve in Mobile, AL, the 1184th Transportation Terminal Unit. We went to annual training together and became good friends. Armand and his wife Beverly had returned to Mobile after he completed his Active-Duty service with the U.S. Army in Germany. He first, after he returned, worked in the seafood business, Star Fish and Oyster Company, that had been in his family for over 80 years. After another business experience, I hired him as a law enforcement coordinator when I became U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Alabama.

Perhaps his most important contribution there was his leadership for the Weed and Seed Program that revitalized the Martin Luther King neighborhood in Mobile, AL. He helped get the citizens of the community together and drew up a plan for a neighborhood redevelopment program. The city, the county, and the Federal Government all worked together. He did a superb job.

It was a great success. Today that neighborhood is an entirely different community than it was in the early 1990s. I later told him, when they put you in the ground, this is one achievement you know made the world better.

In 1994, I was elected attorney general of Alabama, and the office was in the midst of a funding crisis—and I mean crisis; I do not mean a 1, 2, or 3-percent shortfall. Spending was on track to exceed the funds available to the office by $5 million, and the budget was a $10 million budget.

I chose Armand to be our administrative officer, and his performance was superb. Automobiles were sold, all of them—virtually all of them. Offsite offices were closed. Nonmerit system employees were let go. One-third of the office, virtually all nonmerit employees, had to be terminated—one-third of the Office of the Attorney General. The workload had to be completely reorganized as a result, and Armand's work during that time was nothing short of heroic.

Then in 1996, I was elected to the Senate, and I asked him to serve as my chief of staff. What a great decision that was. He and Beverly agreed to come to Washington—after he and I lived together and shared an apartment together here for a while, a three-story walkup—to take on the task of helping this new and inexperienced Senator get started.

He worked harder and longer during his 8 years than any other employee on our staff. He knows people all over our State, and they like and trust him. He managed so ably we were able to return to the U.S. Treasury each year a substantial portion of the funds given to our office by the Senate.

Most of all, he helped me and others on our staff achieve our best. He subordinated himself to serve the office with

fidelity, diligence, and integrity. Chief of staff is not an easy job, but his gifts and graces were a perfect fit. Whether he was encouraging young staffers, dealing with Governors, generals, administration officials, or the many constituents who call on us for help, he performed superbly.

His military service, including Active Duty and the Army Reserve, was a very valuable asset in his service to me. In fact, the 1184th, after I got out of it, was activated, and he spent almost a year in Kuwait as part of Desert Storm. He retired after 28 years of service with the military at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

The key to Armand's success and his value to our office, I believe, was his deep commitment to an America where the right thing is done and where there is an efficient and lawful process for doing the people's work. He never forgot that the money we spend here has been extracted from some decent American who would otherwise find good use for it. Armand believes we must be good stewards of that money, and that programs and spending are only worthwhile if they produce a valuable return. He feels passionately about this, and our shared values in this regard made us a good team, I think.

He has been a superb public servant, and by thousands of individual acts of accountability, frugality, and integrity—mostly unnoticed by the press or anyone else particularly—he has saved the dutiful taxpayers of America tens of millions of dollars. When he came to Washington, I told him that because of my poor abilities, I needed to have the best staff we could put together. As a result of his leadership, I believe we created and have maintained a magnificent team, without whose help I could not have been successful.

In addition to his wife Beverly, whom I admire so much and with whom he attended Murphy High School in Mobile, where my daughter attended, and Auburn University, he has two fine sons: Phillip, a graduate of Georgia Tech and now a consulting engineer, and David, who commenced as a student at Boston College. He is and has every right to be extremely proud of them.

He and Beverly have opened their lives and home to my staff throughout the years. Serving as a ''home away from home'' for many Alabamians in the area and staff people, Armand's house has been the site of holiday and office gatherings on numerous occasions.

Over the years, his ability to make the staff feel more like a family has earned him the friendship and affection of many. Many of our staff, as well as their parents, appreciate that.

I and all our team truly appreciate the open-door policy he has had with staff and recognize all the work he has done to keep things running smoothly in the office.

He has served extraordinarily well and faithfully, and it is now appropriate and just that Armand undertake new opportunities.

While I am sad to see him leave, I know he is about to embark on a great new career as executive director of the Government Relations Group at Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP, one of America's finest law firms. I am confident he will meet the challenge of the new job with the same professionalism and dedication he has shown for the past 8 years as my chief of staff. His years of public service may be over for now, but his commitment to the Nation and the principles on which it was founded will never waiver.

I wish him all the best. I close with one final remark close to Armand's Auburn heart: War eagle.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL AARON HOLLAND

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Aaron Holland of Columbus, NE, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. Lance Corporal Holland was killed in a car accident on December 17, 2004 near Richfield, UT, while returning home to Columbus from his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was 21 years old.

Lance Corporal Holland graduated from Columbus High School and is survived by his mother Becky and stepfather Paul Knopick; two stepbrothers, Silas and Paul Knopick; grandparents, Lois and Edmund Mueller; and uncle, Mark Mueller; all of Columbus. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. The United States of America is proud of Aaron Holland's service and mourns his loss.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. fostered Holland's interest in a military career and after graduating in 2002, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After completing his training, he served with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, CA. Holland served two tours in Iraq, from February to July 2003 and from February to August 2004. Lance Corporal Holland will be remembered as a loyal marine who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Lance Corporal Holland are currently serving in Iraq.

For his service, bravery and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring LCpl Aaron Holland.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA A. RAMSEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who lived in Marion, IN as a child. PFC Joshua Ramsey, 19 years old, died on December 12 when he was shot while carrying out his duties in Iraq. With his entire life before him, Joshua risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

After attending Oak Hill Junior High School for the eighth grade, Joshua moved to Defiance, OH where his father and stepmother live. Joshua, a 2003 graduate of the Four County Career Center, left a strong impression not only on his classmates but his teachers as well. One of his high school teachers, Tonya Fisher, shared some memories of her former student with the Marion Chronicle Tribune saying, ''He was a good student and a good classmate. He worked really hard in class and was really dedicated. He knew he wanted to go to the military...He's very family-oriented. He struggled with leaving his family, but he really believed in what he was fighting for.'' Joshua's mother, Joy, recalled her son's bravery during a conversation she had with him not long ago. He told her, ''Mom, I have one of the most dangerous jobs in the Army, but I wouldn't have it any other way.''

Joshua was the 42nd Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 95th Military Police Battalion, Mannheim, Germany. This brave young soldier leaves behind his mother, Joy; his father, Bruce; and his stepmother, LeAnn.

Today, I join Joshua's family, his friends and the entire Hoosier community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Joshua, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Joshua was known for his dedication to others and his love of family and country. When looking back on Joshua's life, his grandmother, Margaret, told the Marion Chronicle Tribune that he had loved golf, was on the wrestling team and ran track. Today and always, Joshua will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Joshua's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: ''We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.'' This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Joshua's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Joshua Ramsey in the official record of the United States Senate for his

service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Joshua's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Joshua.

LOSS OF FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISOLM AND CONGRESSMAN ROBERT MATSUI

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, this week, our Nation suffered the loss of two of the finest Americans to grace the public stage in my life time.

Congressman MATSUI and I served here together, and as a result of our passionate efforts to preserve and protect Social Security, and from leading our respective caucus's campaign efforts last year, BOB and I became friends.

BOB was a man of strong beliefs and principles and a tireless advocate for children, women, minorities, seniors and virtually every segment of society that too often has been left behind. I am saddened by his passing and my heart goes out to his family, friends and constituents.

Those of us who knew BOB are richer for the experience, and the institution of Congress is poorer now that he is gone.

Shirley Chisholm too was a woman of strong belief and character. I am deeply saddened by her death and my thoughts and prayers are with her family.

When Shirley Chisholm was elected the first African-American woman to Congress in 1968 America was in the midst of dramatic change. Congresswoman Chisholm's refusal to be labeled or marginalized by what she called ''a small group of old men'' in Washington challenged the status quo and changed America for the better. Her barrier-breaking run for the 1972 Democratic Presidential nomination represented the best qualities of our democracy. Her unique friendships, bi-partisan style and staunch advocacy for the people she represented are a lesson to us all. She will be missed.

ROTARY CENTENNIAL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as we begin a new year and a new Congress, more than 1.2 million Rotarians in 166 countries are beginning the centennial celebration of Rotary International.

On February 23, 1905, the Rotary Club of Chicago was formed by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wanted to recapture the friendly spirit of small-town America in a big-city professional club. The new group took its name from the practice of rotating club meetings among members' offices.

Rotary quickly grew, with clubs forming across the country and around the world. At the same time, the organization's interests expanded from social and professional interests to community service.

Along with public service, Rotary has given the world a high standard of ethics known as the 4-Way Test. This test asks the following four questions of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

During and after World War II, Rotary International became deeply involved in efforts to promote global peace and understanding. Rotary members actively supported the founding of the United Nations and helped to establish UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

In recent years, Rotary International has helped communities around the world to address some of the critical needs of our day, including disease, hunger, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and children at risk. Rotary has been the lead organization in PolioPlus, a global effort to immunize all the world's children against polio.

On the occasion of the Rotary Centennial, I send my sincere appreciation and best wishes to Rotary International and Rotarians everywhere.

MAD COW DISEASE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, in today's Federal Register, the United States Department of Agriculture has published a final rule that could have significant adverse impacts on our domestic cattle industry. The regulation I am referring to designates Canada as a ''minimal risk region'' for BSE, known as mad cow disease, and allows Canada to export more beef and beef products to the United States.

I understand the desire of the administration to work with Canada, and I know how frustrated Canadian cattlemen are with the current situation. It is the same frustration my Montana cattlemen feel, as they watch Australia and New Zealand expand market share in the Pacific Rim, while those markets remain closed off to the U.S. But this rule has some significant problems, and to the extent that those flaws could harm domestic consumer confidence and the reopening of international markets, I'm not going to support the administration's decision to open the U.S.-Canadian border to increased Canadian exports.

As I am sure everyone recalls, in May 2003, Canada discovered a case of BSE in Alberta. To protect the safety of America's food supply, USDA banned all imports of Canadian beef. In December of that same year, a Canadian-born dairy cow in Washington State with BSE was discovered and so we have the cow that stole Christmas. Important export markets around the world closed their doors to U.S. beef, the highest quality beef in the world. USDA then instituted a rapid screening pilot program to test random cattle samples for BSE. To date, the United States thankfully has never had a case of BSE in a U.S.-born cow.

Since BSE jumped to the forefront of the cattle industry in 2003, USDA has been working with other nations, such as Japan and Korea, to reopen markets to U.S. beef. In October 2004, Japan agreed in principle to begin accepting U.S. beef and beef products from cattle under 20 months of age. While that agreement represents an important step forward, exports have not yet started because of scientific and technical obstacles. I remain optimistic that exports will begin this spring, and would be very concerned about any decisions that could jeopardize our relationship with Japan.

In addition to negotiating the resumption of U.S. exports, USDA has also been working with Canada to resume imports of Canadian beef. USDA began accepting Canadian boneless beef from cattle under 30 months of age in August 2003. In October 2003, USDA first proposed designating Canada as a minimal risk region, but after the December 2003 discovery of BSE, the rule was delayed. With the exception of a few incidents, that trade has generally been uneventful, and has had little impact on U.S. cattle prices. Most importantly, consumer confidence in the food supply remains strong.

But today I fear USDA has gone too far.

The rule published in today's Federal Register, which takes effect on March 7, will allow Canada to export to the United States live cattle under 30 months of age for feeding or immediate slaughter; sheep and goats under 12 months of age for feeding or immediate slaughter; meat from cattle, sheep, goats and cervids—deer, elk, caribou, moose and reindeer; and certain other products and byproducts, including bovine livers and tongues, gelatin, and tallow. Feeder cattle must be branded to indicate country of origin, must have an eartag so we can trace back to the premises of origin, and must be slaughtered before reaching 30 months of age. The identification requirements must be preserved only to the point of slaughter, not carried through to the retail level. Cattle designed for immediate slaughter must move as a group in a sealed container to the facility and must be slaughtered as a group.

As I said, this regulation has some significant problems, most notably, Canada's enforcement of its feed ban and the decision to allow beef and beef products from cattle slaughtered at any age. USDA needs to withdraw this rule now and fix these problems.

USDA asserts that Canada has high levels of compliance with its feed ban, but fails to provide the hard data that supports that finding. In fact, USDA's

own risk assessment states that in 2002, 8 percent of feed mills were not in compliance with the feed ban. This indicates that feed contamination is a recent issue, rather than a concern taken care of years ago.

Even more surprisingly, the risk analysis states that the fact that no cases of BSE have been found in animals born after the feed ban is evidence that the feed ban is working. USDA claims that this rule is based only on science, but that is hardly a scientific assessment. It could just as likely be evidence that Canada is not testing enough samples in its rapid screening process. Montana ranchers are not going to rest easy based on these findings.

On Dec. 17, the Vancouver Sun ran an article indicating that nearly 60 percent of Canadian feed contains ''undeclared animal parts'', but that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CFIA, decided not to use DNA testing to determine if the feed is contaminated with cattle materials. While the presence of animal parts does not necessarily indicate feed ban violations, Canada should be willing to take necessary steps to reassure the United States, as well as its own cattle producers, that the feed is not contaminated. Failing to act represents a lack of commitment to enforcing the feed ban, in contrast to the effectiveness that USDA is willing to presume. Industry sources quoted in that article expressed concern about conflicting messages from CFIA, yet USDA seems quite willing to rely on CFIA representations for its scientific assessments.

Similarly, the decision to allow beef and beef products from cattle slaughtered at any age is troubling. These products are likely to contain animals born before Canada's 7-year feed ban. While USDA seems certain that Canada can safeguard against contaminated beef, the rule provides little evidence to support that claim. In fact, USDA clearly admits that beef products could contain animals that have consumed contaminated feed, but brushes off the risk as ''low.'' Let me repeat—I am certain of the safety of the U.S. food supply. However, I remain concerned that USDA has not fully evaluated the impact on consumer confidence of resuming Canadian imports.

In its risk assessments, USDA seems most focused on preventing a BSE epidemic. A look at the past year shows that just one case—even the suspicion of a case—can throw the cattle markets into a tailspin. One single, non-native occurrence of BSE in the United States resulted in dozens of export markets closing to U.S. cattle producers. The economic and psychological impact of BSE needs to factor into USDA's analysis. Cattlemen need to be able to trust their markets, and consumers need to be able to trust their food.

If exports to Japan have not resumed by March, then Montana ranchers will be in the unacceptable position of having to compete domestically against Canadian beef flowing through three Montana ports without having the option of exporting our products to other markets. In fact, given concerns already expressed by key export markets about Canadian beef, the decision to allow expanded Canadian imports could prevent those same markets from accepting U.S. beef. I cannot accept this outcome.

I have often said that I support free trade, as long as it is fair trade. Right now, the situation facing Montana cattle producers is anything but fair. I urge USDA to reconsider some of the provisions of this regulation, to ensure that Canadian beef coming into the U.S. does not adversely impact the domestic cattle industry. There must be independent assessments of Canada's enforcement of its food ban. The 30–month limitation on beef and beef products deserves another look. Like many folks back home, I am anxious for the Japanese market to reopen and do not want anything to stand in the way. We must do what's right for the U.S. cattle industry first.

OBSTRUCTION OF BIPARTISAN COPYRIGHT BILLS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in the waning days, weeks and months of the 108th Congress, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle were working hard to pass important bipartisan legislation that would have protected America's innovators and artists, made more spectrum available for broadband services, enhanced 911 services, and fixed a technical glitch that was threatening the Universal Service Fund. Unfortunately, others were apparently working just as hard to obstruct these measures. This obstruction was intended only to force the Senate into passing legislation that everyone knew was doomed in the House. It was a flawed plan that was destined to fail. And fail it did, but not before it also prevented enactment of critically important and bipartisan intellectual property legislation.

The Family Entertainment and Copyright Act will go down as a victim of this obstructionism. This was an uncontroversial intellectual property bill that would have protected the rights of those who lead the United States' intellectual property industry. That industry makes the United States the global leader in innovation, and it deserves our support. Protecting these individuals from the theft of their work appeared to mean little to some of my colleagues. A Republican plan to hijack this important legislation, which lasted until the very last moment of the 108th Congress, ensured that it would not pass in time for the House to take it up and pass it. They succeeded in preventing the bicameral passage of the most important intellectual property legislation before the Congress this year. This was wrong.

The Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2004 contained important and uncontroversial measures. The ART Act, a bill that passed the Judiciary Committee and then the full Senate by unanimous consent, would have provided new tools in the fight against bootleg copies of movies snatched from the big screen by camcorders smuggled into theaters. And it would have adopted a creative solution developed by the Copyright Office to address the growing problem of piracy of pre-release works. The Film Preservation Act would have helped ensure that the Library of Congress is able to continue its important work in archiving our nation's fading film heritage. Some of America's oldest films—works that document who we were as a people in the beginning of the 20th Century—are literally disintegrating faster than they can be saved. The Preservation of Orphan Works bill would have allowed greater access to certain works in the last years of their copyright term. The Fraudulent Online Identity Sanctions Act would have protected against online trademark infringement by prohibiting the use of fraudulent Internet addresses to commit such infringement. Finally, FECA would have clarified that services allowing home viewers of prerecorded movies to skip objectionable content does not violate the copyright laws. Obstructionism from certain Republicans has ensured that all of these problems are left unresolved by the 108th Congress.

Thankfully, two provisions of this bill were able to pass as stand alone bills. Thanks to the hard work of Senator BIDEN, the House version of critical anti-counterfeiting legislation passed. Unfortunately, additional language on which Senator BIDEN worked tirelessly was passed too late for House action. Again, the Republican obstruction was at work and to blame. The Cooperative Research and Technology Enhancement Act also passed both houses, largely because a Senate version had passed earlier in the year, and the Republican obstructionists in the Senate could not subvert that bill.

There is other legislation that has fallen to this ill-conceived plan to hijack popular legislation. The bipartisan Junk Fax bill would have protected both consumers and many industries, by placing reasonable limits on senders of unsolicited faxes. That bill, too, was passed too late for House action on account of the Republican roadblock.

Thankfully, at the last minute, another important and bipartisan piece of legislation was allowed through the roadblock. The telecommunications package contained critically important provisions that will enhance 911 service, allow spectrum reallocation, and preserve the ability of the Universal Service Fund to do its important work. These are not controversial or partisan provisions. E911 will ensure that first responders can provide an essential public service. The spectrum reallocation trust fund will free more space for

wireless broadband services. This will help the American economy by promoting jobs and education. The Universal Service Fund provision will fix an accounting glitch that if left unattended will seriously impede the USF as it goes about its critical work. Again, these uncontroversial provisions were held up and almost failed because of this obstructionism.

All of these bills were hijacked and sidetracked, in order to coerce the passage of a bill that everyone knew would not pass the House. I am thankful that the telecommunications legislation was eventually able to pass, but what does it mean that the telecommunications bill became law, while the intellectual property bill is left unfinished? It seems those responsible for this obstruction do not take the needs of America's innovative leaders very seriously. That attitude will undermine the American economy, and threaten America's leadership in the creative industries. So, because of this Republican roadblock, America's innovators and artists will have to struggle through more uncertainty, without the tools they need to defend their rights. That is a shame.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE NORTHERN STATE MARCHING WOLVES

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I publicly congratulate the Northern State University Marching Wolves on being selected to march in the Presidential Inaugural Parade on January 20, 2005. Northern State University has been an integral part of Aberdeen, SD, for the past century. The Marching Wolves were founded by Harvey Moen in 1941 and have represented Northern State University well for the past six decades. Today they are led by Dr. Alan LaFave, the Director of Bands at Northern State University, and Mr. Boyd Perkins, the Director of the Marching Wolves.

The tradition of the Inaugural Parade is as old as the office of the President; as George Washington traveled from Mount Vernon to New York for his swearing in, militia members began to walk behind him, joined by government officials and Members of Congress once he arrived in New York on April 30, 1789. In 1801 Thomas Jefferson was the first President to be Inaugurated in Washington, DC, and Members of Congress and citizens walked with him from the Capitol to the White House to music played by the Marine Band. The Marine Band has played in the Inaugural Parade every year since.

Though this will be the first time the Marching Wolves will participate in the Inaugural Parade, they have performed previously at professional football games and regional marching band competitions. The band is comprised of 125–130 students, making it one of the largest student groups at Northern State University. They rehearse daily during football season, and their members show great dedication to this remarkable organization. The band rehearses 5 days a week for an hour and a half during the fall semester. In order to prepare for the parade, they will be practicing an additional 3 days and 2 nights before the spring semester begins. The Marching Wolves have a great tradition of leadership within their band which has served them well.

It is an honor to be chosen to perform in the Presidential Inaugural Parade, and I am proud to have the Northern State University Marching Wolves representing South Dakota. It is no surprise that an organization with the passion and dedication of the Marching Wolves was chosen for this privilege. It is with great honor that I share this impressive accomplishment with my colleagues.•

RECOGNITION OF COLORADO'S PROFESSORS OF THE YEAR

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Robert von Dassanowsky and Carl Wieman for being selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement of Support Education as this year's U.S. Professors of the Year.

Robert von Dassanowsky, Ph.D., is associate professor and chair of Languages and Cultures and director of Film Studies at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. A widely published literary and film historian, Dr. Dassanowsky is founding VP of the Austrian American Film Association, which promotes scholarly and production activities between the two nations.

Carl Wieman, Ph.D., is a physicist at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In 2001, Dr. Wieman was honored with the Nobel Prize in Physics. He gives approximately 60 talks a year on the topic of physics research and science education.

This recognition represents the culmination of a great deal of hard work and determined effort. It acknowledges their dedication to teaching and commitment to students. They should be very proud of this honor.

Now more than ever, our Nation needs the skills and talents of college professors like Robert von Dassanowsky and Carl Wieman. They understand the importance of a well-rounded college education for students if we are to produce the next generation of leaders. We are very grateful for all they do to make a difference. Their effort is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations again to two of Colorado's outstanding citizens.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, a report concurring with the Congress in the designation of two provisions totaling $100 million provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2005; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–2. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to Public Law 106–256, the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, a report and statement of proposals prepared by the Council on Environmental Quality in response to the Commission on Ocean Policy's final recommendations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3. A communication from the Director of the Federal Register, National Archives, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Certificates of Ascertainment of the electors of the President and Vice President of the United States; ordered to lie on the table.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 1. A resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 2. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 3. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE,

Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 4. A resolution expressing the sympathy and pledging the support of the United States Senate and the people of the United States for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and other areas of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa, on December 26, 2004; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. LOTT):

S. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2005, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 2. A concurrent resolution to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the provisions of S. Con. Res. 93 and S. Con. Res. 94 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress; considered and agreed to.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 1—INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

SENATE RESOLUTION 2—INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

SENATE RESOLUTION 3—FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 3

Resolved, That the hour of daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

SENATE RESOLUTION 4—EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY AND PLEDGING THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE AND DEVASTATING TSUNAMI THAT STRUCK BANGLADESH, BURMA, INDIA, INDONESIA, KENYA, MALAYSIA, THE MALDIVES, THE SEYCHELLES, SOMALIA, SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, THAILAND, AND OTHER AREAS OF SOUTH ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND AFRICA, ON DECEMBER 26, 2004

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 4

Whereas on December 26, 2004, a tremendous earthquake, registered at 9.0 on the Richter scale and centered 100 miles off the coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered a deadly tsunami that swept throughout the Indian Ocean and beyond, devastating cities, towns, and communities, and killing or injuring persons in Southeast Asia and South Asia, through the island nations of the region, to Eastern Africa;

Whereas, as a result of the earthquake and ensuing tsunami, more than 140,000 people have lost their lives to date, tens of thousands of people are injured or missing, and the final death toll could climb into the hundreds of thousands;

Whereas the victims also include thousands of nationals who were visiting the region when the tsunami hit, including significant numbers from Europe and North and South America;

Whereas millions of people throughout Southeast Asia and South Asia have been left without food, shelter, or clean water, and now face deadly diseases such as cholera, dengue fever, dysentery, malaria, and typhoid;

Whereas thousands of children have been killed or injured by this disaster;

Whereas, as a result of this tragedy, thousands of children have been separated from their families or orphaned and are in need of re-unification or adoption;

Whereas whole coastal communities and cities throughout the region were obliterated;

Whereas recovery, reconstruction, and clean-up of the devastated areas likely will take years, billions of dollars, and the concerted leadership of the United States working together with the international community;

Whereas the people of the United States immediately responded and expressed their sympathy and concern by sending financial aid and other assistance currently totaling more than $100,000,000, through nongovernmental organizations and other means, to the victims of this disaster, and by offering to volunteer in the disaster rescue, recovery, and rebuilding;

Whereas soon after the earthquake and tsunami hit the region, the United States Government expressed its condolences and invoked six disaster declarations for the nations hardest hit by this natural disaster, thus triggering the release of emergency funding to these countries;

Whereas less than 24 hours after these tragedies became known, the United States announced an initial pledge of $15,000,000 for emergency humanitarian assistance, which was increased to $35,000,000 in the following days as the scope of the tragedy unfolded;

Whereas President George W. Bush also dispatched more than 20 United States military cargo and patrol aircraft, redirected a Marine expeditionary unit and a carrier task force, and deployed several hundred United States military personnel to the region to assist with the disaster response, recovery, and delivery of relief supplies;

Whereas, in response to an early appeal by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for $7,500,000, the United States provided $4,000,000 for the distribution of emergency shelter materials and other relief commodities, and provided more than 3,000 metric tons of rice to the United Nations World Food Program for use in the affected region;

Whereas President George W. Bush has established a regional core group with Australia, Canada, India, Japan, and the Netherlands, with the United Nations, to help coordinate relief efforts, and sent a senior delegation of experts, led by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Florida Governor Jeb Bush, to meet with regional leaders and international organizations to assess what additional aid can be provided by the United States;

Whereas on December 31, 2004, President Bush increased the United States pledge to $350,000,000 in aid and stated that the United States' contributions to disaster relief and recovery ''will continue to be revised as the

full effects of this terrible tragedy become clearer'';

Whereas pledges of assistance from all international organizations, multilateral development banks, and governments, including the United States, now exceed $2,000,000,000; and

Whereas, on January 3, 2005, the President appointed former Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton to lead a nationwide charitable fund-raising effort to elicit greater relief and assistance to the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck cities, towns, and communities throughout Southeast Asia, South Asia, Eastern Africa, and the region on December 26, 2004;

(2) conveys its most sincere condolences to the families, communities, and governments of the more than 140,000 people that lost their lives in this terrible natural disaster;

(3) expresses its gratitude and respect for the courageous and committed work of all aid and relief personnel, including United States military personnel, who are saving lives and providing relief assistance in the devastated areas of the region;

(4) supports President George W. Bush's pledge of $350,000,000 in direct financial assistance, and tens of millions of dollars in additional indirect assistance through the dispatch of United States military aircraft, naval vessels, and personnel, and through the United States Government's substantial voluntary and annual contributions to international organizations and bodies;

(5) commends the ongoing international relief effort that includes the work of individual countries, numerous international organizations, and various relief and other nongovernmental entities;

(6) reaffirms that the United States Government is committed to providing relief and assistance in the most effective and efficient means possible, and will continue to assess, anticipate, and provide further assistance as needed in the weeks and months ahead;

(7) recognizes that the support of the United States Government will be greatly supplemented by private donations and assistance from thousands of United States citizens, charitable organizations, religious groups, and corporations that routinely provide generous and significant amounts of aid, support, and volunteers; and

(8) fully supports the long-term commitment and engagement of the United States to provide financial aid and other forms of direct and indirect assistance to the countries and peoples of the region impacted by the powerful earthquake and the devastating tsunami.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1—TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING ON JANUARY 6, 2005, OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, the sixth day of January 2005, at 1 o'clock post meridian, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter ''A''; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from the said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2—TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES AND THE PROVISIONS OF S. CON. RES. 93 AND S. CON. RES. 94 OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 2

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That effective from January 3, 2005, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 94 (108th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration, is hereby continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. Effective from January 4, 2005, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 93 (108th Congress), to authorize the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mike Catanzaro be granted the privilege of the floor for this day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CORRECTIONS TO CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), AMENDED FROM 3RD QUARTER, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Sid Ashworth:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Jim Morhard:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Charlie Houy:									
China	Yuan		831.00						831.00
United States	Dollar				2,549.30				2,549.30
Betsy Schmid:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91

CORRECTIONS TO CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), AMENDED FROM 3RD QUARTER, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
DeLynn Henry:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Mimi Braniff:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Kay Webber:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Karina Waller:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Suzanne Palmer:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Jennifer Mies Lowe:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
George Lowe:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Marsha Lefkovits:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Richard Quick:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Joe Maupin:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Senator Ted Stevens:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Senator Thad Cochran:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Senator Daniel Inouye:									
China	Yuan		831.00						831.00
United States	Dollar				2,549.30				2,549.30
Senator Pat Roberts:									
China	Yuan		831.00						831.00
United States	Dollar				2,523.00				2,523.00
Senator E. Benjamin Nelson:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Senator Bill Frist:									
China	Yuan		1,008.00						1,008.00
Julia Hart:									
China	Yuan		1,108.00						1,108.00
United States	Dollar				3,316.80				3,316.80
Mark Esper:									
China	Yuan		1,048.00						1,048.00
Senator Ernest F. Hollings:									
China	Yuan		1,547.00						1,547.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		169.31						169.31
Azerbaijan	Manat		376.42						376.42
Malta	Lira		251.00						251.00
Morocco	Dirham		900.91						900.91
Robert Stevenson:									
China	Yuan		1,108.00						1,108.00
United States	Dollar				3,316.80				3,316.80
Senator Jeff Bingaman:									
China	Yuan		1,108.00						1,108.00
United States	Dollar				3,754.68				3,754.68
Total			63,031.88		18,009.88				81,041.76

TED STEVENS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Nov. 15, 2004.

CORRECTIONS TO CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Shelby:									
Guatemala	Dollar		630.00						630.00
Honduras	Dollar		440.00						440.00
El Salvador	Dollar		123.00						123.00
Nicaragua	Dollar		440.00						440.00
Costa Rica	Dollar		440.00						440.00
New Zealand	Dollar		300.00						300.00
Australia	Dollar		1,490.00						1,490.00
Thailand	Baht		928.00						928.00
Bhutan	Ngultrum		292.00		718.00				1,010.00
India	Rupee		221.00						221.00
Germany	Euro		358.00						358.00
Kathleen L. Casey:									
Guatemala	Dollar		530.00						530.00
Honduras	Dollar		350.00						350.00
El Salvador	Dollar		106.00						106.00
Nicaragua	Dollar		383.00						383.00
Costa Rica	Dollar		420.00						420.00
New Zealand	Dollar		300.00						300.00
Australia	Dollar		1,490.00						1,490.00
Thailand	Baht		928.00						928.00
Bhutan	Ngultrum		292.00		718.00				1,010.00
India	Rupee		221.00						221.00
Germany	Euro		358.00						358.00
Randel L. Zeller:									
Nigeria	Naira		240.00						240.00
Angola	Dollar		184.00						184.00
Cameroon	Dollar		303.00						303.00
United States	Dollar				5,399.76				5,399.76
Anne Caldwell:									
New Zealand	Dollar		300.00						300.00
Australia	Dollar		1,490.00						1,490.00
Thailand	Baht		696.00						696.00
United States	Dollar				3,970.80				3,970.80
Victoria Cox:									
New Zealand	Dollar		300.00						300.00
Australia	Dollar		1,490.00						1,490.00
Thailand	Baht		696.00						696.00
United States	Dollar				3,970.80				3,970.00
Gregory J. Dean:									
China	Renminbi		1,308.00		914.00				2,222.00
United States	Dollar				6,306.50				6,306.50
Total			18,047.00		21,997.86				40,044.86

RICHARD SHELBY,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Sept. 24, 2004.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Don Nickels:									
United States	Dollar				8,721.96				8,721.96
Qatar	Dollar		628.00						628.00
Pakistan	Dollar		585.00						585.00
Roy Phillips:									
United States	Dollar				8,721.96				8,721.96
Qatar	Dollar		629.00						629.00
Pakistan	Dollar		568.00						568.00
Roy Phillips:									
United States	Dollar				4,962.14				4,962.14
Germany	Euro		156.00		55.00				211.00
Romania	Lei		121.00						121.00
Bulgaria	Lev		205.00						205.00
Turkey	Dollar		73.00						73.00
Italy	Dollar		85.00		55.00		85.00		225.00
Total			3,050.00		22,516.06		85.00		25,651.06

DON NICKLES,
Chairman, Committee on Budget, Sept. 22, 2004.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Edwards:									
	Dollar				5,607.46				5,607.46
Donald Mitchell:									
	Dollar		348.00						348.00
	Dollar				5,700.64				5,700.64
Derek Chollet:									
	Dollar		365.00						365.00
	Dollar				5,700.64				5,700.64
Total			713.00		17,008.74				17,721.74

PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Aug. 10, 2004.

CORRECTIONS TO CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), CODEL FRIST FOR TRAVEL FROM JUNE 3 TO JUNE 6, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Bill Frist:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
Senator Robert Bennett:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		575.00						575.00
Senator John Ensign:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
William Pickle:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
Mark Esper:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
Bob Stevenson:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		746.00						746.00
George Tolbert:									
Kuwait	Dollar		364.00						364.00
France	Euro		600.00						600.00
Sally Walsh:									
Kuwait	Dollar		394.00						394.00
France	Euro		700.00						700.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Kuwait	Dollar						2,938.44		2,938.44
Iraq	Dollar						684.15		684.15
France	Euro						40,584.40		40,584.40
Total			8,143.00				44,206.99		52,349.99

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State, and the Department of Defense under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

BILL FRIST,
Majority Leader, Sept. 8, 2004.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2004

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Randy Massanelli:									
Jordan	Dinar		208.20						208.20
Germany	Dollar		43.95						43.95
Total			252.15						252.15

TOM DASCHLE,
Democratic Leader, Sept. 21, 2004.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2004.

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tom Daschle:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Senator Joe Biden:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Denis McDonough:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Rich Verma:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Alex Jarvis:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Anthony Blinken:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Puneet Talwar:									
Kuwait	Dollar		344.00						344.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Kuwait	Dollar						2,726.94		2,726.94
Total			2,752.00				2,726.94		5,478.94

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384 and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

TOM DASCHLE,
Democratic Leader, Sept. 23, 2004.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 6. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Thursday morning the Senate will be in morning business, and at 12:50 p.m. the Senate will proceed as a body to the House of Representatives for a joint session for the counting of electoral votes. Members should gather in the Senate Chamber at 12:40 so that we may leave promptly at 12:50.

During Thursday's session, we expect to act on the committee resolution.

Members are wondering about rollcall votes for the week. At this point, it is unclear, but we will notify all Members if a rollcall vote is possible before we finish our business this week.

Following close of business on Thursday, the Senate will adjourn until January 20.

I inform my colleagues that when the Senate reconvenes January 20, we will immediately begin work on the President's nominations.

I will simply close by saying that we have had a remarkable day today. Six hours ago we began the swearing in of 34 Senators. It is always a moving time to have family, friends, spouses, and constituents from so many different States coming to Washington, DC, to share in an occasion that we all remember—indelibly printed on our minds—when we put our right hand in the air and took that oath to this body and to that Constitution. It has been a remarkable day for people. It has been a great pleasure for us in leadership to be able to participate really on the periphery as we celebrate with each and every one of them for their great public service.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2005, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:53 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 6, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate January 4, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MIKE JOHANNS, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE ANN MARGARET VENEMAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CARLOS M. GUTIERREZ, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE DONALD LOUIS EVANS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SAMUEL W. BODMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE SPENCER ABRAHAM, RESIGNED.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ALBERT HENRY KONETZNI, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2009, VICE RICHARD A. MESERVE, RESIGNED.

GREGORY B. JACZKO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2008, VICE GRETA JOY DICUS, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT, OF UTAH, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE TOMMY G. THOMPSON, RESIGNED.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

JEFFREY ROBERT BROWN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, VICE BRADLEY D. BELT, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONDOLEEZZA RICE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE, VICE COLIN LUTHER POWELL, RESIGNED.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

ADOLFO A. FRANCO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2008, VICE JEFFREY DAVIDOW, RESIGNED.

ROGER FRANCISCO NORIEGA, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2006, VICE HARRIET C. BABBITT, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARGARET SPELLINGS, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, VICE RODERICK R. PAIGE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALBERTO R. GONZALES, OF TEXAS, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JOHN ASHCROFT, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JIM NICHOLSON, OF COLORADO, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE ANTHONY JOSEPH PRINCIPI, RESIGNED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

136TH AIRLIFT WING, TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY READINESS TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated group of individuals who have devoted their time and energy to supporting our brave soldiers—136th Airlift Wing, Texas National Guard Family Readiness Team.

The Family Readiness Team's mission is to assist units as they support the families of members of the 136th Airlift Wing during peacetime and times of training or mobilization. The Team provides multiple levels of care and assistance. They send a personal greeting card to any member upon request; establish and facilitate ongoing communication, involvement, support, and recognition between National Guard families and the National Guard in a partnership that promotes the best in both; and provide all Air Force families assistance and support before; during and after times of local or national emergencies/disasters, mobilization, deployment/separation or evacuation. The Family Readiness Team has a Chaplain's Staff available to comfort and encourage hope for the families of our deployed troops as well as those troops providing home station sustainment.

My son was a member of the Texas Air National Guard, and I have found that working with the Family Readiness Team, located in Fort Worth, Texas, has been rewarding. There are opportunities for family members to assist their loved ones by attending meetings on base and promoting fellowship with other families. The Texas Air National Guard Family Readiness Team is part of a National Guard Family Program which works to connect people across America. I applaud the great work of the 136th Airlift Wing Family Readiness Team, and I look forward to continuing and supporting this organization in the years to come.

DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY CARE TO VETERANS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in praise of the White River Junction Veterans Administration Medical Center, which has received the Robert W. Carey Trophy Award for Organizational Excellence. This award, named after a former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, was presented to recognize the truly excellent care that the White River VA Center provides to veterans in Vermont and the Connecticut River Valley. This award is the highest quality award the Department of Veterans Affairs can bestow.

In the two previous years, the White River VA Center was recognized for excellence for the quality of its care by winning back-to-back Carey Achievement Awards. This year it took the top award in the nation.

Under the leadership of Gary De Gasta, the staff at the center—doctors, nurses, health professionals, administrative support—are committed to providing the very best in health care. They are attentive to veterans and their needs; they offer state-of-the art medical care; they honor the service of the brave men and women who answered, and answer, our nation's call decade after decade.

I am very proud of the excellent work done by those who work at the White River VA Center. They are deserving of this highest of commendations, and we in Vermont are very proud of them. We are equally proud that this high level of performance helps to deliver the very best in health care to our veterans.

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL CONSENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

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

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

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, there was a 300-percent increase in psychotropic drug use in two- to four-year-old children from 1991 to 1995.

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children.

Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PRO USE ACT"

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the introduction of the "PRO USE Act." As we all know, copyrighted works not only provide entertainment and provide a positive trade balance for our country's economy but also are a window to this country's cultural heritage. In recognition of this, our copyright laws are designed to encourage the production, distribution, and preservation of copyrighted content. This legislation, which I am introducing with Representative HOWARD L. BERMAN, makes two important changes to the

copyright law to make it easier to preserve these artifacts.

Title I is the ''Preservation of Orphan Works Act.'' This important provision corrects an oversight in the copyright law that allows libraries and archives to reproduce and distribute up to three copies of musical works, movies, etc.—not sound recordings—of a copy they have to replace stolen/deteriorated copies or for preservation/security purposes. They also can make unlimited copies of other copyrighted works—items except musical works, movies, etc.—during the last 20 years of the copyright term. This bill would amend the law to say they can make unlimited copies of musical works, movies, etc. during the last 20 years of the term of the music or movies.

Title II is the ''National Film Preservation Act of 2005.'' It reauthorizes the National Film Preservation Act of 1996. We all know that motion pictures are amongst this nation's cultural treasures, going beyond entertainment to represent American ideals and values to people across the world. Unfortunately, the films on which many motion pictures are created are easily susceptible to physical deterioration; in fact, over 50 percent of movies made before 1950 have deteriorated and over 90 percent of movies from before 1929 have disintegrated.

The 1996 Act was designed to ensure that we could protect the treasures we still have. It created the National Film Preservation Board and the National Film Preservation Foundation. The NFPB generates public awareness of a national film registry and reviews initiatives to ensure the preservation valued films. The NFPF issues grants to libraries and other institutions that can save films from degradation.

The program has received accolades from organizations such as the Directors Guild of America and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Noted filmmakers Martin Scorsese and Ken Burns also have praised the NFPB and the NFPF.

Unfortunately, the program officially expired October 11, 2003, and was not reauthorized. The legislation being introduced today would remedy that oversight by reauthorizing both the NFPB and the NFPF. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this valuable effort as we move it through the House.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF OFFICER PETER LAVERY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Officer Peter Lavery of the Newington Police Department in Connecticut, who was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty on December 30, 2004, as he responded to an emergency call.

It was a terrible day for the people of Connecticut as one of our finest public servants was cut down in the prime of his life. Officer Lavery was a dedicated 17-year veteran of the Newington Police Department, and had served his Nation proudly as a member of the Connecticut National Guard. He was known for his ''big golden heart'' and sense of humor, and so many of my constituents will never forget the important role he played in their lives or in the communities he served. He leaves behind his wife, Pamela, and two children, Raymond and Samantha, to whom our hearts go out during this difficult time.

We struggle to understand why such a horrific act of violence was visited upon such a good and decent man who loved his family and served his community. In the end, there are no answers.

Today, as thousands of his neighbors and fellow officers gather in Newington to honor the life and service of Officer Lavery, we must remind ourselves of the thousands of brave, dedicated men and women that put their lives in danger each day to protect us and our families. Officer Lavery made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of this cause. He will not be forgotten.

May God bless him, his family and the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES ''CLYDE'' SHAHAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a couple, like so many others in our nation, which was truly American: Mr. and Mrs. James ''Clyde'' Shahan.

Mr. Shahan, known to his friends as Clyde, and his four brothers, all from Denton, Texas, served in the United States Army during World War II. Clyde served honorably in New Guinea and Luzon, receiving numerous citations and decorations including the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, 1 Service Stripe and 4 Overseas Service Bars.

After his discharge, Mr. Shahan returned to the Denton area where he, along with his Aural, became active members at Lake Cities United Methodist Church in Lake Dallas, Texas. Aural and Clyde worked side by side at several school districts and serving their community.

Mr. and Mrs. Shahan had a son, Bobby Joe, who died as a three year old in a flu epidemic, but neither of them lost their faith or their commitment to education and their country. Remembered as a happy and funny man, Clyde often attended church in his finest Western suit and was always a joy at church functions.

Almost two years to the day of his wife's death, Clyde passed away in 2004. Today, I honor the memory of these two individuals who impacted a community with hope. I am pleased that their memories will not be lost as a special memorial is being established at Lake Cities United Methodist Church in their honor. Truly, Clyde and Aural were members of the ''greatest generation'' and will be remembered always for their commitment to Christ and America.

TEN YEARS OF STELLAR SERVICE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago the Howard Center for Human Services was established. It is a remarkable organization, one which provides essential services to the citizens of four counties in northern Vermont. Although its origins are in the nineteenth century, its earliest forebearer was a ladies' aid and relief society in 1873. Its willingness to join together several different NGOs in 1994, overriding several smaller portfolios in the interest of providing a broad umbrella of services to the community, is testimony to its commitment to serving the needs of Vermont.

The focus of its staff and programs is on developmental disabilities, those with mental problems, and on children, youth and families who face difficulties of many sorts. It serves those in crisis and those with ongoing problems. Altogether, the Howard Center serves over 15,000 Vermont residents each year through Howard Community Services, the Baird Center, and Adult Behavioral Health Services. It does so efficiently, dedicating almost 90 percent of its budget directly to programs and outreach for those thousands of Vermonters in need of the services it provides.

The Howard Center provides accredited services in the areas of mental health, alcohol and other drug addictions programs, family services, and employment services. Its many programs range from crisis intervention and stabilization to outpatient treatment, case management services coordination, community housing, residential treatment, job development and supports, and criminal justice service case management. In addition to a dedicated staff and hundreds of contracted workers supporting individuals and families in their homes and in the community, 500 volunteers help the Howard Center meet the needs of our friends and neighbors in northern Vermont.

I could go on at length about the individual programs of the Howard Center, but in the interest of time I will mention just one, one that is representative of the remarkable commitment and innovation that the Howard Center brings to providing human services to northern Vermont. The Streetwork program provides daily assistance and support to people with psychiatric disabilities, and to those dealing with substance abuse, homelessness and other unmet social service needs; it provides those services on the main streets of downtown Burlington, by going out to people rather than waiting for them to come into offices or clinics.

In these difficult times, when the middle class is under siege and shrinking and low income families see the social safety net in shreds, when fringe benefits for many jobs axe disappearing and more people are medically uninsured, when low and moderate income housing is often unavailable, the Howard Center provides a bulwark and a refuge to those who are in need of social services. I congratulate them on the past ten years, and look forward to a new decade in which they continue to sustain tens of thousands of Vermonters.

INTRODUCING THE IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Identity Theft Prevention Act. This act protects the American people from government-mandated uniform identifiers that facilitate private crime as well as the abuse of liberty. The major provision of the Identity Theft Prevention Act halts the practice of using the Social Security number as an identifier by requiring the Social Security Administration to issue all Americans new Social Security numbers within 5 years after the enactment of the bill. These new numbers will be the sole legal property of the recipient, and the Social Security administration shall be forbidden to divulge the numbers for any purposes not related to Social Security administration. Social Security numbers issued before implementation of this bill shall no longer be considered valid Federal identifiers. Of course, the Social Security Administration shall be able to use an individual's original Social Security number to ensure efficient administration of the Social Security system.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a moral responsibility to address this problem because it was Congress that transformed the Social Security number into a national identifier. Thanks to Congress, today no American can get a job, open a bank account, get a professional license, or even get a driver's license without presenting his Social Security number. So widespread has the use of the Social Security number become that a member of my staff had to produce a Social Security number in order to get a fishing license.

One of the most disturbing abuses of the Social Security number is the congressionally authorized rule forcing parents to get a Social Security number for their newborn children in order to claim the children as dependents. Forcing parents to register their children with the State is more like something out of the nightmares of George Orwell than the dreams of a free republic that inspired this Nation's Founders.

Congressionally mandated use of the Social Security number as an identifier facilitates the horrendous crime of identity theft. Thanks to Congress, an unscrupulous person may simply obtain someone's Social Security number in order to access that person's bank accounts, credit cards, and other financial assets. Many Americans have lost their life savings and had their credit destroyed as a result of identity theft. Yet the Federal Government continues to encourage such crimes by mandating use of the Social Security number as a uniform ID.

This act also forbids the Federal Government from creating national ID cards or establishing any identifiers for the purpose of investigating, monitoring, overseeing, or regulating private transactions among American citizens. At the very end of the 108th Congress, this body established a de facto national ID card with a provision buried in the ''intelligence'' reform bill mandating Federal standards for drivers' licenses, and mandating that Federal agents only accept a license that conforms to these standards as a valid ID.

Nationalizing standards for drivers' licenses and birth certificates creates a national ID system pure and simple. Proponents of the national ID understand that the public remains wary of the scheme, so proponents attempt to claim they are merely creating new standards for existing State IDs. However, the ''intelligence'' reform legislation imposed Federal standards in a Federal bill, thus creating a federalized ID regardless of whether the ID itself is still stamped with the name of your State. It is just a matter of time until those who refuse to carry the new licenses will be denied the ability to drive or board an airplane. Domestic travel restrictions are the hallmark of authoritarian States, not free republics.

The national ID will be used to track the movements of American citizens, not just terrorists. Subjecting every citizen to surveillance diverts resources away from tracking and apprehending terrorists in favor of needless snooping on innocent Americans. This is what happened with ''suspicious activity reports'' required by the Bank Secrecy Act. Thanks to BSA mandates, Federal officials are forced to waste countless hours snooping through the private financial transactions of innocent Americans merely because those transactions exceeded $10,000.

The Identity Theft Prevention Act repeals those sections of Federal law creating the national ID, as well as those sections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 that require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a uniform standard health identifier—an identifier which could be used to create a national database containing the medical history of all Americans. As an OB/GYN with more than 30 years in private practice, I know the importance of preserving the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. Oftentimes, effective treatment depends on a patient's ability to place absolute trust in his or her doctor. What will happen to that trust when patients know that any and all information given to their doctors will be placed in a government accessible database?

By putting an end to government-mandated uniform IDs, the Identity Theft Prevention Act will prevent millions of Americans from having their liberty, property, and privacy violated by private and public sector criminals.

In addition to forbidding the Federal Government from creating national identifiers, this legislation forbids the Federal Government from blackmailing States into adopting uniform standard identifiers by withholding Federal funds. One of the most onerous practices of Congress is the use of Federal funds illegitimately taken from the American people to bribe States into obeying Federal dictates.

Some Members of Congress will claim that the Federal Government needs the power to monitor Americans in order to allow the government to operate more efficiently. I would remind my colleagues that, in a constitutional republic, the people are never asked to sacrifice their liberties to make the jobs of government officials easier. We are here to protect the freedom of the American people, not to make privacy invasion more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not question the sincerity of those Members who suggest that Congress can ensure that citizens' rights are protected through legislation restricting access to personal information, the only effective privacy protection is to forbid the Federal Government from mandating national identifiers. Legislative ''privacy protections'' are inadequate to protect the liberty of Americans for a couple of reasons.

First, it is simply common sense that repealing those Federal laws that promote identity theft is more effective in protecting the public than expanding the power of the Federal police force. Federal punishment of identity thieves provides cold comfort to those who have suffered financial losses and the destruction of their good reputations as a result of identity theft.

Federal laws are not only ineffective in stopping private criminals, but these laws have not even stopped unscrupulous government officials from accessing personal information. After all, laws purporting to restrict the use of personal information did not stop the well-publicized violations of privacy by IRS officials or the FBI abuses of the Clinton and Nixon administrations.

In one of the most infamous cases of identity theft, thousands of active-duty soldiers and veterans had their personal information stolen, putting them at risk of identity theft. Imagine the dangers if thieves are able to obtain the universal identifier, and other personal information, of millions of Americans simply by breaking, or hacking, into one government facility or one government database?

Second, the Federal Government has been creating proprietary interests in private information for certain State-favored special interests. Perhaps the most outrageous example of phony privacy protection is the ''medical privacy''' regulation, that allows medical researchers, certain business interests, and law enforcement officials access to health care information, in complete disregard of the Fifth Amendment and the wishes of individual patients! Obviously, ''privacy protection'' laws have proven greatly inadequate to protect personal information when the government is the one seeking the information.

Any action short of repealing laws authorizing privacy violations is insufficient primarily because the Federal Government lacks constitutional authority to force citizens to adopt a universal identifier for health care, employment, or any other reason. Any Federal action that oversteps constitutional limitations violates liberty because it ratifies the principle that the Federal Government, not the Constitution, is the ultimate judge of its own jurisdiction over the people. The only effective protection of the rights of citizens is for Congress to follow Thomas Jefferson's advice and ''bind (the Federal Government) down with the chains of the Constitution.''

Mr. Speaker, those members who are not persuaded by the moral and constitutional reasons for embracing the Identity Theft Prevention Act should consider the American people's opposition to national identifiers. The numerous complaints over the ever-growing uses of the Social Security number show that Americans want Congress to stop invading their privacy. Furthermore, according to a survey by the Gallup company, 91 percent of the American people oppose forcing Americans to obtain a universal health ID.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again call on my colleagues to join me in putting an end to the Federal Government's unconstitutional use of national identifiers to monitor the actions of private citizens. National identifiers threaten all Americans by exposing them to

the threat of identity theft by private criminals and abuse of their liberties by public criminals, while diverting valuable law enforcement resources away from addressing real threats to public safety. In addition, national identifiers are incompatible with a limited, constitutional government. I, therefore, hope my colleagues will join my efforts to protect the freedom of their constituents by supporting the Identity Theft Prevention Act.

INTRODUCTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING THAT FOREIGN-BORN CITIZENS OF 20 YEARS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States that will enable all citizens of this country to be eligible to hold the Office of President. No citizen should be denied the opportunity to seek the Nation's highest office. The proposal that I am introducing will allow foreign-born individuals who have been citizens of this country for at least 20 years to be eligible for this office.

As you know, Article II of the Constitution of the United States provides that only natural-born citizens are entitled to hold the Office of President. I believe that this limitation contradicts the principles for which this country stands. This Nation prides itself on its diversity of culture, experience, and opinion. This quality is achieved only by welcoming immigrants to this country, allowing them to become citizens, and enabling them make full contributions to society.

For the most part, the United States treats its citizens, those natural-born and foreign-born, the same. However, when determining who is eligible for the Offices of President, this country unfairly distinguishes between the two. Allowing the United States to be a better country because of the contributions that foreign-born citizens make, and then not allowing them to fully participate in all aspects of society, is un-American.

As you may also know, some of our country's foreign-born citizens are our country's greatest public servants. There are also 700 foreign-born citizens who have received the Medal of Honor. It is unjust to deny citizens that have risked their lives for this country the chance to become President of the United States as well. A 2002 Pentagon study reports that more than 30,000 foreign-born citizens are currently serving in the U.S. military.

I realize that constitutional amendments are rare and that those proposed should be subject to great scrutiny. I truly respect one of the documents on which our country was founded, the Constitution of the United States. Therefore, it is after great consideration and with the utmost gravity, that I introduce this proposal today. I am hopeful that my fellow colleagues in Congress will properly consider the proposed amendment and realize that every citizen of the United States should be entitled to dream of becoming President.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA RITTER

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patricia Ritter, who passed away on December 10, 2004. Mrs. Ritter was one of Connecticut's most influential civil rights leaders and she leaves a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. Her passion for social justice was only matched by her passion for her family. She leaves behind her husband and five children, two of whom served in the Connecticut General Assembly. While I served as State Senate President Pro Tempore I had the privilege of working with her son Tom, who served as Speaker of the House. My deepest condolences go out to Tom and his family during this time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the life of Patricia Ritter. I would also like to submit for the RECORD this editorial from the Hartford Courant which captures the essence of what made Mrs. Ritter such a special person.

[From the Hartford Courant, Dec. 14, 2004]

THE REMARKABLE PAT RITTER

She stood for something. She acted on her beliefs. She changed things.

Patricia Ritter, who died last week at the age of 84, was an activist, civil rights pioneer, internationalist and teacher as well as the wife and mother of three state legislators.

A woman of grace, good cheer and quiet intensity, Mrs. Ritter was exposed to, and appalled by, a segregated restaurant when she was a 16-year-old freshman at the University of Iowa. She organized a protest and then headed South with the first of the Freedom Riders—traveling in the odious ''Colored Only'' train cars, and refusing to move.

After marrying and moving to Connecticut, she was named to the state's Commission on Human Rights in 1950, the first woman so honored. Facing the problem of segregated housing, she and her husband George co-founded the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund, Inc. in 1968 to finance integrated and affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization projects throughout Connecticut.

This allowed racial minorities to buy homes in the suburbs, which sometimes brought threats of violence and, on at least one occasion, actual violence to Mrs. Ritter.

To date, CHIF has provided more than $108 million to help individuals and organizations purchase, rehabilitate or build homes for low- and moderate-income families.

The wall between city and suburb was not the only one she helped tear down. After China opened its doors to the West in the 1970s, Mrs. Ritter founded China in Connecticut, one of the first educational links between this country and China.

A college teacher, she spent a decade teaching English at Chinese universities, and sponsored many of her Chinese students to study at U.S. colleges. Several of Mrs. Ritter's children followed her example and taught in China as well. The results of such work are incalculable. Mrs. Ritter's five children carried on her beliefs; as artists, writers, teachers, businessmen and legislators. Her husband and sons Thomas and John served in the General Assembly; Thomas was speaker of the House for three terms.

''Her integrity, her character, her work, her children—she was just a marvelous person,'' said Judge Robert Satter, a longtime family friend. Mrs. Ritter's life affirms the proposition that, yes, one person can make a difference.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Nolan Catholic High School football team, The Vikings, on their State Championship for Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division 1 6A.

The Vikings shut out Houston St. Pius X high school for the championship with a 14–0 score at Floyd Casey Stadium, Baylor University, in Waco, TX, on Saturday November 27, 2004. The championship victory marked the 8th time this season the Vikings shut out their opponent. This is the first trip to the state final in nine years for the Vikings, who have never won a State crown.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Brother Richard Thompson, S.M., principal of Nolan Catholic High School, the coaches and especially to the team for their talent and dedication to excellence.

VERMONT FOODBANK FIGHTS HUNGER

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, even though this is the richest and most productive nation in the history of the world, hunger is still a major problem in the United States. In my State of Vermont alone, 55,000 households are living in poverty. In Vermont, many of these people find that the existence of food shelves provides the final protection to keep them from sinking into malnutrition and even starvation. Of those who go to food shelves, almost one out of four is elderly and over half are families with children. Most of these are working families. It is a terrible fact that 21,000 children under the age of 12 either go hungry or are at risk of hunger in Vermont. The situation is so severe that nationwide, over 29 percent of households that received emergency food last year literally had to choose between paying for food or paying for medical care.

Clearly our Nation's governmental policies are entirely wrong, placing as they do tax breaks for the wealthy and corporate welfare as high priorities, and ignoring the need to feed the hungry, guarantee health care to all, support the construction of affordable housing, and make college available to those who wish to attend. We need to change our skewed priorities which, rather than to making life better and more secure for the vast majority of Americans, lead to the increasing gap between rich and poor, and to ever-increasing economic pressures faced by the middle class.

But while we struggle to change the United States, to make it into a more just and equitable society, we also need to make sure that no American goes hungry.

I want to commend, today, the Vermont Foodbank for its years of exemplary service to fighting hunger. The Vermont Foodbank serves food shelves, community kitchens, homeless shelters, domestic abuse programs and programs which provide services for the elderly and children. Well over 100,000 people are served through Foodbank's network of 295 agencies each year. From its building in Barre, the Foodbank supplies agencies and NGOs all over Vermont with food for those who are hungry. It is greatly assisted in its work by hundreds of volunteers, who contributed over 23,000 hours—over 11 years of work weeks—in just the past year alone.

The Vermont Foodbank helps assure that none among us go hungry, that every community group and agency that seeks to combat hunger has a resource upon which it can call. It, together with our many community food banks, the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, the work of shelters, the Salvation Army, churches, and countless other groups, is doing essential, life-sustaining work in throughout our State.

INTRODUCING THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARY TAX REDUCTION ACT AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS' TAX ELIMINATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation to reduce taxes on senior citizens. The first bill, the Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act, repeals the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits. Repealing this increase on Social Security benefits is a good first step toward reducing the burden imposed by the federal government on senior citizens. However, imposing any tax on Social Security benefits is unfair and illogical. This is why I am also introducing the Senior Citizens' Tax Elimination Act, which repeals all taxes on Social Security benefits.

Since Social Security benefits are financed with tax dollars, taxing these benefits is yet another example of double taxation. Furthermore, ''taxing'' benefits paid by the government is merely an accounting trick, a shell game which allows members of Congress to reduce benefits by subterfuge. This allows Congress to continue using the Social Security trust fund as a means of financing other government programs, and masks the true size of the federal deficit.

Instead of imposing ridiculous taxes on senior citizens, Congress should ensure the integrity of the Social Security trust fund by ending the practice of using trust fund monies for other programs. In order to accomplish this goal I introduced the Social Security Preservation Act (H.R. 219), which ensures that all money in the Social Security trust fund is spent solely on Social Security. At a time when Congress' inability to control spending is once again threatening the Social Security trust fund, the need for this legislation has never been greater. When the government taxes Americans to fund Social Security, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help free senior citizens from oppressive taxation by supporting my Senior Citizens' Tax Elimination Act and my Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act. I also urge my colleagues to ensure that moneys from the Social Security trust fund are used solely for Social Security benefits and not wasted on frivolous government programs.

REINTRODUCTION OF H.R. 40, COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATIONS PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to re-introduce H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, along with 22 original cosponsors. Since I first introduced H.R. 40 in 1989, we have made substantial progress in elevating this issue in the national consciousness. Through legislation, state and local resolutions, and litigation, we are moving closer to a full dialogue on the role of slavery in building this country.

Across the nation, three state legislatures: Louisiana, California and Florida, have passed resolutions supporting H.R. 40. Another three states: New Jersey, New York and Texas, have legislation pending. At the local level, the legislation has gained similar support, with 12 major cities having passed similar supporting resolutions.

However, despite this progress, the legacy of slavery lingers heavily in this nation. While we have focused on the social effects of slavery and segregation, its continuing economic implications have been largely ignored by mainstream analysis. These economic issues are the root cause of many critical issues in the African-American community today, such as education, healthcare, and crime. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive dialogue on the role of slavery and racism in shaping present-day conditions in our community and American society.

H.R. 40 is designed to create a formal dialogue on the issue of reparations through the establishment of a national commission to examine the institution of slavery. The commission will study the impact of slavery and continuing discrimination against African-Americans, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery, during the apartheid of reconstruction, desegregation, and the present day. The commission would also make recommendations concerning any form of apology and compensation to begin the long delayed process of atonement.

The issue of reparations remains sensitive in many communities because of the basic question of money. Statements dismissing reparations on the grounds of payment issues, however, are completely premature, especially when we have not yet had a national dialogue or study of the area. Economists have told us that the value of slave labor to the American economy and potential damages are greater that $7 trillion. Such a staggering sum indicates that the discussion of reparations must be about something other than money.

However, I must stress that the reparations issue is not about a check to individuals. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive dialogue on the role of slavery and racism in shaping American society. Everyone profited from the labor of the slaves, even later immigrants, because slave labor and the taxes from those enterprises built the infrastructure of this nation. The debt we talk about is not centuries old, but dates back only a few decades and is within our lifetimes because of Jim Crow.

This nation must make a commitment to understanding how the legacy of slavery and its vestiges contribute to present day societal and economic inequality. That is why I re-introduce H.R. 40 at the opening of every Congress and sponsor a forum on reparations during every Congressional Black Caucus legislative conference. We must be diligent in our efforts to educate this nation about its history. I hope that in this 109th Congress, we can schedule formal hearings on this legislation to begin the process of having our nation finally acknowledge its debt.

DENTON RANKS 1ST AMONG MOST-TECHNOLOGY-ADVANCED CITIES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Denton, Texas for being acknowledged as the No. 1 most technology-advanced city with a population of 75,000 to 124,999, by the Center for Digital Government. The ranking was based on the 2004 Digital Cities Survey that examines how city governments are using digital technology to become more efficient and communicate with residents.

The survey and ranking determined by the Center asked more than 600 mayors, managers and chief information officers to participate asking 24 questions focusing on implementation, adoption of online service delivery, planning and governance, and the network that allows cities to make the move to digital government.

A life-long resident of Denton County, I offer my congratulations to the city of Denton and to Mayor Euline Brock.

COMPANY THAT DOES IT RIGHT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to your attention a remarkable company, located in my home state of Vermont, that can and should serve as a model for corporate responsibility in this era so unfortunately marked by greed of CEO's, who last year paid themselves 301 times as much as the average worker in their companies.

The company I speak of is Chroma Technology Corporation of Rockingham, Vermont. It is completely employee owned. The firm has a flat pay scale, where no employee makes less than $37,500 and no one more than $75,000. Thus no top-level specialist makes more than twice what anyone on the shop floor earns.

Yet Chroma competes in the global marketplace, taking the risks that other corporations do. It is a global, high-tech manufacturer of optical filters for microscopes used by the world's top biologists. It is the major supplier to three of the four major microscope manufacturers in the world (Zeiss and Leica from Germany and Nikon from Japan). Chroma is also the second source for Olympus of Japan and was recently chosen as primary supplier to Motic, an emerging Chinese microscope company. Chroma is today a premier manufacturer of high-tech products, and expects sales of $16 million in 2004.

While other companies practice outsourcing, Chroma remains locally rooted, with virtually all 68 employees living within a 50–mile radius of its facility in Rockingham.

So amazing is its story—and so important is its lesson to how American companies can not only survive but thrive in the international marketplace—that I want to tell that story to the American nation.

When it began, Chroma had a policy of paying everyone the same wage, a wage pegged to the local living wage. By the time the firm grew to 17 employees in the early 1990s, everyone was making an identical $30,000 per year. "If we would have changed our wage structure at that point, we would have had a revolution," says Chroma's CEO, Paul Millman.

In 1996, Chroma instituted the policy that tenure would determine pay. "The criterion is longevity, rather than job description," Mr. Millman explains. Today the maximum salary of $75,000 is the same for everyone, though new employees can start higher than the minimum of $37,500.

The disadvantage of this flat pay structure, according to Mr. Millman, is that some people with graduate degrees or business experience won't work there, because they'll be paid the same as someone in production. The advantage, he counters, is the cooperative atmosphere, the self-direction, and the lack of a managerial class.

Chroma practices not just worker ownership, but worker democracy. At one time the company made decisions through a Quaker meeting format where consensus ruled, though that's being revisited now that there are more employees. Still, there are no designated managers at Chroma, and employees occupy all seats on the board of directors. More than 95 percent of company decisions are made on the shop floor. "We call it full exposure management," says Gabe Capy, a member of Chroma's shipping department who has been with the company eight years. "It is peer pressure that then encourages people to perform."

Nor does Chroma cut corners on environmental issues to cut costs. Chroma recently invested $130,000 to make its new 28,000-square-foot factory energy-efficient. The company will recover those costs in less than two years through savings in electricity and propane costs. "They have gone far beyond the efficiency measures associated with standard building practices," says Gabe Arnold, technical coordinator for Efficiency Vermont, a statewide energy efficiency utility. While most companies focus on lowering costs, he says, Chroma showed an innovative willingness to invest heavily up-front in efficiency.

Because employee-owners intend to pass this company on to future generations, it is virtually impossible for Chroma to be sold. After the founders leave, no single employee will own more than 5 percent; a super-majority is needed to sell the company.

Employee ownership, worker democracy, environmental stewardship—and an all-American work force: instead of being liabilities, these practices help Chroma compete in its global, high-tech markets. The structures of employee ownership and involvement contribute significantly to the high quality products that are Chroma's trademark. "Other companies can build these filters quicker and cheaper," Mr. Millman concedes, but because Chroma has educated the biologists who actually use the microscopes about its optics, it has developed strong customer loyalty. "That adds to the romance of our product," he says. "We now have three Ph.D. biologists on our staff, and that is no happy accident. No other optical filter company can say that."

While competing internationally, Chroma defines itself by a different economics than that touted by most business schools. "I prefer the term 'sustainable economy,' or an economy that keeps us living. That's what Chroma is all about," says Mr. Millman, CEO of what has been the fastest growing technology company in Vermont for the past five years. He credits the business environment in Vermont for nurturing Chroma's value structure. "Vermont is the prototypical state for the creative economy," he said. "This was the first state to abolish slavery. Outcasts from the '60s and '70s came here and created communes. This is where Ben & Jerry's started."

Vermont, I should mention with pride, along with Ohio, boasts the greatest concentration of employee-owned companies.

At Chroma Technology, where committed employees lead naturally to loyal customers, being local goes hand-in-hand with being global. Chroma Technology shows us all that it's possible to make a mark in the global economy and do it in a way that is sustainable and humane.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PRESERVATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to protect the integrity of the Social Security trust fund by introducing the Social Security Preservation Act. The Social Security Preservation Act is a rather simple bill which states that all monies raised by the Social Security trust fund will be spent in payments to beneficiaries, with excess receipts invested in interest-bearing certificates of deposit. This will help keep Social Security trust fund monies from being diverted to other programs, as well as allow the fund to grow by providing for investment in interest-bearing instruments.

The Social Security Preservation Act ensures that the government will keep its promises to America's seniors that taxes collected for Social Security will be used for Social Security. When the government taxes Americans to fund Social Security, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

With federal deficits reaching historic levels the pressure from special interests for massive new raids on the trust fund is greater than ever. Thus it is vital that Congress act now to protect the trust fund from big spending, pork-barrel politics. Social Security reform will be one of the major issues discussed in this Congress and many of my colleagues have different ideas regarding how to best preserve the long-term solvency of the program. However, as a medical doctor, I know the first step in treatment is to stop the bleeding, and the Social Security Preservation Act stops the bleeding of the Social Security trust fund. I therefore call upon all my colleagues, regardless of which proposal for long-term Social Security reform they support, to stand up for America's seniors by cosponsoring the Social Security Preservation Act.

FLOWER MOUND RANKS 7TH AMONG MOST-TECHNOLOGY-ADVANCED CITIES

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Flower Mound, TX, for being acknowledged as the 7th most technology-advanced city with a population of 30,000 to 74,999, by the Center for Digital Government. The ranking was based on the 2004 Digital Cities Survey that examines how city governments are using digital technology to become more efficient and communicate with residents.

The survey and ranking determined by the Center asked more than 600 mayors, managers and chief information officers to participate asking 24 questions focusing on implementation, adoption of online service delivery, planning and governance, and the network that allows cities to make the move to digital government.

Flower Mound plans to continue on its track of providing excellent government services electronically by installing a new data delivery system; implementing a voiceover internet tool; and adding mobile computer systems into the Flower Mound Police Department squad cars. All of these improvements show an amazing commitment to the future of technology and government.

I am proud to say that I am a resident of Flower Mound, and I would like to offer my congratulations to the Town of Flower Mound, Chief Information Officer Dustin Malcolm and Mayor Jody Smith.

ORGANIC FARMING IS ALIVE AND THRIVING IN VERMONT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this body, and the Nation, the wonderful work that has been done by the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), and in particular the wonderful work its affiliate does in Vermont.

In a time when the family farm is under great destructive pressures, in a time when agribusiness blindly ignores the potential for damage that accompanies chemical pesticides and GMOs, in a time when corporate agriculture ignores the need to sustain and replenish the soil that sustains life, there are those who fight to maintain a good, healthy, ongoing source of food for all of us.

NOFA Vermont has been fighting, and continues to fight, for family farms, for responsible husbandry of the soil, for a secure and healthful food supply.

NOFA Vermont has been in existence for over 30 years, and is one of the oldest organic farming associations in the entire United States. The Vermont chapter, one of seven state chapters in the northeastern region of the United States, currently has over 1,000 members. It has been a sustaining force for the 333 certified organic growers and producers in our New England state. They sell their produce and products in 52 farmers markets in Vermont, to local groceries and food stores, to grocery chains operating in Vermont, and indeed to distributors nationwide. In an especially noteworthy development, they have forged new relations with local buyers, and new distribution networks, through the formation of 42 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms which provide food directly to consumers on an ongoing and regular basis.

NOFA Vermont's dual commitment is to local agriculture and to organic agriculture. It strives to be a steward of the soil, a preserver of the ongoing vitality of the environment, a proponent for healthy and nutritious foods. Through education, organic certification and technical assistance it strengthens the agricultural community in Vermont. Through its efforts to sustain community food security, and to promote both the marketing of organic products and the development of new markets, like the farmers markets and CSAs I mentioned a few minutes ago, it builds a stronger presence for healthful foods in Vermont.

It is important that we take time to recognize the individuals and organizations which not only nourish—in every way—our present, but look forward with vision to creating a strong and sustainable world for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. NOFA Vermont, and its hundreds of members, nourish us and show us the shape of a vital, vibrant and human-centered future.

HONORING PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on January 4, 1965, Battelle was selected by the federal government to manage and operate what was then called the Hanford Laboratories, and is now called the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. I congratulate PNNL as it celebrates its 40th anniversary. PNNL is a unique asset to my congressional district, to Washington State, to the Pacific Northwest and to the entire nation.

In 1965, Battelle committed to create a robust research operation in the State of Washington. It has absolutely delivered on its commitment. In the last 40 years, the number of staff at the lab has tripled, and business has increased from $20 million in 1965 to more than $600 million in 2004. As a leader in innovation, PNNL is an enduring asset in the Tri-Cities with many spinoff companies and technologies. As such, the laboratory continues to build collaborations with the region's colleges and universities and other scientific enterprises.

With major contributions to national science and technology programs, especially in recent years on homeland and national security, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is a valuable national asset and a vital part of regional efforts to create better jobs and strengthen our economy.

Since 1965, Battelle has contributed more than $13 million to not-for-profit organizations in the region. Battelle has also invested more than $125 million in facilities and equipment at its campus in Richland. And as testimony to its excellent stewardship of the lab, PNNL continues to receive ''Outstanding'' ratings for management of the lab by the Department of Energy. It recently received its seventh consecutive Outstanding rating.

As we look back on this exceptional record, we can also look forward with anticipation to Battelle's continued leadership at PNNL. With the world class staff and resources at the lab, and Battelle's excellent management, there is no limit to what can be done.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by sharing the strong feelings that all of us have in the Tri-Cities and the State of Washington—Battelle is a great employer, a great corporate citizen, and we look forward to many more years of its presence and commitment to a better Washington, a prosperous Pacific Northwest, and a safer world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COACH G.A. MOORE ON RETIRING AS TEXAS' ALL-TIME MOST WINNING COACH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach G.A. Moore, Texas' all-time winningest high school football coach, on his retirement.

Coach Moore won over 412 victories and 8 state championships in 42 seasons. Moore coached 39 of his 42 seasons at two places, Pilot Point, Texas, in my district and his alma mater, and in Celina, Texas. Mr. Moore also ranks an impressive 3rd on the nation's all-time wins list, and most recently led Pilot Point to an 8–3 record this season.

I congratulate Dr. Boothe for his lasting dedication to the honored Texas tradition of high school football. Best wishes to Coach Moore on his retirement.

JUSTICE AND EQUITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to correct an injustice that has been inflicted upon a group of World War II veterans, the World War II United States Merchant Mariners.

World War II Merchant Mariners suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of service while they delivered troops, tanks, food, airplanes, fuel and other needed supplies to every theater of the war.

Compared to the large number of men and women serving in World War II, the numbers of the Merchant Mariners were small, but their chance of dying during service was extremely high. Enemy forces sank over 800 ships between 1941 and 1944 alone.

Unfortunately, this group of brave men were denied their rights under the G.I. Bill of Rights that Congress enacted in 1945. All those who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard were recipients of benefits under the G.I. Bill. The United States Merchant Marine was not included.

The Merchant Marine became the forgotten service. For four decades, no effort was made to recognize the contribution made by this branch of the Armed Services. The fact that Merchant Seamen had borne arms during wartime in the defense of their country seemed not to matter.

No legislation to benefit merchant seamen was passed by Congress until 1988 when the Seaman Acts of 1988 finally granted them the a ''watered down'' G.I. Bill of Rights. Some portions of the G.I. Bill have never been made available to veterans of the Merchant Marine.

In addition, they still have not received proper recognition as veterans for Social Security purposes. If they had the ''veteran'' designation, their Social Security would be calculated as if they had earned $160 more a month than they did earn during their time in service in the Merchant Marines. Of course, what this means is a smaller Social Security check, now that they are retired.

While it is impossible to make up for over 40 years of unpaid benefits, I propose a bill that will acknowledge the service of the veterans of the Merchant Marine and offer compensation for years and years of lost benefits. H.R. 23, the ''Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2004'', will pay each eligible veteran a monthly benefit of $1000, and that payment would also go to their surviving spouses. It will also give them the Social Security that they are due by providing them with the status of ''veteran'' under the Social Security Act.

The average age of Merchant Marine veterans is now 81. Many have outlived their savings. An increase in their Social Security and a monthly benefit to compensate for the loss of nearly a lifetime of ineligibility for the GI Bill would be of comfort and would provide some measure of security for veterans of the Merchant Marine.

I owe a debt of gratitude to Ian Allison of Santa Rosa, California and Henry Van Gemert of Palmetto, Florida who are Co-Chairs of the Just Compensation Committee of the U.S. Merchant Marine Combat Veterans, and to Ted Metula of Lemon Grove, California for bringing this issue to my attention.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting and cosponsoring this legislation. We can fix the injustices endured by our Nation's Merchant Marines by passing H.R. 23 as quickly as possible!

HONORING RAY STRONG ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the artistic contributions of Ray Strong, on the occasion of his 100th Birthday.

Ray Strong has contributed to the Santa Barbara community not only through his art, but also through his passion and commitment to education and his dedication to the preservation of our environment. His generosity has touched many, including those young artists fortunate enough to paint with Ray as part of the Oak Group. Ray Strong has assisted in raising money for a number of environmental causes and has brought awareness to many conservation issues through his work.

In addition to exhibiting throughout the United States, Ray Strong's work is held in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution. I am fortunate to have had some of Ray's pieces grace the walls of all three of my Congressional district offices. Locally, Ray has been honored by Santa Barbara Beautiful and is revered by many in this community for his generosity, spectacular talent and his passion for our physical environment.

Ray Strong's enthusiastic dedication to recording the landscape around us reminds me just how precious our natural surroundings are. His commitment to environmental causes and his contributions to the American realist tradition are commendable. Ray Strong is a talented artist, generous teacher and role model to many. I am privileged to know Ray and I continue to be awed by his many talents.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN D.W. REILEY

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John D.W. Reiley and to recognize the many contributions he has made to the city of Pottsville, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the world. He knows no limits in his service and commitment to the people and communities he has touched over the years.

John D.W. Reiley was born and raised in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where he still resides today. He is a graduate of Pottsville Catholic High School and Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia.

After serving with the United States Army in the U.S. and Germany, he was associated with Reiley's Stores, Inc. in Pottsville. In May 1976, he was named Secretary of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, and he served in that capacity to the present time.

As a lifelong resident of Pottsville, Mr. Reiley has been active in the Greater Pottsville Winter Carnival, serving as its first president. A member of the Pottsville Lions, he is a past President and past District Governor. He is currently Co-Chairman of Pottsville Cruise Night and is a Director of the Union Bank and Trust Company, UBT Realty, and the Schuylkill County Motor Club, the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, and Penn Prime Insurance.

In 1969, he was appointed to Pottsville City Council. He was re-elected later that year and again in 1973.

He is also a member of Robert R. Wodbury Post #67 American Legion; Ancient Order of Hibernians, JFK Division (#2); Catholic War Veterans Post No. 1051; Knights of Columbus Council No. 431; Schuylkill Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame; and the Yorkville Hose & Fire Company.

Mr. Reiley is a past President of the Pottsville Merchants Association and past member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Retailers Association and the Pottsville Library.

In March 2000, he was appointed Mayor of Pottsville, completing the term of his son Terence, who lost a five-year battle with leukemia while in office. In November 2001, John was re-elected to a full term.

He is married to the former Agnes McGowan, and is the father of Hugh Reiley and the late Terry Reiley.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church as they join together in the celebration of their 75th anniversary. The festivities will begin on Saturday, January 8, 2005. The parish community of St. Francis will also host a variety of activities throughout the entire year of 2005.

In 1882 there were two churches, Catholic and Methodist that existed in Lake Station, Indiana. The first Catholic Church was located at a Way Station on the Stage Line that operated between Michigan and Joliet. It stood on the identical spot which the present church now occupies. The Way Station was listed on railroad bulletins as Lake Station. The Michigan Central Railroad was built from Detroit to Chicago in 1852, and at this time the structure was not known as a parish church but as a chapel. This building was in existence before the railroad. The original bell from the structure was stored when the building was razed and is now still in use at the present church.

Father Francis Xavier Guerre was the pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Miller, Indiana. He was persuaded to start a mission parish in East Gary. Father Guerre founded the mission parish of St. Francis Xavier in 1930, and Bishop John F. Noll dedicated the church in 1931. The name St. Francis Xavier was in honor of Father Guerre's patron saint. The parish continued as a mission until 1941, when Bishop appointed Father Francis Quinn as its resident pastor.

In 1950 Father Koors planned for the enlargement of the existing church and the erection of a Parochial School. However, Father Koors needed a written guarantee that nuns would be available to teach in the school. Six orders of nuns were contacted before a written guarantee was received from Mother Emily of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis of Seraph. Mother Emily persuaded her Council to give the necessary written guarantee for the Sisters to teach at St. Francis Xavier. On September 5, 1956, the St. Francis Xavier School was officially opened for classes. The School was dedicated and blessed on November 11, 1956 by Bishop Pursley.

In 1984, Father Robert Evers became the Pastor of the St. Francis. Father Evers reopened the ''Center'' and procured the help of the Jesuits to service the Spanish community with week-end and daily masses. When the Jesuits left, liturgies were again celebrated in the main church. Father Evers retired in June 2004 after serving the parish for 20 years. The proud parishioners are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during the years.

The present church's beautiful interior features sculptured statues of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, the Infant of Prague, and St. Theresa. The beautiful, dimly-lit interior is illuminated by sunlight through the stained-glass window and dozens of votive candles flicker through ruby and sapphire tinted globes. The present pastor, Reverend J. Anthony Valtierra and his congregation continue to serve the needs of the citizens of Northwest Indiana. By offering service and guidance to others, the members of St. Francis Xavier Church have proven their sincere dedication and motivation for assisting others in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating St. Francis Xavier Church on their 75th anniversary. They have provided support and guidance for all those in the community. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON HOSPITAL'S SERVICE LEAGUE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 50th anniversary of Washington Hospital's Service League. Washington Hospital, located in Fremont, CA, will mark the anniversary at a celebration on February 7, 2005.

At 11:30 a.m., on March 6, 1955, ground was broken for the construction of Washington Hospital. During this same month, 14 civic-minded women in the community came together to plan a volunteer organization that would work in and for the hospital.

As a result of their commitment, the Washington Hospital Service League became a reality in 1956; the hospital opened on November 24, 1958. The Service League's goal was—and still is—to support the hospital by purchasing much needed equipment and to assist patients, visitors and staff.

Over the years, the Service League has raised more than $1.79 million for equipment in almost every department at Washington Hospital, enabling community members to obtain state-of-the-art health care in their own community. Seed money donated by the Service League helped bring to fruition Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation, Washington-Stanford Radiation Oncology Center and the Community Health Resource Library.

One of the Service League's activities that has continued to change the lives of so many in the community was the establishment of a scholarship program in 1961. Since the first nursing scholarship in the amount of $150 was awarded to a nursing student at Highland Hospital, the volunteers have given more than $150,000 to students seeking a career in health care.

The Service League volunteers also bring a human touch—freely offering a cheerful smile, a friendly attitude and thousands of hours of service to the hospital's patients, visitors and staff.

I join in congratulating all the volunteers who have contributed to the success of the Washington Hospital Service League over the past 50 years, and the present-day volunteers who continue to make a positive difference by giving back to the community.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE ROPPE CORPORATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to a special company in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This year, the Roppe Corporation of Fostoria, OH, will celebrate 50 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, the Roppe Corporation is one of the nation's leading suppliers of rubber and vinyl flooring products and accessories. The Roppe Rubber Corporation was founded in 1955, by Thony Roppe and production began in 1956. With only seven employees, the Roppe Rubber Corporation focused exclusively on rubber products.

Through the expansion of its trucking fleet and an increased customer base, Roppe has grown and flourished since its beginning. Due to the expansion of products and services that Roppe Rubber offered, it officially changed its name, in 1990, to the Roppe Corporation.

In 1993, the Miller family purchased the Roppe Corporation where Donald Miller continues to serve as chairman of the board, nearly 47 years after beginning his service at Roppe. With expanded facilities and dedicated leadership, the Roppe Corporation has become a premier employer in the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio. By maintaining its factory in Fostoria, OH, Roppe has become a permanent fixture in the community.

Today, Roppe has become the world's largest rubber wall base manufacturer. Roppe has over 45 distributors with 105 locations in the United States and exports products worldwide. The Roppe Corporation has grown in annual sales to $60,000,000 and now owns ATECO, Tri County Broadcasting, Seneca Millwork, Custom Corner, The Fostoria Focus, and Flexco.

Mr. Speaker, the real success of the Roppe Corporation comes not only from its products, but from its people. The employees of the Roppe Corporation provide customers with the service and dependability that are expected of a first-class company. Beyond the walls of Roppe, its employees are model citizens by providing for and leading their community. In all but 1 of the past 20 years, Roppe employees were the highest per capita givers to the Fostoria United Way campaign. Each year, we can count on the employees of Roppe to give of their time and their means to the community of Fostoria, OH.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of the Roppe Corporation. As all who benefit from this fine company gather to celebrate its 50th anniversary of service, I am confident that the good people of Fostoria, OH, will continue the successes of the Roppe Corporation into the future.

HONORING DR. JIM KING OF WVXU IN CINCINNATI UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jim King, who is Director of Broadcasting and General Manager of WVXU, Xavier University's public radio station in Cincinnati. He retired December 31, 2004 after 28 years of dedicated service to our community, and will return to a full time Xavier faculty position.

A native of Cheboygan, MI, Jim had an early interest in music. He began his interest in broadcasting while still a youngster with his own ''pirate'' radio station, and even then, he knew he wanted a career in radio. Later, he gained his first full time job in radio as a high school sophomore. At Western Michigan University, Jim earned a B.A. in English Literature and an M.A. in English Literature and Ancient History. Happily, he also met his wife of 37 years, Kathy, there. In 1969, Jim and Kathy moved to Ann Arbor and in 1973, Dr. King earned a Ph.D in Radio, TV and Film from the University of Michigan.

In 1976, Jim joined Xavier University as its full time professional manager of WVXU, which was then a small 10 watt FM station. Jim also serves as Professor of Communication Arts at Xavier.

Over the years, WVXU has increased its power several times, and today, the station is 26,000 watts. Under Jim's visionary leadership, the station became a member of a regional network of seven stations in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. WVXU is now housed in a 12,000 square foot broadcasting complex on the Xavier University campus, employs 25 radio professionals, and has won almost every honor in broadcasting, including the George Foster Peabody Award, the industry's most prestigious award.

Simply put, Jim has improved the quality of life for all of us in the community by treating us to WVXU's mix of vintage radio shows; award-winning news programs; financial information; and a beloved variety of music.

All of us congratulate Jim on his retirement and wish him luck in the new challenges to come.

HONORING JOSEPH HILLS AS VIRGINIA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Hills, Virginia's 2005 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hills, a social studies teacher at Lake Braddock Secondary School, was named Virginia's 2005 Teacher of the Year and will represent Virginia in the National Teacher of the Year program. He was also awarded Fairfax County Public Schools 2004 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hills received a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts degree in Education from the College of St. Thomas, Minnesota. He began his career with Fairfax County Public Schools in 1960 as a history teacher at Fairfax High School. He then moved to Marshall High School and later to Langley High School, where he worked as a teacher and social studies department chair. In 1973, Mr. Hills came to Lake Braddock Secondary School where he still serves.

He is a member of numerous education associations including the National Council of Social Studies, the Virginia Council of Social Studies, and is active in various Parent Teacher Associations. Mr. Hills has received the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, as well as outstanding teacher awards from the University of Chicago and Smith College.

Colleagues describe Mr. Hills as ''the embodiment of a dedicated teacher who is energized by his students and at the same time energizes those in his classroom.'' Former students praise Mr. Hills for making history come alive by telling stories and inspiring them to become teachers or earn graduate degrees in history. He is known for his use of the Socratic Method, spurring students to ''think deeply and differently.''

Our students are our number one resource. Mr. Hills has dedicated his life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 44 years, he has made a lasting impact on thousands of students.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Joseph Hills and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANALOG DEVICES, INC.

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Analog Devices, Inc., ADI, a Fortune 1000 and S&P500 Company with global headquarters in the 9th Congressional District, in the town of Norwood, MA, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary January 18, 2005.

ADI, which is a world leader in the design, manufacture and marketing of semiconductors with a specialty in high-performance analog, mixed-signal and digital signal processing integrated circuits, was founded in 1965 in Cambridge, MA, by Ray Stata and Matthew Lorber, both graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During the intervening four decades, Analog Devices has grown to become the world's largest supplier of analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog data converters, and is the world's largest supplier of analog amplifiers, which are used in every conceivable manner of electronic communications, consumer, industrial, automotive, medical, military and aerospace product. The company today has manufacturing and/or technology design centers in 12 countries and 10 States, including Arizona, California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

ADI has played a significant role in the sustained development of Massachusetts as a world-class technology region and is a significant economic growth engine within the Massachusetts economy. Analog Devices is:

One of the 20 largest employers among Massachusetts' publicly traded companies;

Among the Top 20 companies in the State measured by annual revenue;

One of the Top 10 companies in the State measured by net earnings.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add may own personal congratulations to Analog Devices on the significant milestone of its 40th year and thank the company for the technological and economic contributions it has made to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond.

INTRODUCING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION ACT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today, I will be reintroducing the Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act. This legislation is a long-term solution to help cities in Southern California remove perchlorate from their drinking water.

Formerly H.R. 4606, this legislation passed the House of Representatives in September of 2004. Today, I pick up the fight to clean up perchlorate groundwater contamination and protect the health of Southern Californians. Perchlorate groundwater contamination remains a crisis in Southern California. This includes my hometown of Rialto, California.

Perchlorate is a main ingredient in rocket fuel. It has been found in drinking water supplies in 40 states, including California. It has been linked to thyroid damage, and may be especially harmful to infants and developing fetuses, and the 1.2 million women of childbearing age in San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties. It could also be harmful to those with weak immune systems, such as seniors and AIDS patients.

There is a legal and moral obligation to provide safe and healthy water. Today, these obligations are in jeopardy. The hardworking families in these areas are not at fault and should not have to pay for this problem. We must protect these consumers.

Southern California, and particularly the Inland Empire, has been greatly impacted by perchlorate. Perchlorate has been detected in 184 sources in the counties served by the Santa Ana River watershed. There is a perchlorate plume in the Inland Empire in California that is seven miles long and growing every day. It has affected 82 wells in San Bernardino County, and jeopardized the water supplies of 500,000 residents who rely on the Colorado River.

The economic burden on these communities is almost as much of a concern as the potential health effects. The bill authorizes $50 million in much-needed assistance. It is modeled after a successful program in the San Gabriel Basin in Southern California that has also suffered from perchlorate-polluted water. And it is similar to H.R. 4459, a bill introduced by Richard Pombo in the 108th Congress that deals with perchlorate in Northern California, and passed the House last September.

I urge my colleagues to support this urgent bill for Southern California, so we can tell these communities that help is on the way. I would like to thank Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congressman KEN CALVERT and Congressman GARY MILLER for their support of this crucial bill to the health of Southern Californians.

TRIBAL PARITY ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Tribal Parity Act today. This bill would fully compensate the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in South Dakota for the lands that they lost in the last century as a result of the federal government's construction of the massive dams on the main stem of the Missouri River.

The 1944 Flood Control Act cost these tribes much in terms of lost land. It also took an enormous toll on the people of both tribes and their economies. It is critically important that we seek to fully reimburse these tribes for the lands they lost.

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe are both constituent bands of the Great Sioux Nation. Both border on the Missouri River in central South Dakota and are connected by the Big Bend Dam.

Congress created a trust fund for the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in 1996, and a separate trust fund for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in 1997. These trust funds sought to compensate the tribes for the value of their land that is now permanently inundated as a result of the construction of the Big Bend Dam. Unfortunately, the formula that the General Accounting Office used to calculate amount of compensation for both tribes was substantially different than the formulas that it has used to calculate damages for many other similarly situated tribes. The result was unfair and inadequate compensation trust funds for these tribes.

Parity for these tribes would mean an ability to actively work for the betterment of their communities. It would mean adequate roads and improved community facilities. It would mean better health care and newer schools. It would mean attracting commercial business and improving the local economy. Most importantly, it would mean a real chance for these tribes to provide future generations with the tools that so many of us take for granted.

I would ask all of my distinguished colleagues to support the Tribal Parity Act and work with me to enact legislation that would fairly and appropriately compensate members of the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes. I ask you to do it because of the tremendous positive difference it would make in the lives of those affected—and because it is the right and fair thing to do.

THE WORKER REEMPLOYMENT ACCOUNTS ACT OF 2005

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act of 2005. This important legislation will help thousands of unemployed Americans seeking to return to work by providing them with a Personal Reemployment Account.

The American economy is the fastest growing economy of any industrialized nation in the world. Nationwide, more than 2.4 million jobs have been added since August 2003. The national unemployment rate has declined to 5.4 percent, lower than the average rate during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. In my own state of Nevada, unemployment has fallen to 3.7 percent. Clearly, the Republican tax relief and growth package has helped to drive the strong recovery in our economy. But we still have more work to do.

As the economy is adding thousands of new jobs and the unemployment rate is dropping across the country, the assistance provided by this bill is critical because we want to ensure that every job seeker has the resources they need to find a good job. That is what this bill is all about—helping Americans find careers.

As President Bush proposed in his 2005 budget, the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act permits the Secretary of Labor to use demonstration funding under the Workforce Investment Act to provide Personal Reemployment Accounts to those with the greatest challenges in returning to work quickly.

Through competitive grants, the local One-Stop Career Center system, where the unemployed already seek assistance in obtaining employment, will offer this important new benefit to unemployed workers, in addition to an array of employment services they already provide.

Under the bill, states and local workforce investment areas will be able to offer unemployed individuals who are most in need of help a reemployment account of up to $3,000. With these accounts, unemployed workers may purchase a variety of different services to help them find a good job, including job training, child care, transportation, housing assistance, short-term classes to upgrade skills, and employment counseling.

One of the important features of the bill is that it provides individuals with significant new flexibility to design a package of services tailored to meet their needs. By taking into accounts the needs of the unemployed on an individual basis, our local, State, and federal governments will better equip these individuals with the tools they require to secure long-term, meaningful employment.

In addition, recipients will be able to keep the balance of the account as a cash reemployment bonus if they become reemployed within 13 weeks and stay employed for six months.

These new Personal Reemployment Accounts and the current job training services already administered under the Workforce Investment Act are both essential in helping displaced workers in areas of the country facing skill shortages and enhancing the workforce for our increasingly knowledge-based economy.

The Secretary of Labor already has begun the process of testing the PRA concept through a very limited pilot program. However, the authority of this bill would allow the Secretary to test the concept in more areas, either within the seven states already participating or in additional states. The lessons learned through this demonstration program will help inform Congress regarding the best way to serve the unemployed and ultimately will result in better reemployment and training services for all workers.

Over the past two years, Republicans have taken numerous steps to help unemployed workers. I am also proud to join 21'' Century Competitiveness Subcommittee Chairman MCKEON and Chairman BOEHNER of the Education and the Workforce Committee in introducing the Job Training Improvement Act of 2005. This bill will reauthorize and enhance the services provided through the Workforce Investment Act and the nation's one-stop deliver system for workforce development. I am pleased that the provisions of the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act are included in this broader reauthorization package.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve job training opportunities for all Americans and offer this new innovative option to help workers as quickly as possible. The choice and flexibility available through a Personal Reemployment Account is the additional assistance American families need to get back into high-wage, steady employment. By providing this enhanced assistance, we can ensure that Americans are able to meet the challenges of the ever-changing economy that they face.

I was proud to see similar legislation pass in the House of Representatives in the 108th Congress, and am excited to see it become law in the 109th Congress. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE 21ST CENTURY WATER COMMISSION ACT

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduced my proposal, the "21st Century Water Commission Act." This proposal, which was approved by the House on November 21, 2003, but unfortunately not considered by the other body before the 108th Congress adjourned, will bring together our nation's premier water experts to recommend strategies for meeting our water challenges in the 21st century.

Some highlights of my 21st Century Water Commission legislation are as follows:

The commission will look for ways to ensure fresh water for U.S. citizens for the next 50 years;

The commission will be composed of nine members appointed by the President, and key leaders in the House and Senate;

The commission will look for ways to eliminate duplication and conflict among federal governmental agencies;

The commission will consider all available technologies and other methods to optimize water supply reliability, availability, and quality, while safeguarding the environment;

The commission will hold hearings in distinct geographical regions of the United States, and in Washington, D.C., to seek a diversity of views, comments, and input; and

A final report will be due within three years of the commission's inception. The report will include a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the commission, as well as recommendations for legislation and other policies.

I want to be clear that this bill does not give the federal government more direct authority or control over water. Rather, this commission will make recommendations on how we can coordinate water management efforts on all levels so that localities, states, and the Federal government can work together to enact a comprehensive water policy to avoid future water shortages.

As Benjamin Franklin noted in 1746, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." Nothing could be truer, and many states across the country that are currently facing a water crisis, or have in the last few years, understand the wisdom of these words.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House in moving this bill forward promptly. The U.S. cannot afford to reevaluate its water policies every time a crisis hits. Now is the time to get ahead of this issue, and I believe that the 21st Century Water Commission can serve as a channel for sharing the successful strategies and ideas that will allow us to do so.

TRIBUTE TO JACK HALPERN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Halpern, a highly accomplished Jewish American who will be honored on January 27, 2005, at the Annual Northeast Regional Tribute of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Jack, a resident of Manhattan, lives with his wife Lieba and their two wonderful children. He is a managing member of Atlantic Realty, which develops residential and commercial real estate in New Jersey, New York and Israel.

In addition to his duties with Atlantic Realty, Jack somehow finds the time to work as an activist. Following in the footsteps of his father Sam, who founded the family business after surviving the Holocaust, Jack has become an active supporter of numerous Jewish causes. As a member of AIPAC's National Executive Committee, Jack has been a leader in strengthening ties between the U.S. and Israel for many years.

In 2002, Jack founded the Energy Independence Task Force at the American Jewish Congress, where he currently serves on the Governing Council and Executive Committee. This important task force continues to work for fuel efficiency standards in trucks and SUVs. In addition they have met with many key Congressional and Administration officials in order to deliver the message that a long-term national energy policy focusing on reducing the United States' dependency on Middle East oil is a national security imperative.

Jack's long-time associations also include State of Israel Bonds, the Jewish Community Center of Manhattan, the Holocaust Resource Foundation, the Technion Institute and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Halpern is a model American citizen worthy of the award which will be bestowed upon him. His efforts have not only helped to strengthen the two countries he cares most deeply for (America and Israel) but have also helped to strengthen their special relationship.

For his continued service on AIPAC's Executive Committee and his work on improving U.S.-Israeli relations, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Jack Halpern.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act. Better known as NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was created by Executive Order in 1970. It is the nation's lead civilian agency for oceans and atmosphere, yet Congress has never passed an overarching organic act describing the mission and functions of the agency. Instead, over the past 34 years Congress has defined the mission of the agency in a piecemeal manner with legislation focused on specific issues. The bill I am introducing today, which passed the Environment, Technology and Standards Subcommittee in the 108th Congress, is a first step toward Congressional passage of comprehensive legislation for NOAA.

Last year, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released its long awaited report with

recommendations for a coordinated national ocean policy. One of its key recommendations is that Congress should pass an organic act for NOAA. In his response to the Ocean Commission report, President Bush supported this recommendation. The time is right for Congress to consider, and pass, this organic act for NOAA.

My bill establishes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the Department of Commerce. It defines the mission of NOAA as ''to understand and predict changes in the Earth's oceans and atmosphere and the effects of such changes on the land environment, to conserve and manage coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes ecosystems, and to educate the public about these topics.'' The recent Indian Ocean tsunami is just the latest evidence of the need for NOAA's research and services. My bill maintains the current leadership structure at NOAA, but adds a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology to serve as the point person for the agency to coordinate the research and science activities of NOAA across the agency.

This bill also describes the functions of NOAA, which are divided into three broad groups to improve cooperation among NOAA's programs, as recommended by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. First is the National Weather Service, which provides weather, water and climate forecasts and warnings to the nation. The second group is operations and services, which includes all of NOAA's satellites services and its mapping and charting services. The third category of functions is research and education.

The bill focuses on pieces of NOAA under Science Committee jurisdiction, and does not currently include any references to NOAA's fisheries or resource management, which are under the jurisdiction of the Resources Committee here in the House. I am hopeful that we can work with other committees in the House and our colleagues in the Senate to pass a truly comprehensive organic act for NOAA, but for now we must start with this legislation.

I believe it is critical for NOAA's mission to be clearly defined so it can better fulfill its role in observing, managing, and protecting our nation's coastal, ocean and Great Lakes resources. I look forward to working with my colleagues in a bipartisan fashion to pass this bill into law this year. This will not be an easy task, but it is so important to our environment, our economy, and our children's and grandchildren's future, that we must succeed.

INTRODUCING THE CONYERS-SHERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, in introducing the Conyers-Sherman Presidential Eligibility Constitutional Amendment. This Amendment will allow any foreign-born person who has been a United States citizen for 20 years or longer to qualify to run for President of the United States. Once enacted and ratified, this amendment will allow millions of well qualified Americans to aspire to our nation's highest office.

This bill is not about the election prospects of any one man or woman. It is about the dreams of all Americans. Every year I visit high schools in the San Fernando Valley. I tell those students that America is a great country, a land of opportunity. I want to tell them that it is also a country where any child can grow up to be President of the United States. Unfortunately, for many high school students in my district, the fact that they were born in another country is a complete and unequivocal bar to the Presidency.

All American children regardless of where they are born should have all the rights and responsibilities of native born Americans. All American children should be able to aspire to rise as far as their talent, energy and ability allow them, including our nation's highest office. There is no good reason to exclude Americans who will grow up to attend our colleges and universities, who will protect America in our armed forces, or who will work hard and pay their taxes, from our nation's highest office. When this Constitutional Amendment is passed and ratified each of them will have that opportunity.

The exact reasons for including the natural born citizen language in the Constitution are lost to history. The meticulous record of the Constitutional Convention, kept by James Madison, hardly gives it a mention. Regardless of that lost reasoning, America is now a nation of immigrants. We are a nation that should encourage those who come here to aspire to their highest goals and loftiest dreams. Mr. Speaker, the Constitutional Amendment Mr. CONYERS and I introduce today will make some of those dreams a possible reality for the first time in our history.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HILLIARD LYONS

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hilliard Lyons' 150th anniversary. During 2004 this respected investment firm completed its 150th year of doing business in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Hilliard Lyons story began in 1854 with the creation of the firm Quigley and Lyons. The Civil War split the partnership but Henry J. Lyons continued the business. The business grew and Lyons bought a seat on the New York Stock Exchange in 1878. During the same time period, John James Byron Hilliard entered the banking business under the name J.J.B. Hilliard & Son.

As Louisville and Kentucky grew, so did Hilliard Lyons. When Kentucky sought to link itself to important markets, Hilliard Lyons helped finance the first bridge across the Ohio River at Louisville. Furthermore, as technology changed, Hilliard Lyons was on the cutting edge of business innovation. Moving from ticker tape to keypunch machines in its early days, the firm has been eager to embrace technology. In fact, Hilliard Lyons was the first brokerage firm outside New York to automate the processing of stock trades.

In 1972, the firm replaced its partnership business model with a corporation. Further changes came in 1998 when PNC Financial Services Group purchased Hilliard Lyons.

Hilliard Lyons is a proud resident of downtown Louisville. The firm's headquarters are located in the former Stewart's Dry Goods department store on Muhammad Ali Boulevard in downtown Louisville. Hilliard Lyons has occupied this location since 1986.

Today, Hilliard Lyons is a full-service investment operating 80 branch offices in 13 states. Hilliard Lyons employs 1,300 people who serve 250,000 customers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Hilliard Lyons after 150 years of service to Kentucky and the Nation. The citizens of Louisville are proud of Hilliard Lyons and we congratulate them on this historic milestone.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF ROB DAHLMAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great public servant upon his retirement from his noble profession.

Fire Chief Rob Dahlman served the citizens of Wayne Michigan since he began his career with the Wayne Fire Department in May 1976 and continued his employment with the city for the next twenty-nine years. Rob was first promoted to Lieutenant in January 1990. Four years later, he was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Marshal. Finally, he was promoted to Fire Chief in 1999.

His education includes a degree in Fire Science Technology from Henry Ford Community College cumulating with a State of Michigan certified specialist license, the first City of Wayne Fire Chief to achieve this status.

Fire Chief Dahlman's past affiliations and titles are vast and varied. He is a Certified Fire Inspector with the Michigan State Fire Marshal Office, and active member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Metropolitan Detroit Fire Inspectors and the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society. Rob has been the Emergency Program Manager of the City of Wayne and was instrumental in instituting and effective emergency operations plan.

Under Fire Chief Dahlman's administration, the Wayne Fire Department achieved its goal of building a state-of-the-art fire department. In 2003, the force moved into a new facility which has set a high standard for neighboring fire departments to follow. He has also expanded the services the department provides by adding two new rescue units and helped secure funding to provide several other life saving pieces of equipment.

Fire Chief Dahlman once said, ''I am not a hero, but I am an individual who is constantly concerned about the well being of others.'' Rob's career has echoed this sentiment, which can be attested to by his long list of accomplishments and praise he has constantly received throughout his professional life as a firefighter.

His wife Robin, sons Ryan and Randy, daughter-in-law Kelly, and grandson Brandon should be extremely proud of the undeniable mark he has left on the community. We at home will remember and always benefit from his dedication and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of us all, I extend my sincere appreciation to Fire Chief Rob Dahlman for his fine service to our community and our country.

IN HONOR OF DICK BARELLI

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dean Richard (Dick) Barelli, a dedicated public servant who passed away on October 1st, 2004. He was a valuable member of the Monterey Bay community and will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Dick Barelli was born in Hammond, Indiana on February 25, 1937 to Dean and Anne Barelli. After graduating from Notre Dame University, Dick served as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army at Monterey County's own Fort Ord. Dick then earned his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and in 1970 moved to Monterey to become one of the first Monterey County Assistant Public Defenders. He went into private practice, and was a founding member of the Monterey College of Law in 1972. Dick was appointed Superior Court Judge of Monterey County in 1977, where he served for five years. Although Dick retired in 1982 he has served as Deputy County Counsel for the past nine years, and was actively involved in the Monterey County Bar Association, where he served as President.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dean Barelli's many accomplishments, and I commend him for his lifelong dedication to his community and friends. I knew Dean Barelli during my time as a Monterey County supervisor, and was deeply saddened to hear of his passing. I join the Monterey Bay community, his friends and his family in honoring this truly admirable man for all of his lifelong achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY LANGUAGE ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we can no longer keep our nation safe if we do not commit ourselves to learning the languages and cultures of critical areas around the world. The security of our troops overseas and the American people here at home demand that we act quickly to eliminate the severe shortage of critical need language professionals in this country. While the last Congress has taken some steps, we have not done enough.

That's why I rise today to introduce legislation, the National Security Language Act, which would significantly expand our investment in foreign language education on the primary, secondary, and post-secondary level.

Al Qaeda operates in over 75 countries, where hundreds of languages and dialects are spoken. However, 99 percent of American high school, college and university programs concentrate on a dozen (mostly European) languages. In fact, more college students currently study Ancient Greek (20,858) than Arabic (10,596), Korean (5,211), Persian (1,117), and Pashto (14) put together. We need to do more to make sure that America has the language professionals necessary to defend our national security. This cannot be done overnight. We are already years overdue.

The 911 Congressional Joint Inquiry reports our intelligence community is at 30 percent readiness in languages critical to national security. Despite this alarming statistic, we do not appear to be taking the necessary aggressive action to address this problem. Various agencies are making efforts to hire more linguists. When I asked a panel of intelligence experts at a recent Intelligence hearing what the federal, government is doing to increase the pool of critical need language professionals from which they hire these linguists, they answered with silence. Two years after the events of September 11, we are still failing to address one the most fundamental security problems facing this nation.

Changing our recruiting methods alone will not solve the problem. To meet new security needs, we need to create a new domestic pool of foreign language experts and we can only do that by investing in the classroom.

The National Security Language Act would expand federal investment in education in foreign languages of critical need, such as Arabic, Persian, Korean, Pashto, and Chinese. Specifically, my bill would provide loan forgiveness of up to $10,000 for university students who major in a critical need foreign language and then take a job either in the federal workforce or as a language teacher. It would provide new grants to American universities to establish intensive in-country language study programs and to develop programs that encourage students to pursue advanced science and technology studies in a foreign language.

My bill would also establish grants for foreign language partnerships between local school districts and foreign language departments at institutions of higher education. And it would authorize a national study to identify heritage communities here in the United States with native speakers of critical foreign languages and make them targets of a federal marketing campaign encouraging students to pursue degrees in those languages.

Just as the National Defense Education Act of 1958 created a generation of scientists, engineers, and Russian linguists to confront the enemy of that time, the National Security Language Act will give us a generation of Americans able to confront the new threats we face today.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOE GOVERNALE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great gentleman who has devoted a majority of his life to civil service—Joe Governale, who is retiring as Postmaster of Covina.

Born in Chicago, Mr. Governale received a Masters Degree in Psychology from Cal State Fullerton. Married to wife Judy, and proud father of two children, Mr. Governale was first employed in the Postal Service in 1964.

While on leave from the Postal Service, Mr. Governale was in the U.S. Navy as a Corpsman from 1966 to 1970. Mr. Governale served on the cruiser USS Canabera and then with the Marines during the Vietnam War.

After returning from Vietnam to his clerk job at the Covina Post Office, Mr. Governale found a new post office had been built while he was gone and within it, he found a new home. Within two years, Mr. Governale moved into management and was appointed to the position of Director of Human Resources in 1982. Mr. Governale was selected as the Postmaster of Baldwin Park in 1986, and is the longest serving Postmaster in the history of Covina. Mr. Governale also received his teaching credentials and has taught postal operations for many years to new supervisors.

Mr. Governale is a fan of the Chicago Bears and the White Sox, and his hobbies include video poker and reading. Mr. Governale plans to retire in Laughlin, Nevada, so he can enjoy time with his family.

Mr. Governale is a wonderful example of a person who dedicated his life to civil service. I am proud to recognize Mr. Joe Governale and his many years of work as a civil servant as he retires as Postmaster of Covina.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS. MABEL YAP

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I rise to pay this tribute to the late Mrs. Mabel Yap. She was one of Miami-Dade County's matriarchs who contributed immense good to our community.

Mrs. Yap's passing on December 27, 2004 leaves a deep void, especially for those of us who have known her quiet and dignified spirit in urging her children and grandchildren to advance the common good of our beloved community in an unselfish manner. The funeral Mass to celebrate her life is being held today, Tuesday, January 4, 2005, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at St. Louis Catholic Church, and will be followed by her interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in South Miami.

She was the loving and devoted wife of Mr. Patrick Yap and the mother of eight children, 21 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Yap symbolized the dutiful mother whose home offered sanctuary and solace to all those who sought her help. Her nurturing spirit and perseverance amidst overwhelming odds transformed her into a matron of love and caring for all those who came to her seeking her advice on a myriad of things. Buttressed by her unflinching faith and her willingness to pay the price, she went about doing good, especially on behalf of the less fortunate.

Though a highly private individual, the late Mabel Yap consecrated her life to raising a family of achievers, and has been a resilient voice in articulating the need for responding to the plight of our community's immigrants. In so doing she symbolized all that is good and noble about the American spirit of idealism and optimism, and she worked long and hard in hopes that our nation truly become a land of opportunity for all.

This is the legacy Mrs. Mabel Yap bequeathed to us. Indeed, I am privileged to have been touched by the magnificent contributions she has made to our community through her family. I now join our community in thanks for her grace and for her noble and giving presence during her time with us.

THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the past several months have seen an almost unprecedented focus in this body on the extremely important issue of homeland security. Just a few weeks ago, we passed the National Intelligence Reform Act, a landmark piece of legislation to overhaul our intelligence agencies. But, as I noted at that time, the bill unfortunately did not go far enough in addressing the major security vulnerability presented by the porous nature of our borders.

So as we continue to address the issue of border security, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of Chairman SENSENBRENNER's legislation to complete the San Diego border fence, and ensure that illegal immigrants are unable to receive drivers' licenses, something, I might add, already prohibited in my home state of California.

But in addition to these important steps that will soon be taken, I rise to ask for the support of my colleagues for an illegal immigration control plan that I am pleased to introduce today. The plan is the brainchild of T.J. Bonner, the President of the National Border Patrol Council, and a 26-year veteran of the Border Patrol who still serves with them today. T.J. believes that our proposal will eliminate up to 98 percent of the illegal border crossings into the United States.

T.J. and I share the belief that for any proposal to stop illegal immigration to be successful, it must get at the root cause of what attracts illegal immigrants to our country—and that is the lure of economic opportunity and the ease with which illegal workers can find jobs. Under the Bonner Plan, we will dramatically increase the enforcement of laws which prohibit American businesses from employing illegal immigrants. Regrettably, too many employers have been unwilling to comply with the law. The growing availability of counterfeit identity documents has also undermined the current system because employers are increasingly unable to establish the authenticity of documents presented by job applicants.

Our legislation adds new features to the Social Security card to deter counterfeiting and make it easier for employers to determine whether a card is genuine by including a digitized photo of the cardholder on the card. The improved Social Security card will also be encoded with a unique electronic encryption code to allow employers to verify each prospective applicant's work eligibility status prior to hiring, through either an electronic card-reader or a toll-free telephone number. Employers will face stiff federal fines of $50,000 and up to 5 years in prison if they hire an illegal immigrant or choose not to verify a prospective employee's work eligibility. The employer would also be required to reimburse the government for the cost of deporting the illegal immigrant.

With the improved Social Security card and national verification system, employers will have no excuse for hiring illegal immigrants. By eliminating the supply of jobs for illegal workers, we will end the incentive for illegal immigrants to enter the United States because they will know that they will be unable to make a living here.

Legal workers will only need to update their Social Security card once, to have their photo placed on the card and for other long-overdue anti-fraud measures to be applied. A worker would only need the updated Social Security card when applying for a new job. I want to make it very, very clear that this proposal does not represent the creation of a national identification card. This bill strictly prohibits the use of the Social Security card as a national ID card, and stipulates that the card not be required to be routinely carried on one's person. Social Security cards are often already required to be provided to new employers; the changes we are proposing to the Social Security card take us no further down the road of creating a national ID card.

Finally, the Bonner Plan also puts teeth into the new enforcement procedures by calling for the addition of 10,000 new Homeland Security officers whose sole responsibility will be to enforce employer compliance with the law. These new agents will free up the rest of the Border Patrol to exclusively focus on border enforcement and terrorism prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I do not stand here today to tell the rest of the world that we intend to limit opportunities for the American dream to be fulfilled. But if foreign nationals wish to come to the United States, they must, as Governor Schwarzenegger said, "play by the rules," and we must make clear that there will be no economic opportunity for anyone who enters this country illegally. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in this effort, and hope they will consider joining me as we take action on this vital national security priority.

ENSURING COLLEGE ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, since 1973, the Pell Grant program has been the backbone of making higher education affordable in the United States, with more than five million students receiving nearly 13 billion dollars in aid this year alone. Unfortunately, President Bush recently made a change to student aid policy that will cut more than $300 million in federal scholarships to low- and moderate-income college students for the 2005–06 school year. As a result, 1.3 million students will have their Pell Grant scholarships either reduced or eliminated.

Current law allows students and their families to deduct state and local taxes when calculating how much income they have available to pay for the cost of higher education. This recent Bush update changes the way families calculate these deductions, and as a result, 1.3 million students will have their Pell scholarships reduced or eliminated. In essence, the change would make it appear that families have more money available to pay for tuition, decreasing the amount of Federal student aid, as well as other need-based aid for which families are eligible.

This is why I am introducing legislation along with Representative TIM BISHOP to reverse the $300 million Pell scholarship cut. Specifically, our bill would prevent any student from having his or her federal Pell Grant eligibility amount reduced as a result of the recent changes to student aid. This would enable the Department of Education to fine tune the eligibility calculation without hurting students and families who rely on these scholarships to pay for college.

Today, education is more important than ever to solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country. We must do everything possible to help American students attend college.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIVITIES OF MRS. RUTH WILLNER

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an extremely active and dedicated woman, Mrs. Ruth Willner for her contributions to the Monterey Park Democratic Club. In addition to working and raising two children, Mrs. Willner has still found the time to be very involved in her community.

Many groups in the Los Angeles area are fortunate to count Mrs. Willner as one of their members. However, the time that she has contributed to the Monterey Park Democratic Club is especially remarkable. Mrs. Willner has been a Monterey Park Democratic Club member for nearly 40 years.

In addition to being a member she also assumed the role of the club's Newsletter Editor and has held that position for the past 20 years. For the past two decades, she has served as the newsletter's only reporter, writer and editor. Her work played an integral role in keeping members up to date and in touch.

In December, Mrs. Willner produced her last newsletter for the club and retired as the Newsletter Editor. Although she will relinquish her position, her hard work and devotion will not be forgotten. Her commitment and drive is an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO RAMON BUTLER AND COREY JONES

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a pair of heroes whose courage has served as an inspiration to many in South Florida during this past holiday season.

Shortly after 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2004, an unattended candle sparked a flame that engulfed a home in the City of Miami Gardens, FL; fourteen-year-old Ramon

Butler who lives next door immediately responded to cries for help. Ramon entered the burning home without regard to his own personal safety, located and rescued a one-year-old child and then reentered the home in an attempt to locate the baby's five-month-old sister. Unfortunately, the roof began to collapse and he could not proceed any further and exited the home.

At this point, City of Miami Gardens Police Officer Corey Jones arrived on the scene. Aware that the baby was still inside and told which room she was in, Officer Jones rushed back to the home, pulled hurricane shutters open, cranked the window open and leaped inside. Though the flames were intense and smoke filled the home, Officer Jones was successful in locating the infant and bringing her out to safety.

The Miami-Dade County Police Department recently presented its highest civilian honor, the Silver Medal of Valor, to Ramon Butler, and both he and Officer Jones have been acknowledged by Miami Gardens Mayor Shirley Gibson for their acts of bravery. It is with great pride that I too pay tribute to the efforts of these two community heroes and extend my congratulations to each of them for a job well done.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT AND RESULTS ACT

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce important legislation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Federal government—the Program Assessment and Results Act, or PAR Act, which establishes a statutory requirement that the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, working with agencies, review and assess the effectiveness of each federal program at least once every five years. As elected representatives of the people, we have a responsibility to use taxpayer dollars in the most effective way possible. As Congress formulates its budget each year, we must have the best information available to us on which to base our spending decisions.

The Government Performance and Results Act, or GPRA, has laid a solid foundation for agencies working with Congress to set strategic goals and begin to utilize performance based information. Building on GPRA, we must take the next step toward reforming the way the government conducts business.

One of the key aspects of any reform effort is to change the prevailing mindset. If our emphasis is on creating a more results-oriented government, then we must change our mindset from outputs to outcomes. It takes time to achieve this type of cultural shift. The reforms of the early 1990s—the CFO Act, GPRA and others—are just beginning to work as intended.

Prior efforts to make the federal government more effective—the Hoover Commission, Zero-Based Budgeting, the Planning-Programming-Budgeting System, Reinventing Government—have come and gone with little lasting effect. Federal managers have learned that if they wait, each new administration is likely to attempt yet another broad based reform. From a management standpoint, it is difficult in that type of environment to make long-range plans; and it's next to impossible to achieve the kind of cultural shift needed to reform the management of the federal government.

By enacting GPRA, Congress put government reform in statute. Because of this statutory framework, federal managers now look at the requirements for performance plans and strategic plans required by GPRA and know they are here to stay regardless of changes in Congress and the Executive Branch. When the first agency strategic plans fell short of expectations, the reform effort was not scrapped—it was improved. Now, ten years after GPRA was enacted, we have strategic plans that are more in line with what was envisioned. We have seen slow, sustainable improvement.

GPRA requires that agencies focus attention on program evaluation as one of six aspects of their strategic plans. Unfortunately, according to a 2004 report from the Government Accountability Office, program evaluation is the one area where departments consistently come up short. Not only have agencies failed to comply with this requirement, the valuable information that stands to be gained from these evaluations is not culled, coordinated, or presented in a useful way.

We have seen great progress in meeting other objectives set out in GPRA. In 1997, only 76 percent of federal managers had developed performance measures. By 2003, that number had risen to 89 percent. It is now time to strengthen GPRA to address the shortfall we see in program evaluation.

By creating and using the Program Assessment Rating Tool, or PART, this Administration has gone a step beyond the strategic plans required by GPRA and implemented a system for evaluating the performance and results of federal programs. The next logical step is to codify the requirement for a coordinated evidence-based review of programs.

The PAR Act does not seek to codify the use of the PART specifically. Rather, this bill amends GPRA by establishing a requirement for program reviews. Specifically, the Office of Management and Budget, working with agency heads, would be required under the Act to review each program activity at least once every five years. By requiring OMB to coordinate this effort with the agencies we will take a great step forward in making the federal government more efficient and results oriented.

Information gleaned from these program reviews needs to be useful across the board to all stakeholders. Members of Congress, taxpayers, federal managers and the Executive Branch need to know if programs are being managed effectively and if they are achieving the desired result. Further, this legislation, once enacted, will allow us to compare data among different agencies, to see how different programs with similar goals are achieving results. Members of Congress can use the information to make informed budget decisions and conduct more effective oversight. It will help the taxpayers see what they are getting for their money. Most important, federal managers will use the information to improve the way they manage programs. The results will be a more effective and efficient government for the good of all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO DETER ADDITIONAL ABUSES OF PRISONERS AND DETAINEES IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege since the terrorist attacks of September 11th to visit our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Just a few days ago, I also traveled to Guantanamo Bay with my colleagues, U.S. Senator JON CORZINE and U.S. Representative ROBERT MENENDEZ, to investigate conditions at this key installation and visit with our soldiers on duty there, many of whom are members of the National Guard from our home state of New Jersey. Every visit I've made with our troops has added to the profound admiration and deep respect I have for the brave men and women who serve in our nation's armed forces and who are prosecuting this very difficult global war on terrorism.

At the same time, we do not honor the soldiers when we fail to investigate and call to account all of those up and down the chain of U.S. military command who are directly or indirectly responsible for abusing detainees under U.S. control. This grim reality is made all the clearer in an open letter delivered today to members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee from a dozen top-ranking retired military officers in the U.S. armed services. They underscore that current U.S. detention and interrogation operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, and elsewhere have undermined our intelligence gathering efforts, and added to the risks facing our troops serving around the world.

Last year, three reports that were compiled by U.S. Army officers and the bipartisan investigative commission appointed by U.S. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld documented in horrifying detail the egregious human rights abuses that occurred at Abu Ghraib Prison and other detention facilities under U.S. military control. Yet, the Congress failed to do our job, doggedly investigate how and why these abuses occurred, and put in place new safeguards for interrogations in U.S. military detention facilities and unfettered, independent investigations of prisoner treatment. As a result, more abuses have occurred.

In recent weeks, more credible disclosures of prisoner abuses at Guantanamo and other sites where detainees are being held have come to light because of reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the NYU Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and the Association of the American Bar of the City of New York. It is increasingly difficult for anybody to argue that the abusive behavior came from a few aberrant soldiers. Broader systemic problems need to be probed by this new Congress. Certainly, we all must concede that the on-going stream of new disclosures continues to hurt American standing in the global community of nations and the costs of these recurring, self-inflicted wounds and related risks to the safety of our soldiers continue to mount.

That is why I am today re-introducing legislation I first sponsored last July H.R. 4951 in the 108th Congress. It is designed to help prevent the kinds of abuses that occurred at Abu

Ghraib and elsewhere at DoD-controlled prisons.

My bill has three main provisions.

First, it would require videotaping of interrogations and other pertinent interactions between U.S. personnel and/or contractors, and detainees arrested and held in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and elsewhere, pursuant to the war on terrorism, as recommended by the Army Inspector General. The tapes would be kept at the appropriate level of classification.

Second, it would ensure unfettered access to prisoners and detainees by representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture for independent monitoring of detainee conditions and treatment.

Third, it would require the Judge Advocate General, pursuant to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, to develop guidelines designed to ensure that the required videotaping is sufficiently expansive to prevent abuses of the fundamental human rights of detainees and prisoners and violations of the U.S. Constitution, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and other bedrock U.S. and international laws.

I am gratified that my bill has already been enthusiastically endorsed by Amnesty International Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Their self explanatory letters of support follow this statement. I am also encouraged that the U.S. Army Inspector General has expressed support for videotaping prisoner interrogations, in principle, in order to better protect the fundamental human rights of detainees and U.S. soldiers from false charges at the same time.

The abuses that occurred at Abu Ghraib and elsewhere never should have happened. They have indelibly stained the honor of our country and the overwhelming majority of U.S. troops who are defending our freedom with courage and personal responsibility. To whatever extent they continue, they aid and abet our enemies in the war on terrorism. I intend to press hard for enactment of this legislation during the 109th Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY ON ITS 5TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy on its 5th Anniversary and the completion of its first major acquisition along the San Gabriel River.

I have had the privilege of working with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy since I authored the legislation that created the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy during my tenure in the California State Senate. The Conservancy has brought opportunities for preservation of open space and habitat, low-impact recreation, education and watershed improvements to our very urban community. In the last five years diverse groups have come together for a common goal—improving the urban environment and providing safe recreational places for our families and children.

I would also like to congratulate the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for completion of its first major acquisition along the San Gabriel River. This 57 acre property fronting two miles of the San Gabriel River was a duck farm for nearly 51 years. Now, the community will be able to enjoy conservation, water quality projects, and recreation—including a local trailhead connecting a bike and equestrian path from the Angeles National Forest to the Pacific Ocean.

I wish to offer the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy my sincerest congratulations on its five year anniversary and the dedication of the Duck Farm. I am looking forward to many more projects in the future so the children and families in the San Gabriel Valley can have safe places to play and enjoy the outdoors.

POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO MS. SAMAKI VARIETY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Miami's unsung heroines, the late Ms. Samaki Variety, who we recently lost at the very young age of 47. Her passing on Sunday, December 19, 2004 leaves a deep void in our community.

Throughout her life, Samaki raised a brave voice to the struggles of the poor and the homeless, especially those afflicted with the deadly virus of HIV–AIDS across our community and beyond. She also portrayed the unjust and inhumane treatment of newly arrived immigrants, particularly the Haitians, against the backdrop of policies and regulations that continue to negatively impact their lives to this very day. Samaki worked as a Community Outreach Coordinator to my mother, former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, where she was noted and loved for her dedication, effectiveness, positive attitude and happy spirit. I reserve to her the highest respect and admiration for her insatiable quest for simple justice and fairness for the less fortunate among us, particularly the children and the youth.

Ms. Samaki Variety symbolized the resilient and unyielding voice for those who were disenfranchised and who bore the brunt of inequality of opportunity. She was a loving mother, an indefatigable community-builder and a catalyst par excellence who was completely unselfish in her endeavors. The authenticity of her stewardship on our behalf was defined by her utmost consecration to her calling as God's faithful servant, bringing laughter, hope and optimism to hundreds of ordinary folks and countless teenagers whose lives she deeply touched, never holding anyone at arm's length.

This remarkable lady was our community's friend and confidante. She will be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and awesome power of community service on behalf of the less fortunate. Her faith was deep and genuine, and her love for us was real and unforgettable. No one who knew Samaki—and having been struck by her sunny disposition and unfailing optimism—went away unchanged. She was truly a caring and passionate person who brightened the lives of all who knew her.

We will truly miss her, and we will never forget her.

I ask that the following article from the Miami Herald be included in the RECORD:

[From the Miami Herald, Dec. 23, 2004]

FORMER OUTREACH CHIEF RAISED AIDS AWARENESS; SAMAKI VARIETY

(By Monica Hatcher)

Samaki Variety, admired for her work within South Florida's HIV/AIDS community, died Sunday in Atlanta of pneumonia. She was 47.

Variety, the former community outreach director for Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, spearheaded several city-sponsored AIDS events, including the Tree Lighting Ceremony commemorating World AIDS Day and the Youth March for Life, which brought thousands of school-age children marching through downtown last year to raise AIDS awareness.

''Her passion for HIV education may have had a great deal to do with the amount of HIV we see in the black community here,'' said Alex Paulmer, who worked with Variety on AIDS-related projects. Variety was born in San Francisco and studied psychology and social science at Fort Valley State University. After college, she met Lee Variety. The couple married and moved to Miami in the mid-1970s. The couple worked as entertainers and owned Boo-key Productions, which booked and promoted acts.

''She had a gift for singing, dancing and acting, but God also gave her a gift for helping people,'' recalled her mother, Annie Lacy. In the late 1980s, Variety used her talents and her own money to host a Saturday radio youth talk show on 1490 WMBM called ''What's on Your Mind.'' The call-in program, aimed at teenagers, tackled such issues as pregnancy and child abuse. Samaki and Lee Variety had two children together, Leronce and Dom'Unique. The couple later divorced.

''She had a high spirit and was a positive thinker,'' said Dom'Unique, 14. ''She was dedicated to her job and loved to help people and she pushed people to be the best they can be.''

Variety worked in the public sector as an aide to Congresswoman Carrie Meek for five years. ''She was a rare combination of talent, intelligence and ability,'' said U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, who knew Samaki when she worked with his mother. Variety worked for a time in the Miami-Dade County School System and with former County Commissioner Charles Dusseau.

In 2002, she joined Diaz's office of Faith-Based Initiatives and Community Outreach. ''Samaki will be deeply missed by all of the people she encountered and the many, many lives she touched,'' Diaz said in a statement. Variety left the mayor's office in October to care for her mother in Georgia.

In addition to her mother and children, Variety is served by a grandmother, Nazaree Foster; brothers, Roland and Wayman Hindsman; and sisters Jaqueline Shire, Jakki Kidd and Betty Wallace, as well as three grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF REGGIE WHITE

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, Americans are mourning the loss of Reggie

White. He was a great player—a magnificent player. Without him, my Packers would not have won Super Bowl XXXI. But, athletes come and go—even great ones. My friend, Reggie White, will be long remembered because he was so much more. He may have left the playing fields, but he never left his fans, and he never stopped caring for the needs of his neighbors. Reggie and his wife Sara launched Urban Hope in Green Bay—a program that helped start some 400 small businesses and create 1,100 jobs. Reggie believed in active faith—in putting his values and talents to work on the field and in the streets. We have lost a great player, but we have lost a greater man.

HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY AND FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, education—and higher education in particular—is more important than ever to solving the most pressing problems of our communities and the country.

Let me give you some sobering statistics:

According to Nellie Mae, the average undergraduate student loan debt has increased the last 5 years from $11,400 to $18,900.

Today, 70 percent of federal student aid is made in loans; Grants account for only 22 percent of aid. Thirty years ago, student loans accounted for about 25 percent and grants about 70 percent of all federal student aid.

Seventy-five percent of full-time students now work to help cover their college expenses. Twenty percent of working students work 35 or more hours a week while enrolled in school full-time.

In 1975–76 the maximum Pell Grant award covered eighty-four percent of an average tuition at a state school; today it covers forty percent.

The generation often referred to as the ''baby boom echo'' will soon enter American institutions of higher education, resulting in record enrollments that will further strain the ability of colleges and universities to deliver a quality education to their students.

That is why I am introducing the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

It would make college tuition deductible, in conjunction with existing tax benefits for higher education. The proposal would further allow a family to deduct up to $10,000 in tuition expenses. A family would be capped at deducting a total of $15,000 in tuition expenses in one year if they have more than one child in college. In addition, if a family was ineligible for the Hope Scholarship (due to its income limitations), they would be able to deduct $5,000 of tuition costs.

The bill would raise the income limits for eligibility for Hope Scholarships. Currently, the income phase-out on the HOPE tax credit is $40,000 to $50,000 for singles and $80,000 to $100,000 for couples. The proposal would raise the phase-out ranges to $50,000 to $60,000 for singles and $100,000 to $120,000 for couples, allowing more families to benefit.

In order to ensure that savings go to the intended beneficiaries, the bill directs the Inspector General of the Department of Education to conduct an annual study to examine whether the federal income tax incentives to provide education assistance affect higher education tuition rates.

Access to an affordable, quality education is inseparable from our economic prosperity, national security, and civic health. We must do everything possible to support this and that is why I have introduced the Higher Education Affordability and Fairness Act.

RECOGNIZING MR. FELIX GALAVIZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the contributions of Mr. Felix Galaviz. Mr. Galaviz retired in June of 2004 after serving tirelessly for 30 years in the field of education.

Mr. Galaviz co-founded the Puente Project and is retiring as its Executive Director. Under his leadership, the Puente Project has been recognized by numerous organizations throughout the Nation as a model academic preparedness program.

After beginning in 1981 at Chabot College, the Puente Project has flourished and grown. Today it is conducted in over 50 community colleges and 35 high schools across the State of California. Under the leadership of Mr. Galaviz, the Puente Project has shown consistent results and helped students achieve their higher education goals.

Mr. Galaviz has used his wonderful ability to educate and counsel Latino youth to work throughout his career. Furthermore, he has strived to share that gift with others, often conducting presentations to help others learn how to counsel and mentor Latino youth.

I wish to congratulate Mr. Galaviz on his inspirational work. He was a priceless asset in the field of education. I know him personally and am very familiar with his work. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman Chisholm charted a whole new course for black Americans. She was the first black woman elected to Congress and paved the way for dozens who came after her, including my mother, former U.S. Rep. Carrie P. Meek. Shirley Chisholm was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, a pioneer in civil and women's rights issues, and was the first black of either gender to run for President of the United States.

Her determination and passion for the issues she believed in was always perfectly packaged by her charm and eloquence. The daughter of Caribbean immigrants, she never ceased to push for a better country for all Americans.

Congresswoman Chisholm is an inspiration to me and every Member of Congress. Her legacy will never be forgotten, and I will always consider her path-breaking career as a motivation to serve the people of Florida's 17th Congressional District as best I can.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COL THOMAS W. SHUBERT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I want to take this opportunity to honor Col ''Tom'' Shubert for his 30 years of dedicated service to our country. In his most recent assignment he served as the Chief, Congressional Inquiries Division, Office of Legislative Liaison. He managed, on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, all constituent inquiries from the White House, Office of the Vice President, Members of Congress and state and local governments.

Colonel Shubert began his illustrious Air Force career as a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officers Training Corps at East Carolina University and was commissioned in 1974. Following graduation from Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1975, his operational assignments included piloting B–52 strategic bombers and T–39 airlift support mission aircraft both in the United States and in the Far East.

From April 1986 to April 1989, Colonel Shubert served as a Political-Military Affairs Officer on the Joint Staff at Headquarters, United States Pacific Command. He then served as the Assistant Air Attaché for Operations at the American Embassy in Canberra, Australia until June of 1993. Colonel Shubert was then assigned as a Congressional Inquires Liaison in the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of the Air Force.

In June 1995, Colonel Shubert entered Danish language training and then served as the Air Attaché at the American Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark from December 1995 to July 1998. He then returned to the Pentagon, where he served as the Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, until October 2000.

From October 2000 to June 2002, Colonel Shubert headed the Assessments Branch, Policy Division, Defense Technology Security Administration, which reviewed both Munitions and Dual-Use export license applications.

In July 2003, Colonel Shubert assumed duties as the Chief of the Congressional Inquiry Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Secretary of the Air Force. During this time, Colonel Shubert escorted scores of Members of Congress on more than twenty Congressional Delegations, in furtherance of Members' oversight responsibilities.

Colonel Shubert assisted me and Members of the Committee on Agriculture during trips to Afghanistan, Iraq, and, last year, to Africa. He upheld the highest standards of professional conduct and his thorough and efficient planning assured that these trips were a complete success. He will be missed.

Colonel Shubert holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Honor Graduate) from East

Carolina University, a Master of Science in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my Colleagues join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to COL Tom Shubert for his outstanding service to both the Legislative and Executive Branches and to the United States Air Force.

I wish him, his wife Kathy, and their daughters Victoria and Joanna, the very best as they face new challenges in the coming years. I will miss his unfailing good humor and hard work. Colonel Shubert has consistently conducted himself in a professional manner and therefore brings great credit to the United States Air Force.

REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased on this first day of the 109th Congress to introduce several pieces of legislation that I have been pursuing over the years, and for which I will continue to advocate these next two years.

First, I am excited to again introduce legislation to help all American savers. My legislation, the Simple Savings Tax Relief Act of 2005, simply eliminates the taxation of interest earned in savings accounts, such as passbook savings accounts or bank certificates of deposit. I think at least some of this interest should be tax-free, as we have been working towards for other forms of non-earned income. This legislation would end a punitive tax, especially assist low and middle-income earners, and ultimately contribute toward the goal of encouraging individual responsibility and taking charge of one's own financial destiny.

Next, for years I have authored legislation to repeal the 2 percent excise tax on private foundations. The United States is blessed with a deep spirit of philanthropy, and charitable organizations serve the interest of both the individual and the community. Under current law, however, not-for-profit private foundations generally must pay to the IRS a 2 percent excise tax on their net investment income, which diverts from the purposes for which these foundations were founded. Optimistically, this body passed a reduction of this charitable impediment to 1 percent in the 108th (H.R. 7), but as it failed to become law, I am reintroducing this legislation and we shall try again.

Next, I am pleased to again sponsor the Health Care Tax Deduction Act of 2005. This would allow deductions for amounts paid for health insurance premiums and unreimbursed prescription drugs. This would provide much-needed relief to individuals struggling with the high cost of health insurance and prescription drugs through a tax deduction, and tax parity with those of us who have employer-provided tax-deductible health insurance. Expansively, this benefit extends to all IRS-defined health insurance premiums such as an HMO, PPO, a traditional indemnity plan, a new HSA, and also long-term care premiums. Right now, under the current tax code, in order to claim health care expenses individuals must file an itemized tax return. My bill would simplify and extend this tax preference for all filers.

I also am reintroducing the Allied Health Reinvestment Act of 2005, along with my friend Dr. Strickland from Ohio. This important legislation offers incentives via scholarships and loans to encourage students and faculty to enter the essential but undersupplied allied health professions, such as physical, occupational, and speech rehabilitation, and medical and radiological technologists to name a few.

Also, with an eye towards the value of human life, I reintroduce my Human Cloning Research Prohibition Act, which restricts federal funding and encourages other nations to do so as well.

Finally, I am pleased to reintroduce a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of establishing a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) awareness month. I do this again with my friend Mr. Lewis of Georgia. In past Congresses, this bill has had tremendous support from Members and from the U.S. COPD Coalition, which comprises the patient and provider community. The House passed this legislation in the summer of 2003, and we started a bicameral Caucus in the winter of 2004 to advance our efforts. COPD is an umbrella term used to describe the airflow obstruction associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis. This is a debilitating disease, that is currently the nation's fourth leading cause of death, and I am proud to bring awareness to COPD.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on all these important pieces of business for the nation.

HONORING ALBERT ASHBROOK FOR HIS SERVICE AS LICKING COUNTY COMMISSIONER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEY and I wish to join many of our constituents in Licking County, Ohio in congratulating Albert Ashbrook, who is retiring after more than 16 years of service as a county commissioner.

Albert's work was summed up best recently by a former colleague, who noted that Albert never shied away from the tough issues and was always looking out for the best interests of the people and county government. We would add that he did so not only with a plain spoken dedication to duty, but also a tremendous sense of humor.

Licking County has grown and changed for the better during Albert's tenure. He's helped with the creation of a Domestic Relations Court, a one-stop employment service and improved auto licensing and titling facilities, just to name a few of the projects in which he has had a hand. At the same time, he's always made fiscal responsibility a top priority.

Public service has been a way of life for Albert. Prior to his work as a commissioner, he served in various capacities with the Soil and Water Conservation District, and is a member of the District Hall of Fame.

Although he's leaving the commissioners' office, Albert is hoping to continue his community involvement as a member of the Licking County Planning Commission. In any event, we know he'll still be there to offer guidance and advice to anyone with the good sense to seek it.

We are honored to have this opportunity to thank Albert for all his hard work, and wish him and his wife Shirley many more active years together.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LONGHORNS ROSE BOWL CHAMPIONS

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the University of Texas Longhorns, playing in the Rose Bowl for the first time in the team's 110-year history, made the New Year's Day game a memorable one.

Twice the Longhorns came from behind the Michigan Wolverines to win 38–37 as the clock ran out in what many contend was the most exciting Rose Bowl ever. UT Quarterback Vince Young rushed for 192 yards and four touchdowns, a Rose Bowl record. He also threw for 180 yards and a touchdown. This capped a 10–1 regular season record.

The University of Texas has a great football team, coached by Mack Brown. But it has a great academic reputation, too.

Led by President Larry Faulkner, UT recently was ranked as the 15th best university in the world by the Times of London newspaper. Among U.S. public universities, only the University of California at Berkeley was listed ahead of UT.

It's a pleasure to cite the strengths of UT. It's also a pleasure to represent such a premiere University in Congress.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor the 100th birthday of the Minnesota State Capitol. The Capitol first opened its doors on January 2, 1905 and on January 2, 2005, over 6,000 people attended the first of a full year's worth of birthday celebrations.

The Minnesota State Legislature first met in a log hotel when Minnesota was declared a territory in 1849. The first Capitol building was built in 1853, but burned in 1881. The second, built in 1882, was erected on the same downtown St. Paul site as the first. As Minnesota's population grew, officials realized that the building would soon be too small to house the Legislators and a new building would be needed. In 1895, Cass Gilbert from St. Paul was selected to design the new building. It took nine years and $4.5 million to complete construction of the new capitol, which is still in use today.

Today, the Minnesota State Capitol building is more than just a place for the Legislature. It is a museum dedicated to preserving Minnesota's history. Its many priceless artifacts

detailing Minnesota's past include flags that were carried by Minnesotans who served in the Civil War and statues of influential Minnesota political figures.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years the Minnesota State Capitol has served as a place of government, history and learning. As a fourth generation Minnesotan whose ancestors were well established in the state when this capitol was built, I am pleased to be able to help honor it today as a lasting symbol of the spirit of Minnesota.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL GREGORY PAUL RUND

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret and heartfelt admiration that I rise today to honor a fallen Marine from my district, Lance Corporal Gregory Paul Rund of Littleton. Sadly, Lance Corporal Rund was killed in the line of duty during combat operations on December 11 in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Lance Corporal Rund was with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division based in Camp Pendleton, California.

He was just 21 years old.

Greg was a 2002 graduate of Columbine High School in Jefferson County, where he played football and later made the decision to serve his country by joining the Marines. Greg was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. He made an indelible impression on all who knew him, and will be remembered as a dedicated, energetic and warm person who had a great sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Rund. He served his country honorably and with distinction, making the ultimate sacrifice fighting for freedom and democracy in defense of a grateful nation. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Americans owe him a great debt of gratitude. His dedication and bravery will not be forgotten.

THE STOP COUNTERFEITING IN MANUFACTURED GOODS ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation—the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act. This bipartisan bill addresses the problem of counterfeit manufactured goods. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this bill at the earliest opportunity.

The problem of counterfeit manufactured goods is a growing problem around the world that threatens public safety and harms our economy here at home. Too often, counterfeit goods steal sales from legitimate American manufacturers and cost Americans high-paying manufacturing jobs. In fact, according to the U.S. Customs Service and Border Protection, counterfeiting costs the U.S. an estimated $200 billion annually.

Manufacturers in this country are the most efficient and technologically advanced in the world, but they face many challenges. The biggest challenges are the costs they directly cannot control. We need to focus on measures that alleviate these costs, and crack down on those criminals that break the rules and drive up costs, thereby stealing manufacturing companies of what is rightfully theirs.

Counterfeiting is not just about lost sales and jobs, however. It is a means by which the most nefarious organizations finance their activities. Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble has stated that "we know that al-Qaeda supporters have been found with commercial size volume of counterfeit goods."

It is my belief, and that of a broad coalition backing this legislation, that to address the scourge of counterfeiting, the U.S. Government must possess additional tools. That is exactly what my bill provides.

The Stop Counterfeit in Manufactured Goods Act strengthens the federal trademark law used to prosecute counterfeiters with two key provisions.

First, the bill provides for the mandatory destruction of the equipment used to manufacture and package counterfeit goods. Under current law, counterfeiters can have their illegal goods seized, but retain the equipment they used to make them. We should not leave counterfeiters in business, and this provision will help us dig up the roots of counterfeiting networks.

The bill also clarifies that Title 18, Section 2320, prohibits trafficking in counterfeit labels, patches, and medallions that are unattached to any goods. Sophisticated counterfeiters have sold counterfeit versions of the trademarks themselves in the form of patch sets or medallions that can later be attached to generic merchandises and given the appearance of a genuine product. This is counterfeiting and should not stand.

The Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act will have a positive impact here in the United States and end the merciless stealing of American jobs and sales. In fact, the Department of Justice's Task Force on Intellectual Property cites this bill as a measure that would increase the effectiveness of intellectual property enforcement.

The bill's reach will also be global. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is currently engaged in a variety of bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations. However, USTR cannot readily negotiate criminal anti-counterfeiting standards above the levels found in the United States. By passing this bill into law, we will empower our negotiators to press for stronger anti-counterfeiting measures from our trading partners. The U.S. must lead by example in intellectual property rights enforcement and this is a critical step we must take. Clearly, the passage of the Stop Counterfeit of Manufactured Goods Act is long overdue.

I thank the bipartisan group of Members for joining as original cosponsors of this legislation. I encourage all my colleagues to join us in cracking down on the counterfeit goods that threaten public safety, steal sales from legitimate manufacturers, and cost American jobs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to expeditiously pass this legislation into law.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter on this issue for the RECORD:

AMERICAN APPAREL & FOOTWEAR ASSOCIATION, AUTOMOTIVE AFTERMARKET INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, GAS APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, GROCERY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA, INTERNATIONAL ANTICOUNTERFEITING COALITION, INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARK ASSOCIATION, MOTOR & EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS, NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL MARINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION, SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT MARKET ASSOCIATION, UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 3, 2005.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KNOLLENBERG: The organizations listed above write in support of your legislation to strengthen the criminal statute against trafficking in counterfeited goods. This bill would amend the U.S. Code, 18 U.S.C. 2320, by closing existing loopholes that can allow counterfeiters to avoid prosecution, maintain control of assets for criminal enterprises, and unjustly profit from their illegal activities. This legislation would grant trademark owners remedies similar to those already provided to copyright and trade secret owners.

Acts of counterfeiting result in significant economic harm in the form of lost profits, diminished reputation among consumers, and decreased tax revenue. The FBI estimates that counterfeiting costs U.S. businesses $200 billion to $250 billion annually and is increasing rapidly. New York City estimates that in 2003 alone, the theft of intellectual property cost the city over $1 billion in lost tax revenue. Another frightening trend relates to the rising occurrence of substandard and dangerous counterfeit goods that present severe public health and safety risks. Numerous deaths and injuries have already been attributed to counterfeit products. Finally, and perhaps most alarmingly, there- is strong evidence suggesting that organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations are increasingly involved in criminal counterfeiting schemes.

Existing domestic laws should be bolstered to effectively address this problem. Your bill would strengthen those laws by prohibiting the trafficking in counterfeit labels, patches, stickers, hangtags, or medallions that are unattached to goods. In addition, the bill would make mandatory the forfeiture and destruction of counterfeit goods, as well as the assets used to produce, package, and distribute counterfeit goods, and requires the forfeiture of property and assets derived from counterfeiting.

Internationally, the World Customs Organization and Interpol estimate that the annual global trade in illegitimate goods has increased from $5.5 billion in 1982 to roughly $600 billion today and it continues to grow. Ambassador Zoellick, the U.S. Trade Representative, recently characterized trademark counterfeiting, along with copyright piracy, as a "scourge on the global economy."

Immediate passage of this legislation is necessary to more effectively combat counterfeiting abroad. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative advises that it will not negotiate criminal anti-counterfeiting standards above the levels found in current

U.S. law. With a number of free trade agreements currently being negotiated, it is imperative that the current deficiencies in domestic law are not codified in these international agreements. We should seize the opportunity represented by new trade agreements to obtain stronger enforcement obligations from our trading partners against counterfeiting.

The groups listed above represent thousands of trademark owners whose intellectual property assets are targets of counterfeiters in the U.S. and abroad. We would like to thank you for your excellent leadership on this issue and we commit to working with you to ensure that the U.S. House of Representatives acts quickly to consider and pass this important legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the interested associations directly, or Tim Trainer (*ttrainer@iacc.org*) of the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition, telephone (202) 223–6667.

A TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY BURNS

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my Congressional District, and wish her the best as she begins a new chapter of her life. Sister Mary Burns has spent more than a decade honoring the lives of Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Maryknoll Sisters who were killed in 1980 while working to assist the poor in El Salvador. I am pleased to take this opportunity to honor her and her own work on behalf of economically disadvantaged women.

In 1993, Sister Mary Burns founded the Maura Clarke-Ita Ford Center (MCIF) in one of New York City's most impoverished communities, the Bushwick neighborhood in Brooklyn. The center provides education and training to low-income, mainly Hispanic, women. Under the leadership of Sister Mary Burns, MCIF has thrived—providing personal development, education and economic independence, and empowering women to break the cycle of poverty.

Like many Irish women who grew up in South Boston, Sister Mary Burns is strong and resilient, a person with deep faith and a wicked sense of humor. She is generous of heart and giving to her core. And her work on behalf on disadvantaged women is as impassioned as it is pioneering.

Bushwick was devastated during the riots of the late 1970s, and severe poverty and unemployment continues to plague the neighborhood. MCIF offers residents literacy classes, GED instruction, and job training. Recognizing the desperate need for entry level jobs in the Bushwick area, MCIF initiated an innovative program to create a small clothing factory in the neighborhood to offer low income women employment earning a livable wage, day care services, and the opportunity to attain business development and leadership skills.

MCIF also has a kitchen incubator to help new entrepreneurs develop the skills and experience necessary to launch successful small businesses in the food industry. Similarly, the center is home to a bakery program where local women put their skills to work baking cookies. Sales from these cookies, which on their own are well worth a trip to Bushwick, are used to support the program and compensate the bakers for their hard work—providing a path to economic independence.

These programs serve as an important model on how to strengthen communities one person and one family at a time. And its through the dedication and drive of Sister Mary Burns that the women who enter the doors of MCIF leave believing in themselves, envisioning promising futures, and chartering successful lives for their families.

I am honored to have worked with Sister Mary Burns over the years in advancing the mission of MCIF. Under her guidance, the center has become a critical resource for some, a sanctuary for others, and a source of inspiration for all who witness its extraordinary work. I, along with so many residents of the community, will miss her dearly. But her principles of loving acceptance, unwavering encouragement, and enduring faith are now firmly embedded in the spirit of the community—and families from Bushwick will benefit from her work for generations to come. It is in this light Mr. Speaker, that I ask my House colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable contributions of Sister Mary Burns and wishing her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCING H.R. 240, WELFARE REFORM REAUTHORIZATION BILL

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in introducing H.R. 240, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2005. This legislation reauthorizes and strengthens the successful welfare reforms begun in the 1996 welfare reform law (P.L. 104–193). Joining me introducing this legislation are Representatives PRYCE, THOMAS, BOEHNER, BARTON, GOODLATTE, MCKEON, BILIRAKIS, DELAY, SHAW, CANTOR, ENGLISH, CAMP, NANCY JOHNSON, WELLER, NORWOOD, JOE WILSON and KLINE.

Welfare reform has been a great success in promoting work, ending dependence, and reducing poverty. Millions more low-income parents are working today instead of depending on welfare, offering brighter prospects for their family's future. Since the implementation of welfare reform in 1996, welfare caseloads dropped by more than 50 percent nationwide—leading more than two million families and seven million former recipients to rely on themselves, rather than depend on a check from the government. More than 1 million children have been lifted out of poverty since reform, and poverty rates for black children and children living with single mothers reached—and despite the 2001 recession still remain near—all time lows. Recent reports linked work-based welfare reforms with reduced parental substance abuse (*http://www.affiliatedsystems.com/newest.htm*) and child poverty (*http://www.manhattan institute.org/html/cr_44.htm*).

Still, despite this success nearly 2 million families remain dependent on welfare for support, and relatively few of those parents are working or getting training in skills needed to lift their families out of poverty. That needs to improve. Plus too many families break up or never form, leaving millions of children and parents at risk of welfare dependence in the future.

H.R. 240 as introduced today will help even more low-income parents and families support themselves, including through stepped up efforts to strengthen families and support healthy marriages that are the best environment for raising children. H.R. 240 would extend TANF and related programs through fiscal year 2010, and makes selected changes to promote more work and stronger families, including healthy marriages.

In 2002 and 2003, the U.S. House passed earlier versions of this legislation. However, since the U.S. Senate failed to pass companion legislation, comprehensive welfare reauthorization legislation was not signed into law. Instead, the President signed eight short extensions of current law, the most recent of which expires on March 31, 2005. H.R. 240 as introduced today is an updated version of legislation the House passed in 2002 and 2003, which will serve as the basis for hearings and other consideration during the early days of the 109th Congress.

I look forward to working together with my Republican and Democrat colleagues to craft the best possible welfare reauthorization policy, building on the foundation of the current system and the proposals the House passed in recent years. We will hold hearings to examine features of today's welfare policy that are working, and those that are in need of improvement. In tight budget times, it will take all of our efforts to ensure that welfare reform continues to be successful. As the 1996 reforms have proven, however, we can help more parents work, reduce dependence on government benefits, cut poverty, and still protect taxpayers' interests at the same time. Before 1996, hardly anyone thought we could do all that, and now we have a track record of getting it done. We need to build on that successful record, which H.R. 240 would do.

I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BEA WEISBROD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute today to one of the most respected community leaders in Dallas, Texas: Bea Weisbrod.

The name Bea Weisbrod has long been associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride. Bea Weisbrod, on December 5, 2004 received the Bnai Zion's Lifetime service award. Bea is founding member of Bnai Zion-Texas Region and a longtime member of Congregation Shearith Israel. Her many years of community service and dedication to making a difference in the lives of people in our community, as well, as in Israel are truly deserving of our appreciation and praise.

In addition to her professional associations, Bea Weisbrod selflessly devotes her personal time to numerous organizations including the

Hadassah where she serves on the regional board.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bnai Zion Foundation on its excellent selection of Bea Weisbrod for its lifetime service award, and I wish her sons Les, Carl, and their loving family continued success in all of their endeavors.

I know that Bea Weisbrod will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America will continue to benefit from her dedication, service and hard work.

HONORING HOMER CADDELL ''CAL'' HENDERSON, JR.

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Homer Caddell ''Cal'' Henderson Jr., who is retiring today after 12 years of loyal service as Sheriff of Hillsborough County, Florida.

Cal dedicated his life to keeping our community safe. At 21, Cal began his law enforcement career in the Tampa Police Department, and he went on to serve the U.S. Border Patrol and the CIA as a national police trainer in Vietnam. In 1969, when Cal returned home to Tampa, he joined the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

During his 35 years in the Sheriff's Office, Cal Henderson experienced a period of enormous growth and development in Hillsborough County. The year Cal joined the force, the Sheriff's Office employed 157 deputies serving a mostly rural area. In fact, at that time, Cal was the only deputy working in his region of eastern Hillsborough. Today, as Sheriff Henderson retires, his office employs 1,200 deputies, 950 sworn detention officers and 1,000 civilians, and the territory that he once patrolled alone is now served by as many as 12 deputies.

Cal Henderson worked his way through the ranks of the Sheriff's office, and he was able to do it while adapting to colossal changes in the needs of our community. Following the September 11 tragedies, Sheriff Henderson recognized the need to coordinate the efforts of our region's first responders, and he spearheaded the Tampa Bay Regional Domestic Security Task Force. A model for communities nationwide, the task force brings together fire fighters, EMS, hospital, port, police and sheriff and other officers to streamline efforts to keep our region safe.

Fortunately for the people of Hillsborough County, Sheriff Henderson is leaving us well equipped for the transition to new leadership under incoming Sheriff David Gee. And while Cal may be hanging up his Sheriff's badge, we can rest assured that he will continue his service to our community. Cal has already indicated that while taking advantage of some well deserved rest in retirement, he is also planning to assist the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on issues pertaining to missing and exploited children.

Hillsborough County has truly been blessed to have Sheriff Cal Henderson as a faithful public servant. Cal has served with honor and integrity and has always shown the highest respect for those he serves. On behalf of our community, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for his commitment and my best wishes for his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act, which would force the federal government to finally get serious about protecting our nation's transit and intercity rail passengers.

This bill addresses the tremendous disparity between what we spend on security for each airline passenger and what we spend for each bus and train passenger, who are no less vulnerable than those who fly. In fact, data from the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism shows that public transportation passengers are in far more danger worldwide than airline passengers. Since 9/11, there have been over five times as many attacks on public transportation targets around the world than on aviation targets, with nearly ten times the number of fatalities.

The recent attacks in Spain, and intelligence that terrorists may strike the rail and transit systems here in America, dictate that we now broaden our attention to also include rail and transit security. Each year, approximately 24 million intercity rail passengers ride Amtrak, and 9.6 billion people travel by transit. Every day, 32 million commuters, students, and tourists depend on our public transportation system. One of the ripple effects of 9/11 was that the aviation industry was shut down for several days. Imagine the social and economic dislocation that would occur if a major attack destroyed people's confidence in our transit system, or made it grind to a halt. The economic impact would be far greater than 9/11.

Our nation's rail and transit systems are highly vulnerable, and require at least $5.2 billion in capital equipment and $800 million in annual operating expenses to adequately meet security needs, according to the American Public Transportation Association. This legislation provides that funding, and just as importantly, it allows operating expense grant money to be used for the best security device of all: more police officers.

Giving our transit agencies money for fences, cameras and explosive detection equipment is necessary, but only a half-measure unless we also give them money for the cops and security officers that make all that equipment work. This bill allows money to be used for hiring new cops and security officers, pay them overtime when necessary, deploy additional K–9 units, conduct helicopter patrols, and more. In short, it unties the hands of our transit agencies and lets them spend the money where they need it.

This legislation also provides badly needed security and safety funding for Amtrak, including $670 million for safety upgrades to the tunnels that run underneath New York, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. These tunnels are simply not properly equipped for rescue operations or evacuation should either be necessary. An additional $62 million for Amtrak to put towards security expenses, including the hiring of additional police officers, is also provided.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize new research and development grants to help develop new technologies for both passenger and freight rail that can help reduce the threat of terrorist attacks. And since rail security involves more than just deterring terrorist attacks, the legislation would establish new inspection procedures for rail track, and set new standards for tank cars, to make sure their hazardous cargo isn't released in the event of an accident.

I believe this bill is already long overdue. I urge my colleagues to imagine what we would have done, what action we would have taken, if the Madrid train bombings had occurred in our homeland, on our soil. What immediate investments would we have been ready to make? What urgent action would we have been willing to take?

Well, we can do it now. Let's make that investment and take those actions now. Let's take what steps we can to reduce the risk to our nation's transit. We don't need commissions and studies after a tragedy in order to act, so let's not get mired in that now. Nearly three years of needs assessment and analysis have occurred, and we have the data to put a program in place. All it takes is Congress having the gumption to act before a tragedy on the rails takes place in this country.

HONORING METROPOLITAN ANTHONY

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, Metropolitan Anthony, who recently passed away.

Metropolitan Anthony ascended to great heights from very modest beginnings. He was born on the Greek island of Crete, one of six children struggling to grow up under the brutal Nazi occupation of the island. He became the first member of his family to leave his village, ultimately graduating in 1960 from the prestigious Halki Theological School of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. He came to the United States after his ordination to the priesthood to serve the Church in this country.

Metropolitan Anthony was elected Bishop of San Francisco in 1979. He served as Bishop and later Metropolitan of the Diocese of San Francisco, which covers seven western states, for more than 25 years. He was responsible for a significant expansion of ministries and programs during his tenure. He oversaw the founding of more than 25 new parishes and missions, as well as the establishment of three monasteries. He also developed the annual Metropolis Folk Dance Festival, the largest exhibition of authentic Greek folk dance, costume, and music in the world. In addition, he established a multi-million dollar endowment fund to provide scholarships for seminarians and theological students to attend holy school.

Mr. Speaker, Metropolitan Anthony inspired many because he was a great leader and devout man of faith. He challenged the faithful

not only to dream great dreams but to make them a reality. I hope our colleagues will join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences to his family, his followers, and to future generations who will be enriched by his legacy.

HONORING RITA CANNING

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Chicago resident, Rita Canning. Rita has worked tirelessly for the rights of women and families in Chicago. Her advocacy and contribution to public service deserve the recognition and thanks of this Congress.

Rita currently serves as President of WINGS, Women In Need of Growing Stronger. This transitional shelter offers support to homeless and abused women and children in Chicago through training programs as well as job placement services to women in need. Under Rita's leadership, WINGS helps marginalized women re-enter the workforce with greater job skills and with the resources necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Rita also founded the Palatine Home of the Sparrow, a shelter for women and children in Chicago, and she is in the process of establishing the first domestic violence shelter in Chicago's northwest suburbs.

In addition to her work with the homeless, Rita does great things for education in our community through her work with the Canning Foundation. She serves as Vice-President of this foundation, which awards over 100 private school scholarships annually to inner-city children.

Rita is also a member of the Women's Board of Northwestern University, the Women's Board of the Field Museum, and is a Director of Harris Bank. Her husband, John A. Canning, Jr., is the Director of the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago and shares Rita's passion of giving back to the community by pursuing several philanthropic endeavors.

Rita's tremendous dedication to public service has been recognized with various awards of excellence. In 2001, for example, Rita received the Sears Distinguished Leader Award for exemplary volunteer work and contributions. She also recently received the Illinois state treasurer's "Woman to Woman Making a Difference Award."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to call Rita Canning a good friend and to recognize her invaluable contributions to public service. On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District and indeed all of Chicago, I thank her for her selfless dedication and hard work on behalf of women and families in our community.

THE PRESERVING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE DRUGS ACT

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be introducing the Preserving Access to Affordable Drugs Act to preserve the drug benefits that millions of seniors in our country currently enjoy. Unfortunately, the misguided Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 threatens to reduce or eliminate the prescription drug benefits that millions of seniors across the country already have. Based on these and other detrimental provisions in the new law, which seniors continue to oppose vehemently, we should simply repeal the entire bill outright. But in the meantime, the bill I'm introducing today highlights the most egregious loss of benefits that seniors will suffer under the new law, and provides mechanisms to "hold harmless" those seniors who already have good drug coverage.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that as many as 1.7 million retirees could lose their employer-based prescription drug benefits as a result of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. Also as a result of the new law, hundreds of thousands of seniors currently enrolled in state pharmacy assistance programs (SPAPs) will be forced out of those programs and into a private Medicare drug plan. Approximately six million seniors who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid will lose access to their Medicaid prescription drug benefits, which is more generous and has greater access to a variety of drugs. And, despite the fact that the new Medicare law has huge gaps in coverage, seniors who choose to enroll in the new drug benefit will be prohibited from purchasing Medigap coverage to pay for prescription drugs not covered by the new Medicare benefit.

In my home state of New Jersey, alone, 94,000 retirees will lose their employer-based prescription drug benefits. More than 150,000 low-income seniors in New Jersey who are dually eligible for, and enrolled in, both Medicare and Medicaid will lose access to the Medicaid drug benefits they currently rely on. And 220,000 New Jersey seniors who are currently enrolled in Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Senior Gold, the state's pharmacy assistance programs for the aged and disabled, will face disruption in coverage and will likely receive less drug coverage than they currently receive.

It is my view—and based on what I have heard in town hall meetings in my district, the view of an overwhelming majority of seniors in this country—that no senior should be made worse of by the new Medicare law.

The legislation I'm introducing today will:

Preserve employer-based retiree prescription drug coverage by allowing employer expenditures on drug costs to count toward the out-of-pocket threshold of $3600. By not counting toward the catastrophic cap any costs covered by employer-provided retiree benefits, those employers that maintain their retiree health benefits would see their retirees receive less of a Medicare subsidy than a beneficiary without employer-provided benefits. Without this fix, approximately 94,000 New Jersey seniors and 1.7 million retirees nationwide will likely lose their employer-based drug coverage.

Enable states, if they choose, to administer the Medicare prescription drug benefit through their existing state pharmacy assistance program. This means that my home state of New Jersey could continue to provide prescription drug benefits to seniors through the very successful and popular existing PAAD and Senior Gold programs. As a result, these seniors will not have to enroll in the less-generous Medicare drug program, will be able to remain in PAAD and Senior Gold, and will experience no disruption in coverage.

Ensure that States can provide supplemental Medicaid prescription drug coverage to complement the Medicare drug benefit to seniors who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Currently in New Jersey, 152,000 low-income seniors and disabled individuals who are Medicare eligible receive 100% of their drug coverage through the state Medicaid program. The Medicare bill replaces Medicaid coverage with more limited drug coverage and prohibits states from wrapping around the Medicare benefit with Medicaid coverage. This bill will enable states to completely wrap around through the Medicaid program.

Restore Medicare beneficiaries' ability to purchase supplemental drug coverage through the Medigap program. Under the new law, those who participate in the new Part D drug benefit are prohibited from purchasing supplemental drug coverage through the Medigap program.

Eliminate the premium support (Medicare privatization) demonstration program. This is particularly important for Gloucester, Camden, Burlington and Salem counties in southern New Jersey, which currently meet the qualifications to be selected to participate in this program.

Simply stated, a Medicare prescription drug benefit that chips away at the generous drug coverage that some seniors already enjoy is hardly a benefit at all. The new Medicare law is bad for seniors and should be repealed; but in the meantime, at the very least, we must do no harm.

That's exactly what this bill intends to do.

TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN SOLDIER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a fallen soldier from the Ninth Congressional District of Florida. Lance Corporal James Phillips, from Plant City, Florida, was shot and killed as Marines were clearing houses in Fallujah, Iraq on December 23, 2004.

James' decision to join the Marines demonstrates his dedication and service to this Nation. Following high school, our young people have many opportunities and wide open doors to pursue their dreams. James chose the path of the Marines because he believed that it was his honor and duty to serve his Nation and protect our freedom. He did not choose this path because he thought that he would one day become a war hero or that this career would provide him a lucrative and extravagant life.

I know it has been a very hard and difficult time for James' family and friends, especially to lose him so close to the Christmas holidays. I hope they know that the Nation thanks him for his service and we appreciate the sacrifices they had to make for us as well.

Let freedom ring where all can hear it and let Lance Corporal James Phillip's memory be eternal.

HONORING THE 933RD MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress convenes, I am proud to rise in honor of the brave men and women of the Illinois Army National Guard's 933rd Military Police Company. I was honored to be invited to attend this unit's holiday ball on the evening of Saturday, December 11, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois.

While serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom, members of the 933rd MP Company were assigned to the 504th Military Police Battalion—the active component based in Fort Lewis, Washington. The 504th MP Battalion was assigned to the 220th Military Police Brigade of the U.S. Army Reserve—the theater military police brigade that is assigned to the 377th Theater Support Command, which supports the entire theater of operations.

I want to thank all soldiers and the families of those who served in the 933rd MP Company for the strength and courage they have demonstrated since Operation Iraqi Freedom was launched. We are very proud of their impeccable service record as well as their skill, bravery and professionalism, each of which have directly resulted in saving the lives of innumerable U.S. soldiers, Coalition troops, and Iraqi civilians. The 933rd is a credit to the Military Police Corps.

It is fitting that my first statement in this new Congress recognizes the brave men and women of the 933rd MP Company. Accordingly, we in Congress will endeavor to measure up to the valor of the soldiers of the 933rd, who make the city of Chicago and indeed the entire state of Illinois so very proud. We shall strive to make sure that maximum production and surplus equipment is provided to our troops to safeguard their lives as they carry out the crucial mission of maintaining the peace across Iraq.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION HONORING CELIA CRUZ BY AWARDING HER THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer legislation to honor my great friend, the music icon, Celia Cruz, who lost her courageous battle with cancer on July 17, 2003.

Today, in the People's House, I am joined by my colleague, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, to introduce legislation that will posthumously award Celia Cruz the Congressional Gold Medal.

Celia de la Caridad Cruz Alonso was born on October 21, 1924, in Havana, Cuba. Her career blossomed when she left Cuba for the United States in 1960, where she eventually made Fort Lee, New Jersey her home.

Over a five-decade career as an entertainer, Celia Cruz became known as the "Queen of Salsa," and claimed the calling card cry of "Azuuuucar!" Celia's passion, boundless energy, and charisma transfixed generations of salsa fans and musicians. She recorded more than 70 albums and her collaborative efforts with other performers including the legendary salsa artist Tito Puente, pop star David Byrne, and hip-hop producer Wyclef Jean helped break down ethnic and cultural barriers. She was one of the few bridges that crossed cultural and racial divides.

Celia's musical talent earned her hundreds of awards worldwide, including five Grammy's, two Latin Grammy's, and the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor bestowed on an artist in the United States. She was a Hispanic Heritage Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient, and has a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. Her music was a unifying force, and her passion for a free Cuba was evidenced in both her music and her words.

Celia touched the lives of millions. More than 100,000 individuals mourned her loss at her wake in Miami, Florida and 75,000 people lined the streets of Manhattan to pay their respects as her funeral procession made its way through the streets of New York City.

Celia Cruz made countless contributions to American society and the world as an entertainer, and she was an ambassador of Latino culture and a voice of freedom. Her music, her words, and her love of freedom live on. This legislation would make Celia the first Latina to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the leadership to bring it swiftly to the Floor for a vote.

PREPARING FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I support passage of S. Con. Res. 2, which would re-establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies to continue preparations for the presidential inauguration at the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2005 and authorizes the use of the Capitol Rotunda for the proceedings.

This non-partisan joint committee was originally created last year by concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 94, to begin its work, but since resolutions do not carry over from one Congress to the next, it expired automatically on January 3, 2005, along with the 108th Congress. That is why this routine action is necessary today.

Congress passes this concurrent resolution every four years. The Speaker, Majority Leader and Minority Leader were originally appointed to represent the House on the joint committee and will be re-appointed to continue in those roles.

As for the use of the Rotunda authorized by Section 2 of S. Con. Res 2, we traditionally pass this measure at the beginning of any Congress following a presidential election in order to accommodate security planning and rehearsal for the inaugural, since the Rotunda is routinely used for ceremonial purposes during the inauguration and could host the event itself, depending on the weather at that time. A similar concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 93) was also passed last year during the 108th Congress to allow early planning for the inaugural to begin, but, like any resolution, it expired on January 3. That is why this action renewing the authority is necessary today. Therefore, I would like to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution so that we can move forward with Inaugural ceremonies.

SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2005

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Safe Drinking Water for Healthy Communities Act of 2005. This legislation will require the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a national primary standard for drinking water for perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel used heavily by the military and its defense contractors.

Communities across the country are finding perchlorate in their drinking water, groundwater, irrigation water, soil and food. Perchlorate has been linked to disruption of the thyroid, resulting in behavior changes and delayed development in children and thyroid tumors in adults. Today more than 120 wells in Los Angeles County have been found to be contaminated with varying levels of perchlorate and my community alone faces costs of at least $200 million over the next 15 years to manage and contain perchlorate.

Perchlorate removes valuable water supplies from service and can contaminate our food supply. Yet there exists no enforceable public health standard to ensure our drinking water is safe and to prevent further contamination. At the current rate the Environmental Protection Agency has stated it could not begin to promulgate a public health standard for perchlorate until 2007, if it chooses to do so. Ultimately it is the responsibility of Congress to make sure that the public can trust its water supply, that water providers have guidance, and that those responsible for contamination know that contaminating the water supply and threatening public health is not acceptable.

This bill requires the EPA to establish an enforceable national primary drinking water standard by July, 2007. Without this, there is no requirement for water to have safe levels of perchlorate and water providers will continue to struggle with guaranteeing long term reliability of safe water sources. Inaction poses an unreasonable risk to both our valuable water supply and our health.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEMOCRACY DAY ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Day Act of 2005, legislation that would establish each Tuesday,

after the first Monday in November (in even-numbered years), as a legal public holiday.

The Democracy Day Act of 2005 is designed to respond to the alarming trend of voters being unable to cast their vote due to work or other important commitments. According to a recent Census Bureau study, nearly 25 percent of eligible voters cited time constraints or busy work and school schedules as the primary reason for failing to vote in the past 2000 presidential election. The creation of a federal election holiday would help address this problem by providing many hardworking Americans with the necessary time off from work so they can vote. Furthermore, the bill would have the added benefit of: Increasing the number of available election day judges, poll workers and suitable polling places; decreasing long lines and the overcrowding that occurs during peak times on election day; and reinforcing the notion that voting is an important civic duty.

This Congress must ensure that every American has an equal opportunity to participate in the voting process. Enacting the ''Democracy Day Act of 2005'' would be a crucial first step towards achieving that objective.

The legislation is strongly supported by a wide array of voting rights and labor organizations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND PROFESSIONALS ACT OF 2005

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is well documented that many states, including my home state of California, are currently suffering from a nursing shortage that, if left unchecked, will quickly reach epidemic proportions. More than 126,000 nursing positions in hospitals around the country are unfilled, according to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. In addition, the workforce is shrinking, because it's aging (and retiring) at twice the rate of other occupations. While the problem of nursing shortages will require a multifaceted solution, I was shocked to learn recently that entry into the United States by many qualified nurses was being delayed entry because of an easily correctable bureaucratic regulation. We cannot simply stand by and allow the nursing shortage to ensnarl the quality of American health care, and that is why I am introducing the Health Improvement and Professionals Act (HIPA) of 2005.

Due to a change in procedures by the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) of the Department of Homeland Security, the federal agency responsible for processing citizenship and immigration applications, it became necessary to impose a cut-off date in order to process a backlog of work-related immigration applications. As a result, CIS recently announced that it would no longer consider employment-based visa applications from the Philippines, India or China that were filed after January 1, 2002. Due to the unfortunate shortage of American nurses, many of our nation's hospitals are dependent on filling their nursing ranks with new workers from these countries. My legislation, the Health Improvement and Professionals Act of 2005, would provide a common-sense, short-term solution to the problems caused by the CIS policy change, while still allowing the agency to do the necessary and important work of processing its backlog.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation simply allows CIS to recapture unused work-based immigration quota numbers from countries that have undersubscribed their own allowable visa numbers. By reassigning unused quota allotments from previous years, we would allow more qualified nurses to come to this country, bringing their crucially needed skills with them. Let me be clear, the HIPA Act of 2005 does not increase the number of immigrants allowed into our country. Instead, my legislation ensures that we are putting to full use the number of workers' visas currently allowed by law, in order to fulfill a crucial and exponentially increasing worker shortage.

The HIPA Act is modeled directly on the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-First Century Act, which Congress passed, and President Clinton signed into law nearly five years ago, in response to the shortage of highly skilled computer programmers and information technology workers needed to fuel the Internet boom of the late 1990's. Like the HIPA Act of 2005, that law allowed for the recapture of unused employment-based visas to fill a necessary labor shortage.

The growth of the nursing shortage is easily traceable—one only has to look to the fact that in 2002, 30 states were reportedly experiencing some level of nursing shortages. This number is expected to rise to 45 states by 2012. The scope of this problem is compounded by the fact that many of today's nurses are nearing retirement, and so our country is facing the compounded problem of increased retirements coupled with increased demand. This problem is well known to the federal government, as the Department of Labor has noted that one million new nurses will be needed by 2012 to meet the growing health needs of our country.

Some may criticize my legislation for bringing nurses into the country instead of training American men and women to do the job. Unfortunately, enrollments in baccalaureate nursing programs at colleges and universities across the United States have declined for five consecutive years. Even in states where the programs are full, as in my state of California, nearly 70% of all nurses are trained by community colleges. Many of the programs at these schools in California are full, and some even have substantial waiting lists of eager students ready to learn about the exciting and rewarding profession of nursing. I will continue to work to expand the capacity of nurse training programs in our country to help relieve this shortage. However, the shortage in California is so severe that even if all of the nursing programs in the state were to double their enrollments, California would still not be able to meet her nursing needs in the year 2010.

Mr. Speaker, the lack of nurses in our hospitals has a direct effect on the quality of the health care these facilities can provide. The shortages currently experienced in 30 states affects all patients, from those in operating rooms and intensive care units to those who treat children and cancer patients. In fact, according to a study conducted by the Harvard School of Health and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, over 50% of physicians surveyed believed that the nursing shortage is a leading cause of medical error. Additional studies and surveys published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, and by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations all confirm that the shortage of RNs is influencing the delivery of health care in the United States and negatively affecting patient outcomes. It is completely unacceptable in 21st century America that these preventable deaths are occurring. I hope my colleagues are as appalled about this as I am and that they will join me in supporting this common sense and critically important legislation. While we search for a longer-term solution to the problems as well as the causes of this nursing shortage crisis, the Health Improvement and Professionals Act of 2005 will provide a desperately needed injection of health care professionals into this country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRAD ROWSE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HAYES, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. KIND, Mr. PUTNAM and all the Members of the Congressional Sportsman's Caucus received tragic news that Brad Rowse, Manager of Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation's (CSF) State Caucus program and the new National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses died of an aneurysm on Monday, December 27, 2004. He was 26 years old.

Brad was a dedicated and highly respected member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation joining the organization two years ago to help lead the early efforts to expand the sportsmen's caucus model to state legislatures. A native of upstate New York, Brad grew up hunting and fishing on his family's farm where he grew a passionate fondness for the outdoors. He used his undergraduate work at Cornell University and his Masters from SUNY Syracuse to focus on natural resource policy with the goal of adapting, improving and creating programs and policies to improve our fish and wildlife resources. Before coming to the CSF, he interned with The Wildlife Society and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in Washington, DC.

The unique combination of skills that Brad had acquired served him well during his time with the CSF. As the CSF State Caucus Manager, he built the program from its early beginnings to the national network of state caucuses that was launched on December 5, 2004. Brad took primary responsibility for monitoring sportsmen's issues at the state level and for building relations with state legislators and sportsmen's groups to create a unified voice for sportsmen. Through Brad's leadership and dedication there are now 21 state sportsmen's caucuses and a new National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses to support their growth and success.

America's sportsmen and women will miss his leadership and commitment to protecting our natural resources and hunting and fishing heritage.

EMBRACING THE CONSTITUTION FLAG

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, since September 11th, 2001, this nation has engaged in a debate over how best to balance national security with civil liberties. "They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security." Those words are as true today as they were when Ben Franklin said them at the dawn of American democracy.

It was in that spirit that a patriotic New Yorker named Bob Pargament designed the "Constitution Flag." The new symbol, an American Flag with the Constitution superimposed in the outline of the United States, reminds us never to undercut the freedoms guaranteed to each individual in the Constitution.

While nothing can ever replace our beloved "Old Glory," this new emblem is currently flying in homes, city and town halls, and law classrooms across the country. It is on display at the American Library Association's Chicago headquarters and the city of Mount Vernon, NY has officially adopted the flag as the city's symbol.

As we in Congress continue to struggle with ways to keep Americans safe, we should honor those who are working to highlight the civil liberties at the foundation of our democracy. I urge my colleagues to join me in embracing the Constitution Flag as an invaluable reminder of what keeps American strong.

FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ENDORSES FREEDOM FOR KHALISTAN—SOVEREIGNTY WILL END OPPRESSION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on December 8, the Tribune newspaper out of Chandigarh, Punjab reported that a former Member of Parliament, Simranjit Singh Mann, had endorsed sovereignty for the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. His endorsement is part of a rising tide that includes the Punjab government declaring its sovereignty when it ended its water agreements with the other states in India.

I note that Mr. Mann said that the Sikhs are a separate nation and promised to lead a movement to liberate Khalistan. I hope that he keeps his promise. My friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan and an invaluable resource for information about South Asian affairs, has been saying the same things for several years. It seems that India's oppression that killed a quarter of a million Sikhs and keeps more than 52,000 of them as political prisoners has failed to dampen the desire and enthusiasm of the Sikhs for their own sovereign, independent country. I salute Mr. Mann's position. It is important for leaders in Punjab to speak out strongly for Khalistan. We can help from here, but the effort must be won in Punjab, Khalistan itself.

Mr. Speaker, all peoples are entitled to live in freedom. The Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan made their choice on October 7, 1987 when they declared their independence from India, calling their new country Khalistan. India, which proudly claims to be democratic, refuses even to hold a free and fair vote on the question, just as India has never kept its promise of 1948 to hold a plebiscite on the future of Kashmir. How can a country do these things and claim to be democratic? Self-determination is the essence of democracy.

A new Congress gives us a new opportunity to take a stand for freedom in South Asia and around the world. We should stop all U.S. aid to India until it allows full democratic rights and full human rights to all people living within its borders and we should strongly support a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Nagaland, in Kashmir, and wherever people seek their freedom on the question of independence. By promoting such a plebiscite, we promote democracy and human rights for all people in that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release on Mr. Mann's remarks into the RECORD at this time.

MANN REVERTS TO SUPPORTING KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, DC, DECEMBER 10, 2004—Once again, former MP Simranjit Singh Mann, leader of the Shiromani Alkali Dal (Amritsar), has staked out a position in support of a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Speaking in Ludhiana on December 7 at a meeting of his party, Mann said that the SAD (Amritsar) would launch a peaceful movement to achieve a separate and sovereign Sikh state, according to the December 8 issue of The Tribune (Chandigarh.) Mann claimed that his party had never given up this position.

Mann reminded his party that Sikhs are a separate nationality. He said that the foundation for an independent Khalistan was laid by Guru Gobind Singh and furthered by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and that this dream "will be materialized one day." Guru Gobind Singh gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation ("In grieb Sikhin ko deon patshahi.") Sikhs are a separate nation. Sikhs ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Mann noted that it is in the interests of all the people in the region to have a buffer state between India and Pakistan to help ensure lasting peace in South Asia, given the deep hostility between "Hindu civilization and Muslim civilization."

Mann's remarks show that the desire for Khalistan remains strong in the Sikhs of Punjab, said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence. Dr. Aulakh also cited the actions taken by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, such as declaring Punjab's sovereignty in stopping all water agreements between Punjab and other states, as moving toward this goal. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan was established at that time to lead the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan from Indian oppression.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Recently, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed a bill annulling all water agreements with the Indian government, preventing the government's daylight robbery of Punjab river water. Punjab needs its river water for its crops. In the bill, the Assembly explicitly stated the sovereignty of Punjab.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Slikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

"It is encouraging that Mr. Mann has comeback to demanding Khalistan," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "This is another step forward for the movement to liberate our homeland from Indian oppression."

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh'," Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. A sovereign Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh religion."

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MARVIN L. HILL

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Marvin L. Hill of Memphis Tennessee, and the dedication and courage with which he has served our Nation.

A warrior and exemplary combat veteran, Command Sergeant Major Hill will be moving onto the 1st Army, under Lieutenant General Russel Honore, overseeing training and mobilization readiness for Army National Guard Units within its area of responsibility. Command Sergeant Major Hill's distinguished career is particularly noteworthy for his contributions to the legacy of the 101st Airborne Division, "Screaming Eagles," the post he is departing.

Command Sergeant Major Hill joined the Army on January 18, 1978. After completing Basic Combat Training at Ford Leonard Wood, Missouri and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Benning, Georgia, he became an

Infantryman in May 1978. Most recently, he served a rotation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, as Division Command Sergeant Major for the 101st Airborne.

Command Sergeant Major Hill has held a myriad of assignments which include: 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis Washington; 3rd Battalion, 5th Infantry, 193rd Infantry Brigade, Fort Kobbe, Panama; two tours with 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment and one with 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky; 4th Training Brigade and United States Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy and Drill Sergeant School, Fort Knox, Kentucky; United States Corps of Cadets, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York; 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, Republic of Korea; Staff and Faculty, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas; Headquarters 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment and Headquarters 2nd Brigade, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Command Sergeant Major Hill has occupied a multitude of positions: Rifleman to Command Sergeant Major in infantry units, Scout Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Operations Sergeant, Tactical Noncommissioned Officer (USMA), Drill Sergeant, Drill Sergeant Instructor, and as a Faculty Advisor at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. He also served as Task Force CSM for TF 1–502 Infantry, Multinational Force and Observers, Sinai, Egypt.

Command Sergeant Major Hill's military and civilian education is comprised of the Primary Noncommissioned Officers Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, First Sergeant Course, Drill Sergeant School, Air Assault School, Rappel Master Course, Master Fitness Trainers Course, and Sniper School. He is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 48. Command Sergeant Major Hill also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, New York.

In recognition of his honorable service, Command Sergeant Major Hill has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (five Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal (four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Noncommissioned Officers Development Ribbon (Fourth Award), the Good Conduct Medal (Seventh Award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (Second Award), the NATO Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal and the Multinational Force and Observers Medal (Second Award). In addition, he holds the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Drill Sergeant Identification Badge.

Command Sergeant Major Hill is married to the former Sharon Patton. They have one son, Curtis, and one grandson, Camron.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor Command Sergeant Major Marvin L. Hill for his distinguished service to our nation. He has demonstrated a laudable degree of leadership, courage, and hard work.

INTRODUCTION OF THE H.R. 28, THE HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the High-Performance Computing—or HPC—Revitalization Act of 2005, which will ensure that America remains a leader in the development and use of supercomputers.

When we think of how computers affect our lives, we probably think of the work we do on our office desktop machines, or maybe the Internet surfing we do in our spare time. We don't normally think of the enormous contribution that supercomputers—also called high performance computers—make to the world around us.

These powerful machines are used in the development of pharmaceuticals, in modeling the earth's climate, in applications critical to ensuring our national and homeland security, and to strengthen our economic competitiveness. High-performance computers also are central to maintaining U.S. leadership in many scientific fields. Computational science complements theory and experimentation in fields such as plasma physics and fusion, astrophysics, nuclear physics, and genomics.

Mr. Speaker, dramatic scientific and commercial breakthroughs will require increasing computing power by a factor of a hundred, or in some cases, by a factor of a thousand. While attaining these increases may seem daunting, the history of computer development has taught us that with a sustained commitment to research, such gains are within our reach.

For nearly three years, Japan was home to the world's fastest supercomputer, the Earth Simulator. But during those years, the United States remained a leader in high performance computing as home to many of the world's fastest supercomputers. For example, a list of the world's fastest computers released last spring documented that 10 of the top 20 supercomputers were in the United States at that time.

Then, just two months ago, the United States regained the lead when IBM's Blue Gene/L supercomputer was recognized as the fastest computer in the world. IBM and the U.S. supercomputing industry are to be commended for their impressive accomplishments.

These are accomplishments upon which we must build if the United States is to retain its leading role in the development and use of supercomputers.

That's why my legislation updates an important law not revised since it passed in 1991. The HPC Revitalization Act of 2005 clarifies the federal government's role in supporting supercomputing research and development in the United States. More specifically, my bill does four things:

First, it requires that federal agencies provide the U.S. research community access to the most advanced high-performance computing systems, and technical support for their users.

Second, there's more to supercomputing than building big machines. That's why the bill requires federal agencies to support all aspects of high-performance computing for scientific and engineering applications, including: Software, algorithm and applications development; Development of technical standards; and Education and training.

Third, the bill requires the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to direct an interagency planning process to develop and maintain a research, development, and deployment roadmap for the provision of high-performance computing resources for the U.S. research community. This provision will help ensure an ongoing, robust planning process for our national high-performance computing efforts.

Finally, the bill clarifies the missions of each of the federal agencies that have a role in developing or using High Performance Computing.

Mr. Speaker, at a full committee hearing on May 13 of last year, Dr. John Marburger, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, communicated the Administration's support for this bill.

Dr. Marburger and the Bush Administration recognize that we can't have world-class science if we don't have world-class computers. We cannot imagine the kinds of problems that the supercomputers of tomorrow will be able to solve. But we can imagine the kind of problems we will have if we fail to provide researchers in the United States with the computing resources they need to remain world-class.

That's why the House passed this same bill in the 109th Congress. It will guide federal agencies in providing needed support to high-performance computing and its user communities. Our nation's scientific enterprise, and our economy, will be the stronger for it.

To conclude, I want to recognize the bill's cosponsors, Chairman SHERWOOD BOEHLERT and Congressman LINCOLN DAVIS, and thank them for their support. I hope the rest of my colleagues will again support this legislation when it comes to the floor for consideration in the 109th Congress. With your help, we will ensure that the United States maintains its distinction as home to the world's most powerful computer.

THE LIFE OF FATHER MAC

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and reflect the life of Monsignor Ignatius McDermott, who many called Father Mac, a Chicago Priest who helped thousands of people with drug and alcohol abuse.

Father Mac was born on Chicago's South Side in 1909 to an Irish Catholic family. He attended St. Gabriel Catholic School and then graduated from the former Visitation Catholic School. He was ordained in 1936 after studying at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and Mundelein's St. Mary of the Lake Seminary.

During his leave from the seminary in 1930, Father Mac traveled daily through ''Skid Row'' to get to his job at Arlington Park racetrack. From his daily encounters of seeing the despair of alcohol and substance abuse, he

began ministering to the homeless and alcoholics—the forgotten populations. Working toward a solution, Father Mac founded the Addiction Counseling Education Services in 1961, which provided counseling to alcoholics and other substance abusers who had no other means to get help. He would later expand his work to the Chicago schools system, where he developed an alcohol education curriculum and fostered Alternatives to Expulsion, a program to help teachers salvage addicted teenagers who were willing to give up drinking and drugs and resume their studies.

After serving as a parish priest and Chicago Archdiocese administrator, Father Mac devoted full time to helping those who could not help themselves and co-founded Haymarket Center. This Center is the largest drug abuse treatment center in Chicago serving an average of 18,000 clients annually. Haymarket truly changes individuals' lives with providing integrated treatment services, job training and serves as one of the few facilities that assist addicted mothers through pregnancy seeing the delivery of over 900 drug free babies. Haymarket Center serves as a model for other treatment programs throughout the Nation.

Ironically, on New Years Eve, as Haymarket Center celebrated its 29th year, Father Mac passed at the age of 95. Sadly, we lose a man of unwavering faith, deep compassion, and tireless devotion to helping those who are among the most desperate and needy.

The Chicago Sun-Times call him Chicago's Living Saint. Others call him the patron saint of the addicted. It is hard to find words to describe the care, love and compassion Father Mac had for all people—especially those that everyone else forgot about.

Last Congress, I introduced a resolution with my colleagues from Illinois, Speaker HASTERT, Congressman LAHOOD, and the former-Congressman Lipinski to honor Father Mac with the Congressional Gold Medal. I would like to thank my 114 colleagues who cosponsored this legislation. In memory of Father Mac, one of his favorite quotes read: "When you no longer burn with love, others will die of the cold." St. Vincent DePaul,

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS TO ALL VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I am reintroducing today.

The Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act directs the Secretary of Defense to find an appropriate way to recognize and honor Vietnam Veterans who died in service to our nation but whose names are not listed on the wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

A family in my district, Mary and Tom Manley of Long Beach California, brought the need for this legislation to my attention.

Tom Manley is a survivor of the U.S.S. *Frank E. Evans*.

The *Evans* sailed from the Port of Long Beach for the last time in the spring of 1969.

After seeing serious combat off the coast of Vietnam, the U.S.S. *Evans* was sent to a brief training exercise called "Operation Sea Spirit." This training exercise involved ships of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

In the early morning hours of June 3, 1969, the crew of the U.S.S. *Frank E. Evans* awoke to the sounds of an Australian carrier splitting their vessel in half. The forward half, where all 74 deaths took place, sank in three minutes. There were 198 survivors.

Although the *Evans* was in the South China Sea, these sailors' names are not listed on the Vietnam Memorial wall because the U.S.S *Evans* was just outside the designated combat zone, which determines inclusion on the wall.

Unfortunately, the case of the U.S.S. *Frank E. Evans* does not stand-alone.

There are many families across the United States, like the Manleys in Long Beach, who have loved ones and friends that have been excluded from proper recognition—maybe even in your district.

It is time for the Department of Defense to examine current policies for placement on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

This legislation also calls on the organizations and government agencies that originally constructed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to examine the feasibility of inscribing additional names.

Should there be no practical way to add these names, the bill seeks appropriate alternatives for recognizing these veterans.

I ask Members to join me in properly honoring those Veterans who have given their lives for their country.

With the ongoing conflict in Iraq we are all acutely aware of the sacrifices our men and women in the military have recently made to ensure our nation's safety, security and our freedom.

A Nation is judged on how well they treat their Veterans. Let us not forget those of a past generation who fought for the freedom that we all cherish today.

Join me and support The Fairness to All Vietnam Veterans Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURE DOMESTIC CONTAINER PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2005

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I have introduced today—The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2005.

This legislation directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to create a pilot program that encourages shipping handlers to seal empty shipping containers after they have unpacked them.

Under this pilot program, the Secretary may authorize a shipper, cargo carrier, freight forwarder, terminal operator, port authority, or labor organization that is a qualified container handler to secure under a seal approved by the Secretary, a shipping container that is emptied by the person.

It is my strong belief that this program, when fully implemented, will do so much for securing our supply chain, reducing congestion around our ports and intermodal centers while offering our shippers the opportunity to actively participate in securing our home front, our economic supply chain, our transportation infrastructure and most importantly our communities.

Last year, in response to the 9/11 Commission Report the Maritime and Coast Guard subcommittee took testimony from panelists responding to the Commission's findings and directives.

A scenario, presented to our Committee that characterized "cargo containers as a poor man's missile," struck me as all too real. In Southern California, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles imported 68,000 containers a week in 2003. Combine exports and imports for 2003 and you have 125,000 containers that come in, out and through the most populous region in the country with seventeen million residents and growing—and with many high risk targets. Our streets, our communities, our rail infrastructure at any time are supporting full and empty containers.

Containers are as common in Southern California as lawyers are in Washington, DC. Look around you and you will know what I mean.

Now, if a container were to be compromised, empty or full, it would call into question the integrity of all containers on our highways and railways that travel along our entire transportation infrastructure and throughout our communities.

Placing a seal on an empty container is a cost effective common sense solution that further strengthens the partnership between the shipping community and the Department of Homeland Security against the ongoing war on terrorism.

Specifically, I would recommend that the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism or C–TPAT administer this program.

This initiative, under the Customs and Border Protection Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security, has a proven track record of doing great things with securing our supply line.

Through the C–TPAT initiative, Customs has been working in partnership with companies and carriers involved in importing goods into the United States.

Companies are asked to assess the vulnerabilities of their supply chains and to work with Customs to address any vulnerability.

In short, the C–TPAT initiative is the equivalent to the trusted traveler program for goods that the FAA is currently implementing for passengers.

The C–TPAT initiative would be an excellent partner and I would encourage the Secretary to take my recommendation.

Like the C–TPAT initiative, the pilot program created by enactment of The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2005 would be purely voluntary on the part of shippers.

This is a win/win for businesses, our transportation system and our communities.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support the "The Secure Domestic Container Partnership Act of 2005."

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to mourn the passing of my predecessor and mentor, former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

As the first African-American woman elected to Congress and the first African-American to seriously run for the office of the Presidency, Shirley was a trailblazer who opened the doors of opportunity for generations of women and minority politicians.

Her advocacy for the education of the disadvantaged, Title IX, and early childhood education established her as one of the foremost education policymakers during her seven terms in Congress. But her legacy did not end there. Unmatched as a voice for social justice, Shirley fought for the interests of groups like veterans, Haitian refugees and day workers.

A gifted orator, Shirley's ''unbought and unbossed'' political style allowed her to make friends and political alliances on both sides of the aisle. She was truly one in a million and I am honored to have been part of her Brooklyn political circle and to have worked along side her throughout her political career. Anyone who came in contact with Shirley Chisholm was forever changed for the better; she is one soul on this earth who is truly irreplaceable and she will be sorely missed by all of those who knew and loved her.

REMEMBERING SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I'm filled with great sadness that on the eve of the 109th Congress we mourn the passing of my longtime friend and colleague, Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to Congress and the first of her race to seek a major party nomination for the Presidency. She died at her Ormond Beach, FL home on New Year's Day at the age of 80.

I commend to my colleagues the following article describing a time in the life of Shirley Chisholm written by Wil Haygood in the Washington Post on January 4, 2005.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 4, 2005]

A WOMAN OF THE PEOPLE

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM TOOK A BACK SEAT TO NO ONE

(By Wil Haygood)

There was something so plain and yet so defiant about her. Studious and yet a little jazzy, especially in front of those Brooklyn church ladies.

Shirley Chisholm, the former congresswoman who died New Year's Day in Florida at age 80, came along at a moment in the 1960s when there was a bubbling symmetry between the women's liberation movement and the civil rights movement. She was holding two candles in the wind.

At church podiums in Brooklyn, she'd talk about babies eating paint they had peeled from the walls, and she'd talk about malnourished schoolchildren, and she'd raise her fist, and her big mound of cloudlike hair would bob, and she would start to crying, tears rolling from beneath those beatnik-era glasses. She would turn her back to the audience—as if she couldn't stand her own tears—and then turn around to face the folk in the pews, and they'd be stomping.

''I used to say to her, 'You should go into drama,' ''recalls Edolphus Towns, a Democratic congressman from Brooklyn. ''She could drop tears at any time.''

Chisholm began her working life in 1950s Brooklyn. She was the director of a day-care center and worked as an educational consultant for the city. The tots had parents and she befriended them and got herself elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964. She was headed to Albany, the same place that launched the national political careers of Theodore Roosevelt, Thomas Dewey, Franklin D. Roosevelt and many others.

In the '60s, the talk in New York of black political figures focused on names such as Basil Patterson, Percy Sutton, Charlie Rangel. They were young lions who belonged to Harlem political clubs. (There was also Adam Clayton Powell, the once-powerful congressman who had crawled back to Congress in 1969 after an expulsion and scandalous headlines. But his day was now gone.)

But Patterson and Sutton and Rangel suddenly had to yank their heads and look across the bridge, to Brooklyn.

Shirley who?

''Shirley came out of Brooklyn, and that was one of the roughest political arenas you can come out of—even today,'' says Rep. Rangel (D), who knew Chisholm for decades. ''For her to succeed, she had to be a little strange—and certainly extraordinary.''

In addition to being a woman and from Brooklyn, Chisholm was also—unlike Powell, Sutton, Rangel and Patterson—dark-skinned. Given the history of skin color, she had an extra ladder to climb, and did so with relish, carrying herself with the insouciance of the world's most attractive woman.

So there she'd be, needing a ride to Albany and getting herself over to Harlem so that Sutton, who was also in the assembly, could pick her up.

''Shirley would meet us on the corner of 125th and Seventh—now Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard—and ride with us to Albany,'' says Sutton. ''We did that for two years.''

Sutton noted something about Chisholm on those rides. She was hungry for debate: ''Even if she agreed with you, she'd want to debate you!''

With the '60s drawing to a close, Chisholm was swimming in the waters of history. ''She had the imagination,'' says Rangel, ''of being first—and tenacious.''

So she announced in 1968 that she was running for Congress. There were howls of laughter, though not from the church ladies, who saw themselves in the reflection of her beatnik eyeglasses.

In 1968, she became the first black woman elected to Congress. She grinned and gave the peace sign. It wasn't black power. It was Shirley power. She wound up serving seven terms.

She pushed for antipoverty legislation and became a star. Ebony magazine wanted her, and so did Ms. magazine. She appeared with Reps. Barbara Jordan and Bella Abzug. She was known as honest and honorable. ''Chisholm would not set up any kind of a side deal for her mother, brother, or cousin,'' says William Howard, who served as her financial adviser.

When Chisholm announced a run for the presidency in 1972, it seemed a little strange. She was the first black to conduct a large-scale presidential campaign within one of the major parties. The Congressional Black Caucus hardly had the numbers then that it has now, but she rolled her eyes when its members asked why she hadn't discussed her presidential plans with them. ''Shirley had a lot of self-confidence,'' says Rangel.

''I Am Woman'' by Helen Reddy was humming on the jukebox that year.

''Black people needed somebody,'' says Sutton. ''We had lost Martin and Malcolm.'' He raised the first $25,000 for her presidential campaign.

At the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach, she was smiling from the podium—those glasses, that hair, the dark skin. Simply getting there was a huge victory.

''The next time a woman runs,'' she wrote in her 1973 autobiography, ''The Good Fight,'' ''or a black, a Jew or anyone from a group that the country is 'not ready' to elect to its highest office, I believe he or she will be taken seriously from the start. The door is not open yet, but it is ajar.''

And, in time, they came: Geraldine Ferraro, Jesse Jackson, Joseph Lieberman.

The last time William Howard saw Chisholm was a year and a half ago in Manhattan. She had wanted to go dancing. She was peering at him, through those beatnik glasses, out on the dance floor, imploring him to tell the band to play something jazzy.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the memory of former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who was a national role model.

I followed in the footsteps of Rep. Chisholm in several respects, having served both in the New York State Assembly and in the House of Representatives. To my knowledge, we are the only two Democratic women from New York State to have that distinction.

Shirley Chisholm was a tireless advocate for social justice, and for that legacy our country will be eternally grateful.

As the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress and to run for president of the United States, Shirley Chisholm threw open the doors to greater opportunities for women and minorities.

Along with Congresswoman Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan—also great women's rights leaders—Shirley Chisholm founded the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971. She also helped found the Congressional Black Caucus. Both of these organizations have served an important role in increasing representation of women and minorities in Congress.

I think it is important to note her life-long passion for improving educational opportunities for our Nation's youth, carrying on this tradition after her years in Congress by serving as the Purington Professor at Mount Holyoke College.

She also promoted increased assistance for urban areas, land rights for Native Americans, fair treatment of Haitian refugees, and more help for working-class families trying to make ends meet.

I join together with our Nation in honoring her life's work. Along with my colleagues, I cosponsored a Congressional resolution today

that would honor her life. This resolution will help ensure that her legacy and the positive momentum that she initiated through her work would continue, and I urge the House to bring this resolution up for a vote without delay.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay honor to Representative Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and a candidate for the presidency in 1972, and who passed away on Saturday in Florida at the age of 80. Representative Chisholm was elected to Congress in 1968 and served until 1982. During her seven terms, she was an outspoken advocate for women and minorities and a riveting speaker who often called on Congress to be more responsive to the public.

During her first term in Congress, Representative Chisholm hired an all-female staff and spoke out for civil rights, women's rights, the poor, and against the Vietnam War. Throughout her tenure, she was a sought-after public speaker. Representative Chisholm was a cofounder of the National Organization for Women, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the National Women's Political Caucus. She was also the first black person to conduct a large-scale campaign for the presidency within the two-party system. As a candidate for the Democratic nomination in 1972, Representative Chisholm won 152 delegates before withdrawing from the race. When her ideological opposite, George Wallace, was shot, she surprised many by visiting him in the hospital.

Representative Chisholm was born Shirley Hill in New York on November 20, 1924, the oldest of four daughters of a Guyanese father and a Barbadian mother, who scrimped to educate their children. Representative Chisholm lived on her maternal grandmother's farm in Barbados from age 3 to age 11, where she attended a British grammar school and picked up the clipped Caribbean accent that marked her speech. She went on to graduate cum laude from Brooklyn College and earn a master's degree from Columbia University. She began her career as the director of a day care center, then moved on to be an educational consultant for the New York City Bureau of Child Welfare. A long-time political activist, she became involved in Democratic politics and was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964. During her tenure in the legislature, she proposed a bill to provide State aid to day-care centers and voted to increase funding for schools on a per-pupil basis.

After leaving Congress, Representative Chisholm was named to the Purington Chair at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts and also served as a visiting scholar at Spelman College. She received many honorary degrees, and her awards include Alumna of the Year, Brooklyn College; Key Woman of the Year; Outstanding Work in the Field of Child Welfare; and Woman of Achievement. She is the author of two autobiographical works, Unbought and Unbossed (1970) and The Good Fight (1973). Representative Chisholm was a pioneer in her time and her life should serve as an example of what can be accomplished if we have the courage and the strength to stand and fight for what we believe in. Her wit, wisdom, and leadership will be sorely missed.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

First Session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress convened.

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert of the State of Illinois was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1–S34

Measures Submitted: Six resolutions were submitted, as follows: S. Res. 1–4, and S. Con. Res. 1–2. **Pages S28–29**

Administration of Oath of Office: The Senators-elect were administered the oath of office by the Vice President of the United States. **Page S4**

Measures Passed:

Notification to the President: Senate agreed to S. Res. 1, informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled. **Page S6**

Notification to the House of Representatives: Senate agreed to S. Res. 2, informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled. **Page S6**

Fixing the Hour of Daily Meeting: Senate agreed to S. Res. 3, fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate. **Page S6**

Counting of Electoral Votes: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 1, to provide for the counting on January 6, 2005, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States. **Pages S6–7**

Subsequently, the Chair appointed Senators Lott and Dodd as tellers on the part of the Senate to count electoral votes. **Pages S6–7**

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 2, to extend the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the provisions of S. Con. Res. 93 and S. Con. Res. 94 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress. **Page S7**

Expressing Sympathy For Tsunami Victims: Senate agreed to S. Res. 4, expressing the sympathy and pledging the support of the United States Senate and the people of the United States for the victims of the powerful earthquake and devastating tsunami that struck Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and other areas of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa, on December 26, 2004. **Pages S7–11**

Unanimous Consent Agreements:

Authority for Select Committee on Ethics: Senate agreed that, for the duration of the 109th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate. **Page S7**

Time for Roll Call Votes: Senate agreed that, during the 109th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any roll call vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the last 7½ minutes, and when roll call votes are of 10-minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7½ minutes. **Page S7**

Authority to Receive Reports: Senate agreed that, during the 109th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate. **Page S7**

Recognition of Leadership: Senate agreed that, the Majority and Minority Leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer, and disposition of the reading of, or the approval of, the Journal. **Page S7**

House Parliamentarian Floor Privileges: Senate agreed that, the Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives and his five assistants be given the privileges of the floor during the 109th Congress. **Page S7**

Printing of Conference Reports: Senate agreed that, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule

XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report printed. **Page S7**

Authority for Appropriations Committee: Senate agreed that, the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 109th Congress to file reports during adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend Rule XVI, pursuant to Rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed. **Page S7**

Authority for Corrections in Engrossment: Senate agreed that, for the duration of the 109th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to House bills or resolutions. **Page S7**

Authority to Receive Messages and Sign Enrolled Measures: Senate agreed that, for the duration of the 109th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment, the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives; and that they be appropriately referred; and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions. **Page S7**

Privileges of the Floor: Senate agreed that, for the duration of the 109th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal Clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate such staff members as space allows. **Page S7**

Referral of Treaties and Nominations: Senate agreed that, for the duration of the 109th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day. **Page S7**

Authority to Introduce Measures: Senate agreed that, for the duration of the 109th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees. **Page S7**

Authority to Introduce Measures: Senate agreed that, it not be in order to introduce bills or resolutions, until January 24, 2005. **Page S7**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Mike Johanns, of Nebraska, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

Carlos M. Gutierrez, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Commerce.

Samuel W. Bodman, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Energy.

Albert Henry Konetzni, Jr., of New York, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2009.

Gregory B. Jaczko, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2008.

Michael O. Leavitt, of Utah, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Jeffrey Robert Brown, of Illinois, to be a Member of Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2008.

Condoleezza Rice, of California, to be Secretary of State.

Adolfo A. Franco, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2008.

Roger Francisco Noriega, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2006.

Margaret Spellings, of Texas, to be Secretary of Education.

Alberto R. Gonzales, of Texas, to be Attorney General.

Jim Nicholson, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Page S34**

Executive Communications: **Page S28**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S29–30**

Additional Statements: **Page S28**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S30**

Quorum Calls: One quorum call was taken today. (Total—1) **Page S5**

Adjournment: Senate met at 12:01 p.m. for the convening of the First Session of the 109th Congress, and adjourned at 5:53 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, January 6, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S34.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 204 public bills, H.R. 11–18, 20–43, 45–49, 51–57, 59–87, 89–90, 92–100, 108–129, 131–152, 155–162, 164–172, 174–188, 190–225, 229–231, 233–237; and; 49 resolutions, H. J. Res. 1–7, 9; H. Con. Res. 1–6, 8–12, and H. Res. 1–18, 20–31 were introduced. **Pages H71–80**

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

Filed on December 27, 2004: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Summary of Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–799);

Filed on December 29, 2004: Committee on Small Business. Summary of Activities of the Committee on Small Business for the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–800);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Appropriations. Report on Activities of the Committee on Appropriations, 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–801);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Financial Services. Report on the Activity of the Committee on Financial Services for the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–802);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Energy and Commerce. Report on the Activity of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–803);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Agriculture. Report of the Committee on Agriculture on Activities During the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–804);

Filed on January 3: Committee on the Judiciary. Report of the Activities of the Committee on the Judiciary During the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–805);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Summary of Activities of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–806);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Armed Services. Report of the Activities of the Committee on Armed Services, 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–807);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Activities Report of the Comittee on Veterans' Affairs, 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–808);

Filed on January 3: Committee on International Relations. Legislative Review Activities of the Committee on International Relations, 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–809);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Ways and Means. Report on the Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Ways and Means During the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–810);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Resources. Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the Committee on Resources During the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–811);

Filed on January 3: Select Committee on Homeland Security. Report on Legislative and Oversight Activities of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security During the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–812);

Filed on January 3: Committee on Education and the Workforce. Report on the Activities of the Committee on Education and the Workforce During the 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–813); and

Filed on January 3: Committee on Rules. Survey of Activities of the House Committee on Rules, 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–814). **Page H71**

Election of Speaker: The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert of Illinois was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives and received 226 votes. The Honorable Nancy Pelosi of California received 199 votes, the Honorable John Murtha of Pennsylvania received one vote, and four members-elect voted "present". Earlier, the Clerk appointed Rerpresentatives-elect Ney, Larson of Connecticut, Johnson of Connecticut, and Kaptur to act as Tellers. **Pages H2–6**

Escort Committee: The Clerk appointed the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the Chair: Representatives-elect Pelosi, DeLay, Blunt, Hoyer, Pryce of Ohio, Menendez, Hyde, Evans, Costello, Gutierrez, Manzullo, Rush, LaHood, Weller, Jackson of Illinois, Davis of Illinois, Shimkus, Biggert, Schakowsky, Johnson of Illinois, Kirk, Emanuel, Bean, and Lipinski. **Page H3**

Administration of the Oath of Office to Members of the 109th Congress: The Dean of the

House, the Honorable John D. Dingell administered the oath of office to the Speaker. The Speaker then administered the oath to the Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates. **Page H6**

Election of Majority and Minority Leaders: The Chairman of the Republican Conference, Representative Pryce of Ohio, announced the election of Representative DeLay as the Majority Leader. The Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, Representative Menendez, announced the election of Representative Pelosi as the Minority Leader. **Page H6**

Election of Majority and Minority Whips: The Chairman of the Republican Conference, Representative Pryce of Ohio, announced the election of Representative Roy Blunt as the Majority Whip. The Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, Representative Menendez, announced the election of Representative Hoyer as the Minority Whip. **Page H6**

Electing Officers of the House of Representatives: The House agreed to H. Res. 1, choosing the following officers for the House of Representatives: Jeffrey J. Trandahl, Clerk; Wilson S. Livingood, Sergeant at Arms; James M. Eagen III, Chief Administrative Officer; and Father Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain. **Page H6**

On a division of the question, rejected the Menendez amendment that sought to choose Jerry Hartz as Clerk; Dean Aguillen as Sergeant at Arms; and Terri McCullough as Chief Administrative Officer. **Page H7**

Notify the Senate that a Quorum has Assembled: The House agreed to H. Res. 2, to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled and of the election of the Speaker and Clerk. **Page H7**

Notify the President of the Assembly of the 109th Congress: The House agreed to H. Res. 3, authorizing the Speaker to appoint members of the House to a joint committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress. Subsequently, the Speaker appointed Representatives DeLay and Pelosi to the committee. Later Representative DeLay announced that the Committee to notify the President that a quorum of each House had assembled and was ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make. **Page H7**

Notify the President of the Election of the Speaker and the Clerk: The House agreed to H. Res. 4, authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk. **Page H7**

Adopting Rules for the One Hundred Ninth Congress: The House agreed to H. Res. 5, adopting rules for the One Hundred Ninth Congress by a yea and nay vote of 220 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 6, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea and nay vote of 222 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 4. **Page H7**

Earlier it was agreed to consider the resolution by a yea and nay vote of 224 yeas to 192 nays and one voting ''present'', Roll No. 3. **Page H11**

A point of order offered by Representative Baird on the content of the measure was ruled not recognizable. **Pages H9–11**

Rejected the Slaughter motion to commit the resolution to a select committee composed of the Majority Leader and Minority Leader with instructions to report it back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a yea and nay vote of 196 yeas to 219 nays, Roll No. 5. **Pages H30–31**

Rules Committee Membership: The House agreed to H. Res. 6, electing Representatives Dreier (Chairman), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL), Hastings (WA), Sessions, Putnam, Capito, Cole and Bishop (UT) to the Committee on Rules. **Pages H31–32**

Designation of Minority Employees: The House agreed to H. Res. 7, designating minority employees pursuant to the Legislative Pay Act of 1929, as amended. **Page H32**

Daily Hour of Meeting: The House agreed to H. Res. 8, fixing the daily hour of meeting of the first session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress. **Page H32**

Assembly outside of the District of Columbia: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 1, regarding consent to assemble outside of the District of Columbia. **Page H32**

Counting of Electoral Votes: The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 1, providing for the counting on January 6, 2005, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States. **Page H32**

Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 2, extending the power and authority of the joint committee created pursuant to S. Con. Res. 94, and also to extend the provisions of S. Con. Res. 93 regarding the use of the Rotunda for the inaugural ceremonies. Subsequently, the Chair announced the Speaker's reappointment of the following members of the House to the Joint Inaugural Committee: Speaker Hastert, and Representatives DeLay and Pelosi. **Page H32**

Attendance at the Inauguration of the President and Vice President: The House agreed to H. Res. 9, providing for the attendance of the House at the Inaugural Ceremonies of the President and Vice President on Thursday, January 20, 2005. **Pages H32–33**

Conditional Adjournment of Both Houses: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 2, providing for the conditional recess or adjournment of the House of Representatives and Senate. **Page H33**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2005. **Page H33**

Appointment Authority: Agreed that during the First Session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House. **Page H33**

Extension of Remarks: Agreed that during the First Session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the Record entitled "Extensions of Remarks". **Page H33**

Policies of the Chair: The Chair announced his policies with respect to particular aspects of the legislative process dealing with (1) privileges of the floor; (2) introduction of bills and resolutions; (3) unanimous-consent agreements; (4) recognition for one-minute speeches, morning-hour debate, and special orders; (5) decorum in debate; (6) conduct of votes by electronic device; (7) distribution of written material on the House floor; (8) use of wireless telephones or personal computers on the House floor; and (9) jurisdictional issues. Without objection the announcements will be printed in the Record. **Pages H33–35**

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative Hoekstra as Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. **Page H35**

House Office Buildings Commission: The Chair announced that Representatives DeLay and Pelosi will serve as members of the House Office Building Commission with Speaker Hastert. **Page H35**

Clerk Designations: Read a letter from the Clerk wherein he designated Mr. Gerasimos C. Vans, Deputy Clerk; Ms. Marjorie C. Kelaher, Assistant to the Clerk; or Mr. Daniel J. Strodel, Assistant to the Clerk, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts in case of his temporary absence or disability. **Page H35**

Homeland Security Committee: The House agreed to H. Res. 10, providing for the interim expenses of the Committee on Homeland Security in the first session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress. **Pages H35–37**

Morning Hour Debate: During the first session of the 109th Congress, agreed that on the legislative days of Monday and Tuesday before May 16, 2005, the House shall convene 90 minutes earlier than otherwise established for the purpose of morning-hour debate. Agreed that on the legislative day of Tuesday after May 16, 2005, the House shall convene for morning-hour debate one hour earlier than the time otherwise established. **Page H37**

Expressing condolences and support for the victims of the tsunami in South and Southeast Asia: The House agreed to H. Res. 12, expressing condolences and support for assistance to the victims of the earthquake and tsunamis that occurred on December 26, 2004, in South and Southeast Asia. **Pages H37–47**

In Memory of the late Honorable Robert T. Matsui of California: The House agreed to H. Res. 11, expressing the condolences of the House on the death of the Honorable Robert T. Matsui, a Representative from the State of California. **Pages H47–63**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page H32.

Quorum Calls—Votes: 5 yea and nay votes developed during the proceedings today and appear on pages H3, H11, H29–30, H30–31, H31. There was one quorum call, Roll No. 1, which appears on page H1–2.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and at 9:25 p.m. pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 11, it stands adjourned in memory of the late Honorable Robert T. Matsui.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D1134)*

H.R. 480, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 747 Broadway in Albany, New York, as the "United States Postal Service Henry Johnson Annex". Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–459).

H.R. 2119, to provide for the conveyance of Federal lands, improvements, equipment, and resource materials at the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina, to the State of North Carolina. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–460).

H.R. 2523, to designate the United States courthouse located at 125 Bull Street in Savannah, Georgia, as the "Tomochichi United States Courthouse".

Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–461).

H.R. 3124, to designate the facility of the United States Geological Survey and the United States Bureau of Reclamation located at 230 Collins Road, Boise, Idaho, as the ''F.H. Newell Building''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–462).

H.R. 3147, to designate the Federal building located at 324 Twenty-Fifth Street in Ogden, Utah, as the ''James V. Hansen Federal Building''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–463).

H.R. 3204, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the tercentenary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–464).

H.R. 3242, to ensure an abundant and affordable supply of highly nutritious fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops for American consumers and international markets by enhancing the competitiveness of United States-grown specialty crops. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–465).

H.R. 3734, to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson Avenues in Roswell, New Mexico, as the ''Joe Skeen Federal Building''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–466).

H.R. 3884, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 615 East Houston Street in San Antonio, Texas, as the ''Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–467).

H.R. 4232, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4025 Feather Lakes Way in Kingwood, Texas, as the ''Congressman Jack Fields Post Office''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–468).

H.R. 4324, to amend chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for Federal employees to make elections to make, modify, and terminate contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund at any time. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–469).

H.R. 4620, to confirm the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to collect approved State commodity assessments on behalf of the State from the proceeds of marketing assistance loans. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–470).

H.R. 4807, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 140 Sacramento Street in Rio Vista, California, as the ''Adam G. Kinser Post Office Building''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–471).

H.R. 4847, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 Bay Isles Road in Longboat Key, Florida, as the ''Lieutenant General James V. Edmundson Post Office Building''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–472).

H.R. 4968, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 McHenry Street in Rosine, Kentucky, as the ''Bill Monroe Post Office''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–473).

H.R. 5360, to authorize grants to establish academies for teachers and students of American history and civics. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–474).

H.R. 5364, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5505 Stevens Way in San Diego, California, as the ''Earl B. Gilliam/Imperial Avenue Post Office Building''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–475).

H.R. 5365, to treat certain arrangements maintained by the YMCA Retirement Fund as church plans for the purposes of certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–476).

H.R. 5370, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4985 Moorhead Avenue in Boulder, Colorado, as the ''Donald G. Brotzman Post Office Building''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–477).

H.R. 4829, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 East Kleberg in Kingsville, Texas, as the ''Irma Rangel Post Office Building''. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–478).

H.J. Res. 102, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu and the end of Imperial Japanese control of Palau during World War II and urging the Secretary of the Interior to work to protect the historic sites of the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark and to establish commemorative programs honoring the Americans who fought there. Signed on December 21, 2004. (Public Law 108–479).

H.R. 2457, to authorize funds for an educational center for the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–480).

H.R. 2619, to provide for the expansion of Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–481).

H.R. 3632, to prevent and punish counterfeiting of copyrighted copies and phonorecords. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–482).

H.R. 3785, to authorize the exchange of certain land in Everglades National Park. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–483).

H.R. 3818, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to improve the results and accountability of microenterprise development assistance programs.

Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–484).

H.R. 4027, to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for use by the University for a Marine Life Science Center. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–485).

H.R. 4116, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, to America's lands, waterways, and skies and the great importance of the designation of the American bald eagle as an ''endangered'' species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–486).

H.R. 4548, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–487).

H.R. 4569, to provide for the development of a national plan for the control and management of Sudden Oak Death, a tree disease caused by the fungus-like pathogen Phytophthora ramorum. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–488).

H.R. 4657, to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to improve the administration of Federal pension benefit payments for District of Columbia teachers, police officers, and fire fighters. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–489).

H.R. 5204, to amend section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (relating to children's hospitals) to modify provisions regarding the determination of the amount of payments for indirect expenses associated with operating approved graduate medical residency training programs. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–490).

H.R. 5363, to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2005. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–491).

H.R. 5382, to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–492).

H.R. 5394, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the taxation of arrow components. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–493).

H.R. 5419, To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Adminstration Organization Act to facilitate the reallocation of spectrum from governmental to commercial users; to improve, enhance, and promote the Nation's homeland security, public safety, and citizen activated emergency response capabilities through the use of enhanced 911 services, to further upgrade Public Safety Answering Point capabilities and related functions in receiving E–911 calls, and to support in the construction and operation of a ubiquitous and reliable citizen activated system; and to provide that funds received as universal service contributions under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 and the universal service support programs established pursuant thereto are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act, for a period of time. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–494).

S. 1301, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit video voyeurism in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–495).

S. 2657, to amend part III of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of programs under which supplemental dental and vision benefits are made available to Federal employees, retirees, and their dependents, to expand the contracting authority of the Office of Personnel Management. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–496).

S. 2781, to express the sense of Congress regarding the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, to provide assistance for the crisis in Darfur and for comprehensive peace in Sudan. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–497).

S. 2856, to limit the transfer of certain Commodity Credit Corporation funds between conservation programs for technical assistance for the programs. Signed on December 23, 2004. (Public Law 108–498).

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of January 5 through January 8, 2005

Senate Chamber

On *Wednesday,* Senate will not be in session.

On *Thursday,* at 12:50 p.m., Senate will proceed to the House of Representatives for a joint session for the counting of the electoral votes of the several States cast in the election of the President and Vice President of the United States.

On *Friday,* Senate will not be in session.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: January 6, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Owen Johanns, to be Secretary of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: January 5, closed briefing on U.S. Government tsunami relief efforts in the Indian Ocean region, on the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan, and on other significant military issues around the world, 3:45 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: January 5, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Carlos Gutierrez, to be Secretary of Commerce; to be followed by a business meeting to consider the nomination, 4 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: January 6, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Margaret Spellings, to be Secretary of Education, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: January 6, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Alberto R. Gonzales, to be Attorney General of the United States, 10 a.m., SH–216.

House Chamber

Program to be announced.

House Committees

No committee meetings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will be in a period of morning business. At 12:50 p.m., Senate will proceed to the House of Representatives for a joint session for the counting of the electoral votes of the several States cast in the election of the President and Vice President of the United States.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Thursday, January 6

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Joint session for the certification of electoral ballots.

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