

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT WITH RESPECT TO NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Disraeli once exclaimed, "The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend."

Rooted in this reality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lead vital public health initiatives to prevent and control infectious and chronic disease, injuries, workplace hazards, disabilities, and environmental health threats. However, the effectiveness of its work depends on its strong partnerships with other organizations, notably, the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The National Foundation was founded by Congress in 1995 to bridge outside resources and partners with CDC scientists, and it has greatly enhanced the CDC's impact in such areas as global health, anti-microbial resistance, the obesity epidemic, healthy aging, and emergency preparedness and response. Most recently, the foundation created the Emergency Preparedness & Response Fund. This fund will provide the CDC with resources it needs for rapid response to large-scale public health emergencies, such as terrorist attacks or an avian flu pandemic. Given this organization's immeasurable contribution to national public health initiatives, I urge members to support S. 655. This bill proposes increased funding for grants to the foundation, allows for more voluntary service to the CDC by foundation individuals, and permits the CDC Director to provide facilities, utilities, and support services to the foundation if doing so is advantageous to CDC programs and the American people. Provisions of this bill will indeed strengthen the CDC and National Foundation's partnership and result in better public health outcomes for our Nation.

Thomas Carlyle once said, "He who has health, has hope, and he who has hope has everything." Let us ensure that we do everything in our power to improve the health status of our people. In doing so, we will most certainly ensure the productivity and fruitfulness of their lives.

CONGRATULATING THE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Mental Health Center of Champaign County on the celebration of its 50th anniversary.

The Champaign County Mental Health Clinic opened its doors 50 years ago as a program of the Champaign County Mental Health Society. On July 22, 1968, the Mental Health Center became incorporated and changed its name to the Mental Health Center of Champaign County. Throughout its years of service to the community, the Mental Health Center has continually expanded mental health services to meet the needs of the public.

The Mental Health Center of Champaign County is committed to providing critical mental health services to the community. Since its inception, the Mental Health Center has provided residential, outpatient, school-based, and 24-hour crisis services to promote the recovery, awareness, and the understanding of mental health and related illnesses.

The citizens of the 15th district and I are very proud of the Mental Health Center of Champaign County for their continued efforts to provide quality services to those in need of them. We look forward to a prosperous future in which the Mental Health Center will continue its dedication to mental health services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Mental Health Center of Champaign County on its 50th anniversary of service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 91, NO. 137 AND AUXILIARY UNIT NO. 91

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize the American Legion Post No. 91 and Auxiliary Unit No. 91 in Romney, WV, and Post No. 137 in Capon Bridge, WV. Both are located in my district, Hampshire County.

Post No. 91 has a long tradition of monthly meetings since 1920, sponsoring strong child and youth programs, and flying flags on holidays such as Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, and Hampshire Heritage days. Post Commander Madelaine Shallcross has boosted membership to 450 members.

Auxiliary Unit No. 91 is led by 7-year President Diana Haines. Founded in 1926 with only 22 members, it has now grown to be part of the third largest unit in the State. The 435

members volunteer and maintain the expense of the Hampshire County Library. In 1926, the auxiliary assisted the Legion in designing an honor roll plaque for the World War I servicemen of Hampshire County.

Post No. 137 has an active membership of 400 in Capon Bridge, WV. Post Commander Bob Brasher is assisted by President Sally Reid and Larry LaFollette, head of the Sons of the Legion group.

Each of these organizations provides a venue for fellowship, volunteerism, and patriotism. The service each member has given to their Nation and community shall be forever cherished and represented.

PENCE CALLS ON CONGRESS TO STAND FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days, Congress will consider legislation to make taxpayer dollars available for what is known as embryonic stem cell research.

Stating the case for an imminent presidential veto, in 2001 President Bush made the moral dimensions of scientific testing on human embryos clear.

These are the principles: It is morally wrong to create human life to destroy it for research. Also, it is morally wrong to take the tax dollars of millions of pro-life Americans and use them to finance research that they find morally objectionable. The choice of our time was described millennia ago: "See, I set before you blessings and curses, life and death. Now choose life that you and your children may live." I urge my colleagues to stand for the sanctity of life at every level. Stand with President George W. Bush. Reject taxpayer funding of human embryo research.

ANNIVERSARY OF ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in celebration of the trailblazing work done by Advancement Via Individual Determination. Twenty-five years ago, Mary Catherine Swanson founded an organization rooted in the belief that, if the desire to go to college is met with a willingness to work hard, then those students who are capable of completing a rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential can realize their desire if schools provide them with the necessary tools.

AVID expands opportunities to those students who have traditionally been neglected

● 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.

by the system. AVID is changing the belief system of entire communities by showing that low-income and minority students can achieve at the highest levels and succeed in college. In 2004–2005, 49.4 percent of AVID students were Hispanic and 17 percent were black. The success of these students is critical to closing the achievement gap.

In Chicago is a legendary educator named Marva Collins. She argues, “When we cease destroying [students’] self-esteem by making them doubt their abilities and leading them to believe that their worth is unimportant and valueless, we shall see the poor student become a good student, and the good student become a superior student. Creating doubt in the mind erases self-esteem and self-value.”

We have put hurdle after hurdle in front of our students, but we have forgotten to teach them how to jump. We expect them to demonstrate what they have learned in school, but we have not taught them to read. We expect them to go to college and get a job, but we have not given them the learning skills they need to graduate from high school, much less college. In the absence of a college-going tradition in their families and communities, how can we be surprised that students are not meeting our unrealistic expectations? Teaching organizational and study skills, working on critical thinking, providing tutors, and creating enrichment and motivational activities, AVID has challenged all of us to examine the lessons we are teaching our children.

AVID has reminded all of us to stop blaming the victims of an education system in crisis, and it has realized tremendous success rates. In 2004–2005, 75.1 percent of AVID graduates were accepted to 4-year colleges. 99.1 percent of AVID students graduated from high school, compared to 70 percent nationally. While 36 percent of students completed the 4-year college entrance requirement nationally, a staggering 86.7 percent of AVID students did so.

Ms. Collins reminds us: “Our children and parents surrender themselves to those who are identified as protectors, but who actually destroy them. Children come to school to get what they lack, and they are told, instead, all the things they cannot do. We, the educators, [—and indeed I believe the politicians—] should be the hope of our children. We should be their insurance against the dark side of failure and mediocrity, and, far too many times, we cancel that insurance by labeling them ‘At Risk students.’ They come to be complete and far too many schools split them in halves.”

I commend and thank all of the men and women that have contributed to AVID’s success over the past 25 years—empowering students to make responsible decisions and contribute positively to society.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
ROBERT LUTHER

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the career of retiring Lake Land College President Robert K. Luther. Dr. Luther concluded his exceptionally accomplished 18-year tenure on June 30, 2006.

Before coming to Lake Land, Dr. Luther served on Education Jim Edgar’s Integration of Workforce Education task force and Governor George Ryan’s Illinois Workforce Investment Board. Upon arriving at the college, Dr. Luther faced many challenges in reforming and improving the college’s educational system and atmosphere, including reversing a substantial budget deficit and shrinking student enrollment, as well as beautifying a deteriorating campus.

Today, the college operates on a stable budget and is considered one of the most beautiful places in central Illinois, but Dr. Luther considers his greatest accomplishment to be increasing the college’s headcount enrollment by 113 percent since his arrival.

Dr. Luther has helped to create many of Lake Land College’s successful off-campus programs. Lake Land is the largest provider of postsecondary education to correctional centers in the State of Illinois, and the college now offers over 160 online courses. In addition, Dr. Luther has been an exceptional fundraiser, increasing Lake Land’s annual scholarship fund six fold, from \$50,000 to \$300,000.

Citizens of the 15th District of Illinois honor Dr. Luther for his innovation and leadership at Lake Land College. He has done a great service to our community and greater central Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the career of Lake Land College President Robert K. Luther.

TRIBUTE TO 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LONDON POST OFFICE
OF LONDON, WV

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the London Post Office in London, WV. Despite 15 postmasters and three different buildings it remains a center of activity for the community.

The first location for the post office was in a building near the railroad tracks, and it was later housed in a general store that burned down in 1989. The current post office now sits on the same piece of land as the two previous ones. This landmark has become an anchor of the community for social gatherings and town news.

Chip Frame is the current postmaster and has worked there for 9 years. Even with an hour commute, the family atmosphere and friendly community make it worth the drive for him.

ISRAEL

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last month Israel was provoked when Hamas terrorists kidnapped CPL. Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier, manning and checkpoint. This was an unprovoked act of terror—act of war—against Israel by Hamas—which also controls the Palestinian Authority government.

As long as Hamas embraces terrorism and refuses to acknowledge the right of Israel to exist, terrorists will persist in the Palestinian lands.

Earlier this week, Hizballah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers in Northern Israel. Israel has responded in an effort to rescue these soldiers and diminish the ability to Hizballah to launch missiles into Israeli population centers.

I rise to express support for our ally, Israel, as it deals with yet more terrorist acts . . . the kidnapping of its soldiers during late June and the continuing barrage of rockets launched at Israeli citizens from Gaza and Lebanon.

The kidnapping of the Israeli soldiers can certainly be considered a provocation of war.

Unfortunately, Israel’s withdrawal from the Gaza strip has not led to a positive transformation of Palestinian politics or more security for the Israeli people.

Likewise, Israel’s withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000—which was certified by the United Nations—has failed to provide peace for Israelis living in northern Israel. Since Israel’s 2000 withdrawal, Hizballah has fired hundreds of rockets targeting Israeli civilians. Over the past year, Hizballah has carried out four major attacks into Israel in an effort to harm Israeli citizens.

Israel exhausted all non-military means to get its soldier released by Hamas before it called for these military actions.

The Hamas-led Palestinian Authority is failing the Palestinian people by giving comfort to terrorists.

It is imperative that we provide Israel with continued and broad-based support since an even greater destabilizing force is developing in the region—a nuclear-armed Iran with terrorist allies in Hizballah and Hamas.

IN RECOGNITION OF EMILY
LAWRIMORE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the continuity of a Congressional session, there is a normal shuffling of staff positions. Today, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the departure of Emily Lawrimore.

For the past year and a half, Emily has held one of the most difficult jobs on Capitol Hill—serving as the Communications Director for the Second Congressional District. Emily has handled her position with professionalism, grace, and integrity. Her dedication and work ethic will be difficult to replace.

Emily began her career in Washington as a member of Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD’s staff. She leaves the halls of Congress tomorrow to become Assistant Press Secretary for President George W. Bush. I am confident that Emily will be a welcome addition to the President’s press office.

A graduate of Clemson University, Emily Lawrimore is one of two children of Marshall and Cindy Lawrimore of Columbus, Georgia. She is a credit to the people of South Carolina and Georgia, and I wish her Godspeed.

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

A BALANCED RESOLUTION ON
IRAQ

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, as someone who voted against the original legislation authorizing the U.S. military action in Iraq, I remain convinced that our military involvement there is a mistake, regardless of which of the Administration's evolving rationales for sending U.S. troops there is put forward.

I was therefore pleased to receive the resolution on Iraq that was approved recently by the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. This statement, which calls for an orderly withdrawal of our troops from Iraq, points out the deficiencies in our Iraq policy, while maintaining toward our military and civilian personnel serving there an appropriately supportive position. I ask that a copy of the resolution adopted by the New England Annual Conference be printed here.

RS—209 REGARDING AMERICAN PARTICIPATION
IN THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Submitted by Proposed by Betty and Dan Allen, Mark Goad, Gary Richards, Don Rudalevige, Phil Susag)

(Adopted Friday Evening, June 10, 2006)

Scripture and the call of Justice demand of Christians a bias towards peace and reconciliation. Our calling as United Methodist Christians demands that we not remain silent regarding the on-going war in Iraq. We proclaim a God who cares for all people. Clear evidence of absolute need is required before engaging in armed conflict. Such evidence does not exist to support American occupation of Iraq. The conflict has crated and spread terrorism, not lessened it. It has compromised our own attitude as to the value of human life.

Therefore, The New England Conference of the United Methodist Church calls on all churches to actively participate in peace-making through preaching, prayer, study and participation in local forums and peace actions.

Further, we call on our church members to be in regular contact with their U.S. Representatives and Senators, calling for the orderly withdrawal of troops and personnel from Iraq. We recommend that such contacts begin during the week of June 19 and continue on a monthly basis until such time as withdrawal is achieved.

Further, the Annual Conference directs the Secretary to send this resolution to the U.S. Representatives and Senators from the New England region, President Bush, Secretaries Rumsfeld and Rice.

Further, the New England Conference is called upon to support those troops returning from Iraq with our prayers, love and gratitude for their service to our country.

PAINT BANK AND WYTHEVILLE
NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES
CONVEYANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGIL H. GOODE, JR.

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, July 10, 2006

Mr. GOODE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5061, the Paint Bank and

Wytheville National Fish Hatcheries Conveyance Act. I want to thank the Gentleman from Virginia, Mr. BOUCHER, for introducing this legislation, which grants the title to these two hatcheries to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Since 1983, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has successfully operated these two hatcheries on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thanks to the hard work and substantial investment by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the 13 full-time employees working at the fish hatcheries, these hatcheries consistently produce large stocks of brook, brown and rainbow trout for recreational fishing every year. In fact, the Paint Bank and Wytheville Hatcheries can produce up to 861,632 trout each year, which accounts for over 40 percent of the trout stocked for public fishing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth has also pledged to invest an additional \$4.5 million to continue renovation of these hatcheries in an effort to further enhance the hatcheries capabilities and efficiency.

There are over 2,300 miles of trout streams in Virginia and the Paint Bank and Wytheville Fish Hatcheries are vital to ensuring that these streams are well stocked with large and healthy fish populations. For this reason, I am glad to support H.R. 5061, which will allow the Commonwealth of Virginia to continue to maintain the trout population for recreational fishing for people who live in and visit Virginia. I appreciate the work of Mr. BOUCHER in crafting this legislation and I urge its passage today.

IN HONOR OF STELLAR MAMOTTO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to a woman of extraordinary achievement, her life an inspiring lesson of the power of great determination. Stellar Mamotto was born to humble beginnings in the Dodoma region of Tanzania, East Africa, one of four children. She strived for her educational development, not only for her own personal growth, but to be of service to her community. In 1995, Ms. Mamotto won a scholarship to study for a Certificate in Rural Development Planning and achieved the highest grade. She trained to become a teacher from 1996 to 1998. Just two years after qualifying, she was made Deputy Head Mistress of the Chilonwa Secondary School, a rural school in Tanzania's poorest region. Her involvement extended far beyond her educational responsibilities. She became dedicated to the long-term economic progress of the Tanzanian people through her work in community development and environmental sustainability in Chilonwa.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Mamotto knew that her own aspirations and the aspirations of the people she served in the rural areas of Tanzania depended upon her pursuing higher educational opportunities. So in September of 2003, as a result of her untiring efforts, her scholarship and her personal charisma, the resources to study abroad suddenly materialized and she found herself traveling to Canterbury, England where she enrolled in the University of Kent to study Environmental Social

Science. Her remarkable journey took her from the bush to university classroom. Finally, through great perseverance and sacrifice, she completed her studies and today, July 13, 2006, will receive her BA from the University of Kent at ceremonies in Canterbury Cathedral.

Mr. Speaker, each graduate's story is important. Some graduates, however, embody the hopes and dreams of millions of fellow countrymen and women. Stellar Mamotto's graduation represents not just the triumph of a single individual, but the triumph of the human spirit over all obstacles. And it represents a new beginning for Ms. Mamotto as she endeavors to take yet another step to even greater academic achievement.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the United States House of Representatives, please join me in honoring Ms. Stellar Mamotto for her achievement and as she continues to strive to be of service to the people of Tanzania.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to illness in June. As a result, I missed votes on H. Res. 323, H.R. 4890, H.R. 5638, H.R. 4973, H.R. 4893, H.R. 889, H. Res. 890, H. Res. 895, H.R. 4761, H.R. 5672.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these measures.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR EMERY KING ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 28TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF THE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH IN WEBSTERN FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 13, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Pastor Emery King's 28th anniversary serving at the Faith Baptist Church in Webster, Florida. I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to him for a job well done.

When Pastor King first came to the church, his commitment to God and to his parishioners shone through immediately. It was clear even from the first months of his tenure that he had a unique commitment to the faith and to the men and women with whom he worshipped. Over the years Pastor King has been blessed to have a church that has grown and prospered under his leadership and service.

Having spoken to many of the men and women that he has counseled and worshiped with over the past 28 years, I know that Pastor King's dedication to the Lord and to the scripture has served as an inspiration to thousands throughout the Sumter County community. His ministry has touched the hearts of many, and the Faith Baptist Church is a stronger institution because of his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Emery King's length of service to the Faith Baptist Church of Webster is only matched by his commitment to the

Lord and to the men and women who rely on his counsel and wisdom. Pastor King is a shining example of the good that serving Jesus Christ can bring to our friends and families.

I wish Pastor King the best of luck and joy as he embarks on what will hopefully be the next 28 years of service to God and to his church.

TIME FOR A SECULAR
DEMOCRACY IN IRAN

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2006, thousands of Iranians from around the world, including the members of the Iranian American Cultural Association of Missouri, gathered in Paris to express their interest in a free Iran and their support for the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

At this gathering, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi gave a speech about the need to bring freedom and democracy to the people of Iran. I would like to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues an excerpt from her inspiring address.

In the name of God, in the name of Iran, in the name of freedom, fellow Iranians, dear friends: With warmest greetings to all of you who represent the freedom, dignity and the resistance of our homeland, Iran. The sound of shackles of the religious dictatorship breaking apart and the song of victory can be heard in your resolve and faith, in the uprisings of our Azeri compatriots, and in the victory of those who persevered after the events of June 17, 2003. I also send my greetings to the distinguished personalities from France and other countries that have honored us by their presence. I thank Madam Edith Cresson, the former Prime Minister of France and the honorable mayors in different cities in the province of Val d'Osie as well as the dignified deputies of various parliaments from around the world.

Dear Friends: We are standing at a very extraordinary juncture of Iran's history: The turning point for a major birth and a magnificent destiny toward which we are being steered. Today, all the paths to ensure the survival of the velayat-e faqih regime have reached a dead end. Neither the deceitful spin game of reform nor the policy of appeasement bore any fruit. Propelling Ahmadinejad to power submerged the regime in its entirety in a mortal crisis. Today, the sun for the future of our nation is on the horizon. The terrorist label (against the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran) has become a source of shame for the appeasers and the June 17 dossier has discredited them further. The waves of victory and freedom rush ahead in the declaration of 5.2 million Iraqis, in the ruling by the Paris Court of Appeals and in the spate of uprisings in Iranian cities. So, with a voice louder than ever, we again say, the only option, the only correct path and the only correct answer to the Iranian problem is the establishment of democracy. We say no to war, no to appeasement, yes to the third option: which is democratic change by the Iranian people and their Resistance. We say that the great nation of Iran itself has the capability and the capacity to change its own destiny to achieve democracy. And it undoubtedly will. Accordingly, I will present the outlines of the Resistance's program for the Iran of tomorrow. This program reflects the Iranian people's historic aspirations.

1. In the future Iran the natural and inalienable human rights of every Iranian must be respected. The rights to life, freedom, and security of every citizen of the Iranian nation will be considered equal under the law regardless of their gender, race, religion, ethnic makeup, and dialect. We are committed to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

2. In the future Iran all individual freedoms will be recognized. These include freedom of speech, clothing, marriage and divorce, employment, travel, choosing one's residency and citizenship.

3. The litmus test of the legitimacy of the country's political and legal makeup is the universal suffrage. In the future Iran the right to make key political decisions in society and the people's right to change the government will be respected and various councils will be set up in all spheres of society in order to uphold and guarantee democracy.

4. We seek a pluralistic republic, in which complete freedom of parties, associations and unions are guaranteed.

5. In the free Iran of tomorrow we will defend the abolition of the death penalty. This is our response to the ruthless killings and brutality with which the mullahs have ruled clutched on to their reign. Torture will be banned under any circumstances. There will be no room for cruel and degrading punishments under whatever pretext, including under the cloak of religion.

6. The Iranian Resistance is committed to the separation of church and state. In the Iran of tomorrow the principle of freedom of religion will be respected. The country's laws will not ban any religion. No religion will enjoy privilege over another and no citizen will be subjected to any personal or social privilege or privation in their individual or social rights because of their belief or non-belief in any religion.

7. We are committed to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In the Iran of tomorrow, men and women will enjoy equal rights in all political, social and economic sectors. Women will have equal participation in the political leadership of the country.

8. In the Iran of tomorrow all forms of sexual exploitation of women will be prevented. Polygamy will be banned. Physical, sexual and psychological violence against women will be considered a crime.

9. In the Iran of tomorrow oppression, discrimination and lawlessness concerning children and child labor will be banned.

10. The judiciary of the future Iran will be founded upon a uniform system of justice. It will be a two-tiered system based on the presumption of innocence, the right to defense, the right to seek justice, the right to be tried in open courts with the presence of the jury. In this system, their will be no discrimination on issuing judgment. The complete independence of the judges and the Bar Association will be guaranteed.

11. In the Iran of tomorrow the free market will be respected. Economic opportunity will be provided to the people equitably and all restrictions on self employment will be lifted.

12. We are determined to ensure that in the Iran of tomorrow every member of society will enjoy access to social services, including education, hygiene and athletic opportunities. Universities will be governed by independent councils elected by the faculty and students.

13. In the Iran of tomorrow the just right to autonomy of the people of Kurdistan will be recognized. We seek the eradication of dual discrimination against all ethnic minorities in Iran in the framework of the country's indivisible territorial integrity.

14. In the Iran of tomorrow, interference in the internal affairs of other countries will be

banned and others will be banned from interfering in our internal affairs. We demand peace, mutual respect in international relations, good neighborliness and the establishment of diplomatic relations with all countries of the world. The Iran of tomorrow will be a non-nuclear country and devoid of weapons of mass destruction.

Dear compatriots, honorable friends, What I enumerated was the synopsis of the Iranian Resistance's views and program for our nation once it is liberated from the oppression of the mullahs. To realize this program, free elections will be held for a national constituent assembly within six months of the toppling of the ruling religious dictatorship. At the end of the six-month period, the provisional government will step down and the people's elected constituent assembly will begin work to appoint the new government and draft the new constitution. Three years ago, when the French police launched an unprecedented raid against the office of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, freedom was again at stake. From the onset, it was obvious that the raid was the outcome of a deal with the theocracy ruling Iran. In truth, the Resistance of a victimized nation was being suppressed. Fortunately, in the past three years, this Resistance's perseverance overcame the June 17 conspiracy. Two weeks ago, on the anniversary of the June 17, 2003 raid, the Paris Court of Appeals revoked the oppressive and unwarranted restrictions against members and officials of the resistance. This ruling clearly testifies to the innocence of this resistance and the hollow nature of the June 17 dossier and the accusations of cult and terrorism that go with it.

Dear Friends, Today, there is only one way to thwart this threat. The West must reverse course and respect the will of the Iranian people to establish democracy. Any step in other directions, any delay in this respect will benefit the regime. The Resistance is the solution not only for establishing democracy in Iran but also for peace and security in the entire world. The solution to the nuclear crisis and to thwart the danger of a war is democratic change in Iran. Indeed, by relying on its beloved nation, this Resistance holds the key to the Iranian equation. The mullahs are trying to give the impression that opposition to war means supporting their regime. Thus, any opposition to war is only justified when accompanied by opposition to religious fascism. Opposition to war is effective only when it is accompanied by supporting the Iranian people's Resistance for freedom. On behalf of the Iranian people's Resistance, I want to remind the Western countries to learn of the catastrophic experience of giving concessions to the religious One day, the late Dr. Mossadeq in his trip to the United States told President Harry Truman, I have not come to ask for anything. I have come to ask you to remain neutral in the dispute over oil. Today, we are not asking you for anything, neither money, nor weapons. But we demand that you remain neutral in the struggle the Iranian nation is waging to attain freedom and democracy. We are demanding that you remove the MEK from the terrorist list and recognize the right of the Iranian people to resist dictatorship. The declaration by 5.2 million Iraqis who demanded the eviction of the clerical regime from Iraq and the recognition of the status of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran is a brilliant achievement by this front. This declaration is a great victory and breakthrough which presents Iraq and the rest of the world with the correct path to democracy, security and independence of Iraq, by rejecting the Iranian regime's meddling which has targeted Iraq's survival and democracy. The fact that some 5.2 million Iraqis above the age of 18 declared that "the

terrorist allegation against the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran has no legitimacy or credibility and must not be taken as a criterion for dealing with the MEK," demonstrates first and foremost that the near unanimous majority of Iranians have rejected this label. Fortunately, Iraqis invited the United Nations, international organizations and the International Committee of Lawyers to study and examine the signed documents of their historic declaration. We urged those organizations and especially the United Nations Security Council to accept the invitation. For this reason, we have said time and again that we will accept free elections under the auspices of the United Nations and based on popular sovereignty and not the velayat-e faqih and will accept a referendum. At the same time, however, we said that a viper would never give birth to a dove. One should not expect anything other than killings and repression from the ruling theocracy. Twenty-seven years of crime and suppression are enough. It is now time for freedom and the people's sovereignty. Our salutes to Ashraf and its great commander Mojgan Parsai, and to MEK's Secretary General and her proud colleagues, my beloved brothers and sisters in Ashraf City, who in the past three years on stepped up their steadfastness as they confronted an assortment of difficulties, bombings, the denial of their water, electricity, medicine and supplies, the massacre of Iraqi workers of Ashraf City and intelligence, terrorist conspiracies and kidnappings. The Iranian people and Iran's brave women and men who are resolved in the struggle for freedom hold the key to our nation's freedom. It is the Iranian people and Resistance who endeavor for change, bring about change and build the future. It is the Iranian people and their Resistance who will overthrow the evil of fundamentalism. Iran will become the land of democracy and human rights. The Iranian nation will triumph and will be free.

May God bless you all.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the District of Columbia District Attorney Establishment Act of 2006, continuing a series of bills that I will introduce this session to ensure a continuation of the process of transition to full democracy and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia. This bill is the ninth in our "Free and Equal DC" series of bills to eliminate anti-Home Rule legislation and to remedy obsolete or inappropriate congressional intervention into the local affairs of the District of Columbia or denials of federal benefits or recognition routinely granted to other jurisdictions.

This bill will establish an Office of District Attorney for the District of Columbia, to be headed by a District Attorney elected by DC residents. Accordingly, this bill would move the city a quantum leap toward full home rule for the District of Columbia and equality with other Americans. This bill effectuates a November 2002 referendum where DC voters overwhelmingly (82 percent) approved a locally elected D.A.

This important legislation is designed to put the District of Columbia on par with every other local jurisdiction in the country by allowing DC residents to elect an independent District Attorney to prosecute local criminal and civil matters now handled by the U.S. Attorney, a federal official. Instead the new District Attorney would become the city's chief legal officer. As presently constituted, the U.S. Attorney's office in the District is the largest in the country only because it serves mainly as the local city prosecutor. That office needs to be freed up to do security and other federal work particularly in the post 9-11 nation's capital.

There is no issue of greater importance to our citizens and no issue on which residents have less say here than the prosecution of local crimes. A U.S. Attorney has no business in the local criminal affairs of local jurisdictions. No other citizens in the United States are treated so unfairly on an issue of such major importance. This bill would simply make the D.A. accountable to the people who elect him or her as elsewhere in the country.

In addition to issues of democracy and self government, such as congressional voting rights and legislative and budget autonomy that District residents are entitled to as American citizens, residents are determined to achieve each and every other element of home rule. Amending the Home Rule Act with a local D.A. provision would be an important development toward our goal of achieving true self-government. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

TRIBUTE TO GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the two and a half million grandparents acting as primary caregivers to their grandchildren. In fact, across the country there are more than 6 million children living with a grandparent, or others living in relative-headed households. I commend those who courageously step forward on a daily basis to care for these children, keeping them out of foster care while providing safe, stable homes.

Subsidized guardianship programs allow children to leave foster care for the permanent care of nurturing relatives. Through subsidized guardianship we are able to place a child with a grandparent or other relative who becomes the legal guardian, while at the same time, providing the guardian the financial resources to provide for the child's basic needs.

In its report, "Fostering the Future," the national, nonpartisan Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care recommended that Federal guardianship assistance be provided "to all children who leave foster care to live with a permanent legal guardian." That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3380, the Guardianship Assistance Promotion and Kinship Support Act, which would allow the use of Federal funding to support subsidized guardianship programs.

In my own State of Connecticut, 6 percent of the children live with non-parent relatives.

Although, grandparents and other relative caregivers often represent the best opportunity for providing a loving and stable childhood for the children in their care, their hard work and dedication too often go unnoticed.

Today I offer my deepest appreciation for the dedicated service of these caregivers to our country and our Nation's most valuable asset, our children. And I commend Generations United for all their outstanding work in helping improve the lives of and create opportunity for our children.

RECOGNIZING MR. GARY WILLIAMS, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND'S MOST WINNINGEST COACH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it isn't often a gifted and talented athlete has an opportunity to exercise his skills as a coach. It is even less common for that athlete to coach at his alma mater. It is rarer still for that athlete to be recognized as one of the best coaches on the collegiate level. For this reason, it gives me great pleasure to rise before you today to celebrate the career of a good friend, a strong athlete, and an exceptional basketball coach, Mr. Gary Williams of the University of Maryland's Terrapins.

I have had the privilege of knowing Gary for a number of years. We were undergraduates at the University of Maryland at the same time. While I devoted my time to the university's lacrosse team, Gary could be found tearing up the university's basketball court.

Throughout his career, I have watched Gary excel as a leader in collegiate athletics. The university's basketball team won only nine games the year before Gary took over as head coach. Under his leadership, they turned around their losing streak by winning 19 games in his first season. After his 17th season as the Terrapins's coach, Gary Williams surpassed legendary Charles "Lefty" Driesell as the University of Maryland's "winningest coach"—reaching 353 career victories.

Gary led his team from a troubled period to national distinction. Under his direction, the Terrapins have made it to the Sweet Sixteen seven times, had two consecutive Final Four appearances, and relished a national championship in 2002. His is a story of pure determination, impeccable drive, and unprecedented excellence.

The former point guard for the Terps received the highest honor as an alumnus by being inducted into the university's Alumni Hall of Fame. He was ranked ninth among active NCAA Division I coaches. He was named the Washingtonian Magazine's "Washingtonian of the Year" and he was inducted into the Greater Washington Sports Hall of Champions, as well as the Washington, DC Metropolitan Basketball Hall of Fame.

Gary Williams has cemented his legacy by not only devoting his time and energy to the Terrapins, but by giving back to the community at large. Throughout the year, Gary remains active in charity work, fundraising, and public speaking engagements. He is involved with Coaches vs. Cancer, the Cystic Fibrosis

Foundation, National Autism Research, the National Physical Education Council, the Salvation Army, and the Babe Ruth Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you please join with me today in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding athlete and coach. Mr. Gary Williams has made significant strides in collegiate athletics. His leadership has allowed his team to dominate basketball courts for 17 seasons. His legacy will be remembered for years to come.

FORMATION OF THE RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS OF AMERICA

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the formation of Rural Planning Organizations of America, RPO America, a new national organization dedicated to improving the planning and development of America's rural transportation network. Under the sponsorship of the National Association of Development Organizations, NADO, RPO America is serving as the first and only national forum and professional peer network for the emerging field of rural transportation planning.

This new group is important not only for the coordination, management and planning of our Nation's rural transportation infrastructure and systems, but also for linking our rural communities' economic development initiatives with State and local transportation programs. As I have stated for the record countless times, the development and maintenance of our Nation's public transportation infrastructure—including highways and bridges, transit services, ports, airports and intermodal facilities—is fundamental and at the core of our Nation's long-term economic competitiveness strategy.

Since the passage of the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA-21, nearly 30 States now voluntarily support, fund and partner with a growing network of multicounty rural planning organizations. These locally governed regional transportation planning agencies are working to enhance State and local coordination, project prioritization, roadway safety and comprehensive transportation planning in our Nation's non-metropolitan regions.

While our Nation's metropolitan areas have enjoyed special Federal status and funding for transportation planning during the past half century, our rural regions are just getting started. Through training, research, peer information exchanges and other professional development services, the members of RPO America are striving to enhance the safety, mobility and economic competitiveness of small town and rural America. I commend NADO for providing the leadership and vision in forming RPO America.

SUCCESSFUL 27TH U.S. SENIOR OPEN HOSTED IN HUTCHINSON, KS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for an incredibly well hosted event in my district this past week. Through a collaboration of more than 2,500 volunteers, the renowned Prairie Dunes Country Club and the United States Golf Association, the 2006 U.S. Senior Open was contested in Hutchinson, KS.

I was proud to be in the crowd of this well attended tournament. The state of Kansas and this community did a wonderful job of showcasing our welcoming spirit and beautiful landscape.

The names of Watson, Player, Irwin, Crenshaw and Kite are easily recognizable to golf enthusiasts. After his repeat victory, Allen Doyle should also now join this list of distinguished champions as a household name.

But there were more than just famous golfers who made this a successful event. I'm certain that Kansans will join with me in specifically thanking Mr. Allen Fee, Tournament General Chairman, and Mr. Greg Conrad, Championship Director, for their collective contributions in making this an outstanding week of golf. I also want to thank the legion of volunteers who gave of their time and talents. As testament to the event's success, volunteers from 27 states joined nearly 115,000 spectators in establishing the mark for the largest sporting event in Kansas history.

The real star of this championship, however, was the golf course itself. Many golfers and spectators commented that Prairie Dunes was stunning, from tee to green, from fairway to "gunsch", and provided the level of difficulty required in a tournament of this high caliber. To the unfamiliar, what players and spectators alike found was a course ranked by many in the top 15 in the United States, and the top 25 in the world. From its origins dating back to 1937, Prairie Dunes continues to emphasize native prairie grasses and its famous "Maxwell Rolls" greens to provide a stern test for the discriminating player.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Hutchinson community for hosting the 27th U.S. Senior Open, and for their many contributions to the State of Kansas and game of golf.

IN RECOGNITION OF 36 YEARS OF SERVICE BY PASTOR GLYN LOWERY TO THE PACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend my congratulations to Pastor Glyn Lowery, Jr. for serving as the pastor to Pace Assembly of God in my district for 36 years.

At the young age of 20, Glyn Lowery became the pastor at Pace Assembly of God. Pastor Lowery, better known as Brother Glyn,

greatly contributed to the growth of Pace Assembly of God by overseeing the construction of a 1000-seat sanctuary just two years after taking over the congregation. Under Brother Glyn's guidance, Pace Assembly of God has expanded their outreach programs to over 250 ministries. With his leadership, they have built churches throughout Europe, Russia, the Philippines, and South America. Their goal is to establish missionary projects in every country.

In Pace, the church has undergone great expansion. What was once a block building has become a flourishing community with a Family Life Center that houses a basketball court, gymnasium, 25 classrooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and resource room. Brother Glyn has also taken on leadership roles in the church community at large, serving as the Assistant Superintendent of the West Florida District of the Assemblies of God and briefly taking over as the District Superintendent after the unexpected death of his predecessor.

Through his journey, Brother Glyn has been supported and aided by Jan Lowery, his wife of 35 years. Together they have worked diligently to create outreach programs to help families live more Godly lives. When they saw that children in the Pace community needed rides to Sunday school, they took the initiative to drive them to church. Together they envisioned bringing children and adults to church in busloads and through their Bus Ministry, this vision has become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a man who could serve as a role model to us all. A deep sense of personal devotion to a congregation for 36 years is something to truly be admired, and I am thankful for his dedication to the Pace of Assembly of God.

HONORING A VETERAN AND PATRIOTIC AMERICAN—JOHN SEYMOUR STARR

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, a patriotic veteran and role-model citizen recently passed away in Greensboro, North Carolina. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, I rise to honor John Seymour Starr, a World War II veteran, who dutifully fought for his country from an early age. Only nine days after his 18th birthday, Starr enlisted in the army and joined General George Patton's 3rd Army as a machine gunner on the back of a jeep in the 2nd Cavalry, 42nd Recon. As one of Patton's "Ghosts," Corporal Starr put his life on the line day after day scouting ahead of the division to locate and engage the enemy in order to determine their strength and position for an armored assault.

Just months after entering the fight, on August 8, 1943, Corporal Starr's jeep drove over a land mine on France's Breast peninsula killing the driver and passenger. Starr was put in the hospital with shrapnel embedded in his back that he would carry for the rest of his life. Undeterred by his injuries, Starr ignored his reassignment to a non-combat unit and left the hospital. He hitched rides through France until he was reunited with the 2nd Cavalry. During

the rest of his service, he helped General Patton's 3rd Army take control of the French campaign, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944.

The courage and dedication Starr displayed, earned him several medals, including the Purple Heart and five Bronze Stars. Starr's patriotism was reflected in his life's philosophy: it is easier to fight for one's country, even in the face of death, than it is to give up the freedoms we enjoy in America.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Starr, 1 sister, 5 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great granddaughter. Again, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we join with his family and our community to state that we will miss Corporal John Seymour Starr, an admirable citizen and veteran.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND O.W.
MACK OF HEARNE, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, July 16th, the congregation and community of Hearne in Robertson County, Texas will honor Reverend O.W. Mack for over 45 years of dedicated service as Pastor of the New Elam Missionary Baptist Church of Hearne.

Reverend Mack attended Blackshear School in Hearne and proudly served this great nation as a member of the United States Armed Forces. He returned to Texas to attend Prairie View A&M University where he became an educator. Later he came back to teach in the Hearne Independent School District and married Vina E. Blocker, also an educator. He later went to theological seminary to become a spiritual leader.

Reverend Mack was an educator for over 33 years, an Assistant Principal for 8 years, and he served on the Hearne Independent School District Board of Trustees for over 20 years. He has worked tirelessly over the years to improve the quality of education for children in Robertson County. His years of service in the field of education are an inspiring tribute to our community's values, and his vision for children in our community will offer hope for generations to come.

Under Reverend Mack's leadership as Pastor of the New Elam Baptist Church, many programs have been greatly expanded and ministries within the church have been enriched. Reverend Mack has led his church in mission efforts both locally and statewide. He serves as the President of the Congress of Christian Workers of the Lincoln District Association under the leadership of Moderator, Dr. W.W. Jackson.

Reverend Mack has a history of unselfish devotion to public service, a legacy of personal achievement, as well as dedicated commitment to his faith and family. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the leadership and commitment of Reverend O.W. Mack and his wife, Vina for over 45 years of dedication to the spiritual life and health of the community of Hearne and Central Texas.

Thank you Reverend Mack and May God bless you.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Morris, who over the last five years has guided the U.N. World Food Programme through five years of vital, life-saving support to millions of victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

A former Indianapolis business executive, president of the Indiana University Board of Trustees and head of the Lilly Endowment, Jim Morris could have retired to private life. Instead, Jim accepted the call and rose to the challenge to manage the world's largest food aid organization. Since 2002, Jim has been an eloquent spokesman and tireless administrator for relief programs stretching from Sudan to Iraq, Africa to Asia.

Under Jim's stewardship, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided food aid to over 4 million Ethiopian drought victims in 2003. That year, he also successfully guided WFP in carrying out the largest humanitarian operation in history, feeding 26 million Iraqis.

When tropical storm Jeanne struck Haiti in 2004, WFP showed up big for the 160,000 flood victims. In Darfur, Sudan, WFP battles insecurity and bad roads to get food aid to the 2 million refugees who have fled their homes in response to the conflict.

Reacting to the 2005 tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands of people from Indonesia to Somalia and left hundreds of thousands more without their homes or livelihoods, WFP mounted one of its most complex emergency operations ever. Using helicopters, aircraft, cargo ships, landing craft and traditional trucks, WFP provided essential food aid to 1.75 million tsunami survivors, averting starvation and widespread malnutrition in the wake of the disaster.

Under Jim's leadership, the WFP has made a difference, time and again by quickly getting food to millions of hungry and hurting people who desperately need it. Jim Morris is to be commended for his tireless advocacy for the world's poorest children, which has raised awareness and support for hunger programs, including in this body.

To this heroic Hoosier, who for five years has led the global effort to combat the daily hunger faced by more than 800 million people worldwide, I say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE G7 LEADERS ON THE EVE OF RUSSIA'S G8 SUMMIT

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has described the G8 as "a group of democracies . . . fully committed to free market principles, free trade, rule of law."

On July 15, the Russian Federation will chair the Group of Eight, G8, for the first time since its full integration in 2002 by hosting the annual G8 Summit in the city of St. Petersburg. While Russia's presidency of the G8 was originally intended to showcase its economic and social progress and demonstrate its further integration with the global community, a growing number of observers strongly feel that Russia is not meeting the democratic and free market principles that are the basis of the G8.

I share with my colleagues a recent letter that was circulated prior to the G8 Summit, from nearly 100 diplomats, politicians, academicians and civil society leaders from Russia, Europe and the United States. The letter, which includes notable figures from each of the G7 nations and Russia, was designed to bring attention to Russia's faltering democracy and human rights record. It was released at "The Other Russia" summit, organized by Garry Kasparov, former world chess champion and Russian political activist, to examine these problems and to highlight what they will mean for the future of Russia.

Mr. Speaker, Russia is an important ally to the United States in many ways although we face a number of disagreements with them on pressing global issues. What should not be at issue is the need for an open society in Russia that advances democracy, human rights and free enterprise. This goal is critical for the development of U.S.-Russia relations and the future of Russia itself.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE G7 LEADERS "THE OTHER RUSSIA"

We wish to express our gratitude to the courageous men and women attending "The Other Russia" Summit today and tomorrow in Moscow. This alternative to the G8 summit has been organized by Garry Kasparov, Lyudmila Alekseyeva and other Russian human rights and political leaders. The laudable purpose of the "Other Russia" Summit is to focus the world's attention on the increasingly autocratic and repressive policies of the Russian Government.

"The Other Russia" will bring together distinguished diplomats and politicians, academicians and civil society leaders from Russia, Europe and the United States to examine the deplorable state of human rights and the rule of law in Russia. Experts will document Russia's alarming number of political prisoners, the Kremlin's control over the media, the dangerous increase in government corruption, the continued violence in Chechnya and the return of a one-party state.

"The Other Russia" Summit will examine these economic and political trends, hoping to provide the Russian people with a clearer picture of what the further loss of human and political rights will mean to them. The gathering is also meant to impress upon the G7 leaders, who will be meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin this coming weekend in St. Petersburg, that there is another Russia—a Russia at odds with the corrupt, authoritarian regime which President Putin and those around him appear resolved to impose.

We urge our leaders—Prime Minister Tony Blair, President George W. Bush, President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Romano Prodi—not to equivocate when they meet the Russian President this weekend. He must be put on notice that Russia's

current domestic and foreign policies are unacceptable to its neighbors, to the international community and to many of its own citizens.

President Putin must be made to understand that fairness towards his political opponents and critics, the release of political prisoners and Russia's constructive engagement with its neighbors in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, are the standards by which his Government will be judged. Russia must meet these standards of justice, freedom and of internationally acceptable diplomacy if it wishes to remain a member of the G8 and of the community of democratic nations.

Today, Russia is moving in the wrong direction.

With the re-imposition of state control of the media, the nationalization of the YUKOS Oil Company, the abolition of elected governors, overt and covert meddling in the affairs of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Lithuania and outright support for the dictatorship in Belarus, the new NGO law restricting the work of human rights groups and other non-government organizations in Russia, and the imprisonment of political opponents like Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Mikhail Trepashkin, the Government of Russia is deliberately turning back the clock.

We appeal to the G7 leaders to raise these issues directly with President Putin this weekend in St. Petersburg. And we salute those who are in Moscow today, meeting in a hostile and dangerous environment to prove that a democratic Russia, "The Other Russia," does indeed exist.

Signatories: (Institutions are listed for purposes of identification only.)

Dimitar Abadjiev—European Parliament Observer, Bulgaria;

Dr. Patrick Aeberhard—President, Medecins du Monde;

Vo Van Ai—President, Forum Asia Democracy;

Doron Arazi—Historian;
Timothy Garton Ash—Oxford University, UK;

Brian Atwood—Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, US; Former US Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator;

Paul Berman—Writer, US;
Carl Bildt—Former Prime Minister of Sweden;

Roberta Bonazzi—Director, European Foundation for Democracy;

Elena Bonner—Honorary Chair, The Andrei;

Sakharov Foundation;

Michael Bourdeaux—Founder/President, Keston Institute, Oxford University, UK;

Pascal Bruckner—Philosopher, France;
Ian J. Brzezinski—Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy;

Hans Christoph Buch—Writer, Germany;
Vladimir Bukovsky—Cambridge University, UK;

Leos Carax—Film director, France;
Patrice Chéreau—Film and theater director, France;

Daniel Cohn-Bendit—Member, European Parliament, Germany;

Pierre Daix—Writer, France;
Prof. Nicholas Daniloff—Northeastern University, US;

Ruth Daniloff—Writer, US;

Fertilio Dario—Comitatus libertates;
Franco Debenedetti—Senator, Italy;

Martin Dewhurst—University of Glasgow, Scotland;

Freimut Duve—Former member of the German Bundestag; Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Representative;

Dr. Marek Edelman—Former dissident, Leader of the Warsaw ghetto uprising;

Humphry Crum Ewing—Chairman, The Standish Group;

Edouard Fillias—President, Alternative Liberale, France;

Paolo Flores de Arcais—Director, Micromega, France;

Carl Gershman—President, National Endowment for Democracy;

André Glucksmann—Philosopher, France;

Alex Goldfarb—Foundation for Civil Liberties, US;

Adam Gopnik—Writer, US;

Veronique Nahoum Grappe—Anthropologist, France;

Andrew P. Grigorenko—President, General Petro Grigorenko Foundation, Inc;

Robert Halfon—Political Director, Conservative Friends of Israel;

Daniel Hamilton—Johns Hopkins University, US;

Arthur Hartman—Former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union and France;

Satu Hassi—Member, European Parliament, Finland;

Roger Helmer—Member, European Parliament, UK;

Mary Holland—New York University, US;

Marie Holzmann—President, Droits de l'homme in China, France;

Robert Hunter—Former US ambassador to NATO;

Toomas Hendrik Ilves—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Bruce P. Jackson—President, Project on Transitional Democracies;

Kjell Olaf Jense—President, Pen Club, Norway;

Alan Johnson—Director, Democratya, UK;

Tunne Kelam—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Bogdan Klich—Member, European Parliament, Poland;

Bernard Kouchner—Former UN ambassador to Kosovo; Founder, Medecins sans Frontières, Medecins du Monde, France;

Irina Krasovskaya—President, We Remember Foundation, Belarus;

Guntars Krasts—Member, European Parliament; Former Prime Minister of Latvia.

William Kristol—The Weekly Standard, US;

Girts Valdis Kristovskis—Member, European Parliament, Former President of the Lithuanian Parliament;

Vytautas Landsbergis—Member, European Parliament, Former President of the Lithuanian Parliament;

Bernard Henri Levy—Philosopher, France;

Ekkehard Maass—German-Caucasian society, Germany;

Giwi Margwelschwili—Schriftsteller, Germany;

Cliff May—President, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies;

Michael McFaul—Stanford University, US;

Alan Mendoza—Executive Director, Henry Jackson; Society, UK;

Marianne Mikko—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Tim Montgomerie—Editor, ConservativeHome.com;

Martin Palouš—Permanent Czech Republic; Representative to the United Nations; former Czech Ambassador to the US;

Carlo di Pamparato—Children of Chechnya Action; Relief Mission (CCHARM), UK;

Richard Pipes—Harvard University, US;

Daniel Pipes—Writer, US;

Daniel Pletka—American Enterprise Institute (AEI), US;

Oksana Ragazzi—UK;

Josep Ramoneda—Philosopher, Center of Contemporary Culture, Spain;

Vanessa Redgrave—Actress;

James Rogers—Executive Secretary, Henry Jackson Society, UK;

Jacques Rupnik—Professor of political sciences, CERI, France;

Prof. Aloyzas Sakalas—Member, European Parliament, Lithuania;

Randy Scheunemann—President, Committee for the Liberation of Iraq;

Gary Schmitt—American Enterprise Institute (AEI), US;

Jorge Semprún—Former Minister of Culture of Spain;

André Senik—Philosopher, France

Andrew M. Sessler—Emeritus Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory;

Andrzej Seweryn—Theater director, Comédie Française, France;

Dr. Brendan Simms—Co-President, Henry Jackson; Society, UK;

Robert Singh—Birkbeck College, University of London, UK;

Aleksander Smolar—Historian, France/Poland;

Bart Staes—Member, European Parliament, Belgium;

Konrad Szymanski—Member, European Parliament, Poland;

Andres Tarand—Member, European Parliament, former Prime Minister of Estonia;

David Trimble—1998 Nobel Peace Laureate;

Prof. Inese Vaidere—Member, European Parliament, Latvia;

Ari Vatanen—Member, European Parliament, France;

Mark von Hagen—Columbia University, US;

Stuart Wheeler—UK;

Richard Wilson—Harvard University, US;

Henryk Wozniakowski—Director, ZNAK, Poland;

Tatiana Yankelevich—Director, Sakharov Program on Human Rights, Harvard University, US;

Ilyos Yannakakis—Professor, France.

CONGRATULATING AUGUST PIAZZA AS HE RETIRES FROM THE WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my good friend Mr. August Piazza, of Jenkins Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, upon the occasion of his retirement as superintendent of the Wyoming Valley West School District.

Mr. Piazza received his Bachelor of Science degree from Mansfield University and his Master of Science degree from Wilkes University. His post-graduate work includes principal certification and a superintendent's letter of eligibility from Temple University.

Mr. Piazza began his career with Wyoming Valley West School District in 1971. Over the past 35 years, Mr. Piazza has taught elementary grades ranging from kindergarten through sixth grade in subject areas including mathematics, social studies and reading.

He was an instructional support specialist, head teacher and department chairperson. He served as assistant principal and principal of the Wyoming Valley West Middle School.

Mr. Piazza was appointed as superintendent of schools in the Wyoming Valley West School District. He also holds the position of adjunct professor at Wilkes University Graduate School.

Mr. Piazza currently serves on the Luzerne County Community College Foundation Board of Directors and the Luzerne County Convention Center and Arena Board of Directors.

His service organization affiliations include the Knights of Columbus where he is a Third Degree Knight, and the Wilkes-Barre Chapter of UNICO, an organization where he once served as president. He is also a charter member of the Kingston Kiwanis Club.

Augie and his wife, Corine, have two children, Jeffrey and Maria.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Piazza on a distinguished career in the field of education. His exceptional record of service and dedication to duty is an inspiration to both his peers and to the students for whom he worked tirelessly to prepare for adult life. Mr. Piazza's contribution to the greater Wyoming Valley community has left a lasting mark and has had a positive effect on improving the quality of life.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD S. ELSTER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career at the Naval Postgraduate School will soon come to an end. Mr. Richard Elster has announced his official retirement after 37 years of service.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1962, Richard pursued his M.S. in Industrial Relations, and his PhD in Industrial Psychology. By 1967, Richard had finished with school and become a project scientist at Litton Industries.

Dr. Elster became associated with the Naval Postgraduate School in 1969 when he joined the faculty as an assistant professor. During his tenure, he served as an associate professor, professor, Chairman of the Department of Administrative Sciences, Dean of Instruction, and the Provost and Academic Dean.

Throughout his career at Naval Postgraduate School, Dr. Elster served in several high ranking Pentagon positions. Starting in 1975, he served as special advisor to the Secretary of Defense for manpower and reserve affairs. Dr. Elster also held positions as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Resource Management and Support.

Dr. Elster was recognized for meritorious civilian service as Provost and Academic Dean at the Naval Postgraduate School, from July 1995 to December 2005. Because of his leadership, the Naval Postgraduate School attained unprecedented stature in the defense establishment and the academic community. It was recognized in 2005 with the highest score for military value of all Department of Defense education commands by the Education and Training Joint Cross Service Group.

The Naval Postgraduate School is respected as a world class research university due in part to Dr. Elster's leadership, strategic vision, and devotion to public service. Much of the academic work of the school's students and faculty responds directly to real world defense mission needs.

As Dr. Richard S. Elster prepares for retirement, I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing appreciation for his dedication to the Naval Postgraduate School and will wish him well in all the days ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 12, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, and 369.

Rollcall vote No. 364 was on ordering the previous question. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 365 was on agreeing to the resolution. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 366 was on a motion to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 367 was on the Kanjorski of Pennsylvania substitute amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 368 was on final passage of H.R. 2990, the Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 369, was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CITY OF HICKORY CREEK RANKED IN TOP TEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community within my district for being acknowledged as one of the "Top Ten Best Places to Live in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex" by D Magazine, a regional monthly publication. This top honor went to the town of Hickory Creek for its excellent schools, affordable housing, low crime rates, and its small town ambience.

Every 2 years, the magazine ranks some fifty plus suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State of Texas' largest metropolitan area. The town of Hickory Creek received the number nine spot on the list and is also recognized as a place for "quiet, hassle-free, safe living." Also worth mentioning, the town of Hickory Creek was acknowledged as having the "best value for quality of life." For this, it received the honor of the first spot on list of "Best Deals" in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as rated by D Magazine.

With a population of 2,400 and an annual growth rate of 1.5 percent, the town of Hickory Creek is the smallest suburb to make the Top Ten. In 1996, the town's annual sales tax revenue was \$30,000. Today, that number is closer to \$1 million.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mayor John Smith and the City Council of Hickory Creek for building the town of Hickory Creek into a distinguished community. I am proud to represent such a vibrant place to live.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL
M. DUNN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career has come to an end. LTG Michael M. Dunn is retiring from the U.S. Air Force.

Lieutenant General Dunn received his Bachelor of Science degree in astrodynamics from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, in 1972. After graduating fourth in his class in June 1972, General Dunn flew the F-106 at Castle Air Force Base, CA. Following various duties in Washington, DC, Florida, and Alabama, he transitioned to the F-15, which he flew in the Far East. He is a command pilot with more than 2,500 flying hours.

In 1976, he went to the Squadron Officer School and later received his Master of Science degree in systems management at the University of Southern California in 1981. In 1983, he attended the Air Command and Staff College in Maxwell AFB, AL, and three years later attended the Air War College. In 1989, Lieutenant General Dunn attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC.

Lieutenant General Dunn commanded the 1st Operations Group at Langley Air Force Base, VA. He was the Senior Military Fellow and is currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has served in four joint tours, including the Headquarters U.S. European Command, the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Headquarters United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and the Joint Staff. In Korea, he was the lead negotiator with the North Korean Army at P'anmunjom.

Most recently, Lieutenant General Dunn served as president of National Defense University. He has provided strong leadership, coordinating the several schools with the National Defense University. During his tenure, the professional military education of our military made great strides forward.

Lieutenant General Dunn's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, with oak leaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, with three oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal, with two oak leaf clusters.

Throughout his career, LTG Michael M. Dunn has served the Nation well. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Lieutenant General Dunn all the best in all the days ahead.

SUPPORTING INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS TO TRACK TERRORISTS AND TERRORIST FINANCES

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last week when we voted on H. Res. 895, a

resolution condemning the disclosure of classified information, and more specifically, the information about our government's monitoring of international financial transactions, I voted in opposition to the measure, and I would like to take this opportunity to explain my position.

I join my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK, and others in supporting an alternative resolution, H. Res. 900, which also condemns the unauthorized disclosure of classified information, but does so in a way that is less partisan and more ingenuous. H. Res. 895 contains a number of statements that are passed off as fact but whose veracity is dubious and not substantiated through congressional inquiry.

I regret that the majority saw fit to bring a resolution to the floor which deprived Democrats from providing any input into the framing of the measure. I do think that it was possible to produce a bin behind which both parties could unite, if the majority were interested in reaching a consensus. Obviously, it was not interested in forging a consensus statement, so we debated a political document instead of substantive initiative.

H. Res. 895, as written, states facts, which frankly, are either in substantial dispute or subject to question. For example, did the news media inappropriately and illegally disclose information regarding the SWIFT financial monitoring program, or was this information in the public domain? There are credible people "in the know" who claim the information was publicly available if anyone cared to conduct a little research.

According to one former State Department diplomat and U.N. monitor, the information on the SWIFT financial transaction monitoring program was incorporated in a report to the U.N. Security Council in 2002 and is available on the U.N. website. The SWIFT program has been in the public domain for quite some time.

Additionally, the resolution contains a clause that the appropriate committees in Congress were notified of the program. As we heard during the debate on the bill, that is another fact in dispute by Democrats who serve on the Select Committee on Intelligence.

I, therefore, voted against H. Res. 895 and announce my support for the alternative introduced by Mr. FRANK, which the majority has seen fit to deny us the opportunity to consider.

TRIBUTE TO NOAH'S ARK ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association. This summer, Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association celebrates its 40th Anniversary of caring for animals in a sheltered environment.

Eight very kind-hearted women from Morris County started Noah's Ark in 1966 with hopes of curtailing the pet overpopulation problem and promoting animal welfare. Noah's Ark provides homeless animals with a clean and comfortable living environment, food, veterinary care, and lots of warm attention. Under no circumstances are any of the animals taken to Noah's Ark subject to euthanization.

Since 1966, life expectancy for animals has increased significantly thanks to more specialized food and improved health care. Comprehensive spay and neuter operations have expanded dramatically. With these improvements in the quality of life for animals comes an increase in cost of caring for a pet! Noah's Ark continues to be an instrumental resource for those families that can no longer afford to keep their pets.

Thanks to the hospitable residents of Northern Jersey, thousands of animals have been saved in the past 40 years. By selflessly opening their homes to wonderful cats and dogs and generously offering monetary donations, a very supportive network of donors and volunteers have helped Noah's Ark to grow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in applauding the impressive efforts of the Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association over the past 40 years and for their fine example of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC FEATS OF SPECIALIST TOM HOY, OREGON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the late Arthur Ashe once said, "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at any cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

With that in mind, I rise today to recognize a heroic event that took place in the heart of Oregon's 2nd Congressional District on Sunday, July 10, 2006. On that day, a member of our Nation's military gave selfless service to three children in danger—and in the process saved a life.

Specialist Tom Hoy is a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. On July 10th, 2006, he was with three fellow soldiers participating in recruiting activities near the Deschutes River in Bend, Oregon.

While near the river, Specialist Hoy observed three children on inner-tubes, with no life jackets, who were floating downstream, dangerously near a spillway.

A spillway creates a perilous setting. A woman was reported as having drowned near this spillway the day before, and another woman had to be pulled from it unconscious several days before that.

What Specialist Hoy saw was at least one of the children appearing to be in distress. The soldiers directed the three children to come to shore, and the two older boys were able to. But the third child, a young girl no older than six or seven years old, was too far out and appeared to be crying and frightened. Specialist Hoy told the girl to grab onto some weeds that were growing out of the water and instructed another soldier to stay on the near side of the river in case she let go and made it near that side. Hoy then ran upstream, crossed a bridge, and ran back down the opposite bank, jumping several fences, until he reached the girl's location. Without any concern for his personal safety, Specialist Hoy entered the waist deep, swift-moving water and was able to

have the girl climb onto his back where he carried her to safety. Hoy, the other soldiers, and one civilian then returned the girl to her overjoyed parents.

Specialist Hoy is a resident of Prineville, Oregon, where he resides with his wife, Jennifer, and their children. He remains a dedicated public servant. In addition to his continued role protecting our Nation, he is a reserve police officer with the Prineville Police Department.

I myself am proud to represent Specialist Hoy in the House of Representatives. I urge my colleagues to applaud his selfless act of service as a way of urging others to follow the example set by this real life hero.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN VICTOR J. VAN HEEST FOR 27 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE U.S. NAVY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Victor J. Van Heest for his service as a member of the United States Navy on the occasion of his retirement after 27 years of military service.

Captain Van Heest is a native of my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and currently serves as Senior Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. After attending Michigan State University, where he graduated in 1979 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Captain Van Heest was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in August 1979. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1980 after completing flight school.

He has served in many different posts around the country and world and has been deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf during his career. Furthermore, he continued his education, earning a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University in 1999, and graduating from the Air War College in 1996. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal (three awards).

Upon graduation from the Air War College, he transferred to VR-48, NAF Washington, DC, as the Executive Officer and in April 1997 assumed command of the squadron. During this time, the "Capital Skyliners," who fly the C-20G aircraft, won the Battle 'E' for C-9 and C-20 squadrons.

Following his command tour, he reported to the Director of Air Warfare staff at the Pentagon as the Transport Aircraft Coordinator. One year later, he transferred to the Director of Naval Reserve staff as the Head, Reserve Air Logistics Programs and then fleeted up to Director, Air Programs Management Division.

Assuming command of Fleet Logistics Support Wing in July 2001, he led the Airwing during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He relinquished command in July 2003 having accumulated more than 5,700 flight hours in Navy aircraft.

Captain Van Heest and his wife, Anne, reside with their sons, Peter and Andrew, in Annapolis, Maryland. Their oldest son, Kyle, is a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Upon his retirement, the Van Heests

plan to move to Holland, Michigan, where, I am told, he will work for Haworth Inc.

I ask my colleagues to join me in offering Captain Victor J. Van Heest our deepest gratitude for his 27 years of service to our Nation and congratulations on his retirement.

HONORING MRS. ALICE FISKE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on behalf of New York's first congressional district to mourn and honor a beloved constituent and treasure of the Long Island community, Mrs. Alice Hench Fiske, who recently passed away at the age of 88.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, Alice grew up an energetic and ambitious child. She graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1939, at a time when very few women went to college. Alice was an exemplary student, blessed with intelligence and intellectual curiosity. In 1952, Alice married Mr. Andrew Fiske, the 13th-generation descendant of Nathaniel Sylvester, who had settled Shelter Island 3 centuries earlier.

Together, the 13th Lord of Sylvester and the Lady of the Manor, as Alice came to be known, raised two daughters. As an avid gardener and founder of the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archeological Research at the University of Massachusetts, Alice quite literally dug deep into her role by restoring Sylvester Manor's vast and beautiful gardens to their former glory and by making one of the most significant archeological discoveries in the eastern United States—half a million artifacts dating back to the eighteenth century.

Alice was universally beloved on Shelter Island, and indeed all across Long Island. Her kindness and generosity were infectious, and she could make one smile even on the worst day. According to her lifelong friend and historian, Mac Griswold, "She'd take your hands in hers and then we'd raise them above our heads and take three deep breaths together . . . If she saw you were upset, she'd say, 'Is it time for three deep breaths?'"

Alice's tremendous goodwill and devotion to Shelter Island is why she is mourned now and her memory fondly cherished. She was always willing to lend a hand or contribute to a wide range of educational and environmental charities, such as Shelter Island's library, historical society, and of course, its garden club.

On behalf of a grateful community, Mr. Speaker, I thank Alice Fiske for her many enduring contributions to Long Island's East End, where she will always be celebrated and affectionately remembered as the Lady of the Manor.

SUPPORTING INTELLIGENCE AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS
TO TRACK TERRORISTS AND
TERRORIST FINANCES

SPEECH OF

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Rollcall Vote No. 357 H. Res. 895, a

resolution that expresses support for intelligence programs and condemns the unauthorized leaking of classified information. However, had I been present, I would have voted aye.

Mr. Speaker, leaking classified information is a serious matter. It can expose both our intelligence gathering capabilities and operations. Moreover, divulging sensitive information, regardless of intent, can have grave implications for not only our national security but also our men and women in uniform currently serving in harms way. It is not up to the New York Times or any other media outlet to decide when a highly classified program tied to our national security should be made public.

Mr. Speaker, we are at war. Unauthorized public disclosure of classified programs being used to win this global war on terror jeopardizes our national security. It is my hope that in the future, those in government with knowledge of classified programs and news media organizations treat sensitive information appropriately.

RUSSIA AND THE G-8

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as the G-8 meets in St. Petersburg this weekend to discuss important international issues, we should be mindful that the host nation Russia hardly deserves to be included in this accomplished group. The seven other participating countries are mature democracies with proven market economies that use the rule of law as the basis for civil society and display mutual respect across borders.

Unfortunately, Russia has yet to subscribe to these same principles. Russian President Vladimir Putin has placed energy security at the top of the G-8 agenda. However, with Russia being the dominant supplier of gas to Europe, leaders throughout that continent feel anything but secure. And for good reason. Just this week, Rosneft, the Russian oil company, is seeking validation through a public offering to raise \$11 billion from mostly Western investors.

What makes this offering controversial is how Rosneft acquired its assets and that it is a state-owned entity. Rosneft's asset once belonged to the YUKOS Oil Company, a private company that prospered until the Kremlin directed attacks against its chairman, Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Using the pretext of past tax claims the Russian government put Mr. Khodorkovsky and other company officers in prison and then arranged for the state takeover of the company. The case and subsequent actions were highly controversial and widely reported in the Western media at the time.

My Energy and Resources Subcommittee under the House Committee on Government Reform, recently conducted hearings on energy security and received credible testimony about the extra-legal, if not outright illegality, of the Russian government's actions regarding the YUKOS Company. We should remain concerned about how the Kremlin, which clearly controls almost all oil and gas exports to European and CIS countries, might use energy for political and foreign policy purposes.

My colleague, Mr. Lantos, shares my concerns and this week sent a letter to several U.S. financial institutions that may be contemplating participation in the Rosneft IPO, questioning whether investing in a state entity which has acquired its main assets under other than legitimate circumstances may be in violation of U.S. laws and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I would like to ask that Mr. Lantos' letter be placed in the RECORD at this time.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, DC, July 10, 2006.

Mr. JAMES DIMON,

*Chairman and CEO, J.P. Morgan Chase,
New York, NY.*

DEAR MR. DIMON: I write regarding recent news accounts that J.P. Morgan Chase may serve as an investment advisor or otherwise participate in the initial public offering of Russia's state-owned oil company, OAO Rosneft Oil Company ("Rosneft"). I understand from these news reports that the offering, currently estimated to be \$8 billion to \$13 billion, is to take place in mid-July 2006.

I am concerned that such transactions may violate federal anti-money laundering laws and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. According to published reports, the largest portion of Rosneft's assets was acquired in a transaction of questionable legality I question whether financial institutions that have access to the U.S. payments systems should be engaged in transactions involving assets acquired by a state entity under circumstances that are contrary to or in violation of U.S. laws and acceptable market practices.

Given the source of Rosneft's assets, there are questions about whether the proposed IPO would involve prohibited proceeds as specified under 18 U.S.C. 1956 ("laundering of monetary instruments"). Specifically, any financial institution involved in the IPO could be at potential risk of violating federal anti-money laundering laws aimed at preventing the proceeds of theft, corruption or other forms of unlawful activity from entering the payments system.

Rosneft's acquisition of assets from a publicly traded company, OAO NK Yukos Oil Company ("Yukos"), in which Americans had invested through American Depository Receipts traded on the New York Stock Exchange, violated basic principles and norms of free markets. Public accounts of the transaction strongly suggest that Rosneft's senior officers and directors, some of whom are senior officials of the Russian government, personally profited from the theft of these assets through their involvement in a sham transaction. In that transaction, a front-company of unknown ownership acquired the assets at billions of dollars below their market value in a forced auction arranged by these very officials, who in turn secured the prompt transfer of these assets from the front-company to Rosneft—a sequence of events that have raised serious questions of corruption.

Significant financial institutions and analysts have raised ethical and legal concerns about the planned IPO due to the history of the Rosneft assets. As you may know, F&C Asset Management ("F&C"), based in London, on April 27, 2006 publicly announced that the Rosneft IPO raised serious questions of governance and legal risk, which made it impossible for F&C to be a participating investor. According to F&C, the Rosneft IPO is burdened by its lack of transparency and no "credible assurances that it has identified, and made adequate provisions for any liabilities stemming from the acquisition of its Yuganskneftegaz asset [the assets taken from Yukos]."

Independently, George Soros, an experienced investor in Russia, has also found serious ethical issues pertaining to the Rosneft IPO. As Soros wrote in *The Financial Times* on April 26, 2006, Rosneft acquired its Yukos assets through non-transparent sale by a front-company that “won” a rigged auction of Yukos assets engineered by Russian authorities under circumstances that made it impossible to determine who profited 0 the transaction. As Soros wrote, the assets were “not acquired directly. The auction was won by unknown Russian company that sold itself within days to Rosneft.” According to Mr. Soros, “[t]he unknown owners made an unknown amount of money on the transaction. The question is: ‘Should an IPO be allowed to go forward without disclosing the pertinent information?’”

In amending the Bank Secrecy Act in 201 with the USA-PATRIOT Act, the Congress emphasized the policy of ensuring that every financial institution determine the beneficial ownership of the assets involved in a transaction in order to ensure that they are not illicit proceeds. We established a risk-based system for due diligence in which we asked federal regulators to ensure that financial institutions exercise greater due diligence in high risk cases, such as when assets are controlled by political figures, or those close to them, sometimes known as “politically exposed persons,” in order to guard against the risk that the financial institution could be used to handle the proceeds of corruption.

I recognize that Bank Secrecy Act and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance has become a continuing focus of all publicly traded U.S. financial institutions and that your institution has policies and procedures in place designed to protect the institution from the risk of handling illicit funds. In recent years, however, federal regulators have repeatedly found cases in which major U.S.-regulated financial institutions failed to undertake risk-based assessments across every area of their business, with the result that some significant risks had not been recognized in a timely fashion.

There is no information publicly available to enable Congress to assess the kind of due diligence that participating U.S. financial institutions have done regarding the underlying assets involved in the Rosneft IPO. We cannot assess how such institutions have determined that neither corruption nor theft have been involved in Rosneft’s acquisition of this property. I recognize the Rosneft IPO is only weeks away, but I urge you to take into account the concerns outlined above, particularly as they relate to the Bank Secrecy Act and Sarbanes-Oxley concerning any transactions you contemplate in this regard.

Sincerely,

TOM LANTOS,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD C. BRAUN,
ED. D.

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Gerald “Jerry” Braun who passed away on July 7, 2006, at his home in Maryland.

Over the last 3 years Dr. Braun has served with distinction as the Deputy Director for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He was

a consummate professional with unquestioned integrity, who consistently met or exceeded the goals of the vocational rehabilitation and employment program.

I first had the privilege of meeting Dr. Braun when he testified before the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity at the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, which I Chair. I always found him to be an honest, sincere witness who possessed a great knowledge of veterans programs and always exhibited the utmost concern for the veterans enrolled in vocational rehabilitation and employment. He was the VA’s institutional memory on the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and his contributions will truly be missed.

Dr. Braun began serving our Nation’s veterans in 1972 as a vocational rehabilitation specialist for the blind and visually impaired in St. Paul, MN. He later worked for VA facilities in Chicago and Reno as a counseling psychologist and in Indianapolis as the vocational rehabilitation and employment officer, before finally coming to Washington to serve in the Department’s Central Office. In addition to his service as a VA counselor, Dr. Braun was a member of the American Legion and the National Rehabilitation Association. He earned Certificates of Appreciation from Vice President Gore, from the Greater Sierra Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for Lifetime Contribution, and from the State of Nevada Governor for his contributions to the Governor’s Committee of Employment of People with Disabilities.

Dr. Braun was born in Red Wing, MN and graduated from St. Cloud Minnesota State University in 1968 with a degree in Sociology. Upon graduation, he joined the Army and served his country from October 1968 to May 1970. His service included a thirteen month tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon returning, Dr. Braun earned both a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling and a doctorate of education in counseling and guidance.

Dr. Braun is survived by his wife, Debora and his four children, Eric, Kirsten, Rebecca, and Joanna. His family and friends will remember him for his intelligence, wisdom, sense of humor, and generous heart. To his wife and children, we are thankful for his 35 years of service to the Nation, especially to its veterans and to each of them for the support they gave him during what was a rewarding life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 370–374.

Had I been present I would have voted “no” on votes: roll No. 370, roll No. 371, roll No. 372, roll No. 373.

Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on roll No. 374.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DICK CHAMPION
OF INDEPENDENCE, MO, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Dick Champion, director of the Independence, MO, Water Pollution Control Department.

True to his name, Mr. Champion is exactly that—a “champion” for clean water. He is an exceptional leader and public steward dedicated to the improvement of Missouri’s and the Nation’s environment and public health. It is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Champion on becoming the new president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA, formerly the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, AMSA. Mr. Champion is ideally suited for this national leadership position.

Mr. Champion began his career in water pollution control in 1969. He has been with the city of Independence, MO, Water Pollution Control Department for the past 27 years and has been director of the department since 1983. The Department is responsible for the Sanitary Sewer Utility, the Storm Water Management Program, the Household Hazardous Waste Management Program, and related environmental compliance.

In 2001, he was appointed by the Jackson County executive and legislature to the newly created Jackson County Stormwater Commission, to coordinate regional stormwater policy and planning. Mr. Champion has been serving as vice-chair of the commission throughout his tenure.

Dick has been an active member of NACWA since 1992, was elected to the Board of Directors in 1999, and now serves as NACWA’s vice president and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Champion will become NACWA’s president later this month—an impressive accomplishment and one that will no doubt help further NACWA’s role as the leading advocate for sound water quality policies.

Mr. Champion earned a bachelor of science degree in political science with an emphasis in local government and public administration from Central Missouri State University in 1973. As a student and throughout his career Mr. Champion has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service and the improvement of water quality in Missouri. The fish and fishermen of Missouri owe a great deal to his tireless work to guarantee clean water.

With Mr. Champion as President, NACWA will no doubt build on its reputation as the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment. Simply stated, when I hear the term “environmentalist”, I think of public servants like Dick Champion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues of the 109th Congress to please join me today in congratulating Mr. Dick Champion on becoming president of NACWA and for his tireless commitment to Independence, the Fifth District, and our country. I am certain the association will continue to flourish under his able leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 10, 2006, was away from the House on business representing the constituents of the 11th Congressional District. During my absence, the House called rollcall votes Nos. 358, 359 and 360. Had I been present for the rollcall votes, I would have voted: "nay" on rollcall vote No. 360; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 359; "yes" on rollcall vote No. 358.

HONORING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF GREATER CHICAGO'S "READY WHEN THE TIME COMES" PROGRAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago's "Ready When the Time Comes" program. This program partners the Red Cross with corporate and community organizations to respond to disasters such as fires, storms, floods, and tornadoes. I would like to acknowledge Grainger, an Illinois-based company which has been the lead corporate sponsor of the Ready When the Time Comes program.

The Ready When the Time Comes program allows Chicago area organizations and businesses to help their community before, during and after a disaster by supplying the Red Cross with volunteers. At the time of a disaster, the Red Cross will notify the company or organization and inform them of the role volunteers will have in the relief effort.

Through Ready When the Time Comes, corporations allow their employees to receive free Red Cross training in disaster relief functions. In return, corporate partners commit to making their trained employees available for disaster service at least one day each year. During a large scale disaster, with a single phone call the Red Cross can deploy as many volunteers as needed. Throughout Chicago, Ready When the Time Comes volunteers have put their training to work responding to flooding, massive fires, heat emergencies, and even the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Since February 2001, Grainger has provided the Chicago Red Cross with almost 200 volunteers for the Ready When the Time Comes program. Following Hurricane Katrina, corporate employees were called upon to staff phone centers in Chicago to answer questions from those seeking support and information. These volunteers also participated in the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications disaster preparedness drill in August 2005.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me to honor and recognize the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago's "Ready When the Time Comes" program. This program is a model on how easily partnerships can be developed to help safeguard our communities. I support the Red Cross's efforts to afford other

organizations the opportunity to partner with them to actively contribute to recovery efforts.

TRIBUTE TO THE BRONX DOMINICAN PARADE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to the seventeenth annual Bronx Dominican Parade and Festival which will take place Sunday, July 16, 2006. This famed event is eagerly anticipated by both Dominicans and the greater Bronx community every year. It is a wonderful celebration of the spirit and richness of Dominican culture.

Under the leadership of Felipe Febles and Rosa Ayala, the Bronx Dominican Parade, Inc., (La Gran Parada Dominicana de El Bronx) has grown into an important institution that increases the self awareness and pride of the Dominican people in order to promote economic development, education and cultural recognition.

As the second largest Latino community in New York City, Dominicans have made valuable contributions to the city, as well as to the entire nation. Although the highest concentration of Dominican people live in Washington Heights, a significant number have enriched the Bronx with their unique culture and spirit. Dominican culture is characterized by, among other things, diverse multi-culturalism, strong family values, distinctive art, rhythmic and soulful music and unique cuisine. I am grateful that so many Dominicans have made the Bronx their home.

Mr. Speaker, the roots of Dominican New Yorkers lie in a country with a rich history and arresting landscapes bound by water. The Dominican Republic is home to a number of people from various heritages. As a result, the culture is charged with strong African, Taino and European influences. One visit to the Dominican Republic will put to rest any questions one might have as to why Dominicans in America retain such a strong sense of pride in their homeland and never stop missing it.

The achievements and contributions made by the Dominican community has spanned the realms of politics, science, the Armed Forces, literature, public service, and the arts, undoubtedly making them an integral part of American society. The Bronx Dominican Parade and Festival is a great opportunity to celebrate the culture, history, and bright future of the Dominican people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the 2006 Bronx Dominican Parade and Festival.

WOMEN LEADERS FOR PEACE: CODE PINK "TROOPS HOME FAST"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD a press release and letter to Members of Congress from Troops Home

Fast, a new initiative of the peace organization CODEPINK whose members are holding a hunger strike to highlight their call to bring U.S. troops home from Iraq. I pay tribute to the members of CODEPINK who are participating in the Troops Home Fast and praise their creative efforts to assist our troops in Iraq and those wounded at Walter Reed Hospital by many campaigns protesting the continuing occupation of Iraq. One of their peace actions is a Friday night vigil at Walter Reed Hospital to protest the war and thus prevent further casualties. Today I especially want to bring attention to their latest campaign taking place here in the District of Columbia, around the country and around the world—the Troops Home Fast.

While many Americans were celebrating Independence Day with barbecues and fireworks, CODEPINK was launching this new campaign—a fast—calling for independence from war. Among the Washington Fasters are Cindy Sheehan, legendary comedian/civil rights activists Dick Gregory, activist/environmentalist Diane Wilson, former Army colonel Ann Wright, Iraq war veterans, Vietnam veterans, and whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg. They are joined by almost 3,500 others from other countries. Celebrities and other well-known public figures have committed to join including actors Susan Sarandon, Sean Penn and Danny Glover, musicians Graham Nash and Willie Nelson, and more. The group is supported by Gold Star Families for Peace and endorsed by other organizations.

The Fast ceremony began at Gandhi's Statue at Massachusetts Avenue and Q St., NW in Washington DC with a brief Rally and a March to Lafayette Park in front of the White House. The fasters in DC which included co-founders of CODEPINK Medea Benjamin, Jodie Evans, Gael Murphy and Cindy Sheehan were present as were other fasters including comedian and social activist Dick Gregory who has fasted for many causes.

On July 10, 2006, I received a letter sent tall members of Congress from Troops Home Fast calling themselves a "group of concerned citizens who are conducting an open-ended fast in front of the White House calling for our troops to come home from Iraq. . ." and asking for each member's help in this cause.

Troops Home Fast asks for the following: Legislation to set a time line for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq and bring the troops home. In the opinion of the Troops Home Fast Congress is moving "far too slowly."

Troops Home Fast believes as I do and as Congressman MURTHA has repeatedly stated that the American people are way ahead of Congress. The polls show that a solid majority of the American people now want a time table and a quick end to our involvement in Iraq. They want American troops home.

According to a recent poll, 87 percent of Iraqis want their government to set a timetable for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. Iraq's president, vice resident and national security advisor have all called for such a timeline. General Casey, the commander of American troops in Iraq has established a time table. It is only the President and his supporters in Congress who will not follow the will of the American people ho elected them, or the will of the Iraqi people who have spoken and whose democratic government has spoken for them who continue to refuse to hear anything but their own slog:

"Stay the Course" or "We will never give up until we have achieved victory" or the least excusable "we will stay and achieve victory so that our men and women who have died in Iraq will not have died in vain."

I honor those who are fasting as Gandhi did to bring about the change they believe is essential to preserve the character of this nation and to save the lives of Americans and Iraqis. I wish them great strength and pray with them for peace in Iraq.

JULY 11, 2006.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, We are a group of concerned citizens who are conducting an open-ended fast in front of the White House calling for our troops to come home from Iraq, and we are asking for your support via the attached form.

The fast, called Troops Home Fast, was initiated by CODEPINK and Gold Star Families for Peace, and endorsed by dozens of organizations. It began on July 4, 2006, and more than 3,500 people in the U.S. and around the world are participating, with hundreds more joining every day. (Additional information about the fast is available at the website www.troopshomefast.org.)

You have the power to enact legislation to achieve the goal of this fast: set a timeline for the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq and bring the troops home. We deeply appreciate the efforts of members of the House and the Senate who have already been working to end this war.

But Congress is moving far too slowly. Every day, more American soldiers die, more Iraqis die, and more federal funds are squandered which could be used to alleviate a whole host of problems here in the United States.

We all know that a solid majority of the American people now want to bring our military involvement in Iraq to a quick conclusion and bring our troops home. Iraqis are even more adamant about ending the war quickly. A remarkable 87 percent of Iraqis want their government to set a timetable for U.S. withdrawal. Iraq's president, vice president and national security advisor have all called for such a timeline.

Americans who want to end this war have gone through all the traditional methods of petitioning the President and you, our members of Congress, to urge you to act. We have marched, done vigils, written letters, lobbied our representatives, and formed broad-based coalitions in an effort to bring this war to end. Yet the war goes on without end.

That's why we're here now in front of the White House, fasting. Fasting is a time-honored way to move people to action, from Gandhi's nonviolent liberation of India to Mitch Snyder's fasts for the homeless right here in Washington D.C.

We hope you will support our efforts and work with us to bring our troops home—FAST. Attached is a form to record your support. We thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

MEDEA BENJAMIN, JODIE EVAN

AND GAEL MURPHY,

On behalf of Troops Home Fast.

PRESS RELEASE

July 4, 2006.

Cindy Sheehan, Diane Wilson, Dick Gregory, Iraq veterans and Iraqi citizens gather in front of the White House on July 4th, their first day without food.

After eating their final meal in front of the White House yesterday, participants in the "Troops Home Fast"—a historic hunger fast organized by CODEPINK: Women for Peace and Gold Star Families for Peace—will spend their first day without food on the Fourth of July. They will gather at the White House at 10 a.m. and plan to hold a spiritual cere-

mony, send a message of peace to the Independence Day parade, and remain outside the White House with their message to bring the troops home from Iraq now.

Among the Washington fasters are Cindy Sheehan, legendary comedian/civil rights activist Dick Gregory, environmentalist Diane Wilson, former army colonel Ann Wright, Iraq war veterans, Iraqis and Pentagon whistle-blower Daniel Ellsberg. They are joined by almost 3,000 others from around the United States and 18 other countries. Celebrities and other well-known public figures have committed to join the fast, including Susan Sarandon, Sean Penn and Danny Glover, musicians Graham Nash and Willie Nelson, writer Alice Walker, and more.

"While others are enjoying their barbecues and fireworks today, we will be going hungry for the most noble cause of all: peace," said Gold Star mother Cindy Sheehan, who began an open-ended fast today. "We are the true American patriots today. Our founding fathers cautioned future generations against engaging in wars of aggression for empire and economic gain, lest we lose our national soul. And the war in Iraq is exactly the kind of war our Nation's leaders once cautioned against."

The hunger strike will continue throughout the summer. "This fast has obviously touched a chord with the public," said CODEPINK cofounder Medea Benjamin. "We thought there might be 3 or 4 of us fasting, and it is more like 3,000. Every day hundreds of new people are signing up for the fast. Some communities are doing rolling fasts, each person taking a day. This is sparking a new level of commitment to get out of Iraq."

For more information, please see www.troopshomefast.org or meet the fasters in front of the White House at 10-11 a.m. or 5-7 p.m.

Support War Resisters! For the first time in the Iraq war, an officer in the U.S. Military, Lt. Ehren Watada, has publicly refused orders and will be brought to court-martial this summer. Click here for ways to show your solidarity and here to read a letter from Carolyn, Ehren's mom, and find out more about his case. You can also support Army Specialist Suzanne Swift, who suffered sexual harassment at the hands of her commanding officers and refused to return to Iraq. Click here for more info.

Declaration of Peace! We urge you to sign The Declaration of Peace, a pledge to take action against the war during September 21-28 if a peace plan is not established by that time. Declaration signers will take part in nonviolent action, marches, rallies, demonstrations, interfaith services, candlelight vigils and other creative ways to declare peace at the US Capitol and in cities across the US. Click here to sign the Declaration and learn more.

Mothers Declare Peace on Mother's Day! CODEPINK's 24-hour Mother's Day peace vigil was an amazing soulful, painful and joyful gathering. Cindy Sheehan, Susan Sarandon, Patch Adams, Dick Gregory, and Iraqi and Iranian mothers joined with mothers and others from all over the country to create a magical pink presence at the White House. Click here to see the media coverage & video, read our blogs and see the most beautiful photos imaginable! And click here to see reports from solidarity events that happened around the country.

CODEPINK Takes Out Ads in Iraqi papers! On Monday, May 15, CODEPINK placed ads in 8 Iraqi newspapers calling for Americans and Iraqis to work together, in a non-violent fashion, to end the occupation and bloodshed in Iraq. People in 99 cities generously funded this ad campaign. The Iraqi response has been tremendous, with hundreds of Iraqis calling the newspapers saying how excited

they are to see this ad and how it gives them great hope. Click here to see the ad. Click here to see the Arabic website Estekial (which means independence). To see the press release about this ad, click here.

Stop Nuclear War With Iran! We weren't able to stop the last war, but we must stop the next one . . . NOW! The United Nations, which is mandated to uphold international law, must speak out against the Bush Administration's plans. Let's send a collective letter to Secretary General Kofi Annan imploring him to denounce this threat and call for a diplomatic solution. Click here to sign on and/or send your own, and pass it to friends and family around the world. Let's let the Bush administration and Kofi Annan know that the world is demanding an end to this madness!

Support Iraqi Women: The US invasion of Iraq has moved Iraq from a secular to a more religious—and violent—society where women's rights are being curtailed. Read our report Iraqi Women Under Siege and recent articles about women in Iraq. Click here to see the blogs, photos and media articles of the Iraqi Women's Tour to the US. Donate to our efforts to support Iraqi women.

Women—& Male Allies—Say NO To War! Sign here to join women and men from around the world who are coming together to SAY NO TO WAR. We are creating a massive movement crossing generations, races, ethnicities, religions, and borders to pressure our governments, the United Nations, the Arab League, and other international leaders to negotiate a political settlement to the war in Iraq.

Bring Our Guard Home Now! With over 70 000 National Guard troops deployed to Iraq, our homefront has been left vulnerable in the face of natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina. In response, CODEPINK is working with a coalition of peace groups to seek the immediate withdrawal of all National Guard troops from Iraq. At least twelve states are petitioning their governors to bring home our Guard! Click here to find out how you can join this effort and start a working group in your state!

Hurricane Katrina CODEPINK is now in New Orleans, working with the Common Ground Collective, the People's Institute for Survival & Beyond, various grassroots organizations and local neighborhood groups. We are part of an active movement to rebuild and revision the city, standing in solidarity with residents to strengthen their communities and take their cities back! We invite you to come down to participate in this massive and historic effort to rebuild this beautiful city from the bottom up and the inside out. Click here for more info, join our upcoming work brigade this summer and read Dana Balicki's blogs from New Orleans!

THE NEED FOR AN INCREASED NATIONAL FOCUS ON RAIL AND TRANSIT SECURITY

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, the terrible events of 9/11 brought intense scrutiny to security on our nation's aviation system and led Congress to enact significant measures to strengthen security both on airplanes and throughout airports. However, this same level of scrutiny has simply not been extended to the other transportation modes in our nation, particularly railroads and public transit systems.

Even though transit and rail systems throughout the world have been the targets of deadly terror attacks, including the London subway system a year ago this month and the rail system in Bombay, India, just yesterday, the Bush Administration seems guilty of the same lack of anticipatory thinking that plagued our approach to aviation security prior to 9/11.

In fact, as has happened so often in our nation's history, public voices calling attention to the inadequate security provided for railroads and public transit appear to be warning of a problem in plain sight that is essentially being ignored by officials whose basic plan is apparently to hope that nothing happens.

In July of last year, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security articulated the Bush Administration's general indifference to security on transit systems when he announced that our nation's public transit systems should expect to bear most of the costs of funding security improvements themselves. At that time, the Secretary dismissed the idea that a terror strike on a transit system could produce "catastrophic consequences" by saying "a bomb in a subway car may kill 30 people."

Under pressure, Secretary Chertoff backed away from his statement. However, the Bush Administration appears to have continued its policy of essentially leaving to public transit systems and to railroads much of the financial burden associated with providing any security enhancements on these systems.

Thus, in fiscal year 2006, the federal government appropriated just \$150 million in security grants to be divided among transit intercity passenger rail, and freight rail systems. This is the same amount provided in fiscal year 2005.

In fact, federal grants for transit and railroad security since 9/11 have totaled just over \$550 million. By comparison, the Congressional Research Service reports that the federal government has spent nearly \$20 billion on aviation security since September 11, 2001. As evidenced by this funding disparity, national focus has been almost exclusively on aviation security despite the fact that almost 7 times more people use public transportation on a daily basis than fly on airplanes.

Perhaps not surprisingly given the lack of focus, the inadequacy of federal funding has been accompanied by repeated failures on the part of the Department of Homeland Security to develop comprehensive risk assessments and mode-specific security plans as documented by several GAO studies and now by a study written by the Democratic Members of the Committee on Homeland Security.

I strongly support the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2006, H.R. 5714, as well as other measures that would strength rail and transit security in our Nation. It is simply incomprehensible to me that Congress has not yet considered and passed these measures that would close gaping holes in our transit security system and significantly increase funding for security grant programs.

Mr. Speaker, while it will not be possible to protect our transit and rail systems from every possible terror threat, we are not yet doing all that we can to make these systems as safe as possible. Our failure to anticipate the unthinkable before 9/11 led to the tragic death of 3,000 innocent Americans. It is past time that we act to secure our public transit and rail systems before another unthinkable act leads to the deaths of more innocent Americans.

PERMITTING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, this week H. Con. Res. 427 passed the House of Representatives by voice vote. This bill would permit the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I would like to lend my voice to this memorable event.

Madam Speaker, in 1930 President Hoover signed Executive Order 5398 which established the Veterans Administration a ultimately led to the formation of the Department of Veteran Affairs. The VA (as it has affectionately become known) has strived to both honor and serve the men and women who protect one of our Nation's most treasured ideals—liberty. For 75 years, the VA has helped ensure that those who choose to enter the armed services are not forgotten after they honorably serve their country.

For this reason, we should celebrate the concept and accomplishments of the VA. Indeed, the VA is a vital cabinet level department, which oversees an honorable and necessary function of the U.S. Government.

The VA has three branches, which aim to provide a smooth transition for veterans when they return home from active duty. These branches—the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration—should be roundly applauded for their service to America's former servicemen and servicewomen.

Beginning in 1946, the VA's health unit, now known as the Veterans Health Administration, has sought to provide adequate health care to injured veterans returning from war, starting with World War II. Throughout the latter half of the 20th century, the VHA expanded into a leading health care provider and now has over 150 medical centers across the country. According to the VA, provided care to more than 5.3 million individuals in 2005.

In addition to providing health care services, the VA, through its Veterans Benefits Administration branch, has provided educational services to veterans, beginning with the passage of the GI Bill in 1944. According to the VA, 7.8 million World War II veterans, alone, benefited from educational opportunities that the bill offered. I also applaud the VA for assisting the families of our fallen heroes, the men and women of our armed services who died in combat fighting for liberty. The VA's National Cemetery Administration should be praised for providing memorials to those veterans who died for our liberty.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to have the opportunity to recognize the VA for what it has and will continue to do for our veterans. As a member of the House of Representatives, I always look to support legislation that honors our veterans. On June 27, 2006, the House of Representatives agreed to H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006. H.R. 4843

increases compensation rates to veterans with service-oriented disabilities, and the House of Representatives should be proud of this great legislation.

But, Madam Speaker, on July 19, 2006, when we commemorate the VA's 75th Anniversary, let us not forget that much more needs to be done to pay homage to our veterans, particularly those who are coming home from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Madam Speaker, the VA reported in August 2005 that almost 23 percent of homeless men and women are veterans. Madam Speaker this percentage is far too high and far too shameful.

On a bi-partisan basis, Congress must work with the Veterans Affairs to right this seemingly forgotten atrocity. The men and women who honorably serve our great Nation deserve not only to be treated as heroes in war; they deserve to be treated as heroes when they return home.

The men and women of the U.S. armed services make it possible for us to debate. Madam Speaker, let us not debate the honor veterans deserve.

GLOBAL WARMING: PARTICULARLY HARMFUL TO PEOPLE OF COLOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter that I received from the United Church of Christ which I believe is worth our contemplation because of its sincere efforts to generate greater awareness and understanding in the international and domestic communities disproportionately affected by current environmental problems.

The earth's climate has changed over the last century. This change has had deleterious effects on the world community, but more so on poor communities who have high concentrations of people of color. Communities of color are burdened with poor air quality and are twice as likely to be uninsured than whites. Yet these communities will become even more vulnerable to climate-change related respiratory ailments, heat-related illness and death, and illness from insect-carried diseases. A study conducted by the Congressional Black Caucus substantiated his claim by pointing out that in every single one of the 44 major metropolitan areas in the U.S., Blacks are more likely than Whites to be exposed to higher air toxic concentrations.

Although people of color are less responsible for climate change, ironically they will be made to suffer the most from it. We should not avoid the issue of race, class and gender when it comes to serious discussions about the environment. The inclusion of race, class and gender doesn't take us away from the issue, but helps make the issue more comprehensive and complete.

The impact of climate change has not been addressed or assessed specifically for people of color. As we continue to seek solutions to this ever growing and changing problem, we must seek to ensure that the rights of all people are met regardless of race, class or gender. I enter into the RECORD this letter written

by the United Church of Christ on this important issue. As we continue to strive for a cleaner world and environment, we must also strive to protect those most vulnerable to hurt.

[From Witness for Justice #274, June 26, 2006]

GLOBAL WARMING: HARMFUL TO ALL, BUT SOME MORE THAN OTHERS

(By C.J. Correa Bernier)

The international dimensions of environmental problems are becoming the center of attention as they gain center-stage in debates concerning the future of our planet. The range of issues being discussed is extensive, but global warming seems to be a common subject in most conversations. The co-existence of environmentalism and economic development and the need for cooperation, fairness and equity among countries seems to be one of the major questions.

In the midst of our global environmental conversations we must keep in mind that the activities of human society, on a broad scale, are harmful to all, but to some more than others. In the case of global warming, we suffer along with the planet but for island nations that will disappear, or for indigenous communities, it is not an "environmental problem," it is the literal destruction of their environment, history, legacy and lives.

In the United States, communities of color are also drastically affected. A recent report notes the disproportionate correlation between African Americans in the U.S. and climate change. The report argues that African Americans are less responsible for climate change, but suffer more from the health impacts.

In 1987 the existence of a nationwide pattern of disproportionate environmental risk based on race was demonstrated for the U.S. This evidence challenged the U.S. environmental movement to recognize its tendency to ignore issues of race, class and gender when setting agendas for social action. Today the mainstream environmental community is involved in serious discussions about how to frame the eco-justice issues along with those dealing with environmental justice or environmental racism, but, to look at the issue of global warming as one that is in opposition to those confronted by the environmental justice movement will be a mistake.

The global environmental justice movement compels us to rethink our understanding of global environmental problems and existing proposals to solve them. Justice is an essential demand, in the aftermath of historic, systematic discrimination and disproportionate environmental degradation of those on the margins.

If we look at global warming as an issue of human rights and environmental justice we will be able to see the connection between the local and the global. Rising temperatures are already affecting the lives of millions of humans, particularly in people of color, low-income, and indigenous communities. The health of many has been already compromised, their financial reality has become a burden, and their social and cultural lives have been disrupted. As we dialogue, research and seek solutions to our climate and energy problems we must seek to ensure the right of all people to live, work, play, and pray in safe, healthy, and clean environments. We must envision a transition to a future that protects the most vulnerable from the impacts of climate.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACKS ON ISRAEL BY HEZBOLLAH AND HAMAS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas and their continuing brutal attacks against the people of Israel.

Hezbollah took the lives of eight Israeli Defense Forces soldiers and captured two others on the Israel-Lebanon border earlier this week. This is the same terrorist group which took the lives of 257 Americans in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut 26 years ago.

The contrast between Lebanon and Israel is stark. Lebanon not only tolerates terrorists, it harbors and supports them. Lebanon has blatantly and purposefully disregarded U.N. Resolutions and diplomatic requests to disarm Hezbollah and to bring to justice the terrorist leaders. On the other hand, Israel has complied with the U.N. charter, and has had its forces withdrawn from Lebanon since May 2000. This latest attack was completely unprovoked; in fact, Hezbollah leaders claimed that it had been planned for months. Clearly, the purpose of this latest attack is to perpetuate the violence in the region.

An estimated 100 million dollars per year in weaponry and other support is sent from Tehran through Damascus to supply Hezbollah. The government of Lebanon takes a hands-off approach towards this continued violence. The Syrian and Iranian governments should be condemned for their support of the Hezbollah and Hamas terrorist organizations.

It is time for the world community to take action against Hezbollah and the nations that support it. The United States must also not allow the Iranian government to use this latest bloodshed as a diverting tactic against U.S. attention from their unrestricted nuclear program.

With the killing of Israeli soldiers and the kidnapping of Cpl. Gilad Shalit by Hamas, the timing of Hezbollah's incursion and kidnapping raises grave suspicions and increases the existing tension in the region.

Israel is in a difficult position, for it must deal with state-sponsored terrorism involving the Palestinian, Lebanese, Iranian and Syrian governments. In response to these brutal attacks, Israel clearly has the right to defend herself. Like every sovereign nation, Israel is clearly justified in taking the actions necessary to safeguard its territory and its people.

My thoughts are prayers are with the families/and loved ones of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers at this difficult time.

CELEBRATING A LONG AND WONDERFUL LIFE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest regards to Ms. Ruth Johns McCluskey in Knoxville, Ten-

nessee. Ms. McCluskey will be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 28, 2006.

Ms. McCluskey, born in Smyrna, Tennessee, attended grade school at the Greenwood School in Old Jefferson Community. After graduating from Smyrna High School she attended Tennessee Normal School for Women—now Middle Tennessee State University. After receiving her degree she embarked upon the field of education and taught grades 1–8 in Crossville, Tennessee. It was during this time that she met her future husband, Rev. Joe McCluskey, a fellow teacher. During their marriage they had two children: Ruth and Joe.

Today, Ms. McCluskey stays active and engaged by reading the daily paper, magazines, and as many books as she can get her hands on. Ever the extrovert she enjoys playing bridge and cards with her friends and family.

I wish Ms. McCluskey the best, and may God continue to bless her.

ABA LAW STUDENT TAX CHALLENGE—NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW STUDENTS PLACE SECOND

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two Northern Illinois University, NIU, law students, Mary Riley and Cathryn Streeter, who placed second in the Nation at the 2005 Law Student Tax Challenge. This event was sponsored by the Young Lawyers Forum of the American Bar Association's Section of Taxation. Coached by Northern Illinois Law Professor Dan Schneider, the third-year law students researched a real-life, tax-planning problem and submitted their analysis and solution for judging. After being selected as semi-finalists from a pool of 36 entries, Ms. Riley and Ms. Streeter traveled to San Diego to present both oral and written arguments in front of a panel of distinguished tax lawyers, which included the Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service.

Established in 1895 by an act of the Illinois General Assembly, Northern Illinois State Normal School opened its doors to students in September 1899. In July 1957, after 58 years of physical growth and expansion in academic programs, Northern Illinois State College became Northern Illinois University by action of the 70th General Assembly. In August of 1979 the university was authorized to acquire the College of Law, which had originally been founded in 1975 by Lewis University.

Today Northern Illinois University offers programs to more than 23,000 students in the basic disciplines, the arts, and the professions through courses conducted on the main campus in DeKalb and at regional sites throughout Northern Illinois. The university's academic work is organized under the College of Business, Education, Engineering and Engineering Technology, Health and Human Sciences, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts, in addition to the Graduate School.

As the only public law school in the greater Chicago area, NIU Law has previously ranked first in the Nation for government placement,

according to U.S. News and World Report. Nearly one-third of its graduates choose a career in public interest, including more than 50 alumni in the judiciary—a truly remarkable accomplishment for a law school with less than 3,000 graduates. In honor of its commitment to public service, NIU law received the 2001 Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Interest Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate NIU for its outstanding performance at the Law Student Tax Challenge. NIU should be extremely proud of this tremendous accomplishment, and I am honored to recognize its students and faculty here today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOLSOM
SOUTH CANAL COST DEFERRAL
BILL

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Folsom South Canal Cost Deferral bill, to prevent California water customers from having to shoulder the costs of unused capacity in the Folsom South Canal, a Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau, water conveyance.

The Folsom South Canal was authorized by Congress in 1965 to include five water conveyance segments or “reaches.” The canal was intended to deliver water from the Auburn Dam and related facilities to municipal and industrial water and irrigation users in the Sacramento area and on south to irrigated agriculture in the planned East Side Division.

The first two reaches—a total of 26 miles of the canal were built to the Sacramento-San Joaquin County line. They were designed and constructed to accommodate enough water to meet anticipated demand in Sacramento and in the East Side Division. However, the East Side Division was never authorized and, thus, has not been developed. As a result, the remaining three reaches have been reclassified by the Bureau as “Construction in Abeyance.”

Because the canal project, as originally designed, was not fully developed, Central Valley Project, CVP, water customers that today take delivery of water from the completed reaches are now shouldering the entire capital cost of the canal, plus interest. This does not seem fair, since they had no control over the design or construction of the project and bear no re-

sponsibility for the fact that the East Side Division did not materialize.

My bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to defer that portion of the capital costs and interest that corresponds to the unused capacity of the canal. This will prevent current municipal and industrial and irrigation water customers from having to pay costs associated with an oversized canal. In the next few years, the question of the Auburn Dam may be revisited and other water users may seek allocations of CVP water. My bill does not permanently settle the issue of the excess capital costs—it merely defers those costs until other decisions about the future of the CVP are made. The bill also authorizes the Secretary, during the deferral period, to periodically review and adjust, as appropriate, the amount of the unused capacity of the canal and the amount of reimbursable capital and interest of the canal.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WALTER
MEYERHOF

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Walter Meyerhof, an extraordinary physicist who fled the horrors of Nazi occupied Europe and made his mark in the world as an American citizen. Dr. Meyerhof died in Los Altos, California on Saturday, May 27, 2006 at the age of 84.

Walter Meyerhof was born on April 22, 1922, in Kiel, Germany, into a family of German-Jewish intellectuals. Walter's father Otto received a Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1922. The elder Meyerhof sought to protect his family from rising anti-Semitism in Germany which accompanied the growing political power of the Nazi party. In 1936, the family fled Germany and went to England for three years, and then in 1939 they moved to France, which was attacked by Nazi German military forces not long after their arrival.

In 1941 when France was under Nazi occupation, the Meyerhof family came into contact with Varian Fry, a United States consular official in France during this turbulent period who played a critical role in saving Jewish intellectuals, scholars, and others from Nazi death camps. Fry was a Harvard-educated academic who was not Jewish, but who recognized his obligation to save Jews who were under the

threat of death by viciously anti-Semitic Nazi thugs. Fry successfully helped save the lives of more than 2000 Jews, including some of the 20th Centuries leading intellectuals and artists. Fry saved the lives of artists Marc Chagall and Max Ernst, writer Hannah Arendt, sculptor Jacques Lipchitz, the Otto Meyerhof family, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, Walter Meyerhof never forgot the efforts of his rescuer and dedicated himself to honor Varian Fry by establishing and directing a foundation in memory of this man who saved his life. Through the efforts of Meyerhof and the foundation he created, Varian Fry was given the Croix du Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor as well as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Eisenhower Liberation Medal. Also, thanks in part to Meyerhof's efforts, Fry became the first American to be honored as one of the “Righteous among the Nations” by the state of Israel at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. Perhaps the Varian Fry foundation's greatest achievement was the production of the film about Fry entitled Assignment: Rescue. The film, which has been distributed to over 35,000 schools, is educating hundreds of thousands of students about the horror of the Holocaust and the extraordinary courage exhibited by Varian Fry and others who fought the Nazis.

After arriving in the United States, Walter Meyerhof became a leading professor and educator. After receiving his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, he taught briefly at the University of Illinois and then accepted an appointment at Stanford University. He had a distinguished career at Stanford, served as head of Stanford's physics department, and wrote two textbooks which are still in use today. In 1977, Walter Meyerhof was given the Dinkelspiel Award, an honor given each year to the top Stanford professor in the teaching of undergraduate students.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the remarkable legacy of Walter Meyerhof, whose scholarship made an important contribution to contemporary physics, whose excellence in teaching helped mold the minds of some of our Nation's brightest students, and whose unswerving commitment to Varian Fry, the man who saved his life during the Holocaust, established a legacy of remembrance that is a beacon to all of us who respect human dignity and human rights. We join Miriam, his wife of 59 years, his two sons, Michael and David, and his grandson, Matthew in mourning the passing of Walter Meyerhof.