

The Creative Coalition's partner in presenting this award, The American Federation of Teachers, represents 1.3 million teachers, paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel, higher education faculty and staff, healthcare workers, and state and local government employees.

I commend both of these organizations for their dedication to the promotion of public schools. Public education is one of the most important foundations of this country, bringing together children from all walks of life and giving them the tools they need to succeed in the future. As such, I applaud The Creative Coalition and The American Federation of Teachers for their support of public schools and for honoring the achievements of educators like Ms. Regan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on June 28, I was attending a funeral and missed 2 recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote number 324 and "yes" on recorded vote number 325. I also missed recorded vote number 331. Had I voted, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES R. MAJOR— THE BETSY ROSS OF TODAY

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize today the accomplishments of Frances R. Major of Royersford, Pennsylvania—whom I consider the Betsy Ross of today—as she retires her sewing needles with the Valley Forge Flag Company. Mrs. Major has been working at the Valley Forge Flag Company in Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania since 1941 and has truly left her mark on history.

Not everyone could go to Pearl Harbor or Ground Zero, but Mrs. Major faithfully sewed our Stars and Stripes as our country's major historic events unfolded. Many flags were sewn through her tears, but it was always a labor of love and her patriotic honor to do something personally for America. "Each time something bad happened, it only made me sew that much faster," she said. Through good times and bad, her spirit remained strong and she literally stitched the bad times away finishing her work with her identification number seven in the upper left corner of the flag. The numbers were written so supervisors could track how many flags each seamstress had completed each day.

It is often said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. Mrs. Major leaves a significant legacy as a standard bearer for her profession. She continues to lead a life full of

love, friendship, hospitality and service to her family as well as her community. She is an exceptional woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and American.

As we unfold and proudly wave an American flag, we might see Frances' number seven—her indelible mark on history. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 109th Congress to join me in paying special tribute to Mrs. Frances Major. On the occasion of her retirement, we thank her for her dedicated service and we wish her all the best in the future.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this Amendment that would properly fund the government-wide Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

In the wake of 9/11, many Americans have grown concerned that sweeping new law enforcement powers adopted to bolster national security may, in fact, be eroding the civil liberties that they were intended to protect.

The freedoms we enjoy as Americans—indeed, our way of life—are at risk if our government can spy and gather information on us simply under the guise of protecting those freedoms.

I know too well what happens when a government is left unchecked in its surveillance and spying efforts. While I was in college, I attended a speech given by Martin Luther King, Jr. My government responded by creating an FBI file on me. It seems like a whole generation of innocent Americans are at risk of having files created on them.

Those of us in Congress tried to address potential governmental violation of civil liberties by creating a Civil Liberties Board as part of the 9/11 bill passed last December. This board was created in response to the 9/11 Commission's concerns that the government lacked "an enhanced system of checks and balances to protect the precious liberties that are vital to our way of life." We intended the Board to be the mechanism by which civil liberties and privacy considerations would be elevated throughout and within the Federal Government and its myriad operations and programs.

The President supported and signed the bill. And then failed to fund it less than two months later. He has failed to fund critical border and aviation initiatives contained in the bill. And he has failed to fully fund the Privacy and Civil

Liberties Board, giving it a mere \$750,000. This lack of funding for a Board—which, by the way, he took almost 6 months to name Members for—suggests a lack of serious commitment to the preservation of civil liberties and privacy rights.

Too often, this White House has chosen to simply ignore that which it doesn't like.

Congress didn't vote to ask the Administration to think about having a privacy and civil liberties board. On the contrary, it voted to establish the Board and then gave the White House the power to fund it in a bill that the President said he supported.

Without an adequate budget, however, the Board is only a shell—a powerless entity unequipped to accomplish the goals envisioned for it by the 9/11 Commission.

Funding the Civil Liberties Board will fulfill our commitment to protect the rights of all Americans as our Nation battles against domestic and international terrorism.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join in support of this amendment.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Nadler-Shays-Crowley amendment to increase funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program by \$10 million to \$295 million.

HOPWA is the only Federal housing program that specifically provides cities and States hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic with the resources to address the housing crisis facing people living with AIDS.

New treatments and medications are allowing those suffering with HIV and AIDS to live longer lives, and the housing provided by HOPWA allows people to improve the quality of their lives and access life-extending care.

But make no mistake about it, AIDS is still a debilitating disease and we must ensure those suffering have the assistance, both in medical care and housing, that they need. And the fact is, without adequate housing and nutrition, it is extremely difficult for individuals to benefit from the new treatments.

HOPWA is one of HUD's most successful programs serving roughly 80,000 households across 39 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

The HOPWA program serves as seed money as each dollar used for HOPA housing assistance is matched by a dollar of housing assistance from other government and private sources.

HOPWA is a successful program that has been of great benefit to people in some of the greatest need.

Please support this amendment to aid and comfort those suffering from HIV and AIDS.

TRIBUTE TO MARSHA SHASTEEN
AND HER DEDICATED SERVICE
ON THE HOUSE SCIENCE COM-
MITTEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a staff member whose service on the House Science Committee is coming to an end this month. Marsha Shasteen has contributed greatly to our staff and her Hill acumen will be greatly missed.

Marsha has spent her time in Congress working in both Member and Committee offices. She began by working in her home state of Texas for The Honorable RALPH HALL of the 4th Congressional District. After three years in his district office, Marsha moved to Mr. HALL's personal office staff in Washington, DC where she served 4 years as a legislative assistant.

Marsha has served the Science Committee Democratic staff as Counsel for nearly 6 years. In fact, Marsha was Mr. HALL's first appointee to the House Science Committee staff when he took over as Ranking Democrat in 1999.

As Counsel for the Committee, Marsha worked to assist Members, their staff, and the Committee staff in tracking relevant legislation, jurisdictional research, and special projects to assist Members in developing legislative proposals and specific bill referrals for the Committee.

She has also been involved in oversight activities, coordinating with the Government Accountability Office on a number of projects across Committee jurisdiction. She has often been called upon to assist Committee Members with mark-ups and during floor debate on legislation originating with the Committee.

Her Committee colleagues regard her as a no nonsense attorney who has made her mark on ethics matters and nuances of committee jurisdiction and process.

One of her legislative successes was the Wind Hazard Reduction Act—introduced by Rep. DENNIS MOORE (D-KS)—which went on to become law.

Through her work on the legislation, Marsha helped establish the Congressional Wind Hazard Reduction Caucus—a group dedicated to a major, measurable reduction in loss from devastating windstorms over the next decade. In addition, she organized related events for Members designed to raise awareness on the issue, including field hearings and district meetings.

Marsha excelled at Member service and outreach. Many times, she was tasked with devising and executing events in Members' districts on behalf of the Committee. Her vast experience on legislative issues and her extensive organizational skills put her at ease in every community she visited, ensuring that the Member's event went off without a hitch. No matter the topic or the town, Marsha negotiated the challenges with ease.

Active in the Capitol Hill community, Marsha has made friends and established extensive contacts as an active member of the Congressional Legislative Staff Association—serving on their board for the past four years.

An energetic and accomplished Capitol Hill attorney with a heart for service and outreach, Marsha will be greatly missed on the Committee. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
MENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DIS-
TRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDE-
PENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment, which would increase funding for the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, created by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (P.L. 108-458), to \$1.5 million.

The bill currently reserves \$750,000 of the \$53 million budget of the Executive Office of the President for the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. The amendment would reserve \$3 million of this \$53 million budget. This level of funding is closer to what was initially given to the 9/11 Commission.

The purpose of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is to ensure the protection of civil liberties by the federal government. The appropriate amount of funding is crucial in ensuring that privacy and civil liberties concerns are appropriately considered. This will prove significant in the implementation of laws, regulations, and executive branch policies related to efforts to protect our Nation against terrorism.

In addition, the additional funding will allow the board to develop the infrastructure they need to do their job and will demonstrate Congress's intentions to fully support this significant board.

We certainly understand the need to aggressively fight the war on terror, but the 9/11 Commission Report reminds us that, "The choice between security and liberty is a false choice, as nothing is more likely to endanger America's liberties than the success of a terrorist attack at home. Our history has shown that this insecurity threatens liberty at home. Yet if our liberties are curtailed, we lose the values that we are struggling to defend."

The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is an important body. We must do everything we can to ensure its efficiency and operation.

CONGRATULATING STEAMTOWN
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ON ITS
10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, Pennsylvania, which is observing its 10th anniversary as a unique and valuable venue that salutes the heritage of America's railroading past.

The invention of the steam-powered locomotive in the early 19th century proved to be one of the great evolutionary forces that transformed the United States from an agricultural society to a manufacturing giant that would propel this Nation into the realm of a superpower.

No longer tethered to the vagaries of animal and water powered transportation, the United States would discover that people and manufacturing product could be transported over great distances in much shorter periods of time, thus enabling this country to explore its vast expanses quite literally from sea to shining sea.

Truly, it was the railroad and the emerging anthracite coal industry in northeastern Pennsylvania that allowed our immigrant forebears to realize their dream of a better life than they had in their country of origin.

By 1852, thanks to merchants demanding faster and more reliable means of transporting their goods, more than 9,000 miles of track had been laid, mostly in New England and the Middle Atlantic states. During the next decade, American railroads grew into a coordinated iron network of more than 30,000 miles, serving all States east of the Mississippi River. By 1880, the United States had 94,000 miles of track binding the country together. Twenty years later, it had 193,000. By the end of World War I in 1918, the country could boast more than 254,000 miles of track and 65,000 steam locomotives.

Until the end of World War I, railroads carried the bulk of all freight and passengers.

In a very real sense, the railroad and anthracite coal industries, both of which have deep roots in the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys, fueled the industrial revolution and contributed to making the United States the global force that it is today.

To fail to recognize that heritage would deny our children and grandchildren the ability to see that where we are today is due to where we came from yesterday.

Thankfully, because of the vision and perseverance of men like former U.S. Congressman Joseph McDade, who relentlessly pursued his dream of making Steamtown a reality, we have before us today a living museum that celebrates the role that steam powered railroads played in the development of our nation.

Steamtown's success is also due to the tireless work of former Gov. William Scranton, Austin Burke, executive director of the Scranton Chamber of Commerce, former Scranton Mayor James McNulty, Ed Rogers, former managing editor of The Scranton Times, and others who shared the vision.

Fortunately, because of places like Steamtown National Historic Site and other