

bender on my way to votes, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 400–402. Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on all votes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2006 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2006 recipients of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This medal—created in 1986—aply named for Ellis Island, an enduring symbol of the diversity that characterizes our great Nation, commemorates and recognizes Americans of all ethnic backgrounds who have made significant contributions through their own perseverance and sacrifice to our society and culture. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), representing more than 250 organizations that span the spectrum of ethnic heritages, cultures and religions. Since 1986, approximately 1,700 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders. Collectively they represent a remarkable fraternity of individuals who have distinguished themselves as outstanding human beings and exemplary citizens of the United States. In addition, NECO awards one International Ellis Island Medal of Honor each year. This year's international honoree was Martin J. Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer of American International Group, Inc. Mr. Sullivan is British.

When the immigrant station at Ellis Island, New York, opened on January 1, 1892, it admitted 700 immigrants into the United States on just its first day of operation. By the time the center closed in 1954, 17 million immigrants had passed through its doors. The Ellis Island administration and staff, on average, processed up to 5,000 people per day. Many of these newcomers had little or no knowledge of English, hardly any money, and many arrived with only the clothes on their backs. They arrived risking their lives in exchange for freedom and a better way of life.

I, once again, commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promote unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation. As Rosemarie Taglione, Executive Director of NECO, so eloquently said in connection with this year's awards ceremony: “NECO's message of tolerance and harmony among diverse ethnic groups is, perhaps, even more important today than it was 20 years ago.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2006 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

Elizabeth Agbajian, Cesar Baez, Vartkes Barsam, Harry E. Bovay, Jr., Dawn Bryan, Fredy Bush, Joseph R. Calabrese, M.D., Tykya Camaras, Charles Carey, Edmund N. Carpenter II, Josip Cermin, Vahan Chamlian, Yong Jin Chang, George Chimples, Benjamin B. Choi, Esq., Dr. Deepak Chopra, Maxine Chou, Richard Corkery, Frank Corvino, Rita Cosby, John R. Costantino, Robert E. Courtney, Esq., Ed Cox, Long Deng, Vlade Divac, Kathleen M. Donahue, Ali Ebrahimi, George Elias Jr., Nijad Fares, BG Margrit M. Farmer, Lu-Jean Feng, MD, Siegfried Fischbacher, Col. David Fitzgerald, Aldo G. Frustaci, Esq., Fred Grapstein, C. Joseph Grignaffini, Sang-Ki Han, William Hanna, Richard Hayden, Roy Horn, Mori Hosseini, Jirair S. Hovnanian, Irwin Jacobs, Chief Joanne Jaffe, Thomas F. Kane, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Charles Evans Kilbourne III, Kwang Sung Kim, Peter Koo, Nat LaCour, Shau-wai Lam, Dean Lampros, Thomas D. Lee, Hon. John Lehman, George G. Makris, Roberta Mann, Hon. Rafi Manoukian, Col. Rick Martin, Ronald Martino, Jamie Masada, Fariborz Maseeh, Martin G. McGuinn, Dr. Navin C. Mehta, Jose Mejia, Edward Miller, Hamid Moghadam, VADM Kevin J. Moran, Dr. Navin Nanda, Luke Nasta, Frank Newell, MD, William C. Norris, Antranig M. Ouzoonian, Dinesh Patel, Hon. Tim Pawlenty, RADM David Pekoske, Fred Pezeshkan, Mark Pigott, Robert Price, Hon. Thomas Ridge, Imelda Roberts, Col. Angela Salinas, Frank Sciame, Niranjan Shah, John Shall, Thomas Nunziato Shannon, Jr., Dr. Hosein Shokouh-Amiri, Dr. Grace Shu, Dr. William T. Smith, Bruce A. Smith, Lewis T. Smoak Esq., Klaus-Peter Statz, Mitchell Steinhouse, Michael Stern, Martin J. Sullivan, Ramon M. Tallaj, MD, Dr. William Tansey III, Michael Tong, Rev. Nicholas Triantafilou, Lester Trilla, Manny Villafana, and Walter Wang.

CELEBRATING HUGO,
MINNESOTA'S CENTENNIAL

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial anniversary of the city of Hugo, Minnesota, located in my district.

Originally settled on a small plot of land in the 1850s, the town of Hugo was formally established in 1906 around a railroad and a post office.

Although its beginnings were modest, by 1917, this small town, populated by residents who made their living cutting and hauling wood to the railroad, had its own hotel, store, and school, and had begun to build its reputation for quality agriculture.

One hundred years later, Hugo has remained true to its roots, and is still known for its commitment to its rich farmland.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the residents of Hugo in celebrating its first one hundred years. It is solid communities like this which make Minnesota great.

WELCOMING IRAQI PRIME MINISTER AL-MALIKI TO WASHINGTON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, just 3½ years ago, Iraq was controlled by a brutal dictator who killed an average of 300 people a day. Iraq has now been liberated, and a fledgling democracy has taken root. The Iraqi people—in the face of terrorist threats—turned out in droves to ratify a constitution and elect their representatives. Today, this Congress and the American people have heard from the democratically elected leader of Iraq, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

I am grateful for the Prime Minister's address, as I appreciate his message of hope and progress. The training of Iraqi Security Forces is advancing rapidly. The parliamentary cabinet has been completed. Iraq has become a civil society.

Having visited Iraq six times, I have witnessed firsthand the progress being made. While there is still a long road ahead, the United States will continue to stand with the Iraqi people which protects American families. We will together make Iraq the graveyard of terrorists.

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

COMPETITION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the value of competition in our Department of Defense acquisition process. Without competition in the acquisition process we have no choices. Without competition, innovation does not exist. Without competition we have no bargaining position relative to costs. Without competition the capability of our military stagnates.

Some would argue that we must protect our industrial base. I would suggest that competition does that very thing. We live in a global economy and, when U.S. industry does not produce competitive products, our industrial base suffers. It is true in virtually every industry.

If we are to continue to procure the best military equipment for best value the taxpayer dollar can afford, we must preserve the competitive process. In today's global economy that means we must not shy away from our allies' participation. Rather we should learn the lessons of the commercial sector and embrace the value of their partnership.

Ultimately, what does competition mean? It means a fair and open competition through an objective, quantifiable process. Secretary Rumsfeld for 6 years has espoused a capabilities based acquisition process. It is time to execute those words and follow the documented process.

Air refueling is the key enabler to our global military might and we need to get the competition for the KC-135 Replacement program

right. That means the Defense Acquisition System needs to prove that its selection process understands capabilities-based evaluation and appropriately weighs the system's key performance parameters. Otherwise, we'll never know whether the competition was a true competition and whether our warfighters have received the best possible capability.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY CREAMER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Cindy Creamer, a thirty-year veteran of the City of Takoma Park Police Department, on the occasion of her retirement. As an officer and police chief, Col. Creamer has worked tirelessly over the past three decades to ensure the safety and security of Takoma Park residents, and her dedication to this vital task deserves our sincere gratitude and appreciation.

Sworn in as a police officer on her 21st birthday, Chief Creamer served in every division of the Takoma Park Police Department. She began her career as a Communications Dispatcher in 1976, then went on to serve in and eventually command both the patrol and criminal investigation divisions. Chief Creamer was selected as Officer of the Year in 1980 while serving as a patrol officer, and she received the honor again in 1990 for her criminal investigating skills. As the first female sergeant and lieutenant in the agency, she received numerous other honors, including Supervisor of the Year.

Chief Creamer has served the residents of the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County with dedication and commitment. She has made a difference in the quality of life throughout our county. Although she is retiring from active duty on the Takoma Park police force, I am delighted that Chief Creamer will continue to serve our community as deputy chief for patrol at the WSSC Police Department. I am confident that her many years of active experience will ensure her success in this role.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to represent Chief Cindy Creamer in the U.S. Congress and to extend my congratulations and thanks to her for her service to our community.

TRIBUTE TO THE REV. G. VINCENT LEWIS, CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAROL CITY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding and experienced church leaders, the Rev. G. Vincent Lewis, Executive Pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. The members and supporters of the congregation celebrated the 30th Anniversary of his pastorate on Sunday, July 23, 2006, in a happy

event held at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Carol City.

Rev. Lewis represents the vocation of a Good Shepherd who attends to his flock in ways we can never fathom. As Executive Pastor and Chief Ministerial Officer, he exudes the knowledge and pragmatism of a man who is capable of making good things happen in the corporal world while also teaching the ways of God. He has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the agenda of spiritual wisdom and good governance impacting our duties and responsibilities to the less fortunate.

Rev. Lewis' timely and persevering leadership at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Carol City is genuinely commendable. As a man of God and as a community leader, he has indeed earned our deepest respect and admiration.

We congratulate Reverend Lewis and thank him for his many years of service in the Vineyard of the Lord. He continues to teach us to live by the noble ethic of loving God and by serving our fellow human beings, and our fervent hope is for his continued health and success as he begins his fourth decade of service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND RESPONSE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Community Protection and Response Act of 2006 to eliminate confusion in terrorist prevention and response.

One of the major lessons learned in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks is that timely response is critical. Any delay complicates short-, medium-, and long-term recovery efforts. Sadly, many of the lessons that we have learned have gone without an appropriate response.

In response to the attacks of September 11th, Congress took a series of actions to bring relief to affected areas. These legislative actions along with existing statutes, including the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Act and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, formed the framework for the Federal Government's response. The magnitude of the attacks and the need for Congress to take action before certain relief could be delivered added to the challenge of the recovery efforts and exposed critical weaknesses in Federal authority to respond.

The Community Protection and Response Act would amend the Stafford Act along with other statutes and would give the President a series of policy options to choose from following a homeland security event. A homeland security event is defined as an event that poses a significant risk to the security of people and property and is in such a magnitude that effective response is beyond the scope and capability of the affected State and local government. Many of these options are based on congressional action following September 11th or other policy suggestions in reports by the Congressional Research Service, the General Accounting Office and the New York branch of the Federal Reserve. Specifically, in

the event of a homeland security event, the President can provide grants for lost tax revenue, aid to school systems, and assistance to medical facilities and utility companies. The bill also establishes guidelines to ensure the public health of area residents and disaster workers.

Specifically this legislation would do the following:

COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND RESPONSE ACT OF 2006 (CPR)

EXPANSION OF DEFINITIONS IN THE STAFFORD ACT/
AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING STATUTES

1. Expands the definition of "major disaster" to include terrorist attacks, dispersions of radioactive or other contaminants, dispersion of hazardous substances, or other catastrophic event.

2. In the event of a homeland security event expands definition to include private for-profit utilities (including power, water, telecommunications and phone services).

3. Defines "Homeland Security Event" as a major disaster that poses a significant risk to the people and property of the Nation and it is such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capability of the affected State and local government. Designation requested by Governor and made by President.

4. Changes definition of critical services to include education systems, providers of counseling assistance, and providers of assistance to the homeless.

5. Removes \$5 million restriction for loans as a result of lost taxes or other revenues. Forgives interest in the event of a Homeland Security Event.

6. Removes requirement of "direct" impact for assistance.

HOMELAND SECURITY EVENTS NEW AUTHORITIES GIVEN
TO THE PRESIDENT

After declaration, the President is authorized, but not required, to do the following:

1. Establish a coordinating office and appoint a Disaster Recovery Director.

2. Reimburse State and local governments to respond to high security alerts.

3. Provide grants to local governments which may suffer a loss of tax and other revenues.

4. Reimburse school systems for lost instructional time, mental health and trauma counseling and clean up cost.

5. Authorizes EPA to perform all indoor air testing and undertake remedial actions.

STANDARDS AND REPORTING

Directs OMB to establish standards for reporting disaster relief efforts regarding each agency that assists in disaster relief efforts following a homeland security event. Reports such data to Congress.

MONITORING OF HEALTH RISKS

1. Instructs President to appoint a special commission to study the authorities available to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) following a homeland security event. Including the monitoring of the environment.

2. Works with the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to develop guidelines regarding health risks for affected areas and instructs the CDC to provide information in the case of biological materials.

3. Provides for standardization, rapid collection and analysis, and communication following a homeland security event.

4. Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make awards to private