

already address identification needs [while] . . . This legislation contains only a vague promise to reimburse states for the cost of providing voter ID's to indigent individuals. There is no specific appropriation for this . . . and little likelihood for one."

If the Republican leadership had been willing to allow the House to consider amendments, changes could have been made to remove any doubts about its constitutionality and to avoid burdening the state and local governments with unnecessary burdens. However, instead the leadership insisted on bringing the bill to the floor under a procedure that prevented that—one of the reasons that many have questioned whether the real purpose of the bill is less to respond to potential election fraud and more to make it harder for some citizens to vote.

I am not opposed to a carefully constructed and constitutional bill that would enhance workplace identity, which is why I support H.R. 98. Nor am I opposed to legislating in order to ensure that non-citizens and others ineligible to vote are prevented from voting fraudulently. And I am hopeful that once the heat of this election season passes, the House will return to a more deliberative and bipartisan way of doing business on this issue and others.

But, in the meantime, I think this bill does not merit enactment as it stands because its defects outweigh whatever value it may have as a supplement to the existing state and federal laws against election fraud.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAY HAAS  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-  
TIREMENT FROM THE MOBILE  
AIRPORT AUTHORITY AFTER 24  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Bay Haas upon the recent announcement of his plans to retire. For the past 33 years, Mr. Haas has served the Mobile community in a distinguished manner.

Following 9 years at IBM, Mr. Haas began his career in public service in 1972 when he was elected to serve on the Mobile County Commission, one of the youngest men at the time to serve in such an important post. He has since devoted his life to the well-being and development of south Alabama. In addition to his two terms on the Mobile County Commission, Bay Haas has served as executive director of the Mobile Airport Authority since 1983.

Following 24 years at the Mobile Airport Authority, Mr. Haas announced his plans to retire in June of next year. For nearly a quarter of a century at the Mobile Airport Authority, Bay has been committed to aiding Mobile's industrial growth. His efforts have been critical in recruiting what is now ST Mobile Aerospace Engineering for Brookley, Mobile's largest industrial employer, and more recently, EADS North America. Bay's distinguished work has helped gain Mobile greater recognition in the international aerospace field.

Not only has Bay served the Mobile community with his role at the Mobile Airport Author-

ity, but he has various other leadership positions throughout the city. He currently serves as a member of the vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Cruise Ship Task Force, the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Task Force, the Mobile Area Education Foundation, and as chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Bay Haas for his tireless service to Mobile. I know Bay's colleagues, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his significant accomplishments and extending thanks for all his efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM  
S. "BILL" MCARTHUR

**HON. MIKE McINTYRE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel William S. "Bill" McArthur for his valiant service as an Astronaut with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Colonel McArthur's dedication, determination and devotion are an inspiration to America and particularly to the citizens of his home county of Robeson and all of southeastern North Carolina.

A native of the community of Wakulla, and a graduate of nearby Red Springs High School, Colonel McArthur has heroically served his country for 33 years. After graduating from West Point in 1973, Colonel McArthur was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was assigned a tour with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. Following his tour, he entered the U.S. Army Aviation School from which he graduated at the top of his flight class and was designated an Army aviator. He then served as an aeroscout team leader and brigade aviation section leader with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and later as a company commander, platoon leader, and operations officer with the 24th Combat Aviation Battalion. After receiving a Master of Science degree in aerospace engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1983, he was assigned to the Department of Mechanics at West Point as an assistant professor. Four years later, Colonel McArthur graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and was designated an experimental test pilot. As a dedicated Master Army Aviator, he completed over 4,500 flight hours in 39 different air and spacecraft.

In 1987, McArthur began his career with NASA as a Space Shuttle vehicle integration test engineer at the Johnson Space Center. Determined to be an astronaut, Colonel McArthur applied 7 times before he was selected by NASA in January 1990 and was officially designated an astronaut in July 1991. Since then, McArthur has worked in various positions within the Astronaut Office and has served as the Chief of the Astronaut Office Flight Support Branch. He has flown on four space flights including the *Columbia* in 1993; the *Atlantis* in 1995; the *Discovery* in 2000; and *Expedition 12* in 2006 of which he was

the Commander and International Space Station Science Officer. During his devoted service, Colonel McArthur has logged 224 days, 22 hours, 28 minutes and 10 seconds in space, including 24 hours and 21 minutes of EVA time in space walks, and he has completed 556 orbits of the Earth.

Mr. Speaker, in 1962 President John F. Kennedy said, "We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people." Colonel Bill McArthur reminds us that there is still much to be gained—for the benefit of all mankind—as we continue to explore space. On behalf of all the citizens of southeastern North Carolina and the United States, we thank him for all he has done to make this a better place. May God bless him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILLY TAYLOR

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 21, 2006*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as an original Co-Chair of the Honorary Congressional Host Committee for the Duke Ellington Jazz Festival, with Representative JOHN CONYERS, I rise today to recognize one of America's great jazz musicians and celebrated music innovators, Dr. Billy Taylor. As we look forward to and celebrate the second annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival in the District of Columbia, we recognize the talented individuals who contributed to the unique sounds that form modern jazz. As a world-renowned jazz artist who uses his talent not only to entertain, but also to educate and inspire, Dr. Billy Taylor will be honored this year with the Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. He joins last year's inaugural honoree, David Brubeck, as a recipient of this award.

I am proud that Dr. Taylor grew up in the District of Columbia in a family that valued artistic expression through music. His talent was undeniable. Dr. Taylor experimented with the sounds of the saxophone, drums, guitar and piano, receiving lessons from Henry Grant, who taught classical piano to the legendary Duke Ellington 20 years earlier. By the age of 13, Dr. Taylor had made his first professional appearance at the Republic Gardens on U Street.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in music from Virginia State University, Dr. Taylor took time off to continue to study, practice and perfect his musical skills. In 1944, he set out for New York City and became instantly emerged in the music scene. Soon after his arrival, Dr. Taylor was invited to play piano in saxophonist Ben Webster's quartet. He also performed on 52nd Street with the legendary Dizzy Gillespie. In 1946, Dr. Taylor embarked on an 8-month tour of Europe with Don Redman's Orchestra, the first American band to visit the continent after World War II. Upon his return, Billy Taylor became the house pianist at Birdland, the historic jazz venue where he was surrounded by pioneering jazz musicians and played with greats such as Ella Fitzgerald and Miles Davis.

As an eminent jazz musician, Billy Taylor began to educate the public on the world of

jazz. In the early 1960's, Dr. Taylor became the first black artist to host a daily radio show, "The Billy Taylor Show," on WNEW, a major New York station. Dr. Taylor also brought jazz back to Harlem and the surrounding communities through the revolutionary Jazzmobile project, which he co-founded with Daphne Arnstein, a fellow member of the Harlem Cultural Council. The Jazzmobile began with a float borrowed from the Budweiser Beer Company that was converted into a bandstand-on-wheels. The organization produced summer outdoor concerts, lectures and special programs for disadvantaged inner-city youth. Renowned artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Buddy Rich, and Milt Jackson all contributed to the Jazzmobile by performing free outdoor concerts for the public. In particular, Dr. Taylor recalled the excitement of the audience when Duke Ellington performed, saying, "I don't know who was more excited, the audience, or Duke. He loved playing for the people of Harlem, and they loved him, madly." The program continues today throughout the United States.

Billy Taylor's recording career is nothing short of extraordinary. With more than two dozen albums recorded over a span of six decades, Dr. Taylor is renowned within the recording community through such compositions as, "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to be Free" and "Peaceful Warrior," a work inspired by and dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1990, Dr. Taylor was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President George H.W. Bush and also has received two Peabody Awards, an Emmy, and a Grammy.

Dr. Taylor continues to be the country's spokesman for jazz. From 1977 until 1982, Dr. Taylor hosted "Jazz Alive," National Public Radio's most listened-to jazz program of its time.

In March 1993, he was appointed Jazz Adviser to the Kennedy Center, where he was responsible for dramatically expanding and enhancing its jazz program—and although he has officially retired, Dr. Taylor is busier than ever, continuing to provide his expertise to the institution. As with Jazzmobile, Billy Taylor continues to create outreach activities and public performances to expose people of all ages to the genre of Jazz at the Kennedy Center. At the University of Massachusetts, where he is the Wilmer D. Barrett Professor of Music, Dr. Taylor leads the annual Jazz in July program.

As we prepare for the 2nd Annual Duke Ellington Festival to be held in October, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. Billy Taylor for his lifetime achievements and contributions to the genre of jazz and to the world at large. He is not only an extraordinary artist, but also a renowned and celebrated professional who has dedicated his life to bringing music to the masses. Dr. Billy Taylor inspires the next generation of musicians to continue in his footsteps and not only excel in their musical performances, but also to motivate and educate.

THE MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act, S. 418, as passed by the Senate. The bill amends the Investment Company Act of 1940 to make it unlawful for any registered investment company to issue or sell any periodic payment plan certificate. In short, the bill will protect the members of our Armed Forces from unscrupulous practices regarding the sale of insurance as well as other financial and investment products.

Many of us have known for some time that members of our Armed Services have been preyed upon by unscrupulous individuals in the financial services arena. Members of the Armed Services are often the victims of aggressive and misleading sales practices and schemes that result in exorbitant commissions and fees for insurance products, etc. Some sales commissions are in excess of 50 percent on the first year of contributions to the insurance product. In addition, certain life insurance products are being marketed as investment products, providing minimal death benefits in exchange for excessive up-front premiums.

I believe that this bill takes a major step to close the existing loophole in the law allowing for the proliferation in the sale of these products. Mr. Speaker, it would be disgraceful if, after the sacrifices made by the men and women in our armed services, this body allowed these practices to continue. Today we should send a strong message to the people in the industry who would put profit above the well-being of our troops by passing S. 418.

The sooner we can pass this legislation and other measures to protect our service men and women from these predators the better off we will be. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5450 and applaud Representative EHLERS, Chairman BOEHLERT and the members of the House Science committee for their work on this bill. However, I am also deeply concerned with H.R. 5450. My concern, however, is not what is actually in this bill, but what is missing. Because the House Resources Committee refused to consider this important legislation, we are now debating a bill that does not include authorization for the oceanic component of NOAA.

This greatly disappoints me. As a co-chair of the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus, I have worked closely with the line offices of NOAA that handle ocean stewardship, and I

have always been amazed at the size and importance of their mission considering what little Congress gives them in the way of guidance or funds. Funding that should go to NOAA to bolster ocean research and management already pales in comparison to other natural resource programs, and now, we are about to authorize only the atmospheric component of NOAA. This is just another example of the failure of this Congress to make the management of our oceans a priority. This amazes me, considering the size and economic value of our oceans.

We have been called to make our oceans a greater priority for more than 6 years now. When are we going to act? After our fish stocks are fully depleted? After global warming have caused rising sea levels to erode our beaches and the oceans to become so acidic that coral reefs have wasted away? In 2000, with the passage of the Oceans Act, Congress called for a National Commission on Ocean Policy to conduct a nationwide fact-finding mission on the state of our oceans. The goal was to develop policy recommendations that would lead to a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy. The independent Pew Oceans Commission underwent a similar process to identify the root problems threatening our nations' oceans. The products of these two commissions are nothing short of remarkable. Both commissions independently came to the same clear message: our oceans are in peril.

It is NOAA that must tackle these challenges. As the lead agency on ocean management, both commissions acknowledged the size of the task that NOAA faces. Americans are facing declining fish stocks, beach closures due to poor water quality, and laws that are inadequate to protect America's oceans. Both commissions have called on Congress repeatedly to provide NOAA with an organic act. In fact, both have listed an organic act as one of the highest priorities in taking steps towards better management of our oceans.

NOAA already administers the core programs that manage our ocean resources, and again, does so under an ever tightening budget. For example, National Marine Fisheries Service manages all Federal fisheries under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management administers the Coastal Zone Management Act that protects our coasts from pollution and erosion. Congress sure likes to give NOAA a lot to do, but nothing to do it with.

Furthermore, NOAA also administers a number of completely unauthorized programs that Americans depend on. The Ocean and Atmospheric Research office played a lead role in helping institute an integrated ocean observation system based on what we already have in the Gulf of Maine. Analogous to the routine monitoring of weather and climate, ocean observation collects a myriad of temperature and current data that enhances the prediction of hurricanes and storms, the impacts of global warming, and is used by search and rescue teams and shipping fleets for navigation. Despite the multiple uses of ocean observation, the regional associations are now at risk of shutting down because as an unauthorized program, they are unable to find a sustainable funding path. It is ridiculous. In essence, this innovative program may have to shut down for being too ahead of its time.

The challenges NOAA faces are only going to increase over the next century. More than