

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO KATHARINE CARR-ESTERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Ms. Katharine Carr-Esters of Attala County, Mississippi. Ms. Carr-Esters was born on April 9, 1928, to Mr. James William McKinley and Ms. Ida Presley Carr.

Ms. Carr-Esters has always played instrumental part in the movement toward equality in Attala County. She has dedicated her time and efforts to Focus.com (Founder), the Attala County Democratic Committee, the Heritage House Activity Center—organizations which benefit the community. Her community service has been recognized through the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Image Award for Community Harmony, NAACP, Inc., the Attala Historical Society and the Black Service Unlimited. Because of her constant service and dedication to her community, the Katharine Carr Esters Group Home in Kosciusko, MS, and the Katharine Carr Ray Esters Group Home in Meridian, MS, was named in her honor. She was also named the Grand Marshall of the Kosciusko Christmas Parade in 2003.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2005 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr.

WOLF, and I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. As many may know, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal of Valor. During the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony, 61 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great pride that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2005 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Receiving the Bronze Medal: Hazardous Materials Technician Ronald G. Bauserman II; Captain I Steven D. Clark; Hazardous Materials Technician William L. Franklin; Firefighter Rudy Iturrino; the Lifesaving Award: Captain I John E. Hart; Technician Richard N. Mitchell; Captain I Gary D. Pemberton; Public Safety Communicator III Scott N. Pierpoint; Master Technician Virgil J. Weber Jr.; the Certificate of Valor: Volunteer Captain II Thomas K. Warnock.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of the Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the suffering of the people of Burma. They continue their valiant struggle for human rights and democracy despite brutal human rights violations committed by the illegal ruling military regime.

In a few days, Burma's military regime will reconvene a sham "National Convention" under the guise of facilitating a transition to democracy in the country. In reality, the Convention is filled with handpicked delegates of the ruling regime. It is simply an attempt to legalize the regime's grip on power and guarantee the military's permanent role in the future of the country.

Why do I call the Convention a sham? Because the country's democracy movement, led by the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace

Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi, is not invited. Her political party, the National League for Democracy, is similar to the African National Congress in South Africa under apartheid rule in the 1980s and enjoys universal support from the people of Burma. In Burma's last election, the NLD won 82 percent of the seats in parliament, only to have the results annulled by the regime. They are completely excluded from the Convention.

As if that's not bad enough, the Convention is being held at a military camp which is surrounded by several military battalions. Among the regime's hand-picked participants are members of the United Wa State Army, whose leaders were indicted in absentia by a U.S. Federal Court in New York on January 24, 2004. The Department of Justice rightfully stated that the UWSA is one of the largest heroin producing and trafficking organizations in the world and is responsible for the production of more than 180 tons of opium in 2004. It is estimated that the UWSA has exported more than \$1 billion worth of heroin to the United States alone since 1985, as well as vast amounts throughout the world.

The proceeds from this drug money have kept Burma's military regime in power. Burma's regime is a narco-dictatorship, addicted to the proceeds of the international drug trade. The UWSA and the regime have worked together to launder billions of dollars in drug profits into the Burmese economy.

We should not tolerate this orchestrated play by members of the military junta and drug traffickers, at the cost of thousands of lives of Burmese non-violence activists. As a Member of Congress who has been engaged on human rights and promoting democracy for 25 years, I am proud that our country has taken a firm stance against thugs who now control Burma. This pressure has been from both Republican and Democrats in Congress and the last two administrations. We should publicly denounce this sham convention and the drug traffickers that plan to attend.

In late 2004 Congress unanimously passed a resolution calling for the U.N. Security Council to address the Burmese military regime's threat to regional peace and security. I am also encouraged by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's labeling of Burma as an "outpost of tyranny" and I fully support her assessment. Now, I respectfully encourage President Bush and Secretary Rice to follow up on our resolutions and take the issue to the U.N. Security Council, where it belongs.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REGARDING MILITARY RETIREMENT CREDIT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation, along with Representative

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PETER KING (R-NY), which would ensure that members of the National Guard who served in the counties declared federal disaster areas because of the 9/11 terrorist attacks receive military retirement credit for that service. Many of the soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Division of the New York Army National Guard, which is located in my district, served at Ground Zero and in the surrounding counties after the terrorist attacks for almost a year to assist with security, reconstruction, and recovery efforts. These soldiers were serving under state active duty rather than federal active duty. As a result, those days of service currently are not being counted toward their military retirement credit. However, other Companies in the 1st Battalion were activated under federal duty and served at West Point for a similar length of time to help with its security.

This legislation will correct this inequity. Because all of these National Guard members clearly aided in the federal response to the 9/11 attacks, I strongly believe that they should have those days counted toward their military retirement credit. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were an unprecedented event in American history. We should show our gratitude to these brave men and women by giving them the retirement benefits to which they are entitled.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
EDNA PULLIAM CARPENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

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Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mrs. Edna Pulliam Carpenter of Tunica County, Mississippi, born on April 11, 1934. Mrs. Carpenter graduated from Coahoma Agricultural High School and was in the first graduating class at Coahoma Junior College.

Carpenter has taught in Robinsonville, MS at Bowdre School, and she began teaching at Rosa Fort High School in 1962. During her teaching career, she taught various courses including English, Physical Education, Math and Black History, as well as Elementary Education. She also introduced the sport of basketball in the Tunica School System. In addition she coached volleyball, tennis, track, and softball. In 1980, her Lady Lions basketball

team made their first of seven appearances at the State Championships in Jackson, MS. In 1984, she was the first black female to coach the North Mississippi Girls Basketball All-Star Team in Jackson, MS.

She also taught classes at Coahoma Community College. In 1990, she retired from Tunica County School System, but continued to teach and coach for 2 years. She still tutors and works occasionally within the system. In 2003, she was named Hometown Hero by Lifetime Television in New York City at the Lifetime Achievement Awards. In 2003, she was also given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Tunica Teens in Action.

As a result of her hard work and dedication in Tunica County, in 2004, the Tunica Middle School renamed their gymnasium in her honor.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MILTON DAVIS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Chicago's unsung heroes, the late Mr. Milton Davis who sadly passed away on February 11, 2005. His untimely death will truly leave a deep void in the Chicago community.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Chicago has lost a giant. My condolences and the condolences of my family are extended to Gertrude Davis and to her entire family.

Mr. Milton Davis was born in Jasper, Alabama and graduated from Morehouse College. He moved to Chicago in 1958 and worked with Ronald Grynswinski and Mary Houghton on an experimental minority lending program at Hyde Park. In 1973, Mr. Davis was part of a group that purchased South Shore Bank in order to prevent its move to downtown Chicago.

A true pioneer, Mr. Davis dedicated the Shore Bank institution to serving low-income and middle-income African-Americans on the South Side of Chicago. Mr. Davis believed that you can empower the African-American community if you can provide them with the economic resources they needed to prosper. With that commitment in mind, Mr. Davis dedicated his life to making sure that his bank allowed the undeserved to gain a piece of the economic pie.

Mr. Davis' keen business sense or astuteness cannot be forgotten. From 1983 to 1996, he was chairman of Shorebank, which grew \$40 million in assets to more than 1.5 billion today. Until, his death, Mr. Davis was on the bank's board and served as chairman emeritus.

Mr. Davis' courage to be independent, to speak his mind, and to fight for the under-represented in the South Side of Chicago will surely be missed. My fellow colleagues please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Milton Davis, a true beacon of the Chicago community.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2005 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WOLF and I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. As many may know, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Police Department have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal of Valor. During the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony, 61 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great pride that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2005 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Police Department. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Charles F. Angle; Police Officer First Class Paul A. Basham; Detective Tina L. Brook; Police Officer First Class Douglas E. Coulter; Police Officer First Class Christopher W. Edmunds; Police Officer First Class Thea M. Haddix; Police Officer First Class James F. Kirk; Sergeant Shawn C. Martin; Master Police Officer Scott F. Moskowitz; Sergeant Trafton C. Parr; Police Officer First Class Louis A. Robinson Jr., Police Officer First Class Rimothy B. Schilling; Police Officer First Class Keith W. Shook; Police Officer First Class Mark J. Smith; the Bronze Medal: Lieutenant Roger E. Arnn; Police Officer First Class Richard W. Buisch; Detective Lincoln Kieffer; Police Officer First Class Kristi D. Kiernan; Police Officer First Class Carlos M. Lama; Police Officer First Class Kirk A. McNickle; Police Officer First Class Kenyatta L. Momon; Officer Mohammed S. Oluwa; Police Officer First Class David A. Parker; Police Officer First Class Michael A. Wheeler; the Certificate of Valor: Second Lieutenant Christopher C. Cochrane; Officer Lance A. Hamilton; Police Officer First Class Jason C. Herbert; Public Safety Communicator I Kathy A. Kaehler; Sergeant Paul J. Norton III; Officer Dana L. Robinson; Police Officer First Class Vincent M. Scianna; the Silver Medal: Police Officer First Class Mark J. Kracun; Sergeant Justin P. Palenscar.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Police Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF
NAGORNO KARABAKH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, February 20, 2005 will mark the 17th anniversary of the modern day liberation movement of the people of the Nagorno Karabakh (NK). Seventeen years ago the people of NK petitioned the Soviet government to correct historical injustices and reunite them with their compatriots in Armenia.

The Armenians of NK were placed within the borders of Azerbaijan in 1921, as one of many ethnic groups there were separated by Joseph Stalin through his "divide and conquer" strategy. Armenians of NK were subjected to brutal Soviet Azerbaijani rule for 70 years.

It is imperative that we recognize the fact that NK's referendum to secede from Azerbaijan in 1988 was pursuant to Soviet law. NK was already operating as an autonomous region and therefore had the right and the power to secede if they chose to.

In fact, during the seven decades of Soviet rule, the Armenians of NK repeatedly stated to each successive Soviet regime their desire to be joined again with Armenia. These peaceful and legal maneuvers were met with violent repression and forced settlement of ethnic Azeris into NK.

In 1988, when the Armenians of NK heard of the Mikhail Gorbachev's democratization agenda, they began to again move peacefully for reunification with Armenia. At this time, the Soviet and Azeri armies would not stand even to entertain this request and immediately resorted to violence. Public expressions of determination by the Armenians of NK were met with a campaign of ethnic cleansing, deporting the Armenians of NK and Azerbaijan.

In 1991, as Armenia and Azerbaijan followed most soviet states in succession from the USSR, NK also voted to succeed. In an internationally monitored referendum, the NK population overwhelmingly voted to establish an independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic, currently known as NKR.

Following this referendum in which the country was established, the Azeri army began a full-scale war on the Armenians of NK, which took thousands of lives over 3 years, but eventually ended up with NKR repelling Azeri forces. This victory was gained with an army that was out-manned and out-gunned, but had desire and guile that proved to be overwhelming. This conflict had a terrific human cost, leaving 30,000 dead and over one million displaced. Thankfully, although small skirmishes have broken out from time to time, the peace has been kept since an agreement ceased hostilities in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I have repeatedly come to the House floor to speak of the plight of the Armenians of NKR. I can now speak from personal experience about NKR, having traveled there. I had the opportunity to travel to NKR to witness the Presidential elections there, where we served as official monitors. I am proud to say that all election observers that participated in this historic event gave an overwhelmingly positive response. One group in particular, headed by the Baroness Cox from England

stated that, "Our overall conclusion is one of congratulations to all the people of Artsakh (NKR) for the spirit in which the elections have been conducted, their commitment to the democratic process and their pride in their progress towards the establishment of civil society."

This process is astounding considering that NKR is not recognized internationally; that they still must deal every day with Azeri aggression, and that their economy is still devastated from the war. The elections were reported to have met, if not exceeded international standards. All this just 9 short years removed from all-out war.

Congress recognized this consistent move towards democracy, granting NKR \$20 million in humanitarian assistance in FY '97, an additional \$5 million in FY '03 and \$3 million just last year. This assistance has not just been crucial for needs of the people of NKR, but has also fostered the beginnings of an excellent relationship between our two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to end with a final example of what I saw during my visit to NKR. During the elections, as I visited the capitol city and small villages alike, everyone I spoke to was incredibly excited about the prospect of voting. They viewed the vote not only as a choice of the leader of their country for the next 5 years, but a statewide referendum on the democratic process and independence of NKR.

I congratulate the people of NKR for the 17th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Liberation movement and their incredible determination to establish a free and open democratic society.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, which is intended to improve the United States' efforts in combating the scourge of human trafficking. I am pleased to be joined as original cosponsors by Representative LANTOS, Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee, Representative PAYNE, Ranking Member of the International Relations Subcommittee on Global Human Rights, International Operations and Africa, Majority Whip Representative BLUNT, Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Committee Chairman Representative WOLF, Helsinki Commission Ranking Member Representative CARDIN, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, Chair of the International Relations Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia, and Representatives PENCE, PITTS, and FALGOUT.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Government now estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men are bought and sold across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation. An estimated 80 percent of the victims of this barbaric trade are women and girls.

Congress and President Bush have demonstrated unprecedented international leader-

ship in combating human trafficking through enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003. Since taking office, the Bush Administration has devoted more than \$295 million to combat trafficking worldwide.

Under the framework of the TVPA, the United States Government's efforts to combat trafficking in persons have focused primarily on international trafficking in persons, including the trafficking of an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign citizens into the United States each year.

Across the globe, governments are taking action to prevent trafficking, to prosecute the exploiters and to give hope and restoration to those victimized by trafficking. Between 2003 and 2004, twenty-four countries enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Dozens more are in the process of drafting or passing such laws. Moreover, nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide and 2,800 were convicted. This bill would support the ongoing efforts that have made these gains possible by reauthorizing appropriations for anti-trafficking programs here and abroad.

The bill also offers solutions to a number of specific scenarios in which trafficking is a problem, but which would benefit from additional initiatives. For example, drawing lessons from the aftermath of war in the Balkans a decade ago, and the devastating tsunami in South Asia a mere few months ago, foreign policy and humanitarian aid professionals increasingly recognize the heightened vulnerability of indigenous populations in crisis situations to many forms of violence, including trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation. Traffickers also recognize this vulnerability. This bill would focus governmental efforts, particularly by the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Department of Defense, to develop trafficking prevention strategies for post-conflict and humanitarian emergency situations—strategies which do not currently exist in sufficient form.

The bill would also take further steps to ensure that U.S. Government personnel and contractors are held accountable for involvement with acts of trafficking in persons while abroad on behalf of the U.S. Government. Although few would dispute that the involvement of U.S. personnel, including members of the U.S. Armed Forces, with trafficking in persons in any form is inconsistent with U.S. laws and policies and undermines the credibility and mission of U.S. Government programs in foreign countries, there remain loopholes in U.S. laws which allow such acts to go unpunished. This bill closes those loopholes by expanding U.S. criminal jurisdiction for serious offenses to all U.S. Government contractors abroad—jurisdiction which already exists with respect to contractors supporting Department of Defense missions abroad—and by making federal criminal laws against sex and labor trafficking applicable to members of the Armed Forces and others subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The bill would also direct the Secretary of Defense to designate a director of anti-trafficking policies who would guide DOD's efforts to faithfully implement applicable policies against trafficking.

The bill would also take on the outrageous situation of military and civilian peacekeepers, humanitarian aid workers, and international organizations' personnel, from complicity in trafficking and sexual exploitation in connection

with international peacekeeping operations. To cite but the most recent examples of this, in December, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan admitted that U.N. peacekeepers and staff have sexually abused or exploited war refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Among the 150 or so allegations of misconduct are instances of sexually abusing children, rape, and prostitution. On January 28, a senior official with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was arrested for sexual abuse of minors and trafficking in Kosovo. The long list of allegations against international peacekeeping personnel involving sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation extends back at least a decade and yet the United Nations and most other international organizations have failed to take sufficient action to end this abuse.

To his credit, Kofi Annan has promulgated a "zero tolerance" policy on sexual exploitation by peacekeepers. But words alone do not protect women and children from abuse. Earlier this week, President Bush asked Congress for \$780,000,000 to pay for contributions to international peacekeeping activities this fiscal year. He has requested more than \$1 billion for next year. Prior to writing this check, the bill I am introducing would require that the Secretary of State no longer accept words alone as evidence that the United Nations, NATO, and other multilateral organizations are taking seriously the responsibility to address trafficking and exploitation by peacekeepers. The bill would require that the Secretary of State certify, prior to endorsing an international peacekeeping mission, that measures have been taken to prevent and, as necessary, hold accountable peacekeepers in the mission who are involved with trafficking or illegal sexual exploitation.

In addition to a host of other measures to address trafficking overseas and to aid foreign victims in the United States, the bill also recognizes that trafficking in persons occurs within the borders of single countries, including the United States. According to the State Department, if the number of people trafficked internally within countries is added to the estimate, the total number of trafficking victims annually would be in the range of 2,000,000 to 4,000,000.

This bill would address the trafficking of American citizens and nationals within the borders of the United States—which the bill defines as "domestic trafficking." There are no precise statistics on the numbers of United States citizens or nationals who have been victimized through trafficking, but there is great reason for concern. It is well documented, for example, that runaway and homeless children are highly susceptible to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Every day in our country, between 1,300,000 and 2,800,000 runaway and homeless youth live on the streets. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have estimated that 100,000 to 300,000 children in the United States are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation in the United States, including trafficking, at any given time.

To date, U.S. victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation have been dismissed by the law enforcement community, particularly at the State and local levels, as prostitutes. Child victims are dealt with as juvenile delinquents. This bill would begin to shift the paradigm—much as we have done so successfully in the

international arena—to view these exploited souls for what they really are—victims of crime and sexually exploited children.

The bill I am introducing would begin the process of developing a comprehensive strategy to prevent the victimization of U.S. citizens and nationals through domestic trafficking. It would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to undertake a study and then a program to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts in the United States, which in turn fuels trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. The bill would also authorize HHS to make grants to expand services to victims of domestic trafficking, with a priority for NGOs with experience in caring for victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

NGOs who work with trafficked children in the United States have indicated time and again that a lack of housing options for such children is a debilitating impediment to providing effective rehabilitative and restorative help. In response, this bill would require HHS to carry out a pilot program for residential treatment facilities for minor victims of domestic trafficking and authorizes the appropriation of \$10,000,000 over 2 years for this purpose.

The bill would ensure that communities in the United States are fully informed about the presence of sex offenders in those communities. The bill would require that state sex offender registries include convictions in foreign court of a sexually violent offense, or a criminal offense against a child victim. The bill would also enhance State and local efforts to combat trafficking through a grants program to encourage the investigation and prosecution of domestic trafficking cases and the development of collaboration between law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 would address these and many other areas of concern, would authorize funding to continue our government's efforts against trafficking, and would build upon the experience of implementing the TVPA to refine U.S. laws and practices to better fulfill the intent of that law.

In summary, the TVPRA of 2005 would address trafficking in persons in foreign countries and the trafficking of foreigners into the United States by:

Incorporating trafficking prevention activities in post-conflict and humanitarian emergency relief programs conducted by the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Department of Defense;

Requiring that sex offender registries, as established by the Jacob Wetterling Act and Megan's Law, include convictions in foreign courts;

Improving trafficking victims' access to information about federally funded victim services programs and facilitating access to counsel for victims;

Establishing a guardian ad litem program for child victims of trafficking;

Requiring USAID to establish in two foreign locations a pilot program of long-term residential rehabilitation facilities for victims of trafficking and authorizing \$2.5 million for 2 years for this purpose.

Expanding U.S. criminal jurisdiction for felony offenses committed by contractors working abroad for Federal agencies;

Amending the Uniform Code of Military Justice to create punitive provisions for sex and

labor trafficking by members of the U.S. Armed Forces;

Expanding the ability to prosecute traffickers for money laundering;

Amending the Protect Act to require U.S. Embassies to seek local prosecution or extradition of American citizens who commit sex crimes overseas.

Appointing the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director of National Intelligence to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking;

Requiring that the Attorney General's annual report to Congress include data on the number of trafficking victims identified, and benefits granted, with respect to each trafficking case prosecuted by the Department of Justice;

Refining criteria for determining, in the context of the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, whether a government is making "serious and sustained efforts" to eliminate trafficking: (1) whether the government is taking measures to prevent its nationals from engaging in trafficking during peacekeeping operations, and (2) whether the government is implementing measures to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts and participation in international sex tourism;

Expressing the need for research into the linkage between trafficking and the financing of terrorism; trafficking and HIV/AIDS; the development of an effective mechanism for quantifying the number of victims of trafficking; and the enslavement of children for use as soldiers;

Requiring that human rights training for Foreign Service Officers include instruction about trafficking in persons;

Requiring that the annual Trafficking in Persons Report include information on steps taken by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other international organizations to eliminate involvement of the organizations' personnel in trafficking;

Requiring the Secretary of State to certify prior to endorsing an international peacekeeping mission that measures have been taken to prevent the peacekeepers from being involved with trafficking. The bill would prohibit the United States from providing logistical support or personnel in support of a peacekeeping mission until this certification is received unless the Secretary provides (a) an explanation as to the steps taken by the U.S. to encourage the international organization to take appropriate measures to prevent trafficking, and (b) a certification that endorsing the mission is in the national interests of the U.S., notwithstanding the failure of the international organization to address trafficking;

Directing the Secretary of Defense to designate within the Office of the Secretary of Defense a director of anti-trafficking policies;

Directing the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate acts of trafficking.

The bill also provides for new initiatives to combat the trafficking of U.S. citizens and nationals within the United States by:

Requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare a report of best practices for reducing the demand for commercial sex acts, which demands feed into the demand for trafficking into prostitution, to post the report on the HHS website, and to establish and carry out programs to implement these practices;

Requires that all U.S. Government grants, contracts or cooperative agreements with private entities contain a clause authorizing termination if the grantee, subgrantee, contractor or subcontractor (a) engages in severe forms of trafficking in persons or has procured a commercial sex act during the period of time that the grant, contract or cooperative agreement is in effect, or (b) uses forced labor in the performance of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement. Since 2003 this requirement has been in place for international grants, contracts and cooperative agreements;

Authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to expand services to victims of domestic trafficking;

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program for residential treatment facilities for minor victims of domestic trafficking and authorizes the appropriation of \$5,000,000 for 2 years for this purpose;

Enhances state and local efforts to combat trafficking through a grants program to encourage the investigation and prosecution of domestic trafficking cases and the development of collaboration between law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations;

Improves Interagency Coordination to Combat Domestic Trafficking by allowing the Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to participate in the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Reauthorizes appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007:

\$5.5 million to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking; \$3,000 in representation funds;

\$15 million to the Department of Health and Human Services;

To the Secretary of State, \$10 million for assistance for victims in other countries; \$10 million for programs to improve law enforcement and prosecution; and \$10 million for trafficking prevention initiatives;

\$15 million to the Department of Justice for assistance to victims in the United States; and \$250,000 for anti-trafficking training activities at the International Law Enforcement Academies (ILEAs);

\$15 million to the President for foreign victim assistance (prevention activities); \$15 million for assistance to foreign countries to meet the minimum standards to combat trafficking; \$300,000 for research; and \$250,000 for anti-trafficking training activities at the ILEAs; and

\$10 million to the Department of Labor;

\$15 million, for FY06 only, to provide additional resources to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate international and domestic trafficking cases.

Mr. Speaker, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its reauthorization in 2003 enjoyed bi-partisan support in both Houses of Congress. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill and enhance the good work underway to combat international trafficking in persons and to ensure that our government's response to all who are victimized by trafficking—whether foreign citizens or United States citizens—is one of deep compassion.

A BILL TO ALLOW FOR PRIORITY IN THE ISSUANCE OF IMMIGRANT VISAS TO SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce a bill that will provide for the expedited reunification of the families of our Filipino World War II veterans who have become citizens of the United States.

This body has many times over recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino troops who fought alongside our armed forces in the Philippines during World War II. In 1990, we provided a waiver from certain naturalization requirements for these veterans, and many thereafter became proud citizens and residents of our country. Most recently, in the 108th Congress, we provided a long-delayed and long-denied measure of justice by granting them a partial measure of veterans benefits which were unjustly denied to them in 1946.

But a huge gap still remains, for we did not allow naturalization in 1990 to the children of these same veterans. What my bill does is allow for the sons and daughters of those veterans that became U.S. citizens through the process established in 1990 to have priority in their respective immigration categories.

These are real-life issues, for the stories of families who have waited years, even decades, to be reunited are heartbreaking. For example, a veteran and his wife living in Hawai'i filed immigration petitions for two of their six adult children; they have waited over ten years for a visa to be issued to either. Another veteran petitioned successfully for his wife's immigration visa, but has not been as successful with the applications for their five adult children. Again, this family has been holding on for ten years with the hope that they will one day live in the U.S. as a complete family.

As we all know, our Filipino World War II veterans are entering the sunset years of their lives. We have addressed some small measure of the need to give adequate veterans benefits for their commendable service. I look forward to working with my colleagues in recognizing and providing for the reunification of these families of our Filipino World War II veterans.

TSUNAMI RELIEF IN THE EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to victims of the tsunami and to the spirit of giving that remains strong in the United States today. The devastation felt by so many Asian and African families was felt around the world, from Aceh to Illinois.

My constituents in the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois have already raised more than \$45,000 to help rebuild communities in Southeast Asia. Our schools, churches, banks, local aid organizations and local officials have

banded together to collect a steady stream of donations.

However, their work is not finished. On February 19th, in conjunction with other local officials, Lake Villa Mayor Frank Loffredo has organized a tsunami relief fundraiser and auction expected to dramatically increase the current total of donations. He will be assisted by the generous support of the following officials: Antioch Township Supervisor Steve Smouse, Grant Township Supervisor Kay Starostovic, Lake Villa Township Supervisor Daniel Venturi, Fox Lake Mayor Nancy Koske, Round Lake Beach Mayor Rich Hill, Lake County Board Chairman Suzi Schmidt of Lake Villa and County Board members Judy Martini of Antioch, Bonnie Thomson Carter of Ingleside and Bob Powers of Round Lake Beach, State Reps. JoAnn Osmond of Antioch and Robert Churchill of Hainesville, State Sen. Adeline Geo-Karis of Zion and the Lindenhurst/Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce. All proceeds will be donated to the Tsunami Reconstruction fund through the United Way of Lake County.

In addition, Lindenhurst Mayor Jim Betustak, along with Charter One Bank, First American Bank, First Midwest Bank, North Shore Trust & Savings, State Bank of the Lakes and State Financial Bank, founded an effort called "Banking on Your Support." At the end of the month, the Village of Lindenhurst will send proceeds to the American Red Cross.

But, of special note, I am particularly proud of the students who have joined in the relief effort. Such displays of compassion, empathy and perspective serve as a model to us all. This demonstration of courage and goodwill by our young people suggests a bright future for northern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in remembering the tsunami victims and in thanking the citizens of the United States and of the Eighth District of Illinois for their generosity and caring. While the devastation wreaked upon Asia and East Africa will be remembered for years to come, we, in turn, must also remember the caring and kindness of our own citizens in response.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EARL NEAL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Earl Neal, a lawyer from my hometown whose untimely death on February 13, 2005, has left a void in the halls and the streets of Chicago.

My deepest sympathies go out to his wife Isobel Hoskins Neal, his son Langdon Neal and the rest of his extended family. Although his presence will be sorely missed, the contributions he left behind are considered hallmark treasures of Chicago.

The Dan Ryan Expressway, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the United Center, U.S. Cellular field and the Midway Expansion Centers were all made possible as a result of Neal's strategic counsel and vast knowledge. His contributions serve as main thoroughfares to Chicago and home to the city's sports teams. Working diligently to ensure that all parties walked away winners, there was no greater team player than Earl Neal.

Neal served as a trusted aide and confidante to six mayors of Chicago over the past 50 years, which included Richard J. Daley, Bilandic, Byrne, Washington, Sawyer and Richard M. Daley. Earl was responsible for using his law background to find common ground with the community and the city.

Born in Chicago in 1929, Mr. Neal's future was guided by his educational path, which included Englewood High School, the University of Illinois and the University of Michigan Law School.

In 1975, Neal was appointed the first African American president of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. A man who approached obstacles as opportunities, Neal attended the U. of I during a time in the 40s when African Americans were not allowed to live in the dorms or eat in the campus food halls. Throughout his life, Neal consistently rose from the bottom to the top, leaving an indelible impression along the way.

In 1983, Earl Neal was appointed chairman of the board of the First Federal Savings and Loan. He served on several business and civic boards and his legal career included more than 200 jury trials.

Many people leave legacies that you just hear about. Earl Neal has left a legacy that's tangible and will be experienced for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL CENTER

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in proud recognition of the St. Vincent de Paul Center on the occasion of its 2005 Fleur de Lis Ball—an annual charity dinner to benefit underprivileged children, seniors and the homeless in the city of Chicago.

The St. Vincent de Paul Center is a pillar of our community and a shining example of public service for the Nation. For the past 90 years, the Center's dedicated staff—led by Dr. Renard I. Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, and Sister Catherine Mary Norris, Site Director—has established a strong record in meeting the daily challenges faced by low-income families and disadvantaged individuals in our community. The Center's programs cover a broad array of services from day care services for children through health care programs for the elderly.

The Center's child care programs, for example, serve low-income families by providing a safe and enriching environment for children, giving parents the time to enroll in job training classes and pursue employment opportunities. The Center's social services programs offer violence prevention, family counseling and support groups.

The homeless outreach programs provide day-to-day essentials such as food and clothing, counseling services, job search assistance and a mailbox for those who do not have their own addresses. Additionally, the senior services program assists Chicago's elderly with health care and money management decisions, and provides social interaction and friendship for isolated seniors.

The wide variety and high caliber of services offered by the St. Vincent de Paul Center

serve as a national model of community outreach and are made possible by the selfless contributions of 3,200 volunteers who commit 50,000 hours of service annually. This strong sense of community service continues today in the new Center located at the corner of Webster and Halsted Streets in Chicago.

I commend the dedicated people at the St. Vincent de Paul Center for their faithful service to our community, and I wish them continued success in meeting the needs of disadvantaged Chicagoans well into the future.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
JOHN E. BROWN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize John E. Brown of Madison County, Mississippi, born October 22, 1949. Mr. Brown attended Canton public schools and graduated from Rogers High School in 1968 and graduated from Tougaloo College in 1974 with a B.A. degree in Sociology. Additionally, he received his M.S. degree in Environmental Education from the University of Michigan in 1975.

For the past 25 years Mr. Brown has served the people of his community as an advocate for social change and community development. For the past 10 years, Mr. Brown has served as President of the Canton Branch of the NAACP. Currently, he serves as CEO of Madison County Union for Progress. Mr. Brown is a member of Pleasant Green Church of Christ Holiness where he serves as a member of the Board of Deacons.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

SUPPORTING NORMAL TRADE RE-
LATIONS TREATMENT FOR
UKRAINE—H.R. 885

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the gentleman from Illinois,

Chairman HENRY HYDE, in sponsoring this important and timely legislation that would grant Ukraine normal trade relations status. With the historic triumph of Ukraine's peaceful Orange Revolution President Viktor Yushchenko's determination to consolidate democracy in Ukraine, the time has come to graduate Ukraine from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974. Since 1992, Ukraine has been certified annually as meeting Jackson-Vanik requirements on freedom of emigration.

As Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have closely monitored developments and actively encouraged progress in Ukraine with respect to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Since independence, Ukraine has made considerable progress as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in ensuring religious liberties and respect for national minorities. Normal trade relations status is especially warranted given Ukraine's embrace of freedom and the new government's active steps to promote reform and build a genuinely democratic future for this important partner.

Congress has been supportive of Ukraine's efforts to develop as an independent, democratic and economically prosperous country that respects human rights and the rule of law, enjoys good relations with its neighbors, and integrates with the Euro-Atlantic community of nations. Today, Ukraine is positioned to realize these goals under leadership committed to democracy at home and beyond. No doubt there are significant challenges ahead. The granting of NTR to Ukraine would represent a tangible expression of support for the new government in Ukraine as they move ahead on their important historic agenda for change. President Yushchenko and the people of Ukraine deserve our support.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY RICHARD
GILMORE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the following article, written by my constituent, Richard Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore is the President and CEO of the GIC Group. The GIC Group combines experience and strength in research, analysis, and marketing with financial services and asset management. They are able to offer this expertise to the agribusiness and biotechnology industries to gain access to global and domestic markets, to add value to current agribusiness activities, and to identify new markets. This article is not necessarily a reflection of my views.

US FOOD SAFETY UNDER SIEGE?

(By Richard Gilmore)

When it comes to the prospect of an agroterrorist attack—the use of biological agents against crops, livestock, poultry and fish—US agriculture has rolled out the welcome mat. Integration and consolidation in the industry widen the potential impact of any single attack. Internationalization of the food chain offers limitless possibilities for human consumption contagions, as well as economic and political instabilities. To combat and anticipate potential attacks to the

US food chain, greater effort should be placed on designing new disease-resistant varieties of plants and livestock on the basis of genomic information. Stricter regulations and enforcement capabilities should be introduced not only at our borders but at the point of origin where food is grown, procured or processed for domestic consumption within the United States. At the same time, the United States must develop a comprehensive preparedness and prevention strategy of international proportions in close coordination with our trading partners and the private sector.

CHANGES IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND REGULATION

The US strategy of protection for the food system, as mapped out in the Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-9 of January 30, 2004, presupposes that in striving to protect production, processing, food storage and delivery systems within US territory, a credible line of defense will be created to protect the food chain and encourage a thriving agricultural economy. In fact, US agriculture has undergone dramatic change. For crops, 'farm to fork' no longer is confined to a regionally based agricultural system, but now encompasses a highly integrated and consolidated global undertaking. For livestock, 'hoof to home' now takes on a new meaning that includes a high concentration of production, specialization of calf operations, long distance shipping and massive feedlots averaging thousands of head marketed per facility, for both domestic and international consumption. These commercial developments have resulted in previously unimaginable production and handling efficiencies in domestic and export markets.

In 2001, over 70% of processed food in the United States was purchased from other countries, representing almost 30% of final gross product. Fifteen of the top 25 food and beverage companies in the global market are US owned, accounting for about 10% of the global market. US multinational companies account for roughly 6.5%. With greater consolidation on a global scale, interaffiliate trades account for an increasing portion of the value of the food chain. Like other nations, the United States is moving from self-sufficiency to an increasing dependence on other countries for its food supply.

At the same time, the US regulatory infrastructure for food safety is still a work in progress and is hobbled by overdependence on the private sector and underdependence on international cooperation. Whether it is a matter of detection, surveillance or information flow, the US government is currently dependent on the private sector for cooperation and support. To share information, government and industry have established the Food and Agriculture Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC; Washington, DC, USA), which includes key industry association representatives, especially from the processed food and feed sectors.

The Bioterrorism Act of 2002 sets up tracking mechanisms whose effectiveness depends on industry self-reporting. New food import regulations issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA; Rockville, MD, USA) now require prior notification of eight hours for goods arriving by ship, four hours by rail or air and two hours by road. This dependence on the private sector is burdensome for companies and both insufficient and unreliable for ensuring the public's food safety concerns.

Current regulations have evolved since last December, after a reality check of the US government's enforcement capabilities along with industry's feedback and support. The initial regulations failed on both counts and the prospects for the latest regulations re-

main uncertain. FDA and the Customs & Border Protection Agency (Washington, DC, USA) still have not adequately funded the enforcement infrastructure nor trained personnel to ensure statistically random, uniform inspections under the new prenotification time frames. Industry is called upon to fill the breach but is still relatively unprepared, with insufficient resource commitment to comply fully with the latest regulations.

There remains a remarkable lack of consultation, joint surveillance and shared research with trading partners worldwide. Whether grits or pasta, the US diet still thrives on an international food supply chain. Similarly, food protection and terrorist prevention have to be internationalized, particularly given the advances that continental-wide Europe and Japan have achieved in this regard.

THE THREATS

Although no precedent exists for an agro-terrorist attack on the food chain, the dire consequences of natural outbreaks provide a glimpse of the potential damage that could be wrought. The scale of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks in Taiwan in 1997 and in the UK in 2001 or the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) epidemic in the United Kingdom from 1996 to 2002 was more devastating than previous epidemics because of the size and structure of modern agricultural production. Taiwan was forced to slaughter more than 8 million pigs and suspend its exports. In the United Kingdom, 4.2 million animals were destroyed in 2001 and 2002, with devastating economic consequences. The cost to Taiwan, a major supplier to Japan, was estimated to be over \$20 billion. In the United Kingdom, direct compensation payments alone amounted to approximately \$9.6 billion. Because of two major outbreaks of BSE, the United Kingdom slaughtered approximately 5.8 million head of cattle (30 months or older), with an impact of up to \$8 billion for the 2000-2001 occurrence alone. The 2003 Dutch outbreak of H7N7, a very pathogenic strain of avian influenza virus, resulted in the necessary culling of over 28 million birds out of a total of 100 million. These numbers pale in comparison to the estimates for a terrorist-induced pathogen release at the heart of the international food chain. The range is astonishing, from almost \$7 billion due to a contagion of Asiatic citrus canker on Florida's citrus fruit alone to \$27 billion in trade losses for FMD.

An array of pathogens could be introduced easily and effectively with assurance of widespread health, economic and political impacts. For livestock, the prime candidates are FMD and African swine fever (ASF). FMD is particularly attractive from a terrorist standpoint because it is a highly contagious viral infection with a morbidity rate of 100% in cattle. ASF is equally effective.

Next on the list are the zoonotic diseases, which offer a different strategy: using animals to infect humans. Brucellosis, though not fatal, results in chronic disease; some paramyxoviruses can be passed through direct contact with animals and feature a mortality rate in humans of 36%; certain arboviruses, such as Japanese encephalitis virus, which is spread by insect vectors, and cutaneous forms of anthrax could be readily introduced in the United States. Animal hides, an import item to the US, are a common carrier anthrax spores that can be readily inhaled and prove fatal for humans.

When it comes to crop pathogens, the list is equally long and ominous: stem rust for cereals and wheat, southern corn leaf blight, rice blast, potato blight, citrus canker and several nonspecific plant pathogens. Al-

though not transmittable to humans, these pathogens would cut a wide and devastating swathe in crop production.

It takes relatively few dollars and little imagination to introduce these deadly pathogens. Just like a crop duster or even hand spray pumps, aerosol would be an effective means to introduce the crop pathogen of choice on plants. A terrorist could also rely on cross border winds or water systems to carry a harmful pathogen from another country into the United States. For animals, the options could be somewhat more imaginative, such as dusting a turkey's feathers with a pathogen agent and then filling small bomblets with the feathers to explode over a targeted area, mushrooming contamination as the feathers drift with the wind to such likely targets as a high density avian population.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT

Any agro-terrorist attack on the food chain would create marked economic instability and losses due to dislocational, trade and health effects. Every bushel of wheat, corn or soybeans (all staple food and feed items) in addition to beef carcasses and pork bellies, has a futures contract written in Chicago and on other exchanges in Europe, Asia and Latin America. These contracts are all written on margin positions, meaning that the financial losses on unfulfilled contracts would be a multiple of the contract itself. Apart from stocks, losses could be incurred as a result of the following: loss of business for freight-forwarding companies, cancellations of ocean freight, rail and truck hauls; insurance claims on cargoes; and abrogation of contracts up and down the food chain.

With only a partial and untested 'Bio-shield' system in place, one likely scenario is that US politicians would adopt a unilateral response to what is an international problem in the face of a bioterrorist attack. Whether it's cross-border winds or the globalization of our food chain, the fact remains that much of our own vulnerability rests with imported pathogens. The US cannot seal off its territory from these pathogens. By attempting to do so, the government would make matters worse in the absence of uniform international security and surveillance systems.

The appropriate counter-terrorist response requires a global security system for sharing research, findings and coordinating strategies with trading partners where the United States sources and sells much of its food. Present policies risk the kind of economic repercussions experienced with Japan in the aftermath of the three-day soybean embargo imposed by the United States in 1973, which became a major *shoku* in Japan's economic history. Concern over food security, rooted in the soybean embargo, inspired the first and ultimate line of defense in Japan's resistance to liberalizing international trade rules for the agricultural sector.

COUNTERATTACKS

The first priority to combat these threats is to invest in the creation of pathogen-resistant crops through genetic engineering. The National Plant Genome Initiative (Washington, DC, USA) is an international collaboration between academia and the private sector to build a plant genome research infrastructure targeted at sequencing model plant species and therefore identifying genes associated with disease resistance. Together with information concerning large-animal genomes—the cattle genome is anticipated soon—genomic information can be applied to develop new strains of plants and livestock resistant to animal and plant pathogens likely to be used by terrorists. The US Department of Agriculture's (Washington, DC, USA) newly sponsored research centers and other joint government and private sector

initiatives inside and outside the United States could also contribute to the search for resistant strains of livestock. In addition, short-term virus testing and monitoring measures can be adopted to address the problem of increased susceptibility of livestock to disease due to changes in cattle feeding and meatpacking. The discovery earlier in 2004 of a BSE-infected Holstein cow in the United States demonstrated that the monitoring and surveillance system in place is insufficient for rapid detection purposes.

There is also an immediate need for a stronger set of regulations that feature comprehensive coordination of research, detection and surveillance on both national and international fronts. Private industry partners in this undertaking must be treated equitably and fairly with a greater effort to broaden industry representation. The easiest step that can be taken to strengthen US defenses is to initiate and fund an intensive personnel training program to meet CBPA (Customs and Border Protection Agency) and FDA's ambitious program benchmarks for field operations, including port inspections, staffing and personal training, and industry registrations. We still lack uniform and consistent enforcement standards for industry and government agencies. Although that is the 15-year goal of the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) run by the US Customs, nothing in place can accommodate different information and reporting systems in both the government and the private sector.

Longer term measures should include accelerated research programs and an integration and internationalization of policy planning and enforcement. Although the target is to create a practical system of defense for the US food chain, new endeavors to foil terrorists also can result in a broader international system of preparedness. Lifting the siege is the first step to defeating the aggressors.

RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2005 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WOLF and I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. As many may know, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce annually recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety with the prestigious Valor Award. Several members of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office have earned this highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials.

There are several types of Valor Awards that are awarded to a public safety officer: The Lifesaving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal of Valor. During the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony, 61 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2005 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Receiving the Certificate of Valor: Officer Dwayne Archer; Private First Class Duane A. Cohenour; the Life Saving Award: Private First Class Sharon L. Douglas; Master Deputy Sheriff Andrew B. Duvall; Private First Class Peter J. Fox; Private First Class Timothy A. Haynes; Private First Class Amy K. Lewis; Deputy Anthony A. McGhie; Private First Class Leslie A. Sheehan; Private First Class Jamilah Suarez.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.