



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

No. 53

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, 2006, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2006

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, source of knowledge and wisdom, give us Your truth.

Open our eyes to see Your truth. Strengthen our hearts to face Your truth. Illuminate our spirits to understand Your truth. Fortify our minds to remember Your truth. Give Your Senators today the determination to obey Your truth. Show them what to believe and what to do.

Help us all to listen carefully to Your wise counsel and store up knowledge that transforms lives.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ISAKSON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few minutes I will set up votes for next week on several measures that we began to discuss yesterday. Once we set the schedule for next week, we have

some Senators who would like to make statements on those bills and other matters. Therefore, we provided this period today for that purpose.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LIABILITY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will set up those votes in a bit, but I want to speak to one of the issues that we will be voting on Monday night, and that is the medical malpractice liability issue which, in many ways, is destroying the practice of medicine today. As one who has spent longer in the profession of a physician/doctor than I have in politics, this is something that hurts me as I look to what it is doing to patients, to consumers, to all Americans as it drives up their health care costs unnecessarily, wastefully, but then, even more importantly than that, it affects access to health care. Literally, we have expectant moms today who are having to worry whether there will be an obstetrician there to deliver their baby.

We have right now people who should be worrying, if they are in an accident today driving to work or driving home from work, about whether there will be a trauma surgeon once they arrive at a hospital. That is the threshold we have reached, affecting access, affecting cost, and affecting availability of health care.

A couple years ago, I took my son Harrison, who is in college, to Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Those were the hot States during the last Presidential campaign. I took him to be

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S4093

with him, and he observed a lot as we went to those three States.

It is interesting, those three States also happen to be three States that have been most dramatically impacted by the skyrocketing health care medical liability premiums. Because I am a physician, when I went to these town meetings or we would go to cafes, physicians would come up, their spouses would come up, their family members would come up and talk with me and pull me aside—Harrison would be at my side—and say: Dr. FRIST, something has to change. My dad was a physician. I am in practice with my dad. Right now we are going to have to dissolve our practice because our health care liability malpractice premiums have gotten so high we simply cannot afford to stay in business.

Then the discussion would continue a little bit and someone else would come up, and Harrison would be listening—at the time studying pre-med as well as history—and they would say: Dr. FRIST, right now I am going to get sued. I just got out of my residency, and I am going to get sued on average three times in the next 10 or 15 years, sued not just for \$1,000 or \$5,000 but for \$1 million or \$4 million or \$5 million, even if I have done nothing wrong.

What hurt me about this is when we got back home after traveling around, Harrison took me aside and said: Dad, I know your dad—his grandfather, my dad—was a physician who practiced 55 years in family practice in cardiology in Middleton, TN. Harrison said: Dad, you love that noble profession of medicine, surgery, heart and lung transplants and healing, but why in the world would you encourage me, your son, to go into a profession that right now, based on what I have heard as we have gone around the country, is being destroyed by predatory personal injury trial lawyers and frivolous lawsuits?

It is a hard question to answer. I probably told him it's a noble profession and there's nothing greater than the healing process. But he looked at me and said: Dad, why would I subject my future wife and my family to lawsuit after lawsuit if I have done nothing wrong? Why would I jeopardize my own family no matter how noble that profession is?

I tell that story because it is personal in many ways, but I think it signifies why it is important for us to be allowed to proceed to debate how we can solve—probably not totally solve but help solve what has gotten out of control in our medical liability system today.

Across the country, rising medical malpractice premiums are driving doctors from the practice of medicine, limiting access to care. What that means is that your health care costs, my colleagues' health care costs, the American people, everybody's health care costs are driven up unnecessarily and access is diminished. Doctors leave the practice of medicine or they move to States where this may not be quite as

big a problem, and when you need a doctor, they are not there.

Across the country, one out of two counties do not have an obstetrician/gynecologist to deliver a baby or to manage that complication from an expectant mom. Seventy-five percent of neurosurgeons today no longer operate on children, and an even higher number have made a decision not to take a trauma call at a hospital. These are highly trained neurosurgeons, surgeons who focus on the brain and the back, on the neurological system, which is usually damaged if you are in a motor vehicle accident or any kind of blunt trauma accident. They basically said: We are not going to take the call; why subject ourselves to these exorbitant, frivolous lawsuits that affect our access, access for our children, for our families.

My own State of Tennessee the other day was put on the crisis list, one of 20 States now in crisis; 81 out of 95 counties in Tennessee don't have a neurosurgeon; half don't have an orthopedic surgeon, an emergency physician or an OB/GYN.

So we see these unnecessarily high malpractice premiums driving doctors out of the State, out of the profession. The average malpractice premiums in my State of Tennessee have increased a whopping 89 percent in the past 6 years. Again, these premium increases drive up the cost of your health care.

Doctors pass on the premiums they have to pay to the insurance company and the insurance company passes it on to you, so it affects everybody's health care unnecessarily.

Without reforms, over two-thirds of Tennessee physicians report they are contemplating early retirement or just totally changing careers. Dr. Steven Stack, a 34-year-old emergency doctor from Memphis is moving to Lexington, KY, to escape the litigation lottery. He told me the following:

The high risk nature of my chosen speciality, the associated predator tactics of the trial bar, and very unreasonable and unfunded regulatory burdens imposed by governmental agencies have robbed me of much of the professional satisfaction I otherwise receive in caring for the health of my patients. . . . A fair number of my friends share my disillusionment and hope to leave the practice of medicine as expeditiously as possible.

Dr. Stack and his friends he referred to are far from alone. We all hear it. We get the letters. We get the e-mails. We have the conversations.

Dr. Justin Hensley of Johnson City, TN, says:

As a Tennessee resident and having grown up in Knoxville, it pains me that I will choose to do my residency and practice in another State simply because the climate in my State is unbearable. My fiancée, who is also a resident and medical student, feels the same way.

The issue is even affecting the futures of medical students, the future of medicine, the people who will be delivering care to our children, to the next generation.

Patrick Emerson, writing from Memphis, reports:

As a medical student here in Tennessee, the issue of medical liability is definitely a concern both to me and many of my classmates. The issue is going to shape our decisions in medicine drastically in the coming years, from what speciality we pick to what tests we order for our patients. Without reform, we are doing a grave injustice to our fellow citizens of Tennessee by depriving them of cost-effective and efficient care.

Patrick's story is one of the many stories that are pouring in. The bottom line: The system is broken and it needs to be fixed. The good news, on the optimistic side, is if we are allowed to, we can fix it. We can make this problem go away.

It is not just the bad doctors who are getting sued. People will say we have to have a strong medical liability system, strong medical malpractice system. I agree, I have been right in the middle of it. I have been right in the middle of where medicine is practiced, and with the complexity, the technology, the great miracles that can be done, is still subject to malpractice, still subject to medical errors—and I know that—and we need to have a fair, commonsense, balanced compensation system that punishes malpractice. But good doctors are getting dragged into this as well.

Consider this one statistic: Of those who have practiced in Tennessee for the past 10 years, in my profession, heart surgery, 100 percent of cardiac surgeons have been sued. Of those who have been in practice 10 years, 92 percent of orthopedic surgeons, bone doctors, have been sued; 70 percent of all doctors have faced legal action.

That is common sense, and the American people get it. But I am not sure all of our colleagues get it. Does it make sense or does anybody believe that all heart surgeons in Tennessee are bad or that all are committing malpractice, bad practice or that 7 of 10 doctors across the State deserve to be sued? Of course not. The system is out of control. The problem affects not just my State but patients and doctors from across the country. Rising medical liability premiums are increasing because of health care for every American. Again, it is common sense. The statistic is that 8 out of 10 doctors practice defensive medicine—defensive medicine—to fend off these frivolous lawsuits, and it makes sense. Right now, if you know with almost 100 percent certainty or 70 percent certainty that you are going to be sued no matter what you do—no matter what you do—what you are going to do is put a paper trail out there that will protect you in the courtroom. It makes sense. You want to protect yourself, and that is what you will do. You prescribe a few extra tests that are not necessary—something you wouldn't do otherwise. You prescribe an extra blood test, maybe an extra CAT scan, maybe an extra positron emission tomography, an extra fluorodeoxy with glucose, a

PET scan—unnecessary, totally unnecessary, but you do it because the likelihood is you are going to be sued. You do it to have that whole paper record there showing that you did the right thing. That is a cost. It is a huge cost, and it is a waste of money. It doesn't result in better patient care. It is a total waste.

Again, it gives me a sense of optimism because if you omit this waste—I would call it fraud—this abuse out of the system, everybody's cost of health care goes down.

It is estimated that the defensive medicine costs in this country are over \$100 billion. Wasted money. It is not Government money, it is your money. It is the American people's money. It is not even your tax dollars, it is how much you have to pay for that health care premium. That is why, if you are uninsured, you can't afford an insurance policy, because the cost of your insurance policy is too high.

Last month, I was in Texas, and again it is remarkable because medical liability reform is alive and well there, and it is working. I talked to patients, I talked to doctors, and I talked to nurses, and it is working. Since 2003, medical malpractice claims, following their reform, have dropped by at least 80 percent in most Texas counties. I talked just moments ago about physicians fleeing States because of medical liability, and since their reform was put in place, 3,000 doctors haven't fled that State but are coming back into that State today. We need to get on board with that reform movement.

When children who are dying of cancer can't get the lifesaving surgery they need, when a mother is forced to drive hundreds of miles to a doctor just to have her baby delivered, when doctors who have spent years training, years training and sacrificing to give people hope are having to leave the practice of medicine, it is time for us to act.

In a few moments, I will be filing cloture on the medical liability bill, and on Monday we will have those votes. I know a number of my colleagues will come by today and on Monday to explain the legislation as well as make the case of the importance of that legislation. I urge my colleagues, for the sake of all Americans and every citizen who is either walking into a doctor's office now or who will walk into a doctor's office in the future, that we vote to move forward on this bill.

I have seen firsthand that we have the best medicine in the world. The fact that I was able to do heart transplants with the technology on a routine basis, the fact that I was able to do lung transplants on a routine basis or to use that positron emission tomography to make a diagnosis on the metabolic processes of the heart or the brain today is truly astounding because it translates into better health care for all. We have the best doctors, we have the best medical schools, and we have the best hospitals in the world.

We have the best laboratories. We have the best universities and schools. I have been a beneficiary of that, and I have witnessed it. But we have a broken medical liability system, and it is bringing down that greatness. By pulling together, we are going to be able to deliver to the American people a system that works, and this will be a major step forward.

MEDICAL CARE ACCESS PROTECTION ACT OF 2006—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have been in discussions with the Democratic leader, and we have agreed to a plan for the next several days that I will outline now and I will place in order now with the next series of requests.

We have set aside next week to address several important bills relating to health care issues, but as I understand it, there will be objections to proceeding on these bills. Because there is objection to proceeding on the bills or bringing them forth and debating them and amending them, we have to go through a process to overcome that obstruction.

I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 422, S. 22, the Medical Care Access Protection Act of 2006, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the standing rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 22: A bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

Bill Frist, Johnny Isakson, Sam Brownback, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Wayne Allard, John Ensign, Pat Roberts, Larry Craig, Ted Stevens, David Vitter, John McCain, Lamar Alexander, Norm Coleman, Judd Gregg, John Sununu, Craig Thomas.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

HEALTHY MOTHERS AND HEALTHY BABIES ACCESS TO CARE ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 423, S. 23, the Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

standing rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 23: A bill to improve women's access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services.

Bill Frist, Johnny Isakson, Sam Brownback, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Wayne Allard, John Ensign, Pat Roberts, Larry Craig, Ted Stevens, David Vitter, John McCain, Lamar Alexander, Norm Coleman, Judd Gregg, John Sununu, Craig Thomas.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the vote on the first motion to invoke cloture occur at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, May 8; provided further that if cloture is not invoked on that motion, then the Senate proceed immediately to a vote on the second cloture motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE MODERNIZATION AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2006—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 417, S. 1955, the Small Business Health Plan bill, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the standing rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 417, S. 1955, Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act of 2005.

Bill Frist, Johnny Isakson, Sam Brownback, John Thune, Thad Cochran, Wayne Allard, John Ensign, Richard Shelby, Larry Craig, Ted Stevens, John McCain, Lamar Alexander, Norm Coleman, Judd Gregg, Pat Roberts, Craig Thomas, Richard Burr.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I withdraw the motion to proceed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, May 8, the time for debate be divided as follows: 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., minority control; and 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., majority control. Further, that the time rotate under this format, with the final time from 5 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. under majority control. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the three live quorums related to the cloture motions be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, to summarize what we just went through and where we are, we have scheduled for next week the consideration of several important bills related to health care.

Given the objection to the motion to proceed to these bills, it was necessary to file cloture motions on the motions to proceed; thus, we now have scheduled up to two cloture motions on Monday at 5:15, beginning at 5:15. The first will be on a motion to proceed to the Medical Care Access Protection Act, and the second vote will be on the cloture motion relative to the motion to proceed to the Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act. If those cloture motions fail, on Tuesday morning we will have a cloture vote on proceeding to the Small Business Health Plans legislation.

Mr. President, the way this is configured is that we have a vote on the first medical liability bill, which is a comprehensive bill built pretty much on this Texas model that I referred to in my earlier remarks. If that is successful, we will continue the debate on that. If it is not, we would continue with another medical liability bill that has a slightly different focus to it, again based on the Texas model. It will focus on in particular where medical liability premiums are felt most acutely: in women's health care and babies' health care, pediatrics and maternal health care, and that is obstetricians and gynecologists. I hope we will be allowed to proceed and debate on those two. We will be voting on both of those, or at least one of those but up to two on Monday night, with no votes after those two votes on Monday night.

Depending on the outcome but following whatever that outcome is, we will turn to the small business health reform plans. The small business health plans, as we know, have the potential for addressing many of the issues I talked to earlier—the cost issue, the access issue, and the quality issue as well—because what they do is allow small businesses—and most businesses in this country are small businesses; they create about three-quarters of the jobs in this country—they allow small businesses to group together so that they will have that purchasing clout which we know comes with numbers. When we add that purchasing clout, you can go and bargain for better prices, negotiate for better prices, and with that comes a lower cost of health care to all people who work in small businesses that participate. With that, people who don't have health care today who work for small businesses will be able to get a plan that is within reach, instead of the hugely expensive plans that are out there today.

So I am very excited about addressing the skyrocketing costs of health care head-on: choice, consumerism, patient-centered health care, all of which will be centered on the medical liability issue we will be debating and the small business health plans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEDICAL CARE ACCESS PROTECTION ACT OF 2006—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S. 22, so that Senators may speak to that motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is pending.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, over the course of the morning we will have various speakers coming in to talk about a number of issues focusing on the issues I have spoken to on health care and the cost of health care and how it affects people in their everyday lives.

CINCO DE MAYO AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEXICAN AMERICANS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I also will take a moment to interject what is a celebration today. It started with two events that happened 144 years ago this week, two events that signify great advances in the history of freedom in North America.

On May 1, 1862, Admiral David G. Farragut—the first Latino flag officer in any branch of the U.S. military and the first person awarded the rank of Admiral in the U.S. Navy—won a decisive engagement with Confederate naval vessels in New Orleans Harbor.

This was, perhaps, the most important naval engagement of the Civil War.

While almost 3 more years of difficult fighting still awaited Union troops, Farragut's victory at New Orleans: cut the Confederacy in half; granted union forces control of the Mississippi; contributed greatly to the Union victory; and, in turn, helped end slavery.

As Farragut's troops occupied the city of New Orleans, another event over 1,000 miles away was unfolding.

On May 5, 1862, a fighting force of 2,000 peasants confronted 6,000 well-equipped and expertly trained French troops. The French had come to conquer the small town. Instead, they found a fierce and proud resistance, and the peasant army prevailed.

A Mexican defeat that day could have even undone Farragut's victory at New Orleans.

French Emperor Napoleon III hated the United States and had clear sympathies with the Confederacy and its slave-holding culture.

With a base in Mexico, Napoleon's forces might have crossed the Rio Grande to offer support to the South in its battle with Union forces.

And Union forces were fully aware of the threat. General Phillip Sheridan supplied the Mexicans with the ammunition and equipment they needed to expel the French. Some Americans even joined the Mexican Army.

The battles were waged and won.

The Union prevailed, and Mexico successfully fought off the French invasion.

The Mexican victory on Cinco de Mayo wiped the last vestige of indigenous monarchy from the North American continent.

As the Cinco de Mayo story illustrates, our countries have a long and intertwined history. It has, at times, been a difficult one. But it has also been one of shared victory.

Cinco de Mayo also gives us an opportunity to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mexican Americans to our culture.

Through their vibrant traditions and deep commitment to faith, family, and country, Mexican Americans have enriched our society.

They are our friends and neighbors, our fellow citizens and protectors. Citizens of Mexican descent are, at this very moment, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan to protect the American homeland.

So, today, we celebrate the unique contributions of our Mexican American comrades, and we toast our future, shared achievements.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today 46 million Americans are living with no health insurance.

I am not sure everyone understands what it means to have no health insurance. We as Senators don't have a problem with that. We have insurance. I think it is very good insurance.

I can remember my parents having no health insurance when my dad worked in the mines. Once in a while he would go someplace else to work and he would have some insurance. After my dad passed away my mother had Medicare. That was the best insurance she ever had.

You would think that since I was a boy, America would have made progress in this health care problem, but it has gone the other way. More people are uninsured now than before. There is a real health care crisis in America today. The crisis can be felt in people's homes, in neighborhoods, in the workplace, and even corporate board rooms because they realize it is a problem when 46 million people have no health insurance.

Health care costs are going up and up. In all of the newspapers around America today there is an article which talks about what has happened. More people are forced to opt out of employers' insurance, the article says. A growing number of Americans who

work for companies that offer health insurance are having to turn it down. Many companies don't offer insurance, but even at those that do, people can't afford to opt into the system. Why? Because of a 42-percent jump in premiums over five years.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation said 3 million fewer U.S. workers eligible for employer-sponsored health insurance enrolled in 2003 compared with 1998.

Even where insurance is available people are not opting into it. Why? Because now it costs on average \$3,481 to be able to afford this insurance for an employer-sponsored individual policy. And these statistics from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are 3 years old.

It would be far more than that now.

Health care costs too much. Premiums are going up. Premiums have increased 70 percent since the year 2000. It has crippled businesses, including some of the stalwarts in American society such as Ford and GM. And the cost of prescription drugs is part of that.

The Medicare drug plan has been a mess, to say the least. In Nevada, a relatively small State in numbers of people, almost a half million people have no health insurance. More than 100,000 children have no health insurance in Nevada.

Then there is the fact that many diseases could be cured, which would cut down on the cost of health care, diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's. We don't know all of them for which we are looking for a cure.

Of course, we can't move forward in research because the Republican majority refuses to allow us to move forward with this crucial legislation.

We need a new direction in health care. Republicans have had 5½ years to put their arms around this crisis. But even with control of the White House, the Senate, and the House, they failed. They continue to hold in their arms the insurance industry.

Next week, Republicans have scheduled what they call a Health Care Week. This is really a mini debate in an area where we have a major crisis—the Republican approach to a national emergency is one that brings a number of questions to mind.

My first question is, Why has it taken so long even to have a mini debate?

We are about 80 percent of the way through this 109th Congress. We have spent weeks and weeks picking fights over radical judges and weeks to help big business on issues such as class actions and asbestos.

With a national emergency on health care we are going to spend a handful of days, literally. This Health Care Week is a public relations gimmick—something like the "Mission Accomplished."

The majority couldn't be serious about helping American people with health care and do what we are ex-

pected to do about health care in a week.

My second question is, Who do the Republicans want to help? The people getting help under this Republican majority are special interests. Not the people we have tried to break through and have the middle-class American people represented in Congress. Republicans don't have a single prescription for America's health care emergency, except that they have a cabinet full of medicine to fatten big business.

On Monday, they want to have a vote on this same, tired medical malpractice bill that we have defeated day in, day out, week in, week out, month after month, year after year.

They keep bringing them up and having them defeated. Why? Because they do not mean anything to the American people.

If we are going to do something about health care, are we going to do something that just makes the insurance industry even bigger and stronger and fatter than it now is?

That is what these medical malpractice bills do; they enrich the insurance industry and do nothing to help working Americans.

Nevada is a good example. A few years ago, we were told there was a medical malpractice "crisis" in Nevada. The Republican Governor called a special session of the legislature. They set caps on pain and suffering damages.

Who has benefitted? Not those people who have the wrong leg taken off in surgery, or who have been given the wrong medicine in surgery. And the doctors haven't benefitted either.

The insurance rates in Nevada haven't gone down. Let me repeat that, in the few years since that legislation passed, insurance rates have not gone down in Nevada for doctors. That "crisis" was something that was put forward by the insurance industry, and they have done well—they are paying victims less but they are still charging doctors the same high premiums.

The insurance industry wants to have this benefit in every state, even the states that have refused to enact caps on damages. It's the same old story. Last Congress, the Senate rejected three times virtually identical bills—the same one-size-fits-all medical malpractice bill for the most seriously injured victims.

It's true that people make mistakes. But when you are talking about medicine, these mistakes can be very serious. Most of these mistakes aren't made in a wanton fashion. Rarely does that happen. But people make mistakes. They are negligent.

Two years ago or so, I went to Walter Reed for surgery on my left foot. They wheeled me into the operating room, and as I am laying there getting ready for the surgery. I asked the doctor and the people in attendance: Why do you have a black mark on my right foot?

They said: That is where we are going to do the surgery.

Luckily, I pointed out that they had marked the wrong foot. So they erased the black mark on my right foot and did the surgery on the left foot, the correct one.

This surgery was not life threatening to me, but it took 4 or 5 months for me to recover from the surgery to the foot that needed it, let alone if I'd have had to recover also for a foot that didn't. People make mistakes.

That is what medical malpractice is all about. Doctors make mistakes and hurt people. In our system of fairness and justice, the only way to respond is with dollars. To set these arbitrary caps to save the insurance industry is senseless and unfair.

Not one of these bills we are going to take up next week has anything to do with helping people with their health care.

One bill they claim will help small business. The others they claim will help patients and doctors. These bills will do just the opposite.

In the Orwellian world in which we find ourselves in Washington, under Republican control, whatever they say it does just the opposite. Far from helping, the measure dealing with small business health care, for example, that we will get to next week, threatens the coverage of those who have insurance now. It does nothing to extend coverage to those who need it. It gives control of our health care to the insurance companies even more. Insurers, not doctors, will decide if you get coverage and what you will be charged. That is what the legislation is about.

After these three bills, we are done with health care this year. That is enough. We have had health care week. Three bills that do nothing, and we are done with health care and on to something else.

The third question: Why is this majority refusing to consider real solutions to Americans' health care problems in their so-called health care week? I applaud my colleagues for recognizing health care deserves the Senate time. But the agenda is frightening. A Republican in the White House, both Houses of Congress controlled by Republicans—excuses? They should have none. They have it all. But they have given America nothing.

Where, for example, is stem cell research? Where are Medicare improvements? Where is relief for the uninsured and small businesses in this country?

In one bill, sponsored by Senators BAUCUS, LINCOLN, and DURBIN, they have health care legislation in the Senate that would actually help small businesses. It would give them the ability to pool and choose from the same health care options that we as Senators have. If it is good enough for us, why don't we give everyone the same opportunity we have, and do it soon—such as next week?

Senator LEAHY, ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, has insurance reform legislation that brings the

insurance industry under the Federal antitrust laws. Right now, the insurance industry can conspire and fix prices and do all kinds of things other businesses cannot do because they are not subject to antitrust laws. Why is the insurance industry exempt? Because of the McCarran-Ferguson Act. I am sorry to report that a Nevada Senator by the name of Pat McCarran has his name affixed to some of the most unfair legislation this country has ever seen.

It was enacted during the height of the Depression when Senator McCarran and a man by the name of Ferguson, a Member of Congress, got together and said, let's give the insurance industry a break. We will not have the Sherman Antitrust Act apply to them.

The legislation was supposed to be in existence for a couple years, but 70-plus years, it is still in effect. Who is the biggest, most powerful industry in America? It is the insurance industry, yet they are not subject to the Sherman Antitrust Act. The only other business that isn't subject is professional baseball, major league baseball. Senator LEAHY wants to change this. I support him in this. This is a real way to bring insurance premiums in line and really help doctors and health costs. Make the insurance industry subject to the same laws all other industries are subject to and premiums will go down.

What about stem cell research? We talked about that yesterday. Senator FRIST said he is going to bring it up. I hope he does. I talked to him about that before. Time is running out. Every day we wait to give our scientists the tools they need is another day of suffering for millions of Americans, fearing they will never have the opportunity to have their loved ones or themselves cured of these dreaded diseases. We need this groundbreaking research. If the Government acted in the 1940s and 1950s such as the Republicans are acting today, we would not have a vaccine for polio.

Where is Medicare on the Republican agenda? After May 15th, a few days from now, any people who have not signed up for this flawed plan have to wait until next year. And next year when they sign up, they have to pay a penalty. They cannot sign up in the meantime. They have to wait until next year.

Five months after this program has gone into effect, it is still mired in confusion and red tape.

A real health care week would fix Medicare's problems, extend the May 15 deadline, it might eliminate penalty from the President's drug program, and include a repeal of Medicare's prohibition from negotiating with drug companies for cheaper prescription drug prices.

Isn't it hard to comprehend that Medicare cannot bargain for lower prices for the drugs they purchase? CVS can. Rite-Aid can but not Medicare. Why? Because when that bill was

written, they wanted to give an unfair advantage to the drug companies. And they gave it to them.

America's health care crisis is real. Unfortunately, the majority's commitment to solving it is not. Next week, as we did with gas prices, Republican actions will tell us they care about health care, as they cared about gasoline prices. The best they could come up with was a \$100 rebate which has been panned in every newspaper and by every commentator in America the last 10 days.

It is not what they say they stand for, it is whom they stand for that matters. And it is not for the American people. With their health care week, the majority is making it very clear they stand with insurance companies, not the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I, for one, am pleased we are moving forward this next week with the health care agenda in an attempt to hold down the costs of health care.

My colleague who just spoke said: I don't think any Senators have ever experienced life without health insurance. Before I came to the Senate, I didn't have health insurance. So I come to the Senate today as a small businessman who has had to struggle with the costs of health insurance in my small business. I also had to struggle with my employees, making sure that they had appropriate health insurance to meet the immediate needs of their family.

The fact that the majority leader has decided this next week to declare health care week to help put forth three pieces of legislation, Senate bills 22 and 23 which deal with liability reform is great. We cannot continue to bury our heads in the sand and ignore the fact that lawyers, some way or the other, do not contribute to the cost of health care. The fact is, the threat of lawsuits do add to the cost of health care.

Finally, I am pleased one of the bills coming forward in the Senate is the bill allowing small businesses to form associations. Then, as a purchasing unit, they have more power in the marketplace and can negotiate cheaper health insurance policies as a general rule. It does not happen all the time. But at least it gives the small businessman one more tool in trying to hold down the costs of health care.

As a small businessman, I had to struggle to maintain health coverage in my veterinarian practice and reached the point at one time where I said: I think what we finally need to do, as a small businessman I cannot afford health insurance, so we will work with each individual employee and give them extra pay so they can go out and shop for their own health insurance. So many times when you have small businesses, as I did, you become the first employer of many new employees entering into the workplace. With the

idea they would be somewhat mobile and moving around from one employer to another for the next few years, we decided that was okay, and my wife and I decided to begin setting aside our own savings account to pay for health care costs in case, for some reason or another, I had an incident or she had an incident where we needed to go to the hospital and have some health care.

Being a veterinarian and lifting heavy dogs on the exam table all the time and not expecting the dog owner to pick up the other half of a Great Dane, I ended up having back problems and had to have back surgery. I didn't have health insurance. I paid for it myself out of my own pocket. Fortunately, my wife and I had the foresight to set aside a savings plan so that if something such as this did happen, we could pay for it. But it set us back. We were able to survive that particular incident. It was kind of an interesting thing. They did not want us to go into the hospital. They would not let us in because we did not have health insurance. I said: I will pay for it. When we got in there, we had the surgery, and I did very well, and I am very active today. Consequently, they did a great job on the surgery, and when we checked out of the hospital, they said they would reduce our costs 20 percent because "we do not have to deal with the paperwork of dealing with the costs of having to process your claim."

So much of the paperwork is driven by trying to protect themselves from frivolous lawsuits. That has been my personal experience.

That is why I am in the Senate today talking in favor of Senate bill 22, called the Medical Care Access Protection Act of 2006, which is a comprehensive liability reform bill, and in support of Senate bill 23, which is called the Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Health Care Act, and talking in favor of the association health plans bill that allow small businesses to come together and form associations so they can, as a bargaining unit, bargain down and get a more reasonable cost on their health insurance.

What happens if we do nothing? Right now there are many smart young men and women across the country who are being literally driven away from the health care industry. We are attracting fewer and fewer high-quality medical students than ever before. In some States and some specialties, practicing doctors are actually leaving their professions behind.

A little later on I will give you the experiences of a doctor in a rural community who is actually preparing to leave his profession because of the high cost of health insurance. Most of it is because of the high liability insurance, and it is extremely prohibitive for young students and doctors to stay in a field they cannot afford because of the high liability insurance costs. This is creating a problem for patients in

health care across the country but particularly in the rural areas. I will address that later on.

Doctors are more reluctant to perform complex and high-risk medical procedures such as those involving pediatric orthopedics and spine surgery. It is not an easy procedure having to repair the bone of a fractured infant or having to do spinal surgeries as I experienced. This puts patients' access to emergency and trauma care at risk, also, because this is another high-risk area. Many times, you have to tailor the treatment plan to what is happening with the patient. There is not always a textbook approach, where you treat every patient exactly the same. Every patient is a little bit different.

Doctors are moving to States with a more favorable medical liability climate, leaving some areas underserved. In the State of Colorado, which I proudly represent, about a decade ago we did a lot to try and hold down the costs of medical insurance. We dealt with a lot of aspects of medical liability reform. Many of those we have in this bill, but we actually went further than what is in the bill.

The bottom line is, in Colorado, we were able to hold down the costs of medical insurance for medical doctors fairly significantly. One of the problems that happened in States such as Colorado, although we had done a lot of things to hold down the cost of health insurance, we found because health insurance companies pool their risks from States other than Colorado, we did not have the impact in some cases we expected to have because other States have not done that much in trying to hold down the cost of health insurance and liability problems that doctors incur when they are in their practices.

We were disappointed in that regard. That is why I, as a Senator, feel we need to have a national approach to this problem. That is because there is a lot of variation out there between States, and those States that are not doing anything have an adverse impact on States such as Colorado that are willing to step forward and try to reduce the liability risk and to reduce frivolous lawsuits.

Now, in Colorado, we are lucky enough today to already have had some liability reform for frivolous lawsuits. But across the Nation, States are experiencing extreme shortages in health care professionals because of the cost of liability insurance.

Now, another thing that may happen if we do not do anything is that medical students that may eventually wish to settle in States such as Colorado, but cannot because they cannot get the training they need because they cannot afford the liability insurance in States where they have to go to do their residency. We have a medical school in Colorado, but lots of times medical students are encouraged, with their residency and whatnot, to go to other hospitals and other institutions because

everybody has a little bit different view of how they are going to handle different types of cases, and this exposes them to different points of view, so they can make up their mind what best works for them. So they will lose that opportunity.

Now, the bill, S. 22, would create a graduated cap system similar to what was just put in place in Texas. If we look at the Texas model, we have seen some remarkable results. But the bill would provide for unlimited economic damages. So if the patient wins a lawsuit against a medical doctor to provide for a decent living for their family, then they can collect those economic damages. It provides a stacked cap model that would keep non-economic damages at or below \$750,000. They break it out this way: There would be up to \$250,000 from a decision rendered against a health care provider and \$250,000 from a decision rendered against a single health care institution and \$250,000 from a decision rendered against more than one health care institution, not to exceed \$500,000. It also provides punitive damages, but those are not to be any greater than twice the economic damage award or \$250,000.

This bill also guarantees that lawsuits are filed no later than 3 years after the injury and extends the statute of limitations for minors injured before age 6. Under the age of 6, not always does an incident emerge right away. So if you have too short of a statute of liability, then it does create a problem for the patient. So this bill also looks at what we can do to take care of legitimate lawsuits that patients might have. This is one of the aspects which is provided for in the bill we have before us.

The language also intends to maximize patient recovery of payment by focusing on attorney payment regulations. It also establishes standards for expert witness rules, promotes fairness in the recovery of health benefits, and attempts to prevent double recovery.

It keeps the focus on the patient by attempting to curtail frivolous lawsuits, which is the key.

I mentioned Texas earlier in my comments, where there was legislation that was recently put into effect. Here is what happened in that State since September of 2003. They have added nearly 4,000 doctors in their State. Insurance premiums have declined. The number of lawsuits filed against doctors has been cut in half. Those are very significant events. It is similar to what we experienced in the State of Colorado when we passed a far-ranging liability reform bill.

Currently, we are at a crossroads on a very controversial issue.

Now, in the interest of my constituents, I have cosponsored this particular piece of legislation, S. 22, the Medical Care Access Protection Act of 2006. It still allows for individuals to file claims for compensation for all economic damages they have incurred and allows for a reasonable amount of punitive damages.

Now, I have a few anecdotal situations I would like to talk about that affected Colorado. These are doctors who came and visited my office, and here is what they had to say, why they think we had to have medical liability reform.

The first one is about a medical doctor in Ft. Morgan. It is a relatively small rural town in northeastern Colorado. He expressed his concern in having to stop accepting new patients. He was concerned that with the rising costs of liability insurance, he would no longer be able to afford to accept new patients with the amount he is reimbursed. Even more distressing for this doctor in rural Colorado was the fact that he was going to have to start turning away patients whom he had been serving for years. His final question was, if he could not afford to serve them, who would? This brings up anecdotal evidence of what I explained earlier, that because of the high cost of liability insurance, doctors are giving up patients in rural areas because they simply cannot afford to service them because of the liability incurred.

Last week, a student with the American Osteopathic Association expressed his troubles finishing up his education. This applies to student experiences. This student is from rural Colorado, with plans to return to rural Colorado to practice. The problem is, he cannot afford the medical liability insurance in other States to get the specialized training he needs to come and practice in rural Colorado.

Now, doctors in small bordering towns of Colorado, such as Wray, Holyoke, and Burlington, cross the border into Nebraska to serve the rural areas of both States. Now, even if they are lucky enough to be able to afford the medical liability insurance in Colorado, it is nearly impossible for them to afford the additional liability insurance they would need to practice in the rural areas of the bordering State, which is probably closest and more accessible. This is another reason I think we need to have some national legislation.

Doctors and specialists from Ft. Collins drive as far as Cheyenne to serve the patients of the frontier country in between those two destinations. Without their dedication, the constituents they serve would be left without health care. We are now faced with that reality because these dedicated doctors can no longer afford the medical liability insurance they are required to have to practice in rural areas.

It was expressed in a meeting this week that eventually the need for liability reform legislation would be null and void. Why? Because large hospitals are beginning to pay on a salary so doctors can afford the rising cost of medical liability insurance without worrying about the rate of reimbursement. That may be a solution in urban areas where there is the opportunity for doctors to practice at a large hospital. But in rural areas, that is not an

option, and the cost of medical liability insurance will force doctors out of rural areas where they are desperately needed. That is why I think it is so very important we move ahead with these pieces of legislation.

I have shared with my colleagues some anecdotal evidence as far as the State of Colorado is concerned. Based on the Colorado experience and based on my personal experience, we cannot afford to continue to stick our head in the sand. We need to realize and recognize there is a problem out there with frivolous lawsuits against dedicated, hard-working medical doctors, particularly those who are trying to make their practices operate in rural areas.

So I, for one, ask my colleagues to join me because of the serious problem that is facing the medical community. I believe it is time for the Congress to act, and I am delighted that the Senate has decided to take up the bill this next week.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Colorado for his comments. He has made a great contribution. He knows a little bit about this because of his own background as a veterinarian in terms of health care.

I come to the floor to speak as somebody who has personally experienced the phenomenon of being placed in the position toward my practice—I am a practicing physician. I still practice on Monday mornings. I still practice on the weekends. I have delivered several babies during this session of the Senate.

What the American people need to understand is we are going to spend \$2.3 trillion this year on health care in this country. And \$1 out of every \$3 does not go to help anybody get well. We are never going to be able to compete globally if we cannot control the health care costs in this country. So I wish to walk you through, for just a minute, how this threat of liability raises the cost of health care for everybody in this country.

Only 16 percent of the lawsuits that are filed across the entire country have any merit whatsoever. Mr. President, 84 percent of them are filed with the idea that we can intimidate people into settling a case so a lawyer can make money. It has nothing to do with the patient. It has everything to do with enriching the trial bar. I have experienced that personally as a physician who has delivered over 4,000 children into this world.

What happens is, we change the behavior of physicians because of the tremendous liability that is out there. There are some very good statistics that reveal that. We know that 6 percent of the cost of health care today is for tests that are ordered on patients in this country that are not needed by the patient at all but are needed by the physicians to protect them in case they have some aggressive lawyer who

wants to try to say: You didn't do everything in your power to make sure somebody is getting well. So we are going to waste \$140 billion—\$140 billion—this year on tests that our people do not need because of the threat of liability exposure. Think what that money could do for access for everybody else who does not have health care today. We could buy everybody in the country who does not have health care health care with just the money we are wasting on the tests.

The idea of extorting a settlement from a frivolous lawsuit does not come without significant cost to this country. It is not just the cost of the tests that are ordered that are not needed, there is also the cost of defending it. In the one case I have had in 24 years as a physician, the lawyer costs to defend me in that case, which was thrown out of court twice, were \$65,000—for that one case. That was just the lawyer fees, and that was back in the 1980s. And I spent about \$60,000 worth of time that I was not working taking care of patients to prepare myself for all the grilling and interrogation that comes from an aggressive lawyer who thinks they are going to hit a home run off my insurance that I pay. The consequences of that have been that malpractice rates, liability insurance rates, have skyrocketed.

In Texas, what we know is happening is, it is not just that with their new system, they have more doctors coming, it is not just that the cost of liability insurance is going down, but the availability of care is increasing, and the number of dollars spent on waste for tests we don't need is declining in Texas. But it is going up everywhere else where we have not addressed this problem.

We are going to hear all sorts of cases: that the problem is not the trial bar; the problem is we make mistakes and don't get compensated. Well, that is not the case because most insurance companies, if there is a legitimate case—and doctors make errors—they settle the case. They don't go to court.

What actually happens some of the time as to that 16 percent of the cases that are legitimate, in Oklahoma, is that somebody who truly had an injury does not get compensated because the lawyers who are now defending the doctors have gotten so good that they win cases they probably should not have.

So we have all these distortions that are occurring because the focus is on how much money can we put in the hands of people who "are representing somebody with an injury," when, in fact, they are representing themselves and their own wealth.

I am going to support both of these bills, but we need to wake up in America. If we are going to compete globally, then we have to readdress all of health care in this country. We have to go to a consumer-driven, transparent market where you know what the price is, you know what the outcome of the provider is, you know they are fol-

lowing best practices, and you should not be paying more than anybody else for the same thing. And the value judgment you make on your health care needs to be yours.

We also need to make your insurance yours, not your employers'. And it needs to be able to go with you wherever you go. There will never be job lock if we do that. We need to give the individual the tax break rather than the company the tax break. And we need to put everybody with some skin in the game when it comes to health care. In our country, we know, if we have markets that really drive that, we will improve the quality, we will increase the access, we will get rid of the bad players, and we will lower the costs. And we have to lower the costs of health care. We can do it.

At \$2.3 trillion, if we took 20 percent and squeezed it out, we would have \$460 billion we would not be spending on health care because it is not being spent on it now—it is spent on the machine of health care and the waste, as I just described it, on tests that are not necessary. That money would go into capital which would raise innovation, which would raise salaries, which would create more jobs, which would create greater prosperity.

But when we have this false sense of entitlement to the trial bar, through extortion—and that is what it is; it is pure extortion, because most of them are filed not with the hopes of winning the case but with extorting the settlement because it is cheaper to settle than to pay all the lawyer fees—we continue to have this ordering of tests that are not necessary because we have to defend ourselves. I am glad we are going to be addressing that. I plan on introducing another couple of bills in the next week as we address health care to move some of the things I talked about.

In Oklahoma, we have three cities that have over 50,000 people. Since 2003, they each had a total of six OB/GYNs. There are two left out of those three cities because of malpractice rates. Malpractice rates for OB/GYNs in Oklahoma rose 89 percent last year. My partners can't deliver over 100 babies a year without having a tremendous increase, and their average cost for the delivery per baby is over \$500 per child, based on the malpractice cost alone.

We have great problems. We can fix them. But we can't fix them by protecting a special interest group that has been protected for years that claims they want to do something great for people but who most of the time are motivated to do something great for themselves.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for such time as I may consume.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this has been an interesting week, and next week in the Senate will also be interesting. I want to talk about a couple of those matters.

I know there are a lot of people in the country, some in this Chamber, who believe that politics in America these days is pretty dysfunctional. We are not speaking directly to the issues that are most important to the American people. We are not confronting the issues that have developed with the American economy and foreign policy. Many people are concerned about that. I count myself among them.

I have always been proud to serve in the Senate. I come from a town of 300 people, a high school class of nine students, and to go from a desk in a small high school in southwestern North Dakota to a desk in the Senate, I have always felt enormously privileged to do that. But there are times when I am very concerned about the institution of politics.

John F. Kennedy used to say that every mother kind of hoped that her child might grow up to become President, as long as they didn't have to be active in politics. But of course, politics is the method by which we make decisions. The document called the Constitution that starts with the three words "we the people" means the people are in charge. They are the ones who decide, grabbing the American steering wheel, which direction we head.

Let me describe my concern about the dysfunctional politics and the dysfunctional system that exists. I don't think one party is all bad and the other party is all good or that one is all right and one is all wrong. I do think that we are on the wrong path and off track. We have one-party control in the White House, the House, and the Senate. It seems to me we need to get busy and get serious about addressing the fundamental problems we face in domestic policy and foreign policy.

Next week we are going to deal with health issues, we are told. But even though we are going to deal with health issues, the majority leader has said the way the Senate will deal with health issues is, he will file cloture on some bills to come to the floor dealing with medical malpractice, dealing with health care costs. The purpose of this process is to say: We are going to deal with the issue of medical malpractice, and we are not going to allow anyone else to deal with any other issue dealing with health care costs.

I happen to have pretty strong views about this issue of medical malpractice. We have somewhere, it is estimated, between 40,000 and 90,000 people a year die in hospitals as a result of mistakes. To suggest that someone should be immune from accountability because of mistakes is wrong. I have a longer story about all of that. But would I like to see there be a process that is simpler and easier than going through the tort system to resolve

these issues? Yes, I would. I believe that is possible. But to suggest that we ought to limit those who are victimized by bad medicine—and there are cases of bad medicine; it does exist—to suggest we ought to limit their opportunities to seek redress is wrong.

As long as we are going to talk about health care costs—and that is a very serious issue; health care costs are increasing dramatically for families, for businesses, for the Government in Medicaid and Medicare—perhaps we should talk about the array of issues we should be dealing with. Let me cite some examples.

No. 1, the highest rate of growth in health care costs is the cost of prescription drugs. It used to be when someone got sick, you would put them in a hospital bed for acute care, and then they would be let out, discharged, a week or 2 later, and that was the way health care was delivered. These days we have miracle drugs. Prescription drugs are used to treat illnesses so that people don't have to have acute care hospital stays. But the increased price in prescription drugs is almost unbelievable. We pay the highest prices in the entire world for prescription drugs. Why is that the case? It is the case because the pharmaceutical industry can charge the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs.

I took a bus one day and took some North Dakota citizens to Canada. In a one-room pharmacy in Emerson, Canada, just miles north of a pharmacy in North Dakota, these North Dakota citizens purchased their prescription drugs.

They were all FDA approved, in many cases made in America and shipped to Canada. So our citizens went to Canada to buy prescription drugs, Lipitor, Prevacid, a whole series of prescription drugs. All of them were dramatically less expensive in Canada than they are here. And not only Canada, they would have found the same thing in England and France and virtually every other country. We pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs.

A bipartisan group of Senators and Members of the House believe that the way to break the back of increased drug prices or drug pricing that is unfair to the American consumer is to allow the reimportation of prescription drugs from Canada. The FDA will allow someone to come across for personal use with maybe 3 months' worth of drugs, but otherwise it is illegal. In Europe, it is not illegal. If you are in Germany and want to buy a drug from France, if you are in Spain and want to buy a prescription drug from Italy, they have a system by which you do that. It is called parallel trading.

It has been done for 20 years. There is no safety issue. And through it the consumers are able to get the best prices on approved prescription drugs. In this country, you can't.

The majority leader is going to bring a health care bill to the floor next

week that deals with medical malpractice and will apparently "fill the amendment tree" or file cloture so that no amendments can be offered. But will the majority leader allow us to vote on a bipartisan proposal to put downward pressure on prescription drug prices? No, he would not do that. Why? Because the pharmaceutical industry doesn't want that legislation on the floor. So we will not have it, I guess.

We have been trying for years. A bipartisan group of Senators believe we ought to do that, believe we ought to tackle the issue of increased cost of health care by tackling the escalating prices of prescription drugs. But we can't get that bill onto the Senate floor.

The majority leader is taking specific steps now to prevent it. Why? Because he is helping, in my judgment, the pharmaceutical industry. It is what they want. How about doing what the American people want for a change? Let the American people in these chambers. How about opening the door to having the people's interests served here? So we won't be dealing with the issue of prescription drug prices, I guess, next week. We are going to try, but the majority leader will block us, I assume. That is what we have been told.

How about this little provision—the most unbelievably pernicious provision that was put in the bill that was passed to add prescription drug coverage to Medicare. Do you know there is a provision added in that bill that says, by the way, the Federal Government cannot use its purchasing power to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices with the pharmaceutical industry. Is that not unbelievable? A prohibition on the Federal Government negotiating for lower prescription drug prices with the pharmaceutical industry. In whose interest is that, do you think? Is that in the pharmaceutical industry's interest? Of course it is.

I wish somebody would come to the Senate floor and take credit for it and say I wrote that, and I wrote it because I believe the pharmaceutical industry should be able to charge higher prices and should not have to negotiate. Not one Senator, I believe, will claim credit for that legislation. But it was there. So the majority is deciding that they are going to block an opportunity to get rid of that, repeal that provision and allow the negotiation for lower drug prices that will put downward pressure on health care costs. The majority says we don't want anything to do with that; you cannot offer that amendment next week. We are going to talk about health care and health care costs, but you are prevented from offering that amendment. Why? Maybe it would pass and that would not be good for the pharmaceutical industry. It is unbelievable to me. Talk about dysfunctional behavior in the Senate. If we are going to deal with health care and health care costs, how about allowing legislation on the Senate floor that

really does that. Let's have an up-or-down vote on the issue of reimportation of prescription drugs so that the American people can benefit from the same prices people are paying in other countries. Should the American people be paying the highest prices?

Some time ago, I sat on a hay bale on a farm at a meeting of farmers. And a fellow in his mideighties said:

My wife has been fighting breast cancer for 3 years, and for 3 years we have driven to Canada every 3 months to buy her prescription drugs.

I asked why. He said:

Because we pay only 20 percent of the price we have to pay in the United States for the same drug.

Tamoxifen is a drug to treat breast cancer. If one uses that, you can save 80 to 90 percent if you buy that in Canada. It's an FDA-approved drug. Is that fair to the American people—to say you should pay the highest prices in the world? Oh, by the way, we are not interested in helping you put downward pressure on prices in this country.

That makes no sense to me. Next week we will see this dysfunctional behavior in the Senate. We will be prevented from the ability to consider pieces of bipartisan legislation. In both cases that I have talked about this morning, they will prevent votes on them. Why? Both are opposed by the pharmaceutical industry. So God forbid the Senate should have an up-or-down vote.

It is interesting. Regarding pharmaceuticals, senior citizens in this country are about 12 percent of the population, and they consume about one-third of the prescription drugs. So senior citizens are 12 percent of the population and consume one-third of all of the prescription drugs. In many cases, they are the least able to pay these escalating prices. And pharmaceuticals—the prescription drugs that you need—are not a luxury; you need them.

It is interesting that the same is true with respect to energy, isn't it? Another part of the dysfunctional behavior around here is dealing with energy costs. That is another subject.

Are we going to get legislation on the floor of the Senate to deal with energy issues? Not likely—at least not in a meaningful way. We have seen press reports about what is happening. Exxon oil had a \$36.1 billion profit last year, which is the highest profit in the history of corporations. I am not against profit at all. Good for them. But all that profit comes at the expense and pain of the American consumer. So that is not good for the consumer.

So what do we do about that? I say this. If all that money that is going into the coffers of the oil industry is being used to sink back into the ground for exploration and development of additional supplies, and therefore lower prices, good for them and good for us. But I know that is not happening. I know that Exxon is using about a third of its profits to buy back its stock. Business Week magazine says

that big oil invested in trying to find oil on Wall Street. Well, there is no oil on Wall Street. That is all about mergers and acquisitions. That doesn't expand the supply of energy. I think we ought to say this to big oil: If you are not using these profits to expand the supply and reduce the price, then you ought to be paying a portion of that into the Federal Government as a recapture, a windfall profit recapture that we send back in its entirety to the consumers from whence it came. I would like to vote on that in the Senate. I think that is something we ought to consider on the floor of the Senate.

Energy is not a luxury. Look, I understand we have serious problems with energy. Those who come to the floor and say there is a free market in oil—what a load of nonsense. There is no free market in oil. First of all, you have OPEC ministers in a closed room around a table deciding how much they are going to produce out of the sands of the Middle East. OPEC ministers decide how much they are going to produce and what that might do to affect price. Second, the big oil companies have two names now. They fell in love and got married. It was Exxon and Mobil, and then they merged and now it is ExxonMobil. There was Phillips and Conoco. Now it is PhillipsConoco. They decided to get hitched. The Federal Government turned a blind eye to that and said that is fine.

And finally, you have futures markets. The futures markets become orgies of speculation. It is a dramatic amount of speculation that drives up prices. The result is that the consumers in this country, I think, are seriously injured by what is happening. All of the pain is on the side of the person who is driving up to the gas pump or the farmer who is trying to figure out how to pay for the fuel he needs for spring planting. All of the gain is on the side of the enterprises, the major integrated oil companies, making the highest profits in the history of corporations, and the OPEC countries. And the royal family of Saudi Arabia thanks you.

This is something wrong with this. I understand that we have long-term problems and we need aggressive energy policies that address them. I have been working for some long while on the issue of trying to pole-vault over the circumstances by which we power our vehicle fleet in this country. We need to get to a hydrogen fuel cell future, with twice the efficiency of power to the wheel. You put water vapor out the tailpipe using hydrogen and fuel cells. We have, for a century, decided we are going to use gasoline to run through carburetors, and now fuel injectors, to power our vehicles. It doesn't make sense to me. Sixty percent of all of the oil comes from troubled parts of the world—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Venezuela. It makes no sense to be that dependent and for America to be hostage to that situation.

We need to move to a different future. I think it ought to be hydrogen and fuel cell. Even as we move along, we are never going to not need oil, natural gas and coal, but at least let's remove our addiction to finding it from troubled parts of the world that hold our economy hostage. We need to increase production of fossil fuels and do it in a way that doesn't injure our environment. We need to do much more with respect to renewables. I am talking about the biofuels, ethanol, and biodiesel. We need to do much more with respect to efficiency as well. Everything that we do every day with light switches and virtually everything that powers everything we do needs to be made much more efficient.

We need to tell the auto makers that you cannot do this anymore; you cannot build 5,000-pound cars that get 15 miles per gallon. At least we should say to consumers that it is not in your interest to buy them. We ought to say to the auto companies that the way you are going to compete best is to make efficient cars, and we are going to hold you to a better and higher standard. In the long term, we understand this.

We suck 84 million barrels of oil out of this planet of ours every single day—84 million barrels a day out of this Earth. We use one-fourth of it in the United States. This little spot uses one-fourth of all of the oil. China has 1.3 billion people. They now have 20 million automobiles. In 15 years, China is going to have 120 million automobiles. They are going to add 100 million automobiles to the roads. Where is the energy going to come from? That is the question.

That is why I say we have long-term issues we have to deal with. We have to decide that we are going to go to a different future. Senator LINDSAY GRAHAM from South Carolina and I had a caucus on hydrogen and fuel cells. If you don't care where you are going, you are never going to be lost. You have to decide what your destination is. What policies do we want for our energy future? We cannot sit around thumbing our suspenders and bellowing about all of these issues and doing nothing about them.

We passed an Energy bill a while ago—and my compliments to Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN. I am one of the senior members on the Energy Committee. I helped write the renewable fuels title and the hydrogen fuel cell title. But we need to do much more. And at the moment, what has happened to oil prices at \$75 a barrel—when the major oil companies had their highest profits in history when oil was at \$40 a barrel, it is fundamentally unfair to American consumers. We need to do something about it. I would like to vote on that in the Senate.

I think it is important to consider how do we deal with this issue because this is clearly unfair. The oil industry is important to us. I have done a number of things to try to be helpful to

them. But when I see something that is wrong, I think we ought to set it right. The oil industry is upset with my saying, look, if you are going to accumulate these profits, use them to reduce price; and if they are not going to do that, we ought to recapture it and use it as a rebate exclusively to the American consumers and find a way—not this \$100 nonsense that floated around here, but a real rebate that takes some pressure off of these American consumers. I think that is something that we have a responsibility to do.

I want to mention as well that yesterday we passed an emergency supplemental bill. The reason we are dealing with an emergency bill is that President asks for zero money, no money in his budget for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have spoken on the floor many times about that. The administration comes in and says, all right, we don't know how much it is going to cost to have our soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, so we are not going to ask for money in the regular budget. We are going to ask for it later as an emergency, so it doesn't count and isn't scored, and we add it to the Federal deficit. That is a game. It should not happen. We are now spending somewhere between \$7 billion to \$10 billion a month in Iraq and Afghanistan. Honest budgeting would require this administration to say here is what we think we are going to spend this year and ask for the money; then figure out how we are going to pay for it. Is the only sacrifice we are going to ask from the soldiers who we say, go to Iraq for a year, or the National Guard to whom we say, put your boots on and for the next 16 or 18 months you are going to be gone from your home, your family, your job—you are a citizen soldier, but you are going to spend 12 months in Iraq and 4 or 5 months perhaps training to get there. So we are going to take you away from home for 16, 18 months. Is that the only sacrifice being asked in this country? Could we perhaps, as a Congress, decide to ask the people to begin to pay for the cost of this? Is that wrong to ask the American people to sacrifice as well? We have to spend this money, so maybe we can all pay for it.

The President doesn't want to do that. The President doesn't want to confront the reality of where our fiscal policy is. We are far off track. We have the biggest deficits in history, and I know they brag that they say our deficit is only going to be \$300 billion, \$350 billion in the coming year. But look at the increase in debt. They are to go borrow more than \$600 billion in the coming year. In addition, they are borrowing over \$700 billion for the biggest trade deficit in history. We are out of kilter to the tune of \$1.4 trillion, and they snore their way through all of this.

Just hang around, shine your shoes, thumb your suspenders and snore a little. Don't worry, things will be happy, things will be better.

What a dysfunctional system. The American people, I think, deserve this Congress and this President to stare truth in the eye and understand what is going on, yes, in fiscal policy, in health care, in education, in military policy and, yes, in foreign policy. I don't think, regrettably, that is happening.

There is a remarkable thing that happens in this country, and that is every even-numbered year, our Constitution provides the American people grab the steering wheel.

Last weekend, I was in Philadelphia. I went to the Constitution Center. It was the first time I had been back to Philadelphia in a while. I remember something that happened, I believe, in 1988. In 1988—I think I have the year right—was the 200th birthday of the writing of the Constitution.

As all of us remember, the Constitution was written by 55 White men. Fifty-five White men went into a room in Philadelphia, pulled the shades—there was no air-conditioning; it was a hot Philadelphia summer—and they wrote a constitution for this country. George Washington's chair, by the way, is still in that room.

When you go to the room and see where they sat, you will notice George Washington's chair is still there with half a rising Sun decorated on the back of the chair. Ben Franklin sat over here. Mason and Madison sat over here.

So on the 200th birthday—at the time 55 White men wrote the Constitution, and I emphasize "White men" only to make the point that our country has changed in the way we govern and the way we respond—55 Americans went back into that room in Philadelphia. I was one of the 55 chosen to go back into that room to be involved in the 200th anniversary ceremony of the writing of the Constitution. Among the 55 were men, women, minorities.

It was pretty remarkable. I sat in that room thinking about coming from a small school in North Dakota and studying the Constitution, understanding the first three words, "We the people," and then trying to think back a couple hundred years in which these 55 men, really remarkable people who wrote this framework of ours, the framework of our Government, that has been altered only 17 times in over 220 years, outside of the 10 amendments for the Bill of Rights.

I tried to think of how they were evaluating what kind of country is this, what kind of country will it become, and what kind of a constitutional framework will be flexible enough to allow it to change with changing times.

It is pretty remarkable what they did. The work they did was pretty dramatic. It is work that is the creation of the most successful democracy in the history of humankind, and it is relatively young, not much more than a couple hundred years old. Not very old. And yet it is the most successful in the history of humankind.

It provides for the separation of powers, branches of Government—legislative, judicial, and executive. And it provides that the American people, we the people, are in charge. All the power in America is in the power of one—one person casting one vote on one day. That is all the power in America. There are no guns. There are no armies that march. There is just the power of one enumerated in the Constitution that on even-numbered years, the American people one by one grab America's steering wheel.

The reason I mention that is this is another even-numbered year. We have two grand political parties in this country. I am not somebody who believes one is all bad and one is all good. Both parties have contributed substantially to this country's past, and I hope they will contribute to its future. Occasionally, this country gets off track, and I think we are very seriously off track. It is the case in fiscal policy. It is the case in health policy, certainly the case in foreign policy, immigration policy—you name it.

We have serious problems that require, should require this Congress to stare them in the eye and work in a bipartisan way to fix them. But we have this dysfunctional system. We have a complete abject lack of leadership coming from the White House, in my judgment, with all due respect, and we have a majority party in this Congress that now in the next series of issues dealing, for example, with health care costs will decide next week that we should not be able to offer amendments to deal with the real issues of health care costs. So we are not addressing head on the kind of issues about which the American people care.

Having said all of that, I want to make the point that if I felt so discouraged that nothing can get done and nothing will get done, it would be hard to get up in the mornings to go to work. But I think there are enough people of good will, enough people who come to these positions who understand that America needs good stewardship, and responsible politics means addressing real issues, as hard as they are and as tough as they are. I think there are enough of them that at some point very soon, we are going to see a different track, a different approach, and we are going to see real efforts to address real problems at long last.

There is much to be concerned about regarding our country's future, but there is also much about which to be hopeful. This country has been a beacon to the world in many ways. We have survived a civil war. We beat back the oppression of Adolf Hitler. We have done so many unbelievable things. We split the atom. We spliced genes. We invented plastic. We invented radar. We invented the telephone, the television, the computer. We built airplanes and learned how to fly them. Then build rockets to fly to the Moon, walk on the Moon, and plant the American Flag. What an unbelievable place this is.

Travel around the world and ask people how they see this country—I haven't talked about immigration, but if tomorrow we said as a country we have no more immigration quotas, this country is open to anyone living anywhere in the world who wishes to come to America, welcome, come and stay and work, if that happened, we understand what the circumstances would be. We would be overrun with immigration.

I landed in a clearing in kind of a jungle area between Nicaragua and Honduras one day. The helicopter ran out of gas. The campesinos had come to see who came down in a helicopter. We had an interpreter with us and started talking because we were lost and didn't get found for some hours. We asked the campesinos from Honduras and Nicaragua: What is it you aspire for your lives? We want to come to America; we want to come to America, they said. Why? Because there is opportunity in America.

It is unbelievable. So if we just said: Look, anybody who wants to come can come, we would be overrun with people coming into this country. We can't do that. This is an Earth that spins around the Sun. It has 6.4 billion people living on it. Half of them have never made a telephone call, half of them live on less than \$2 a day, and 1.5 billion don't have daily access to potable water. And this little spot called the United States is extraordinary, but it didn't get there by accident. It got there because enough people cared about the right things. Yes, about rights—especially rights—women's rights, worker rights, civil rights, the rights that people have, the rights to which people, we the people, refer. Those are fights we have had for a long time.

Having said all that, I still believe there is a great reservoir of hope for this country to have its best 200 years ahead of it. It requires, however, for us to work together and to understand you can't gloss over problems, you have to confront problems and deal with problems in a thoughtful, sensitive way.

I will come on Monday, I assume, and if the plans are as I heard yesterday to bring a bill to the floor and then prevent any other ideas on health care costs, we will be right back in the same dysfunctional approach we have seen for far too long coming from both the White House and the Congress. I think the American people hope for better. They certainly deserve better. And I hope next week we will see something better than that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 20 minutes, and I probably will not speak that long.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for as long as I shall require.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I come to the floor to address two topics today. The first has to do with medical liability, and the second has to do with my resolution to have the Senate express what I think almost every American understands, which is that when we say the Pledge of Allegiance, when we sing the National Anthem, when we take the oath of allegiance for citizenship in America, we should do it in our common language: English.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

Mr. President, first let me express my concern about the medical liability crisis that is occurring in Tennessee and across our country. I am particularly concerned about a crisis in access to medical care for mothers and babies in Tennessee. In 45 of Tennessee's 95 counties, pregnant mothers have to drive for miles to get prenatal health care and to deliver their babies. In 15 of those counties, pregnant mothers have no access whatsoever to any prenatal care within their counties. Only 1 of 104 medical students graduating from Vanderbilt University Medical School in 2004 chose to be an OB-GYN, according to Dr. Frank Boehm, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Dr. Boehm cautions that:

We must not lose sight of the fact that one of the side effects of our current medical malpractice crisis in OB-GYN is a steady loss of medical students choosing to practice one of our most important medical specialties. If this decline in OB-GYN doctors continues, patients having babies or needing high-risk gynecologic care will be faced with access problems this country has not seen.

That is Dr. Frank Boehm, Vanderbilt Medical School, as reported in the *Tennessean* on July 20, 2004.

Dr. Ron Blankenbaker, associate dean of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Chattanooga, said four of the six doctors at UT Family Practice who provided obstetrical care have stopped working in this specialty because of fears of malpractice lawsuits. That was in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* in February of 2005.

It is clear that we are in a medical crisis and we must do something to improve access to care for mothers and their babies. For this reason, I am

proud to be a cosponsor of S. 23, the Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act, a bill to protect access to care for mothers and babies by providing medical liability reform for obstetric and gynecological care. I am also proud to be a cosponsor of S. 22, the Medical Care Access Protection Act of 2006, a comprehensive medical liability reform bill.

This is the third time during my tenure in the Senate that I have come to the floor to discuss medical liability concerns. While we have debated solutions every time, we have not had the votes necessary to enact those solutions.

Sadly, during this time of inaction, the situation has gotten much worse in my home State of Tennessee. In February of this year, Tennessee was declared a medical liability "Crisis State" by the American Medical Association, joining 20 other crisis States where broken medical liability systems are jeopardizing access to health care.

I have heard from doctors and hospitals from one end of Tennessee to the other, all concerned with the skyrocketing costs of medical liability premiums. The average medical liability insurance premium for Tennessee doctors has increased 84 percent since 1999 due, in large part, to our out-of-control jury awards. That is according to the Tennessee Medical Association. In the past 10 years, 100 percent of cardiac surgeons, 92 percent of OB-GYNs, 92 percent of orthopedists, and 70 percent of all doctors in Tennessee have faced legal action—again, according to the Tennessee Medical Association. The medical liability crisis is driving up the cost of health care for all Tennesseans. The annual cost of defensive medicine,—that is the extra tests and procedures performed by doctors to protect them from lawsuits—is estimated at \$70 to \$120 billion per year, nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Defensive medicine adds \$2 billion to health care costs just for Tennesseans. That is almost \$1,000 for every Tennessee household that is spent on unnecessary defensive medicine costs—tests, and procedures performed by doctors to keep them from getting sued—and they are still getting sued.

In Tennessee, 78 percent of doctors report ordering extra tests and procedures due to litigation fears. Nearly half of those doctors estimate that 20 percent or more of their procedures fall into the defensive medicine category. Again, I believe it is pretty clear we are facing a crisis.

Here is what the bills would do. The Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act and the Medical Care Access Protection Act would help us get out of this crisis. I hope we can pass these bills and see them signed into law. These bills ensure fair and just compensation for patient injury by providing full compensation for economic damages. In plain English, if you

are actually hurt, this bill permits you to be paid 100 percent of the value of those damages. It does not interfere with that at all. If a patient is injured, he or she will have unlimited access to economic damages to pay for recovery.

These bills also place a sensible cap of up to \$750,000 on awards for non-economic damages. The caps on non-economic damages are fashioned after the Texas State law. After Texas passed statewide medical liability reform in 2003, medical malpractice rates decreased, access to care has been increasing, new doctors are moving to Texas, current doctors are staying in Texas, and new insurers are entering the Texas medical liability market, creating more choices for physicians.

I am happy for Texas. A lot of our family lives in Texas. But I would like to see Tennesseans and other Americans have some of these same advantages. Our Senate bills are modeled after the Texas law, and I hope to see this success story spread to Tennessee and spread nationwide because Tennessee mothers and Tennessee babies and all medical patients deserve access to health care.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I turn my attention to another subject, one I have discussed several times. As a courtesy, I want to let my friends on the other side know that I intend to ask unanimous consent, at the end of my remarks, that my resolution be discharged from the Judiciary Committee. I hope that will be approved, but if it is not approved, I want my friends on the other side to know they need to have a way to register their objection before I make that request.

Today is May 5. In Mexico and in Mexican restaurants across this country, today is known as "Cinco de Mayo." That is because today is the day General Ignacio Zaragoza defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III.

In the United States, we often think of this holiday as a good reason to go to a Mexican restaurant and enjoy a margarita, but for our southern neighbors it is a very important holiday. France invaded Mexico in 1862, 41 years after Mexico had won its independence from Spain. It took the Mexicans 5 years, but once they succeeded in driving out the French occupiers, their country was finally free, and it has remained free since that time.

As they celebrate this important day in their nation's history, I have no doubt that many Mexicans will be singing their national anthem, and I suspect they will all sing it in Spanish, their nation's common language.

I make this point because at the beginning of this week, on Monday, I introduced a resolution in the Senate to affirm that here in the United States of America, statements of national unity, especially the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem, ought to be said or sung in our common language—English.

I am not talking about what we are free to do as Americans, I am talking about what we ought to do as Americans.

Last Monday, I offered this resolution which now has 12 cosponsors, including the distinguished Presiding Officer, because I thought it was important for this body to remember what unites us as Americans. Ours is a nation not based upon race, not based upon ethnicity, not based upon national origin, but based upon our shared values, enshrined in our founding documents, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, upon our history as a nation and, yes, upon our shared common language—English.

Every Senate office received a request for this resolution of mine to be passed by unanimous consent. That request was agreed to by every Senator on the Republican side. But the other side, the Democratic side, objected. I can only assume that at least some on the Democratic side objected because at least some of them believe that Americans should, at least some of the time, sing our national anthem in Spanish or some other foreign language. Perhaps they also believe we should recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Chinese, which is the second most spoken foreign language in the United States.

Yesterday, I tried again. I tried to pass this very simple and straightforward resolution. Again I was blocked by objections from the Democratic side. I am surprised by this reaction because leading Hispanic Democrats have said they agree with me.

On Monday, Wolf Blitzer of CNN asked Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa about singing the national anthem in Spanish. Here is what the Mayor of Los Angeles, a Hispanic and a Democrat, had to say in his conversation with Wolf Blitzer:

Wolf, let me just say to you, let me just make it absolutely clear, I was offended, I was offended because, for me, the national anthem is something that I believe deserves respect. And I think that . . . without question, that the vast majority of people in the United States of America were offended as well.

Continuing the quote from the Mayor of Los Angeles, Mayor Villaraigosa:

. . . our anthem should be sung in English. The Spanish and Mexican anthems should be sung in Spanish. The French anthem in French.

So I was offended by it—

Said the Mayor of Los Angeles—

and I think most people were. And remember very few people bought into that. It really was a non-issue, but I think it was important to dismiss it as quickly as possible.

Apparently a few of the very few people in America who buy into that are on the other side of the aisle. They are objecting to this resolution that says, when we start the day with the Pledge of Allegiance, when we sing the national anthem, when we take the oath of allegiance, we ought to do it in our common language, English. It doesn't

require it. It doesn't make it a law. It doesn't say we are not free to do whatever we want to. It just says we ought to. And as the mayor of Los Angeles said, he was offended by the suggestion that we should not do it, and he thought very few people bought into that, it is a nonissue; let's dismiss it as quickly as possible. The way to dismiss it is to adopt this resolution sponsored by 12 Members of the Senate.

I agree with Mayor Villaraigosa, we should dismiss this idea of singing the national anthem in foreign languages as quickly as possible, and that is what I tried to do by offering this resolution.

Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico, also a Democrat and a Hispanic, agrees. He appeared on the CBS "Early Show" with me on Monday morning. We were talking about the day without immigrants. After I explained my view on singing the national anthem in English and talked about this resolution, here is what Governor Richardson had to say:

Well, I agree. The national anthem should be in English. And I believe that, again, most immigrants want to become Americans. They want to learn English. They want to be part of the American mainstream. They wear NFL jerseys. They want to be American.

So I don't believe that view that immigrants want to learn the anthem in Spanish is accurate. I think that was a side show. But, definitely our anthem is English.

That is Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico. But apparently some Senate Democrats disagree. Apparently some of them think we should at least some of the time sing it in a foreign language. But maybe I misunderstood, so let me try again.

Let me say again, I understand from the other side that there is no one here to object, that the Democrats have all gone home, and that if I were to bring up my resolution today, as I had intended to do, that it would pass by unanimous consent without an objection from the Democratic side because no one is here to object.

I think as a matter of Senatorial courtesy I should not do that. I respect my colleagues, and I don't intend to surprise them any more than I would like for them to surprise me. So I will not, today, ask for unanimous consent that S. Res. 458 be discharged from the Judiciary Committee and that the Senate proceed to its consideration and ask that the resolution and preamble be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. I will not do that today.

But I would like to put my friends on the other side on notice that I intend to do this every other day, every other day that I am here and as long as this is not enacted I intend to do it, and each day I will do it in a constructive way. I will try to help the American people have a short civics lesson on what unites us as a country.

This is not a country where our identity is based on our race. This is not a country where our identity is based on our ethnicity or where our ancestors came from. This is a country that is

based on a few ideas that are found in our founding documents, based on our common history, and based on our common language. We are proud to be from wherever we come from or where our ancestors came from. We are prouder to be American. Almost every American agrees with that.

That's why we created our common schools 150 years ago. In the words of Al Shanker, as I said yesterday, we created the common school to help mostly immigrant children learn to read and write in English and learn math and to learn what it meant to be an American. In 1906 we passed a law that anyone who becomes a citizen of this country needs to pass a test in English. Today we require it to be an eight-grade level of understanding of English.

This Senate, by a 91-to-1 vote last month, said that as we consider an immigration bill, we better focus especially, and redouble our efforts, on helping prospective citizens become Americans because when we have a lot of people from other countries come here, the real limit on that is how quickly we can assimilate them into our culture, how quickly they can become Americans. We want new legal immigrants, but we do not want enclaves of people living here who have their allegiance to other countries and who permanently decide to speak another language and who don't pledge allegiance to our flag. That underlies our debate on immigration as much as anything else.

So this is a very fundamental issue for me, and I believe it is so for a great many Americans. It is important for the people of this country to know that 12 of us in the Senate have before this body a very simple resolution, not about what we are made to do but about what we ought to do, and what we ought to do—whether we are at our Boy Scout or Cub Scout meeting or whether we are opening the day in the Senate, and we say the Pledge of Allegiance—we ought to say it in our common language. If we are singing the national anthem before a football game, it ought to be in our common language, English. If we are taking the oath of allegiance required for citizenship in the United States of America, which a half million to a million new citizens do every year, we ought to do so in English.

We ought to say that as Senators. The mayor of Los Angeles said it. He is offended by the idea, he says, that our national anthem should not be sung in some other language. Governor Bill Richardson says it. He agrees. He doesn't think it ought to be an issue.

This bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives. It has strong Democratic support there. What is wrong with the Senate Democrats? Why do they insist, day after day, that our national anthem, our Pledge of Allegiance, and our oath of citizenship ought to be said or sung in some other language than our common language, English?

I would like to get this cleared up.

Out of respect for my colleagues in the Senate and the fact they are not here to object, but they do object, I will not ask unanimous consent today. But I again wish to say to my friends that this floor is for the debating of important issues. This is an important issue. We have so little civics and U.S. history taught in America's schools today that perhaps we need a little civics lesson every single day on the floor of the Senate. I intend to provide it every single day I am here until this legislation is voted on. And when it is voted on, I predict it will pass by a wide margin with bipartisan support; it might even pass with unanimous support.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

THE RISING COST OF GASOLINE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to speak on a matter that has gotten a lot of attention lately, and for good reason. The rising cost of gasoline is hitting all Americans hard. Families, businesses, farmers, and truckers are all hurting as the cost escalates out of control.

With gas prices now hovering around \$3 a gallon, everyone in Congress is looking for a solution or for someone to blame. Unfortunately, some have chosen to pinpoint ethanol as the culprit. However, blaming ethanol for the costs at the pump ignores the fact that crude is at near record highs, and our country is still suffering from a strained domestic refining industry.

Around the country, gasoline refiners are making a voluntary decision to remove MTBE, a gasoline additive, from the market. In its place, they are using ethanol. So, ethanol is currently being blended for the first time in many parts of the East Coast and in Texas.

Because of the new demand for ethanol, some of my colleagues have begun to argue that there is a shortage and that it is responsible for the rising cost of gasoline. They look to increased imports of ethanol, and the lifting of the import tariff, as the solution. Let me be clear: there is no shortage of ethanol. And, ethanol is a tiny fraction of cost of gasoline.

You don't have to take my word for it. Guy Caruso, Administrator of the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy, recently stated that the 10 percent blend of ethanol is affecting prices by "just a few

pennies." Ethanol's role in gasoline prices is a tiny fraction of the overall increase.

I would like to address the claim that there is a shortage of ethanol. According to the Energy Information Administration, 130,000 barrels per day of ethanol are needed to replace MTBE. Last month, 302,000 barrels of ethanol were produced each day. That seems to me like it is enough to meet the demand. There is also 25 days of ethanol supply in storage.

Have there been some transportation issues surrounding the transition from MTBE to ethanol? The answer is yes, and they're being dealt with. Sufficient supplies of ethanol are where they need to be. There is no shortage of ethanol.

If there is no shortage, what good does it do to eliminate the import tariff on imported ethanol? None. Domestic supplies are sufficient.

Lifting the tariff won't have an impact on gas prices because the only other major producer of ethanol—Brazil—simply doesn't have enough ethanol to export at significant levels at this time. I know this issue well. I was in Brazil just six weeks ago, and one thing I heard over and over was that Brazil is experiencing an ethanol shortage.

Shortages of ethanol in Brazil are being driven by strong demand for ethanol in that country. Looking at the longer term, USDA analysts in Brazil are reporting that Brazil is anticipating even higher demand for ethanol later this year and in 2007.

Given low supplies in Brazil, there has even been talk of importing ethanol into Brazil.

I would like to point out something else. Brazil and other countries can already ship duty-free ethanol to the United States. They don't have to pay the U.S. tariff. Under the Caribbean Basin Initiative, Brazilian ethanol that is merely dehydrated in a Caribbean country can enter the U.S. market duty-free up to 7 percent of the U.S. ethanol market. That's generous access, but Brazil has never even come close to hitting the 7 percent cap.

And it isn't that the Caribbean countries don't have the capacity to dehydrate more Brazilian ethanol. They do.

As we're already providing duty-free access for Brazilian ethanol shipped through Caribbean countries, and as Brazil isn't taking full advantage of this duty-free treatment, I don't know why we should bend over backwards to provide even more duty-free access for Brazilian ethanol.

I especially don't know why we should do this given Brazil's stance in the Doha Round negotiations of the World Trade Organization. Brazil is the leader of the G-20 negotiating group in the WTO negotiations, a group that is resisting our efforts to obtain improved market access for U.S. products around the world.

In addition, the Brazilian government intervenes extensively in the price and supply of ethanol in that

country. But the U.S. tariff on ethanol operates as an offset to an excise tax credit that applies to both domestically produced and imported ethanol. So by lifting the tariff, we would in effect be giving the benefits of a U.S. tax credit to subsidized Brazilian ethanol.

Providing yet more duty-free treatment for Brazilian ethanol would send the wrong signal to those Americans who are devoting their careers to help America become more energy independent. The U.S. ethanol industry is working every day to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. This is a virtue that President Bush has touted again and again.

Just last week the President restated his goal to replace oil from around the world by expanding the use of U.S. ethanol.

The President stated:

The federal government has got a role to play to encourage new industries that will help this nation diversify away from oil. And so we're strongly committed to corn-based ethanol produced in America.

The President clearly understands the need to assist our domestic ethanol industry so that they can get a foothold and succeed. Why would the United States want to send a signal that we're backing away from our efforts to seek energy independence by promoting renewable fuels in the United States?

We're already dependent on foreign oil. Surely, President Bush doesn't intend for our nation to go down the path of eventually becoming dependent on foreign ethanol also. Providing yet more duty-free treatment would be a step in the wrong direction. I don't think our country should take any action that would harm the farmers and investors in rural America that have worked so hard to develop this industry. The efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil have only just begun.

Providing more duty-free treatment for ethanol won't increase supplies or reduce prices at the pump. It's a bad solution in search of a problem. It's a bad idea for our energy independence and our national security.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

LIMITING THE TERM OF THE PUBLIC TRUSTEES OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to comment on legislation that Chairman GRASSLEY and I introduced yesterday that would limit public trustees for Social Security and Medicare to a single four-year term of service. The bill, S. 2752, will also codify that the President should consult with Congress on the nominations of public trustees for these important programs. This legislation was prompted by recent events.

Upon learning last November that the White House intended to renominate John L. Palmer and Thomas R.

Saving as public trustees, Chairman GRASSLEY and I both responded immediately that the White House should find two new individuals to nominate as public trustees. Both individuals had already served one term as Social Security and Medicare public trustees, and their terms ended in March 2005. Dr. Palmer and Dr. Saving served admirably as public trustees during their term and the Chairman and I thank them for their service, but I did not want to see an important tradition abandoned. Never in the history of the public trustees have individuals served more than one term, and that's for good reason. Fresh thinking and new ideas are critical to the proper assessment and administration of the Social Security and Medicare programs. If the executive branch will not voluntarily follow this vital precedent, this principle must be written into law.

There was a second problem last year. The White House is supposed to consult with the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee before sending the nominations to the Senate. Unfortunately, no such consultation occurred last year prior to the nominations being forwarded to the Senate. Therefore, the bill adds language to the Social Security Act requiring the President to consult with the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Finance before considering individuals to be nominated as public trustees.

Ignoring our views, on April 19 of this year, the White House announced the recess appointments of Mr. Palmer and Mr. Saving as public trustees of the Social Security and Medicare programs. I immediately objected to this action by the White House because I believe the role of the public trustees is too important to be diminished by the recess appointment process. It was this extreme action on the part of the White House—in combination with the other two problems I mentioned previously—that prompted the chairman and me to introduce this bill today.

I think some good has come out of this unfortunate episode regarding the public trustees. Hopefully, everyone has a better understanding of the role of the public trustees. The Greenspan Commission recommended creating the positions of two public trustees to help ensure that the reports on the Social Security and Medicare trust funds were objective and not solely the work of administration officials. The Greenspan Commission envisioned experts from outside the executive branch who are confirmed by the Senate. They are unlike most other Presidential appointments because they do not represent the administration, they represent the public. Because of that unique distinction, it is inappropriate to recess appoint the public trustees. Individuals who are nominated to be public trustees should be selected by a process of consultation between the White House and Members of Congress. Once confirmed by the Senate, they should only

serve one term. To do otherwise undermines the public trustees' role as an objective check on the production of the trust fund reports.

Since this legislation should not spark any controversy, I hope both Chambers will quickly consider and pass this bill and send it to the President for his signature.●

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 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2459. A bill to improve cargo security, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 2754. A bill to derive human pluripotent stem cell lines using techniques that do not knowingly harm embryos; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THOMAS:

S. 2755. A bill to enhance the energy production, refining, infrastructure, conservation and efficiency capabilities of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2756. A bill to authorize the President to utilize Federal equipment, supplies, facilities, personnel, and other non-monetary resources to assist utility companies that contribute to recovery efforts from the effects of a major disaster; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

S. 811

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 811, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to improve the national program to register and monitor individuals who commit crimes against children or sex offenses.

S. 1325

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1325, a bill to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity and eating disorder prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges.

S. 2486

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2486, a bill to ensure that adequate actions are taken to detect, prevent, and minimize the consequences of chemical releases that result from terrorist attacks and other criminal activity that may cause substantial harm to public health and safety and the environment.

S. 2487

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2487, a bill 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.

S. 2491

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2491, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

S. 2677

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the investment tax credit with respect to solar energy property and qualified fuel cell property, and for other purposes.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2703, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2756. A bill to authorize the President to utilize Federal equipment, supplies, facilities, personnel, and other non-monetary resources to assist utility companies that contribute to recovery efforts from the effects of a major disaster; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that would make a change to the Stafford Act that, in some cases, could facilitate recovery from natural disasters.

Governments on the local, State and Federal level have a primary and critical responsibility when it comes to responding to natural disasters. A wide variety of private organizations also play an important role in the recovery process that complements and facilitates public response efforts. In the case of private utility companies, their work to restore normal telecommunications, power, and other services in a disaster area can greatly speed the recovery process.

Our investigation into the response to Hurricane Katrina has shown that a number of utility companies were hampered in their recovery efforts by shortages of fuel, transportation, equipment, and other resources in the afflicted areas. In some cases, we also found that FEMA had supplies of scarce resources, received requests to share those resources but lacked the legal authority to do so.

What this bill would do is provide FEMA authority to share its resources during a disaster—at FEMA's discretion and for full compensation. This would allow FEMA—in those cases where it has sufficient resources to share—to advance the recovery process in the wake of a disaster at no expense to the Government.

Mr. President, I am introducing this commonsense legislation because it will incrementally improve our capacity to respond to disasters without additional costs to the Government. I ask for my colleagues' support.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Dr. Alex Mason and Jay Khosla, fellows in the majority leader's office, and Dr. Roger Johns, a fellow for Senator HATCH, for the duration of the debate on S. 22, S. 23, and S. 1995.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 from 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:

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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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 Saxby Chambliss:									
Switzerland	Franc		570.00						570.00
Kuwait	Dinar		406.00						406.00
United Arab Emirates	Dinar		519.00						519.00
Germany	Euro		304.00						304.00
Krister Holladay:									
Kuwait	Dinar		406.00						406.00
United Arab Emirates	Dinar		519.00						519.00
Germany	Euro		304.00						304.00
Clyde Taylor:									
Kuwait	Dinar		406.00						406.00
United Arab Emirates	Dinar		519.00						519.00

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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006—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
Germany	Euro		304.00						304.00
Shawn Whitman:									
Italy	Euro		55.00		10.00				65.00
Pakistan	Rupee		43.00						43.00
Kuwait	Dinar		750.00						750.00
England	Pound		203.00						203.00
Craig Thomas:									
Italy	Euro		13.27		10.00				23.27
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Kuwait	Dinar		273.00						273.00
England	Pound		125.00						125.00
Total			5,744.27		20.00				5,764.27

SAXBY CHAMBLISS,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Apr. 17, 2006.

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 APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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 Ted Stevens:									
Italy	Euros		2,880.25						2,880.25
Switzerland	Franc		944.75						944.75
Belgium	Euros		432.00						432.00
United States	Dollar				7,000.03				7,000.03
Sid Ashworth:									
Italy	Euros		2,880.25						2,880.25
Switzerland	Franc		944.75						944.75
Belgium	Euros		432.00						432.00
United States	Dollar				7,000.03				7,000.03
Senator Mitch McConnell:									
Argentina	Peso		556.00						556.00
Brazil	Real		370.00						370.00
Chile	Peso		354.00						354.00
Paul Grove:									
Argentina	Peso		556.00						556.00
Brazil	Real		370.00						370.00
Chile	Peso		354.00						354.00
Roy E. Brownwell:									
Argentina	Peso		556.00						556.00
Brazil	Real		300.00						300.00
Chile	Peso		354.00						354.00
Thomas Hawkins:									
Argentina	Peso		556.00						556.00
Brazil	Real		370.00						370.00
Chile	Peso		354.00						354.00
Austria	Euro		954.00						954.00
United States	Dollar				5,684.72				5,684.72
Alycia Farrell:									
Germany	Euro		649.00						649.00
Italy	Euro		1,379.00						1,379.00
United States	Dollar				5,688.75				5,688.75
Brian Potts:									
Japan	Dollar		816.00						816.00
Republic of Korea	Dollar		716.00						716.00
United States	Dollar				5,198.69				5,198.69
Brian T. Wilson:									
Japan	Dollar		816.00						816.00
Republic of Korea	Dollar		716.00						716.00
United States	Dollar				5,198.69				5,198.69
Sid Ashworth:									
Japan	Dollar		816.00						816.00
Republic of Korea	Dollar		716.00						716.00
United States	Dollar				3,218.19				3,218.19
Dennis Balkham:									
Germany	Euro		304.00						304.00
Italy	Euro		1,173.00						1,173.00
United States	Dollar				5,540.29				5,540.29
Sean Knowles:									
Germany	Euro		304.00						304.00
Italy	Euro		1,173.00						1,173.00
United States	Dollar				5,535.29				5,535.29
Christina Evans:									
Germany	Euro		304.00						304.00
Italy	Euro		1,173.00						1,173.00
United States	Dollar				5,510.29				5,510.29
Paul Grove:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		442.00						442.00
Vietnam	Dollar		490.00						490.00
Cambodia	Dollar		424.00						424.00
Thailand	Dollar		464.00						464.00
United States	Dollar				8,230.26				8,230.26
Timothy Rieser:									
Uganda	Dollar		235.00						235.00
Kenya	Dollar		690.00						690.00
Dem Rep Congo	Dollar		245.00						245.00
United States	Dollar				5,128.00				5,128.00
El Salvador	Dollar		435.00						435.00
Guatemala	Dollar		450.00						450.00
United States	Dollar				877.00				877.00
Katherine Eltrich:									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		326.83						326.83
Afghanistan	Dollar		360.00						360.00
France	Euro		453.00						453.00
United States	Dollar				7,294.20				7,294.20
Jennifer Park:									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		326.83						326.83

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 APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006—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
Afghanistan	Dollar		360.00						360.00
France	Euro		453.00						453.00
United States	Dollar				7,294.20				7,294.20
James Ward Poole:									
Netherlands	Euro		968.62						968.62
Total			32,696.28		84,398.63				117,094.91

THAD COCHRAN,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Apr. 25, 2006.

AMENDED 4TH QUARTER—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 APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2005

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 J. Durbin:									
Dem Repub Congo	Dollar		368.00						368.00
Rwanda	Dollar		454.00						454.00
Kenya	Dollar		444.00		444.00				888.00
France	Dollar		906.00						906.00
United States	Dollar				9,370.00				9,370.00
Michael E. Daly:									
Dem Repub Congo	Dollar		368.00						368.00
Rwanda	Dollar		454.00						454.00
Kenya	Dollar		444.00		444.00				888.00
France	Dollar		906.00						906.00
United States	Dollar				6,665.05				6,665.05
Total			4,344.00		16,923.05				21,267.05

THAD COCHRAN,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Feb. 3, 2006.

AMENDED 4TH QUARTER—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 APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVE FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2005

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 Robert Bennett:									
China	Yuan		292.00						292.00
Thailand	Baht		282.00						282.00
Cambodia	Dollar		282.00						282.00
Vietnam	Dollar		232.00						232.00
Kyrgyzstan	Dollar		119.00						119.00
Chip Yost:									
China	Yuan		292.00						292.00
Thailand	Baht		282.00						282.00
Cambodia	Dollar		232.00						232.00
Vietnam	Dollar		232.00						232.00
Kyrgyzstan	Dollar		119.00						119.00
Total			2,364.00						2,364.00

THAD COCHRAN,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Feb. 3, 2006.

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 ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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
Sandra E. Luff:									
United States	Dollar				6,369.70				6,369.70
Qatar	Rial		252.13						252.13
Afghanistan	Dollar		50.00						50.00
Pakistan	Rupee		509.26						509.26
India	Rupee		1,021.39						1,201.39
Evelyn N. Farkas:									
United States	Dollar				6,369.70				6,369.70
Qatar	Rial		190.00						190.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		30.00						30.00
Pakistan	Rupee		431.00						431.00
India	Rupee		869.00						869.00
Senator Jack Reed:									
United States	Dollar				8,821.44				8,821.44
Kuwait	Dollar		272.00						272.00
Qatar	Dollar		45.00						45.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		1.50						1.50
Pakistan	Dollar		181.00						181.00
Elizabeth King:									
United States	Dollar				8,821.44				8,821.44
Kuwait	Dollar		272.00						272.00
Qatar	Dollar		45.00						45.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		2.50						2.50
Pakistan	Dollar		194.00						194.00

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 ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006—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
Senator John McCain:									
Germany	Euro		4.60						4.60
Senator Lindsey O. Graham:									
Germany	Euro		251.15						251.15
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
Germany	Dollar		541.20						541.20
Frederick M. Downey:									
Germany	Euro		588.20						588.20
Mark Salter:									
Germany	Dollar		348.00						348.00
Richard H. Fontaine, Jr.:									
Germany	Dollar		348.00						348.00
Michael J. McCord:									
United States	Dollar				7,495.00				7,495.00
Kuwait	Dollar		1,188.00						1,188.00
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
United States	Dollar				6,579.29				6,579.29
Cameroon	Dollar		102.00						102.00
Uganda	Dollar		120.00						120.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		70.00						70.00
Germany	Dollar		103.00						103.00
John Bonsell:									
United States	Dollar				6,639.29				6,639.29
Cameroon	Dollar		152.00						152.00
Uganda	Dollar		160.00						160.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		117.00						117.00
Germany	Dollar		128.65						128.65
Mark Powers:									
United States	Dollar				6,579.29				6,579.29
Cameroon	Dollar		162.00						162.00
Uganda	Dollar		120.00						120.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		70.00						70.00
Germany	Dollar		85.00						85.00
Senator Lindsey O. Graham:									
United States	Dollar				8,322.47				8,322.47
China	Dollar		1,147.20				110.77		1,257.97
Hong Kong	Dollar		17.81				20.13		37.94
Matthew R. Rinkunas:									
United States	Dollar				8,489.00				8,489.00
China	Dollar		1,027.00				26.00		1,053.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		41.00				13.00		54.00
Richard H. Fontaine, Jr.:									
New Zealand	Dollar		840.00						840.00
Richard H. Fontaine, Jr.:									
Switzerland	Dollar		579.00						579.00
Senator John Thune:									
Kuwait	Dinar		259.92						259.92
Jordan	Dinar		269.50						269.50
Richard H. Fontaine, Jr.:									
Kuwait	Dinar		323.42						323.42
Jordan	Dinar		330.80						330.80
William M. Caniano:									
Italy	Euro		125.00						125.00
Kuwait	Dollar		325.00						325.00
United Kingdom	Pound		228.00						228.00
Turkey	Dollar		10.00						10.00
Charles S. Abell:									
Italy	Euro		125.00						125.00
Pakistan	Rupee		50.00						50.00
Kuwait	Dinar		325.00						325.00
United Kingdom	Pound		228.00						228.00
Daniel J. Cox, Jr.:									
Italy	Euro		124.00						124.00
Kuwait	Dollar		363.00						363.00
United Kingdom	Pound		262.80						262.80
Senator Jeff Sessions:									
Italy	Euro		13.27		10.00				23.27
Pakistan	Rupee		25.00						25.00
Kuwait	Dollar		273.00						273.00
United Kingdom	Pound		125.00						125.00
Arch Galloway II:									
Italy	Euro		95.00		6.00				101.00
Pakistan	Rupee		65.00						65.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		15.00						15.00
Kuwait	Dollar		318.00						318.00
United Kingdom	Pound		267.00		40.25				307.25
Total			17,222.30		74,542.87		169.90		91,935.07

JOHN WARNER,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Apr. 28, 2006.

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 JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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:									
United States	Dollar				7,268.49				7,268.49
United Kingdom	Pound		891.00						891.00
Luxemburg	Euro		172.00						172.00
Switzerland	Franc		1,730.00						1,730.00
Kathleen L. Casey:									
United States	Dollar				7,268.49				7,268.49
United Kingdom	Pound		891.00						891.00
Luxemburg	Euro		172.00						172.00
Switzerland	Franc		1,588.00						1,588.00
Steven B. Harris:									
United States	Dollar				7,268.49				7,268.49

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 JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006—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
United Kingdom	Pound		793.00						793.00
Luxemburg	Euro		172.00						172.00
Switzerland	Franc		1,533.00						1,533.00
Senator Mel Martinez:									
United States	Dollar				4,679.91				4,679.91
Portugal	Euro		135.00						135.00
Spain	Euro		2,660.00						2,660.00
Melissa Shuffield:									
United States	Dollar				4,797.41				4,797.41
Portugal	Euro		135.00						135.00
Spain	Euro		2,660.00						2,660.00
Total			13,532.00		31,282.79				44,814.79

RICHARD SHELBY,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Apr. 3, 2006.

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 THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1, TO MAR. 31, 2006

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
Maureen O'Neill:									
United States	Dollar				7,253.43				7,253.43
United Kingdom	Pound		1,760.00						1,760.00.43
Total			1,760.00		7,253.43				9,013.43

JUDD GREGG,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Budget Committee, Mar. 31, 2006.

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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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 Sununu:									
United States	Dollar				7,561.57				7,561.57
New Zealand	Dollar		737.75						737.75
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison:									
United States	Dollar				7,309.05				7,309.05
Germany	Euro		348.00						348.00
Senator Gordon Smith:									
United States	Dollar				7,841.25				7,841.25
Belgium	Euro		575.25						575.25
Spain	Euro		760.00						760.00
Robert Epplin:									
United States	Dollar				7,841.25				7,841.25
Belgium	Euro		386.72						386.72
Spain	Euro		760.00						760.00
Floyd Deschamps:									
United States	Dollar				6,817.15				6,817.15
Belgium	Euro		664.00						664.00
Switzerland	Franc		408.00						408.00
France	Euro		246.00						246.00
Jean Toal Eisen:									
United States	Dollar				887.72				887.72
Switzerland	Franc		238.00						238.00
Jeff Bingham:									
United States	Dollar				7,609.43				7,609.43
Netherlands	Euro		154.00						154.00
Switzerland	Franc		308.00						308.00
France	Euro		146.00						146.00
Total			12,548.87		39,050.27				51,599.14

TED STEVENS,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce Science and Transportation,
Apr. 13, 2006.

AMENDED 4TH QUARTER—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 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2005

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 Pete V. Domenici:									
United States	Dollar				6,659.36				6,659.36
France	Euro		235.00		36.32				271.32
Netherlands	Euro		144.12						144.12
United Kingdom	Pound		409.32						409.32
Edward G. Hild:									
United States	Dollar				6,714.18				6,714.18
France	Euro				36.32				36.32
Netherlands	Euro		144.12						144.12
United Kingdom	Pound		273.32						273.32
Clint Williamson:									
United States	Dollar				6,714.18				6,714.18

AMENDED 4TH QUARTER—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 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2005—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
France	Euro		235.00		36.32				271.32
Netherlands	Euro		144.12						144.12
United Kingdom	Pound		273.32						273.32
Kathryn Clay:									
United States	Dollar				348.00				348.00
Canada	Dollar		800.00						800.00
Total			2,658.32		20,544.68				23,203.00

PETE V. DOMENICI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Apr. 6, 2006.

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 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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
Joshua Johnson:									
United States	Dollar				11,538.30				11,538.30
Japan	Yen		166.71						166.71
Micronesia	Dollar		377.99		360.00				737.99
Allen Stayman:									
United States	Dollar				8,572.00				8,572.00
Micronesia	Dollar		285.15						285.15
Senator Jeff Bingaman:									
Italy	Euro		407.80						407.80
Pakistan	Rupee		184.00						184.00
Kuwait	Dinar		359.91						359.91
Turkey	Lira		171.99						171.99
United Kingdom	Pound		487.80						487.80
Jonathan Davey:									
Italy	Euro		407.80						407.80
Pakistan	Rupee		184.00						184.00
Kuwait	Dinar		544.82						544.82
Turkey	Kira		196.99						196.99
United Kingdom	Pound		487.80						487.80
Total			4,262.76		20,470.30				24,733.06

PETE DOMENICI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Apr. 6, 2006.

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 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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
Christy Plumer:									
United States	Dollar				7,697.00				7,697.00
Brazil	Real		950.00						950.00
Dan Utech:									
United States	Dollar				7,697.00				7,697.00
Brazil	Real		950.00						950.00
Jo-Ellen Darcy:									
United States	Dollar				7,697.00				7,697.00
Brazil	Real		950.00						950.00
Stephen Aaron:									
United States	Dollar				7,697.00				7,697.00
Brazil	Real		950.00						950.00
Alison Taylor:									
United States	Dollar				7,697.00				7,697.00
Brazil	Real		950.00						950.00
Senator James Jeffords:									
United States	Dollar				1,519.38				1,519.38
Costa Rica	Colon		1,767.00						1,767.00
Margaret Wetherald:									
United States	Dollar				1,519.38				1,519.38
Costa Rica	Colon		1,817.00						1,817.00
Ken Connolly:									
United States	Dollar				1,838.38				1,838.38
Costa Rica	Colon		2,336.00						2,336.00
Geoff Brown:									
United States	Dollar				1,599.72				1,599.72
Costa Rica	Colon		2,077.00						2,077.00
William Holbrook:									
Belgium	Euro		537.80						537.80
John Shanahan:									
Belgium	Euro		537.80						537.80
Total			13,822.60		44,961.86				58,784.46

JAMES INHOFE,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Apr. 26, 2006.

AMENDED QUARTER—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 FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2005

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 Mike Crapo:									
China	Yuan		292.00						292.00
Thailand	Baht		283.00						283.00
Cambodia	Riel		282.00						282.00
Vietnam	Dong		232.00						232.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		119.00						119.00
Josh Kardon:									
China	Yuan		292.00						292.00
Thailand	Baht		283.00						283.00
Cambodia	Riel		282.00						282.00
Vietnam	Dong		232.00						232.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		119.00						119.00
Total			2,416.00						2,416.00

CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Feb. 13, 2006.

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 FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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 Joseph R. Biden, Jr.:									
United States	Dollar				8,847.50				8,847.50
Senator Russ Feingold:									
Thailand	Baht		532.00						532.00
Indonesia	Rupiah		590.00						590.00
Malaysia	Dollar		53.00						53.00
United States	Dollar				7,305.09				7,305.09
Senator John Kerry:									
United Kingdom	Pound		229.00						229.00
India	Rupee		260.00						260.00
Pakistan	Rupee		260.00						260.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				561.00				561.00
Israel	Shekel		278.00						278.00
Jordan	Dinar		551.00						551.00
United States	Dollar				15,195.00				15,195.00
Switzerland	Franc		570.00						570.00
Belgium	Euro		196.00						196.00
United Kingdom	Pound		354.00						354.00
United States	Dollar				3,480.00				3,480.00
Senator Mel Martinez:									
Brazil	Real		370.00						370.00
Argentina	Peso		556.00						556.00
Chile	Peso		354.00						354.00
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
South Korea	Won		390.00						390.00
Japan	Yen		331.00						331.00
China	Yuan		444.00						444.00
United States	Dollar				7,359.60				7,359.60
Canada	Dollar		180.00						180.00
United States	Dollar				1,161.07				1,161.07
Senator Barack Obama:									
Qatar	Rial		156.00						156.00
Kuwait	Dinar		406.00						406.00
Jordan	Dinar		254.00						254.00
Israel	Shekel		750.00						750.00
United States	Dollar				7,606.59				7,606.59
Senator John Sununu:									
Switzerland	Francs		453.12						453.12
Jonah Blank:									
Pakistan	Dollar		1,700.00		5,930.00				7,630.00
United Kingdom	Dollar		100.00						100.00
United States	Dollar				4,118.86				4,118.86
Anthony Blinken:									
United States	Dollar				8,728.20				8,728.20
Isaac Edwards:									
South Korea	Won		390.00						390.00
Japan	Yen		362.00						362.00
China	Yuan		561.00						561.00
United States	Dollar				7,783.60				7,783.60
Canada	Dollar		180.00						180.00
United States	Dollar				1,161.07				1,161.07
Heather Flynn:									
Belgium	Euro		711.07						711.07
Ethiopia	Birr		522.00						522.00
United States	Dollars				8,479.93				8,479.93
Grey Frandsen:									
Thailand	Baht		529.00						529.00
Indonesia	Rupiah		563.00						563.00
Malaysia	Dollar		78.00						78.00
United States	Dollar				7,305.09				7,305.09
Kenya	Shilling		536.32						536.32
Uganda	Shilling		661.00						661.00
United Kingdom	Pound		375.44						375.44
United States	Dollar				9,743.94				9,743.94
Frank Jannuzi:									
Indonesia	Rupiah		1,209.00						1,209.00
United States	Dollar				7,275.00				7,275.00
Mark Lippert:									
Qatar	Rial		156.00						156.00
Kuwait	Dinar		406.00						406.00
Jordan	Dinar		254.00						254.00
Israel	Shekel		750.00						750.00
United States	Dollar				5,961.47				5,961.47
Carl Meacham:									
Haiti	Dollar		456.00						456.00
United States	Dollar				1,121.00				1,121.00

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 FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006—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
Michael Phelan:									
Tunisia	Dinar		453.61						453.61
Libya	Dinar		452.23						452.23
Morocco	Dirham		1,205.80						1,205.80
Algeria	Dinar		718.60						718.60
United States	Dollar				7,532.92				7,532.92
Nilmini Rubin:									
Madagascar	Ariary		784.00						784.00
Tunisia	Dinar		970.00						970.00
United States	Dollar				10,185.93				10,185.93
Nancy Stetson:									
United Kingdom	Pound		212.00						212.00
India	Rupee		1,108.00		333.00				1,441.00
Pakistan	Rupee		358.00						358.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham				561.00				561.00
Israel	Shekel		212.00						212.00
Jordan	Dinar		406.00						406.00
United States	Dollar				14,620.00				14,620.00
Puneet Talwar:									
United States	Dollar				6,457.20				6,457.20
Qatar	Dollar		694.00						694.00
France	Dollar		906.00						906.00
United Kingdom	Dollar		388.00						388.00
Germany	Dollar		532.00						532.00
United States	Dollar				8,556.18				8,556.18
Caroline Tess:									
Haiti	Dollar		456.00						456.00
United States	Dollar				1,121.00				1,121.00
Tomcah Tillemann:									
Hungary	Forint		536.00						536.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		272.00						272.00
Moldova	Leu		176.00						176.00
United States	Dollar				5,154.81				5,154.81
Mark Lippert:									
Uganda	Shilling		830.00						830.00
Kenya	Shilling		733.00						733.00
Republic of Congo	Dollar		274.00						274.00
United States	Dollar				9,292.41				9,292.41
Senator Russ Feingold:									
Kuwait	Dollar		259.92						259.92
Jordan	Dinar		269.00						269.00
Total			32,223.11		182,938.46				215,161.57

RICHARD LUGAR,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Apr. 27, 2006.

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 HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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 Burr:									
Brazil	Real		370.00						370.00
Argentina	Peso		556.00						556.00
Chile	Peso		354.00						354.00
Total			1,280.00						1,280.00

MICHAEL B. ENZI,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
Apr. 26, 2006.

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 SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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 Johnny Isakson:									
United States	Dollar				1,664.00				1,664.00
Mexico	Peso		140.00						140.00
Senator Norm Coleman:									
Mexico	Peso		341.00						341.00
Michael Quiello:									
United States	Dollar				1,076.00				1,076.00
Mexico	Peso		140.00						140.00
Heath Garrett:									
United States	Dollar				1,664.00				1,664.00
Mexico	Peso		140.00						140.00
Raymond Shepherd:									
United States	Dollar				1,076.00				1,076.00
Mexico	Peso		140.00						140.00
Ana Navarro:									
United States	Dollar				1,076.00				1,076.00
Mexico	Peso		140.00						140.00
Eric Mische:									
United States	Dollar				8,376.00				8,376.00
China	Yuan		873.00						873.00
Total			1,914.00		14,932.00				16,846.00

OLYMPIA SNOWE,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
Mar. 29, 2006.

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 VETERANS' AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. TO MAR. 31, 2006

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 Johnny Isakson:									
Kuwait	Dinar		297.00						297.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		360.00						360.00
Germany	Euro		67.00						67.00
Catherine Henson:									
Kuwait	Dinar		297.00						297.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		360.00						360.00
Germany	Euro		67.00						67.00
Chris Carr:									
Kuwait	Dinar		297.00						297.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		360.00						360.00
Germany	Euro		67.00						67.00
Senator Ken Salazar:									
Italy	Euro		60.00						60.00
Kuwait	Dinar		306.00						306.00
United Kingdom	Pound		175.00						175.00
Michelle Gavin:									
Italy	Euro		31.00						31.00
Kuwait	Dinar		600.00						600.00
United Kingdom	Pound		114.00						114.00
Total			3,458.00						3,458.00

LARRY CRAIG,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Mar. 31, 2006.

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 INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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
Nancy St. Louis:									
United States	Dollar		1,072.00		7,130.32				8,202.32
Elizabeth O'Reilly:									
United States	Dollar		992.00		7,130.32				8,122.32
Christopher White:									
United States	Dollar		1,072.00		7,130.32				8,202.32
John Livingston:									
United States	Dollar		972.00		7,334.32				8,306.32
Senator Olympia Snowe:									
United States	Dollar		454.33		7,457.02				7,911.35
John Maguire:									
United States	Dollar		463.06		7,477.22				7,940.28
Samuel Horton:									
United States	Dollar		355.34		7,477.02				7,832.36
Senator Evan Bayh:									
United States	Dollar		1,027.00		5,362.00				6,389.00
Todd Rosenblum:									
United States	Dollar		1,547.00		5,362.00				6,909.00
Louis Tucker:									
United States	Dollar		1,474.00		8,001.94				9,475.94
Total			24,703.89		159,056.98				183,760.87

PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Apr. 7, 2006.

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), PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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
James Heath:									
Switzerland	Franc		944.75						944.75
United States	Dollar				5,584.72				5,584.72
Total			944.75		5,584.72				6,529.47

TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore, Apr. 25, 2006.

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 SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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
Dorothy Taft:									
United States	Dollar				7,968.65				7,968.65
Uzbekistan	Soum		593.91		50.00		37.08		680.99
Austria	Euro		640.36		7.14				647.50
Hon. Christopher H. Smith:									
United States	Dollar				5,684.72				5,684.72
Austria	Euro		620.94						620.94
Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin:									
United States	Dollar				4,980.72				4,980.72
Austria	Euro		931.41						931.41

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 SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006—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
Chadwick R. Gore:									
United States	Dollar				5,684.86				5,684.86
Austria	Euro		931.41						931.41
Shelly Han:									
United States	Dollar				6,388.72				6,388.72
Austria	Euro		714.94						714.94
Dorothy Taft:									
United States	Dollar				4,927.93				4,927.93
Turkey	Lira		1,134.07		143.60		116.60		1,394.27
Shelly Han:									
United States	Dollar				9,385.18				9,385.18
Azerbaijan	Manat		817.00		25.00		100.00		942.00
Kazakhstan	Tenge		1,432.00				158.00		1,590.00
Ron McNamara:									
United States	Dollar				5,680.39				5,680.39
Ukraine	Hryvnia		807.00				45.00		852.00
Orest Deychakiwsky:									
United States	Dollar				5,680.39				5,680.39
Ukraine	Hryvnia		807.00						807.00
Sean Woo:									
United States	Dollar				5,125.49				5,125.49
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,076.00						1,076.00
Dorothy Taft:									
United States	Dollar				6,763.70				6,763.70
Poland	Zloty		572.00						572.00
Hon. Christopher H. Smith:									
United States	Dollar				6,763.70				6,763.70
Poland	Zloty		572.00						572.00
Total			11,650.04		75,260.19		456.68		87,366.91

SAM BROWNBACK,
Chairman, Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Apr. 20, 2006.

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 DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2006

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
Rahul Verma:									
United States	Dollar				1,593.00				1,593.00
Guatemala	Quetzal		404.00						404.00
Total			404.00		1,593.00				1,997.00

HARRY REID,
Democratic Leader, Mar. 28, 2006.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 1 p.m. on Monday, May 8; I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 22, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. On Monday, the Senate will continue to debate issues that I spoke to earlier this morning, issues that are critically needed, very important to slow down the incessant rise in the cost of health care, that will improve the quality of health care, will improve access to health care, will keep my colleagues in medicine from having to desert or leave a State that they want to practice in or leave a profession, a specialty they want to continue, because of exorbitant, high med-

ical premiums that result in frivolous lawsuits.

At 5:15 on Monday, we will have two cloture votes on motions to proceed to a comprehensive medical malpractice bill and a tailored bill designed to give women access to health care. I hope that cloture will be invoked on the motions to proceed so the Senate could begin to debate the merits of those bills. They are very important bills. We have spoken to the substance of those bills today and will continue to do so Monday. I encourage my colleagues to allow us to continue that debate on those bills and bring them to resolution.

If we are unsuccessful, if cloture fails on both of those measures, then we would vote on Tuesday morning on a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the small business health plans bill. All three of these issues are very important pieces of legislation. We have set them up in order that we can deal with them one at a time. We are trying to get on them to debate them, and so far there has been indication that there is going to be attempts to obstruct and stop and not let us get on those. We hopefully will be successful in doing just that.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MAY 8, 2006, AT 1 P.M.

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 8, 2006, at 1 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 5, 2006:

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

KEVIN OWEN STARR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2009, VICE DAVID DONATH, TERM EXPIRED.

KATHERINE M.B. BERGER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2010, VICE NANCY S. DWIGHT, TERM EXPIRED.

KAREN BROSIUS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2006, VICE THOMAS E. LORENTZEN, RESIGNED.

KAREN BROSIUS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2011. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IOANNIS N. MIAOULIS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2010, VICE TERRY L. MAPLE, TERM EXPIRED.

CHRISTINA ORR-CAHALL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2010. SANDRA PICKETT, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2010. (REAPPOINTMENT)

ICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2010. VICE MARIA MERCEDES GULLEMARD, TERM EXPIRED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

U.N. SANCTIONS AFTER OIL-FOR-FOOD: STILL A VIABLE DIPLOMATIC TOOL?

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I, the Ranking Minority Member on the House Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, delivered the following statement to the Subcommittee's hearing on "UN Sanctions After Oil-For-Food: Still A Viable Diplomatic Tool?"

I'd like to thank Chairman SHAYS for holding this hearing and providing Ambassador Bolton the opportunity to testify before this Subcommittee. We are in a critical moment for U.S. policy at the UN, especially regarding Iran. Just last Friday marked the Security Council's deadline for Iran to freeze all nuclear fuel enrichment, and the beginning of the inevitable struggle at the Security Council over what to do to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions.

We've seen this kind of struggle at the Security Council before. The U.S. spent much time in 2002 pressuring the Security Council to take action against Iraq to contain its supposed WMDs. Finally, on November 8, 2002, the Council approved resolution 1441, which imposed tough new arms inspections in Iraq, and promised "serious consequences," to be determined by the Security Council, if Iraq violated the resolution.

Even though Iraq did submit a weapons declaration, and began destroying its Al Samoud missiles as instructed to by UN inspector Hans Blix, serious consequences were imposed on the country anyway. It was the United States, however, and not the Security Council that determined those consequences for Iraq, when President Bush went to war against Iraq on March 20, 2003.

Experience in Iraq has proven that this administration will act unilaterally, outside the mandate of the Security Council, thereby rendering the work of the Council almost irrelevant. At the same time, however, experience has indicated that this administration will use the UN to make its case for war to the world community.

In the coming weeks and months, I think it's fairly predictable that we will see the United States' case for war against Iran unfold at the U.N.

I think it's highly probably that the administration has already made the decision to go to war against Iran. There are already U.S. combat troops inside Iran (REPEAT for emphasis). On April 14th, retired Col. Sam Gardiner related on CNN that the Iranian Ambassador to the IAEA, Aliasghar Soltaniyeh, reported to him that the Iranians have captured dissident forces who have confessed to working with U.S. troops in Iran. Earlier in the week, Seymour Hersh reported in the New Yorker that a U.S. source had told him that U.S. marines were operating in the Baluchi, Azeri and Kurd-

ish regions of Iran. On April 10, the Guardian reported that Vincent Cannistraro, a former CIA counter-terrorism chief, said that covert military action, in the form of special forces troops identifying targets and aiding dissident groups is already under way and that it had been authorized.

We also know from reports that the U.S. is supporting military activity in Iran by Iranian anti-government insurgent groups, some of whom are operating from U.S.-occupied Iraq, such as the terrorist group Mujahedin e-Khalq (MEK). An article published by Newsweek magazine on February 14, 2005 confirms cooperation between U.S. government officials and the MEK. The article describes how "the Administration is seeking to cull useful MEK members as operatives for use against Tehran." Furthermore, an article by Jim Lobe published on Antiwar.com on February 11, 2005 claims that according to Philip Giraldo, a former CIA official and a source in an article about this subject in the American Conservative magazine, U.S. Special Forces have been directing members of the MEK in carrying out reconnaissance and intelligence collection in Iran since the summer of 2004.

Even a statement attributed to Ambassador Bolton, and which I would like elaboration on today, seems to confirm that U.S. policy for Iran is war. According to an article published April 10, 2006 in the Guardian, Ambassador Bolton told British parliamentarians that he believes military action could halt or at least set back the Iranian nuclear program by striking it at its weakest point.

U.S. policy for Iran advocates regime change, not behavior change. We should expect that even if Iran decides to negotiate with the U.S. or other Security Council members over its nuclear program, U.S. policy promoting war in Iran will remain steadfast. When Iraq destroyed its missiles and submitted its weapons declaration, abiding by Security Council Resolution 1441, the Administration decided to unilaterally attack Iraq anyway.

This Administration is reckless and hungry for war. It is imperative that Congress exercise oversight on the Administration's plans for war with Iran before our country is immersed in another quagmire, with more U.S. casualties, diminished national security, and greater a financial burden. I thereby feel very privileged to have Ambassador Bolton with us here today. I have several questions for him regarding the Administration's plans for Iran, and I look forward to his candid answers. Again, thank you, Ambassador for being with us today, and thank you, Chairman SHAYS for holding this hearing.

ISSAQUAH NURSE SERVES OTHERS, DEDICATES LIFE TO WASHINGTON PATIENTS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that nurses play in providing quality care. Nurses are intelligent, well-trained and highly skilled professionals who provide quality clinical and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our Nation's healthcare delivery system.

On behalf of the people in Washington's 8th Congressional District, I would like to specifically acknowledge Patricia Buchsel from Issaquah, Washington for her service on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors and her role as a nursing educator at the Seattle University College of Nursing. She received her BSN from Seattle University and her MS from Seattle Pacific University. Patricia has worked tirelessly to develop, plan and implement countless cancer programs in Washington State.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. According to the American Cancer Society, one in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. This year approximately 28,330 people in Washington state will be diagnosed with cancer and another 11,440 will lose their battles with this terrible disease. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

I would like to once again acknowledge and thank Patricia Buchsel for her hard work and leadership on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors. As a nurse and leader in the field, Patricia has made it her life's mission to help others and she should be applauded for all she has done.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICKY
WHITFIELD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to stand before you today and recognize Ricky Whitfield for his outstanding service to both his high school and community.

Ricky Whitfield is a senior at Aubrey High School in Aubrey, Texas. He is a modern-day

● 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.

renaissance man in the field of athletics by lettering in every major sport for the Chaparrals. Mr. Whitfield's leadership and strong work ethic is legendary in the Aubrey community. Excellence and devotion are the standards by which this young man lives by. In addition to his many athletic talents, Mr. Whitfield acclaimed further notoriety by creating a video at the request of the Aubrey Police Department to warn kids of the dangers of drunk driving on prom night.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission was also very impressed with Mr. Whitfield's work and has since used the video as part of its "Shattered Dreams" campaign in schools around the state. This video should indeed go a long way to warn others of the critical dangers of drunk driving. As he graduates, the impact that Mr. Whitfield has left behind will be felt at Aubrey High School and the Aubrey community for years to come.

I believe that Ricky Whitfield's professionalism should be emulated and his service honored here today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. He is indeed a young man of all trades and I am proud to represent such a person in my district.

CONGRATULATING MR. FRED
TAUL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE TO
REGIONS BANK

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. Fred Taul on the occasion of his retirement from Regions Bank after nearly 40 years of service.

Shortly after graduating from The University of Alabama, Fred began his long and distinguished career in banking with Merchant's National Bank. He remained with the bank, now known as Regions Financial Corporation, for 38 years holding many positions of responsibility while working his way up to local president.

In the midst of his demanding professional schedule, Fred always found time to make Mobile and southwest Alabama a better place to live and work. Among the many groups and organizations that he lent his time and considerable talents, Fred served as chairman of the United Way of Southwest Alabama's 2004 campaign, and he is an active member of Board of Trustees for the Mobile Arts and Sports Association.

On behalf of Regions Bank, Fred was also instrumental in building a tremendous amount of community support for the protection and preservation of the Battleship USS *Alabama*. In no small part due to Fred's leadership, the USS *Alabama* Memorial Park Capital Campaign got off to a strong start.

There are many more people in life who like to talk about what can be done to make their community a better place than there are people who are willing to actually roll up their shirt sleeves and go to work to help make it a better place. Mobile is indeed fortunate that Fred Taul is one of those individuals who always believes in getting the job done. He is an outstanding example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Fred Taul for his many contributions to banking as well as to the Mobile community. South Alabama is a better place because of people like Fred.

As he now faces a challenge unlike any other, I hope Fred knows that his colleagues at the bank and his friends throughout the country are keeping him and his family foremost in our thoughts and prayers.

THE RETIREMENT OF MAYOR
CESAR GONZALEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Cesar Gonzalez, Mayor of the City of San Benito, for his many years of dedicated service to the South Texas community. His extensive efforts and accomplishments throughout his career as a public servant have impacted both the city and people of San Benito.

Mayor Cesar Gonzalez's leadership and involvement in the lives of South Texans has earned him the reputation of being a devoted family man and hardworking businessman. His commitment to the prosperity and development of the City of San Benito and the State of Texas underscores his unwavering community spirit.

Mayor Gonzalez's first service to our country was in the United States Air Force. He went on to serve as a livestock inspector with the U.S. Government. Both positions were only stepping stones leading to a prolific and remarkable public career.

At the local level, Mayor Gonzalez helped form the first San Benito Boy's and Girl's Club as well as in the establishment of the Cameron County Livestock Show. He also served as president of the San Benito Quarterback Club, served as a Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts of America, and remained a longtime affiliate of the San Benito Chamber of Commerce.

He extended his public service efforts throughout the Rio Grande Valley serving as president of the Lower Rio Grande Development Council, secretary-treasurer to the Lower Rio Grande Development Economic Authority, Vice President of the Lower Rio Grande Certified Corporation, and as Industrial Developer of the Year.

Mayor Gonzalez's public participation has stretched beyond the local scope of his close-knit community to the entire Texas population. His positions include: Chairman of the Texas Municipal League Insurance Board, Chairman of the Texas Department of Human Resources, Chairman of Border Cities and Counties and as President of the Mayor's Association of the State of Texas.

These distinguished positions illustrate his lifetime of service, both to South Texas and to the State of Texas, yet they do not speak to his kind heart and charming ways. He is an exceptional human being who is much beloved in South Texas.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in celebrating the life of service of an outstanding public official. Mr. Speaker, the Mayor Cesar Gonzalez's three years as City Commissioner, astounding 22 years as Mayor

of the City of San Benito, and lifetime of public service are a source of Texas pride.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
ROSE-MARIE COGGS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved member of the Milwaukee community, Ms. Rose-Marie Coggs.

The daughter of Calvin Jr. and Erma L. Coggs, Rose-Marie was born in Milwaukee on May 26, 1953. As a child, she was a student at Fifth Street Grade School, Robert Fulton Junior High School, and graduated from Rufus King High School. In addition, she graduated from Milwaukee Area Technical College in its metallurgist program.

Rose-Marie displayed her significant artistic talents in drawing and painting and exhibited her works in Milwaukee art showings. In addition she was known as an accomplished jewelry designer with a particular gift for watches and rings, of which she produced beautiful collections. An award-winning artist, she often featured in showings at the Inner City Arts Council and African World Festival and in fact, her work was a regular feature in art festivals throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

Rose-Marie Coggs was a woman of many creative talents and interests, from modeling for the African World Center with the Bashir Family to antiquing as a licensed antique dealer and appraiser who traveled throughout Wisconsin and Illinois participating in shows and fairs. She worked in the hospitality arena at various locations, was employed at OIC-GM as a receptionist, and worked as a Community Organizer for Project Respect.

Rose-Marie prided herself in being a mother to her only child, son Ayinde J. Coggs. She was also blessed in having thirteen grandchildren: Ayinde Starling, Raymond Quesada, Ayana Coggs, Nielah Coggs, Ayinde Sprewell, Deonte Sprewell, Amber Coggs, Adanna Coggs, Brittney Harris, Angel Johnson, Lyric Elvord, Amani Carter and Naomi Noble. She was an extremely giving person who loved celebrating family events and faithfully remembered others' birthdays.

Mr. Speaker, so many of us in the Milwaukee community are saddened at losing her suddenly and much too soon. My thoughts and prayers are with her friends and loving family at this time, and I ask my colleagues in the House to join me today in remembering her life and many contributions to our community.

CONGRATULATING KAWNEER COMPANY AS IT CELEBRATES 100
YEARS OF BUSINESS GROWTH

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the

Kawneer Company which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 5 at its facility in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

Founded by Francis J. Plym, an architect, in 1906 in Kansas City, Missouri, the Kawneer Company distinguished itself in the field of architectural products, earning more than 400 patents in the past century.

Between 1910 and 1920, Kawneer developed the first metal air frame sections used in American aircraft, an achievement that earned the company a commendation from the U.S. War Department.

Between 1920 and 1930, Kawneer became the first manufacturer to incorporate lightweight, strong, economical aluminum in architectural products including ornate grills and soffits.

From 1930 to 1940, nearly 75 percent of Kawneer's business centered on aluminum, and Kawneer became the largest American user of aluminum for architectural purposes.

Months after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, every inch of the Kawneer plant was devoted to making airplane parts. American soldiers flew into battle supported by Kawneer rib assemblies, fuel tank supports, flap controls and many other aviation components.

For the past half century, Kawneer has been in the vanguard of architectural innovation, especially with regard to large commercial window applications.

In the future, Kawneer intends to commit itself to developing sustainable environmental solutions, such as the Kawneer Power Wall, the first proven integrated photovoltaic curtain wall system designed to control the sun in large commercial buildings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Kawneer Company, which employs 400 people in its Bloomsburg facility. Its impressive sales performance over the past 2 years saw gross sales double from \$51 to \$100 million. Clearly, Kawneer is an important part of northeastern Pennsylvania's economy and we wish them every success in the future.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2830, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Mr. MILLER's motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 2830, the so-called Pension Security and Transparency Act.

I opposed the Republican pension legislation that passed this body late last year because it will erode an employer's willingness to provide defined benefit plans and will close the loopholes that allow companies to dump their pension obligations onto taxpayers.

In addition to these effects, it offers insufficient protections to loyal workers and gives special treatment to executives for their compensation and pension packages. It is this specific problem that we are addressing today.

ExxonMobil's outgoing CEO, R. Lee Raymond recently secured a total retirement package valued at \$400 million, including a \$98 million windfall in the form of a lump sum pension payment. This is just one more example

of huge executive compensation at the same time that workers are losing their retirement security and earned and needed benefits.

Under the House Republican pension legislation passed last year, if an employer allows a pension plan to become less than 80 percent funded, the covered workers cannot receive benefit increases, cost of living adjustments, or lump sum pension payments. The legislation holds executives to a different, and much cushier, standard. Executives can continue to pad their own compensation packages with corporate assets until plan funding drops below 60 percent.

We must establish fairness in the pension process and level the playing field so that CEOs and workers are subject to the same benefit rules. This motion would accomplish that goal, instructing conferees to apply the same benefit restrictions for workers and retirees, and CEOs. This is a vital step that we can take to restore a vital sense of fairness to the compensation and pension process.

I encourage my colleagues to support this motion.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT LEA MILLS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Marine Sergeant Lea Mills of Masaryktown, Florida was killed by a terrorist IED explosion last week while on patrol in Iraq. Sergeant Mills was 21 years old, and leaves behind a young wife and a grieving family.

Dedicated to serving his country, Sergeant Mills joined the Marines following his graduation from Hernando High School in 2002. Lea felt that the Marines would give him the best opportunity to serve his Nation on the front lines and make a difference in people's lives.

When I spoke to Sergeant Mills' father Rob, he told me that Lea was inspired to volunteer for the military after the September 11 attacks.

Not only did Sergeant Mills request to be sent to Iraq, but he also felt that it was his duty as a Marine and that it was the right thing to do for his country.

A dedicated soldier, Sergeant Mills understood what the Marines' mission was in Iraq. As his father Rob said to me, "He believed very strongly in what he was doing." In fact, Lea had recently just re-upped for a second stint with the Marines.

Sergeant Mills leaves behind his wife Keesha Malicoate, his parents Dee and Rob Mills, and his brother Parker Mills.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Sergeant Lea Mills who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

While brave men and women like Lea have perished in the cause of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget their sacrifice and commitment.

CELEBRATING PROGRESS IN THE U.S. MOX PROGRAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2000, the United States and Russia agreed to dispose of surplus, weapon-grade plutonium by turning it into MOX fuel for use in existing, commercial nuclear reactors. South Carolina was thrilled when its Savannah River site was chosen to fulfill this important mission.

While the United States has initiated its responsibilities, Russia's program has not proceeded as quickly. Yesterday, I offered an amendment to ensure that the pace of the Russia MOX program will not dictate the progress of the U.S. MOX program. The amendment also restores \$34.7 million in funding for the construction of the MOX facility at SRS.

By passing my amendment, my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee have helped create hundreds of jobs in South Carolina and guarantee that our state will not become the permanent resting place for tons of plutonium. I will continue to work with my directly affected colleagues GRESHAM BARRETT, and CHARLIE NORWOOD to support the Savannah River site as it moves forward with this important mission.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL YVONNE J. PRETTYMAN-BECK, COMMANDER OF THE NORFOLK ENGINEER DISTRICT, NORFOLK CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VIRGINIA FOR HER SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, Commander and Norfolk District Engineer, for her loyal service to the United States Corps of Engineers and to the people of Virginia's Fourth District.

Over the past 3 years, I have had the fortunate opportunity to work with Colonel Prettyman-Beck on numerous occasions. I commend her leadership in advancing the growth and preservation of numerous projects of great value in our district and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Her hard work and integrity will be greatly missed upon her reassignment from the Norfolk District post she has held since August 2003.

With over 24 years of service in the U.S. Army, Colonel Prettyman-Beck's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession. Following graduation from the New Mexico Military Institute, she went on to obtain a Master of Science degree in Management Science and a Master of Science degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. She has served on numerous assignments throughout the U.S. and overseas. Her military education is extensive and includes

the Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck's decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with star, the Military Outstanding Service Volunteer Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Army and Joint Staff Identification Badges.

Colonel Prettyman-Beck has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to her country. Today we recognize her for her unwavering patriotism and dedication to her profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed one vote on May 3, 2006. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 781 (Rollcall 120).

WASHINGTON 8TH DISTRICT
SCHOOLS NOTED AS NATION'S
BEST

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous students, teachers and administrators at Newport High School, Interlake High School, Bellevue High School, International High School and Sammamish High School, all located in Bellevue, Washington. These schools were named to Newsweek magazine's list of "America's Best High Schools."

For the second year in a row, three high schools in Bellevue were in the top 50—Newport is ranked 37th, Interlake is ranked 44th and Bellevue is ranked 49th. The International School in Bellevue is ranked 57th, up from 160th last year. Sammamish of Bellevue is ranked 186th.

Sincere congratulations to: Newport High School's Principal, Patty Siegwarth and Assistant Principals, James Peterson and Bethany Spinler and the Knights; Interlake High School's Principal, Sharon Collins and Assistant Principals, Eric Cochran and Keith Schacht and the Saints; Bellevue High School's Principal, Mike Bacigalupi and Assistant Principals, Doug Sovde and Johnnie Gregory and the Wolverines; International High School's Principal, Peter Bang-Knudsen, and International's student body; and Sammamish High School's Principal, Spencer Welch and Assistant Principals, Laura Bang-Knudsen, Jennifer Rose and Andrea Pfeifer and the Totems.

Newsweek determines its ranking based on the number of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests taken by all of the schools' students in 2005. These tests are the best measure of overall college readiness, according to Newsweek.

Newsweek noted the schools for Creating Good Citizens, Celebrating Liberal Arts, Preparing Students for Work, Emphasizing Science and Technology and Reaching Out to Everyone as well.

I am filled with pride for these students and teachers, that their dedication to their education has distinguished them from others. Their accomplishments are noteworthy, but their drive to get where they are—the countless hours of preparation it entailed—is the real accomplishment. Juma Ikangaa, a Tanzanian marathon runner once said about preparing for marathons, "The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare."

Teachers and administrators at Newport High School, Interlake High School, Bellevue High School, International High School and Sammamish High School have prepared students not just for college with an outstanding high school education, but for life with a real lesson that will serve them well—real accomplishments take time and sustained effort to achieve. They do not happen overnight. They do not come easy. They are often impeded by unsuccessful attempts. These schools, students, teachers and administrators have demonstrated the philosophy Aristotle spoke of when he said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." Don't break the habit.

TRIBUTE TO ERIC KING

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fallen soldier from my district. Army Specialist Eric King of Vancouver, Washington, was killed in Baghdad on April 22. He was 29 years old. Specialist King leaves behind his wife, Tracie, and daughters Ashlin and Shealyn, who will remember their father and husband's love of laughter, fishing, and the Northwest. His death is a tragedy not only for this family but for our community. On April 22, Specialist King was driving the lead Humvee in a convoy patrolling a Baghdad neighborhood when a roadside bomb exploded and killed King and his three comrades in the vehicle.

The Army awarded King the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal and Army Service Medal.

Specialist King was born in Florida and moved to Vancouver in 1996. He left a union job as a truck driver in Portland to enlist in 2004. He was assigned to the First Squadron, 67th Armored Battalion in Baghdad.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. King's family, and with the families and loved ones of all our nation's fallen heroes. Let this stand as a solemn reminder of just how many brave men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives for our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of cynicism about politics today. H.R. 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, is a significant step toward additional transparency and accountability in the legislative process and will ensure that everyone has equal access to the legislative system. Had I been present on May 3, 2006, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4975.

HONORING MRS. PHYLLIS
McCARRICK

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a beloved constituent and community leader, Mrs. Phyllis McCarrick, of Rocky Point, New York, who recently passed away at the age of eighty-three.

Born Phyllis Healy in Arlington, Massachusetts, she served in the Navy during World War II and later settled in Rocky Point with her childhood sweetheart and husband, Mr. Thomas McCarrick. After running a milk delivery service, Phyllis and her husband opened the McCarrick Dairy and Grocery store, which grew into a beloved landmark in our community, and is owned and operated by their sons today.

Named Rocky Point's Citizen of the Year in 1999, Phyllis raised money for Catholic charities and was a Cub Scout den mother in addition to running a successful business. Her enduring contributions to eastern Long Island will always be remembered by our community with fondness and deep gratitude.

Phyllis is survived by eight children, nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I express our profound sorrow following Phyllis' passing as well as the gratitude of our community, which will always remember her extraordinary life and lifelong dedication to Rocky Point, New York.

FEDERAL ENERGY PRICE PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the tremendous impact that the cost of gasoline is having on my West Virginia constituents and on working families across the country. Rural communities that make up a large portion of my congressional district are especially hard hit by rising fuel costs because of the distance many people must travel to work and school and the limited public transportation options.

In addition to high prices, gas stations in some areas have run out of fuel all together. It is vital that we take every possible step to ensure that the gasoline market is priced fairly and it is important that we take steps to increase the supply of gasoline available to the market.

This week in my district I highlighted a 5-point plan to reduce the price of fuel. These steps include:

1. Take tough action against price gougers.
2. Waive boutique fuel requirements so that supply can be easily transferred between regions of the country.
3. Temporarily waive the 2.5 percent and 54 cent per gallon tax on ethanol so that imported ethanol can help make up the difference with the recent phase-out of MTBE in our gasoline supply.
4. Make use of coal—West Virginia's natural resource—as part of our fuel supply. Coal liquefaction technology has been available for many years and our government has invested in research that would allow for fuel to be produced now. Our nation has a 250-year supply of coal that already provides over half of our nation's electricity. Coal is an answer to the gasoline problem as well.
5. Allow for responsible drilling in ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf to increase our domestic supply of crude oil.

I am pleased that the House took action today on two elements of this important plan. I strongly support H.R. 5253, passed by the House today that will punish price gougers with tough fines or jail time. Provisions of the bill will allow for enforcement by either the Federal Trade Commission or state Attorney Generals to provide the maximum possible protection for consumers. We must investigate and punish instances of gouging wherever they occur on the energy supply chain.

I am extremely disappointed that the House did not take action today on H.R. 5254 to improve the permitting and approval process for new refineries. Our nation has not built a new refinery since 1976 and it is clear that the regulatory process is a major reason why. This improved permitting process would also have been applied to coal liquefaction facilities—another step that should be taken to increase our fuel supply. Once again opponents of increased fuel supplies and lower prices blocked action on common sense energy solutions.

Passage of price gouging legislation is a positive first step. I urge my colleagues to support further legislation to increase supply by allowing new domestic exploration and waiving tariffs and boutique fuels.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON VOLUNTARY PRAYER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today is a significant day for me, the people of West Virginia and the Nation. Today we commemorate the National Day of Prayer.

As a people of faith, we know that prayer is a powerful instrument. And as one Nation under God, we know that many times our most powerful tool is prayer.

With that in mind and in celebration of National Prayer Day, today I have proposed in

the House of Representatives a Constitutional Amendment that would restore voluntary prayer in our Nation's schools.

West Virginia's senior Senator, ROBERT C. BYRD, introduced identical legislation in the United States Senate last week.

I believe that the Framers of the Constitution made their intent clear when they wrote the First Amendment. I believe they wanted to keep the new government from endorsing one religion over another, not erase the public consciousness or common faith.

For hundreds of millions of Americans who believe in God, prayer is our bridge between Earth and Heaven, our way of opening our hearts to the Lord. Through this intimate relationship we find peace and guidance. It is as important to us, as Christians, as the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat. It nourishes our souls and makes us strong.

Nothing in this Constitution, including any amendment to the Constitution, shall be construed to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer in school, or to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer at a public school extracurricular activity. Nor does this resolution alter the language of the First Amendment.

The Constitutional Amendment I am introducing today simply clarifies our right, and the right of our children in school, to bow our heads and give thanks for our bountiful blessings, to begin the day as many of us do—with the comfort of prayer. It is a right that is protected by both the Free Speech and Free Exercise Clauses of our Constitution.

Today, during the National Day of Prayer, I am reminded of the verse in Second Chronicles that reads, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Today we thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon this great Country and ask Him to continue to heal our land and meet our needs—and we do so through the power of prayer.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JOSHUA BEN TELLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Paul and Maxine Teller of Washington, D.C., on the birth of their son. Joshua Ben Teller was born this morning, May 4th, 2006, at 8:31 a.m., weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces, and measures 19 inches long. Joshua is blessed to have been born into a loving home, with wonderful parents, and his birth is a blessing to our Nation.

THE TESTIMONY OF PENELOPE A. GROSS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Chesapeake Bay is one of our region's

greatest assets. Keeping the Bay clean is a major priority for the state and local governments.

Our colleague Wayne Gilchrist recently held a hearing on the status of the Bay. One of the participants in that hearing was Supervisor Penelope Gross from Fairfax County, Virginia. I would like to enter into the RECORD her thoughtful comments presented at that hearing. Supervisor Gross has long been an advocate for Bay restoration and her testimony reflects how local governments can be critical partners in that effort.

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

MAY 4, 2006.—Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the opportunity to appear today to discuss Chesapeake Bay restoration activities and the vitally important role of local governments in those efforts. I am honored to be invited to provide testimony. Chesapeake Bay issues are of particular interest to me, which is why I serve on the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, was a member of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Blue Ribbon Financing Panel and recently was elected Chair of the Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee, also known as LGAC. I also chair Virginia's Potomac Watershed Roundtable, and I represent the Mason District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. As you may know, Fairfax County is one of the largest jurisdictions, population-wise, in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Each of these responsibilities has helped shape my perspective on what is needed to keep our efforts to achieve a clean Bay on track. I would like to share several themes that are the basis of my remarks today:

Implementation and restoration happen primarily at the local level and we need more state and federal funding to get the job done; EPA and their state counterparts need to provide stronger leadership on regulatory issues that will drive much of the multi-billion dollar Bay cleanup effort; a more focused approach to enforcement of existing federal laws, regulations, and policies by EPA to the state would alone make significant strides to clean up the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners need to set clear implementation priorities, emphasizing those measures that offer the greatest pollution reduction return on investment;

The implementation and funding burden must be shared equitably between and among sectors and levels of government.

Of the 98 commitments in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, 22 specifically involve local governments, and other commitments imply local government involvement. And I want to remind you that there are more than 1,650 local governments throughout the 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay Watershed. From a local government perspective, we know what to do to continue making progress, but we need more help from our state and federal partners. The Bay Program has successfully generated plans and documents that outline what actions local governments should take to help restore the Bay. However, I believe we're heavy on written plans, and we're struggling on the follow-through—i.e., technical and financial assistance to get more done. This was the most common and strongly voiced concern

among LGAC members from all jurisdictions at our most recent meeting, held right here in this building. And I want to take this opportunity to thank Congressman Gilchrest and his staff for engaging in substantive dialogue with LGAC members about this legislation.

Local governments throughout the watershed are currently spending millions of local citizenry dollars to do our part in cleaning up the Bay. However, there needs to be a greater emphasis on developing mechanisms to capture those substantial implementation efforts by local governments and others which are not funded through state or federal Chesapeake Bay funds. For instance, the Commonwealth of Virginia still does not have an effective mechanism to track urban nonpoint source Best Management stormwater facilities. This could be accomplished through a direction to the Chesapeake Bay Program Office and the states to develop an enhanced tracking and reporting system. I understand that the states may already be working on such a system, but to facilitate reporting by implementing entities, I would recommend that this system be web-based and simple to use.

I'm sure it is no surprise to you that the biggest help we could use is additional federal and state funding. The "Cost of a Clean Bay" report prepared by the Chesapeake Bay Commission estimated that more than half of the cost for meeting C2K nutrient and sediment reduction goals would be borne by local governments. In some of the most expensive programmatic areas, such as stormwater management and urban nonpoint source pollution control, the local government share is closer to 100% since there are virtually no federal or state funds to help address the problem. While, sadly, the thoughtful recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Finance Panel seem to have faded from memory, the needs that were identified there have not. It is critical that the federal and state governments in the watershed assume a major role in providing financial assistance for implementation at the local level.

On the issue of funding, I also need to mention my concern with deep cuts being proposed to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). While local governments and our State partners are working to increase funding for clean water programs, the federal SRF is being targeted for cuts totaling \$199.2 million. Many local governments, especially in rural areas, in the Bay watershed depend on this federal funding to pay for high priority water pollution control projects, and the proposed budget cuts are exactly the opposite of what's needed to achieve our goal of a clean and healthy Bay.

But funding alone isn't enough. We also need our state and federal partners to work cooperatively with local governments on a watershed basis to:

1. Clearly articulate measurable goals for local governments to achieve and couple these with appropriate levels of funding support. I support the requirement for measurable goals for local governments under the Local Government Involvement section, with the provisions that this be woven into a realistic implementation plan that includes equitable levels of funding support. To guarantee success of the Tributary Strategies, it is critical to have a detailed plan for implementation that explains who, what, when, where, why, and how.

2. Increase the level of support for the Small Watershed Grants Program to the proposed authorized amount of \$10 million. While far short of the estimated funding necessary to achieve the C2K goals, the Small Watershed Grants are perhaps the most effective

mechanism for engaging local governments in the common effort to achieve water quality and habitat goals. The current funding level of \$2 million translates into just \$1,212 for each of the 1,650 local governments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. In addition, I recommend increasing the cap on individual small watershed grants to as much as one million dollars, a substantial increase over the present \$50,000 limit. Let me give you an example: in Fairfax County, we often do not apply for small watershed grants because the staff time involved in preparing the grant application actually costs more than the grant itself. The current \$50,000 cap effectively eliminates larger jurisdictions from participating in the Small Watershed Grants Program. In addition to the review and prioritization of grant proposals by the Chesapeake Bay Local Government Advisory Committee, there also should be a mechanism for prioritizing grants within watersheds or metropolitan areas to ensure that grants address priority local or tributary-specific issues. A good example of a priority might be the ongoing efforts to restore the Anacostia River which flows into the Potomac River just a few blocks from here.

3. Establish a "Measurable Goals" provision for Soil Conservation Districts comparable to the provision for local governments. As the level of accountability and responsibility for local governments is increased, equity suggests that there be a comparable provision for "Measurable Goals" for the agricultural sector. A logical geographic unit would be the soil conservation district. As above, implementation should be coupled with equitable levels of funding support.

4. Enhance the Tributary Strategies and Implementation Plans to explicitly address nutrient and sediment "Cap Management" as growth continues. Cap management is clearly required by the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, and the population of the watershed is projected to increase by upwards of 2 million between now and 2030. If not explicitly addressed at the State level in Tributary Strategies and related implementation plans, there is a very real risk of losing ground, literally, as new development occurs.

5. A one-size-fits-all approach to local government coordination and C2K Agreement implementation will not work. Outreach and implementation must be tailored to the abilities of large and small jurisdictions to undertake those efforts. Differences in local government access to technology must be considered during the development of communications strategies. A strong, structured technical assistance program to local governments is needed, especially in smaller, more rural jurisdictions that lack staff expertise in stormwater management and watershed protection. In many localities, watershed management still is not reflected in land use planning. As a result, development patterns and practices ignore the many values that riparian buffers, protected floodplains and protected natural resource lands offer for water quality, water supply, and wildlife habitat. More importantly, as a local elected official, I know that local government officials need to understand the local benefits that would result from changes in land use policies. Otherwise, they won't be persuaded to defend these changes before their constituencies.

6. We are concerned about the proposed language that requires tributary strategy goals or BMPs to be included in NPDES permits, both point and nonpoint source, or MS4 permits. In Virginia, nonpoint source pollution standards should not be written into MS4 permits because, as mentioned earlier in my testimony, the Commonwealth does

not yet have an effective mechanism to track urban nonpoint sources.

Each of these areas is of strong interest to LGAC. With appropriate staff and requisite resources, I can envision an activist role for LGAC, as the Tributary Strategies are turned in to action plans, including:

Developing goals at the local level and helping to ensure that localities live up to their responsibilities;

Partnering with state and local agencies to achieve an equitable allocation of funding;

Reaching out to other sectors, especially agriculture and private industry. We need to open or continue dialogue with all our partners in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We are all in this together: from those who labor under the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome to the Pennsylvania farmer, the Maryland waterman, the Virginia technology worker, the long-time resident, and the new Americans. Finger-pointing won't clean up the Bay; working together just might.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to appear here today and for your leadership in helping to keep the Bay restoration effort moving forward. We are looking forward to working with you, other members of Congress, and our State and federal partners to achieve our shared goals of a restored Chesapeake Bay watershed.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK
HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL PROBLEM

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the nearly 46 million Americans who lack health insurance, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Cover the Uninsured Week (May 1–7, 2006) aims to raise awareness of this National problem and the will to solve it.

One in seven Americans, including more than 8 million children, does not have even basic healthcare coverage. Each day, these men and women hope they do not become sick or are not injured. Parents hope their children remain healthy. As healthcare costs continue to rise, it becomes more difficult for many families to continue healthcare coverage.

During the week of May 1–7, events will be held at hospitals, medical centers, community centers, on campuses and in place of worship worldwide. Volunteers will help to enroll uninsured adults and children in public programs that provide low-cost and free coverage to those who are eligible. Information about local help available will be distributed as well.

Ensuring Americans have access to adequate medical care should be a priority for all of us. Cover the Uninsured Week gives all of us the opportunity to say that we care—and we want this issue to be a national priority.

THE REMARKABLE LEGACY OF
U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI
ANNAN

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reflect on the distinguished legacy of United Nations

Secretary General Kofi Annan, a great friend of this Congress and of the American people, and a dear friend of our family.

Kofi Annan began his service as Secretary General in January 1997, and his second five-year term will be completed in December of this year. Although he is the seventh individual to serve as Secretary General in the history of the United Nations, he is the first individual to be selected for this position from the ranks of U.N. staff.

As the Secretary General completes his work in New York, Mr. Speaker, the world's luminaries will weigh in and a consensus will quickly emerge that Kofi Annan is the United Nations' greatest secretary general. Because Kofi and his wife Nanne are dear personal friends of my wife, Annette, and me, I want to be the first to reflect on the remarkable term of this outstanding international civil servant.

Mr. Speaker, in looking back on the decade that Kofi Annan has shaped the United Nations, it is clear that his term has been sustained by a powerful vision—his belief that this complicated world body could become something much more than a Cold War relic useful only for convening meetings and servicing international conferences.

Since Secretary General Annan's first day on the job, he has been driven by the conviction that the United Nations must undergo what he has called a "strategic refit" to help the organization reach its full potential in the 21st century, to better serve the pressing needs of mankind that individual states are unable or unwilling to meet.

Every day for the last decade, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General has worked tirelessly, against impossible odds, to convince 191 sovereign states to let him reshape the organization in line with his vision. This has been no small task, given that each one of these 191 states—democracies, monarchies, military juntas, and brutal dictatorships—is jealous of its own sovereign rights.

As we enter the closing months of Kofi Annan's term at the helm of the most important and most unruly international organization, we can say with absolute confidence that—against all odds—he has succeeded in this project.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most profound measure of Kofi's success was the groundbreaking consensus agreement he led the United Nations to adopt last September at an historic summit of more than 100 heads of state. This agreement consisted of a binding pledge by all U.N. member states to recognize a collective "responsibility to protect" individuals threatened with genocide, ethnic cleansing or crimes against humanity, a responsibility that supercedes the sovereignty of any individual state.

Kofi Annan's inspiration for his effort to reshape the fundamental principles underlying the United Nations grew out of his profound sadness in the tragic failure of the global community to protect its most vulnerable citizens in Srebrenica, Bosnia, and in Rwanda.

Mr. Speaker, during the decade between the latter of these two tragedies and that World Summit pledge last September, Secretary General Annan, has focused U.N. activities on three goals: preventing conflict, promoting democracies, and eradicating poverty. He has done this methodically and with steely determination, step by step, surmounting numerous pitfalls and hurdles along the way.

Despite inheriting a United Nations beset with a sclerotic bureaucracy and severely limited resources, Kofi Annan's achievement in mobilizing the world body to start to close what he has called "the chasm between [those who are] rich and poor, free and fettered, privileged and humiliated." This effort has been breathtaking in scope and scale.

In the past nine years under Secretary General Annan's watch, Mr. Speaker, the number of civilian soldiers deployed on U.N. peacekeeping missions has increased from 20,000 to 80,000, bringing hope and a measure of stability to damaged lives in places like Liberia, Burundi, Haiti, the Ivory Coast, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

U.N. capacity to move beyond simply keeping the peace to helping shell-shocked societies recover and prosper has also been greatly enhanced under Kofi Annan's leadership. His most notable accomplishment in this process was to establish a U.N. Peacebuilding Commission during that World Summit last September.

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General's efforts to build U.N. capacity to promote democracy have also enjoyed remarkable success. During his tenure the Secretariat's Political Office has helped conduct more than 100 successful elections, including those in Iraq and Afghanistan. The people involved in this enterprise have also helped achieve democratic openings in places previously thought to be beyond democracy's reach, such as Georgia, Ukraine, Sierra Leone and Lebanon.

Secretary General Annan's moral leadership has also inspired the U.N.'s member states to remake a wholly dysfunctional U.N. Human Rights Commission by replacing it with a Human Rights Council that for the first time in the history of the United Nations will require countries to meet human rights qualifications to gain membership. This change will forever shatter the pernicious myth that had long operated in Geneva, that a pathological dictatorship like Sudan somehow occupied the same moral high ground as Sweden in enforcing agreed human rights standards.

The Secretary General has also created a new architecture to attack poverty and chronic disease by committing states to tangible Millennium Development Goals, and by creating a Global Compact committing corporations to pledges to upgrade environmental, labor and human rights conditions. This will serve to bring the benefits of globalization to more people worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to be the first person to nominate Kofi Annan for the Nobel Peace Prize. When the distinguished Secretary General accepted that prize in October 2001, he explained why he is so committed to ensuring that the United Nations can live up to its responsibility to protect each and every vulnerable human being.

As he most eloquently phrased it on the stage in Stockholm, "What begins with the failure to uphold the dignity of one life, all too often ends with a calamity for entire nations." And "a genocide begins with the killing of one man—not for what he has done, but because of who he is."

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to overstate the contribution that United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has made to advancing human dignity, peace and stability in the world. I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting Kofi Annan, the finest Secretary General ever to have served at the helm of the United Nations.

HURRICANE KATRINA STATEMENT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 2006, I prepared the following opening statement for the Committee on Government Reform's hearing, "Sifting Through Katrina's Legal Debris: Contracting in the Eye of the Storm":

Thank you, Chairman DAVIS, for holding this important oversight hearing to examine federal contracting for Hurricane Katrina relief. I appreciate that you have kept your promise to hold a series of hearings on the subject of Hurricane Katrina as you said you would in September of last year. I am grateful for your leadership in this regard.

Since this Administration has come into office, we have witnessed multiple federal contracting sprees, which have all been reckless and wasteful. After 9/11, and the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security, a variety of security functions were contracted out to private companies. The Iraq war and reconstruction brought the next round of federal contracts, and finally, after Hurricane Katrina, several contracts were administered to aid in relief and reconstruction.

Contracts awarded have consistently been cost-plus and no bid contracts, have lacked oversight and transparency, and have led to costly waste, fraud and abuse.

Despite the waste, fraud and abuse, which have been well documented by government oversight bodies, including this Committee, the federal government has refused to learn its lesson and change its contracting practices. The contracts handed out for Katrina relief and reconstruction were just as flawed as those for Homeland Security functions and Iraq reconstruction.

Halliburton, for example, which has been the target of investigations for robbing the American taxpayer blind in its Iraq contracts, was one of the first companies awarded no bid contracts after Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, to repair 3 different Navy facilities in Mississippi.

Furthermore, measures put forward immediately following Hurricane Katrina to help ensure proper contracting, such as Ranking Member Waxman's bill, the "Hurricane Katrina Accountability and Clean Contracting Act," were disregarded.

Now, eight months later—eight months too late—we are here in this Committee examining what went wrong. Our government should have known better.

Today's hearing will reveal how FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other federal agencies entered into at least eight major contracts, worth over \$5.6 billion, that have resulted in significant waste, fraud and abuse.

We will also hear some familiar testimony: how full and open competition has been the exception, not the rule, in awarding Katrina contracts; how lack of contract management and oversight were missing in Katrina contracts; and how these flawed contracting procedures lead to significant cost or performance problems in nearly every major contract related to Hurricane Katrina.

Far too much taxpayer money has been squandered on important jobs that aren't getting done. I look forward to the testimonials

from the witnesses today. Despite the federal government's record, it is my sincere hope that this hearing will lead to concrete reforms in contracting practices.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 121, 122, 123, and 124. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 121, "yea" on rollcall vote 122, "nay" on rollcall vote 123, and "no" on rollcall vote 124. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the permanent RECORD immediately following these votes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DC NATIONAL GUARD HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the fourth bill in the Free and Equal DC series. This series includes measures that all involve obsolete or inappropriate intervention into the local affairs of the District of Columbia. The other bills in the series are the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act, the District of Columbia Legislative Autonomy Act, and the District of Columbia Hatch Reform Act. This bill would give the Mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority over the District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) as the governors of all 50 States have over their guard units. My work on the Homeland Security Committee convinces me that this bill is necessary now more than at any time in the District's history. In most circumstances involving a suspected terrorist incident and in all circumstances constituting local emergencies, the Mayor of the District of Columbia should have the same authority as governors. The National Guards in the 50 states operate under similar dual federal and local jurisdiction. Yet the President of the United States as the Commander in Chief alone has the authority to call up the DC National Guard for any purpose here, local or national. Each governor, however, as the head of state, has the authority to mobilize the National Guard to protect the local jurisdiction, just as local militia did historically. Today, the most likely need is to call upon the National Guard to restore order in the wake of civil disturbances and natural disasters. Today it could prove necessary to act quickly without knowing the origin of an event. The Mayor, who knows the city better than any federal official and works closely with federal security officials, should be able to call on the DCNG to cover local natural disasters or civil disturbances without relying on the President, who may be preoccupied with national matters, including perhaps war or security matters, or relying on a delegated official with little familiarity with the city. It does no harm to give the Mayor the authority. How-

ever, it could do great harm to leave him powerless to act quickly. If it makes sense that a governor would have control over the mobilization and deployment of the state National Guard, it makes the same sense for the Mayor of the District of Columbia, with a population the size of that of small states, should have the same authority.

The Mayor of the District of Columbia, acting as head of state, should have the authority to call upon the DCNG in instances that do not rise to the level of federal importance necessary to implicate the authority of the President. Today requiring action by the President of the United States could endanger the life and health of DC residents, visitors and federal employees. Procedures that require the Mayor to request the needed assistance from the Commander in Chief for a local National Guard matter are as old as the republic, and are dangerously obsolete. This bill would deprive the President of his authority over the DC National Guard. The President could still nationalize the Guard at will, as he can with the Guards of the 50 states, and particularly here in the nation's capital.

Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, I succeeded in including a provision in the Homeland Security Act recognizing that the District of Columbia must be an integral part of the planning, implementation, and execution of national plans to protect city residents, federal employees, and visitors by including the District of Columbia, as a separate and full partner and first responder in federal domestic preparedness legislation. At a minimum, such recognition also demonstrates the respect for local governance and home rule that every jurisdiction that recruits members of the military to its National Guard deserves, especially today when the Guards are no longer weekend warriors, as the Iraq war demonstrates. The confusion that accompanied the September 11 attack plainly showed the danger inherent in allowing bureaucratic steps to stand in the way of responding to emergencies in the nation's capital. September 11 has made local control of the DCNG an imperative.

This bill is another important step necessary to complete the transfer of full self-government powers to the District of Columbia that Congress itself began with the passage of the Home Rule Act of 1973. District authority over its own National Guard apparently was not raised during the Home Rule Act process. However, it was almost unthinkable then that there would be war in the homeland, much less terrorist threats to the nation's capital. What should be unthinkable after 9-11 in an era of global terrorism is allowing to stand old and antiquated layers. Giving the mayor of the District of Columbia authority to call up the National Guard could make the difference in protecting the safety of the residents, federal employees, and visitors alike. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HOBBS HIGH SCHOOL INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hobbs High School, in Hobbs

New Mexico, which recently earned the 2006 College Board Inspiration Award.

The College Board's Inspiration Award annually honors three schools nationwide that have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in expanding access to college, particularly in financially disadvantaged areas.

Hobbs High School is a model of educational success and its receipt of this award is an accolade to their hard work and dedication to improving the opportunities available to their students.

Hobbs is a community that receives less funding per pupil than any other district in New Mexico and has twice as many people in terms of percentage living at or below the poverty level compared to the national average. However, in spite of these setbacks Hobbs High School has made extraordinary advances in expanding access to college for their students.

Approximately 55 percent of all secondary students at Hobbs High School now participate in Advanced Placement and Pre-Advanced Placement courses and they currently have the largest Advanced Placement program in the State of New Mexico. Demonstrated success has already been seen with last year's 97 percent graduation rates and the increase in the number of those individuals who went on to college upon graduation.

Hobbs High School is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when teachers, students, and community leaders come together to ensure that plentiful opportunities exist for their students. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hobbs High School for this wonderful academic achievement.

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY STATEMENT ON CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday evening, I was honored to join Southeast Michigan's Ukrainian American Community in remembrance of a terrible tragedy: the Chernobyl nuclear disaster on April 26th, 1986.

Here in Washington, the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus organized a number of events last week to ensure that Congress adequately remembered this solemn anniversary. Through all of these events, and at the commemoration I attended in Michigan, there was a consensus that as we remember those victims of Chernobyl who lost their lives, we must continue, and indeed strengthen, our efforts to help those who are still living with its consequences.

To that end, I ask that a statement from the Ukrainian American Community in Michigan be placed in the RECORD. It calls on us all to do our part in standing with the Ukrainian people to address the consequences of this disaster that so many still struggle with 20 years later.

APPEAL: TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN DELEGATION TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOLEMN 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NUCLEAR DISASTER AT CHERNOBYL, UKRAINE

The Ukrainian American community, gathered at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warren, Michigan, on Friday, April 28, 2006 in solemn commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Nuclear Disaster at Chernobyl, Ukraine, recommends to the Michigan Delegation to the United States Congress the Testimony of H.E. Oleh Shamshur, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and urges the members of the Delegation to assist in addressing the urgent problems noted in Ambassador Shamshur's testimony, excerpted below:

"Chernobyl was not only a "maximum credible accident" and the greatest man-made technological disaster. There is much more about Chernobyl catastrophe: this has become a frightening reminder of the awesome human cost—measured in lives and life-threatening health problems—of the lack of freedom, democratic procedures, civic control and transparency.

The plain and awful fact is that the biggest nuclear catastrophe in human history was kept secret from ordinary citizens, who were massively exposed to radiation exceeding the maximum acceptable level by hundred times.

During the critical period after explosion, while evacuating the local population from direct neighborhood of the nuclear power station, the Soviet government let millions of people in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia conduct their daily life as usual—unaware, unwarned, unprotected. On May 1st, four days after the disaster, people in Kyiv and dozens of other cities were urged to go outdoors to celebrate May Day, an official holiday in the Soviet Union. In those moments when radioactive cloud was reaching Sweden, when West Europeans were called to restrain from buying fruit and letting children play outside, in Ukraine parents carried their kids to the festivities. It was only days later, that people of Ukraine came to know the full extent of what had happened to them, their families, their land. By early May millions of people, including children, received unthinkable amounts of radiation as the volume of radioactive materials released into atmosphere exceeded Hiroshima by 400 times.

Experts and humankind are yet to comprehend and assess the full scope of the hazardous consequences of the nuclear devastation, including continuous exposure to radiation of such magnitude. About 5 million people were directly affected by explosion. As of January 2006, 2.6 million Ukrainians have had the status of those affected by consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Over 570 thousand children officially registered as affected by the disaster continue to live in Ukraine. 6,769 children died of horrible diseases caused by the calamity including thyroid and other cancers. Tens thousand square kilometers of once fertile and flourishing land remain radiation-polluted, as well as 2,218 Ukrainian townships and settlements.

The international community should be aware that the period of so-called half-life of radioactive strontium released into atmosphere in 1986 is 90 years. Therefore however scaring it might sound, the full story has not been told yet. The gravest implications of the catastrophe might be still ahead for Ukraine and other nations. We should be well prepared to face this eventuality.

The price Ukraine has paid for the lies, hypocrisy and greed of the Soviet regime epitomized by Chernobyl and its aftermath has

been enormous. What we need now is assistance in addressing two very concrete and urgent problems.

Building a new reliable Shelter. Taking this opportunity I am asking the distinguished members of the Commission to weigh in their political authority to call upon all G8 members and other countries concerned to follow the example of the U.S. Government and to make adequate financial contributions making possible the erection of the Shelter-2. The construction costs are estimated at slightly over 1 billion USD representing rather modest amount of money compared to the damages which 200 tons of highly radioactive waste still glowing underneath the corroded Shelter-1 might incur. We also urge all the signatories of the Ottawa Memorandum to honor their obligations concerning compensation of the losses suffered by Ukraine due to the decommissioning of the Chernobyl NPS.

Meeting the health needs of the innocent children, suffering from hazardous effects of Chernobyl. We deeply appreciate the work done in this respect by the members of the U.S. Congress, such as Co-Chairman Chris Smith and Representative Lincoln Diaz-Ballard. It was largely due to Mr. Diaz-Ballard's efforts that on April 20th one of the biggest humanitarian airlifts organized by the Children of Chernobyl Fund arrived in Ukraine for the benefit of Chernobyl-affected children. I know that more projects are in preparation and I'm deeply thankful for them to our American partners."

Ambassador Shamshur concludes with the following words, words which the Ukrainian American community in Michigan and, we trust, our elected officials, fully share and support.

"I strongly believe that our two countries—Ukraine and the United States—will stand united in facing the challenges and preventing any new human tragedies that might be caused by the consequences of the disaster that happened twenty years ago, but remains so present in our lives."

THE PASSING OF BILL WALSH

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, it is often said one of the best things we can do in this world is to take a tragedy and use it as a catalyst to do something positive. The April 5th death of a 64-year-old homeless man, Bill Walsh, in the woods of southeastern Connecticut has become a rallying cry for the homeless. I hope that the death of Bill Walsh will be turned into something positive.

As a Vietnam veteran I have long been involved in addressing the dilemma of homelessness. Vietnam divided our nation and many soldiers returned from Southeast Asia with a variety of troubles. On far too many occasions their troubles led them to the streets and to the ranks of the homeless. We know that many of the homeless suffer from addictions and mental problems. We will never be able to help them secure a home and until their lifestyle issues are addressed.

In Connecticut we are taking action. A coalition of business leaders, social service agencies and government officials have produced the Southeastern Connecticut Ten Year Plan To End Homelessness. The three pronged attack seeks to establish a safety net by identi-

fying social services available to the homeless and finding more effective ways to deliver them. Supportive housing is an essential component—supportive housing helps address issues of heart and head while providing a place to live. In supportive housing complexes individuals find companionship, security and a staff that will help them address issues such as substance abuse, education and other barriers that prevent people from participating as productive members of society. The third part of the program is to help the homeless find employment.

I attended Bill Walsh's funeral and those who knew him described him as "a gentle soul", "just like us", and a "sweet man who never bothered anybody." No doubt we also would all agree that a 64-year-old "gentle soul" should not be living in the woods.

Many families are one paycheck away from being homeless. They are our neighbors and our friends. Those who are already experiencing life on the street or in the shelter are in need of support. A society that is dedicated to helping others help themselves will take the tragedy of Bill Walsh and use it as motivation to address homelessness. I believe ours is such a society.

In attendance at Mr. Walsh's funeral was the Rev. Emmett Jarrett, of St. Francis House, in New London. He made some insightful and compassionate remarks about Bill Walsh. I ask by unanimous consent that his meditation be included with my statement for the RECORD.

SEEING THE INVISIBLE: A MEDITATION ON
LUKE 16:19-25

(By Fr. Emmett Jarrett, TSSF)

The story you have just heard—the story of Lazarus, the poor beggar, and the rich man—is one of the stories Jesus told to call people to live not in selfish isolation but as sisters and brothers. It's also a story that Martin Luther King, Jr., the great American patriot, preached on many occasions, including the last Sunday sermon he ever preached, a few days before he was assassinated in April, 1968. King said of this story that it was not about Jesus condemning wealth, or the rich. "There is nothing in that parable," King said, "that said [the rich man] went to hell because he was rich. . . . [He] didn't go to hell because he was rich; [he] didn't realize that his wealth was his opportunity . . . to bridge the gulf that separated him from his brother, Lazarus. [He] went to hell because he passed Lazarus by every day and he never really saw him. He went to hell because he allowed his brother to become invisible."

Our country remembers Dr. King because of his dream that America would some day fulfill its promise and become a land of freedom and equality for all. But King was not just a great patriot, he was not just a great civil rights leader. He was also a leader in the movement to end the war in Vietnam. He was a leader in the struggle to end poverty in our country. When he preached his last sermon at the Washington National Cathedral in 1968 he was on his way to Memphis, Tenn., to support sanitation workers in a strike for decent wages. He was preparing to lead a national march on Washington from the rural South, from Appalachia, from the ghettos of Northern cities, a march of white people as well as black people, a "poor people's march." He was working to make the invisible people in our country visible. He was working for brotherhood and sisterhood, for what he called "the beloved community."

We are gathered here today to remember an invisible brother, Bill Walsh, who died in

the woods a few days after the New London winter emergency shelter closed. Bill died in the woods—technically in Waterford—but he was a New London resident. His last residence had been the shelter at St. James Church around the corner, but his last proper home was an apartment in the Mohican just down State Street from here. But Bill was invisible, and so he died, without the minimal attention any human being requires and is entitled to. Like Lazarus, the poor beggar in Jesus' parable, Bill was our brother, and most of us didn't see him.

So we gather here today in the First Congregational Church of New London, the church where Bill worshipped, and where he ate breakfast many mornings. Because the beloved community includes not only like-minded people who worship together, but people who break bread together, people who eat together. As the prophet Isaiah says, the life God asks of his people, of us, is a practical life of friendship and service. God requires of us that we "share our bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into our house" (Isa. 58:7). It is appropriate, then, that we gather this morning and remember Bill, and pray for him and for ourselves.

But we will not be the beloved community if we do not accept our responsibility for Bill's neglect, and for his death. The great rabbi Abraham Heschel said that "in a democracy, some are guilty, but all are responsible." All of us, as a community, as the people of the City of New London, are responsible when some of our brothers and sisters, some of our neighbors made in the image of God, have no place to lay their head. Thomas Jefferson said about slavery in America, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just." Well, friends, I tremble for our country today. There are more than three million homeless people in the richest nation in the world. We are that rich man, who went to hell not because he was rich but because he allowed his brother Lazarus to become invisible. We have an opportunity to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. It's no use blaming other towns and cities. God will judge them. It is myself and my city that I tremble for. It is for New London that I will be judged.

So I ask you this morning, as we remember Bill Walsh, to join the struggle in our city to make him and others like him visible. I invite you this morning to see the homeless poor, many of whom are present in this house of worship today. Look around you. See your neighbors. Some of your neighbors have homes to go to tonight. Some don't. But all of us are neighbors. All of us are brothers and sisters to Bill Walsh and to one another. Let us resolve today, in his memory, to make our city a "city on a hill," to which everyone can look for inspiration, to make our country "a light to the nations," that cares for its neediest citizens. We have to see each other to do that. As the great labor organizer Mother Jones said, "we've got to mourn the dead, but fight like hell for the living." We can't bring Bill Walsh back from the dead. He is with Lazarus, the poor beggar that Jesus talked about, "in Abraham's bosom." But we can see the invisible poor, and shelter the homeless and needy, and not find ourselves under judgment for our failure to see.

Now let us remember Bill. But let us get up tomorrow morning and start to work together to create a homeless hospitality center in New London that will be a model for the rest of our region and our nation. Let us see the invisible poor, and live together with all our sisters and brothers in the beloved community the God of justice invites us to become. Then Bill will be like one who has risen from the dead and brought us to the promised land.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF BLACK PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the history and invaluable contributions of an exceptional organization in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this organization for its educational leadership and record of extraordinary service benefiting underrepresented young people in Colorado and the Denver area. It is to commend this exemplary organization that I rise to honor the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

The growing importance of innovation in science and engineering to our economic well-being and to a better quality of life for our citizens is well documented. Currently, there is much discussion and concern in this Congress about the ability of the United States to sustain its scientific and technological superiority. Sustaining our leadership hinges upon expanding our human capital to meet the technical challenges of a new economy and its increasingly global and complex systems. In this regard, cultivating students with the requisite skills to enter the pipeline of future engineers and scientists has become a priority.

Over 25 years ago, a group of committed African-American engineers anticipated the future. They recognized the need to expand the pool of talent entering our colleges and universities. In 1980, they founded the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists (CABPES) with the express purpose of increasing the representation of minorities in the fields of engineering and applied sciences. CABPES has been in the vanguard of cultivating talented youth and it has become a learning gateway for students from all walks of life desiring to expand their horizons. Its commitment to the future is longstanding and our communities are well-advised by its example and the foresight of its founders.

Professional mentoring sets CABPES apart and a cadre of dedicated parents and committed volunteers are responsible for its outreach and educational programs including: the Junior Engineers, Tomorrow's Scientists Program which concentrates on developing student interest in engineering and applied sciences; the Math Enrichment Program which tutors students with their mathematics assignments; the SAT Preparation Program which prepares students for the college entrance examination; and the Widening Our World Program which gives CABPES' students the opportunity to use their computer skills and develop leadership abilities through community service. These programs have served to enrich the learning experience by providing an environment that offers real-world perspective, dialogue and exchange. Students have gained a richer and deeper understanding from practitioners who not only impart a passion and enthusiasm for their disciplines, but convey the sense of wonder that accompanies discovery and scientific endeavor.

We are indeed fortunate to have CABPES in our community. It is an invaluable resource

and I am deeply appreciative of the good work CABPES does in making science and engineering careers more attractive to all our students, particularly the under-represented. CABPES' programs help improve performance in the classroom and its mentors provide solid role models that encourage achievement. We owe a debt of gratitude not only to CABPES' founders, its board, volunteers and management professionals, but to its private sector partners as well. Their engagement and support of this organization make a real difference in the lives of our young people and thereby, in the communities CABPES serves.

Please join me in commending the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists. It is the strong leadership and meaningful service this organization provides on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

STATEMENT ON DISCHARGE PETITION ON H.J. RES. 55, THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2005

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the discharge petition for H.J. Res. 55 not because I support the substance of the underlying resolution, but because I believe a full and open debate of our Iraq policy on the floor of this House is long overdue.

I believe the invasion of Iraq was a mistake. It has diverted resources from the fight against Osama bin Laden and those who attacked our country on September 11, 2001. It has fueled al Qaeda with fresh recruits and inflamed anti-American sentiment around the world. It has resulted in the loss of the lives of thousands of American soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis. It has cost the American taxpayer hundreds of billions of dollars. It has made us less, not more, secure.

From the outset I have been an outspoken opponent of the Bush administration's decision to go to war in Iraq. I argued strongly that the United States should support the request of the United Nations' weapons inspectors for additional time to complete their mission. The Bush administration spurned that request. We know the result—the primary justification given for going to war in Iraq, namely the alleged existence of stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction and the alleged collaboration between the government of Iraq and al Qaeda, proved to be false.

Many of us warned repeatedly that invading Iraq would open Pandora's box and unleash forces and historic rivalries that we would not be able to control. The rising sectarian conflict, the insurgency and the brutal executions carried out by militias were foreseeable. The total failure of the administration to plan for the aftermath of the invasion made what was certain to be a bad situation even worse.

We went to war in Iraq in an irresponsible manner; we should leave Iraq in a responsible way. Having invaded Iraq, we have both a moral and national security obligation to do everything possible to prevent the situation and sectarian conflict from spiraling even farther out of control. We must devise a plan to

leave Iraq in a way that maximizes the chances for stability and minimizes the possibility for the eruption of a full scale civil war with even more bloodletting than there is today. We must leave Iraq in a way that does not allow al Qaeda—which did not have a base in Iraq before the war—to develop a stronghold there. We must not compound the blunders of the Bush administration by creating the conditions for even more bloodshed in Iraq and allowing it to become a launching pad for terrorist activities. That is why I have not supported proposals that set a date certain for the total withdrawal of all American forces from Iraq. I believe such well-intentioned legislation, like H.J. Res. 55, would have the unintended consequence of accelerating a budding civil war and strengthening the hands of those who would like to see Iraq plunged into even greater chaos and bloodshed.

While I do not support H.J. Res. 55 in its current form, I believe the Congress must have a serious and full debate on our strategy for bringing our troops home. Since the President declared "Mission Accomplished" in April 2003, we have seen more death and destruction in Iraq. The administration's efforts to achieve a political solution have been grossly inadequate. This House was wrong to give the President a blank check to go to war in Iraq. It now must fulfill its obligation to bring our troops home in a responsible manner. Let us honor our troops by having a serious debate. That is why I am signing the discharge petition for H.J. Res. 55.

TRIBUTE TO KELLY KEEFE
BROOKS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to my dear friend Kelly Keefe Brooks, who passed away on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at the age of 43 after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Kelly was a devoted wife, loving mother of two girls, and a warm and caring friend.

Kelly fought a courageous battle against her cancer while remaining the same loving, jovial, and caring woman that her friends and loved ones will always admire. She has become a role model and inspiration to all who knew her and all who face the same struggle against cancer. I ask unanimous consent to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eulogy delivered by Kelly's good friend Suzanne Galvin Harvey on Saturday, April 29, 2006, which was partially written by Kelly Keefe Brooks herself.

Good Afternoon.

First let me begin by saying that Kelly did a very unusual thing before she died; she wrote her own eulogy. Anyone that knew her would not be surprised. Kelly knew what she wanted and was not afraid to tell you. I asked her if I could add to it and surprisingly, she agreed. Her words are all about saying goodbye to the people in her life. I'd like to start first by saying goodbye to her.

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have called Kelly Keefe Brooks my friend for almost thirty years. We met as freshmen at Lowell High School when she asked me to share a locker with her. She introduced me to the seven friends we still have to this

day—Our Girls Club. I'll be forever grateful for that gift she gave me.

Kelly was fortunate to have married Billy, who she called "the love of her life". A few days ago she said, "Sue, let's face it, who else could have stood me?" I repeated that to Billy recently and he said he "enjoyed every minute of the ride." "Well maybe not every minute!"

Kelly gave Billy the same wonderful gift she gave me . . . an abundance of friends. She had a way about her that drew people to her in droves. She crammed many of us into her short life with 4th of July cookouts by the pool on Wilder Street; Superbowl parties; Cinco de Mayo celebrations on Clark Road; and founding Our Girls Club and presiding over it with an iron fist. From the folks at the Post Office to her golfing buddies at Longmeadow; from Our Girls Club to her sisters' original Girls Club; and from Billy's mom and family to her own family, there is no shortage of supporters for Billy and the girls with this entourage she built for them.

We all admired Kelly and Billy's love for each other so much. God sent her a peach when he sent her Billy Brooks. His devotion was unending and he would have done anything for her, whether she had cancer or not. His only regret is that Kelly wanted to see Hawaii before she died. When he got the news that her health was declining, he was thinking of ways to get her there just to see it. "I was thinking maybe I could get her on a medical plane—but it would be too far if something happened," he said. That's the kind of guy Billy Brooks is.

Together they were blessed with two beautiful daughters—Emma and Molly. She may have seemed a little tough on you girls at times, but she loved you with all her heart. These past few months she spent so much thought on giving you both special memories and personalized mementos to last a lifetime. Her likes have become your likes—New York City, General Hospital, stalking celebrities outside the Daytime Emmy awards and looking for stars around the streets of New York. I know she will always be the real star in your eyes and has become a celebrity in her own rite, which was evident from the turnout at her wake last night. Your mom also liked pictures—not so much taking them as having people take them of her and plenty with both of you, those pictures are a chronicle of your life with her. Another wonderful gift she gave you, gave all of us.

Kim and Sharon. She couldn't have asked for two better sisters who were always there for her and the girls. Auntie Sharon, always thinking of ways to help with the girls, or buying things for the house, or helping Kel decorate for the holidays or change of seasons. So glad you could be with her the morning she died. Auntie Kim, always there with at least seven or eight phone calls a day, checking in with her and being there for the girls as well. I cannot imagine the loss the two of you will feel. Not only sisters, you were true friends.

And finally her loving parents, Paul and Maryanne. Tomorrow was supposed to be a surprise 50th Anniversary party for you. Kelly has been feverishly planning that for the last few months. The video she created for you and the songs she chose—what a tremendous gift she has left for you. No parent should have to bury a child, and that is what bothered her the most when she was diagnosed—worrying about what that would do to her Mom and Dad. You should be so proud of the wonderful daughter you raised.

Kelly has been a role model for hundreds of us: family, friends, medical staff, and even to complete strangers right here in Lowell, who have been inflicted with this devastating disease. Never complaining, showing tremendous courage and spirit, fighting the uphill

battle against all odds, always with a smile on her face, and never losing faith in her doctors and caregivers or in her God. There was no time for tears with Kelly—she had much to do before she left us. Like demand a list of exactly what people were bringing over for meals. "Enough pasta!" she'd say "Can't a girl get a couple of pork chops?" Thanks to Denise Perrin and Lesley Byrne for spearheading all those dinners and house cleanings.

Goodbye Kelly and in the motto of Our Girls Club, which is engraved into the gold heart shaped charms that hang from our bracelets, we will truly be "friends forever" and we will all miss you dearly.

That is the end of my portion of this—my tribute to her. I think she asked me to do this because she thought I was funny. I'm glad I could provide you with some comic relief but sorry Kel I didn't have them rolling in the aisles because I didn't feel much like entertaining and laughing today. I did, however, briefly consider wearing my nun costume up here. But I think I traumatized my mom enough with that once before. Thank you mom for helping me write this for Kelly—she would really have been happy that it came from both of us. And now for Kelly's own words.

EULOGY

(By Kelly Keefe Brooks)

Good afternoon.

Surprise, surprise! You didn't think I would leave and not get the last word in. Seriously, I wanted to take this time to thank some people and to let you know my thoughts; you know how the cancer really changed me. Who am I kidding? To know me is to love me!

Everyone always told me I had a great attitude and I did, but I had so much help from family, friends, co-workers and medical professionals. That is what made it possible.

I do have some requests from a few of you. Babs, Cathie, Lesley, Mary and Carolyn—you have all become the monkey in the middle for Sharon and Kim. I hope they are laughing. Emma and Molly, take care of Dad, he probably doesn't remember what he had for lunch yesterday, so go easy and get along with each other. With all the women out there I am not concerned about how many mothers you girls are going to have. And you thought I was bad. Good luck girls! You thought I was annoying, ha!

Girls be successful in life and by that I mean be happy. Get careers not jobs, a big mistake most people make. Emma, I hope you live in NYC for at least a brief period of time. Molly, even though you are the youngest you will be the glue to keep the family together and I don't mean just you, Emma, and Dad. I mean everyone. It's a big job but I have no doubts.

What can I say about my girls club? They cooked, cleaned, sat with me on that king-sized bed and watched movies. Thank you!

Theresa and Dr. Anamour—thank you for giving me the extra time in life.

I don't have words for my parents only I am sorry they had to bury me first.

Sharon and Kim—take care of the girls and each other. Remember they see what you do.

Billy as much as I hated the post office, it is where I met you and hunted you down like a dog. Thank god for Denise, Mary and the keg (good times) you gave me two beautiful girls and Papa two beautiful grandchildren. Now you are his favorite son-in-law. There also is not another man who can make me laugh like you do, or could stand being married to me. I didn't get the nickname Paulette for nothing. I love you with all my heart.

Hope you all have a great time at the mercy meal, I can't tell you how mad I am

I won't be there. Have a good time leaving church—lots of singing—I picked these songs.

Kelly didn't realize that the three songs she wanted at the end are unfortunately not allowed at a Catholic Mass. So instead of singing and clapping, leave here today with a song in your heart, a beat in your step, and a smile on your face for the special woman we knew and loved.

IN HONOR OF EARL WOODS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual, role model, and parent. Yesterday, Earl Woods, father of golfer Tiger Woods, succumbed to cancer at the age of 74. He not only leaves behind a gifted son, but a legacy of integrity, pride, excellence, and passion.

Even before he raised a golf genius, Earl Woods lived an accomplished life. He gave up the opportunity to play professional baseball to attend Kansas State University, and became the first black scholarship player in the old Big 12 Conference. Later on he went into military service, served two tours in Vietnam, and spent time in Thailand where he met his second wife—Tiger's mother—Tida.

Earl Woods was a man who believed foremost in raising his son, Tiger, to be a good person, not a great golfer. Woods dedicated himself to instilling in his son a strong work ethic, mental toughness, and the drive to succeed—all factors that have allowed Tiger to become one of the most celebrated athletes of our time.

In the midst of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes, Earl Woods stood by his son, tournament after tournament, providing the guidance and friendship Tiger needed to win. Earl Woods said that his relationship with his son was one of friendship: they were equals. And he considered that to be the greatest achievement of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere condolences to the Woods family for their loss. Our prayers are with the Woods family today and we ask that God grant them peace during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO MUSLIMS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend an important community in Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District. It is often said that the media in general does not run enough positive news, and I am afraid that this is especially, and unfortunately, the case for American Muslims. Many have associated the terrible events of September 11, 2001, with the millions of law-abiding, good-hearted Muslims in the United States. I wish to set the record straight about those decent Americans who work to make their communities and our

Nation a better place to live, work, and worship.

A poll conducted in 2004 uncovered some troubling numbers, Mr. Speaker. Those consulted were asked to give the first thought that came to their minds upon hearing the word, "Muslim." Two-thirds had a neutral reply: "religion" or "mosque," to give two examples. A little less than a third, 32 percent, had negative replies: "violence," "hatred," and, I am sorry to say, epithets unsuitable for polite company. Only two percent of respondents had comments considered positive.

Numbers the following year, 2005, were more promising. Negative comments had fallen six percent to total 26 percent. Positive comments had tripled from two percent to six percent. Still, the sum of positive comments is far too low for such a vibrant community. Further, these numbers mean that the negative comments outnumber positive comments by a little more than four-to-one.

Mr. Speaker, these numbers were as startling to me as they were to the many Muslims I know, respect, and represent. My home state of Oklahoma has a dynamic and growing Muslim community. Given public perceptions of the faith by Americans at large, much of their activity is directed at educating the public about themselves and their beliefs. Education about the Muslim community is clearly important as less than half of Americans claim to be "very knowledgeable" or "somewhat knowledgeable" of Islam.

I am pleased to report that in my home state of Oklahoma, Muslim groups are among the first to respond in times of crisis. Oklahoma's Muslims gave generously to the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, to earthquake victims in Turkey, and to those who suffered from the tsunamis along the Pacific Rim. They came to help when Hurricane Katrina struck, adopting and helping resettle displaced families. Three days after September 11, 2001, these men and women hosted a blood drive for victims in Washington and New York.

Oklahoma's Muslims also do much within our state. They host a free medical clinic in my state and often pay bills and rent for the needy. They adopt highways and contribute to public libraries, reach out to students and to other faiths. They host T-ball teams and Scout troops. In short, they are valued members of our communities.

Like all Americans, Oklahoma Muslims want good schools for their children, talk over the dinner table about how to pay the bills, and want to balance their work with their home life. The values and common interests that they share with their fellow Oklahomans far outweigh any differences in matters of faith. I urge my colleagues, and my fellow Americans, to get to know their Muslim neighbors next door. They help make America the vibrant, tolerant country it is. After all, whatever one's faith, in this land of liberty we are all Americans.

HONORING JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, America lost one of its best and brightest intellects and

public servants in recent days with the death of John Kenneth Galbraith.

To say that Professor Galbraith understood economics is like saying Albert Einstein was good at arithmetic.

Ken Galbraith pioneered economic theories that transcended numbers, products, and nations, because he added people into the equation.

He recognized and helped the whole world understand that market forces alone could not be anonymous engines of economic activity. There was more at stake—people, and more to consider—policy, in a nation's economic growth and development.

If you stop and think about it, every parent has told a child at one time or another that there are consequences to their actions; John Kenneth Galbraith helped nations understand that there are consequences to economic actions.

Mr. Galbraith's impact on modern economic theory can be seen in the books he authored including *The Affluent Society* and *New Industrial State*. In all, his astonishing contributions as a world-renowned economist and professor span more than five decades.

But, there is so much more to his life and contributions to the American people.

John Kenneth Galbraith served his country as a Presidential advisor and ambassador to India.

He helped FDR implement the New Deal, serving in his administration. He also served President John F. Kennedy, among others.

Mr. Galbraith walked among giants, because he too was a giant—in intellect, heart, and commitment to his country.

If ever there was a single individual who embodied the positive change he wanted to see, it was John Kenneth Galbraith.

I was privileged to know him in my role as President of ADA, Americans for Democratic Action.

When liberal activists gathered in January 1947 at the Willard Hotel to form Americans for Democratic Action, Ken was there to inspire and to lead. He never stopped doing either.

From the beginning, Professor Galbraith was ADA's guiding light—both philosophically and as a pragmatic politician.

As its president, he led ADA during the Vietnam War to take a stand and become the first national organization to oppose the last fatally flawed war this country waged.

His participation in ADA continued as an ADA national board member, national convention speaker and author of the pithy Galbraithian letters, some of which were private and many of which attracted members to this organization which he held so dear.

I received a personal note from him just recently. John Kenneth Galbraith was that kind of person; he never stopped thinking, and feeling, and interacting, even as his own health was failing.

Just a few weeks ago, as he lay bedridden, he met with an ADA board member to discuss ways to further the goals and objectives of the organization.

John Kenneth Galbraith was nothing short of astonishing and his loss to us and to the world is enormous.

His legacy will be sustained by the countless people he inspired, through his sons—including Jamie, who serves on ADA's national board—and through the Galbraith Fellows,

who will continue to work in the public service in his memory.

To say that John Kenneth Galbraith will be sorely missed is an understatement of the highest order.

What I am proud to say is that I knew this great American, and this institution can honor his memory by ensuring that his voice resonates throughout America for all time.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KENNETH
GALBRAITH

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the United States lost an intellectual giant in the passing of economist and public figure John Kenneth Galbraith.

Both he and I were immigrants to the United States—he from Canada, I from Hungary—and we both earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley. But I came to find that we had much more in common than that.

When I ran my very first race for Congress in 1980, Mr. Speaker, I received an unsolicited contribution—and as my colleagues know, that is truly remarkable for a challenger seeking to upset an incumbent member of Congress. The contribution was from John Kenneth Galbraith. The hand-written message with the check said, “From one economist to another.” He added that he was delighted to see economist leaping into the political arena.

I cannot tell you how touched I was, not only at receiving an unbidden sign of support from someone so well-known and respected, but also to realize that a man of his caliber was in my corner.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Galbraith was a profoundly influential American economist and a prolific author. His four dozen books and more than 1,000 articles covered an amazing breadth of subjects, from Keynesian economic theory to political progressivism and fiction. Many of his volumes were bestsellers in the late 1950s and during the 1960s; they including memorable titles such as *The Affluent Society* and *The Industrial State*.

He is widely quoted. Some of his most pithy observations are among the most profound. For example, he once noted that “all successful revolutions are the kicking in of a rotten door.” And who can forget that it was Galbraith who said, “In economics, the majority is always wrong.”

John Kenneth Galbraith was a dynamic presence with a nimble political mind. He advised U.S. Presidents from Roosevelt to Clinton and was actively engaged in the Presidential campaigns of John Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy. And he served with great distinction as U.S. Ambassador to India from 1961–63.

In the year 2000, President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award recognizing exceptionally meritorious service. He was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India’s second highest civilian award, for his contributions to strengthening ties between India and United States.

It is difficult today to recall another man whose judgment and advice was valued by so

many for so long, and who also managed to touch so many personally. My wife Annette and I extend our heartfelt condolences to his devoted wife of nearly 70 years, Catherine, and their sons Alan, Peter, and James.

Mr. Speaker, John Kenneth Galbraith was an extraordinary human being and a dear friend whose prodigious life’s work helped shape American politics and economics. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this astonishing individual.

HONORING THE FORDHAM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas it is the sense of the House of Representatives to recognize and commend those American universities which have achieved world renown and brought pride and honor to our Nation through their traditions of academic excellence;

Whereas attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, the House of Representatives is justly proud to honor the Fordham University School of Law upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary;

Whereas on September 28, 1905, the Fordham University School of Law opened its door in the City of New York to 13 students; since that time it has evolved into one of the largest, most diverse and most respected law schools in the Nation, with nearly 1,600 students and over 200 full-time and adjunct faculty;

Whereas to commemorate this milestone in the life of the school and the educational history of the City and State of New York and the Nation, the Fordham University School of Law has designed a year-long celebration commencing on September 28, 2005;

Whereas the Fordham University School of Law’s Centennial Celebration will feature symposia, lectures, galas and, in keeping with its dedication to serving others, a commitment by its alumni, faculty, and students to contribute 100,000 hours of public pro bono work to help those that are less fortunate;

Whereas for 100 years, the Fordham University School of Law has been defined by unparalleled standards of learning and has produced countless leaders throughout the world; and

Whereas with great admiration, the House of Representatives is proud to pay tribute to this eminent university which stands at the threshold of the future with its legacy of outstanding achievements and its impressive body of distinguished alumni;

Therefore, be it resolved that the House of Representatives honors the Fordham University School of Law upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary, fully confident that in its future, it will enjoy the same success which has so characterized its past.

HONORING HOME SCHOOLERS

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all concerned parents who have

made an enormous commitment. All parents are teachers, but these parents have accepted total responsibility for their children’s learning, by schooling them at home.

Of course I am talking about the successful home school movement that has taken root and is rapidly growing throughout the United States. It is not easy to be a parent. I should know since I’m the proud father of five children and seven grandchildren. But adding “teacher” to the list of responsibilities parents face every day illustrates their incredible determination to ensure that their children get a solid education.

It has been said that in order to understand the future we must first look to the past. That is being done here. Thousands of present day students, like many of our Founding Fathers, are being taught at home.

The motives of these parents vary, many parents don’t like the curriculum being taught to their kids, or are wary of the threat of peer pressure or the presence of drugs or violence lurking in too many of our schools today.

In a world where it is common to pass the buck, tens of thousands of families have adhered to the principle set forth by former President Harry Truman, saying that “the buck stops here” when it comes to their children’s education.

The home schooling movement has proven it works and the numbers show. According to a recent report from Reuters News Services, between 1.7 and 2.1 million children across the country are taught at home. This is a 29 percent jump from the number of home schooled children in 1999.

When they are asked to compete against children from traditional schools, these students do quite well. One illustration is how often they show up in the finals of national spelling competitions. If you “google” the words “home schooled” and “spelling bee” together you will see page after page after page of success stories from places like Albuquerque, New Mexico, Oswego, New York or Fayetteville, North Carolina—as well as the national competition here in Washington DC.

There are other examples too.

I would especially like to congratulate Braden Juengel from Edmond, Oklahoma who was recently notified that he is one of only 39 people in the United States to receive a perfect score of 36 on his ACT test. Braden has been home schooled since the second grade. He is also a National Merit Scholar Finalist and plans to either attend Oral Roberts University or my alma mater, Baylor University, next fall. I congratulate him and his parents Mr. and Mrs. Randy and Luann Juengel.

These children are living proof that the “one size fits all” approach to education is not necessarily the only or the best way for our children to learn. This is not a knock against traditional schools. My wife and I chose for all of my kids to be taught in the Putnam City public school system. But let’s remember that the first and most important teachers that children have are their parents. We show them how to eat, help them to walk and teach them to communicate.

The Reuters news article also helps dispel the mistaken myth that home schooled kids are socially inept because they supposedly have less social interaction. Nothing could be further from the truth. Home schooled children frequently combine for many purposes—and they interact well. The growth of the home

schooling movement means that more and more children are learning together, just not in a traditional classroom. For example, a group of 70 home schooling families living in a Washington suburb organize regular group field trips and extracurricular activities for their home schooled children. They also come together for music lessons, soccer and basketball games and for art classes.

These are all ideas and events planned by parents, not school boards. Students are transported by mom or dad driving mini vans, not school buses. Home cooking beats school cafeteria food any day of the week. Education begins at home and I applaud the parents who recognize that they—not someone else—must take responsibility to assure that their children are well educated. I remind everyone: Whether you school them at home or send them to school, you as a parent have the responsibility to make sure they learn and behave. Teachers and principals may help, but parents are the ones who must accept responsibility.

I congratulate all the parents out there who made a commitment to put their children's education first. These are parents that our Founding Fathers would find worthy of praise.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AMY ARNAZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Amy Arnaz for her outstanding service to the community of Boulder City as the owner and operator of Dance Etc. Dance Studio. She also serves as the Executive Director of the Boulder City Ballet Company. Miss Amy, as she is known to the community, will retire from her service of Boulder City on May 27, 2006.

Miss Amy began her ballet career at age 7 under the direction of English Ballerina Christina Carson. She attended college at San Diego State University, where she danced with the San Diego Ballet Company. After traveling to New York to study with the Joffrey School Ballet, she returned to Las Vegas and joined the Sulich's Nevada Dance Theater. In 1979, Miss Amy purchased Dance Etc., and she continues to teach ballet, tap, jazz, and exercise to this day.

In 1997, in cooperation with her husband Desi Arnaz Jr., she founded the non-profit Boulder City Ballet Company. While serving as the company's Executive Director, Miss Amy has brought joy to the lives of the children who live in the small town of Boulder City.

Miss Amy has been trained to teach the Royal Academy of Dancing System used by the Royal Academy of England. Her students are also exposed to various types of dance through guest instructors and special workshops. She is certified through the American Council on Exercise, and continues to train in order to remain at the top in her field. Miss Amy and her valuable efforts to bring dance to the community will be very missed by the city of Boulder City; however, she will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Miss Amy Arnaz on the floor of the House. I commend her for her contributions to Boulder City and thank her for her continued service to

the children of southern Nevada. I now yield the remainder of my time.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL MISSOURI EAGLES YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Central Missouri Eagles Youth Hockey Association for winning one of the Positive Coaching Alliance's 2006 "Honoring the Game" Awards. For those of you not familiar with the Positive Coaching Alliance, they are a partnership of coaches, athletes—both current and retired—and community leaders who are dedicated to improving the quality of youth sports programs by offering training workshops and providing resources to coaches and parents that stress sports fundamentals, positive coaching and good sportsmanship.

The Positive Coaching Alliance presents an Honoring the Game Award to youth sports organizations and schools that demonstrate excellence in coaching, strong organizational culture and the promotion of good values. Award winners receive an all expenses paid trip to San Francisco where they are recognized for their accomplishments. The Central Missouri Eagles Youth Hockey Association was one of three national winners and the only Midwest team to be honored.

The Eagles are composed of 4 coed teams with 60 players, ranging in age from 5 to 18. The Eagles have a motto—"Building Good Athletes and Great Citizens"—and they have certainly lived up to it. Since 2001, all players have participated in a community service project as part of their commitment to the team. This season, the Eagles made numerous outstanding contributions in Mid-Missouri.

The Eagles pee-wee team, which includes 11 and 12 year-olds, gathered 500 stuffed animals and 130 backpacks for abused and neglected children. The high school varsity squad also collected more than 400 stuffed animals for sick children at the University of Missouri's Children's Hospital in Columbia. Finally, the mite and squirt teams, which are 5 and 10 year-olds respectively, collected more than 300 cans of food for those in need.

The involvement of our youth in activities that build character through community service and athletic competition is a positive experience, and it is refreshing to hear of organizations such as the Eagles that not only promote sportsmanship, good coaching, and having fun but also encourage player development outside the rink. This is exemplified in an excerpt from the Eagles mission statement, which reads as follows:

"The community is best served when the Eagles graduate young citizens enriched by meaningful participation in a disciplined team sport, long after the outcomes of distant games have faded from memory."

The Eagles are an outstanding organization and should be commended for all their efforts. The coaches and parents who have made this program a success are also deserving of our praise and recognition. I wish the Eagles continued success both on and off the ice and

again offer my sincere congratulations for their winning an Honoring the Game Award from the Positive Coaching Alliance.

RECOGNIZING JOAN STELLA HOLMAN ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Joan Stella Holman of Lakeport, California as she celebrates her 90th birthday and a lifetime of inspiring achievements.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 70 years Joan has been lighting up stages around the world. At an early age, Joan realized she wanted to become an actress. At only 17 years old, this driven and intelligent young woman traveled the world in pursuit of her dreams. She performed in England, South Africa and began her United States acting career in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Joan was born in England and became a naturalized citizen in 1952. After settling in San Francisco she began working as a journalist for the San Francisco Chronicle and the Oakland Tribune. While working in San Francisco she continued to perform in community theaters around the Bay Area. At age 66, Joan retired from her journalism career and settled in Lakeport, California, however, she could not retire from the stage.

Mr. Speaker, Joan has become an integral and dearly beloved member of our community. She is recognized throughout Lake County for her leadership, heartwarming personality and devotion to the arts. She has bettered our community through her love of acting. She has been cast in numerous community theater plays performing with the Lake County Repertory Theater, Ukiah Playhouse and Lakeport Community Players. In 1994 Joan received the Actress of the Year Award for her portrayal of Miss Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Joan is currently co-starring in "The Gin Game" which opens on the eve of her 90th birthday. While she may be in her 90th year she continues to portray characters with as much heart and spirit as someone who is starring in their very first role.

When not on stage, Joan continues to support the arts and our community through her dedication to several art organizations, including the Clearlake Performing Arts Council and the Lake County Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor my dear friend Joan Stella Holman for all she has done for our community and for the arts. She is an inspiration to us all and on behalf of the United States Congress; I wish to extend our best wishes to her as she celebrates her 90th birthday on April 24, 2006.

COMMEMORATING COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Cover the Uninsured Week.

Since its inception in 2003, the week held from May 1–May 7, recognizes the plight of one of the greatest threats to our Nation—46 million Americans who lack health insurance coverage.

This important initiative is led by former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter. During the week, community-based events are organized throughout the Nation to heighten public awareness about the importance of making health care coverage a civil right and a priority on our public policy agenda. Over the past three years, the week of events has included health fairs, seminars for small businesses, as well as faith-based, college and university activities.

Mr. Speaker, 46 million Americans—which equates to 15 percent of the population—are living without any form of health insurance coverage. As a Nation that embodies democracy and spreads its principles of equality throughout the world, we should be shocked by this astounding figure. The statistics regarding the uninsured are equally shocking:

Proportionately, Hispanics and African-Americans have been hit the hardest by our failure to provide health care for all. At least 60 percent of Hispanic Americans, more than 43 percent of African Americans, and 23 percent of Caucasians are among the uninsured.

More than one in four uninsured adults (or 26.6 percent) have less than a high school education.

Only 9 percent of people in families with income over \$50,000 per year are uninsured, compared to 40.8 percent of people with family income below \$5,000.

A national survey conducted in 2003 found that almost six in 10 uninsured adults (59 percent) have been without health insurance for two years or more.

In the state of Maryland, approximately 810,000 people, 14.6 percent of the total population, lack health insurance coverage.

Mr. Speaker, these statistics illustrate something very concrete and clear: the human consequences of having tens of millions of Americans uninsured are appalling. Necessary medical treatment is being delayed too long or altogether, and the Americans are dying unnecessarily.

Apart from this fact, the employment-based health insurance system, which provides health insurance for almost two-thirds of the non-elderly population, is also broken.

The reasons are complex, but this much is clear.

Too many Americans are working at low-paid or part-time jobs that do not provide health insurance coverage.

Insurance costs are increasing—and those employers who do offer coverage are attempting to shift more and more of those costs onto their employees.

We also know that those areas of our economy in which any job growth is occurring are about 10 percent less likely to provide health care coverage than those in which the number of available jobs is shrinking.

Mr. Speaker, based on all of these facts, the time to change our Nation's healthcare equation is upon us. There has to be a better way to ensure universal, high quality care. I am convinced that there is no human right more fundamental than the preservation of life. Wealth should not be a pre-condition to world class health care in a nation that truly values all of its people.

With that said, I have joined Michigan Congressman JOHN CONYERS and many others in proposing the United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676).

This proposal would create a nation-wide, single-payer health care system that is publicly financed but provides private care. It would include expanding and improving the existing Medicare program to cover Americans of all ages. Under the plan, Americans would retain (or regain) the right to choose their own doctors. Other health care professionals and all medically necessary services would be covered. There would also be neither co-pays nor deductibles.

Today, I encourage my colleagues to work with us in advancing the vision of universal health care for the following three reasons:

We must not allow the sick and dying Americans in our communities to be marginalized.

We must make common cause with all of the Americans to provide the care that they need at a cost that they can afford.

We must be clear in our assertion that health care is a fundamental human right whatever may be the color of a person's skin.

Now is the time to create a health care system that truly serves ALL Americans and now is the time for America to transform our human right to health care into a civil right guaranteed—and funded—by federal law. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 676.

NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE OF FLORIDA LAND SALE

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced common sense legislation that provides the Forestry Service the flexibility they need to properly manage their assets. This legislation modifies the Florida National Forest Land Management Act in two simple ways, which will provide the Forest Service essential authority to manage the National Forests in Florida effectively.

The first provision simply adds an unmanageable tract of land located in Tallahassee, FL to the list of lands the Secretary of Agriculture is currently authorized to sell. This specific property, tract W-1979, is approximately 114 acres of land that has evolved into an unmanageable problem area for the Apalachicola National Forest. Due to the configuration and surrounding development, the vegetation cannot be managed through prescribed fire. Although a very valuable tract from a real estate/commercial aspect, this tract has lost its National Forest character. The sale of this land will allow the Forest Service to purchase other lands located within the Forest that are more manageable and will enhance National Forests in Florida.

Secondly, this legislation would allow the Forest Service to use proceeds from the sale of other "non-green land" to be used for construction and improvements to Administrative facilities essential to the proper management of the Forest. These "non-green land" tracts of land are owned by the Forest Service, but have urban improvements like fairgrounds or sporting complexes and are not conducive to the overall purpose of protecting our National Forests.

This legislation would allow the Service to use the proceeds from the sale of improved lands to build critical infrastructure they need to manage the Forests in Florida, while allowing the Forest Service to continue its practice of using receipts from all nondeveloped "green land" tracts for the acquisition of other "green land" tracts to enhance the National Forests in Florida. By passing this legislation, the Forest Service will have the ability to efficiently and effectively manage our Nation's precious resources.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT JEFFERY D. GUSTAFSON

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate CMSgt Jeffery D. Gustafson of Rochester, Minnesota, on his dedicated service in the United States Air Force.

In November of 1975, Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson enlisted in the United States Air Force at the 934th Airlift Wing, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Force Reserve Station in Minnesota. He retired from the same station on April 1, 2006, having achieved the highest attainable enlisted rank in the United States Military.

Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson has served the United States from across the world, including Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Honduras. He was given the distinct honor of being the first troop commander of a fully manned Aerospace Expeditionary Force for the United States Air Force. He was also the first recipient of the General Rawlings Air Force Sergeant Association and Air Force Association Chapter's Chief Master Sergeant of the Year. In addition, Chief Master Sergeant Gustafson has been thanked in person for his military service by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere gratitude to CMSgt Jeffery D. Gustafson for his service in the United States Air Force and his commitment to our nation. His distinguished accomplishments reflect to the highest degree upon himself and the United States Air Force.

AMTRAK 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amtrak on its 35th Anniversary, and commemorate its 35 years of public service to this Nation through its commitment to passenger rail.

I travel all over the country and the people I talk to love Amtrak. It is a great way to commute to work, it takes cars off our already congested highways, and in many areas of the country is the only mode of transportation available. In fact, ridership has increased in 8 of the last 9 years reaching a record level of over 25 million passengers last year. It is also important to note that Amtrak's long distance

trains are the only inner city passenger trains in half the states in America.

Amtrak was also a First Responder during hurricane Katrina, and helped evacuate thousands of Gulf region residents while President Bush and his Administration were nowhere to be found. Now they are becoming a key part in each State's future evacuation plans.

Now what I can't understand is why the Bush Administration is trying to destroy passenger rail in this country. Every industrialized country in the world is investing heavily in rail infrastructure because they realize that this is the future of transportation. But sadly, as there systems get bigger and better, our system gets less and less money.

President Bush has a lot of wacky ideas for dealing with the high gas prices he created, but I can assure him that as prices climb to \$4 dollars per gallon, you are going to see Americans lining up to use a passenger rail system that has been neglected by this very Administration. But what more do you expect when you put J.R. Ewing in the White House.

Once again we see the Bush Administration's paying for its failed policies by cutting funds to vital public services and jeopardizing more American jobs. This Administration sees nothing wrong with taking money from the hard working Amtrak employees who work day and night to provide top quality service to their passengers. These folks are trying to make a living for their families, and they don't deserve this shabby treatment from the President.

With the passage of the latest emergency funding for the war, President Bush will have spent over \$439 billion on the war in Iraq, but could only find \$900 million for Amtrak's 25 million passengers. Just one week's investment in Iraq would significantly improve passenger rail for the entire country for an entire year. This is another perfect example of just how out of touch this Administration is because I can assure the President that there is a whole lot more support for Amtrak in this country than there is for the war in Iraq.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation spread about Amtrak, and it is important for people to know the real facts about Amtrak. Ridership numbers are at record levels, outstanding debt has been reduced by \$300 million, major infrastructure projects have been completed. All with a workforce that has been reduced by over 4,000 employees.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us when it comes to Amtrak. But we're starting \$900 million closer to our goal, and I know with the help of the American public, we can fully fund Amtrak at \$1.6 billion and keep Amtrak running long into the future.

REMEMBERING FRIEDA FRY

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, March 8, 2006, marked the death of Frieda M. Fry, age 94, an honored resident of my district. Her passing prompts me to remark on this remarkable woman, and how she exemplifies qualities that we should encourage in all of our citizens.

A lifelong citizen of Summit County, and 50 year resident of Richfield Township, Frieda

was wife of Federal Administrative Law Judge Walter Logan Fry, who preceded her in death in 1978. Judge Fry served long and well in federal service, culminating with his appointment to the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, DHEW, including 3 years as ALJ in charge of the Cleveland, Ohio, Office.

Frieda was born in Barberton, Ohio, and traces her roots to the Swiss and German settlers of the early eighteenth century. She graduated from Akron East High School in 1929; and received the Diploma for Elementary Teaching from Kent State College (now University) in 1931.

From 1931 to 1935, she taught Fourth Grade at the Betty Jane School in Akron. Beginning in 1941, she taught elementary grades for the Boston Rural School District in Peninsula. Beginning in 1962, she taught elementary grades at Hillcrest Elementary School in Richfield, Ohio.

Mrs. Fry's interest in learning began early. Son, W. Logan Fry, recounts: "mother told us that when she was a little girl, she would spend half her allowance on lunch—and the other half on books. Books opened the whole world to her. At her death, her personal library included books on art, science, religion, medicine, psychology, nature, history and the cultures of the world."

Following Judge Fry's death in 1978, Mrs. Fry traveled five continents. She traveled across China; visited small textile factories in India; rode on the backs of elephants in Kashmir; and experienced the smells of the opium dens of Katmandu. On this later trip, a very finely dressed gentleman with a well-trimmed mustache, who described himself as a diplomat, asked if she had any daughters—and volunteered to care for them generously if she did. Mrs. Fry politely declined, but continued in a mutually rewarding conversation.

In Russia, she attended a performance of the Moscow Ballet on a wintry Christmas Eve; and enjoyed the circus in Uzbekistan. The jet flight to Tashkent, with goats and chickens on the passenger list, was a harrowing but thrilling experience.

Frieda made many trips to Germany and Switzerland. On one such trip, with daughter Nancy Fry Laessig, two German citizens on a facing train car seat said, in their native language: "Look at those two Americans, they don't even know the difference between the Danube and the Rhine." Nancy translated, and Mrs. Fry shot back: "We are guests in your country, you should be telling us all about your country, not disparaging your guests." That led to a deeper conversation, and her German critics soon became friends, sharing ideas and experiences until their train arrived in Zurich.

Mrs. Fry also traveled in and across Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Germany, France, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand, among others.

Moreover, as part of Richfield's "Mundialization" program, she entertained friends from Wolfach, Germany; and visited them in their own homes in Wolfach. (In the 1960s, Richfield, Ohio became America's first 'world town,' followed by Minneapolis, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Boston, among others.)

Frieda Fry placed her beacon atop of her basket; and has served as an example for two generations of her own children. Grandson Michael Fry who competed for the United States

in Amateur Rope Skipping Competitions in Korea, Australia, Belgium and Canada; granddaughter Bonnie Laessig who traveled across Norway with her paternal grandfather, artist Robert Laessig; granddaughter Holly Laessig who studied language and culture in Bangkok, Thailand; granddaughter Rachel Mitton Fry who studied language in Tel Aviv and biochemistry in Munich; and granddaughter Elizabeth Anne Fry who studied Russian in Moscow, built homes in South Africa with President Jimmy Carter and Habitat for Humanity and, last year, taught elementary students in Tanzania.

The qualities that Frieda M. Fry demonstrated in her daily life are well suited for all Americans—the delight in learning, the calling to teach and spread knowledge, and the engagement with the people with whom we share our planet. For her, 9/11 was not a call to isolation and retreat, and certainly not an excuse to erect rigid barriers designed to bar students, artists, immigrants and refugees from our shores.

Frieda Fry embraced the people of the world, and their diverse cultures.

We will all miss her.

RESPONSE TO 2006 USTR SPECIAL 301 REPORT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week the USTR issued its annual Special 301 report evaluating intellectual property laws in foreign countries. During this year's review process, I wrote to Ambassador Portman along with a bipartisan group of my colleagues raising concern about the agency's consideration of complaints by the pharmaceutical industry against Israel. PhRMA had called on USTR to elevate Israel to the worst designation of "Priority Foreign Country" and work to block Israel's membership in the OECD because of pharmaceutical IP issues.

I am glad to see that the USTR chose not to take these drastic steps. Such action would have been unwarranted and damaging to an important ally. However, I am deeply disappointed that Israel did remain on the "Priority Watch List." Israel has worked in steadfast consultation with the U.S. to adopt broader protections for pharmaceutical products. Israeli lawmakers, under the leadership of then-Minister of Trade Ehud Olmert, passed legislation that strikes a balance between the need to provide strong protections for innovators and timely access to affordable treatment for the Israeli public.

Similar to a U.S. law, commonly referred to as Hatch-Waxman, the Israeli system provides patent extensions for delays in the drug approval process as well as 5 years of exclusive marketing rights for new drugs that enter the market. This is far beyond the level of protection required by the World Trade Organization agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS). Yet, by keeping Israel on the "Priority Watch List," the Special 301 report criticizes Israel just as harshly as major IP offenders like China and Russia, and more harshly than many other countries with weaker IP regimes.

These inconsistencies raise serious questions about how the agency makes its designations. I am particularly concerned about the report's inordinate emphasis on the protection of pharmaceutical test data submitted for the approval of new drugs. Of the 48 countries named in the report, 28 were criticized for inadequate test data protection nearly double those cited on this issue in 2001.

USTR has insisted that the TRIPS "data protection" requirement be strictly interpreted like a Hatch-Waxman provision that mandates a 5-year period during which a generic copy cannot be approved. As one of the principal authors of that legislation, I find this position at best misguided and at worst immoral.

First, nothing in TRIPS requires any period of "data protection," much less 5 years. Article 39.3 of TRIPS only requires protection from "unfair commercial use" and there is certainly no global consensus about what that actually means. Second, the U.S. system is not a "one-size-fits-all" solution that is appropriate for all countries. For many poor countries, adoption of five years of "data protection" will deprive their citizens of any and all access to life-saving drugs.

When Special 301 Report designations become arbitrary and excessive, they lose their credibility and effectiveness. It is time for Congress to examine the process by which the USTR reviews intellectual property protection laws, weighs submissions from industry and related advisory committees, and ultimately, how it determines the status of the foreign countries in its annual report.

**MOREHOUSE COLLEGE CROWNED
NATIONAL CHAMPION AT 17TH
ANNUAL HONDA CAMPUS ALL-
STAR CHALLENGE**

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to inform fellow Members about a recent academic competition featuring some of the nation's sharpest young minds. The 17th annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge (HCASC) in Orlando featured students from the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This year, the team from Morehouse College, which is located in my Congressional District, won the competition. I want to offer my sincere congratulations to Dr. Anderson Williams, Coach of the Morehouse team, along with Jordan A. Harris who was captain of the winning team.

In addition to the sense of personal satisfaction the Morehouse team gained from winning, they also received a \$50,000 grant for their school. The runner-up, North Carolina Central University, took home a \$25,000 grant. The remaining 62 teams earned grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$15,000. Through the program, more than \$300,000 in institutional grants are awarded annually to participating schools.

For 17 years, HCASC has celebrated the academic and cultural benefits offered by the HBCUs while honoring African American cultural icons. Since Honda founded this program in 1989, more than 50,000 HBCU students have participated, and Honda annually awards educational grants to participating HBCUs.

More than 320 college students from 64 HBCUs across the country competed in the 4-day round-robin format tournament. The top two teams from each of eight divisions advance to the "Sweet 16," in a single-elimination playoff. The final two teams then compete for the National Champion title in a best 2-out of 3-final series.

Nearly 100 HBCU presidents, educators, alumni and community volunteers attended the event, themed "Your Challenging Spirit" to support the participating students. The theme speaks to the spirit the students have exhibited to get to this point and may have to call upon throughout their lives. Influential PBS Talk Show Host and radio personality, Tavis Smiley, kicked off the event with a keynote speech at the welcome dinner.

In addition to winning institutional grants, the one-of-a-kind competition gives HCASC students the chance to exercise teamwork and establish long-term relationships through unique networking forums.

The Morehouse team included: captain Jordan A. Harris (Senior, Economics), and players Mark A. Bernard (Senior, Chemistry), Anthony Christopher Smith (Senior, Political Science & Pre-Law), John Ramsey Clarke (Senior, Economics) and Alvin McNair (Freshman, Undeclared). They were coached by Dr. Anderson Cornelius Williams (Professor; Elberton, Ga.).

The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge is the only competition of its kind and was established by American Honda Motor Co., Inc., in 1989. Since the inception of the program, more than 50,000 HBCU students have participated, and Honda has awarded more than \$5 million in grants to HBCUs to improve campus life through facility improvements and increasing academic resources.

Below is a list of the 16 playoff teams which qualified for the "Sweet 16" playoff round in Orlando. Congratulations to all the participating teams and thanks to Honda for sponsoring such a wonderful event.

**2006 HONDA CAMPUS ALL-STAR CHALLENGE
SWEET 16 PLAYOFF TEAMS**

1. Alabama State University.
2. Benedict College.
3. Central State University.
4. Clark Atlanta University.
5. Elizabeth City State University.
6. Florida A&M University.
7. Harris-Stowe State University.
8. Howard University.
9. Mississippi Valley State University.
10. Morehouse College.
11. Morgan State University.
12. Norfolk State University.
13. North Carolina Central University.
14. Spelman College.
15. Tennessee State University.
16. University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

**2006 SAILOR OF THE YEAR
AWARDS**

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 30 young men and women in the United States Navy. On March 23, I attended the Sailor of the Year awards at Naval Station Mayport in my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. The Sailor of the Year is bestowed upon

one young man or woman in each of the naval units stationed at Naval Station Mayport.

We all know that it takes courage and dedication to enlist in our armed forces. All of these honorees have made that valiant decision to serve our country. They have successfully navigated the Navy Basic Training Course and have excelled in their chosen rating. However, these men and women were picked today because over the course of the past year, they have gone above and beyond the call of duty and demonstrated great character and resolve. Their command leadership who work with them day in and day out, in peacetime and in wartime have hand selected these honorees because they see a great leadership potential in each one of them. It was my honor to be the guest speaker at their award ceremony, and I wish them the best in their future in the Navy and in life. They make us proud of our men and women in uniform. Thank you and Godspeed.

Sailor of the Year Honorees:

AD1(AW) Crystal T. Cooper assigned to AIMD Mayport,

BM1(SW) Paul Burt assigned to ATG Mayport,

HM1 Andrea M. Searcey assigned to BMC Mayport.

AE1(AW) Bret F. Stroman assigned to CNL Mayport,

IT1(SW) Michael T. Laurie assigned to COMHSLWINGLANT,

IS1(SW) Walter J. McKinley assigned to COMUSNAVSO,

AO1(AW) Christopher M. Ham assigned to HSL 40,

AZ1(AW) Cory S. Benfield assigned to HSL 42,

AE1(AW) Christopher B. King assigned to HSL 44,

AD1(AW) Christopher N. Howell assigned to HSL 44,

AW1(NAC/AW) Spencer G. Wait assigned to HSL 46,

AM1(AW) Aristile S. Guidry assigned to HSL 46,

AD1(AW) Abraham Tolbert assigned to HSL 48,

NC1(SW) Lizzie Martin assigned to HSL 48, AW1(AW/SW) Jason C. Kleinsmith assigned to HSM Weapons School,

CS1(SW/AW) Stephan Jones assigned to NS Mayport,

GSM1(SW) Gregory L. Crum assigned to SERMC,

CTT1(SW) James C. Woods assigned to the USS Boone,

FC1(SW) Christopher D. Weddel assigned to the USS Carney,

IT1(SW) Benjamin J. Padgett assigned to the USS Doyle,

GSM1(SW) Scot A. Wanser assigned to the USS Halyburton,

CTT1(SW) Scott B. Aaron assigned to the USS Hue City,

EM1(SW) Adam J. Smyk assigned to the USS McInerney,

OS1(SW) Hannabal E. Forbes assigned to USS John L. Hall,

EN1(SW) Andrew J. Hochgraver assigned to USS Samuel B. Roberts,

TM1(SW) Christopher Moore assigned to the USS R.G. Bradley,

EN1(SW) Paul A. Gurrola assigned to the USS Simpson,

EM1(SW) Oliver Cummings assigned to the USS Taylor

EM1(SW) Timothy Howard assigned to the USS The Sullivans,

EM1(SW) Cory Baron assigned to the USS Vicksburg.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
GERALD D. "JERRY" COCHRAN
OF CRESCENT CITY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Honorable Gerald D. "Jerry" Cochran on the occasion of his retirement as the Del Norte County Assessor, an office he has held for the last 36 years.

Mr. Cochran has been a dedicated advocate for the citizens of Del Norte County since first being elected to office on November 3, 1970. He is a tenacious public servant with a reputation for being forthright, open and responsive to the needs of the community. He has been a consistent advocate for working families and for those less fortunate. I consider him a true friend and counselor, someone I rely upon to advise me about issues affecting the most northern coastal county of California, home of

the Smith River National Recreation Area and Redwood National Park.

Over the last three decades in Del Norte County, Mr. Cochran has provided outstanding and resourceful leadership during critical, watershed events for the region. He was a fierce advocate on behalf of the county leading up to the expansion of Redwood National Park in 1978. He led the local effort to site a California correctional facility in Del Norte County in 1980's. He has fought for highway improvement projects, protected the county's interest in state and federal land acquisitions and always focused on ways in which to help build the local economy to secure good-paying, long-term jobs.

Mr. Cochran moved to California from the state of Wisconsin when he was five years old, one of five children of Tom & Alvina Cochran. He attended Humboldt State University and joined the United States Air Force, serving our nation for four years with duty in Japan, Vietnam and at the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. Cochran has served on numerous local boards, including Sutter Coast Hospital, Rural

Human Services, Humboldt State University Advisory Board, and the Wild Rivers Community Foundation. He currently serves on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the prestigious Golden Gate Bridge District Board of Directors.

He is an active member of Rotary International of Crescent City, the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee and was recently asked to serve as the Del Norte County Veterans Service Officer. In 2005 he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Crescent City/Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry married the lovely Jacqueline Cochran 41 years ago; they have one daughter, Marcy, son-in-law Darin Bradbury, and a beloved grandson, Dalton.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Gerald D. "Jerry" Cochran for his vision, leadership and commitment to a healthy and vibrant Del Norte County and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4093–S4118

Measures Introduced: Three bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2754–2756. **Page S4107**

Medical Care Access Protection Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 22, to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

Pages S4095, S4096–S4106

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill and, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the order of May 5, 2006, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:15 p.m., on Monday, May 8, 2006.

Page S4095

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn.

Page S4095

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Monday, May 8, 2006, Senate resume consideration of the bill; that the time from 1:30 p.m. until 2 p.m. be under the control of the minority, and that the time from 2 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. be under the control of the majority, and that the time until 5 p.m. rotate under this format; provided further, that the time from 5 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. be under the control of the majority.

Page S4095

Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 23, to improve women's access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services. **Page S4095**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill and, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the order of May 5, 2006, a vote on cloture will occur on Monday, May 8, 2006, if cloture is not in-

voked on motion to proceed to consideration of S. 22 (listed above). **Page S4095**

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn. **Page S4095**

Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1955, to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace. **Page S4095**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture may occur on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, if cloture is not invoked on the motions to proceed to consideration of S. 22 and S. 23 (both listed above).

Page S4095

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn. **Page S4095**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Kevin Owen Starr, of California, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2009.

Katherine M.B. Berger, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2010.

Karen Brosius, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 6, 2006.

Karen Brosius, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

Ioannis N. Miaoulis, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2010.

Christina Orr-Cahall, of Florida, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2010.

Sandra Pickett, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2010. **Pages S4117–18**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4107–08**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S4108**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4108**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 1:09 p.m., until 1 p.m., on Monday, May 8, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4117.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. It will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 8 in pro forma session and at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 for Morning Hour debate.

Committee Meetings

No Committee meetings were held.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 8 through May 13, 2006

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 1 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 22, Medical Care Access Protection Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to occur at 5:15 p.m.; if cloture is not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 22, Senate will resume consideration of S. 23, Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to occur thereon.

On *Tuesday*, Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill, if cloture is not invoked on the motions to proceed to consideration of S. 22, and S. 23.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any other cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: May 10, to hold hearings to examine the implementation of the sugar provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, 10 a.m., SH–216.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Department of Agriculture's national response plan to detect and control the potential spread of Avian Influenza into the United States, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Appropriations: May 9, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for military construction, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

Committee on the Budget: May 11, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert J. Portman, of Ohio, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 9, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine, to hold hearings to examine CAFE standards, 10 a.m., SD–562.

May 9, Subcommittee on Aviation, to hold hearings to examine Department of Transportation's notice of proposed rulemaking, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 8, to hold hearings to examine issues associated with the implementation of the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 addressing licensing of hydroelectric facilities, 3 p.m., SD–366.

May 10, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nomination of Dirk Kempthorne, of Idaho, to be Secretary of the Interior, 11:30 a.m., SD–366.

May 10, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 906, to promote wildland firefighter safety, S. 2003, to make permanent the authorization for watershed restoration and enhancement agreements, H.R. 585, to require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and H.R. 3981, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain land exchanges involving small parcels of National Forest System land in the Tahoe National Forest in the State of California, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the status of Yucca Mountain Repository Project within the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management at the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: May 10, to hold hearings to examine progress achieved and challenges ahead for America's child welfare system, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 10, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Earl Anthony Wayne, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Argentina, David M. Robinson, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Suriname, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 9, Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine proposed reform of Longshore Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 8, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of David L. Norquist, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, 3:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: May 10, to hold an oversight hearing to examine economic development, 9:30 a.m., SR-485.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 9, to hold hearings to examine an introduction to the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act and legal issues relating to reauthorization, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

May 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine judicial nominations, 2 p.m., SD-226.

May 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine modern enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 11, to hold hearings to examine pending health care related legislation, 10 a.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 9, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

May 10, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

May 11, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, May 9, to consider the following: Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2007; and the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007, 4:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

May 10, to consider the following appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007: the Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; and the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, May 10, Subcommittee on Select Education, to mark up H.R. 5293, Senior Independence Act of 2006, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 9, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Examining the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program," 3 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Thoroughbred Horse Racing Jockeys and Workers: Examining On-Track Injury Insurance and Other Health and Welfare Issues, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 10 and 11, full Committee, hearings entitled "Gasoline Supply, Price and Specifications," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled "Social Security Numbers in Commerce: Reconciling Beneficial Uses with Threats to Privacy". 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, May 11, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing on H.R. 3206, Credit Union Charter Choice Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, May 9, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, hearing entitled "Anthrax Protection: Progress or Problems," 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census, hearing entitled "Public Housing Management: Do the Public Housing Authorities have the Flexibility They Need to Meet the Changing Demands of the 21st Century?" 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability, hearing entitled "After Katrina: The Role of the Department of Justice Katrina Fraud Task Force and Agency Inspectors General in Preventing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse," 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

May 11, full Committee, hearing entitled "Working Through an Outbreak: Pandemic Flu Planning and Continuity of Operations," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, May 9, oversight hearing on proposed legislation to strengthen the Federal Emergency Management Agency and better integrate it into the Department, 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

May 10, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Risk Assessment, hearing entitled "Building the Information Sharing Environment: Addressing the Challenges of Implementation," 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

May 10, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment, to continue hearings entitled "Protection of Privacy in the DHS Intelligence Enterprise," 4 p.m., 311 Cannon.

May 11, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment, executive, briefing on the different governance structures of State and Local Fusion Centers, 2 p.m., H2-176 Ford.

May 11, Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight, hearing entitled "CBP and ICE: Does the Current Organizational Structure Best Serve U.S. Homeland Security Interests? Part III," 2:30 p.m., 311 Cannon.

May 11, Subcommittee on Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack, hearing entitled "Creating a Nationwide, Integrated Biosurveillance Network," 2 p.m., 1311 Longworth.

Committee on International Relations, May 10, hearing on A Resurgent China: Responsible Stakeholder or Robust Rival? 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Africa, Human Rights and International Operations, hearing on Current Issues in U.S. Refugee Protection and Resettlement, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

May 11, full Committee, hearing on the U.S.-India Global Partnership: Legislative Options, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, hearing on Reviewing the State Department's Annual Report on Terrorism, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Visa Overstays: Can We Bar the Terrorist Door? 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, May 11, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on the Cyber-Security Enhancement and Consumer Data Protection Act of 2006, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, May 10, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 4947, Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act; H.R. 5094, Lake Mattamuskeet Lodge Preservation Act; and H.R. 5232, Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Study Act, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

May 10, Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 4588, Water Resources Research Act Amendments of 2005; H.R. 5079, North Unit Irrigation District Act of 2006; and S. 214/H.R. 469, United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 11, full Committee, oversight hearing on Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS) for Indian gaming, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 11, Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing on Disability access in the National Park System, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, May 9, to consider H.R. 5122, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, May 11, hearing on the Inspector General Report on NOAA Weather Satellites, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, May 10, hearing entitled "Bridging the Equity Gap: Examining the Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs Act of 2006," 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 10, Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, oversight hearing on Highway Capacity and Freight Mobility: The Current Status and Future Challenges, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Railroads, oversight hearing on Operational Experience Under the 2001 Railroad Retirement Reform Law, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

May 11, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, oversight hearing on Coast Guard Mission Capabilities, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, May 10, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3082, Veteran-Owned Small Business Promotion Act of 2005; and H.R. 5220, Veterans Certification and Licensure Act of 2006, 2:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, May 9, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing on Corporate Tax Reform, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

May 11, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing on Social Security Service Delivery Challenges, 9 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, May 11, executive, briefing entitled "Global Updates/Hotspots," 9 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: May 10, to hold hearings to examine the next generation of health information tools for consumers, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

1 p.m., Monday, May 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 22, Medical Care Access Protection Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to occur at 5:15 p.m.; if cloture is not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 22, Senate will resume consideration of S. 23, Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to occur thereon.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Monday, May 8

House Chamber

Program for Monday: The house will meet in pro forma session.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Baca, Joe, Calif., E744
 Baird, Brian, Wash., E736
 Bishop, Timothy H., N.Y., E736
 Bonner, Jo, Ala., E734
 Brown, Corrine, Fla., E747
 Brown, Sherrod, Ohio, E748
 Brown-Waite, Ginny, Fla., E735
 Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E733
 Capito, Shelley Moore, W.Va., E736
 Cardin, Benjamin L., Md., E736
 Cole, Tom, Okla., E744
 Crenshaw, Ander, Fla., E747, E749
 Cummings, Elijah E., Md., E746

Davis, Tom, Va., E737
 DeGette, Diana, Colo., E742
 Forbes, J. Randy, Va., E735
 Fossella, Vito, N.Y., E745
 Gutknecht, Gil, Minn., E747
 Holt, Rush D., N.J., E735
 Hulshof, Kenny C., Mo., E746
 Istook, Ernest J., Jr., Okla., E745
 Kanjorski, Paul E., Pa., E734
 Kucinich, Dennis J., Ohio, E733, E739
 Levin, Sander M., Mich., E740
 Lewis, John, Ga., E749
 McDermott, Jim, Wash., E744
 Meehan, Martin T., Mass., E743
 Moore, Gwen, Wisc., E734

Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E740
 Ortiz, Solomon P., Tex., E734
 Osborne, Tom, Nebr., E736
 Pearce, Stevan, N.M., E740
 Pence, Mike, Ind., E737
 Porter, Jon C., Nev., E746
 Rahall, Nick J., II, W.Va., E737
 Reichert, David G., Wash., E733, E736, E738
 Simmons, Rob, Conn., E741
 Slaughter, Louise McIntosh, N.Y., E740
 Thompson, Mike, Calif., E746, E750
 Van Hollen, Chris, Md., E742
 Waxman, Henry A., Calif., E748
 Wilson, Joe, S.C., E735



Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through *GPO Access*, a service of the Government Printing Office, free of charge to the user. The online database is updated each day the *Congressional Record* is published. The database includes both text and graphics from the beginning of the 103d Congress, 2d session (January 1994) forward. It is available through *GPO Access* at www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess. Customers can also access this information with WAIS client software, via telnet at swais.access.gpo.gov, or dial-in using communications software and a modem at 202-512-1661. Questions or comments regarding this database or *GPO Access* can be directed to the *GPO Access* User Support Team at: E-Mail: gpoaccess@gpo.gov; Phone 1-888-293-6498 (toll-free), 202-512-1530 (D.C. area); Fax: 202-512-1262. The Team's hours of availability are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, except Federal holidays. ¶The *Congressional Record* paper and 24x microfiche edition will be furnished by mail to subscribers, free of postage, at the following prices: paper edition, \$252.00 for six months, \$503.00 per year, or purchased as follows: less than 200 pages, \$10.50; between 200 and 400 pages, \$21.00; greater than 400 pages, \$31.50, payable in advance; microfiche edition, \$146.00 per year, or purchased for \$3.00 per issue payable in advance. The semimonthly *Congressional Record Index* may be purchased for the same per issue prices. To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2250. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.