United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006 No. 129

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Chaplain Scott Crosley, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, today we pray for productivity, for purpose and for passion. We ask, Lord, for Your encouragement for those who need it, for Your direction for those who need it, and for Your discernment for those who need it.

Your word promises that ''he who stands firm to the end will be saved.'' Today, I pray for the leaders in this room, that You, Lord, would help them to stand firm in You. Help their dependence to be upon You and their persuasion to reflect You.

As it reads in Ephesians, chapter 3: ''I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His spirit in your inner being.''

It is in His name that I pray Rakkasan and Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING CHAPLAIN SCOTT CROSLEY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Chaplain Scott Crosley of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for delivering today's opening prayer. Chaplain Crosley serves as the battalion chaplain for the First Battalion 187th Infantry Regiment, the ''Leader Rakkasans.''

These soldiers only recently returned to Fort Campbell from Iraq. While they were deployed in Iraq, I had the opportunity to visit them at forward-operating base Summerall. The Leader Rakkasans engaged in close combat with insurgent and terrorist enemies. They worked to train Iraqi army and police units, and they continued the work of building Iraqi civil society to offer a better future to the next generation of Iraqis.

Chaplain Crosley came to the Army late in life, moving his family from his native California and heeding a call to tend to the spiritual and emotional needs of soldiers at war.

In this time of deployment, his efforts helped soldiers deal with the stress of combat, separation from their loved ones and, above all, the loss of nine brother warriors in action.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Chaplain Crosley and the soldiers of the 101st Airborne for their great service to our great Nation.

END THE WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, one week ago, the American people sent a message to this Congress; that message had to do with Iraq. Were the American people asking us to send more troops? No, they want the troops to come home. Were they looking to expand the war? No, they want to end the war.

There is only one way to end this war: cut off funds. The White House doesn't believe Congress will exercise this power. That is why the President is determined to stay in Iraq through the end of his term. He may have let go of Rumsfeld, but he is not going to let go of the war. The President is trapped, trapped by lies, fabricated intelligence, pretensions to empire, desire for oil and prophetic illusions.

The truth shall set the President and the Congress free; the truth that it was wrong to go into Iraq. It is wrong to stay there. It is time to bring our troops home. It is time to get the world community involved in a transition to help secure the Iraqi people. The truth is we broke Iraq, but we can't fix it by staying. We can fix it only by admitting we were wrong and paying for reconstruction financially but not with the lives of our brave troops.

It is time to cut off the funds; time to end the war against Iraq; time to bring our troops home; time for a new energy policy; time to reconnect with the world; time for hope, not fear.

WHY THANKSGIVING DAY?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, in 1621, the Pilgrims held a 3-day festival giving thanks to the Lord for a bountiful harvest. They celebrated with the Indians, who had also suffered through a previously hard winter. This feast would become the birth of our national holiday of Thanksgiving.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt made the fourth Thursday of November the official Thanksgiving day, which we celebrate Thursday next. For the first 150 years, Thanksgiving was celebrated whenever the Colonists believed it was necessary to do so. President George Washington stated in the first Thanksgiving proclamation authorized by Congress in 1789: ''It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to be grateful

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for His benefits and to request His protection and favor. I recommend to the people of the United States a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer to show the many favors of the Almighty and especially the opportunity for this form of government.''

So as this Nation, Mr. Speaker, seems to move toward a secular country, we would do well to remember the purpose of Thanksgiving and the words of the Good Book, which says: ''Unless the Lord watches over the city, those that guard the walls do so in vain.''

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATS DESIRE TO BETTER SECURE THE HOMELAND

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, no issue that Congress deals with is more important than our national security. As Democrats prepare to take control of the Congress this January, we are ready to move forward with an agenda that I believe will better secure our homeland and help us finally to restore our credibility abroad.

Today our Nation is actually less safe than it was before the 9/11 terrorist attacks. According to our most professional experienced intelligence analysts, the number of terrorists attacks and recruits are up worldwide. Many of our enemies are stronger. Their reach is greater. Their weapons of mass destruction are more developed, plentiful and available.

Democrats have an agenda for real security at home and overseas. It is time that we require the Iraqis to take responsibility for their country, and to begin the phased redeployment of U.S. forces out of Iraq. At the same time, we Democrats believe that we need to double the size of Special Forces to destroy Osama bin Laden and terrorists networks like al-Qaeda, we need to rebuild a state-of-the-art military capable of projecting power wherever necessary. That is an agenda that will better protect our Nation and is worthy of strong bipartisan support.

THE THREAT OF IRAN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a growing threat to the United States and global security: Iran's nuclear ambitions pose a grave threat, not only to world stability but also to our close ally, Israel, the only stable democracy in the Middle East, and American interests of peace and prosperity throughout the region.

Just yesterday the Associated Press confirmed that Iran has continued its experiments to enrich uranium in defiance of the U.N. Security Council.

Led by a tyrannical dictator who denies the existence of the Holocaust and vows to wipe Israel off the map, the President of Iran is out of touch with reality and poses an immediate security threat to its neighbors and the progress of democracy in the Middle East.

We must stand firm and united in our resolve to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear state. President Ahmadinejad seems bent on the destruction of Western civilization. He says Iran will never give up its right to enrich uranium and produce nuclear fuel. The consequences of a nuclear Iran would be catastrophic and must be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, our commitment to our allies and for peace in the Middle East must not be shaken by Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions. I urge my colleagues to work together to stand in unity against this gathering threat.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage, as you know, has not been raised in the last 9 years and is currently at its lowest level in the last 50 years when adjusted for inflation. Yet Republicans have continually refused to raise the pay of these full-time workers who struggle to make ends meet.

During the last 6 years, by the way, 5 million people now live in poverty. Last week the American people spoke out for the Democratic majority in Congress, because they agreed that no one in the Nation who works hard should be denied a livable wage. In fact, over 70 percent of Latinos work at minimum wage to support their children.

These are hardworking Americans, and they deserve better treatment and fairness. Now the American people have spoken and call for immediate action to raise the minimum wage. Within the first 100 hours of the Congress, Democrats will pass a pay increase for those workers who need it the most. It is only fair. How can we as a Nation justify giving millionaires tens of thousands of dollars in tax breaks while we continue to force more than 6 million Americans to live with just $5.15 an hour?

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the election results, we will see a much-needed raise in the minimum wage for all Americans.

A LITTLE SCHOOL WITH A BIG HEART

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday in Saluda, South Carolina, 400 elementary school students gathered at a football field while a military helicopter landed in the middle.

Why such a big treat for such a small school, you may wonder? Hollywood Elementary teacher Anna Frye learned of the Flags For Soldiers Project, headed by Alpha Troop Commander Captain Jason D. Hennigan, and wanted to involve her students.

The project is to raise money to purchase 500 American flags, one for each soldier serving in a Cavalry Squadron of the 82nd Airborne Division. During the past several weeks, these students donated their snack money and paid a fee to participate in dress-up days so they could contribute to this cause.

Captain Hennigan's father, Daniel Hennigan, a retired Army officer, was so touched by the school's gesture that he arranged a special celebration on Veterans Day. As American solders continue to fight for our freedoms around the world, we can all learn a lesson from the students at Hollywood Elementary.

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

AMERICAN PEOPLE SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voted for change here in Washington. They were not happy with the party controlling both Capitol Hill and the White House. They want checks and balances, but more than anything, they want us to work together to address the concerns they face every day.

The agenda that Democrats laid out over the last year is an agenda that all of us here in Washington should be able to support. If you want to help millions of hardworking Americans who have not received a pay raise in 9 years, you will join us in increasing the minimum raise in January. If you want to help more teenagers get a college education, you will join us in making it more affordable by cutting interest rates in half on college loans.

This is the agenda that the American people supported last week when they went to the polls. In January, we will begin to implement this agenda, and I hope that our Republican colleagues will join us in this effort.

COLLEGE LOAN INTEREST RATE CUTS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, Americans voted for a new direction in America. Among those voting were 10 million young Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 who were no doubt upset by the soaring costs of college tuition and the rise in student loan interest rates put into effect by Republicans in this body.

This year alone Republicans raised student loan interest rates by 7 percent and cut $12 billion out of the higher

education budget to pay for the massive tax cuts for the wealthy. These 10 million young voters, along with their parents and grandparents who share the growing financial burden of higher education, elected a Democratic majority in Congress because they know our party has continually stood for making a college education an affordable goal for all American students.

Mr. Speaker, these families will soon see results. Within the first 100 hours of taking office next January, Democrats will broaden college opportunities for all students.

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AMERICANS WANT A CHANGE IN STRATEGY IN IRAQ

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voiced their strong opposition to the handling of the war in Iraq. On the day after the election, it appeared that President Bush had finally gotten the message when he removed Secretary Rumsfeld, the man who bears a great deal of responsibility for the failed Iraq policy. However, there is now some doubt whether the President fully comprehended the magnitude of the quagmire his administration created and continues to defend.

The situation in Iraq is getting worse, not better. October was the deadliest month for American troops in over 2 years, and they continue to play referee in a civil war between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

It is clear after last week's election that the American people want a change in strategy. It is time for the Iraqi people to take control of their country and to stop the sectarian violence that has made it impossible to bring stability to that nation. American troops cannot do it for them. They have got to do it for themselves.

Therefore, it is time to begin redeploying our troops out of Iraq so that we can better protect our Nation. The President's own intelligence agencies say the war in Iraq is making us less safe.

When Democrats take control of Congress next year, we will advocate for a phased redeployment so we can better protect the homeland from terrorist attacks.

DEMOCRATS WILL HIT THE ROAD RUNNING WITH AN AGENDA FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when Democrats take over the House in January, we are going to hit the road running, moving forward on an agenda that every American should be able to embrace.

Within the first 100 hours, Democrats pledge to bring legislation to the House floor that would increase the minimum wage from $5.15 an hour to $7.25 an hour to more than 6 million American workers.

We will also give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate lower drug prices, something that the Republican drug law specifically prohibited.

We will also repeal billions in tax breaks for big oil companies, companies that experienced record profits this summer while they were gouging the American consumer.

Democrats also plan to help college students with skyrocketing college costs by cutting their student loan interest payments in half, something that could save future graduates about $5,000 over the lifetime of the loan.

All of this, plus fully implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, and we will do that all in the first 100 hours.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

FRANNIE, WYOMING, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 101) to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 101

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO THE TOWN OF FRANNIE, WYOMING.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey by quitclaim deed, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (b) to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation—

(1) consisting of approximately 37,500 square feet;

(2) located in the town of Frannie, Wyoming; and

(3) more particularly described in the approved Plat of Survey of Frannie Townsite, Wyoming, as the North ½ of Block 26, T. 58 N, R. 97 W.

(c) RESERVATION OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the reservation by the United States of any oil and gas rights.

(d) REVOCATIONS.—

(1) SPECIAL USE PERMIT.—The special use permit issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation, numbered O–LM–60–L1413, and dated April 20, 1990, is revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b).

(2) SECRETARIAL ORDERS.—The following Secretarial Orders issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation are revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b):

(A) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Shoshone Reclamation Project dated October 21, 1913, as amended.

(B) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Frannie Townsite Reservation dated April 19, 1920.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 101, introduced by Senator MIKE ENZI, and supported by our Wyoming colleague, BARBARA CUBIN, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming. The land in question is less than 1 acre and equates to approximately half a city block.

The Bureau of Reclamation has not used this land for many years, and the town has actually managed it for the last 15 years. As the land is no longer needed for reclamation projects, the town would like to use this land to build a community center.

The Department of the Interior has testified in support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of S. 101 is to convey a small parcel of Federal land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

While we do not object to passage of S. 101, we do want to ensure that we address concerns raised at the December 7, 2005, hearing of the Subcommittee on Water and Power regarding the intent of Congress with respect to the ownership of this parcel and the purpose for which it will be used.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD at this point two letters received from the town of Frannie by Water and Power Subcommittee Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO.

TOWN OF FRANNIE,
Frannie, WY, December 15, 2005.

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE NAPOLITANO: It has come to our attention that there were concerns expressed over the Town of Frannie gaining ownership of federal lands in Frannie Wyoming and then immediately disposing of them. As a smaller governmental entity, we fully understand the concerns on this issue.

One of the unique features in the Town of Frannie is on the NE¼ of Block 26. The Town

of Frannie holds a Bureau of Reclamation 99-year Special Use Permit for our Centennial (Lasting Legacy) Park. In 1990, as a project to commemorate a ''Lasting Legacy'' of Wyoming's centennial year, the Frannie Elementary students, with community support and help, built this park. The park is a topographical representation of Wyoming with rocks depicting mountain ranges and the pathways are the two main thoroughfares across the state. This children's park holds a special place in the hearts of many of our community members.

Past and present Town Council members have been discussing the use for the NW¼ of Block 26. The need for a large group picnic shelter, a community hall, and a maintenance shop are a few ideas that the councils were considering. Before we can commit to developing these lots for public use, we will first need to gain ownership.

It is our desire to have this land remain open for public use since it is adjacent to our town hall, basketball court, and library. We feel that we would be better managers and protectors of these lots if they were under our care. On July 19, 2000, the Wyoming State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, stated in a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation, ''Since BLM feels the parcel is not suitable for return to the public domain and management under the public land and mining laws, and the land is no longer needed for BR purposes, it is recommended a means of disposal of this parcel be sought whereby the Town of Frannie can protect its investment.''

We understand the concern with the Town of Frannie turning around and selling the North½ of Block 26. Although we cannot guarantee what future council members' goals and values will be, you can rest assured that the present council and many of our community members desire that this entire block remain intact for the public's use.

We sincerely hope that you will give us your support of S. 101.

Sincerely,

JERRY DART,
Mayor.

TOWN OF FRANNIE
Frannie, WY, July 14, 2006.

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water and Power, House Committee on Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you for your interest in S. 101, a bill to convey land to the Town of Frannie, and for your continued interest in good government. As a local government official, 1 have a great respect for your desire to see lands conveyed to our town used in a manner that is in the public interest.

I write you today to make clear that the Town of Frannie has no intention of selling the land that the federal government would convey to us if S. 101 is signed into law. It is my understanding that a letter sent by our previous mayor did not clarify what our intention is for that land, and so I hope to ease your concerns that the town may attempt to sell this land in the future. That is not our goal, and we have no desire to sell the land to private individuals.

Half of the land owned by the Bureau of Reclamation holds a portion of the town's Centennial Park. It is our intention to keep that park in place. The Other half of the land contains an American Legion building that is condemned. It is our intention to tear that building down, and it is our dream to build a community center on that land.

We expect the community center to be a place where townspeople can meet for dinners, meetings and other community events because our community does not have such a gathering facility. Although it is our dream to make this happen, we do not yet want to begin the process of raising the funds if we do not own the land. Although we enjoy our relationship with Bureau of Reclamation, we do not feel comfortable investing what we believe to be substantial dollars if we do not own the land.

Because the federal government no longer uses the land and because the cost of selling the land is more than the value of the land, we believe S. 101 is a win-win situation for our community and for the taxpayers. It is my hope that you will support passage of S. 101 so that we can begin moving forward with our dream to build It community center that will undoubtedly make Frannie a better place for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

MIRIAM ROBERTS,
Mayor, Town of Frannie.

The letters clearly state that it is the intent of the town government that this parcel permanently remain in public ownership and that the land continue to be used as it is presently, that is, for public purposes. We appreciate these assurances by the town of Frannie.

In addition to these assurances, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of the Interior, in executing the transfer of real property authorized by this act, shall include in the deed or deeds a restriction requiring that the lands remain in public ownership by the town of Frannie and used solely and in perpetuity for public purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 101.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS ACT OF 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 4001) to designate certain land in New England as wilderness for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and certain land as a National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 4001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''New England Wilderness Act of 2006''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Section 1. Short title; table of contents
Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary
TITLE I—NEW HAMPSHIRE
Sec. 101. Definition of State
Sec. 102. Designation of wilderness areas
Sec. 103. Map and description
Sec. 104. Administration
TITLE II—VERMONT
Sec. 201. Definitions
Subtitle A—Designation of Wilderness Areas
Sec. 211. Designation
Sec. 212. Map and description
Sec. 213. Administration
Subtitle B—Moosalamoo National Recreation Area
Sec. 221. Designation
Sec. 222. Map and description
Sec. 223. Administration of National Recreation Area

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

TITLE I—NEW HAMPSHIRE

SEC. 101. DEFINITION OF STATE.

In this title, the term ''State'' means the State of New Hampshire.

SEC. 102. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal land in the State is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 23,700 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wild River Wilderness—White Mountain National Forest'', dated February 6, 2006, which shall be known as the ''Wild River Wilderness''.

(2) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 10,800 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Sandwich Range Wilderness Additions—White Mountain National Forest'', dated February 6, 2006, and which are incorporated in the Sandwich Range Wilderness, as designated by the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–323; 98 Stat. 259).

SEC. 103. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by section 102 with the committees of appropriate jurisdiction in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 104. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated under this title shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—With respect to any wilderness area designated by this title, any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects any jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with respect to wildlife and fish in the State.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the wilderness areas designated by section 102 are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under the mineral leasing laws (including geothermal leasing laws).

TITLE II—VERMONT

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term ''Management Plan'' means the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

(2) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Vermont.

Subtitle A—Designation of Wilderness Areas

SEC. 211. DESIGNATION.

In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 22,425 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Glastenbury Wilderness—Proposed'', dated September 2006, which shall be known as the ''Glastenbury Wilderness''.

(2) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 12,333 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Joseph Battell Wilderness—Proposed'', dated September 2006, which shall be known as the ''Joseph Battell Wilderness''.

(3) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 3,757 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Breadloaf Wilderness Additions—Proposed'', dated September 2006, which shall be known as the ''Breadloaf Wilderness''.

(4) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 2,338 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Lye Brook Wilderness Additions—Proposed'', dated September 2006, which shall be known as the ''Lye Brook Wilderness''.

(5) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 752 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Peru Peak Wilderness Additions—Proposed'', dated September 2006, which shall be known as the ''Peru Peak Wilderness''.

(6) Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 47 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Big Branch Wilderness Additions—Proposed'', dated September 2006, which shall be known as the ''Big Branch Wilderness''.

SEC. 212. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by section 211 with—

(1) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(b) FORCE OF LAW.—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 213. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, each wilderness area designated under this subtitle and in the Green Mountain National Forest (as of the date of enactment of this Act) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(b) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in the State, including the stocking of fish in rivers and streams in the State to support the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program.

(c) TRAILS.—The Forest Service shall allow the continuance of—

(1) the Appalachian National Scenic Trail;

(2) the Long Trail;

(3) the Catamount Trail; and

(4) the marking and maintenance of associated trails and trail structures of the Trails referred to in this subsection, consistent with the management direction (including objectives, standards, guidelines, and agreements with partners) established for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Long Trail, and Catamount Trail under the Management Plan.

Subtitle B—Moosalamoo National Recreation Area

SEC. 221. DESIGNATION.

Certain Federal land managed by the United States Forest Service, comprising approximately 15,857 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Moosalamoo National Recreation Area—Proposed'', dated September 2006, is designated as the ''Moosalamoo National Recreation Area''.

SEC. 222. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of the national recreation area designated by section 221 with—

(1) the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(3) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(b) FORCE OF LAW.—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 223. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid rights existing on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall administer the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area in accordance with—

(1) laws (including rules and regulations) applicable to units of the National Forest System; and

(2) the management direction (including objectives, standards, and guidelines) established for the Moosalamoo Recreation and Education Management Area under the Management Plan.

(b) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in the State.

(c) ESCARPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL AREAS.—Nothing in this subtitle prevents the Secretary from managing the Green Mountain Escarpment Management Area and the Ecological Special Areas, as described in the Management Plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 4001 would designate 34,500 acres of wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and 41,652 acres of wilderness in the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont.

The Resources Committee supports the wilderness designation in the White Mountain National Forest. This designation was developed with the Forest Service through its forest planning process and with substantial input and involvement from the public and local interest groups. It boasts the strong support of New Hampshire's citizens, environmental groups, the forest products industry, elected officials, the Forest Service and the administration.

With that said, the committee is somewhat troubled with the Vermont wilderness designation within S. 4001. The Forest Service's publicly vetted and collaborative forest plan recommends only 27,000 acres of wilderness. However, considering the few days remaining in this Congress and the support of this bill by the entire Vermont delegation, the Resources Committee will defer to Vermont's elected officials and pass the bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would simply note that this legislation, which would designate Federal wilderness areas on national forest system lands within the States of New Hampshire and Vermont, is before us in part due to the efforts of our colleague, Bernie Sanders, and for that, I commend the gentleman from Vermont for his dedication, persistence and willingness to work with us on this legislation. He will soon become a member of the other body, but we shall still maintain our friendship. I salute him for his tenacity in ensuring that his State's interests are included in this measure.

I would also observe that the wilderness designations made by the pending measure are clean, and by that, I refer to the fact that they are not coupled with other matters which have nothing to do with wilderness.

Wilderness standing on its own here, the benefits of wilderness designation to the local economy, to hunters and fishermen, and to our heritage and future generations of Americans, is on display for all to see.

It is not being coupled or being debased with other matters such as the disposal of public lands as the price of obtaining some wilderness designation as we have seen with a number of other bills considered by this body in recent months.

So I am pleased to support the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY).

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the leadership of the Resources Committee on both sides of the aisle, as well as the leadership on both sides of the aisle in the House, for allowing myself, Congressman BASS and Congressman SANDERS to have another opportunity to debate this bill today.

What we have before us is a compromise in true New England fashion, with both States' delegations and Governors of both States having worked together to bring before the House a consensus package that represents the best interests of my colleague's State of Vermont and the best interests of my State of New Hampshire.

As someone who is an avid hiker and someone who will have a little bit more time now to hike, I can attest to all Members of the House, this wilderness designation makes sense for New Hampshire. I have hiked in both regions of the proposed wilderness designation. They are worthy of this additional protection of wilderness designation.

In the case of New Hampshire, myself and Congressman BASS, Senator GREGG and Senator SUNUNU, the sponsors of this measure, have worked extensively with all sides that were interested in this legislation, both environmental groups, logging interests, snowmobiling groups to make sure that we had a plan that mirrored the interests of Tom Wagner, who is the administrator of the White Mountain National Forest, and his very capable group of people that proposed the White Mountain National Forest plan and the wilderness designation.

As a side note, the White Mountain National Forest plan, despite all the comments that came in after the plan was published, in particular comments about wilderness designation, was not challenged in court by any of the various interests, which is a tribute to how hard New Hampshire interests worked on the compromise that you see before you today.

So, as somebody who has spent extensive time hiking in the White Mountain National Forest, including in these two proposed wilderness designations, the Sandwich designation, as well as the Wild River designation, I thank again my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for allowing this bill to come forward. I thank the leadership on both sides for allowing this bill to come forward. It is truly going to protect both the Green Mountain National Forest and the White Mountain National Forest, and I would welcome all of you to come join me in hiking in these two wilderness designations once they have been signed into law.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to our distinguished colleague from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and again congratulate him on his ascension into the other body.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from West Virginia.

This has been a somewhat long and unusual path to get here to where we are today, and I want to thank the gentlewoman and I want to thank the committee for their support and I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. BRADLEY and Mr. BASS from New Hampshire, for their very hard work on this, and the New Hampshire delegation in the Senate and Senator LEAHY and Senator JEFFORDS for where we are today.

□ 1030

I rise, obviously, in very strong support of this legislation which would designate wilderness areas in both Vermont and New Hampshire. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously in September, and I hope this body will pass it today in similar fashion.

I should point out that the New England Wilderness Act not only has the unanimous support of the New Hampshire delegation and the Vermont delegation but the Governor of the State of Vermont and the Governor of the State of New Hampshire as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Green Mountain National Forest is integral to the State of Vermont. Established in 1932, the forest includes almost 400,000 acres stretching across two-thirds the length of the State. As you might imagine, the forest looms large on the minds of Vermonters. My constituents have high expectations about the stewardship of the resources within the forest, and the wilderness created in this bill is something almost all Vermonters eagerly await.

In fact, passage of the New England Wilderness Act would mark a successful culmination of on-the-ground efforts in both Vermont and New Hampshire. In Vermont, this has involved roughly 5 years of discussions as well as cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service as they worked to update the forest management plan which included a significant public process.

For example, five local planning groups met monthly during the planning process, and over 70 public meetings occurred during this same period. Additionally, four educational forums on the future management of the forest and four open houses on the forest plan also took place. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, throughout the whole undertaking, one message was very clear: Designating wilderness areas in the State of Vermont has the overwhelming support of the vast majority of the people in my State.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask for the support of all of my colleagues to pass this important legislation. Enacting this legislation into law will provide lasting benefits to current and future generations of citizens in Vermont and New Hampshire and throughout the entire United States, and I look forward to celebrating this important milestone.

Once again, I want to thank the committee and my colleagues from New Hampshire for their very hard work on this.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

Mr. BASS. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to stand here before you in support of S. 4001. As my good friend and colleague from Vermont mentioned a minute or two ago, this is the culmination of a very tortuous negotiation process that has taken place over a period of years. I am very pleased to be able to culminate this process in this fashion as the last bill that I, as the Representative of the Second Congressional District, will be speaking in favor of and supporting on the floor of the House, and probably his last bill as he heads over to represent his great State of Vermont in the U.S. Senate, and I offer him my congratulations.

This is a very significant piece of legislation for New Hampshire and the White Mountain National Forest. It will set aside 34,000 acres in wilderness designated lands, as we said before, in the Sandwich Range and Wild River areas of northern New Hampshire. It is, as was said, the culmination of 5 years of planning on the part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the USDA staff that are on the ground in the area, the stakeholders in the region, including the towns, environmental groups, State reps and State legislators. It is the culmination of an open process in which many, many different points of view were brought into consideration, and this plan was developed. This is the legislative initiative that implements that plan, and I fully support it.

The White Mountain National Forest was established in 1911 through the Weeks Act. It is the most visited national forest in the country. I believe, although I don't recall the exact number right now, but over 5 million people frequent this national forest. We have

two ski areas that exist in it. It is a great source of recreation, but it is also a very diverse ecosystem, and I think that the plan that we have here before us today represents a reasonable compromise between the need to preserve key wilderness areas for future generations and the need to recognize that a national forest is also an economic engine and is part of the economy for the region and a critical part of that economy.

So by including the designations in the State of Vermont, New Hampshire and Vermont are working together, because indeed their forests and our forests are very close to one another. In a bipartisan fashion, with the support of both Governors and the whole delegation to implement this plan, the impact of this designation will not be felt just this year and next year but forever.

So I just want to say that, as my last bill on the floor of the House, I think it is as important a bill as I have ever had because its impact will last long after I am gone and everybody else that is here today. So I want to thank, in closing, all of those who have helped on the House side and on the Senate side to bring this wonderful jewel to New Hampshire and preserving 34,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest for eternity.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 4001.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING NEW EFFECTIVE DATE FOR APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF LAW TO PUBLIC LAW 105–331

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6325) to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105–331.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6325

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purposes of Public Law 105–331, the end of the 2-year period specified in subparagraph (B) of section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, shall be July 1, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge today that the House do pass H.R. 6325, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE). It is a relatively simple bill in purpose, to accommodate one single intention, and that is to correct an honest misinterpretation of the law governing the distribution of surcharges on the sales of a commemorative coin that honored America's great inventor, Thomas Edison.

Legislation to authorize the coin was approved in 1998, and the coin issued subsequently in 2004. But owing to slightly contradictory information guiding recipients of the surcharges, the recipients did not understand requirements to raise matching funds from private sources, which meant that such funds must be entirely from nongovernmental sources. That misunderstanding now has been resolved, and I would like to introduce into the RECORD at this time a letter to that effect, and all agree that a short 6-month extension would then be sufficient to cure any pending problem.

Mr. Speaker, it was a misunderstanding, clearly not at the fault of any one party, but I believe that this remedy being posed by Mr. PALLONE in a bipartisan fashion will cure the defect that we currently face, and I would urge the House to consider the bill and immediately adopt the underlying text.

EDISON MEMORIAL TOWER CORPORATION,
Edison, NJ, November 14, 2006.

CHAIRMAN MICHAEL OXLEY,
Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY, The non-profit Edison Memorial Tower Corporation is requesting a 6-month extension to our deadline to raise $379,000 in private funds in order to secure a $379,000 matching grant from the United States Mint. These funds, available thanks to the sale of a Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin, will greatly assist us with our efforts to restore Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratory site where many of his most important inventions were made.

Our Board has made good progress in our fundraising efforts and we are confident that the additional 6 months will allow us the necessary time to raise the full required amount. We understand that if this 6-month extension is approved, this will be the only extension allowed for this grant. We therefore commit that we will not ask you to consider a further extension of time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

NANCY L. ZERBE,
Chairperson.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is especially appropriate for us at a time when we are celebrating or trying to give due recognition to the importance of innovation in our economy that we take this action to make sure that we properly memorialize Thomas Edison in whose honor this whole project has been conceived.

I appreciate very much the majority accommodating us in this, and I want to say especially that the staff on the majority side was particularly helpful. We had a little glitch in terms of how this was drafted and whether or not it was a private bill, and everybody worked very hard to make sure we could do this promptly, since, obviously, we don't expect or hope to be here a whole lot longer. So I am glad we are able to go forward.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill and the man who represents the area affected, our friend from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, but particularly the gentleman from Massachusetts for all his help in bringing this to the floor in such a timely fashion. Without his help, we certainly wouldn't be here today. And I also want to say that I look forward to when he is the chairman of the Financial Services Committee in the next congress. I introduced this bill with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) to allow the Edison Memorial Tower Corporation additional time to raise funds to match a Federal grant.

The Edison Memorial Tower, in my district, is a 131-foot tower built in 1937 on the exact spot where Thomas Edison's original Menlo Park laboratory was located in New Jersey. And I think you know this was the place where the electric light bulb and so many inventions were made by Thomas Edison. The Tower was built to commemorate Edison's work and is connected to a museum displaying many of the inventor's creations.

Unfortunately, the Tower has suffered more than $3 million worth of water damage. The Edison Memorial Tower Corporation, which oversees the Tower, was designated as the recipient of Federal funds under the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act, which passed in 1998. That funding became available at the beginning of last year, but required a non-Federal match. After reading a document published by the Mint, the Tower Corporation originally thought they could use State funds to pay for the match. Unfortunately, they were informed recently by the U.S. Mint that they could only use funds raised from private sources.

Once they realized this, the Tower Corporation approached me for help,

since they were faced with the need to raise more than $300,000 by December 31 of this year, the statutory deadline. That is why I introduced this bill, which simply extends the deadline by 6 months to give them adequate time to raise private funds. The Board of the Tower Corporation has assured me, as well as Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK, that they will be able to raise the necessary funds in 6 months and they would not request another extension.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Edison's contributions to our society are too numerous to count, but by developing the modern light bulb, he is one of America's most recognized thinkers and inventors. The Memorial Tower helps celebrate his achievements and salutes the spirit of innovation that he fostered. This bill is critical to making sure that the Memorial Tower can be repaired and serve not only as memorial to a great man but also as a symbol of America's potential for technological innovation and achievement.

I want to again express my thanks to Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK for their willingness to move this bill, and for the leadership on both sides of the aisle for putting it on the suspension calendar.

I also want to particularly thank Jamie Lizarraga, on the minority staff of the Financial Services Committee, for his diligence and very hard work to move this bill forward. Joe Pinder and Tom Duncan of Chairman OXLEY's staff were also quite helpful, and of course, Eric Gordon of my own staff, here on the left. I want to thank them all.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will go a long way towards ensuring that we can preserve an important landmark saluting a great American.

□ 1045

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate what he said, particularly about the staff members he named who really took care of this for us and made it very easy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6325.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FINANCIAL NETTING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2006

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 5585) to improve the netting process for financial contracts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike section 7 (relating to compensation of chapter 7 trustees; chapter 7 filing fees).

In section 8 (relating to scope of application), strike the section heading and all that follows through ''the amendments made'' and insert the following:

"SEC. 7. SCOPE OF APPLICATION.

''The amendments made''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks in this legislation and insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be on the floor today to have the opportunity to pass this important financial services legislation that Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and I were able to work together on on a bipartisan basis.

Now, I must confess this new era of bipartisanship I have somewhat questioned with the recent election results. I am not overly optimistic about the coming bipartisanship. I think it must be and most likely will be more rhetoric than reality. But I am grateful to be on a committee where we have had some level of bipartisanship and cooperation, although imperfect; but on this legislation, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and I, as freshmen, were described in the U.S. Today as the ying and yang of the freshman class, the most liberal and the most conservative members of the 109th Congress, the new Members for it. And DEBBIE and I set out then to work on some legislation together, and I am grateful that we were able to get that done here in the waning days of the 109th Congress.

The legislation that we have before us today is the Financial Netting Improvement Act, which makes a number of technical changes to the financial contract safe harbor provisions for the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and other Federal insolvency laws. The netting provisions reflect years of work within the President's Working Group on Financial Markets, Treasury, Federal Reserve Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the FDIC. This is the result and the fruits of that long labor. The amendment on this legislation from the Senate is very minor, and we are able to accept it in the House.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I concur with the substantive discussion of this bill from the gentleman from North Carolina. His comments on bipartisanship seem to me rather odd, and I will not dwell further on them. It does seem to me if you were trying to promote bipartisanship, as we all are, beginning by attacking the sincerity of those who will be in charge of it is not a good idea. But the gentleman is free to speculate as he wishes.

The bill itself is, as he described it, a good idea. We originally passed it with an amendment from the Judiciary Committee. Frankly, I was not in favor of that amendment. I think what the Senate has done has improved the bill; and that is not a sentence I always get to say, but I do want to say in this case. I think it is now a good bill and more consumer friendly.

The gentlewoman from Florida was very much interested in this, and quite right to push for it. Our colleague from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) had some concerns about some potential negative effects on consumers. It has all been worked out, so it is now a bill that improves the administration of the system, and I generally support it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the chairman of the Capital Markets Subcommittee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) who has been a wonderful friend and ally on the committee.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and wish to express appreciation to my friends on the other side for their work in this arena.

It flows from the problems that erupted during the fall of 1998 when the then largest hedge fund in the world, LTCM, pursuant to a Russian currency crisis, found itself unable to meet its financial obligations. When the New York Fed arrived at the meeting location to determine how to best resolve this uncertainty, they were surprised to find the scope and complexity of the financial relationships that LTCM had with significant and large financial institutions, both U.S. and abroad. There was not in place at that time a mechanism where counter-party obligations could be unwound without wreaking havoc and some sort of domino effect, potentially bringing significant adverse financial consequences to large numbers of individuals who had no knowledge of their exposure to the LTCM instability.

Further, at the time of LTCM's demise at the end of 1998, they had approximately $1.5 trillion in notional amounts of derivative positions held worldwide. And their leverage ratio exceeded 28 to 1. In other words, this was not a good thing. They were significantly larger in scope than any of the

largest commercial banks. And although others enjoyed higher leverage ratios, few had the sophisticated relationships with counter parties that were engaged by LTCM.

The provisions of the bill now suggested by the gentleman from North Carolina is the ability to close out what are called netting relationships to prevent the failure of one entity from causing a domino effect of more serious disruption, known as systemic risk. Absent the adoption of these provisions with the growth in size of hedge funds and in number of hedge funds, there is considerable market uncertainty as to how a bankruptcy proceeding would affect market liquidity. The unwinding of these obligations, and let me quickly add that it is in scope much larger than impact just in hedge funds; it does go to the broader financial marketplace, all of which have in common that these transactions are put in place through intermediaries such as stock brokers, smaller financial institutions, securities clearing agencies that often hedge their risk on transactions through securities collateral received pursuant to these obligations.

As a result, this will provide a safe and secure mechanism to unwind complex financial relationships, minimizing market instability, providing market liquidity and ensuring that our economic system is not adversely impacted by the demise of a hedge fund. In essence, that is a good thing, and I commend the gentleman for his work product.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his kind words. And with that I would like to close by again thanking the Congresswoman from Florida for her work and assistance on this legislation. As I understand it, she was detained with an important meeting, an event today, from being here on the floor. But I want to thank her for working with me in a bipartisan way, and I am hopeful that this is a new direction for the coming Congress of bipartisanship.

As I said in the beginning, I am not overly optimistic about the opportunities, but I think this may begin that new direction.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCHENRY. I would be delighted to yield.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. When the gentleman from North Carolina says he hopes this is a new direction that will lead to bipartisanship, does that not mean that he believes that under his party's rule there was none?

Mr. MCHENRY. No.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. That the old direction was partisanship?

Mr. MCHENRY. I believe the gentleman is well versed in the knowledge of what sarcasm means, and perhaps I was a bit sarcastic in my quoting the new direction. I look forward to action in the coming Congress on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. MCHENRY. Absolutely. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I will confess to sometimes starting slow, and I am getting old. It would probably be helpful in the future if the gentleman would find some way to signal when he was being sarcastic. That would help my understanding.

Mr. MCHENRY. Thank you. I certainly appreciate the gentleman's guidance on signals. I will make sure, going forward, I smile or wave when I am being sarcastic. Or the gentleman, who will be the chairman of my committee in the next Congress, I will simply just speak when I am being sarcastic on your committee in the next Congress, if that would be all right.

Actually, before I close, I want to give one final story. Before I got on the Financial Services Committee, a senior Member told me that with the ranking Democrat from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) that if he ever asks you to yield in a committee debate, say ''no.'' And I said, why; isn't that rude? He says, well, you have never been in a debate with BARNEY FRANK, have you?

Well, sure enough, 6 months in, I say something and the ranking member asks me to yield. And as a new Member, I mistakenly said ''yes.''

I will not make that mistake going forward. The gentleman is quite able with his arguments, a Harvard educated attorney. I respect his ability to make an argument and to make the opposition look silly.

And with that, as the opposition, I would sit down and say, Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5585.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS ON WINNING THE 2006 WORLD SERIES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1078) congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 1078

Whereas the St. Louis Cardinals won the 102nd World Series on October 27, 2006;

Whereas this is the 10th World Series title won by the St. Louis Cardinals;

Whereas Manager Tony La Russa is one of only 2 managers in the history of baseball to win the World Series in both the National League and the American League;

Whereas the manager and coaching staff have done a remarkable job guiding this team to victory;

Whereas General Manager Walt Jocketty and owner Fred Hanser have assembled and led a great organization;

Whereas all 25 players on the playoff squad contributed to the victory, including World Series Most Valuable Player David Eckstein, Gold Glove winners Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen, as well as Chris Carpenter, Randy Flores, Josh Hancock, Tyler Johnson, Josh Kinney, Braden Looper, Anthony Reyes, Jeff Suppan, Brad Thompson, Adam Wainwright, Jeff Weaver, Gary Bennett, Yadier Molina, Ronnie Belliard, Aaron Miles, Chris Duncan, Jim Edmonds, Juan Encarnacion, John Rodriguez, Scott Spiezio, So Taguchi, and Preston Wilson;

Whereas the sole goal of all 25 players on the playoff squad was winning the World Series, rather than chasing individual glory;

Whereas these players have been awarded a variety of honors, including the Most Valuable Player Award, the Cy Young Award, the Gold Glove Award, the Silver Slugger Award, the Rookie of the Year Award, and the opportunity to appear in All-Star games;

Whereas the St. Louis Cardinals have a history of great players, including Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Ozzie Smith, Curt Flood, Willie McGee, and Stan Musial;

Whereas St. Louis has a wonderful baseball tradition because Cardinals fans have faithfully supported their team; and

Whereas the San Diego Padres, the New York Mets, and the Detroit Tigers proved worthy and honorable opponents during the post-season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series; and

(2) commends the players, coaches, management, and all other personnel of the St. Louis Cardinals, as well as the fans, on this great victory.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the St. Louis Cardinals brought home their 10th World Series title on October 27 of this year, and I would like to congratulate the team, coaches, managers and fans on this exciting victory.

With a history of outstanding players and sportsmanship, Cardinal team members have received numerous awards over the years, including Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Player

and Silver Slugger award. I would also like to mention that Tony LaRussa is one of just two managers in baseball history to win the World Series in both the National and American Leagues.

I urge all Members to join me in congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on their success in the 102nd World Series and for keeping America's pastime a thrilling sport to watch.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1100

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my hometown St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series. Rather than chase individual glory, the sole goal of all 25 players on the playoff squad was winning the World Series.

While many of these players have been awarded a variety of honors, including the Most Valuable Player Award, the Cy Young Award, the Gold Glove Award, the Silver Slugger Award and the Rookie of the Year Award, and the opportunity to appear in All-Star games, I congratulate this year's World Series MVP, David Eckstein, along with two Gold Glove winners, Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen.

St. Louis has a wonderful baseball tradition, because Cardinal fans have always faithfully supported their team. The St. Louis Cardinals have a history of great players, including Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Ozzie Smith, Curt Flood, Willie McGee and Stan Musial. Against all odds, the extraordinary win marks the 10th World Series title for the Cardinals.

I commend General Manager Walt Jocketty and owner Fred Hanser for assembling and leading a great organization. In addition, Manager Tony LaRussa and the coaching staff have done a remarkable job of guiding this team to victory. I would also like to commend the San Diego Padres, the New York Mets and the Detroit Tigers for proving worthy and honorable opponents during the post-season.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I pay tribute to the players, coaches, management and all other personnel of the St. Louis Cardinals, as well as the fans, who, I may note, have never had a riot after the celebration starts for a World Series title. On this great victory today, before Congress, I ask for approval of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, my husband, who is one of the biggest sports fans in the world, and a huge, huge baseball fan, always finds it amusing when I handle these bills on the floor. Because while I do my best to try to keep up with what is going on in all the sports, I can't always keep up with everything that is going on.

As a family that supports the Dodgers, we want to particularly make this a significant congratulations to the St. Louis Cardinals for carrying on such a fine tradition in winning the World Series.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2006 World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals. Join me in congratulating the front office, the coaches and the players in bringing home the 10th World Series Title in franchise history and the first since 1982.

After struggling for much of the regular season's final four months, the redbirds overcame numerous injuries and ended the regular season with an 83–78 mark to take the National League Central Division Pennant over the Houston Astros by a game and a half.

St. Louis was an underdog going into the playoffs and upon victory became only the second franchise in Major League history to win the World Series without having home field advantage in any of their postseason series. Cardinal Manager Tony LaRussa, who also won a World Series in 1989 with the Oakland Athletics, joined Sparky Anderson as the only manager to win a World Series title in both the American and National Leagues. Many analysts of the game have said that this was Tony LaRussa's finest season of management after a long and historic career.

After barely holding on to their playoff spot, the St. Louis Cardinals found new life and energy from their reinvented pitching staff. The Starting rotation of 2005 Cy Young Award winner Chris Carpenter, Jeff Weaver, Jeff Suppan, and Anthony Reyes pitched brilliantly and were backed up by a host of relievers led by closer Adam Wainwright. Wainwright finished his extraordinary postseason with 1 win along with 4 saves and 15 strikeouts in 9.2 innings of work.

Upon defeating the San Diego Padres in four games and winning a heated seven game series against the New York Mets, the match up between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Detroit Tigers proved to be one for the history books. Some of the series highlights include Chris Carpenter's game 3 performance where he pitched 8 innings of shutout baseball, tallying 6 strikeouts, no walks, and allowing only three hits. Also, during the series Scott Rolen came through in the clutch with a .421 batting average and a .476 on base percentage with 5 runs scored.

In Game 5, Starter Jeff Weaver crafted an amazing 2 run, 8 inning performance; He finished the postseason with a 2.43 earned run average, which paced all Cardinal starters. David Eckstein, World Series Most Valuable Player, drove in the first run and scored the Cardinals' final run in the Cards' 4–2 win over the Tigers. His hard nosed, strong willed series performance that totaled 8 hits and 5 RBIs in the final 3 games acted as the catalyst for Cardinal victory.

Once again I want to congratulate the 2006 World Series Champions for bringing the city of St. Louis and the Cardinal Nation its 10th World Series title.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1078, a resolution congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series on October 27, 2006.

This Resolution commends the players, coaches, management, and other personnel of the St. Louis Cardinals on this victory.

This achievement is heightened by the fact that this is the 10th time the St. Louis Cardinals have won the World Series, which is a truly remarkable feat as it is the 2nd most World Championships in the history of baseball.

Manager Tony LaRussa is one of only two managers to win the World Series in both the National and the American League.

St. Louis has a storied baseball tradition. We have the best fans in the Nation, who have faithfully and unwaveringly supported the team.

In the recent past, some of the Cardinals players have been awarded a variety of honors, including the Most Valuable Player Award, the Cy Young Award, the Gold Glove Award, the Silver Slugger Award, and the Rookie of the Year Award.

These honors place the players alongside some of the Cardinals most respected legends, including Bob Gibson, Lou Brock, Ozzie Smith, Curt Flood, Willie McGee, and Stan Musial.

The 2006 World Series Championship has added to this remarkable tradition of St. Louis Cardinals' Baseball. Again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Resolution to honor the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt support for H. Res. 1078, congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series. I was born and raised in East St. Louis, Illinois, and have been a lifelong Cardinals fan. The district I represent, directly across the Mississippi River from St. Louis—the Metro East, extending to Cairo at the southernmost tip of Illinois, is in the heart of Cardinal country, and is still reveling in this victory.

The feeling for Cardinals fans has been especially strong for this great accomplishment because even though it is the Cardinals 10th World Series Championship, and even though the Cardinals have regularly been in the playoffs in recent years, they had not won the Series since 1982. And there has been heartbreak inbetween these wins. Cardinals nation thought they had another title in 1985, only to be victim of the worst call in baseball history, when umpire Don Denkinger missed a routine put out by the Cards at first base in the ninth inning of game six, giving the Royals new life, and a Series win when they came back to win games six and seven.

In 1987, the Cardinals lost the Series in seven games to the Minnesota Twins, winning the three games played in St. Louis but losing all four games in Minnesota's Metrodome. Just two years ago, the Cardinals were swept in four games by the long-waiting Boston Red Sox.

The feeling is also strong because this Cardinals team, by the end of the season, was not expected to go far in the playoffs. Winning 83 regular season games after a late season slide, the fewest of any World Series champion ever, the Cardinals got hot in the playoffs, dismantling the San Diego Padres and winning a tough series against the favored New York Mets. In the Series, the Cardinals were again underdogs as they faced the red-hot Detroit Tigers, a team that beat

the mighty Yankees and the Oakland A's, dropping only one game in the process.

But the Cardinals were undaunted, and guided by veteran manager Tony LaRussa, and relying on a bullpen full of rookies, resurgent starting pitching and timely hitting—and benefiting from numerous Tiger errors—the Cardinals cruised to the title in five games.

The entire roster is worthy of mention, as this was a total team effort, but several players stood out, including rookie closer Adam Wainwright, who was thrust into the role because of a late season injury, David Eckstein, the Series MVP, late season pick-up Jeff Weaver, who had a 2.77 ERA in two starts despite a sub-par regular season, mostly with the Angels, and Yadier Molina, the catcher known more for his great defense but who hit .412 in the Series.

Mr. Speaker, Cardinals fans pride themselves on their love of this team and the respect they show for the opposition and the game of baseball, and winning the Series was a great way to open the brand new Busch Stadium. We are also proud of the great history of this team, and what it means to our region, and I am glad we have the opportunity to honor the entire organization today. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the St. Louis Cardinals on a tremendous season that culminated in their 10th World Championship.

The Cardinals were a great team led by a great manager in Tony LaRussa and by arguably the game's greatest player in Albert Pujols.

Cardinal fans everywhere should be rightfully proud of this great championship because they beat a true team that shocked the baseball world in their run to the World Series.

You see, I am a fan of the American League Champion Detroit Tigers.

At the start of the season nobody gave the Tigers a chance, but they underestimated the grit and determination of our team.

Much credit needs to go to owner Mike Illitch for putting together a strong leadership team.

Team President Dave Dombrowski rebuilt our player development system which has produced so many new stars and when combined with his deft trades produced an incredible team.

Then he hired a great leader in Manager Jim Leyland who insisted upon teamwork and a commitment to fundamentals that brought out the best in a group of talented players.

And talented they are.

A future Hall of Famer in Pudge Rodriguez behind the plate.

A veteran leader at first in Sean Casey.

ALCS MVP Placido Polanco at second base.

Tiger of the Year Carlos Guillen at shortstop.

Brandon Inge at third who hit 27 homers from the bottom of the lineup.

Craig Monroe in left who delivered 28 homers during the season and five more in the post season.

Twenty-five-year-old Curtis Granderson in center who was the guy who got it started at the top of the lineup.

And Magglio Ordonez in right who will always be remembered in Detroit for his dramatic walk off homer that sent this team to the World Series.

But the best part of the Tigers is our incredible pitching staff.

Kenny Rogers was signed in the offseason and many questioned why a team would invest so much in a 41-year-old left hander. Well because he went on to win 17 games, mentored a young pitching staff and won three post season games without allowing a single run!

Twenty-four-year-old Jeremy Bonderman won 14 games and finished second in the American League in strike outs.

Twenty-three-year-old Justin Verlander won 17 games on the way to becoming American League Rookie of the Year.

Twenty-nine-year-old left hander Nate Robertson was a bulldog starter who delivered 13 wins.

Thirty-eight-year-old Todd Jones didn't blow people away but did deliver 37 critical saves.

While 21-year-old Joel Zumaya and his 103-mile-per-hour fastball provided the foundation for our tremendous bullpen depth.

What a team!

This group lifted the city of Detroit and the State of Michigan on their backs for a tremendous ride through a beautiful spring, summer and fall.

They are built upon a strong foundation and with a commitment to team work that bodes well for the future.

And the Tigers are not resting on the laurels of an incredible season.

They have already added slugger Gary Sheffield to their already impressive lineup which should send shivers through the rest of the American League.

And while the Cardinals may have gotten revenge this year for the Tigers victory in the 1968 World Series, we are already working on getting revenge for 2006.

Again congratulations to the 2006 World Champion St. Louis Cardinals.

And congratulations and thank you to the American League Champion Detroit Tigers on a magical season.

Bless you boys and go get 'em Tigers!

Mr. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1078.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 100) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 100

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 109–289, division B) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting ''December 8, 2006''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate the recognition, Mr. Speaker. I don't anticipate I will use the entire 20 minutes, but we will see how we proceed here.

Mr. Speaker, I bring before the House a continuing resolution for fiscal year 2007. This CR runs through December 8. It is clean without exception. This CR will fund the agencies and the nine remaining bills awaiting conference at the lower rate of the House-passed, Senate-passed or current fiscal year 2006 level.

When we passed the last CR, my hope was that it would provide a strong motivation for Congress to complete its work in regular order. I remain hopeful that our colleagues in the Senate will complete their work on the floor so that we can move the remaining individual conference reports before the end of our legislative session.

I want the body to know that the Committee on Appropriations has been strongly committed to bringing to this floor individual conference reports for each and every bill.

This committee does not support an omnibus in any form and has done everything in its power to ensure that that does not happen. The Appropriations Committee passed each bill of the 11 subcommittee bills out of the full committee by June 30, and with the exception of the Labor-HHS bill, all of those bills were off the floor by the Fourth of July break.

The Appropriations Committee has remained committed to moving these bills individually and within the framework of the budget resolution. My colleagues, the Appropriations Committee has kept its word. I am convinced that moving bills individually is the only way for us to get back to regular order.

Lacking regular order, there is a tendency for the remaining bills to become Christmas trees and for spending to grow out of control. In my view, that is simply not acceptable.

I urge my colleagues to support this CR, and would like to close my remarks by wishing all of my friends, as we go out of town, a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for us to understand where we stand at this point. At this point, we have completed the Defense bill and the Homeland Security bill, but we still at this point have not seen the Congress complete action on a single domestic appropriation bill.

So what we are facing is the need within the next 2 weeks, in my view, to try to finish our work, and I think we have a responsibility to do so. The Congress left town for almost 6 weeks for the election. Now because of that long period of time, we face the fact that we still have a huge amount of appropriations work to do.

The House produced final action on every single one of the appropriation bills except the Labor-HHS, and the Senate is in the process, I hope, of moving those bills forward. The Senate passed the Military Construction bill yesterday. It is my understanding that they are taking up the Agriculture bill this week and will also perhaps take up the Energy and Water bill. I hope that is the case. I agree with the gentleman that I would much prefer to see these bills handled in regular order, one by one, on a separate basis.

Having said that, my primary purpose is to see to it that they move, and I care less about how they move than whether they move, and I think most American citizens feel the same way. I think we have a duty to finish action on all of these bills, and I think it would be sad, indeed, if we were to adjourn this Congress with local units of government, local school boards, local program managers and State program managers not having any idea what the final resolution of these bills will be.

So while I certainly agree with the gentleman that it is preferable to move individual bills, I am open to any suggestion procedurally in order to finish that work. We have cooperated on the minority side of the aisle.

We have cooperated procedurally with the majority on every single appropriation bill, even though we have not agreed with the contents on some of those bills. I am willing to entertain procedural compromises. I am willing to entertain substantive compromises. But we need to try to move all of these bills by whatever method makes it possible to do so.

I would simply note, there is one bill that remains in the House for us to act on, and I am perfectly willing to try to work out additional compromises on that bill if that will help the bill to move. I don't like the idea that the Senate might wind up moving first on that bill, but even then, I think our primary obligation is to get this work done.

So I would urge the leadership and I would urge the gentleman and anyone else interested to please recognize that it would be irresponsible for this Congress not to finish its work. I would like to see a more productive closing to this session of Congress than has often been the case, and I am perfectly willing to work with anybody on any day in any way in order to get that done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 100.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Concurring in the Senate amendments to H.R. 5585, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 1078, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FINANCIAL NETTING IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5585.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5585, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 522]

YEAS—395

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris Rodgers
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Northup
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sekula Gibbs
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark

Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—37

Bono
Boozman
Chandler
Cubin
Engel
Evans
Ford
Fossella
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gohmert
Hefley
Higgins
Hyde
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kuhl (NY)
Lewis (KY)
Lofgren, Zoe
Mack
Markey
Murtha
Norwood
Pelosi
Rahall
Sabo
Shimkus
Simmons
Slaughter
Strickland
Tancredo
Tanner
Udall (NM)
Wexler
Whitfield

□ 1139

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 522 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONGRATULATING THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS ON WINNING THE 2006 WORLD SERIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1078.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1078, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 523]

YEAS—395

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
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Gingrey
Gonzalez
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Gordon
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Graves
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Green, Al
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Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
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Hayes
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Hensarling
Herger
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Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
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Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris Rodgers
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Meehan
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Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
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Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
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Otter
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Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
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Pence
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Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
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Rogers (KY)
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Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
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Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
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Ryun (KS)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
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Schwartz (PA)
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Sekula Gibbs
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Sherwood
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Smith (NJ)
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Sweeney
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Thompson (CA)
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Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
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Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
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Wynn
Young (AK)
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Boozman
Buyer
Chandler
Cubin
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Evans
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Higgins
Hyde
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Kuhl (NY)
Lewis (CA)
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Lofgren, Zoe
Mack
Murtha
Norwood
Pelosi
Sabo
Saxton
Shays
Shimkus
Simmons
Slaughter
Strickland
Tancredo
Tanner
Udall (NM)
Whitfield

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1147

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 1083) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1083

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ms. Sekula Gibbs.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Ms. Sekula Gibbs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 496) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 496

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday,

November 15, 2006, Thursday, November 16, 2006, or Friday, November 17, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, November 16, 2006, or Friday, November 17, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, December 4, 2006, or Tuesday, December 5, 2006, as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTING DAY FOR THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 101) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 101

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first regular session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress shall begin at noon on Thursday, January 4, 2007.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 496, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, December 6, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF ''A HISTORY, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1813–2006''

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 423) authorizing the printing as a House document of 'A History, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 1813–2006,' and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 423

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF DOCUMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The document entitled ''A History, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 1813–2006'' (or the document of the history of the Committee on the Judiciary which is prepared during the One Hundred Ninth Congress with such similar title as may be provided by the Committee), prepared under the direction of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, shall be printed as a House document, with illustrations and suitable binding, in a style and manner determined by the Joint Committee on Printing.

(b) ADDITIONAL COPIES.—With respect to the document described in subsection (a), in addition to the usual number there shall be printed the lesser of—

(1) 900 copies, of which 60 shall be casebound for the use of Members of the Committee on the Judiciary; or

(2) the maximum number of copies for which the total production and printing cost does not exceed $80,000, with production and distribution to be allocated in the same proportion as described in paragraph (1).

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. EHLERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. EHLERS:

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF DOCUMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The document entitled ''A History, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 1813—2006'' (or the document of the history of the Committee on the Judiciary which is prepared during the One Hundred Ninth Congress with such similar title as may be provided by the Committee), prepared under the direction of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, shall be printed as a House document, with illustrations and suitable binding, in a style and manner determined by the Joint Committee on Printing.

(b) ADDITIONAL COPIES.—With respect to the document described in subsection (a), in addition to the usual number there shall be printed the lesser of—

(1) 200 copies, of which 60 shall be casebound for the use of Members of the Committee on the Judiciary; or

(2) the maximum number of copies for which the total production and printing cost does not exceed $7,000, with production and distribution to be allocated in the same proportion as described in paragraph (1).

Mr. EHLERS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TO CLARIFY THE PROVISION OF NUTRITION SERVICES TO OLDER AMERICANS

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 6326) to clarify the provision of nutrition services to older Americans, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 6328

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NUTRITION ASSISTANCE.

Notwithstanding section 311 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3030a), as amended by Public Law 109–365, the Secretary of Agriculture shall fulfill, and accept reimbursement from the Secretary of Health and Human Services for, commodity procurement requests for fiscal year 2007 submitted by the States (as defined in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965) and tribal organizations (as defined in section 102 of such Act) before November 14, 2006, in support of the operation of the nutrition services incentive program authorized by section 311 of such Act as in effect on October 16, 2006.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. FRANK R. WOLF AND HON. TOM DAVIS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 5, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 15, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF and the Honorable TOM DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through December 5, 2006.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule is dispensed with today.

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I regret that, due to a doctor's appointment yesterday, I was unable to vote on H.R. 6314, a bill extending certain authorities to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out important services that assist America's veterans, and H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to both H.R. 6314 and H.R. 864. Veterans who have fought to preserve the freedom and liberty enjoyed in this country deserve our relentless support and commitment. I will continue to show this commitment and pursue legislation such as my bill, The Healthy Vets Act, which would require the VA Secretary to contract with local doctors and hospitals on a case-by-case basis to provide medical services including primary care for those veterans who live far away from VA facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to clarify my position regarding H.R. 6314 and look forward to fostering efforts to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

□ 1200

BUSH INITIATES IRAQ POLICY REVIEW

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, headline today, Bush initiates Iraq policy review separate from Baker's group. Now, this might be good; it might be bad. Remember, the Bush administration ignored the advice of the State Department Middle East experts about postwar Iraq. He actually ignored the intelligence agencies, the real experts, as opposed to the phony group DICK CHENEY put together. Is he now again going to end-run real experts who are going to give us real choices on how to extricate the United States from Iraq, get our troops out of the middle of a civil war and begin to have those people take care of their own problems?

Only time will tell, but this does cause tremendous concern that suddenly he is going to appoint yet another group in his own administration. It seems like he may want to counterbalance or pick and choose among the real recommendations. Hopefully, they are not going to give us another vacuous document like they did a year ago, the so-called national strategy for victory in Iraq, which has been an abysmal failure.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, November 18, as National Adoption Day and to celebrate all adoptive families.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, courtrooms across this country will come together to dedicate the resources of our judicial system to finalize adoptions of kids currently in the foster care system.

In the 5 years since National Adoption Day was established, it has truly grown into a national celebration. Last year, 3,300 adoptions were finalized as part of 227 nationwide events. These finalized adoptions are cause for celebration. This is a time to commemorate those families that have decided to make a difference in the life of a child.

I commend these families and hope that the children across the Nation will find a place to call home this Saturday as part of National Adoption Day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, November 18th as National Adoption Day and to celebrate all adoptive families.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, courtrooms across the country will come together to dedicate the resources of our judicial system to finalize adoptions of kids currently in the foster care system.

In the 5 years since National Adoption Day was established, it has truly grown into a national celebration. Last year, 3,300 adoptions were finalized as part of 227 nationwide events.

Unfortunately, despite the declining number of children waiting in foster care, there are still 118,000 children seeking adoption.

This is simply unacceptable. It is our duty as a prosperous Nation to unite and ensure these children find safe, loving homes.

Six years ago, my wife and I decided to expand our family and open our home to two foster care children.

Like many adoptive families, we faced many challenges during this process. But these experiences have only made our family stronger.

The adoption process is often complicated and riddled with paperwork, meetings, and home studies—important factors when accessing the ability of a family to care for a new child—but they can also discourage qualified parents from embarking on the adoption process.

The foster care community has been working with Congress and State governments across the country to streamline the adoption process and focus on limited resources, such as requiring frequent home visits and experienced caseworkers.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to be the voice for foster children and make sure their dreams are recognized. We owe it to them to streamline the adoption process to ensure positive outcomes for these kids.

It is important that we continue to make this process more accessible to families so that these children can be welcomed into loving homes.

Despite the obstacles that we still need to overcome, this is a time to celebrate those families that have decided to make a difference in the life of a child.

I commend these families and hope that children across the Nation will find a place to call home this Saturday as part of National Adoption Day.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE AMERICAN WARRIOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Saturday we celebrated Veterans Day. Veterans Day is a holiday, but it is more of a memorial. It is a day we honor those who served. It started because of the end of the war to end all wars, World War I, and on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the First World War stopped, and because of that, since then we honor all veterans who have served.

Memorial Day is the day we honor those who served and died. Veterans Day is the day we honor those who served and lived.

In this House of Representatives today, in the 109th Congress, about 25 percent of Congress has served in the military. In 1950, in the fifties, about 65 percent were veterans; 111 Members of Congress served during the Vietnam era, 78 of whom served in the Vietnam era, and 20 of those saw combat. We have our own SAM JOHNSON, who was a Navy pilot during Vietnam, was shot down and spent 7 years in the Hanoi Hilton prisoner-of-war camp.

We have in this House of Representatives at least eight Members who have sons or daughters serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. We have Senator INOUYE of Hawaii who was a Medal of Honor winner. All of these people served and served with honor.

War for independence costs the lives of Americans. Freedom has always cost, and it always will, and I think it is worth noting the time frame of the wars that this country has fought in and those who died.

In the War of Independence, 5,000 Americans died. In the Mexican-American War, there were 13,000 Americans. In the War Between the States, there were 250,000 Confederates and 350,000 troops of the Union army, but they were all Americans; 600,000 died for this country. In World War I, there was 116,000. In the great World War II, 408,000 died for this country.

My dad was one of those who served in the great World War II, and he, like many veterans of that war, never talked of that engagement until many, many years after that war was over with.

In Korea, it is sometimes said of the Korea war it is the forgotten war, 55,000 Americans died. In Vietnam, 58,000 died. In the first gulf war, 300 troopers died, and in our latest fight in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, 3,000 have died.

The point being, in these few wars that I have mentioned, not all of the wars, this country has always called upon the American warrior to be the one to protect us from the forces of all evil.

I have had the honor to be in Iraq with many of our troops, as many of our House Members have been, and I find them to be, in my opinion, the greatest military ever assembled, with their morale extremely high.

Over Labor Day weekend, I had the honor to go and see some of our troops in military hospitals overseas and to see and visit with them, and before I went, I asked my staff in Texas to see if we could arrange to have some of the local school kids write and make some homemade cards. In 2 days' notice, they were able to produce about 5,000 handmade cards that I took to our troops overseas, who were very grateful.

The point being, I think now in this time in our history our country is grateful to the American warrior for putting their life on the line for the rest of us. So we can do no better than to honor those who have served, the American warrior. And though it was said in the Vietnam era that some gave all and all gave some, that is true of the American veteran. So we thank them on this day and every day, those that served and lived and those that served and did die for this country.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMART SECURITY

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voted for a new direction in the Nation's Iraq policy. If anything, with the mandate this Democratic majority received, we can be more unapologetic than ever about demanding an end to the Iraq occupation and insisting that we bring our troops home.

But I believe Iraq is a symptom of an even larger problem, that is, a foreign policy that chooses saber rattling over diplomacy and negotiation.

We need an entirely new national security paradigm. For too long, we have equated national security with war and with conquest. It is time we used less brawn and more brains to protect our people and our interests.

Iraq is exhibit A in the case that hawkishness does not necessarily make America safer.

That is where a SMART security plan comes. SMART stands for sensible, multilateral, American response to terrorism.

At its core is a belief that war is a very last resort, that peacekeeping and diplomacy, not invasion and occupation, must be the guiding lights of our foreign policy.

SMART also focuses on stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Not by deposing regimes that do not have them, but with diplomacy, with vigorous inspection regimes and regional security arrangements.

SMART calls for a renewed commitment to the cooperative threat reduction program and calls on the United States to set an example for the world by living up to our own commitments to draw down our nuclear arsenal.

Because, Mr. Speaker, what moral authority do we have to pressure Iran or North Korea about their nuclear ambitions when our government consistently undermines the nuclear and ignores our multilateral obligations in this very area?

Being smart about national security means dramatically rearranging our budget priorities, which in turn means fewer obsolete Cold War weapons systems and more investment in strategies that actually address the security challenges of a new era.

Any smart approach to national security must include an ambitious international development program for impoverished nations, debt relief, democracy building, schooling for women and girls, human rights education, environmental programs, infrastructure development and more.

Think about this, Mr. Speaker. With the money spent on the invasion and occupation of Iraq, we could have fully funded global antihunger efforts for 14 years or provided basic immunization to children around the world for 113 years or fully funded worldwide AIDS programs for 34 years. We could have spent hundreds of billions of dollars to save lives, instead of destroying them.

For the sake of the next generation, the only future that we have got, before we have destroyed civilization itself, we should strive for nothing less than the end of all wars.

Because of the insanity of war and its disproportionate impact on children, I am pledging never again to cast a vote in Congress in favor of any military action, barring an attack on the United States or protecting against genocide and/or ethnic cleansing, and then only with multilateral humanitarian intervention.

Nor will I pick sides in violent global conflicts, except to condemn all acts of war and terror regardless of ideology, regardless of national interests or religion that motivates them. I refuse to decide who is less wrong.

If I could be persuaded that taking up arms actually builds enduring stability, I would reconsider my position, but this notion that war begets peace is as illogical as it sounds. Our preemptive strike on Iraq has, in fact, been a catalyst for increased violence and higher rates of terrorism. Our continued occupation is emboldening the insurgents rather than defeating them. Instead of liberating a nation, the Bush doctrine has ripped it apart, ripped it apart at the seams, and instead of protecting America, it has dealt a blow to our very security.

''War,'' said Martin Luther King, Junior, ''is a poor chisel to carve out tomorrow.'' Tomorrow belongs to our children. So for their sake, Mr. Speaker, let us protect America by relying not on our basest impulses, but on the most honorable and humane of American values, and let us bring our troops home now from Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING DR. ROBERT LIPSON

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a great man who led a purpose-driven life that touched many in my State of Georgia and around the country. Unfortunately, he lost his life Friday afternoon in Marietta, Georgia, riding home from work at Kennestone Hospital on his motorcycle, just a mile and a half from his home.

Dr. Robert Lipson, the chief executive officer and president of Wellstar

Health System, was a man of honor and genuine character. For 5 years, he has boldly led Wellstar, a renowned health system of five hospitals in northwest Georgia. Under his leadership, the Wellstar Kennestone Hospital recently gained an open heart surgery program and an expanded 84-bed patient care tower. Moreover, he has worked to attract world-class physicians to the entire five-hospital system.

Before moving to Atlanta, Dr. Lipson obtained his medical degree from Tulane University, and then he served his country for 2 years in the United States Army. When he moved to Cobb County, he began his 25 years of practicing internal medicine at Kennestone Hospital, and it was my good fortune to meet him then, and we became close friends and colleagues, often caring for each other's patients.

When Dr. Lipson saw the great need for primary care physicians in his community, he decided to leave his lucrative practice and put together the Wellstar team. There, he helped build the Wellstar Physicians Group, which currently is comprised of 250 physicians who are responsible for nearly a million annual patient visits in Northwest Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Lipson will also be remembered as a prolific philanthropist. He was known for his generous spirit, always willing to support charities that needed his help. And due to the financial success of the system he led, he was able to give back compassionately to the community.

Dr. Lipson was also an esteemed amateur photographer, with his art being most recently displayed at Kennesaw State University in Cobb County. And admirers of his work describe the photographs as, and I quote, ''awe inspiring,'' and him as a remarkable talent.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough about this fine man, a man who did more in his too-short 60 years than many can aspire to in a much longer lifetime. Dr. Lipson is survived by his gracious wife, Livvy; his daughter, Dr. Rachel Lipson, who is a practicing neonatologist in Boston; and his son, Aaron, who specializes in health care law. His family meant so much to him, and I want to offer my sincere condolences to them during this time of their profound loss of a loving husband, a devoted father and devoted grandfather.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ELECTION DAY PRIORITIES

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take Mrs. MCCARTHY's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. OWENS. On election day, Mr. Speaker, there was one message that was sent that seems to be ignored, one very positive message. Six States had on their agenda referendums on the minimum wage. They wanted to raise the minimum wage at the State level. In all six States those provisions passed. The voters have sent us a message. I think they spoke in those six States for the sentiment right across the entire Nation.

People are a little upset about our refusal to govern here, our refusal to raise the Federal minimum wage above the present level of $5.25 an hour. They want to see action. They are taking action at the State level. And I think one of the things that we should do here, one of the first things we should do when we return in December, is vote to raise the minimum wage. We ought to send that positive message.

While there are debates and speculations on a number of other things that the voters said to us, while there is a great deal of debate about redeployment, about a pull-out of troops in Iraq, while there are still people who want to accuse us of cutting and running; all those things will be happening for a while, but it is a simple matter that we have not raised the minimum wage in 9 years. It is a very simple matter. The Members of Congress have enjoyed increases which amount to more than $30,000 over that same period.

We have heard again and again what the consequences are about not raising the minimum wage. We know that a family on minimum wage is earning $10,200 a year. If they work every day, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, they come out with a little more than $10,000 a year on the minimum wage. They say there are not many people still on the minimum wage, but the statistics show differently. The statistics show that families also depend on young people, who also go into the work force and are earning a minimum wage. They need to earn more also.

We made a lot out of boasting about the fact that America has now reached the point of our population being 300 million. We have pointed out that we are the third largest nation in the world, and that is something to be proud of. I think it is. But let us take a look at that 300 million in terms of people who are able to be productive, people able to contribute something to society, people able to take care of themselves. That is the way I define the middle class.

The middle class consists of people who can take care of themselves because they have the capacity to earn income to take care of themselves, and they also have the capacity to make some contributions to the larger society. We need a middle class. We need more middle class folks.

It is said that the whole nation of Japan is middle class. They do not have a poverty class. I do not know whether it is true or not, but there is a whole lot to it in terms of income levels in Japan. All other nations still have problems with different stratifications in society. In the case of America, 300 million we are, but stop and think about the fact that, in China, with 1.2 billion people, in 2 or 3 years, they expect one-fourth of the Chinese to enter the middle class. They have a rapidly growing middle class. That means, in 2 or 3 years, China will have a middle class which is 300 million, as large as the entire population of the United States. And India has a similar population, and the dynamics of the economy at work in India are similar to those in China. They will have a middle class of 300 million people.

Three hundred million people is about the number of the European common market also. Three hundred million people is the number of people of African descent across the world who speak English. So 300 million people, let us look at it in the perspective of, if we are going to maintain our leadership in the world in a competitive global environment, then we will need all 300 million of our Americans to become productive citizens. That means they ought to be brought into the middle class.

The minimum wage is just a small step forward. You have to also improve education. You have to also take away the burden of having to pay for health care. All those things have to happen. But the simplest thing we can do, the thing we should do when we come back in December, is send a message to the American people that we are going to raise the minimum wage. We are going to move in that one small way toward the creation and the sustenance of a middle class, people who will be able to send their children to college and people who will be able to make a contribution to the global competition that we are going to find ourselves in.

Unfortunately, recent reports by the Associated Press show that certain minorities are lagging behind. Latinos and blacks are lagging behind whites, and Asians are also lagging behind whites in terms of the income gap. The income gap is growing instead of shrinking. So we have work to do, and step one is let's pass the minimum wage as fast as possible. Let's move it up to $7.25 an hour. That is the least we can do before the end of the session.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 22 REMAINS FAITHFUL TO CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLES

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, Congressional District 22 in Texas remains faithful to conservative principles.

I am Dr. SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS, and I am the newly elected Member of Congress from Congressional District 22. The people in my district are hard-working individuals who believe in conservative principles, such as the sanctity of life; traditional marriage between one man and one woman; the right to bear arms; smaller, more efficient government; making tax cuts permanent; winning the war on terror; and opposing a cut-and-run strategy; and stopping illegal immigration while streamlining legal immigration.

The families in Congressional District 22 of Texas want better transportation options, a solid energy policy with energy independence, affordable health insurance, and lower health care costs through the free market. They want affordable, quality education for their children from pre-K to college that is under local control, and strong homeland security to prevent terrorist attacks on our home soil.

One of my district's primary ways in which to prevent a terrorist attack is to be a hard target. The Houston area has all major assets that are attractive to terrorists to attack, as identified by the FBI, including petrochemical facilities that produce 50 percent of the petrochemicals in our Nation and 25 percent of our country's gasoline. The Port of Houston is close to our area and in the city. It is close to our district and in the city, and it is the largest foreign tonnage port in the Nation.

We have NASA's Johnson Space Center there, which is the home of manned space flight. We rely on the 147th Texas Air National Guard with its squadrons of F–16s at Ellington Field to maintain our air defense and make us a hard target. Passing a military appropriations bill today helps us secure our defense, but the fate of the 147th Texas Air National Guard remains uncertain but of critical importance to the people in my district.

Terrorists must not be given an opportunity to bring our great country down, and we must maintain our vigilance. In the BRAC process, some communities were awarded more military infrastructure while others were reduced. Some have turned down those military assets. Florida recently was unwilling to accept naval facilities from Virginia Beach, Virginia. But we in Houston, we hope that our F–16s will be replaced by newer, more technologically advanced jets, and that our squadron will not be relocated. We are eager to maintain the Texas Air National Guard and look for support on this issue.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the people in my district want our country to be faithful to the principles that you and the leadership of the Republican party have promoted through your years as the Speaker of the House of this auspicious body.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for your guidance, your patience and your rock-solid commitment to conservative values on behalf of our great country. And I want to thank you and my colleagues for an appointment to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and to the Workforce and Education Committee. I commit to working very hard and rolling up my sleeves for our great district and our great country.

May God continue to bless the United States of America, and our men and women in uniform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1230

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH WEBB, JR., DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor with a heavy heart to honor a great man, particularly because this comes on the eve of his retirement from the United States Army. I have had the privilege of working with this distinguished gentleman in the service of our country for the last 14 years. His name is Major General Joe Webb, Jr. He has distinguished himself by his exceptional service to the United States of America while in positions of increasing responsibility within the Army Medical Department, a career that was launched in June of 1961 when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

From January 1 of 1996 through 31 December of 2006, he served in successive positions of increasing responsibility as the Senior Dental Corps Staff Officer, with the Office of the Surgeon General; Commander of the United States Army Dental Command; the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Sustainment; Commanding General of Tripler Army Medical Center and DOD Lead Agent for TRICARE in the Pacific region; and culminating his illustrious career in the position of United States Army Deputy Surgeon General.

Major General Webb was an officer and leader who approached each of his assignments with great tenacity. In a career spanning more than 35 years, this soldier, clinician and commander displayed throughout his distinguished military service the highest levels of leadership, professional competence, integrity and moral courage.

Much is spoken and written about Major General Joe Webb. The consensus and the prose consistently agree that this man is the genuine article. Because of my extensive contact with general officers, I know what attributes are necessary for success at the strategic level. You see, I work with generals that do generals' work, I also have worked with generals that do colonels' work. The most refreshing encounters that I have experienced are with colonels that do generals' work. This was the epitome of Joe Webb.

In 1996, the Dental Corps was confronted with significant recruiting and retention compromises that would have had a detrimental impact on the dental health of soldiers, sailors and airmen if it was not remedied.

I served on the Personnel Committee of the House Armed Services and later chaired that committee, with responsibility for the oversight of the military health delivery system.

My brother, John, is now a Colonel and dentist in the Army Medical Corps; at the time, I went to my brother to say, John, what is the problem? We are not able to retain these dentists. There are so many open slots. We are having an exodus. At the time President Clinton was doing a drawdown. I know a lot of the warriors are leaving the service, but we have to stop the leak.

My brother explained the situation to me and the order of the consequences. He proposed a strategy for success, but more importantly, my brother identified the major players, even mapped out a strategy of success on the back of a napkin and said, I must put you with Joe Webb. Joe Webb was a Colonel at the time, and was a key element of ensuring a successful remedy to this looming problem.

The following day Congressman NORWOOD, Joe Webb, my brother, John, and I initiated a dialogue that focused on a strategy for implementation. The impact of the continuation pay package reached all three services and preserved the human capital necessary to deliver world-class dentistry. This is a living legacy that continues to have far-reaching implications. Many call it propay, but those who receive that check know exactly what it means.

I called upon the combined and extensive expertise of Joe Webb and my brother, John Buyer, as critical resources to make the legislation a reality from its introduction, through conference, and into law. Without their dedicated focus on this issue, it is likely that the continuation pay bill would never have met with the success it had. The Air Force, the Navy and Marine Corps programs rested their future upon the shoulders of then Colonel Joe Webb. But this was common through this man's career.

Having been excited by this success, the team of Joe Webb and John Buyer then elevated the health expectations throughout the dental enterprise. They devised the concept of dental wellness to replace the only adequate dental health standard of dental readiness with an optimal dental health standard of wellness. Dental wellness is now the standard in all three services. Legislation to assist the services in achieving higher levels of dental wellness will continue to have a profound and lasting impact upon future forces.

The team of Joe and John then broke down parochial barriers to successfully make the UHQ MEDIVAC training program at Fort Rucker a reality in time to have a successful impact on the Second Gulf War. So now when a dust-off helicopter comes in, and these litters need to be reconfigured, even at night or under trying circumstances, they have been trained under the difficult standards and are prepared to save lives. This project would never have occurred had it not been for their insights and their strategies.

As a Colonel, Joe Webb also served as the Commander of the largest dental command in the Department of Defense. The United States Army Dental Command, called DENTCOM, is comprised of more than 3,800 personnel and 172 clinics worldwide, and had an operating budget of over $200 million.

A strategic visionary, Major General Webb impacted the implementation of the dental care reengineering initiative, which revolutionized the provisions of the dental care to soldiers to improve the quality of practice for dental care officers.

This gifted leader then was assigned as the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Development and Sustainment. He moved from a colonel at DENTCOM to this new job as a brigadier general. In this capacity, he was responsible for the Army Medical Department's contracting logistics facilities and information management across the Medical Corps.

This proven and tested leader was then selected for promotion to major general and assigned to command the Pacific Region Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center. In this capacity, he was responsible for providing primary, specialty and tertiary care to over 500,000 in the Pacific Command, and over 100,000 VA beneficiaries. He led and managed the day-to-day operations for a 229-bed medical center which is the primary referral medical center in the Pacific. A strategic leader, he played a lead role in the Army's theater security cooperation program, working closely to establish professional medical relationships with other countries. He also reached out to the underserved Pacific Islanders and used all means available to increase access to care for those in need.

In July of 2004, he was selected to serve as the Army Deputy Surgeon General and Chief of Staff of the United States Army Medical Command. He masterfully guided the activities of an organization which executes an $8 billion annual operating budget, encompassing over $6 billion in facilities assets through 12 major subordinate commands, comprised of more than 48,000 military and civilian personnel, eight medical centers, 47 hospitals, 73 separate clinics, 172 dental clinics, 14 biomedical research facilities worldwide. While serving as the Deputy Surgeon General, Major General Webb also placed a renewed emphasis on issues related to the physical and mental well-being of the United States Army Reserve and Army National Guard Members. Under his management and direction, training opportunities for the Reserve AMEDD components were synchronized and improved to meet current and future needs.

Major General Webb's imprint on military medicine extends beyond the Army throughout the Department of Defense and into the national and international communities. His extraordinary achievements are characterized by profound dedication, compassion, intellect and professionalism. Major General Webb's distinguished performance of duty is in keeping with the most proud and cherished traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the United States Army Medical Command, the United States Army and the United States of America.

I have first- and secondhand knowledge of Joe Webb that few have. That is why I have come to the floor. This is a man that has internal anchors. He has a backbone of steel. When it comes to his passion and his commitment, no one can match him. He requests the noblest of things from the noble, and he achieves great results. This is a great man who served our country for over 39 years and I thank him for his service. This is my friend, Joe Webb.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2007 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2007 THROUGH FY 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2007 and for the five-year period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act and sections 401 and 501 of H. Con. Res. 376, which is currently in effect as a concurrent resolution on the budget in the House under H. Res. 818. This status report is current through November 8, 2006.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by H. Con. Res. 376. This comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2007 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for discretionary action by each authorizing committee with the "section 302(a)" allocations made under H. Con. Res. 376 for fiscal year 2007 and fiscal years 2007 through 2011. "Discretionary action" refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2007 with the "section 302(b)" suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for 2008 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 401 of H. Con. Res. 376. This list is needed to enforce section 401 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

The fifth table provides the current level of the nondefense reserve fund for emergencies established by section 501 of H. Con. Res 376. The table is required by section 505 of the budget resolution, and is needed to determine whether an increase in the reserve fund, allocations and aggregates will be necessary for any pending legislation that contains emergency-designated discretionary budget authority.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2007	Fiscal years 2007–2011
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	2,283,029	(1)

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006—Continued

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2007	Fiscal years 2007–2011
Outlays	2,325,998	(1)
Revenues	1,780,666	10,039,909
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	2,267,144	(1)
Outlays	2,275,060	(1)
Revenues	1,787,453	10,182,016
Current Level over (+) / under (−) Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	−15,885	(1)
Outlays	−50,938	(1)

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006—Continued

(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year 2007	Fiscal years 2007–2011
Revenues	6,787	142,107

[1] Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2007 in excess of $15,885,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2007 in excess of $50,938,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

REVENUES

Enactment of measures that would reduce revenue for FY 2007 in excess of $6,787,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate level set by H. Con. Res. 376.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011 in excess of $142,107,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 376.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY ACTION REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House committee	2007		2007–2011 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:				
Allocation	45	45	45	45
Current Level	−35	150	34	213
Difference	−80	105	−11	168
Education and the Workforce:				
Allocation	0	1	0	30
Current Level	16	119	178	−1,733
Difference	16	118	178	−1,763
Energy and Commerce:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Financial Services:				
Allocation	0	0	2	2
Current Level	0	0	−5	−5
Difference	0	0	−7	−7
Government Reform:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
House Administration:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	106	7	0	0
Difference	106	7	0	0
International Relations:				
Allocation	1	1	5	5
Current Level	0	−5	0	−12
Difference	−1	−6	−5	−17

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATIONS FOR DISCRETIONARY ACTION REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House committee	2007		2007–2011 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Judiciary:				
Allocation	19	16	116	113
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	−19	−16	−116	−113
Resources:				
Allocation	0	0	6	6
Current Level	15	15	27	27
Difference	15	15	21	21
Science:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Small Business:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:				
Allocation	13	13	22	22
Current Level	0	−3	−4	−19
Difference	−13	−16	−26	−41
Veterans' Affairs:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	−3	−3	0	0
Difference	−3	−3	0	0
Ways and Means:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	1	−8	1	2
Difference	1	−8	1	2

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations subcommittee	302(b) Suballocations as of June 6, 2006 (H. Rpt. 109–488)		Current level reflecting action completed as of November 8, 2006		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	17,812	19,497	17,771	19,402	−41	−95
Defense	377,357	393,165	377,357	394,244	0	1,079
Energy & Water Development	30,017	31,411	28,924	30,749	−1,093	−662
Foreign Operations	21,300	23,441	19,609	23,144	−1,691	−297
Homeland Security	32,080	38,711	31,905	38,714	−175	3
Interior-Environment	25,889	26,902	25,437	26,536	−452	−366
Labor, HHS & Education	141,930	145,631	150,375	147,565	8,445	1,934
Legislative Branch	4,030	4,013	3,749	3,791	−281	−222
Military Quality of Life-Veterans Affairs	94,705	88,728	86,302	84,498	−8,403	−4,230
Science-State-Justice-Commerce	59,839	62,143	57,422	60,351	−2,417	−1,792
Transportation-Treasury-HUD-Judiciary-DC	67,819	130,069	66,959	128,628	−860	−1,441
Unassigned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	872,778	963,711	865,810	957,622	−6,968	−6,089

STATEMENT OF FY2008 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS UNDER SECTION 401 OF H. CON. RES. 376 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS]

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Appropriate Level	23,565
Current Level:	
Elk Hills	0
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	0
Employment and Training Administration	0
Education for the Disadvantaged	0
School Improvement	0
Children and Family Services (Head Start)	0
Special Education	0
Vocational and Adult Education	0
Transportation (highways, transit, Farley Building)	0
Payment to Postal Service	0
Section 8 Renewals	0
Total	0
Current Level over (+) / under (−) Appropriate Level	−23,565

STATEMENT OF NONDEFENSE RESERVE FUND FOR EMERGENCIES UNDER SECTION 501 OF H. CON. RES. 376 DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR FY2007 REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS]

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Appropriate Level	6,450
Current Level	0
Current Level over (+) / under (−) Appropriate Level	−6,450

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2006.

Hon. JIM NUSSLE,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2007 budget and is current through November 8, 2006. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, as approved by the House of Representatives. Although the House and the Senate have not reached agreement on a concurrent budget resolution for 2007, pursuant to House Resolution 818, H. Con. Res. 376 has the force and effect in the House for all purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as though adopted by the Congress.

Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, and section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes certain amounts that affect 2007 spending (see footnote 2 of the report).

Since my last letter, dated September 7, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2007:

the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 109–283);

the Pueblo de San Ildefonso Claims Settlement Act of 2005 (public Law 109–286);

the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–288);

the Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (which includes the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007) (Public Law 109–289);

the Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295);

the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–314);

the National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–338);

the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–347); and the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364).

In addition, the Congress has cleared for the President's signature the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Revision Act of 2006 (S. 2464).

Sincerely,

DONALD B. MARRON,
Acting Director.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous sessions: [1]			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,819,599
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,400,673	1,333,068	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	409,185	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−549,710	−549,710	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions	850,963	1,192,543	1,819,599
Enacted this session:			
Authorizing Legislation:			
An act to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006 (P.L. 109–204)	−1,000	−520	0
Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–221)	11	11	11
Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L 109–222)	0	0	−32,674
Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act (P.L. 109–227)	0	0	−4
Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–233)	−3	−3	0
Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–235)	0	0	1
Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–236)	1	0	5
Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–241)	0	−3	0
Returned Americans Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–250)	0	1	0
An act approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom Democracy Act of 2003 (P.L. 109–251)	0	0	−1
An act to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon (P.L. 109–268)	0	−5	0
Pension Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–280)	15	119	363
United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 109–283)	1	1	−15
Pueblo de San Ildefonso Claims Settlement Act of 2005 (PL. 109–286)	7	7	0
Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–288)	0	−10	0
National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–314)	1	1	0
National Heritage Areas Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–338)	3	3	0
Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–347)	106	7	0
John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (P.L. 109–364)	−35	150	0

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2006—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Appropriations Acts			
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109–234) [2]	0	−14	168
Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P. L. 109–289) [2]	377,571	252,047	0
Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109–295) [2]	32,968	20,406	0
Total, enacted this session	406,646	272,198	−32,146
Passed, pending signature:			
Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Revision Act of 2006 (S. 2464)	4	4	0
Continuing Resolution Authority:			
Continuing Resolution, 2007	435,429	262,044	0
Entitlements and mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs not yet enacted	571,102	548,271	n.a.
Total Current Level [2, 3]	2,267,144	2,275,060	1,787,453
Total Budget Resolution	2,283,029	2,325,998	1,780,666
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	6,787
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	15,885	50,938	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2007–2011:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	10,182,016
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	10,039,909
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	142,107
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

[1] The effects of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–171) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Reform Conforming Amendments Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–173) are included in this section of the table, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions. In addition, the scoring for the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 includes savings from corrections to two provisions (in sections 8006 and 10002) not yet enacted, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions.

[2] Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, and section 402 of H. Con. Res. 376, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, as approved by the House of Representatives, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated are as follows:

[3] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109–234)	48	39,863	0
Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109–289)	70,000	40,473	0
Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109–295)	1,829	943	0
Total, enacted emergency requirements	71,877	81,279	0

Note: These amounts are generally excluded from the current level. However, section 402 of the 2007 budget resolution specifies that upon enactment of funding for the global war on terrorism, amounts included in the budget resolution for such purpose shall be considered current law when preparing the current level. Therefore, the current level includes $50,000 million in budget authority and $33,500 million in outlays assumed in the budget resolution.

PROSECUTION OF TWO U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS: CALLING FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor today to bring to the attention of the House a situation involving two U.S. border agents. These agents were found guilty in a Federal court for wounding a drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our southern border into Texas. These agents never should have been prosecuted for their actions last year, yet they have been sentenced to 11 and 12 years in Federal prison respectively.

Agent Ramos served the Border Patrol for 9 years and was a former nominee for Border Patrol Agent of the Year. Agent Compean had 5 years of experience as a border agent. By attempting to apprehend a Mexican drug smuggler, these agents were simply doing their job to protect the American people.

Mr. Speaker, today I have written the President of the United States to express my outrage over his indifference toward the plight of these two agents. Despite my repeated requests for an investigation of this case, and a request by a dozen Members of Congress for the President to pardon these agents, this administration has ignored the concerns of countless citizens who have decried the unjust prosecution of these two heroes.

Press Secretary Tony Snow conveyed the administration's collective dismissal of these concerns when he labeled the question of a Presidential pardon for these agents as ''nonsensical.''

With an approval rating hovering near 30 percent, it is obvious and evident that the citizens of our Nation have been disappointed with this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on the President to listen to the concerns of the American people and to make it a top priority to pardon these two agents. These agents should have been commended for their actions, but instead the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted the agents and granted full immunity to the drug smuggler for his testimony against our agents.

The drug smuggler received full medical care in El Paso, Texas, was permitted to return to Mexico and is now suing the Border Patrol for $5 million for violating his civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, he is not an American citizen. He is a criminal. And yet, Mr. Speaker, it is our two brave border agents who have been sentenced to serve time behind bars.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the last paragraph of my letter to the President. I have mailed this letter today to the White House, and this is the last paragraph of the letter:

''Mr. President, you have an opportunity to reverse a great injustice committed against two agents who have given years of their lives in service to this Nation and who have been unjustly punished for doing their job to protect our homeland.

''On January 17 of 2007, both Agents Ramos and Compean must surrender themselves to Federal authorities unless action is taken to overturn their sentences. I strongly encourage you to listen to the concerns of the American people and use the power of your office to pardon these two agents.''

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2006.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: I am writing to express my deep disappointment with your Administration's demonstrated indifference toward the case of United States Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean. On October 19th, the agents were convicted and sentenced to 11 and 12 years in federal prison respectively for firing shots at a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across the U.S. border last year. The two agents were prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office and the smuggler was granted full immunity to testify against the agents.

In a letter to Press Secretary Tony Snow, I conveyed my extreme disappointment with his responses to questions regarding the agents' case. At press briefings, Mr. Snow labeled a question concerning a presidential pardon for agents Ramos and Compean ''nonsensical,'' and later announced the White House's intention to ''wait and see'' what a congressional hearing on their case produces.

Despite my repeated requests for an investigation of this case and a request by a dozen members of Congress for you to pardon the agents, your Administration has collectively dismissed these requests and the petitions of countless citizens throughout the country who have decried the unjust prosecution of these two heroes. With an approval rating hovering near thirty percent, it is obvious and evident that the citizens of our nation have been disappointed with your Administration—and I believe your inaction on this issue is a key reason why.

Mr. President, you have an opportunity to reverse a great injustice committed against

two agents who have given years of their life in service to this nation, and who have been unjustly punished for doing their job to protect our homeland. On January 17th, 2007, both agents Ramos and Compean must surrender themselves to federal authorities unless action is taken to overturn their sentences. I strongly encourage you to listen to the concerns of the American people and use the power of your office to pardon these two agents.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 31, 2006.

Press Secretary TONY SNOW,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SNOW: I am extremely disappointed by your responses last week to questions regarding the possibility of a presidential pardon for United States Border Patrol Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean. On October 19th, the agents were convicted and sentenced to 11 and 12 years in federal prison respectively for firing shots at a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across the U.S. border last year. The two agents were prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's office and the smuggler was granted full immunity to testify against the agents.

At press briefings, you labeled a question concerning a presidential pardon for the two agents ''nonsensical,'' and later announced the White House's intention to ''wait and see'' what a November 13th congressional hearing on their case produces.

Unfortunately, your comments reinforced the perception that the Administration is indifferent toward the agents' case. Despite my repeated requests for an investigation of this case and, most recently, a request by a dozen members of Congress for the President to pardon the agents, the Administration has collectively dismissed the concerns of elected members of Congress and countless citizens throughout the country. Your comments, unfortunately, came across as a continuation of that collective dismissal.

While our Border Patrol is tasked with the difficult and dangerous mission of securing America against illegal immigrants, drugs, counterfeit goods, and even terrorists—it is troubling that the Administration has persistently ignored opportunities to pursue justice for two agents who have been sentenced to prison for doing their job to protect our homeland. It is unconscionable that the Administration would not want justice to prevail for two heroes who have dutifully served this nation on the front lines in the fight against terrorist infiltration and narcotics trafficking on our southern border.

I strongly encourage you to do everything in your power to convince the Administration to investigate the Justice Department's overzealous and unjust prosecution of this case, and to pardon these two agents.

Sincerely,

WALTER B. JONES,
Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would hope that the American people would join behind a number of us in this Congress, both Republican and Democrat, and contact the White House and say to the President, for goodness sakes, pardon these two border agents who have done nothing more than try to protect this country.

God bless these two agents and their families, and may God continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CARDOZA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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RECENT VISIT TO ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago I visited Israel, spent about 12 days there, and traveled the whole country. We started in the northern part, up around Caesaria Phillipi, went down to Elat on the Red Sea, went to Jerusalem, went to Tel Aviv, talked to the people, and had a very good feel for what actually is going on there.

So often on CODELs we are in a country for 24 hours, 36 hours, and we move on. And this was a little different. And so at the present time, obviously, people know that Israel is in a very difficult spot. Recently they had a war involving Hezbollah on their northern border. And the Hezbollah was located in Lebanon, southern part of it, and fired hundreds, if not thousands, of Katyusha missiles into Israel, particularly the northern part of Israel. And yet, as we visited that part of the country, it was almost untouched, it seemed. They had repaired, they had restored, and life was going on as usual only a couple, 3 weeks after the conflict had ended.

As many people know, Hamas is very powerful in Gaza and in the West Bank and has tremendous influence in the Palestinian areas. At the present time, there are rockets being fired by the Hamas people down in Gaza, into Israel.

So as we watch this and as we watch the continual conflict with the Palestinians and the desire for the Palestinians to have a unified state, unifying the West Bank, on the west bank of the Jordan and in the Gaza Strip down in the southwestern part of the country, you can see that Israel is under tremendous pressure.

Yet, the thing that was rather impressive was the staying power, the resolve, the willingness of the Israelis to try to see this through. I guess the lessons that I took away from this, and the concerns, were that, obviously, it is important that the United States have that same staying power, that same will to pull together, that same willingness to survive in the face of adversity.

Because even though we are protected by two great oceans, the world has shrunk. Today we are not as secure as we once were. We face a true global conflict over the horizon. Many of the things that we observed in Israel, I think, apply to us, even though sometimes we are not aware of it.

Tony Blair made an interesting observation here recently. He stated that peace in the Middle East will be hard to come by unless Israel and the Palestinians and Hamas and Hezbollah can somehow resolve their differences. I believe that is very true.

Our focus is on Iraq here in the United States, sometimes on Afghanistan. But at the heart of much of the conflict and much of the turmoil in the Middle East is the conflict that involves terrorist organizations and Israel. I am not here to be partisan and take Israel's side versus another nation's side. I am simply pointing these issues out that I think are very important.

The things that I mentioned that particularly impressed me about the Israelis were, number one, a willingness to persevere in the face of great adversity, and people realize what the terrorists are attempting to do. But also not far away is Iran, and the Iranian president has basically said that he would like to destroy Israel, and everyone knows that at the present time it does appear that Iran is trying to build nuclear capabilities. This is a very tenuous situation as far as Israel is concerned. Despite these threats, as I mentioned, Israel seems to be staying the course, seems to have great resolve, and I would hope that we would have the same resolve in our country in terms of persevering in the face of adversity.

The second thing that I took away from that trip to Israel that I think is important, that may have some applicability to our situation here in the United States, is a sense on the part of the Israelis of having great unity of purpose, a willingness to pull together, a willingness to avoid all fragmentation. I guess when your back is to the wall and you are not very big, you realize that unity of purpose is critical. So we certainly detected that.

I guess I can relate a little bit to my previous experience in the athletic arena in regard to the importance of unity of purpose. A team of great athletes which was polarized and which was divided was not able to accomplish a great deal; and yet a team with less talent which had unity of purpose would usually prevail over a superior

team physically that was divided almost every time.

So the analogy that I would like to draw at this present time are some things that I have observed, as I leave this body, and this has to do really with the recent election. We certainly experienced a very contentious election. We saw a great deal of partisanship; accusations were numerous and sometimes very destructive. There were deep divisions that were very apparent between the two parties.

The general public, at least the public that I dealt with in rural and central parts of America, watched the acrimony and the name-calling with a great deal of dismay and sometimes disgust. And to a significant degree, I believe, the political process and Congress in particular is viewed with a great deal of mistrust and skepticism at the present time. At the root of that, I think, was some of the dialogue that they saw occur in the last several months.

It seems to me, as I talked to my constituents, and people around the country, that the public is counting on us to lead, to unite, to serve the best interests of the country, rather than to point fingers and to seek to destroy the opposition. I think that from this election some lessons can be drawn. Which way this Congress goes, I am not certain, but I at least have some wishes, I have some desires, which I will try to convey.

I guess the majority in the House and the Senate now has changed. It definitely has. This presents two opportunities: number one, an opportunity for the new majority to pay back those who were in the majority for either real or perceived slights and offenses. But the second approach can be something that I think would be more constructive, is a chance to change the political climate, to foster a more cooperative governing style and certainly something that would restore a good deal of confidence on the part of the American people.

I think there are three major factors that people continually point to in regard to the last election, and the two, the first two, have been given preeminence.

First of all, Iraq, the conflict over there, the fact that many Americans have grown weary of it; many Americans have decided that we are on the wrong course. To be honest about it, I don't think that the Congress has a tremendous amount of control over what is happening in Iraq. We have some. We can control funding, and we can make comments here, but we really aren't the generals on the ground. So that really may be a little bit out of our element to some degree.

The second area is the area of ethics, and the fact that many people were very upset with corrupt practices that had occurred on the part of a small number of people but still a number of our Members, and that this is something that Congress definitely does have directly in its purview. We did some reforms, but not enough, I don't believe, in the last few months. And I believe that Congress, Members of Congress, members of the Senate, have to be above reproach. As Joe Paterno one time said, we cannot only be fair; we have to appear to be fair. We cannot have the perception even of wrongdoing.

As I sat in meeting after meeting after meeting over 6 years, I can't really remember anyone getting up and really addressing the issue of ethics and how important this is in preserving the trust of the American people. It is something that this body obviously has to do a better job with, and I hope that it will become a major priority here.

Then the third thing, which many of the pundits have not referred to very often, has simply been the issue of partisan bickering, which I think would serve us very well to get over to some degree, and it will be interesting to see how that develops as time goes on.

The most hopeful time that I had during my 6 years in Congress was also maybe the worst time, and that was the 3 or 4 months right after 9/11, and almost everyone here can remember those times. We can remember the horror that we felt as we saw the Pentagon destroyed, the Twin Towers go down, the plane crash over Pennsylvania, and the fact that we realized all of a sudden that as a Nation we were vulnerable. That was a terrible time, and there was a lot of rebuilding to do.

At the same time, it was a very hopeful time, because, for 3 months, maybe 4 months, here in this Chamber and over in the Senate, we saw Congress work together, pull together to display a unity of purpose that I had not seen before or since. It showed what we were capable of doing as a body, as a unified organization.

So, as time goes by and as that memory of 9/11 begins to fade, it is easy to begin to become complacent again and decide that the most important thing is party supremacy.

So I would hope that people would realize that even though we have not been attacked for the last 5 years, that attack is still on the horizon; that this is still a world that is very, very combustible at the present time. We really do need to pull together in a way that we have not done for the last 5 years.

Cervantes once said something that was rather important to me in my outlook on life. He said, ''The journey is more important than the end.'' A very brief statement. He said, ''The journey is more important than the end.''

What he was saying is that the process that we go through, the way we do things, how we do things, why we do things, is really more important than the end result. Sometimes that is easy to say, but it is really hard to live with, because losing an election is very difficult. I have experienced that. Losing a football game is very difficult. Losing a business is very difficult.

But what he was saying is, you know, the process is more important than all of that. The process is more important than whether you win or whether you lose. You do things in a certain way, and you do them every time, and in the long run, that will be the most important thing.

That is why I point to the fact that doing things the right way here and unity of purpose is going to be very important. This week there will be a big football game; Ohio State is going to play Michigan. One team will prevail. They are both undefeated. I don't know which team is going to win.

But I do know this: The deciding factor will probably be something that was overlooked in the preparation, something that has been laying there for the last 9 or 10 weeks unaddressed.

It may be a fumble. The back doesn't carry the ball high and tight. He flags the ball, something that should have been addressed. It may be an extra point where a guy isn't stepping with his right foot. And all of a sudden, he gets blown off the ball, and somebody blocks an extra point or somebody blocks a punt. It may be fatigue in the fourth quarter; conditioning that wasn't undertaken that should have been done.

Often, that which is ignored which does not seem to be very important or very apparent all of a sudden, in a crisis, becomes critical. That is the way it is with our country at the present time. I feel that there is something that we really are not paying adequate attention to. It is like how you carry the football. It is like blocking. It is like punt protection. Those kinds of things that are little don't seem to make a lot of difference, but all of sudden it jumps up and bites you.

The greatest threat facing the United States as I see it at the present time is something that we need to pay attention to, and that is our young people, because young people are the future.

There was a study that was released today by America's Promise, the organization that was headed up for many years by Colin Powell, still very active, and his wife. They did a research report which released some information that I thought was very revealing. It said, there are really five things that a young person needs to have to grow up and be productive and to be healthy and to help make this country work.

They said, these five promises are: number one, caring adults in that young person's life, and 40 percent of our young people indicated at the present time that they either don't have any or don't have enough. One out of five young people indicate that they do not have a single caring adult in their life, somebody that really cares for them as they are.

Number two, a safe place and a constructive use of time. And a tremendous number of our kids go home to homes that are not safe because of abuse. They live in neighborhoods that, because of gangs or violence or whatever, are not safe. Again, that is a major problem: a healthy start and

healthy development. Many of our young people grow up without adequate medical care, medical attention, and as a result, they don't in the first 3 or 4 or 5 years of life have an even start, and this, again, is a tremendous handicap.

Effective education; 25 percent of our young people don't complete high school. Many of them who do complete high school are not adequately prepared for the world of work, and we are falling behind in many areas internationally in terms of our education.

Then, opportunity to serve other people, to give something of themselves. So the interesting thrust of this whole research study, it was interesting, indicated that 31 percent of our children have either four or five of these essential ingredients, and the conclusion of the study is that these 31 percent will be pretty well prepared.

These 31 percent will do pretty well with the rest of their lives. But then they said, you know, 48 percent have only two or three of these factors, and they have a chance, but they are kind of on the bubble.

□ 1300

If you only have two or three of those five ingredients going in your life, you are somewhat crippled, and you may be fortunate and you may make it, but you may be less than fortunate and you may not make it.

Then the critical thing was, they said 21 percent have only one of those factors, or they have zero, so 21 percent, one out of every five, of our children is at tremendous risk of not being a productive adult, of having a life that is certainly not what it could be. So it is important that we focus on this and understand how important this is. One in 12 of our young people today attempts suicide. So there is a certain desperation out there.

I would like to now turn to something that Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain said on this floor about 3 years ago, which I think is somewhat germane, that relates to what I have been talking about with our young people, with our divisions in Congress and so on. He said, ''As Britain knows, all predominant power seems for a time invincible, but in fact it is transient.'' So what he was saying is that every great nation for a period of time has assumed that it was going to live forever, that things were not going to change, that it would be preeminent forever, and then eventually realized that this power that they had, this aura of invincibility, all of a sudden was not there anymore. So I think that there is no question as we look at history that what he said is very true.

I would like to just take a quick cursory look at three nations that certainly would have fit that category he was talking about, nations that were invincible at the time. Certainly Rome 2,000 years ago ruled the entire civilized world, appeared to be invincible, but eventually fell from preeminence. The reasons historians have given that they fell were, number one, a general decline in morality; an increase in corruption and instability in leadership; an increasing public addiction to ever-more-violent public spectacles; an increase in crime and prostitution; and above all, a population that became more self-absorbed, apathetic and unwilling to sacrifice for the common good.

Does that fit any of our parameters here? I don't know, but it certainly is something we need to be aware of and we need to think about to some degree.

Great Britain 150 years ago dominated the world, had a colonial empire that dominated the world from the late 1600s through much of the 1800s, yet this British Empire eventually slowly crumbled. The reasons given by historians are as follows: Number one, they lost the national resolve to maintain their territory. It takes a lot of energy and commitment to maintain far-flung colonies around the world. Next, values that led to ascendency were eroded. The integrity, the character of the people, somehow was no longer what it once had been. Spiritual underpinnings began to shift. Some the spiritual values were no longer there.

Russia, 20 years ago one of the great nations of the world, one of the two superpowers at that time, in a matter of months disintegrated before our eyes. Alexander Solzhenitzen reflected on this fall when he observed this. He said, ''Over a half century ago while I was still a child, I recall a number of older people offered the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia.'' Then he quotes. ''Men have forgotten God. That is why all of this has happened.'' That is what he found many people in Russia saying. Marx and Lenin had dismantled Russia's religious heritage, values had fallen, Russia's foundation was broken, and eventually it collapsed like a house of cards with nothing to sustain it.

So if you look at these three nations, which I just picked out randomly, there are really some common themes of historical collapse. Number one, citizens are less willing to sacrifice for other people and for their country; number two, citizens become more self-absorbed, they have a greater desire for the state to take care of them; number three, a weakening of commonly held values; and number four, the decline of spiritual commitment.

I think there are some warnings here, some things we might think about, some things that may be applicable to our country and to this body here.

We currently have the most powerful military, the strongest economy, the most stable government of any nation in the world, and so it is easy at times to think that we are invincible, that this will go on forever. But as Tony Blair stated, ''As Britain knows, all predominant power for a time seems invincible, but in fact it is transient.''

I think it is our job here in this body and in this country to see to it that it doesn't become transient, at least not real soon; that we are able to preserve the integrity and identity of our country that has been so important.

In over 36 years of coaching, I witnessed firsthand some trends that were concerning to me. I noticed over that 36 years that the young men who came into the program became, over time, more troubled. They were people who showed more stress. They had less moral clarity as time passed.

When I started coaching in 1962, I think most of the players I dealt with knew that it was wrong to tell a lie. They knew that stealing something was wrong; it was just something that was a given. And yet, as time goes on, we ran into something called postmodernism, the idea that everything is relative, there are no moral absolutes. As a result, if you can get away with something, it may be okay.

That has become a rather pervasive theme in our country and particularly in our institutions of higher education, the idea of postmodernism. As a result, I saw young men who were a little more troubled, a little less stable, and I think there are really two major factors behind this.

First of all, family stability has certainly eroded. I saw that because when I first recruited players and went into their homes in the 1960s and the early 1970s, it was rather rare to see a young person who did not have both parents, and if you saw somebody with only one parent, it was usually because one parent or the other was deceased. But as time went on and as I wrapped up my coaching career in the late 1990s, roughly one-half of the young people that we were dealing with had grown up without both biological parents. One parent or other had simply taken off, a divorce or something had occurred; so that certainly left some tremendous scars.

In 1960, the out-of-wedlock birthrate was 5 percent. Today, it is around 36 percent. About one out of every three children is born outside of marriage. Less than a quarter of families with children under the age of 6 have a parent staying home with them full-time. One-third of all school-age children come home to an empty house for at least part of the week, and the hours between 3 and 6 p.m., of course, are the greatest hours of risk for young children.

Then, the last thing I will mention here, 24 million children in the United States live without their real father. So being fatherless is a huge problem in our country today, and those young people who are fatherless are two to three more times likely to be abused, have emotional behavior problems, abuse drugs and alcohol, commit a crime and so on.

There is a greeting card company that went to a prison on Mother's Day and offered to give free greeting cards to every inmate who would want one to send to his mother. They had almost 100 percent participation. Almost every

inmate of that prison decided that they wanted to send a Mother's Day card to their mother.

They had so much success, the greeting card company came back on Father's Day and they made the same offer. They had practically zero participation.

You say, well, what in the world happened here? The thing was that the great majority, almost all of the men in that prison, did not have a father. Their father had simply abandoned them, probably early in life, and as a result they were not interested at all in sending them a card.

Certainly the family structure has changed in our country, and I think we have to pay attention to that. We have to buttress it as much as we can. We can't legislate a lot of these things, but we can certainly attempt to do something about it.

The second thing that I will address, and this will be the last thing I will talk about, is the fact that the environment that our young people are now growing up in has certainly changed as well. The family, the launching pad, has changed, has become less stable, and the environment into which we are thrusting our young people has certainly become more difficult, has become more challenging, has become more dangerous, and, as a result, we have seen some major changes.

One thing that I was very proud to see this House address yesterday was the matter of underage drinking. This has become a huge problem in our Nation, and we did pass the STOP bill yesterday. I don't know if we will get if done in the Senate or not. I hope we will. It simply made an attempt to do something about the ravages of underage drinking. I will just present a few interesting details regarding underage drinking.

A recent National Academy of Sciences study showed that alcohol kills six-and-a-half times more children than all other drugs combined. So if you look at cocaine, if you look at heroin, marijuana and on and on, and you combine all of those, alcohol kills six-and-a-half times more children, more than 4,000 a year, which is a huge number. It costs the United States $53 billion annually. There are currently 3 million teenage alcoholics. So it is by far the biggest drug problem we have.

The average age for the first drink of a young person who decides to use alcohol before age 21 is 12.8 years of age. When you start using alcohol that young, that early in your life, it makes a huge difference because of your psychological and your physiological immaturity. A young person who starts drinking before age 15 is five times more likely to become an alcoholic than one who waits until they are 21 years of age.

Anyway, this body has done something about this, not probably enough, but at least it is a good start, and I was proud to see that happen yesterday.

Another drug that is particularly pernicious and is spreading like wildfire across the country is methamphetamine. Many places will find that the rates of use of heroin and cocaine are going down rather dramatically, and the reason for that is methamphetamine is moving in.

Methamphetamine is cheaper and methamphetamine is much more addictive, so it is sweeping across the country. It started in California and has slowly moved across, and now there is a pocket up in the northeastern part of the country where we don't see much of it, but through the Midwest, through the South, through most of the rest of the country, it has become pretty much a tidal wave. So we have been very concerned about this.

We find that in Nebraska roughly 22,000 people, according to a recent report, are addicted in a State of only 1.7 million. The average meth addict will cost society about $50,000 a year, so in Nebraska it is about a $1 billion a year problem, and nationally it is huge. It is eating up a huge amount of our money at the present time.

So we did again make some attempt to address that here, the Combat Meth Act was important, and I think maybe the most important part of that bill was that we did something to try to regulate sudafedrine, which absolutely is necessary in order to produce methamphetamine.

There are only about six or seven countries in the world that produce sudafedrine, and so what we did in that bill was, we said those countries that produce sudafedrine and ship it to other countries will need to give the United States invoices of where those shipments of sudafedrine are going, which enables us then to track the sudafedrine to the ''superlabs,'' which are mostly in Mexico; and we think that is the most helpful way we have of getting at some of those superlabs that are shipping about 80 to 90 percent of the methamphetamine into the United States.

These are some things that have been done.

Of course, we realize that we have a huge problem with pornography and some of video games that are affecting our young people and so on. I will not try to outline all of these, but I just want to mention the fact that I believe that it is important that we, as a body, as a Congress, pay attention to what is going on with our young people, because if we don't, if we fail to address those issues, it is a little bit like a football team ignoring something that eventually will catch up with you.

As Tony Blair mentioned, ''The long-term well-being of a nation is served well only when you pay attention to the next generation.''

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And we have a lot of warning signs out there that we are beginning to slip, that we have not paid adequate attention, that the next generation coming up may not be able to carry the ball, so to speak. So I hope that that will be a major concern and a major thrust in this body as we move forward.

It has been a pleasure for me to be here for the last 6 years. A lot of great friends, both sides of the aisle. It has been very challenging at times, and I see great potential. I do hope that we will pull together and hope that we will serve the Nation as best we can as time moves forward.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CHANDLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. KUHL of New York (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. HEFLEY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. GILLMOR (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. BOOZMAN (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

Mr. TANCREDO (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of November 13 on account of attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Quebec.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CARDOZA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BUYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 409. An act to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 860. An act to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas.

H.R. 1129. An act to authorize the exchange of certain land in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 3085. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5842. An act to compromise and settle all claims in the case of Pueblo of Isleta v. United States, to restore, improve, and develop the valuable on-reservation land and natural resources of the Pueblo, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 435. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

S. 819. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes.

S. 1131. An act to authorize the exchange of certain Federal land within the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

S. 1140. An act to designate the State Route 1 Bridge in the State of Delaware as the ''Senator William V. Roth, Jr. Bridge''.

S. 3880. An act to provide the Department of Justice the necessary authority to apprehend, prosecute, and convict individuals committing animal enterprise terror.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Accordingly, pursuant to the previous order of the House of today, the House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 496, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), pursuant to the previous order of the House of today, the House adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 496, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

[The Foreign Travel Report will be printed in a future edition of House proceedings.]

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Neil Abercrombie, Gary L. Ackerman, Robert B. Aderholt, W. Todd Akin, Rodney Alexander, Thomas H. Allen, Robert E. Andrews, Joe Baca, Spencer Bachus, Brian Baird, Richard H. Baker, Tammy Baldwin, J. Gresham Barrett, John Barrow, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Joe Barton, Charles F. Bass, Melissa L. Bean, Bob Beauprez, Xavier Becerra, Shelley Berkley, Howard L. Berman, Marion Berry, Judy Biggert, Brian P. Bilbray, Michael Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, Roy Blunt, Sherwood Boehlert, John A. Boehner, Henry Bonilla, Jo Bonner, Mary Bono, John Boozman, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Dan Boren, Leonard L. Boswell, Rick Boucher, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Allen Boyd, Jeb Bradley, Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Corrine Brown, Sherrod Brown, Henry E. Brown, Jr., Ginny Brown-Waite, Michael C. Burgess, Dan Burton, G.K. Butterfield, Steve Buyer, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Chris Cannon, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Benjamin L. Cardin, Dennis A. Cardoza, Russ Carnahan, Julia Carson, John R. Carter, Ed Case, Michael N. Castle, Steve Chabot, Ben Chandler, Chris Chocola, Donna M. Christensen, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Tom Cole, K. Michael Conaway, John Conyers, Jr., Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Jerry F. Costello, Christopher Cox, Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr., Ander Crenshaw, Joseph Crowley, Barbara Cubin, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Randy ''Duke'' Cunningham, Artur Davis, Geoff Davis, Jim Davis, Jo Ann Davis, Lincoln Davis, Tom Davis, Susan A. Davis, Danny K. Davis, Nathan Deal, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, William D. Delahunt, Rosa L. DeLauro, Tom DeLay, Charles W. Dent, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, Norman D. Dicks, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, John T. Doolittle, Michael F. Doyle, Thelma D. Drake, David Dreier, John J. Duncan, Jr., Chet Edwards, Vernon J. Ehlers, Rahm Emanuel, Jo Ann Emerson, Eliot L. Engel, Phil English, Anna G. Eshoo, Bob Etheridge, Lane Evans, Terry Everett, Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Tom Feeney, Mike Ferguson, Bob Filner, Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Jeff Flake, Mark Foley, J. Randy Forbes, Harold E. Ford, Jr., Jeff Fortenberry, Luis G. Fortuno, Vito Fossella, Virginia Foxx, Barney Frank, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Elton Gallegly, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Jim Gibbons, Wayne T. Gilchrest, Paul E. Gillmor, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Charles A. Gonzalez, Virgil H. Goode, Jr., Bob Goodlatte, Bart Gordon, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Al Green, Gene Green, Mark Green, Raul M. Grijalva, Luis V. Gutierrez, Gil Gutknecht, Ralph M. Hall, Jane Harman, Katherine Harris, Melissa A. Hart, J. Dennis Hastert, Doc Hastings, Alcee L. Hastings, Robin Hayes, J. D. Hayworth, Joel Hefley, Jeb Hensarling, Wally Herger, Stephanie Herseth, Brian Higgins, Maurice D. Hinchey, Ruben Hinojosa, David L. Hobson, Peter Hoekstra, Tim Holden, Rush D. Holt, Michael M. Honda, Darlene Hooley, John N. Hostettler, Steny H. Hoyer, Kenny C. Hulshof, Duncan Hunter, Henry J. Hyde, Bob Inglis, Jay Inslee, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Ernest J. Istook, Jr., Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Sheila Jackson-Lee, William J. Jefferson, William L. Jenkins, Bobby Jindal, Sam Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Nancy L. Johnson, Timothy V. Johnson, Walter B. Jones, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Paul E. Kanjorski, Marcy Kaptur, Ric Keller, Sue W. Kelly, Patrick J. Kennedy, Mark R. Kennedy, Dale E. Kildee, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Ron Kind, Steve King, Peter T. King, Jack Kingston, Mark Steven Kirk, John Kline, Joe Knollenberg, Jim Kolbe, John R. ''Randy'' Kuhl, Jr., Ray LaHood, James R. Langevin, Tom Lantos, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Steven C. LaTourette, James A. Leach, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, Jerry Lewis, John Lewis, Ron Lewis, John Linder, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, Zoe Lofgren, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Daniel E. Lungren, Stephen F. Lynch, Connie Mack, Carolyn B. Maloney, Donald A. Manzullo, Kenny Marchant, Edward J. Markey, Jim Marshall, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Carolyn McCarthy, Michael T. McCaul, Betty McCollum, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Jim McCrery, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry, John M. McHugh, Mike McIntyre, Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon, Cynthia McKinney, Cathy McMorris, Michael R. McNulty, Martin T. Meehan, Kendrick B. Meek, Gregory W. Meeks, Charlie Melancon, Robert Menendez, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Juanita Millender-McDonald, Brad Miller, Jeff Miller, Gary G. Miller, Candice S. Miller, Alan B. Mollohan, Dennis Moore, Gwen Moore, Jerry Moran, James P. Moran, Tim Murphy, John P. Murtha, Marilyn N. Musgrave, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Randy Neugebauer, Robert W. Ney, Anne M. Northup, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Charlie Norwood, Devin Nunes, Jim Nussle, James L. Oberstar, David R. Obey, John W. Olver, Solomon P. Ortiz, Tom Osborne, C. L. ''Butch'' Otter, Major R. Owens, Michael G. Oxley, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Ron Paul, Donald M. Payne, Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Mike Pence, Collin C. Peterson, John E. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Charles W. ''Chip'' Pickering, Joseph R. Pitts, Todd Russell Platts, Ted Poe, Richard W. Pombo, Earl Pomeroy, Jon C. Porter, Rob Portman, Tom Price, David E. Price, Deborah Pryce, Adam H. Putnam, George Radanovich, Nick J. Rahall, II, Jim Ramstad, Charles B. Rangel, Ralph Regula, Dennis R. Rehberg, David G. Reichert, Rick Renzi, Silvestre Reyes, Thomas M. Reynolds, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Mike Ross, Steven R. Rothman, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, Jim Ryun, Martin Olav Sabo, John T. Salazar, Loretta Sanchez, Linda T. Sanchez, Bernard Sanders, Jim Saxton, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Jean Schmidt, Allyson Y. Schwartz, John J. H. ''Joe'' Schwarz, David Scott, Robert C. Scott, Shelley Sekula Gibbs, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Jose E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, John B. Shadegg, E. Clay Shaw, Jr., Christopher Shays, Brad Sherman, Don Sherwood, John Shimkus, Bill Shuster, Rob Simmons, Michael K. Simpson, Albio Sires, Ike Skelton, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Lamar S. Smith, Vic Snyder, Michael E. Sodrel, Hilda L. Solis, Mark E. Souder, John M. Spratt, Jr., Cliff Stearns, Ted Strickland, Bart Stupak, John Sullivan, John E. Sweeney, Thomas G. Tancredo, John S. Tanner, Ellen O. Tauscher, Gene Taylor, Charles H. Taylor, Lee Terry, William M. Thomas, Mike Thompson, Bennie G. Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Todd Tiahrt, Patrick J. Tiberi, John

F. Tierney, Edolphus Towns, Michael R. Turner, Mark Udall, Tom Udall, Fred Upton, Chris Van Hollen, Nydia M. Velazquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Greg Walden, James T. Walsh, Zach Wamp, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Diane E. Watson, Melvin L. Watt, Henry A. Waxman, Anthony D. Weiner, Curt Weldon, Dave Weldon, Jerry Weller, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Robert Wexler, Ed Whitfield, Roger F. Wicker, Heather Wilson, Joe Wilson, Frank R. Wolf, Lynn C. Woolsey, David Wu, Albert Russell Wynn, Don Young, C. W. Bill Young,

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10014. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Annual Report on Federal Government Energy Management and Conservation Programs during Fiscal Year 2005, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6361(c); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10015. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2005 annual financial report to Congress required by the Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992 (PDUFA), pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379g note; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10016. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's report on the activites to improve coordination and communication with respect to the implementation of E-911 services, pursuant to Public Law 108-494, section 104; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10017. A letter from the Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy, transmitting a letter concerning the annual report on the activities and expenditures of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10018. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2005 financial report for the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA), enacted on November 18, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-199); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10019. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report on the Developmental Disabilities Programs for Fiscal Years 2003-2004, pursuant to Public Law 99-319, section 105(a)(7); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10020. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a copy of the Agency's report entitled, ''Environmental Health and Safety in the Arts: A Guide for K-12 Schools, Colleges and Artisans''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10021. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the FY 2005 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress, in accordance with the requirements in Section 121(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10022. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting a report on Auction Expenditures for FY 2005, pursuant to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, as codified in Section 309(j)(8)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10023. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 21-06 informing of an intent to sign the Joint Strike Fighter Production, Sustainment, and Follow-on Development Memorandum of Understanding between Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

10024. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

10025. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification for FY 2006 that no United Nations organization or United Nations affiliated agency grants and official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes, condones, or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization, pursuant to Public Law 103-236, section 565(b) (108 Stat. 845); to the Committee on International Relations.

10026. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of Greece (Transmittal No. 09-06); to the Committee on International Relations.

10027. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Notification of the intention to excercise the authority under Section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to authorize the drawdown of Department of Defense services for Indonesia in support of the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Lebanon; to the Committee on International Relations.

10028. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report covering current military, diplomatic, political, and economic measures that are being or have been undertaken to complete out mission in Iraq successfully, pursuant to Public Law 109-163, section 1227; to the Committee on International Relations.

10029. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Notification of the intention to waive the prohibition on the use of FY 2006 Economic Support Funds provided with respect to Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Samoa, South Africa, and Tanzania, pursuant to Public Law 109-102, section 574(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

10030. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2006-27, Waiving Prohibition on United States Military Assistance with Respect to Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Croatia, Equador, Kenya, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Samoa, Serbia, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uruguay, pursuant to Public Law 107-206, section 2007; to the Committee on International Relations.

10031. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2005 Annual Report on the United States Participation in the United Nations, pursuant to Public Law 79-264, section 4(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

10032. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the quarterly report of obligations and outlays of FY 2004, FY 2005 and FY 2006 funds under the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through March 31, 2006 pursuant to Division D, Pub. L. 108-199; to the Committee on International Relations.

10033. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the August 15, 2006 — October 15, 2006 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq under Section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-338); to the Committee on International Relations.

10034. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 ''Joint Communique'' and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 ''Joint Statement,'' together known as the Migration Accords, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 2245; to the Committee on International Relations.

10035. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

10036. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995; to the Committee on International Relations.

10037. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting certification that the export to the People's Republic of China of the specified items is not detrimental to the United States space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China, pursuant to Public Law 105-261, section 1512; (H. Doc. No. 109-151); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10038. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting certification that the export to the People's Republic of China of the specified items is not detrimental to the United States space launch

industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China, pursuant to Public Law 105-261, section 1512; (H. Doc. No. 109-152); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

10039. A letter from the Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for FY 2006 through 2011; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10040. A letter from the Associate Director for Human Resources, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting the D.C. Pretrial Services Agency's report on the use of the Category Rating System for the period October 2004 through September 2005 and October 2005 through September 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3319(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10041. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Competitive Sourcing Official, Department of Labor, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270), the Department's Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities for 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10042. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2006 through 2011; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10043. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2012, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10044. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting pursuant to the requirements of Sections 3 and 4 of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and Part 6 of Circular A-11 of the United States Office of Management and Budget, the Board's strategic plan for FY 2007 through 2012 and its Annual Performance Budget for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10045. A letter from the Chairman, Holocaust Memorial Museum, transmitting the Museum's FY 2006 Report on Audit and Investigative Activities in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10046. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting the sixth edition of the United States International Trade Commission's Strategic Plan, which covers the period from fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2011, pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10047. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report entitled, ''Reforming Federal Hiring: Beyond Faster and Cheaper,'' pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10048. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting the Endowment's Strategic Plans for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2012, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10049. A letter from the Director, National Gallery of Art, transmitting an FY 2006 annual report on audit and investigative coverage required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10050. A letter from the Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting a copy of the FY 2006 Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventories for the Commission as required by the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 and guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10051. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report entitled ''Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2007,'' pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10052. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation, transmitting the FY 2006 annual report under the Federal Managers' Fiscal Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982, and the Inspector General Act of 1988; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10053. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled, ''To make improvements to the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees' Retirement System, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10054. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a copy of the report entitled, ''Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4C for Fiscal Years 2004 through 2006, as of March 31, 2006''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10055. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2005 annual report on the activities and operations of the Public Integrity Section, Criminal Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 529; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10056. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the Conference's opposition to H.R. 5219, ''the Judicial Transparency and Ethics Enhancement Act of 2006''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10057. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a report on compliance within the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions under Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2266(b) and (c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10058. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Illinois Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10059. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Georgia advisory committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10060. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Utah Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10061. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a copy of drafte legislation to amend the federal crime restitution statutes to allow victims of identity theft to recover for the value of the time they spend attempting to remediate the harm caused by a criminal defendent; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10062. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report describing the organization and resources of the Department with respect to privacy and related information managment functions, pursuant to Public Law 109-162, section 1174; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10063. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report to Congress for 2004 on Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Services and Programs, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10420(d); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10064. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting As required by Section 417(b) of the USA Patriot Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-56), the annual report on the status of the implementation of machine-readable passports (MRPs) in countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10065. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Sentancing Commission, transmitting a technical correction in Amendment 10 of the document entitled, ''Amendments to the Sentancing Guidelines''; to the Committeeon the Judiciary.

10066. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Army, transmitting the Department's eighth report of projects, or separable elements of projects, which have been authorized, but for which no funds have been obligated for planning, design or construction during the preceding seven full fiscal years, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 579a; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10067. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), 2007-2011, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. app. 2203(b)(1); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10068. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report on the Tribal-State Road Maintenance Agreements, pursuant to Public Law 109-59, section 1119(k); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10069. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's summary and detailed breakdown of the disability-related complaints that U.S. and foreign passenger carriers operating to and from the U.S. received during the 2005 calendar year, pursuant to section 707 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10070. A letter from the Administrator, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting notification of compliance with FAA safety standards and fulfillment of the requirement of Section 7 of the Wright Amendment Reform Act of 2006, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 40101; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10071. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Army, transmitting the Department's report on the Mississippi River Headwaters Reservoirs, pursuant to Public Law 100-676, section 21; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10072. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Impact of Increased Financial Assistance to Medicare Advantage Plans''; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

10073. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2007-2, pursuant to Section 534(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export

Financing and Related Program Appropriations Act of 2006, Pub. L. 109-102; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN):

H.R. 6325. A bill to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331; to the Committee on Financial Services. considered and passed.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 6326. A bill to clarify the provision of nutrition services to older Americans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. considered and passed.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 6327. A bill to make certain management reforms to the Free File program of the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia):

H.R. 6328. A bill to establish a congressional Commission on the Abolition of Modern-Day Slavery; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CARSON (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H.R. 6329. A bill to ensure prompt access to supplemental security income, social security disability, and medicaid benefits for persons released from certain public institutions; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CUBIN:

H.R. 6330. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 152 North 5th Street in Laramie, Wyoming, as the ''Gale W. McGee Post Office''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. EVERETT (for himself, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 6331. A bill to amend the environmental quality incentives program of the Department of Agriculture to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance to active agricultural producers for the construction of reservoirs as part of their agricultural operations for the storage of water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KOLBE (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California):

H.R. 6332. A bill to establish the Sandra Day O'Connor Center on Constitutional Law at Stanford Law School and to establish the William H. Rehnquist Center on Constitutional Structures of Government at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers School of Law; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 6333. A bill to authorize the presentation of flags at the funerals of civilian Federal employees engaged in the support of military operations who have died in combat zones in the course of their duties; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PETRI (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 6334. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that participants in the Troops to Teachers program may teach at a range of eligible schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 6335. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for official travel after Election Day of members of Congress who will not serve as members during the next Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 6336. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, with respect to the flying of the National flag at half-staff pursuant to the order of a Governor of a State, territory, or possession; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 6337. A bill to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H.J. Res. 101. A joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress; considered and passed.

By Mr. THOMAS:

H. Con. Res. 495. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing as a House document of ''United States House of Representatives, The Committee on Ways and Means: A History, 1789-2006''; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Con. Res. 496. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Res. 1083. A resolution electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DENT, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. LEE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BARROW, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. COSTA, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. WU, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. BERRY, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. STUPAK, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H. Res. 1084. A resolution to honor the contributions and life of Edward R. Bradley; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. BUYER:

H. Res. 1085. A resolution honoring the service and accomplishments of Major General Joseph G. Webb, Jr., United States Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (for herself and Mrs. BONO):

H. Res. 1086. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LEACH, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. POE, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TANCREDO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. EVANS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SHAYS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H. Res. 1087. A resolution designating Room H-139 of the Capitol as the ''Henry J. Hyde Room''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 65: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 215: Ms. HERSETH.

H.R. 450: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 772: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 808: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. EVERETT.

H.R. 964: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1384: Mr. SWEENEY.

H.R. 1632: Mr. DELAHUNT.

H.R. 2014: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 2231: Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. TANNER.

H.R. 2895: Mrs. KELLY.

H.R. 3248: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 3307: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 3352: Mr. HAYES.

H.R. 3569: Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 3854: Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 4597: Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4727: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 4736: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 4904: Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 5058: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 5147: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 5161: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5198: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 5363: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. KELLY, and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 5369: Mr. CARTER and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 5465: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5704: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H.R. 5755: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 5790: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 5791: Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 5795: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5806: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 5834: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.

H.R. 5850: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 5858: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LEACH, and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 5866: Ms. SEKULA GIBBS.
H.R. 5896: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 5916: Mr. CUMMINGS and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 6038: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6044: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 6067: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 6093: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 6117: Mr. BERRY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 6118: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 6130: Mr. BONNER.
H.R. 6132: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. CAMPbell of California.
H.R. 6175: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 6216: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 6283: Mr. GOODE and Mr. TANCREDO.
H.R. 6309: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. STARK, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 6318: Mr. FARR and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Con. Res. 129: Mr. SAXTON.
H. Con. Res. 388: Ms. ESHOO and Ms. WATSON.
H. Con. Res. 457: Mr. BAIRD.
H. Res. 733: Mr. HOLT, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. MEEHAN.
H. Res. 787: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 962: Ms. WATSON.
H. Res. 1063: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 1080: Mr. WEINER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. SHAYS.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 14 by Mr. FILNER on House Resolution 917: Walter B. Jones.

Petition 15 by Mr. DOGGETT on House Resolution 987: Ron Paul and Ted Poe.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006 No. 129

Senate

The Senate met at 2:15 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the fountain of all wisdom, make us Your servants. Teach us to listen to Your guidance and to be faithful in doing Your bidding. Give us a spirit of kindness so we will properly represent You. Bless us with the peace of knowing we are doing Your will.

Use our lawmakers. Help them to fully understand how to make right choices. Protect them from danger and empower them to never do anything that will bring them shame. Make them wise interpreters of the signs of the times and undergird them with Your enabling might.

We pray in Your powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we are coming in this afternoon rather than this morning, as we did yesterday, following the elections of the Democratic leadership, and today following the Republican leadership elections. Right away I want to congratulate Senators MCCONNELL, LOTT, KYL, HUTCHISON, CORNYN, and ENSIGN, who will represent our Republican Party in our leadership here in this body.

This afternoon the Senate will conduct a period for morning business. As we speak, we are working on an agreement regarding the U.S.-India nuclear agreement and possible progress on appropriations bills. We finished the MILCON bill yesterday and have other bills sequenced and will be able to address those in short order. We hope to be able to schedule votes for later this afternoon. We also need to act on the short-term continuing resolution which has just arrived from the House. When votes are scheduled, Senators will be notified over the course of the afternoon.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3709

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 527, S. 3709, the U.S.-India nuclear bill. I further ask that a manager's amendment to be agreed upon by Senators LUGAR, BIDEN, and FRIST be agreed to as original text for the purpose of further amendment, and that the only other amendments in order be: Ensign regarding inspection, to be considered in closed session; Reed, Levin, Obama, two Dorgan amendments, Feingold, Boxer, Feinstein, Harkin, up to seven Bingaman, Kennedy, and Dodd. I further ask that all amendments except Senator FEINGOLD's be subject to relevant second degrees and that all be related to the subject matter of the bill.

I further ask that once the bill as amended has been read a third time, the Senate then proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5682, the House-passed companion, that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 3709 as amended be inserted in lieu thereof, and that the Senate then proceed to a vote on passage of H.R. 5682 as amended with no intervening action or debate. I further ask that following passage of the bill, the Senate insist upon its amendment and request a conference with the House, the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees, and S. 3709 be returned to the calendar.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this is the unanimous consent about how we will

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

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handle the U.S.-India nuclear cooperation bill. We are currently in discussion with a number of other agreements that we are attempting to reach in order to plan out activity both today and tomorrow and possibly Friday. With that, we expect to complete our business this week and then following that we will be out until December 4, or that week of December 4. As we look ahead, because we have a number of issues to address, we will be keeping our colleagues notified on both sides of the aisle. There are a number of issues the Democratic leader and I have outlined that we would like to do before we leave in December.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are a number of amendments that need to be debated. I would hope Senators understand, it is as if it is Friday afternoon at 2:30 and there are 18 or so amendments on here and they have to come and start debating them. We are going to finish this bill before we leave. That is what the majority leader said. I will cooperate with him in any way I can. This is legislation we have been waiting on for a long time. I hope Senators who have amendments will start debating them.

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

IRAQ POLICY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I may request to speak for a few more minutes than 5, and when the time comes, I will so inform the Chair.

Last week the American people went to the polls across our great Nation. They went not simply to choose new political leaders, but to ask those leaders—Democrats and Republicans alike—to work together for a new and long-overdue direction in Iraq.

There is no doubt that the majority of American voters want change in an Iraq policy that has brought such death and chaos and the prospect of failure. There is no doubt that they want us to speak honestly about the current failures and boldly about the way through the present crisis. But it is also very clear that Americans are not defeatists. They want success in Iraq, they want our troops to succeed, and they want them to come home.

I note as I speak here there are hearings occurring in the Armed Services Committee. I commend Senator WARNER and Senator LEVIN for holding such a hearing. They heard this morning from some of our leading military figures. This afternoon there will be additional witnesses appearing before them. So I am very conscious that a lot of people are thinking about this issue now and that we hope to come up with some positive suggestions on how we might come to a successful conclusion of this policy—a policy, I might add, that is in deep jeopardy of failure.

In that respect, the message of the American people was one of hope: that years of strained, painful debate can give way to American pragmatism; that leaders can find in national security not a political cudgel but a political consensus; and that Iraq, even now, is not past salvaging, if we right our course immediately.

I hope the resignation of Secretary Rumsfeld is a sign that the White House has heard that message. But I would add very quickly that it is not enough to change the leadership at the Pentagon when a week ago Sunday the Vice President of the United States proclaimed that we intend to go, and I quote him, ''full-speed ahead'' in Iraq. The President must fundamentally change our Iraq policies if we are to reverse the downward spiral into chaos that threatens the territorial integrity of that country and our larger regional security interests—as well as the success of our war on al-Qaida and international terrorism.

In the midst of an election season, some of America's best foreign policy minds were working diligently to find that new direction. We are lucky to have two distinguished former public servants to chair the Study Group on Iraq: the former Secretary of State James Baker and the former Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Lee Hamilton. Their group of experts is striving diligently to find consensus on a set of policy recommendations to put before the President and the Congress of the United States. It is painful work, but it is necessary work. And the tragedy of Iraq—over 30,000 injured troops, hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis dead, more than 2,800 of our fellow citizens in uniform killed—the tragedy of Iraq demands nothing less than a new direction and some new thought.

It will take every dram of our honesty and pragmatism to turn around a society that—despite $400 billion of taxpayer money, $250 million every single day and still counting—remains broken, crippled, and fractured. The Iraqi economy is in worse shape today than it was in March of 2003. Electric and water treatment capacity, oil production, access to clean water, are all below prewar levels. America has spent $14 billion training and equipping 300,000 Iraqi police and security forces; yet today as I speak on the floor of this Chamber, some 23 separate sectarian militias alone operate with impunity throughout Baghdad. Sectarian killings continue largely unabated, averaging scores of deaths a day.

These realities mean that none of us should underestimate the difficulties ahead. We need to recognize—every single time we talk about this matter—the remarkable service being performed by our men and women in uniform. Theirs is a very difficult job. Anyone who has been there, regardless of his or her views on policy, has to admire immensely the courage and determination of these people as they go out every single day, facing the kinds of problems that are everywhere in the streets of Baghdad, Fallujah, and other major urban areas. So I do not underestimate the tremendous burden these people bear every single day, as too often they become nothing more than target practice for those who seek to gain the upper hand in Iraq.

Nor do I underestimate the difficult task facing Jim Baker, Lee Hamilton, and their colleagues on this task force that is determined to find some answers to Iraq. They know, as I do, if there were any easy solutions we would have discovered them by now. It may be that members of the Baker-Hamilton commission will not be able to arrive at a consensus. I hope that is not the case. But I have no doubt that their efforts are taking place in a constructive and bipartisan spirit and we here should do everything we can to follow their example in the weeks and months ahead.

I hope to add briefly to that debate by sharing some of my own thoughts this afternoon. Taken individually, none of these proposals that I am going to discuss are groundbreaking or earthshattering in any way. A sound foreign policy rarely is. But after a war sparked by ideology and grand theorizing, maybe we can once more learn the value of quiet virtues. Taken together, I believe these suggestions might help to reverse the ongoing spiral into violence and chaos, permit the phased redeployment of U.S. troops within and from Iraq, and secure America's regional interests to the greatest extent.

Clearly, our interests are in disrepair, and other regions cry out for attention. We are further away from stabilizing Afghanistan and dealing a mortal blow to our al-Qaida and Taliban enemies. In fact, drug traffickers and

tribal warfare now threaten to destroy the fragile foundation of Afghanistan's nascent democracy and the Taliban is stronger now than at any point since our invasion.

This summer an emboldened and defiant Iran launched a proxy war against our ally Israel; and the apocalyptic mullahs are undeterred in their pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Last month North Korea claimed to have tested a nuclear weapon of its own, a further example of our country's growing vulnerabilities, a further cost of this administration's fixation on Iraq. While we have been bogged down in that country, North Korea has taken the chance to expand its nuclear arsenal fivefold.

Al-Qaida, Afghanistan, Iran, North Korea—the conclusion is irrefutable: America is less safe today because of our Iraq diversion. That is precisely why so many voices among our civilian and military leadership are calling upon the President to change course in that country.

I believe there are five key ingredients to any course change that we must take: establishment of internal security in that country; phased redeployment of United States forces; continued training of an independent, professional military and security force for Iraq; a strong central government; and regional and international engagement.

Let me first talk briefly about security. I think we must continue to recruit and train forces that reflect Iraq's ethnic diversity, forces that are capable of neutralizing sectarian militias and are able to restore and maintain domestic stability. Without that, nothing is likely to happen. But I believe the hour has arrived when Iraq must assume the responsibility for policing itself. At great cost, the United States has given the Iraqi people the chance for a much brighter future. Now they must seize it. There is not a treasury deep enough nor an army large enough to achieve this goal if the Iraqi people themselves lack the will to achieve it for themselves.

Second, redeployment. ''More troops or fewer troops'' is a sterile debate. The reality is that in cities such as Baghdad and Falluja, our soldiers are going door to door like a police force on the front lines of religious violence, and they need to be removed from that fruitless exercise. Our troops should be relocated from these larger urban zones to less populated regions and border areas where they can more effectively advance our strategic interests: continued training of Iraqi forces and the protection of Iraq's territorial integrity until Iraqis can do so for themselves.

Remaining United States forces should be repositioned to United States bases in Kuwait and Qatar, where they could be available to protect American interests if they should be called upon, and to Afghanistan, where we must redouble our efforts to capture bin Laden, dismantle al-Qaida and neutralize the Taliban and the drug lords who are funding them.

These movements must begin immediately and continue over the next 12 to 18 months, in concert with our efforts to enhance the stability of the Iraqi Government, engage Iraq's neighbors, and build a better and more secure life for the people of that country.

Third is professional military and security forces. Iraq will never be unified as a sovereign and secure nation until all of its citizens can count on the Iraqi forces to be capable of maintaining internal stability and protecting the nation's territorial integrity. But no Iraqi Army can ever meaningfully stand up when Iraq's political atmosphere remains so poisonous.

Which leads me to my fourth point, unity government. Our commanding generals have rightly concluded there is no military solution to Iraq's unfolding civil conflict. Only a political solution which unifies all Iraqis around a common cause will save Iraq from becoming a failed state.

So, along with the training of Iraqi troops, I believe we must tackle Iraq's political chaos, because only stability will be the cornerstone of a prosperous nation.

Finding common cause must come first and foremost from within Iraq. It must come from Iraq's secular and religious leaders, leaders such as Ayatollah Sistani. We need Iraqis like him at the table and the United States needs to encourage more acts of leadership by him and others.

Our political goals for Iraq are clear. Though Iraq's constitution is federal, with local flexibility for provinces, we must insist on a stable and unified central government, capable of distributing resources to its citizens on a just basis. Iraq's oil must be shared equitably. At the end of the day, Iraq may end up a divided and partitioned state where sectarian influences govern; but that should not be our stated policy. Nor should we allow short-term political expediency to keep us from disbanding sectarian militias. Our failure to confront them head-on forces uncountable Iraqis to live in daily fear for their very lives.

That said, I believe we should not preclude the possibility of integrating ex-militia members into the professional Iraqi military—but only if they be vetted and retrained first.

Fifth and finally, regional and international engagement. Iraq's neighbors have a huge stake in a stable and competent Iraq. If there is one thing that unites all of the nations bordering Iraq, it is the fear that Iraq will splinter into fractured enclaves with dedicated sectarian militias that will not only terrorize each other but threaten the stability of the nations that border them.

It is for that reason that the administration should find willing partners—if it were willing to look. Iraq's neighbors, as well as regional international organizations can help Iraq toward unity and stability—not from the goodness of their hearts but from the fact of their interest. Regional powers such as Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia could be enormously useful to us as mediators—a ''Friends of Iraq'' group, committed to ensuring the integrity of its borders, the disbanding of the militias, and the unity of its government.

When it comes to protecting our security, we must be as willing to wage diplomacy as we have been willing to wage war. Robust, muscular, and direct negotiations are not gifts to our enemies. They are the essential tools of avoiding conflict and securing peace and stability.

We are reminded of the eloquence of John Kennedy, who said many years ago, ''Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.''

Further, rebuilding Iraq's economy should be a part of any regional and international rescue mission. The Iraqi Government has formally requested help from the United States to develop an International Compact for Iraq. This compact could serve as a blueprint for a new partnership with the international community, one aimed at consolidating peace and pursuing political, social, and economic development over the next five years.

There are no guarantees, of course. Iraq is broken. The policies of the Bush administration, in my view, have sadly failed. But last week's elections have given us the gift of opportunity—to chart a new course in Iraq if we are honest enough, tough enough, and bold enough to find it.

Reducing and withdrawing our troop presence. Restoring security. Supporting the development of a unified Iraqi Government. Enlisting Iraq's neighbors and the international community. Creating economic activity in that shattered country. If we take these steps, or ones like them, we can serve our larger interests in peace and prosperity and security, not only for the Iraqis but, as importantly, for ourselves. We can begin to redeem a great harm.

The American voters have asked this us of us. While they don't have a specific plan in mind, they want us to come together, to chart a new course, to make some sense, to be rational and think about the importance not only of Iraq getting on its feet—but of our nation meriting its vital role in the world. No other nation in the 21st century is going to lead but this great nation of ours. Other nations down the road may assume that responsibility, but as far as I can see, only one nation can lead now—and it is ours. And if we continue on the path we are following today in Iraq, that mission will be far more difficult to fulfill.

So far more is at risk here than just what happens in Iraq. We risk failing the calling of leadership itself.

Anything I suggested here, I know others have raised. But I came here today, above all, to ask a question:

Who is thinking about this in a concrete way? I trust that Jim Baker and Lee Hamilton are. I hope that my colleagues are.

You may not like all of my ideas. You may reject all of them. But whatever ideas come to the fore, let us debate the substance in tolerance and good faith, open to new thinking and hungering for new action.

The American people are watching us, wondering if we have heard their call for a new way forward. The Iraqi people are watching us, wondering if their united country can still survive and succeed. Americans and Iraqis both want what it is within our power to give them: hope.

Again, I thank the President for his indulgence in providing a little more time.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

TAX EXTENDERS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to address two matters that will be taken up by the Senate in this lameduck session. The first will be after we come back from the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be taking up a tax bill that will include a group of what we call tax extenders. These are tax breaks that are in existing law which are running out of time. They are going to cease to exist by the 1st of the year, unless we extend these tax breaks. One of those tax breaks is very important to our State of Florida. In fact, six States in this Union do not have a personal income tax at the State level. Whereas, those 44 States that do have the personal income tax are able to deduct that State income tax in the calculation of their Federal income tax, in those six States that do not have the State income tax, they have no such deduction. But their main revenue stream is a State sales tax.

The deduction of that State sales tax has been a major help to constituents in those six States, including my State of Florida. It has saved, for example, the people of the State of Florida $750 million per year in Federal income taxes by being able to deduct their Florida State sales tax.

It is my understanding that this is all worked out; that, in fact, we are going to be able to extend all of these tax extenders and that it will be done in the week of the lameduck session when we come back after the Thanksgiving holiday. That, of course, is enormously important.

I had a hand, along with Senator HUTCHISON of Texas, in passing that bill to begin with, but that bill was effective for 2 years. That 2 years is about to expire at the end of this calendar year. So we certainly need that extended.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AMENDMENT

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I also want to speak on a matter that Senator VITTER and I will introduce shortly, for there will be in front of the Senate an appropriations bill that will fund the Food and Drug Administration. Senator VITTER will offer, on behalf of himself and myself, an amendment that we had offered to the Senate on a different appropriations bill several months ago—and passed—that would allow Americans to purchase low-cost prescription drugs from Canada.

Every year, millions of Americans, who cannot otherwise afford their prescriptions at pharmacies, seek those same FDA-approved prescriptions from Canada at significantly lower prices.

Back in July, Senator VITTER and I introduced a separate amendment on this issue to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. Our amendment prohibited Customs from stopping the importation of FDA-approved prescription drugs by American citizens.

The amendment was in response to a new policy implemented by U.S. Customs which resulted in over 38,000 prescription drug shipments being detained by Federal officials. Our amendment received overwhelming bipartisan support when it was added to the Senate bill.

This Senator started receiving complaints as far back as 2½ years ago. They had been ordering prescriptions from Canada for years, and suddenly Customs was confiscating their prescriptions. Customs has admitted that it was to the tune of almost 40,000 prescriptions.

To a senior citizen who is so desperate to make financial ends meet—and, in fact, sadly, in America in the year 2006, some senior citizens are having to make a choice because of their financial condition between buying their groceries or buying their prescription medicines. They are forced to do things such as cutting their medicine tablets in half to try to stretch it out when, in fact, their doctor tells them that is not what they should be doing. Yet it is happening.

Over and over again, seniors have been able to order from Canadian pharmacists at half the cost of their prescription medicine. It is not a question of safety because it is made by the same manufacturer and even with the same packaging.

Back in the summer, Senator VITTER and I saw an opportunity on an appropriations bill to prohibit Customs from using the appropriated moneys for the seizure of those kinds of individual purchases for a small duration of time—no more than a 90-day supply of their prescriptions and only from Canada.

We passed it in the Senate overwhelmingly. It goes down to a House-Senate conference committee, and they watered down that provision to say that it can be done to bring those small, limited, individual supplies of prescription drugs from Canada but only if you bring it personally back from Canada.

That may help my two colleagues who are from the State of North Dakota because they are right next to the Canadian border. But clearly for the States of Senator VITTER and myself and the States in the Southeastern United States, that doesn't help at all, particularly since some of our seniors have been accustomed to ordering these much less expensive drugs by mail or by e-mail or by telephone calls.

When it got to the conference committee, they watered down the provision. That is what we are going to address today. I am waiting on Senator VITTER to come to the floor so we can offer this amendment.

We have a new opportunity on an appropriations bill that includes the Food and Drug Administration appropriations. This does not assure Americans access to lower cost medications from Canada, since the FDA can still hold up the imports if they choose to do so under current law. That is why we are going to add this amendment to prevent the FDA from interfering with the importation of prescription drugs from Canada.

A little bit of good news came out the last time we tried to do this with regard to the Customs Department. In October, Customs threw up its hands and said: We have more important things to do on the huge import of drugs that are counterfeit. That is what we are going after. We are not going to confiscate these individual purchases of a 90-day supply or less which are prescriptions from Canadian pharmacists.

With that as a precedent, it would seem to me that the Senate would certainly go along with us and put this in the law right now with regard to the FDA to make sure that this policy is very clear.

When Congress returns in January, we should look at, additionally, what is introduced by my colleague who is on the floor now, Senator DORGAN, and Senator SNOWE, the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act.

This bipartisan bill, which I support, is going to set up a comprehensive system for importation of prescription drugs which will further help our senior citizens on lower prescription drug costs.

Ultimately, we will have to debate the very essence of the problem in Medicare prescription drug benefits, Part D benefits. That is going to be a whole new debate that we will have out here on how to fill the doughnut hole which some people say would cost something like $26 billion. But there is a way to do that—by allowing Medicare to do what other parts of the Federal Government have done for years, including the Veterans' Administration and the Department of Defense; that is, use the bulk purchasing power to negotiate lower prices for drugs.

As most people know, that was prohibited in the Medicare prescription drug benefit. But I think we are going to be addressing that because that is a

huge stake in the heart of the purchasing power of Medicare for 43 million senior citizens to be able to negotiate those prices down by bulk purchases.

It is clearly time for the Congress to stand up for our constituents and to help lower these prescription drug prices.

I am looking forward to working with Senators in a bipartisan way to embrace this Vitter-Nelson amendment.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my colleague from Florida was describing the issue of prescription drug pricing in our country—an amendment that would be offered to a subsequent appropriations bill dealing with the FDA and its enforcement of the reimportation of prescription drugs.

Let me point out, as he properly said, that Senator SNOWE and myself and others, a large bipartisan group, Senators MCCAIN and KENNEDY, introduced legislation—and have been blocked from having it considered for some many months in the Senate—dealing with the comprehensive approach to reimportation of FDA-approved drugs.

The American consumer is now charged the highest prices for prescription drugs in the entire world. Let me say that again. The American consumer is charged the highest prices for prescription drugs anywhere in the world. It is not fair. That pricing policy has to change. One of the ways to change it will be to put downward pressure on pricing in this country by allowing American consumers to access those identical FDA-approved drugs, some of which are actually made in this country; to reimport them from other countries, FDA-approved, made and manufactured in manufacturing plants approved by the FDA.

My colleague talked about Canada and the United States. That is an obvious issue. My State borders Canada, and we see people coming back and forth going to Canada to purchase prescription drugs, in some cases for one-tenth the price they are charged in this country.

We need to find a way to pass the comprehensive legislation. My colleague from Florida cosponsored that bill and worked with us on it—myself, Senator SNOWE from Maine, Senator MCCAIN, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator KENNEDY, a pretty significant bipartisan group in the Senate. We have not had a vote on that only because it has been blocked. We will have a vote on that in the next session of Congress if we are not able to offer it in the coming weeks. In the next session of Congress, we will have a vote on it.

We will have very substantial numbers in the Senate supporting that legislation. When we do, it will be good news for American consumers who now pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. That is unfair. I certainly support the amendment that deals with a funding limitation that would be offered as described by my colleague from Florida. That in itself does not solve the larger problem. He has indicated that. I believe Senator VITTER would indicate that as well. It is a step in the right direction.

I am supportive of it with the understanding that we will have a more comprehensive piece of legislation on this issue which will be introduced, will be offered, and will be voted on with a very large majority in the Senate. The House of Representatives has already demonstrated its support for such a plan. If we can't get it done in the lameduck session, as soon as we turn the calendar and begin a new year, I am convinced we will get this done.

I appreciated the words of my colleague from Florida.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The senior Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

FARMER DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, yesterday I withdrew an amendment to provide disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers for the disasters of 2005 and 2006. I did so on the basis of an assurance by the majority leader that is in the RECORD very clearly: we would go to the Agriculture appropriations bill today, I would have a chance to offer my amendment today, the rights of all Senators were protected, and that they would have their rights. Now I am told there is an objection to going to the Agriculture appropriations bill.

I say to my colleagues, that leaves me with no alternative but to object to other business. I, in good faith, removed my amendment yesterday, took it down, with the assurance—and that is in the RECORD, very clearly in the RECORD—from the majority leader, the assurance that we would go to Agriculture appropriations today. I alert my colleagues I kept my word. I would hope others would keep theirs.

If that is not to be, I will be in a position in which I will be objecting to any other business coming before the Senate. If they want to have a live quorum, we can go through that exercise, but we will go through it repeatedly. This is not fair. It is not right. We have tried repeatedly to get this bill up so we can have a vote. It has previously passed the Senate with 77 votes in favor.

What we are asking for is not unreasonable. We have reduced the cost dramatically. Here, a person's word is their bond. I kept my word. I am expecting others to keep theirs.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my colleague was on the Senate floor yesterday, as I was, and he was offering an amendment on the Military Construction appropriations bill dealing with agricultural disaster. In exchange for withdrawing that amendment on the Military Construction bill, he was given some assurance that the Agriculture appropriations bill would come next to the Senate and he would be able to offer that amendment on the Agriculture appropriations bill.

Let me, first of all, support my colleague, Senator CONRAD. He knows and I know that the Agriculture appropriations bill includes a disaster piece that I added in the committee many months ago. That amendment I offered in the committee was one we had worked on with Senator CONRAD and many other Senators on a bipartisan basis. It was Senator CONRAD and myself who were recognized in the committee to offer the agricultural disaster plan. That was in the spring of this year.

Subsequent to that, we have now had a very substantial drought that has enveloped a fair part of this country, devastating some additional crops, and we have not been able to get the Agriculture appropriations bill back to the Senate so we can make an adjustment to the disaster plan for farmers, an adjustment to include the 2006 disaster, but we have not been able to get it to the floor of the Senate. That is why my colleague, Senator CONRAD, offered it yesterday as an amendment to the Military Construction bill. We have already passed it twice in the Senate; that is, an agricultural disaster plan.

Two times I added it in the Appropriations Committee. On two occasions—I believe both were with supplemental bills—both occasions we went to a conference with the House of Representatives. I had money in for a farm disaster plan. In both circumstances, we went to the conference; the Senate conferees, at my request, had a vote, insisted on the Senate position which included an agricultural disaster plan for family farmers who got hit with the weather disaster; and on both occasions the President threatened a veto and got the House conferees, at the request of the Speaker, to object. Therefore, twice it got knocked out in a conference.

The third time now, I have added the farm disaster piece to the Agriculture appropriations bill. We did that before this growing season in which we had a very devastating drought, so that needs to be adjusted.

My colleague, Senator CONRAD, is offering the farm disaster piece that would try to reach out to those family farmers who now do not know whether they will be able to continue farming, reach out with a helping hand to say: You are not alone. We cannot make

you whole, but we can help you during a tough time.

This Congress has already said to the farmers in the Gulf of Mexico: You will get disaster aid because you got hit with Hurricane Katrina and you lost your crops. You get disaster aid. This Congress has essentially said to other farmers and this President has said to other farmers: You might have lost all of your crops from a drought or a flood, but it didn't have a name named ''Katrina.'' It is not like a hurricane, it is not named; therefore, you are not going to get any disaster help—just those who got hit with Hurricane Katrina and lost their crops. That is not fair. No one in this country would think that is fair.

So what we are trying to do—I in the Committee on Appropriations and my colleague, Senator CONRAD, here in the Senate with this amendment—is to say to farmers who are out there wondering: Will our family be able to continue on the farm next year? Will we be able to do spring planting? Will we have the capability to put a crop in? At this point, the answer for many of them, thousands of them, is: No, we are not going to be able to continue farming because we had a disaster. Where a crop should have existed on our land, there was barren land, no seeds, no crop.

It used to be in our farm bill we had a disaster title. When a disaster occurred, we, with that disaster title, could say to farmers: We want to help you. Now there is no disaster title in the farm bill, and each year when there is a disaster we have to reach out to try to create a disaster bill.

This country goes almost every place in the world to help when there is trouble. What about at home? What about when there is trouble on the family farm? I know that is far from the city lights and far from the cameras, but the fact is, that is real trouble for families whose dream is about to end because they cannot continue farming. Why? Is it because they mismanaged? Is it because they are not good farmers, because they can't grow a crop? No. It is because a drought came around and destroyed everything on their farm or it is because a flood came and washed it away.

In 2005, in parts of our State, there were over a million acres that could not be planted—think of that—could not be planted at all, and nearly another 1 million planted acres and all the seeds were washed away with torrential rain where one-third of a year's worth of rain fell in 24 hours. Think of that. Then you say to those farmers: You know what. Tough luck. You are on your own.

That is not the way this country has dealt with farmers. We have always believed there is value and importance in having farmers on the land farming and creating America's food supply. We have always said: We want to have a bridge across troubled times for you. When price depressions occur, when natural disasters occur, we want to create a safety net for you. We have always done that.

Now what happens with disasters, with no disaster title in the farm bill, we face a situation where, because of two years—2005, with substantial flooding, and in 2006, a protracted drought in some significant areas of the country—we face a prospect of losing a great many family farmers just because this country will have said—if we do not do what Senator CONRAD and I and others want to do, this country will have said: It doesn't matter. The only farmers we will help are in the gulf region, those who were hit by a hurricane. Some of my colleagues have said it is tempting to name a drought. Give it a name, if that is what is required here. Give these natural disasters a name. We do with hurricanes.

My colleague is suggesting the right remedy. We have, apparently, some people saying we need to go to another piece of legislation. Perhaps there is the India nuclear agreement.

My colleague says, properly—and I was in the Senate when this exchange took place—my colleague says: Yesterday, I withdrew my amendment from the Military Construction bill—and he did—and I heard the discussion as a result of his withdrawing that amendment. I believe there is an understanding that the next piece of legislation we go to, which would be this afternoon, is the Agriculture appropriations bill. That will give him the opportunity—and me and others—to both introduce and speak to farm disaster aid that is long overdue, that should have been done long ago.

Senator CONRAD has indicated that he would object to other procedures and other proceedings unless we reach an understanding of going to the Agriculture appropriations bill. I certainly support that and would be in the Senate with him, prepared to object, just as he would.

That is the background. That is the story. My colleague, Senator CONRAD, is perfectly within his rights. He is absolutely accurate in terms of what we understood when we left the Senate yesterday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEMINT). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator DORGAN, and I also point to the RECORD, the RECORD from yesterday, page S. 10900. It says:

> Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I notice the majority leader has returned to the floor. I tried to recount for our colleagues the status of our discussion, and the understanding that we had reached, that I would withdraw my amendment from this bill with the understanding that we would go to the Agriculture Appropriations bill tomorrow and have a chance to offer it there. All Senators' rights would be reserved. That is the status of it. I just ask if that is the majority leader's understanding. If it is, I will then be willing to withdraw my amendment for the Military Construction bill and we can conclude that.
>
> Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in the last hour or so we have had numerous discussions on the floor, as our colleagues have observed, and many participated in the discussion. My understanding and the general agreement we have is to go to the Agriculture Appropriations bill tomorrow. That does facilitate the progress we need to make on the current bill that is on the floor, which I hope and expect to be able to finish tonight. If that is the case, we plan on going to the Agriculture bill tomorrow. All rights would be reserved for all Senators, of course. We don't have an agreement, but that is the intention.
>
> The disaster ag relief bill is very important and has been talked about by Republicans and Democrats and we expect to debate it tomorrow. It is a more appropriate place for this amendment. So I think this is a good understanding.

Mr. President, I withdrew my amendment based on that understanding. I did it in good faith. I did it to accommodate my colleagues. I did it so other legislation could move. But now I am told the agreement is not going to be kept. That is not acceptable. That is just not acceptable. That puts me in the position now of having to object to proceeding to other business. I have no alternative but to do that.

I am here representing thousands of farm families across our State and really right down the heartland of the country. We have 26 cosponsors for this legislation, totally bipartisan, about as many Republicans as Democrats on the bill because we have had the third worst drought in the country's history. That is the reality.

I have a letter on my desk from a man talking about the disaster. And in that letter he said to me—this is from last year when we had terrible flooding—he had 26 inches of rain over a very short period of time. The result was he had no production, and he lost $120,000. Even with the crop insurance, it did not come close to covering his bills, and that he and his wife and his family were going to be forced off the land if there were not some assistance.

Let me just recount the history. Always in our past when anyone suffered from natural disaster in this country, anywhere, Congress responded. Congress responded. We responded when there was Hurricane Katrina. We responded when there was Hurricane Rita. In fact, this gentleman says: I urged our delegation to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We suffered the same kind of loss here, a complete economic loss, but there were no news cameras seeing our disaster. We had a slow-motion disaster but every bit as devastating.

The question is, Are those people going to be given any kind of helping hand, the kind of thing we have done repeatedly in the past?

Now, we don't budget for disasters. Some have said it is a budget buster. No, it is not. No. 1, there is no budget. No. 2, to the extent we have agreed on guidelines for spending, it has always been understood, it has always been the case for the 20 years I have been here that natural disasters are treated separate and apart from the budget. It

is very hard to budget for natural disasters. Nobody knows the extent or when they will occur. As a result, we have always dealt with disaster spending as an emergency outside the budget.

Now, how much money is being talked about here? Mr. President, $4.5 billion for 2 years of disasters. And this is a national bill. This is not restricted to one region, one location. This will assist anybody who had a loss of at least 35 percent. And if you have a loss of at least 35 percent, only then do you start to get any assistance; and then you only get a percentage of the loss, 50 percent covered. So you get nothing on the first 35 percent of loss, nothing. Only if you have a loss of at least 35 percent do you get anything. If your loss is over 35 percent, you will get assistance on a highly restricted basis.

The bankers of my State have told me if this kind of assistance is not forthcoming, 5 to 10 percent of the farmers and ranchers in our State will go out of business, not because of any fault of theirs, but because of the most incredible swing in weather that we have ever seen.

Last year, we had flooding that prevented a million acres from even being planted. It was not even planted. This year, we have had the third worst drought, according to the scientists, in our Nation's history, a drought that Senator DORGAN and I saw firsthand in a tour with our Governor and agricultural leaders of our State.

I even saw irrigated corn—irrigated corn—in which the ears never filled out because the heat was so unbelievably intense. In one day in my hometown, it was 112 degrees. I am not talking about the heat index. I am talking about the actual temperature, 112 degrees.

In July and August of this last year, we had extreme temperatures day after day after day, and no rain. It was devastating. And it is just not my State. It is right down the heartland of the country: South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, over into Minnesota, Montana.

There are 26 cosponsors of this bill. It is fully bipartisan. This legislation has passed overwhelmingly in the Senate with 77 votes.

So I just say to my colleagues, I was given a commitment yesterday that we would go to the Agriculture appropriations bill today, and that I would have a chance to offer my amendment; that Senators could raise any objections they might have. They could raise a rule XVI objection. By the way, we now know that would not lie against our bill. We also know that they could raise a budget point of order. That would require a supermajority vote. We are fully prepared to do that and to accept the will of the body.

But what is not fair is not to have a vote. And what is especially not fair is not to keep the commitment that was made yesterday publicly and privately that we would go to the Agriculture appropriations bill today and have an opportunity for a vote. That was the commitment that was made. This leaves me with no alternative but to object to going to other business. I will make that objection. And if I have to do it repeatedly, I will make it repeatedly.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator LAUTENBERG be recognized for 10 minutes and that I be recognized at the end of that period.

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

The Senator from New Jersey.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from North Dakota for enabling me to make some remarks about the war and where things are as we see them.

It has been more than a month since we were last together in the Senate. While we were out of session, the war in Iraq continued to rage. We in the Congress had the pleasure of going home to our families, our friends, familiar circumstances and surroundings. Our troops in Iraq, however, didn't have that opportunity while we were off, so to speak, for almost 6 weeks. Everyone knows that we did work at home, but we were in familiar, safe territory. The troops were in harm's way, trying to bring order to a country in absolute chaos.

Tragically, many of our people there did not survive since the Senate was last in session. During the recess, America lost 157 brave men and women in combat, 146 in Iraq and 11 in Afghanistan, and 649 were seriously wounded. Most of us have been to Walter Reed and the naval hospital in Bethesda and had opportunities to talk to some of those people who are so seriously wounded, some limbless, some sightless. Their pain goes way beyond that which is directly part of their wound; their pain goes on for the rest of their lives.

Now here we are, almost at Thanksgiving. Americans are looking forward to sharing a holiday with family and friends. But in this season of giving and cheer, we have to find a serious way to give some cheer, some recognition for the sacrifices of our soldiers. Outside my office, I have found a way to express thanks to them. We have established a photographic display of those who have lost their lives. It is called the ''Faces of the Fallen.'' It is visited daily by tourists and others who search the gallery for people they may have known from a hometown or region.

Today I offer another way to honor our courageous men and women. I am going to place the names and hometowns of the 157 troops that we lost since the Senate was last in session in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Too often when we talk about our fallen troops, they become faceless, if it is not your family, statistics, but we don't want that anymore. We want to recognize, and the American people want to recognize, what is really happening to the fathers, mothers, sisters, and children. They are our children, and many have children of their own.

Among those who perished are PFC Donald S. Brown, 19 years of age, from Succasunna, NJ. I attended his wake 2 weeks ago, met with his family, and LCpl Christopher B. Cosgrove III of Cedar Knolls, NJ. There are many more New Jerseyans who have perished there. The number is almost 80 now. We look around, and they are from States across the country. Almost every State has seen the loss of a former resident, someone with roots in that State:

SGT Bryan Burgess of Garden City, MI;
SGT Courtland A. Kennard of Starkville, MS;
CWO Miles P. Henderson of Amarillo, TX;
CPL Kyle W. Powell of Colorado Springs, CO;
SPC James L. Bridges of Buhl, ID;
LTC Paul J. Finken of Mason City, IA;
LCpl James Brown of Owensville, IN;
SSG Jason D. Whitehouse of Phoenix, AZ;
PFC Jason Franco of Corona, CA;
SGT Luke J. Zimmerman of Luxemburg, WI;
SGT Thomas M. Gilbert of Downers Grove, IL;
SPC Nicholas K. Rogers of Deltona, FL;
MAJ David G. Taylor of Apex, NC;
LCpl Eric W. Herzberg of Severna Park, MD;
CPL Joshua C. Watkins of Jacksonville, FL;
SSG Patrick O. Barlow of Greensboro, NC;
CPL David M. Unger of Leavenworth, KS;
SGT Norman R. Taylor of Blythe, CA;
SSG Garth D. Sizemore of Mount Sterling, KY;
2LT Joshua L. Booth of Fiskdale, MA;
PFC Keith J. Moore of San Francisco, CA; and
1SG Charles M. King of Mobile, AL.

There are too many more to read them all now.

I ask unanimous consent that a full list of the 157 persons be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FALLEN HEROES DURING THE SENATE RECESS

Sergeant Bryan Burgess, of Garden City, Michigan
Sergeant First Class Rudy A. Salcido, of Ontario, California
Sergeant Courtland A. Kennard, of Starkville, Mississippi
Staff Sergeant Gregory W.G. McCoy, of Webberville, Michigan
Staff Sergeant Richwell A. Doria, of San Diego, California
Lance Corporal Ryan T. McCaughn, of Manchester, New Hampshire

Sergeant Lucas T. White, of Moses Lake, Washington
Chief Warrant Officer John R. Priestner, of Pennsylvania
Chief Warrant Officer Miles P. Henderson, of Amarillo, Texas
Specialist Douglas C. Desjardins, of Mesa, Arizona
Corporal Jose A. Galvan, of San Antonio, Texas
Corporal Kyle W. Powell, of Colorado Springs, Colorado
Second Lieutenant Mark C. Gelina, of Moberly, Missouri
Specialist James L. Bridges, of Buhl, Idaho
Lieutenant Colonel Paul J. Finken, of Mason City, Iowa
Lieutenant Colonel Eric J. Kruger, of Garland, Texas
Staff Sergeant Joseph A. Gage, of Modesto, California
Lance Corporal James Brown, of Owensville, Indiana
Staff Sergeant Jason D. Whitehouse, of Phoenix, Arizona
Corporal Michael H. Lasky, of Sterling, Arkansas
Lance Corporal Luke B. Holler, of Bulverde, Texas
Private Michael P. Bridges, of Placentia, California
Lance Corporal Minhee Kim, of Ann Arbor, Michigan
Corporal Gary A. Koehler, of Ypsilanti, Michigan
Private First Class Kevin J. Ellenburg, of Middleburg, Florida
Private First Class Jason Franco, of Corona, California
Sergeant Michael R. Weidemann, of Newport, Rhode Island
Sergeant Kraig D. Foyteck, of Skokie, Illinois
Sergeant Michael T. Seeley, of Fredericton, Canada
Sergeant Kenneth E. Bostic, of Hawthorne, Nevada
Lance Corporal Troy D. Nealey, Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Sergeant Luke J. Zimmerman, Luxemburg, Wisconsin
First Sergeant Ricky L. McGinnis, Hamilton, Ohio
Private First Class Donald S. Brown, of Succasunna, New Jersey
Sergeant Thomas M. Gilbert, of Downers Grove, Illinois
Private First Class Daniel B. Chaires, of Tallahassee, Florida
Lance Corporal Jonathan B. Thornsberry, of McDowell, Kentucky
Petty Officer Second Class Charles V. Komppa, of Belgrade, Montana
First Lieutenant Amos C.R. Bock, of New Madrid, Missouri
Hospital Corpsman Charles O. Sare, of Hemet, California
Lance Corporal Richard A. Buerstetta, of Franklin, Tennessee
Lance Corporal Tyler R. Overstreet, of Gallatin, Tennessee
Specialist Carl A. Eason, of Lovelady, Texas
Specialist Nicholas K. Rogers, of Deltona, Florida
Sergeant Willsun M. Mock, of Harper, Kansas
Specialist Matthew W. Creed, of Covina, California
Specialist Nathaniel A. Aguirre, of Carrollton, Texas
Major David G. Taylor, of Apex, North Carolina
Lance Corporal Eric W. Herzberg, of Severna Park, Maryland
Sergeant First Class Tony L. Knier, of Sabinsville, Pennsylvania
Corporal Joshua C. Watkins, of Jacksonville, Florida
Lance Corporal Nicholas J. Manoukian, of Lathrup Village, Michigan
Lance Corporal Nathan R. Elrod, of Salisbury, North Carolina
Lance Corporal Clifford R. Collinsworth, of Chelsea, Michigan
Staff Sergeant Kevin M. Witte, of Beardsley, Minnesota
Lance Corporal Edwardo Lopez, Jr., of Aurora, Illinois
Staff Sergeant Patrick O. Barlow, of Greensboro, North Carolina
Sergeant First Class Daniel A. Brozovich, of Greenville, Pennsylvania
Specialist Jose R. Perez, of Ontario, California
Specialist Daniel W. Winegeart, of Kountze, Texas
Staff Sergeant Ronald L. Paulsen, of Vancouver, Washington
Staff Sergeant Jesus M. Montalvo, of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
Specialist Joseph C. Dumas, Jr., of New Orleans, Louisiana
Corporal David M. Unger, of Leavenworth, Kansas
Corporal Russell G. Culbertson III, of Amity, Pennsylvania
Second Lieutenant Christopher E. Loudon, of Brockport, Pennsylvania
Staff Sergeant Ryan E. Haupt, of Phoenix, Arizona
Sergeant Norman R. Taylor III, of Blythe, California
Petty Officer First Class Nathan J. Frigo, of Kokomo, Indiana
Staff Sergeant Garth D. Sizemore, of Mount Sterling, Kentucky
Second Lieutenant Joshua L. Booth, of Fiskdale, Massachusetts
Sergeant Lester Domenico Baroncini, Jr., of Bakersfield, California
Private First Class Stephen Bicknell, of Prattville, Alabama
First Lieutenant Joshua Deese, of Robeson County, North Carolina
Sergeant Jonathan E. Lootens, of Lyons, New York
Captain Mark C. Paine, of Rancho Cucamonga, California
Sergeant Brock A. Babb, of Evansville, Indiana
Lance Corporal Joshua M. Hines, of Olney, Illinois
Private First Class Keith J. Moore, of San Francisco, California
First Sergeant Charles M. King, of Mobile, Alabama
Staff Sergeant Joseph M. Kane, of Darby, Pennsylvania
Specialist Timothy J. Lauer, of Saegertown, Pennsylvania
Sergeant Jonathan J. Simpson, of Rockport, Texas
Airman First Class Leebenard E. Chavis, of Hampton, Virginia
Lieutenant Johnny K. Craver, of McKinney, Texas
Private First Class Kenny F. Stanton, Jr., of Hemet, California
Private First Class Thomas J. Hewett, of Tempe, Texas
Sergeant Gene A. Hawkins, of Orlando, Florida
Sergeant Justin T. Walsh, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
Captain Shane T. Adcock, of Mechanicsville, Virginia
Sergeant Nicholas R. Sowinski, of Tempe, Arizona
Lance Corporal Shelby J. Feniello, of Connellsville, Pennsylvania
Lance Corporal Derek W. Jones, of Salem, Oregon
Lance Corporal Jon Eric Bowman, of Dubach, Louisiana
Private First Class Phillip B. Williams, of Gardnerville, Nevada
Captain Robert M. Secher, of Germantown, Tennessee
Private First Class Shane R. Austin, of Edgerton, Kansas
Lance Corporal Stephen F. Johnson, of Marietta, Georgia
Sergeant Julian M. Arechaga, of Oceanside, New York
Lance Corporal Jeremy Scott Sandvick Monroe, of Chinook, Montana
Specialist Timothy Fulkerson, of Utica, Kentucky
Specialist John Edward Wood, of Humboldt, Kansas
Staff Sergeant Lawrence Parrish, of Lebanon, Missouri
Corporal Carl W. Johnson II, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Sergeant Brandon S. Asbury, of Tazewell, Virginia
Lance Corporal John Edward Hale, of Shreveport, Louisiana
Corporal Bradford H. Payne, of Montgomery, Alabama
Corporal Nicholas A. Arvanitis, of Salem, New Hampshire
Corporal Benjamin S. Rosales, of Honston, Texas
Lance Corporal Edward M. Garvin, of Malden, Massachusetts
Staff Sergeant Christopher O. Moudry, of Baltimore, Maryland
Specialist George R. Obourn Jr., of Creve Coeur, Illinois
Specialist Timothy Burke, of Hollywood, Florida
Private First Class Dean Bright, of Roseburg, Oregon
Staff Sergeant Jonathan Rojas, of Hammond, Indiana
Staff Sergeant Daniel Isshak, of Alta Loma, California
Sergeant Joseph W. Perry, of Alpine, California
Corporal Michael K. Oremus, of Highland, New York
Specialist Justin R. Jarrett, of Jonesboro, Georgia
Staff Sergeant James D. Ellis, of Valdosta, Georgia
Specialist Raymond S. Armijo, of Phoenix, Arizona
Specialist Kristofer C. Walker, of Creve Coeur, Illinois
Private First Class Satieon V. Greenlee, of Pendleton, South Carolina
Staff Sergeant Joe A. Narvaez, of San Antonio, Texas
Sergeant Denise A. Lannaman, of Bayside, New York
Sergeant Mario Nelson, of Brooklyn, New York
Sergeant Chase A. Haag, of Portland, Oregon
Captain Justin D. Peterson, of Davisburg, Michigan
Lance Corporal Christopher B. Cosgrove III, of Cedar Knolls, New Jersey
Corporal Aaron L. Seal, of Elkhart, Indiana
Corporal Luis E. Tejeda, of Huntington Park, California
Sergeant Kampha B. Sourivong, of Iowa City, Iowa
Sergeant First Class Scott E. Nisely, of Marshalltown, Iowa
Corporal Robert Weber, of Cincinnati, Ohio
Petty Officer Second Class Michael A. Monsoor, of Garden Grove, California
Private First Class Christopher T. Blaney, of Winter Park, Florida
Sergeant Charles J. McClain, of Fort Riley, Kansas
Private First Class Alex Oceguera, of San Bernardino, California
Major Douglas E. Sloan, of Charlevoix, Michigan
Specialist Isaiah Calloway, of Jacksonville, Florida

Staff Sergeant Kyu H. Chay, of Fayetteville, North Carolina
Private Michael V. Bailey, of Waldorf, Maryland
Specialist Jason A. Lucas, of Columbus, Ohio
Chief Warrant Officer Scott W. Dyer, of Cocoa Beach, Florida
Specialist Fernando D. Robinson, of Hawthorne, California
Angelo J. Vaccaro, of Deltooa Florida

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I want their families to know that they can find their names in the permanent RECORD. Around many dinner tables across the Nation this Thanksgiving, the conversation will no doubt turn to the Iraq war. By this Thanksgiving, we will have been at war in Iraq as long as we were in World War II. I served in that war for almost 3 years. By reading these names today, my hope is that the dinner table conversations will discuss our foreign policy and the reasons that we are there, the reasons that they think put us there. I would ask them to contact their Senators, Representatives in Washington with views and questions that are on their minds.

Think about it. There are proposals now from outstanding leaders in this body suggesting that we need more troops than we have there, when it is the desire of most of us to get out of there. We can argue about timetables and should we have timetables, but we know this: we want our people home. It is shocking to hear suggestions that maybe we ought to be—not maybe, that we ought to be sending more troops. Where were those suggestions when General Shinseki, a very high ranking chief of the Army, said to the Pentagon, to the President, to the American people that we ought to have at least 300,000 people on the ground there? Why, then, if this war was planned properly, didn't we respect the opinions of so many senior officers in the military who said we needed more and were denied?

When we hear pleas that say put more troops there, I, for one—I am sure colleagues of mine feel the same way—don't know where they are going to get them. We are stretched thin now. So I think it is a fairly arbitrary suggestion, unless there is a plan accompanying it that says whatever we do, this is what we intend to do. I don't want to get into that argument about timetables, and cut and run. No, stay and die. Is that the alternative that we are talking about? No.

I don't want us to leave in a fashion that negates some of the sacrifices that have been made, but we are now being left alone as other countries pull out the few people who were there as part of a coalition which never really materialized. We want a plan. We want some idea as to what the President, the administration thinks about when we can start to look ahead, think more about it from this side, from the American side, and not have some false hopes, dismal hopes that we are going to be able to stay there and correct this situation without telling the American people, without telling the Congress that some program has to be presented that says we will not stay there forever. The price is far too costly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR FARMERS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to say to my colleagues, I hope very much we are able to find some accommodation to work out the situation. I stand ready to try to resolve this matter. I did it yesterday. I withdrew an amendment with the assurance that we would go to the Agriculture appropriations bill today. I really expected that commitment would be kept. I don't know how else this place can run but on the good faith of Members. I did my best to accommodate colleagues yesterday and did so on the assurance, both public and private, that we would go to the Agriculture appropriations bill so we could have a vote—we could have a series of votes, if necessary—on the question of whether we are going to provide disaster assistance to farmers who have been hit by drought, flooding, and other natural disasters, something we have done routinely in the past, frankly, at far greater cost.

One of my colleagues asked me yesterday: How does this compare to disaster bills of the past? We looked it up. One year we had a disaster bill of $16 billion, natural disaster. Another bill, another year it was $14 billion.

This is $4 billion for 2 years. This is not some outsized disaster assistance legislation; it is barebones. We recall that the bill that passed earlier was in the $6 billion range, when I had earlier offered $6.7 billion. We are down to $4.5 billion, as we have taken out things the White House said they would object to. We took out the energy provisions, for a savings of $1.8 billion. We stripped out some of the support for small businesses, for a savings of $215 million. We did add steps to reduce the cost in response to complaints from the administration. We now have it stripped down to the barebones, $4.5 billion for 2 years.

Mr. President, I thank very much those who have tried to work things out. I look forward to further discussions.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, in line with the agreement we had reached yesterday, I now ask unanimous consent that we proceed to the Agriculture appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator, I object.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I know this is not necessarily the position of the occupant of the chair. He is being asked to do that on behalf of the other side. I regret that very much because we had what was to me a very clear understanding yesterday. It was very clear. We were going to go to the Agriculture appropriations bill today. I was to be given the right to offer my amendment. All other Senators would have their rights respected with respect to that bill. That meant they could call for a supermajority vote. They could try to invoke rule XVI. We were prepared to deal with any of those contingencies.

I must say that this action leaves us with very little choice but to now object to proceeding to other matters. If good faith means something in this Chamber, that means commitments are kept. I regret very much that we find ourselves in this circumstance. The commitment made to me yesterday was very clear, both public and private. We were going to go to the Agriculture appropriations bill today. We were going to have a chance to vote. It is not exactly a novel idea here that we vote. People have a chance to win or lose. That is what I am asking for. That is what I was assured yesterday would happen today.

So, again, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to the Agriculture appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator, I object.

Mr. CONRAD. Objection is clearly heard. Again, I regret that very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN, is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my colleague has sought unanimous consent to bring up the Agriculture appropriations bill. I recognize, and I know he recognizes, that we don't have the power of scheduling in the Senate. That is the basis of that request. Those who observe the process of legislating might wonder sometimes, if you are not doing anything, why are you not doing something?

Clearly we are not doing anything at the moment. We have no business pending. We are attempting to do a piece of legislation dealing with the agricultural disaster for family farmers who suffered weather-related disasters. That is on the basis of the discussion yesterday, where the leader of the Senate wanted to finish the Military Construction bill, and my colleague, Senator CONRAD, withdrew his amendment dealing with farm disaster help in order to allow that bill to be completed yesterday. So the assumption was, with the back-and-forth my colleague read from the RECORD, that we would have the opportunity today for my colleague to offer an amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill because the assumption and intent was to bring up the Agriculture appropriations bill first thing today. That has not been the case.

We came into session at 2:15, I believe, and we essentially are doing nothing. So someone watching these proceedings might want to ask the question: If you are not doing anything, why aren't you doing something? Are you not doing anything because there is nothing to do?

That is not the case. We are not doing anything, despite the fact that there are things to be done, because people object to doing things. That is a strange situation. What should be done? The Agriculture appropriations bill should be brought to the floor. That was the intention yesterday.

That bill is one I worked on last spring. I am a member of that agriculture appropriations subcommittee. I offered an amendment that my colleague Senator CONRAD and many others worked on on a bipartisan basis. That amendment, dealing with farm disaster aid to farmers, was agreed to. It went through the entire process. But the bill has not been brought to the floor. It needs to be modified now because we have had a devastating drought in the middle of 2006. My colleague would modify, with his amendment, the original amendment and provide the disaster aid we want to provide to family farmers.

This is not some notion out of left field. It is what this country has always done. If you have a devastating drought—and tens of thousands of farmers have seen their crops dry up in the field, and they have lost everything—the Congress has always said: We want to help you.

It is interesting to me that we go all over the world helping. I am proud that our country is there to say we want to help. But what about here at home, in the middle of our country, in the northern Great Plains in North Dakota, where farmers and ranchers had to sell their entire herds because there was nothing to eat? You cannot run a farm and you cannot keep a cow if you don't have feed. What about those folks who lost everything? Do we want to help them? I think so. It is what we have always done. But we have been blocked from bringing it to the floor of the Senate. We have things to do right now, and yet we are doing nothing because we have people blocking the attempt to bring up legislation we should be working on.

So my colleague, Senator CONRAD, asked unanimous consent to go to the Agriculture appropriations bill, which we thought we were going to as of yesterday, and we believed that was the intent. If we cannot reach an agreement on that, let me ask consent of a different nature. My understanding today was they could not go to the Agriculture appropriations bill, or would not, or whatever, and they wanted to go to the India nuclear agreement.

Let me ask this: I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to the Agriculture appropriations bill pending the disposition of the Indian nuclear agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator, I object.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the point is to say the following: We are not doing anything at this moment. There is much work to be done, some of it very important. We have a lot of farm families wondering: Will we be able to have money to run our farms, for spring planting, or are we going to be told by our bankers and lenders that we cannot continue?

There is an urgency to this. If it cannot be the case that we move to that this afternoon, then OK. If it is the case that there are objections to moving to the Agriculture appropriations bill today and someone says let's bring up the India nuclear deal, the question I raise is, Can we get an agreement following that, so that we have certainty? We are not asking for the Moon here. All we are asking for is certainty to be able to bring to the floor of the Senate and to have a vote on a disaster relief package that is supported by almost three-fourths of the Senate.

My hope is that the majority leader and others will agree with us that we need to find a time. Perhaps the time cannot be today. Can it be at a future date? As my colleague indicated, the Presiding Officer is constrained to object on behalf of the majority leader. I understand that. That may not even be his position. I know he has farmers and agricultural folks in his State as well. My hope is that, with the cooperation of the majority leader, we can lock in a determination of when we have business on the floor of the Senate that will allow Senator CONRAD and I and others to offer the amendment to provide disaster aid. That is what we are asking.

This is not a puzzle for which there is no solution. This is very simple. We just need to understand, will there be an attempt to continue to block this or will there be an obvious opportunity for us to offer the amendment? If there is an opportunity, at that point I think we can lock in a time. My colleague, Senator CONRAD, and I and others would be satisfied with that and we would know we will get to the point to pass this for the farmers in the Senate. That would be an enormous and beneficial thing to do on behalf of thousands of families who work very hard in this country. They get up in the morning and do chores. We don't use the term ''do chores'' around here. Nobody does chores in the Senate; that is, getting up in the morning, feeding cattle, dealing with the hogs, chickens, and the horses—doing chores. These are people who work very hard. I think it is important for us to recognize that this devastating drought hurt a lot of families very badly. We helped those families as a result of the loss of crops in the Gulf of Mexico as a result of Hurricane Katrina. I am pleased we did that. We should not limit help in the form of disaster aid to just those folks who lost crops due to a disaster named ''Hurricane Katrina.'' That is the point we are making.

I regret that we have not been able to get consent. My colleague has indicated—and I join him—that he would be constrained to object to moving on other issues until we get an agreement. When we get an agreement on when we are going to be able to vote on this amendment, at that point, then we can move on.

I yield the floor.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NUTRITION SERVICES TO OLDER AMERICANS

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6326, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6326) to clarify the provision of nutrition services to older Americans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6326) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I have agreed to have these matters resolved because they are urgent matters, and I certainly didn't want to in any way impede action on those items that are absolutely essential.

I would very much like to resolve this matter so that the commitments that were made to me yesterday, both privately and publicly, be kept and we can move on. But I was assured yesterday that if I would take down my amendment, we would then go to the Agriculture appropriations bill today so that the amendment could be offered on that bill, with all Senators' rights reserved.

That was fair. I did it in good faith. But it is not to me good faith to have commitments made and then not kept. So I find myself in the situation where I have no alternative but to object to other business being done until and unless the commitment that was made to

me is kept. That is why we are in this situation. I regret it. I wish we weren't in this situation. But I have been here 20 years, and I have complete respect for other Senators having the right to raise their objections. They can raise rule XVI. We believe our amendment has been drafted in a way that rule XVI will not apply. They can raise a budget point of order. That is completely fair. That is within any Senator's right. I certainly respect that. That would face then a supermajority vote. But we have been trying for months just to get a vote, and I think we have come to the point now where I was assured publicly and privately that it would happen today. That is why I am insisting on that commitment being kept.

I want to say once again, the issue is how we deal with natural disasters. I have proposed that we budget for natural disasters. At least we could look back historically. We know that on average we spend about $8 billion a year on natural disasters. Perhaps that is what we should do, budget that amount. The problem is, none of us can predict very well what natural disasters are going to occur. Obviously, no one knows when a hurricane is going to hit or a flood or a drought. So historically the approach has been not to budget for natural disasters but to consider them outside of the budget on an emergency basis, and that has been done the entire time I have been in the Senate. I don't necessarily think it is the best way or the only way, but it has been the way. There was no disaster assistance last year. There is no disaster assistance this year for those outside the gulf region. We certainly appreciate that they suffered by far the worst calamity, and I supported generous help to them. But there were others hit by natural disaster as well.

In my State last year, there were 1 million acres prevented from even being planted. Another 600,000 acres were subsequently drowned out, even though they were planted, by the worst flooding we have ever seen. I flew over southeastern North Dakota and it looked like Lake Agassi, which used to exist thousands of years ago, was reforming. I was on a plane and as far as the eye could see, there was water. I earlier referenced this letter from a young farm family telling me how devastating it was to them that they lost $120,000 and now this year, the irony of ironies, suffering the worst drought since the 1930s. In fact, the drought monitor, which is the scientific analysis of drought, said the drought that has been suffered in the heartland of the country is the third worst in our Nation's history.

I was on farm after farm that looked like moonscapes. There was nothing growing. Nothing. It was the 4th of July. Corn is supposed to be knee high by the 4th of July. Well, the corn wasn't as high as your shoelaces. I was even on irrigated ground and I saw irrigated corn and the ears hadn't filled out because of the extreme heat. One day in my hometown of Bismarck, ND, it was 112 degrees. I am not talking about the heat index; I am talking about the actual temperature. This isn't restricted to my home State of North Dakota. South Dakota was even harder hit. The two Senators from that State, a Republican and Democrat, are cosponsors of this legislation. The Senators from Minnesota, a Republican and a Democrat, are cosponsors of this legislation. The Senators from Montana, a Republican and a Democrat, are cosponsors of this legislation. The Senators from Nebraska, a Republican and a Democrat, are cosponsors of this legislation. The Senator from Kansas, Senator ROBERTS from Kansas, the former chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, is a cosponsor of this legislation. Senator HUTCHISON of Texas is a cosponsor of this legislation. All of them have been hit by devastating drought this year.

What does this bill do? It provides bare-bones assistance to these farmers. The cost is $4.5 billion over 2 years—over 2 years. So it averages about $2 billion a year. I will just put that in an historic context. In 2000 and 2001, we had disaster assistance bills that cost 1 year over $11 billion and in another year over $14 billion. This is a fraction of those. The White House objected to my earlier provisions that included something my southern colleagues asked for—I didn't ask for it, my southern colleagues asked for it—and it passed in the appropriations bill. It was in the previous supplemental that passed the Senate overwhelmingly. But the administration said: No, take that out, because you could be helping somebody not affected by a natural disaster. So we took it out and saved $1.8 billion. We took out $250 million of the assistance for small businesses that have been affected. I have spray pilots who have been completely wiped out. They had no business this year. They can't have business when there is no crop to spray. We took that out. We have made adjustment after adjustment to answer the legitimate complaints of colleagues and the administration.

But now we are in a situation where we need to have a vote and have the will of the Chamber expressed. Do they support this or do they not? These farmers deserve at least that. They at least deserve to know: Are they going to have a fair fighting chance for next year?

I would say to those who might be listening: Earlier this year I had 12 independent bankers in my office when the President's chief economic adviser came to see me on another issue. I asked him to step in the conference room to listen for a few moments to these independent bankers from all across every corner of the State of North Dakota, and they told Mr. Hubbard, unless there is assistance forthcoming, there will be a loss of 5 to 10 percent of their clients. They told him that 5 to 10 percent of the farmers and ranchers in North Dakota will be forced off the land and out of business. They will be done.

That is why Senator DORGAN and I are here with such tenacity, because we are representing the economic lives of tens of thousands of farm families—thousands in North Dakota, but also thousands more in Minnesota, in Montana, in South Dakota, in Nebraska. Our colleagues from those States have come repeatedly to the floor with us to make this point. We have 26 cosponsors of this bill—26—lots of Republicans, lots of Democrats, whose constituents have been similarly devastated by natural disaster. Always in the past there has been a response and, frankly, generally far more generous than this assistance. But these people have not gotten the media attention. It is not like the kind of disaster where the national media focuses, such as a Katrina or Hurricane Rita, or some other devastation. But, in many ways, this is a slow-motion disaster. This is a disaster that unfolded over many days and many weeks and even months no less devastating, but it didn't get the media attention.

I implore my colleagues to give us a chance to vote. That is all we are asking for. We absolutely understand that Senators have a right to vote against it. They have a right to bring a budget point of order. They have a right to raise rule XVI. I don't think it applies here, but they certainly have the right to do it, and to give us a vote. That is what was promised us yesterday. That is why I withdrew the amendment yesterday to let business proceed. But I only did it on the basis that we would be given that opportunity today.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair for listening and I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, first, thanks to my colleague who states well the reasons we are on the floor. I think we have said most of what needs to be said in support of those farm families who have struggled and who have been hit and devastated with something they could not have envisioned: a natural disaster, drought and flood in both cases in our State in successive years.

I mentioned earlier this is not unusual. Traditionally in our country when family farmers have been hit with a tough blow, this country has said: You are not alone. We want to help you. And we have passed some kind of disaster legislation. We have provided some kind of help to those families. They are the ones who live out on the farm alone. It is a tough life.

I was looking back yesterday at 70 years ago in our region, first in South Dakota and next in North Dakota, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt did a train trip and it was a drought tour. On that drought tour he went out to say to people: I want to see what is happening out here and I want to tell you we are going to help. That was 70 years ago. This isn't new. We are not asking for

something that has not been done before. It is something that has always been done.

The President has threatened to veto agricultural disaster aid when it has passed the Senate twice before. There were amendments I added in the Senate Appropriations Committee providing disaster help for farmers. It proceeded through the Senate. It went to conference. I was a conferee. The President threatened the veto and he got the House conferees to resist it and knock it out.

We asked the President to do a drought tour, to go out and see the middle part of the country. Go to the Northern Great Plains, the epicenter of drought, and take a look at ground that is not growing anything. It is just bare ground where crops used to exist. The President was not able to do that.

I want to quote Franklin Delano Roosevelt who 70 years ago on a train did do that drought tour. Here is what he said in Huron, SD, from the back platform of a train. The drought inspection trip was the occasion for Franklin Delano Roosevelt to be on the back platform of a train, speaking to the citizens of Huron, SD, and the family farmers in the surrounding area. He said:

> No city in an agricultural country can exist unless the farms are prosperous. We have to cooperate with one another rather than trying to buck one another. I have come out here to find you with your chins up, looking toward the future with confidence and courage. I am grateful for the attitude you are taking out here. As I said, it is a question of working together.

Then he was in Devils Lake, ND, on his train trip. He said:

> Today out here I don't ask you to have courage and faith. You have it. You have demonstrated that through a good many years. I am asking, however, that you keep up that courage and especially keep up that faith. If it is possible for government to improve conditions, government will do it.

That is Franklin Delano Roosevelt 70 years ago. He said:

> I assure you, the interests of these communities are very close to my heart. I won't forget the day I have spent with you. We hope that nature is going to open up the heavens. When I came out on the platform this morning, I saw a rather dark cloud and I said to myself, Maybe it is going to rain, but it didn't. All I can say is I hope to goodness it is going to rain good and plenty.

He said:

> I will tell you, my friends, I am not going to let up until I can give my best service to solving these problems.

Seventy years ago Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a man who knew family farmers, a man who knew America's workers, got on the train and went to take a look at what had happened, at the suffering in the Northern Great Plains as a result of that drought and said: We are going to help.

This is not new. My colleague Senator CONRAD and I are not asking for something that hasn't been done. In fact, in more modern times, the agriculture bill, known as the farm bill, has always included, until the recent decade or so, a provision called the disaster title that could be triggered when there was a disaster. That is not the case now. So each year we have to come to the Senate to ask for a separate disaster aid package, to try to reach out and help those who otherwise are going to be thrown off the farm and told they can't continue. Is it their fault? No, it is not their fault. Bad managers? No, not bad managers. Spend too much? No. It was a drought that came and destroyed everything they had, and where, in some parts of the country, a flood came and wiped out everything that existed on their farm. It is not their fault. It is the best of this country then to reach out and say: We want to help you. We think you are important to this country.

I mentioned yesterday a fellow named Rodney Nelson from my State who writes prose. He is a cowboy poet. He lives near Almont, ND, and he wrote a piece once that I have not forgotten. He asked in that piece: What is it worth? I think it is important for us to ask the question, What is it worth? What is it worth to have a kid who knows how to weld a seam? What is it worth to have a kid who knows how to work livestock? What is it worth to have a kid who knows how to grease a combine? What is it worth to have a kid who knows how to fix a tractor? What is it worth to have a kid who knows how to build a lean-to? What is it worth to have a kid who knows how to teach a newborn calf how to suck milk out of a bucket? What is all that worth? What is it worth to have a kid who knows how to plow a straight line?

There is only one university in America, only one, where they teach all those skills, and that is the family farm. Some people say it doesn't matter. It does to us. That is why we are here. This is not about a handout. It is about a helping hand during a time of trouble, during a drought and a flood. It is the best of what this country can do, and it is what this country should do. I hope, before this day is out, we will have an agreement by which we will have an opportunity to offer this amendment, get a vote on this amendment, after which clearly it will pass the Senate, and we will be on the way to getting this to the President.

My hope is that the President will not block it. He previously said he would veto legislation such as this, but I think, since he said that, things have changed. My hope is that he will recognize that change.

There has been a lot of discussion about change in this country in recent days, particularly in the last week. Change has a lot of meaning to it. Change is a word that we hope the President will embrace with respect to this issue. Twice previously he has blocked disaster aid for farmers who suffered a disaster as a result of weather-related problems. Twice previously he has blocked it. We hope he recognizes the change necessary to decide that now we need to help those family farmers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I make a point of order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we have been talking about these disasters of 2005 and 2006. I thought maybe it would be helpful to show a picture of what we are talking about.

This is last year in North Dakota, the Southeastern part of the State. You can see the massive flooding. There is water everywhere. Only the farmhouse that is surrounded by sandbags is dry—and part of the barn. This was seen all across North Dakota last year.

Now, this year, there is an incredible change. This is what we saw this year. This is the most wicked drought I have ever seen in my life. This is a cornfield in my home county. The corn should have been 2 to 2½ feet high. You can see there is nothing here that is going to produce anything. This gentleman standing there, we asked him to be in the picture to give perspective. It is similar to a moonscape. We saw this all over western South Dakota. Nothing grew.

I told the story earlier of being on a farm south of Bismarck with irrigated corn—160 acres of irrigated corn. We took the ears off the corn and stripped them and about every third row of kernels was gone. There was nothing there.

I said to the farmer: How does this happen with irrigated corn?

He said: Kent, remember, last Sunday alone it was 112 degrees here. It was so hot, so intensely hot, that the kernels couldn't form.

This is the Drought Monitor. This is actually a publication by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that shows the severity of drought. Let me point out this is a scientifically designed survey. It focuses on broad-scale conditions. The yellow is abnormally dry; the tan is drought that is moderate; the darker tan is drought that is severe; the red is drought that is extreme; and the dark brown is drought that is exceptional. Those are the gradations. From abnormally dry in yellow, to light tan, moderate drought, the darker tan severe drought, the red is extreme drought, and the brown is exceptional drought.

Look at my State. North and South Dakota—exceptional drought, extreme drought, severe drought. The whole State in drought.

It was not just North Dakota. You can see Minnesota, a very big swatch here of extreme drought.

Over into Montana. As I said, South Dakota, Nebraska—right down the center of the country, Kansas, over into

Colorado, over into Wyoming, down into Texas and Oklahoma. These are States, all of which have had drought conditions and quite severe drought conditions.

The disaster assistance that we are seeking has been endorsed by all of these farm groups—34 different farm groups saying that we need drought assistance and we need it now, everything from the National Farmers Union to the Barley Growers, the Cotton Council, the Wheat Growers, the Peanut Producers, the Farm Credit Council, the Soybean Growers, the Sheep Industry, the American Farm Bureau—all of them saying:

> We urge you to schedule a vote before the October recess on emergency agriculture disaster assistance legislation.

They were asking for it to be done before the October recess. And it is not just the farm groups, but it is also the agriculture commissioners from around the country. Here is what they said in a letter to the Senate back in September:

> The State Commissioners, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Directors of Agriculture of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture urge you to support emergency disaster assistance legislation for farmers and ranchers suffering losses and damages in 2005 and 2006.
>
> NASDA believes that emergency agriculture disaster assistance is a high priority requiring action by Congress this year.

This year is swiftly running out. They went on to say:

> While there are risk management programs such as crop insurance, disaster loans, and emergency grazing, the relief needed greatly exceeds the levels these programs can provide.

Some of my colleagues have said: Doesn't crop insurance cover this? No, crop insurance doesn't cover it. Why not? Because crop insurance is not designed for repeated loss. It is designed for periodic loss. That is what most insurance is designed for. Fire insurance on your home is not designed to deal with a situation in which your house burns down every year. What we have is a situation in which we have had repeated different disasters—flood last year, drought this year—a bizarre set of circumstances. But crop insurance is not designed for that kind of situation. With crop insurance, what happens when you have repeated disasters, the way the formula works is your coverage level diminishes automatically so that if you have had repeated losses, crop insurance does not provide much assistance. That is the hard reality. That is the way it works.

Some have said: Gee, we ought to fix that. Well, that is a good idea, but that is the way it works right now. So if you do not have a disaster program to offset some of these losses, you wash people right out of business. And that is what is going to happen, not just in my State but right down the center of the country. That is why you see these farm organizations coming forward—those that are Republican oriented, those that are Democratically oriented, unanimously saying this is needed. That is why you hear the agriculture commissioners and the secretaries of agriculture of the States together, in unison: This is needed.

I respect those who say: I am against that. My State is not affected. I will oppose it. They have a right to oppose it. They have a right to come and vote against it. But it seems to me it is only fair that people at least be given a vote. Let's let the body here work its will. If somebody wants to say there is a budget point of order against this, that is fair. You can have a budget point of order and require more than 60 votes to pass. I respect anybody offering that.

I respect somebody saying rule XVI ought to apply. We have been to the Parliamentarian. Rule XVI doesn't apply because this is on an agriculture bill, it is agricultural disaster, so we are told rule XVI does not apply. There are other ways of writing this to further assure rule XVI does not apply.

I say to my colleagues, a commitment was made, publicly and privately, that we are going to go to the agriculture disaster bill today. Today is here. Today is fast fleeting. In fact, as I look out the door there toward the direction of the Supreme Court of the United States, I can see the dusk is falling.

I know the Senate often does its work at night. I have never quite understood that, I say to the occupant of the chair, but for some reason this place often doesn't get around to voting. I think it is because Senators have appointments all afternoon. The reality of the work is they are in committees all morning and they have appointments every 15 minutes or every 30 minutes all afternoon, so by the time they get to come and offer their amendments and offer legislation, it is often in the evening. But the evening is fast approaching, and I hope, I say to my colleagues, I hope we have a chance to vote. Let's give these farm families at least an indication of where they stand. Is there going to be assistance forthcoming or not?

Some have said it is fiscally irresponsible. I understand there is an editorial in the Wall Street Journal, criticizing me, saying I am known as somebody who wants to see a return to fiscal responsibility and yet I am offering this amendment.

That is true. I think one of the greatest threats to this country is the massive debt we are accumulating. I am extremely worried about it. But I also know the Government has an obligation to help those who are affected by natural disasters. This is a very modest package, $4 billion over 2 years. In 2000 and 2001 we had disaster assistance programs that were approaching more than $10 billion: $14.8 billion 1 year and $11 billion in the next.

This is a very tightly written, constrained disaster relief program in which we have responded to the criticisms leveled by the administration by taking out those things to which they objected.

I will conclude with this thought.

Agriculture is far under the projections that were made for its costs when the farm bill was written in 2002. Agriculture is below by about $15 billion what was projected at the time the farm bill was written. Some have said the farm bill was a huge increase over the previous farm bill. No. What they are missing is if you combine the disaster assistance and the farm legislation with previous bills and compare it to what we are doing now, spending is not up; it is down and down significantly.

As I have indicated, we are $15 billion below what the projections were when the farm bill was written.

That is the circumstance we face.

I have very much riveted in my mind the drought tour we took earlier this year with the leaders of our State going from community to community listening to farm families describe the magnitude of the disaster facing them. I remember being in one farm yard and having one of the most respected farmers in our State take me aside, and say: KENT, this is my last year. I can't continue.

This is a man who has won virtually every farm award in the State of North Dakota. He said to me: You know my family has been on the land for over 100 years in North Dakota. We have a ''legacy farm.'' But we have not had a normal crop in 5 years.

This is in the Red River Valley of North Dakota.

When I grew up, my grandfather would drive through and say: There has never been a crop failure in the Red River Valley. It is the richest farmland in the world outside of the Nile Valley. In the Red River Valley of North Dakota, until the last 6 or 7 years, there has never been a crop failure. We have had the most bizarre set of weather events of my lifetime. We had 18 inches of rain in 24 hours in a town in the Red River Valley, in an area that only gets 18 inches of rain a year. Two years later, they had 14 inches of rain in 24 hours.

We have a lake called Devils Lake that has gone up 26 feet in the last 9 years. This lake is now three times the size of the District of Columbia.

There is something very odd going on. I don't pretend to know what it is. Some say global climate change. Some scientists who have studied it say my part of the country would be most severely affected by a global climate change, that these extremes would be made more extreme. I do not know about that. I do know that in my lifetime I have never seen anything like this.

Can you imagine a lake, a giant lake, going up 26 feet vertically in 9 years? It is an awesome thing to see 18 inches of rainfall in a town in 24 hours where the average rainfall is about that a year.

This is what has been happening. Now this incredible drought which the

Drought Monitor says is the third most extreme drought in the history of the United States. I do not know how they measure drought. I do not know how they make that determination. These are scientific experts. I trust that they know what they are doing.

I say to my colleagues that I have seen firsthand land that looks like a moonscape which would normally be lush.

These people are hanging by a thread. The question is, Do they have the chance to survive until next year or are they done? Many of them are going to be out of business. But many more will be, if there is a failure to act, if there is a failure by Congress to do what it has almost always done in the case of natural disaster, which is to provide disaster relief on an emergency basis.

We don't budget for natural disasters. There is no line item in the budget for natural disaster. Perhaps there should be, but there is none.

I, frankly, think it would be a wise thing to do. At least we could take the average for some period of time and reduce it by 25 percent and put that in so we would have some way of having additional discipline in the budget. But we don't have that. That is where we are.

Again, I hope we are able to reach some agreement today.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DEWINE be recognized for such time as he will consume and that I then be recognized following him.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 100, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 100) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

If not, without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 100) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER P. LYONS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, this afternoon I come to the Senate floor to pay tribute to Marine LCpl Christopher Lyons from Mansfield, OH. On July 28, 2005, Lance Corporal Lyons was killed when his unit encountered hostile fire in Iraq. He was only 24 years old.

Lance Corporal Lyons is survived by his wife Bethany and their daughter Ella; his mother Phyllis Lyons; his father and step-mother, Paul and Debbie Lyons; his grandmothers Irmil Humphreys and Joyce Lyons; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Christopher's family and friends remember him as an exceptional young man, someone who was always full of fun. With a quick wit and an infectious smile, his own love of life always brought happiness to those around him. Caring, selfless, loving, and extremely intelligent, Christopher had the gift of bringing out the best in everyone. He was simply the type of person who stood out in a crowd.

Christopher graduated in 1999 from Shelby High School, where he was enrolled in the Tech Prep Program at Pioneer Career and Technology Center. His vice-principal, Tim Tarvin, describes him as a ''big-hearted kid, who always wanted to do the right thing for people.''

Kevin Adkins, Christopher's youth pastor, remembers the impact that Christopher had on everyone who knew him. He said this:

As a teenager, [Christopher] was the type of man that I have always strived to be. I'm not so sure how much I actually taught him, but just by his life, alone, he has taught me volumes. As a pastor, I was both humbled and uplifted by Chris's excellence and tenacity toward life. His example will live on in the many lives (like ours) that he has touched. I hope to raise my own two sons to be of such caliber.

After completing school, Christopher became a sales representative in the advertising department at the News Journal in Mansfield, Ohio. Advertising Director Scott Miller describes him as a polite young man who always took his obligations seriously. And Tom Brennan, publisher of the News Journal, said this about him:

Christopher was an outstanding young man. He was the ultimate professional. Simply put, he was polite and positive. Any employer would have found a spot for him. The staff here will surely miss him.

Christopher's widow Bethany recalls her husband's ability to make everyone laugh and the way that he would tickle her to get her to smile. They were married in September 2003. Christopher's youth pastor remembers meeting Bethany for the first time. He remarked, ''I will always remember that I thought you two were the cutest couple I have ever seen. It would take a very special person to catch Chris's eye.''

Christopher was inspired to join the military by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. His unit was called to active duty in 2005, and Christopher was sent to California for training. In March of that same year, he was deployed to Iraq.

Months before his deployment, Christopher and Bethany became expectant parents. For Christopher, who was so devoted to his family, it was a momentous occasion, and he was so proud of a t-shirt he wore with the word ''Daddy'' on the front of it.

Christopher's daughter Ella was born while her father was serving in Iraq. Although he was overseas, Christopher was able to see his new daughter on a web camera and in the many photos that his wife and his mother sent to him. And as she grows up, Ella will have numerous emails and photos from Christopher to treasure.

Christopher regularly wrote to family and friends from Iraq. Two of these letters were sent to the News Journal in Mansfield and were published in their editorial pages. The letters told about Christopher's experience in Iraq, and what it was like to lose a sergeant in his unit during combat. ''When all is said and done,'' he wrote, ''the greatest act is when one of our own gives his or her life in service [to] our country and each other.''

This, of course, is the sacrifice that Christopher, himself, made for our Nation and for the ideals of freedom and democracy that we all hold dear. Christopher believed in his mission in Iraq. And, while paying tribute to eight of his Marine brothers who had fallen in combat, he wrote the following in one of his letters:

The Corps values of honesty, courage and commitment have served as our cornerstone as we press on to put down the insurgency and win the war on terror.

The people [in the] villages were grateful for our presence, often showing gratitude and appreciation by offering tea, blankets, or simply a smile and wave.

Seeing this reaffirms that we have a purpose working toward a greater good in this country. Honoring our fallen brothers, we will continue the fight upholding the highest standards and working to break this dark oppressive force that lingers over the Iraqi citizens.

These are very impressive words, Mr. President, from a young man who was just 24-years-old.

Christopher's widow remembers that Christopher realized he could be killed while in serving in Iraq. But, she also remembers that Christopher, after being deployed, ''saw how much good the United States was doing for Iraq.''

Christopher's first person accounts of Lima Company's heroism spread to the

families and friends of readers eager to hear from one of their own. In Greenwich, OH, Christopher's 9 year-old cousin Devin Back wrote of Christopher's heroism in a poem entitled, ''My Hero:''

My hero is my cousin, Christopher.
He is nice.
He is playful.
He is in Iraq.
My cousin is very smart.
Christopher, my cousin, is not afraid of anything.
He is cool. He is happy a lot.
He writes to us from Iraq.
He takes a lot of risks.

Christopher's aunt Gwen Gwinner remembers that he never said anything bad about anyone. And his cousin Amy Blevins remembers that he was the definition of honorable, even before he joined the Marines. Throughout his entire life, Christopher was simply the kind of person who was respectful of and considerate to everyone.

Christopher's mother describes her son as her best friend, as someone who was always ''kind, gentle, caring, compassionate, and giving.''

''People have said to me how proud I must be of him,'' she said. ''I was proud of him before he entered the military because of his integrity and his ability to let things roll off his back.''

At an early age, Phyllis taught her son the importance of honesty, hard work, and respect. Christopher used an acronym to encompass his beliefs and values. The acronym was ''WHO:'' W- for willingness—to always be willing to do what you must and what is asked of you; H- for honesty and integrity—to be honest about what and why you do what you do; and O for obedience—always obey those who have rule over you, including God first and your mother.

From boot camp and Iraq, Christopher would write his mother Phyllis to say that he would keep the faith and be alright—and that he knew ''WHO'' he was. Phyllis says it is Christopher she now turns to for comfort. ''He is now my strength and guidance,'' she said.

I am honored that I had the opportunity to meet Christopher's family and friends during a memorial in his honor, all of whom remember him as a special and unique person. He will never be forgotten by those who knew him. Christopher was an avid Scrabble player, and there was a message for him spelled out in Scrabble letters at his funeral. It read simply: ''B-E-L-O-V-E-D'' beloved.

The spirit of LCpl Christopher Lyons will never be forgotten. He had an insight into life and a sense of humor that was truly unique. He understood the importance of service, and was a man who was dedicated to family, community, and country.

My wife Fran and I continue to keep the family of LCpl Christopher Lyons in our thoughts and prayers.

MAJOR RAMON J. MENDOZA, JR.

Mr. President, I also rise today to pay tribute to Marine MAJ Ramon J. Mendoza Jr., from Columbus, OH. On November 15, 2005, Major Mendoza died from wounds that were sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was 37 years old. He is survived by his wife Karen, his daughter Kiana, and his son Aleksandr. He is also survived by his two brothers Niola and Jermaine.

The death of Major Ray Mendoza has been felt by many. He was a man considered indestructible—someone whom his friends and family describe as ''larger than life.'' His smile will always be remembered. It was huge and put everyone he met immediately at ease.

Ray was also devoted to serving his Nation and his Marines. He was dedicated, compassionate, and hard-working. His death is a loss not only for those who knew and loved him, but for our entire country.

Ray was born in Pleasantville, NJ, in 1968. He moved to Queens, NY, as a boy and graduated from John Adams High School in 1986. He then attended the prestigious Blair Academy in New Jersey for a year of study, where he was captain of the football team and a member of the wrestling team.

Many admired Ray at Blair Academy for his hard work and dedication. Bob Latessa, his former wrestling coach, remembers that ''There was no task too tall. He never got down. He never ever felt sorry for himself or felt like he couldn't do something. This is a kid that just blew everybody away. I feel lucky and privileged to have known him.''

Ray carried his tremendous work ethic and positive attitude with him to the Ohio State University, where he was a heavyweight wrestler. Coach Russ Hellickson described him as an aggressive athlete who pursued his goals with passion. ''He wasn't a guy who stood around,'' he said. Coach Hellickson will never forget the young man who was one of his star wrestlers. Ray ''forced the action and went after things,'' he recalled. ''He was a pleasure to watch. I always felt he was a very mature kid. He was committed to accomplishing what he set out to do.''

Ray lettered for the Buckeyes in 1992 and 1993 and was the Big Ten runner-up in the heavyweight division in 1993. His contributions to the Buckeyes will never be forgotten. They placed fourth in the Nation while he was there, and Ray's overtime victory against a reigning champ in the 1993 Big Ten tournament remains one of the program's most thrilling moments. Adam DiSabato, one of Ray's former teammates, remembers that Ray was the ''key ingredient'' to their team. ''He solidified our team,'' he said. ''He was the type of guy who wouldn't argue if you told him to do something that would benefit the team.''

Today, wrestlers at Ohio State remember Ray by wearing a patch bearing his name on their singlets. And during one game, the OSU football team wore a decal on their helmets in Ray's memory.

While he was attending OSU, Ray met Karen Miller, the love of his life. Karen recalls that Ray began thinking of joining the Marines soon after graduating. According to Karen, he simply felt that it was his calling. She said, ''We were married and getting set to launch a family. He said, 'I just have to do this.' It was almost like a calling to the pulpit.''

Ray completed Officer Candidate School at Quantico, VA, and entered the Marine Corps in February 1995. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in August 1995 and assigned as an infantry officer at the basic school.

While in the military, Ray continued his competitive wrestling career. He competed for the All-Marine Wrestling Team and was the Central Region Olympic Trial Greco-Roman Champion at 100 kilograms. One year, he placed second in the nation in the Armed Services National Wrestling Tournament. And in 1996, Ray was able to live the dream of millions when he became an alternate for the U.S. wrestling team at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

But Ray was much more than an incredible wrestling talent. He brought the same dedication and determination that he had displayed on the mat to his service as a Marine. In October 1997, Ray was selected for augmentation and promoted to the rank of captain. He now had a regular commission in the United States Marine Corps.

Ray was deployed to Iraq with his unit in June 2003. Upon being redeployed after combat, he assumed command of Echo Company. And on October 1, 2005, Ray was promoted to the rank of major in the operational theatre.

Ray was a true leader in the Marines who always inspired others. Courage and dedication were attributes that he repeatedly displayed. In Husayba, Iraq, Ray positioned himself at the point of attack to maneuver his platoons and attachments, without regard to his own safety. While leading from the front, Ray enabled his company to defeat several enemy strong points and allowed the battalion to maintain its initiative as it advanced through the city.

MG Richard F. Natonski said this about the service of Ray and his comrades in Iraq:

For a period of 9 days—starting November 5, 2005—Echo Company made history. Company Echo, under Mendoza's leadership, cleared over 600 buildings, found 16 weapon caches, and detained more than 300 insurgents.

Major Mendoza was truly loved by the marines under his command. SSG Boyde Allen described him as ''the best platoon commander I've ever served under.'' And, SGT David Sanchez remembers Major Mendoza's effort to get to know his marines, and how one day he took the time to ask him about his sister's wedding ceremony. ''He was really surprising,'' said Sergeant Sanchez. ''He really knew his marines.''

Ray's service to this Nation has earned him many awards, including a posthumous Bronze Star. But the awards are not what matter most. According to Ray's wife:

> Awards are great, but the most fulfilling reward I can receive and our family can receive is knowing that the Marines completed their mission. His boys finished the job.

Karen has started the Ray Mendoza Blair Wrestling Scholarship fund in her husband's memory, which will provide a financial contribution to a student-athlete attending Blair Academy. And Karen's own bravery and dedication to the Corps have been remarkable to everyone around her. ''She's a phenomenal example for all of us,'' said Judy L. Svendsen, Karen's longtime friend. ''She's always thinking of the military families, putting them first.''

Mr. President, those who knew Ray all agree that he died doing what he loved to do—and that was leading marines. ''He was always right in the friction,'' remembers 1SG Dennis J. Downing. ''He always thought his best point of view was right up there with the Marines.''

Perhaps the words of SGM Sylvester D. Daniels say it best:

> We all love Major Mendoza, make no mistake about that.

Without a doubt, Ray will continue to lead and inspire even after his passing. Karen says that she will never forget what happened shortly after receiving word that her husband had died. Her 8-year-old son, Alec, wrote a note and hung it from his bedroom door. The note read,

> Be a leader, not a follower.

I would like to conclude with words from a tribute that Ray's former wrestling coach wrote and posted on the Ohio State web site:

> Much like in the Marines, success on the wrestling mat is a consequence of the diligence and discipline that goes in to the training. Ray knew the only way to truly perform was to immerse yourself in the preparation. Do it hard, do it right, and do it relentlessly with passionate resolve.
>
> Ray put his heart and soul into every lift, every run and every match he ever wrestled for the Buckeyes. To a man, his teammates are grieving today. To know Ray, was to love him and respect him. No excuses ever! He was never absent, never late, and always ready to do his part with a smile and 100% commitment.
>
> Ray was a powerful man with a kind and caring heart. He was the ultimate team player in that he cared as much or more about you as he did about himself. Ray loved his family, he loved his fellow Marines, and he loved his wrestling Buckeyes.
>
> Ray showed us all that leadership is not a position, it is an action. Ray is my hero, too. Good bye, my friend.

My wife Fran and I will continue to keep the family and friends of Ray Mendoza in our thoughts and prayers. He was a truly outstanding marine. He was a truly outstanding human being. He will never be forgotten.

CORPORAL JEFFREY A. BOSKOVITCH

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute on the Senate floor to Marine Cpl Jeffrey Allen Boskovitch of Seven Hills, OH. Corporal Boskovitch was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, based in Brook Park, OH. He was one of six members of a sniper unit to be killed on August 1, 2005, by small-arms fire in Iraq. He was 25 years of age.

Jeff—as he was called by family and friends—lived a life that epitomized the virtues of bravery and dedication. His zest for life was both admirable and rare. He loved shooting pool with friends, bungee jumping, hot-air ballooning, and playing paint-ball. In the eyes of his young nephews, he was the ''best'' because he was so ''cool'' and because he loved the videogame HALO as much as they did. He is greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Jeff graduated from Normandy High School in 1999, where he played quarterback and wide receiver for the Invaders. Soon after graduating, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves and began studying criminal justice at Cuyahoga Community College. He graduated from the program as president of his class in 2001. At the time he was sent overseas, he was working full time as a corporate security supervisor for National City Bank and part time as a deputy with the Geauga County Sheriff.

One of Jeff's classmates, Tim Ellis, recognized his friend's natural gifts as a leader. Tim remembers how Jeff—who was in outstanding shape—would fall back in order to encourage the slower guys during their training runs. ''Hang in there,'' he would say, ''only one lap left.'' Tim wrote the following in remembrance of his friend on an Internet tribute page:

> Jeff was elected class president without asking for it or even mentioning it. He was a born leader. Jeff had a higher calling, and I will forever look up to him.

In January of 2005, Jeff followed that higher calling when his unit was deployed to Iraq. And Jeff found more than comrades in his sniper unit—he found brothers. They became a tightly knit group, so close that Jeff later declined a promotion just to be able to stay with them.

I would like to quote the words of SGT Brian Casagrande, who served with the snipers of 3–25. In a eulogy for his fallen comrade, he had this to say:

> Jeff Boskovitch was the platoon clown. He had a great sense of humor. He would often imitate other people and we loved to pick on him too. . . . He proved himself to be a valuable asset to the platoon, and was a comforting, sometimes comical voice on the other side of the handset.

Jeff loved his unit, and he loved his marines. According to his father Jim, ''He was always one to do the honorable thing.'' And in the words of his uncle Dan, Jeff ''had the biggest heart in the world. He was just a great kid.''

Jeff truly was a person who cared deeply. One example of his compassion is the story about a puppy that Jeff found in a paper bag carried by an Iraqi boy. He asked the child to sell the puppy to him for a quarter and three jellybeans. The boy agreed, and Jeff named the dog Beans. Beans became the mascot of the entire 3–25 and would help them on missions. One time, she even alerted the unit to an attempted ambush. In an e-mail to his mother, Kathy, Jeff expressed the love for his new friend with the following simple words: ''Beans is so cool.'' He sent his mother pictures of Beans, and Kathy began to raise money to bring the dog back to Ohio.

After Jeff died, Kathy embarked on a quest, a quest to bring his dog Beans home, petitioning the aid of both politicians and military officials. The story of ''Operation Beans'' was printed in newspapers in both the United States and Iraq. Three months later, after crossing the Atlantic on a military transport plane, Beans disembarked in Ohio and found Jeff's mother Kathy waiting for her. On the way home, Beans and Kathy made a stop at Jeff's final resting place.

Jeff was a young man who had a bright future before him. He was an aspiring police officer, someone willing to step forward as a role model for the entire community and for those who loved him.

Jeff was also planning a family. Days before he was killed, he spoke with his beloved fiancée, Shelly Tevis, and selected a date for their wedding. The date was to be October 14, 2006. In Shelly's words, ''Jeff just embodied wholesomeness and strength, everyone looked up to him, and we will miss him very, very much.''

Mr. President, I would like to conclude with the words of Jeff's father. This is what he said about his son:

> We're proud of him. And we look at him as a true hero—just like the other men and women who are serving in Iraq.

Indeed, the world is a better place because Jeff Boskovitch was in it. He will forever be remembered for his sincere compassion to help and serve others, for his sense of humor, and for his dedication to his friends, family, and country. He will be remembered as a devoted son, a kind brother, a beloved fiancée, and the best friend of a dog named Beans.

My wife Fran and I will continue to keep Jeff's family and friends in our thoughts and in our prayers.

LANCE CORPORAL AARON H. REED

Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today to talk about Marine LCpl Aaron Reed from Chillicothe, OH, and pay tribute to him. On August 3, 2005, Lance Corporal Reed was killed when his military vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device during combat operations in Iraq. He was only 21 years old—just 20 days shy of his 22nd birthday.

Aaron was one of the marines with Lima Company—Marine Force Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, based in Columbus, OH. Everyone knows their story, which is one that has touched hearts across this Nation. On the day

Aaron died, 13 other men in his unit—eight of them from Ohio—died alongside him. It was a tragedy that was felt by the Nation and felt by the State of Ohio.

Aaron's family and friends remember him as a quiet young man with an upbeat demeanor. His smile was truly something special. With it, he could light up an entire room. He was easy-going and social with his friends, always ready to laugh. At the same time, though, when it came time to get things done, no one worked harder than he did.

Aaron's capacity for leadership was unique, and he was active in both his church and community. His words always had a great impact on those who heard them. A 2001 graduate of Southeastern High School—where he had run both cross-country and track and field—he had been elected by his classmates to serve as senior class president. Leonard Steyer, Aaron's principal, said, ''When you're senior class president, that should tell you quite a bit about what kind of young man he was.''

Aaron was also known for his compassion. His mother Sara was active with Habitat for Humanity, and they were planning to help build a house together when Aaron returned from Iraq. In the words of Cody Elam, one of Aaron's friends from high school, Aaron ''was the kind of guy to give you the shirt off his back if you needed it.''

Aaron joined the Marines shortly after graduating. He wasn't the first member of his family to serve in the military—his older brother Matt was stationed in Kosovo at the time. According to his father, Steve, Aaron simply wanted the challenge of being a marine.

It is impossible to remember LCpl Aaron Reed without also remembering the other marines of Lima Company. The bond among these men was something we do not see every day. They were truly brothers. Because Aaron had dark hair and glasses, they nicknamed him after the fictional wizard ''Harry Potter.''

Before his death, Aaron had been promoted to team leader. According to his friend Joey Barker, Aaron was spending almost all of his spare time analyzing past missions to better prepare for the next one. But, this is simply the kind of man Aaron was—always hard-working and always willing to do his best for others.

Aaron kept in touch with his family and friends regularly while in Iraq, calling and e-mailing frequently. Aaron and his friend Joey had been playing an intense game of tic-tac-toe through the mail. Joey remembers that Aaron had been ''in one of the best moods he'd ever heard him, laughing and joking around.'' At the time, he had been in Iraq since March 2005, and was scheduled to come home in late September.

Aaron's dad's last communication from Aaron was through e-mail, a short note letting him know his son was safe. His dad still chuckles when he reads the greeting—''Hey Daddy-O,'' using the nickname he had given his father, ''nothing much going on here. Just the daily grind . . . Just thought I'd drop you a short note to let you know I was doing fine.'' And in an e-mail to his mother, Sara, Aaron wrote, ''Mom, I'm just out here doing the best I know how to do.''

It was typical of Aaron to describe his service in Iraq as ''nothing much.'' He was always willing to serve others and do so with a cheerful smile on his face.

Aaron remained positive throughout his time in Iraq. Angela Flowers had been his friend since the time they met in seventh grade, and the two wrote each other frequently during Aaron's deployment. Aaron called when he was able, and Angela remembers the last time they talked. ''He was extremely optimistic and positive,'' she said. ''He was still the same old Reed.''

Hundreds of mourners gathered at Aaron's funeral to pay their respects. Family and friends talked about Aaron the jokester, Aaron the faithful friend, and Aaron the steadfast teammate. They also laughed and told funny tales about joy riding and the typical teenage pranks that Aaron had played.

They also spoke of Aaron's faith in God. Aaron was wearing a cross around his neck when he died. It was recovered and returned to his mother Sara. She wears that cross every day.

At his funeral, Aaron's friend Joey played guitar and sang one of Aaron's favorite songs: ''The Dance,'' by Garth Brooks. ''We all loved Aaron, and Aaron loved all of us,'' Joey said. ''He left this world much better than he found it.''

Aaron had big plans for his life. He was planning to attend college when he returned from Iraq. He loved to write, and his father believes Aaron would have become an excellent writer. ''He had the heart of a poet,'' his father said. ''And he wrote some very good things.''

Aaron will never be forgotten. A memorial scholarship has been established in his honor. Family, friends, community members, and complete strangers gave willingly and generously. Almost $25,000 has been raised, and the first scholarship of $1,000 was granted last spring to a graduating Southeastern senior.

Aaron's mother Sara also worked to build a Habitat house in his honor and in the honor of Army SPC Gavin Colburn, another Ohioan from Aaron's hometown who also lost his life serving in Iraq. Aaron had told his mother that when he got home, they would volunteer together to help build a Habitat house. After his death, several of Aaron's friends worked with his mother Sara to help his dream become a reality. Fittingly, they decided to name the building Hometown Hero House.

I had the privilege of meeting several of Aaron's family members and friends at a service held in his honor. Each remembers the beaming, megawatt smile that would always light up Aaron's face. And they will always remember that Aaron died while serving our Nation.

''Aaron believed in what he was doing, which made him my hero,'' his father Steve said. ''Now he's everyone's hero.''

Mr. President, 21 years, 11 months, and 11 days was the short time that Aaron lived on this Earth, but we are all better off because of the time he did live. He was a young man who genuinely loved life and had compassion for others. His dedication to his friends, family, community, and country was unmatched. Aaron is a model of what we all hope our children will become.

My wife Fran and I continue to keep the family of Aaron Reed in our thoughts and prayers.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I say to my colleague, Senator DEWINE, those have been very moving tributes to fallen soldiers from his State of Ohio. He has set a good example for all of us on recognizing the service and sacrifice of those from his home State. I find as I listen to those tributes that they are extremely well done. I thank the Senator for that.

I also wish to acknowledge that the Senator from Ohio will be leaving at the end of this term and that I have very much appreciated working with him. He has been one of the very serious Members of this body, and we are going to miss him. I wanted to say to him that I certainly appreciate his service in the Senate. He has always been a constructive colleague, somebody who was working diligently to try to solve problems facing the country. We very much appreciate his dedication to the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague and tell him that I have enjoyed working with him very much. We have worked on things together. You can work across the aisle in this body and get things done. I thank him for his very kind and generous words.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR FARMERS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, as this interregnum continues, as we wait for some kind of resolution—we were told an hour and a half ago that would be forthcoming in 45 minutes—I wanted to read a letter I received from a young farm family that had been hit by one of the disasters I had referenced earlier. This family is from Souris, ND. It was a letter that was written to me last year about the extraordinary rains. This is what the father of the family wrote:

The rains began in earnest the last days of May 2005. Our crops were in the ground so the majority of the input costs for the crops

were already realized. We received 25 inches in 33 days and the attached pictures show the result. In our local town residents were going up and down the streets in boats.

We did our very best to cope with expenses but with the increased energy prices and the loss of crop income we and all the other producers in our area lost the battle. Our farm had financial reversals in the amount of $110,000. We carry crop insurance but this program does not begin to cover our risks.

In speaking with loan officers at 2 of our local banks I was told that First National expects to restructure 60% of their Ag. Loans and State Bank estimated 75%–80%. This is serious business in agriculture.

We have felt the seriousness of the disasters in the South from last year's hurricanes and we have urged our delegation to support help for them. However our area was understandably off everyone's radar screen yet we had the devastation here as well.

Concerns abound as we look to the future. As I look out my window to the west I see a field that we have seeded since my grandfather homesteaded here in 1892. For the first time we will not be able to seed it. It is 120 acres with about 60 acres still under water from last summer. The Federal Government has placed a heavy burden on us by declaring our area as a Prairie Pot Hole Region. This means I cannot drain this excess water into a nearby drainage system. I am stuck with it. How do I begin to recover the financial losses mentioned above when the Government Regulations limit those opportunities? The water is to the top of the road on both sides and now after being this way for close to a year the road is saturated and just about ruined. I just spoke with a township supervisor and they feel they will be closing the road because of liability concerns.

We are asking that you come along side us and help us through this impossible situation that has been presented to us by a combination of nature and government regulations. Please support the Disaster Relief Appropriation currently working its way through Congress. If you do, you will literally be the difference between many being able to continue to produce food and fiber for this great nation and not being able to continue this production.

Thank you so much for listening to part of our story.

This gentleman included pictures. I don't think these are pictures that can be seen on camera, but I will hold them up and describe them. These are six different pictures. In some of them, there is water from horizon to horizon. Here we see a view that would go for miles and miles. There is water everywhere. This is what happened last year over much of my State—as I indicated earlier, a million acres that could not even be planted, another 600,000 acres where the crops were drowned out. Now this year, as I have said before, irony of ironies, the worst drought since the 1930s. Land I have been on many times in my life south of my hometown is like a moonscape—nothing growing, just dirt; land that had been planted and nothing even emerged.

To understand what happened, this is the weather for the month of July in my State. Bismarck, ND, is the State capital. It started out with a day at 90 degrees; the next day, 92. Then right after July 4 it went over 90 degrees the next 2 days. Then it jumped up to 102, and then it was 97. The next week, 96, and then it was 101, 105, 94, 101, 105, 106. This is not heat index. These were the actual temperatures. Then we had kind of a cooling, and it got into the 80s. Then on the 22nd it jumped back up to 96, 97, 96, 90s all these days, 99, 97, and then the real corker, on the 30th of July, 112 degrees. That is really hot. I had friends who went out and drove south of my hometown that day who told me it was so hot it took your breath away, 112 degrees. I am not talking heat index or any of that; I am talking the actual temperature.

The crops just burned up. During this period, there was no precipitation—no precipitation, no precipitation, no precipitation that whole week, no precipitation this entire week, no precipitation until the 19th. In fact, not a drop until the 19th of July, and then there was 7/100th, then there was 32/100th, then no precipitation, none for the next period going through the end of the month. So from the 21st to the 31st, not another drop of precipitation. Meanwhile, 101, 105, 106, 112 degrees. This is why the disaster is so serious, a combination of virtually no precipitation—for this whole month, there was 39/100th of an inch of precipitation—and day after day, 90 and 100 degrees. The crops just burned up.

We can say: Tough luck, you are out of here, but that is not what we have done in the past. In the past, going back to 1989, we had the disaster assistance bill, $3.4 billion. In 1990, we had disaster assistance. Every year with the exception of 1991, right through 2005.

Disaster assistance in 2000 was $14.8 billion. The next year it was $11.3 billion. This disaster package is $4.5 billion for 2 years, so it is dramatically less. Obviously, that is a result of more widespread disasters, perhaps, in those years, so the cost is less, but also this is a less generous disaster bill, as we have moved to reduce things, cut things from the $6.7 billion to $4.5 billion or just under $4.5 billion.

I think most people would acknowledge I have not been somebody who has ever sought to hold up the business of the Senate. I have been here 20 years. That is not how I have conducted myself. But I am left with no alternative and no choice when a commitment was made to me yesterday, both publicly and privately, that we would go to the Agriculture appropriations bill today and that I would have a chance to offer the amendment. I have reviewed the RECORD. It is very clear, the commitment that was made. As of this hour—we are approaching the 6 o'clock hour—that commitment has not been kept.

I understand there are others who may have lodged objection to going to the bill. But there are ways to go to a bill. It happens every day here. It happens every day that we go to a bill to which somebody has an objection. We have completely reserved the rights of our colleagues. They can require a supermajority vote. They can raise a budget point of order. They can raise rule XVI. As I have indicated, it is clear to me rule XVI doesn't apply because we have written this in a way that it does not apply. They can insist on a vote. Fair enough. That is all I am asking for. I am asking for a vote. These people deserve that chance.

The fact is, literally thousands of farm families in my State are hanging in the balance. Right now, they are done with production for the year. Many of these places didn't have any production. This time of year, you go to your banker, and the bankers are saying to me that if there is not disaster assistance, 5 to 10 percent of farm families in my State are finished. What does that mean? We have 35,000 farm families in North Dakota. Five percent, if my math is right, would be 1,750. Ten percent would be 3,500 farm families who are out there right now wondering: What is the Federal Government going to do? Are they going to do what they have always done every year for almost the last 20 years and provide some kind of disaster assistance, or are they going to say: Tough, you are on your own, you are out of luck? I very much hope there will be a response and it will be a favorable response. These are as good as any people I know anywhere, hard-working, decent, honest, good people. They have been hit by the most extraordinary set of conditions. This drought has been rated the third worst drought in our Nation's entire history.

The flooding last year was unprecedented in my State. Outside of the 1997 floods, which was a 500-year flood—the worst flood in 500 years—we have not seen anything like it. I don't pretend to know what is going on with the weather out there, but something extraordinary is happening—extreme weather and extreme weather conditions, unlike anything I have seen in my adult lifetime. The result is deep financial damage to thousands and thousands of people.

Mr. President, I hope somewhere somebody is listening. I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, leadership indicates to me they wish to adjourn for the evening momentarily. I don't know if they have other matters to wrap up. I am certainly not going to hold the body here. We will come back tomorrow with the status quo being in place. That is my understanding of what the agreement would be. I understand they are going to try to work through the evening to resolve this matter so we can go to the bill at some point, with some assurance.

I want to bring this to my colleagues' attention. I pointed out the horrendous

weather in July in North Dakota. This is an article that appeared in the Grand Forks Herald. It said this:

Fields of wheat, durum and barley in the Dakotas this dry summer will never end up as pasta, bread or beer. What is left of the stifled crops has been salvaged to feed livestock struggling on pastures where hot winds blow clouds of dirt from dried-out ponds.

Some ranchers have been forced to sell their entire herds, and others are either moving their cattle to greener pastures or buying more already-costly feed. Hundreds of acres of grasslands have been blackened by fires sparked by lightning or farm equipment.

''These 100-degree days for weeks steady have been burning everything up,'' said Walter Johnson, Steele's mayor. ''I'd go for 2 feet of snow than this.''

Farm ponds and other small bodies of water have dried out from the heat, leaving the residual alkali dust to be whipped up by the wind. The blowing, dirt-and-salt mixture is a phenomenon that hasn't been seen in south central North Dakota since the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, Johnson said.

More than 60 percent of the United States now has abnormally dry or drought conditions, stretching from Georgia to Arizona and across the north through the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana and Wisconsin, said Mark Svoboda, a climatologist for the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

An area stretching from south central North Dakota to central South Dakota is the most drought-stricken region in the nation, Svoboda said.

''It's the epicenter,'' he said. ''It's just like a wasteland in north central South Dakota.''

Conditions aren't much better a little farther north. Paul Smokov and his wife, Betty, raise several hundred cattle on their 1,750-acre ranch north of Steele, a town of about 760 people.

North Dakota's all-time high temperature was set here in July 1936, at 121. Smokov, now 81, remembers that time and believes conditions this summer probably are worse.

''I could see this coming in May,'' Smokov said of the parched pastures and wilted crops. ''That's the time the good Lord gives us our general rains. But we never got them this year.''

Brad Rippey, a federal Agriculture Department meteorologist in Washington, said this year's drought is continuing one that started in the late 1990s. ''The 1999 to 2006 drought ranks only behind the 1930s and the 1950s. It's the third-worst drought on record—period,'' Rippey said.

Svoboda was reluctant to say how bad the current drought might eventually be.

''We'll have to wait to see how it plays out—but it's definitely bad,'' he said. ''And the drought seems to not be going anywhere soon.''

Herman Schumacher, who owns Herreid Livestock Auction in north central South Dakota, said his company is handling more sales than ever because of the drought.

In May, June and July last year, his company sold 3,800 cattle. During the same months this year, more than 27,000 cattle have been sold, he said.

''I've been in the barn here for 25 years and I can't even compare this year to any other year,'' Schumacher said.

He said about 50 ranchers have run cows through his auction this year.

''Some of them just trimmed off their herds, but about a third of them were complete dispersions—they'll never be back,'' he said.

''This county is looking rough—these 100-degree days are just killing us,'' said Gwen Payne, a North Dakota State University extension agent in Kidder County, where Steele is located.

The Agriculture Department says North Dakota last year led the nation in production of 15 different commodity classes, including spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, oats, canola, pinto beans, dry edible peas, lentils, flaxseed, sunflower and honey.

North Dakota State University professor and researcher Larry Leistritz said it's too early to tell what effect this year's drought will have on commodity prices. Flour prices already have gone up and may rise more because of the effect of drought on wheat.

''There will be somewhat higher grain prices, no doubt about it,'' Leistritz said. ''With livestock, the short-term effect may mean depressed meat prices, with a larger number of animals being sent to slaughter. But in the longer run it may prolong the period of relatively high meat prices.''

Eventually, more than farmers could suffer.

''Agriculture is not only the biggest industry in the state, it's just about the only industry,'' Leistritz said. ''Communities live or die with the fortunes of agriculture.''

Mr. President, this is an article that was repeated in newspaper after newspaper across my State. This is a disaster that is virtually unprecedented. South Dakota is even worse. That is why we simply have to achieve a result. I again ask my colleagues, please, just give us a vote. These people deserve at least that.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I have just been told now by leadership staff they are going to do everything they can to try to get this Agriculture appropriations bill up tomorrow and that I would have an opportunity to offer an amendment and get a vote. I have been assured they are going to bend their best efforts to accomplish that tomorrow. I appreciate that effort. I hope it occurs. Of course, that was supposed to happen today.

I am also informed they want to adjourn the body for the day, and I certainly will not stand in the way of adjourning. There are many here who have families they wish to go home to, and I certainly don't want to stand in the way of that, especially with these assurances that now, once again, have been given to me that they will bend their best efforts to try to get to the Agriculture appropriations bill tomorrow and give me an opportunity for a vote.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under Section 308(b) and in aid of Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the first concurrent resolution on the budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the 2006 budget through September 30, 2006. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2006 concurrent resolution on the budget, H. Con. Res. 95. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the attached report excludes these amounts.

The estimates show that current level spending is under the budget resolution by $11.869 billion in budget authority and by $4.030 billion in outlays in 2006. Current level for revenues is $6.590 billion above the budget resolution in 2006.

Since my last report dated September 5, 2006, Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007, P.L. 109–289. In addition to providing regular defense appropriations for 2007, this act appropriated $200 million for firefighting activities in fiscal year 2006. Those appropriations were designated as emergency requirements in 2006 and did not affect the current level totals.

This is my final report for 2006.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2006.

Hon. JUDD GREGG,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed tables show the effects of Congressional action on the 2006 budget and are current through September 30, 2006. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and .economic assumptions for fiscal year 2006 that underlie H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a

result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 2 on Table 2).

Since my last letter dated September 5, 2006, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–289). In addition to providing regular defense appropriations for 2007, this act appropriated $200 million for firefighting activities in fiscal year 2006. Those appropriations were designated as emergency requirements in 2006 and did not affect the current-level totals.

Sincerely,

DONALD B. MARRON,
Acting Director.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget resolution [1]	Current level [2]	Current level over/under (−) resolution
ON-BUDGET			
Budget Authority	2,094.4	2,082.5	−11.9
Outlays	2,099.0	2,095.0	−4.0
Revenues	1,589.9	1,596.5	6.6
OFF-BUDGET			
Social Security Outlays [3]	416.0	416.0	0
Social Security Revenues	604.8	604.8	*

[1] H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed $50.0 billion in budget authority and $62.4 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2006 from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current-level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in the previous session and the emergency requirements in Public Law 109–176, Public Law 109–208, Public Law 109–234, and Public Law 109–289 (see footnote 2 on Table 2), the budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

[2] Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations, even if the appropriations have not been made.

[3] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are also off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: * = Less than $50 million.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in Previous Sessions:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,607,180
Permanents and other spending legislation [1]	1,296,134	1,248,957	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,333,823	1,323,802	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−479,868	−479,868	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions:	2,150,089	2,092,891	1,607,180
Enacted This Session:			
Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–176)	250	250	0
An act to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program for 2006 (P.L. 109–204)	1,000	750	0
Native American Corrections Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–221)	23	23	3
Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–222)	0	0	−10,757
Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act (P.L. 109–227)	0	0	−1
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109–234)	−111	143	55
Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109–235)	0	0	1
Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–236)	0	0	1
Returned Americans Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–250)	4	3	0
An act to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon (P.L. 109–268)	0	27	0
Total, enacted this session:	1,166	1,196	−10,698
Entitlements and mandatories:			
Difference between enacted levels and budget resolution estimates for appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	−68,740	879	n.a.
Total Current Level [1, 2, 3, 4]	2,082,515	2,094,966	1,596,482
Total Budget Resolution	2,144,384	2,161,420	1,589,892
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements [4]	−50,000	−62,424	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,094,384	2,098,996	n.a.
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a	6,590
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	11,869	4,030	n.a.

[1] P.L. 109–171 was enacted early in this session of Congress, but is shown under ''enacted in previous sessions'' as requested by the Committee on the Budget. Included in current-level totals for P.L. 109–171 are $980 million in budget authority and −$4,847 million in outlays.

[2] Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current-level totals exclude the following amounts:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Emergency requirements enacted in previous session	74,981	112,423	7,111
Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–176)	−250	0	0
National Flood Insurance Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2006 (P.L. 109–208)	2,275	2,275	0
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109–234)	94,541	24,184	0
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109–289)	200	0	0
Total, enacted emergency requirements	171,747	138,882	−7,111

[3] Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

[4] H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed $50,000 million in budget authority and $62,424 million in outlays in fiscal year 2006 from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current-level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in the previous session and the emergency requirements in P.L. 109–176, P.L. 109–208, P.L. 109–234, and P.L. 109–289 (see footnote 2 above), budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

Notes.—n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

FIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the General Federation of Women's Clubs and their recent work to fight domestic violence. The organization is a gem among our midst. Founded in April 1890, it is one of the world's oldest and largest women's volunteer organizations. More than 150,000 women members in 5,000 local and 20 international clubs volunteer over 13 million hours and contribute approximately $35 million through more than 160,000 club projects. I can't underestimate how powerful and influential this corps of volunteers is to the health of our Nation.

I am particularly proud that this year the international president, Jacqueline Pierce, has adopted ''Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention'' as her President's Special Project for 2006–2008. Nannette White, a member from Louisiana, serves as the national chairperson of the President's Special Project, and with the support of a national committee of women, promotes participation in this project. All across the Nation, local women's clubs are adopting battered women's shelters and donating needed goods such as food, linens, health care items, and more. In Nevada, members sponsored a public service campaign on radio stations to promote important messages about violence prevention. In Mississippi, members distributed 2,000 fliers with information on the National Domestic Violence Hotline and helped raise funds for the Mississippi State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This is just a small sampling of the good works being done.

As part of this special project, the General Federation of Women's Clubs forged a historic collaboration with the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the National Network to End Domestic Violence and domestic violence organizations in communities throughout the United States. Innovative partnerships between the public and private sector, new relationships between organizations—these are the pathways to solutions to our Nation's most pressing problems.

I have spent almost 34 years of my life in Congress and witnessed the transformative impact of powerful Federal legislation. For instance, the Violence Against Women Act improved Federal and State criminal laws and enacted programs that encourage prosecution of abusers, create battered women's shelters and sponsor educational campaigns. Over the past decade, the act's programs have distributed over $4 billion to States, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. Yet despite this extraordinary success, I am convinced that Federal Government action alone cannot end domestic violence. We desperately need the individual attention and dedication of volunteers. Change happens one woman at a time and one volunteer at a time. The volunteer work done by club members fills an invaluable role. As my mother would say, these are the people who do God's work.

I commend Madam President Pierce for her leadership and commitment to airing our Nation's ''dirty little secret,'' domestic violence. She has brought a whole new legion of women warriors to help battered women and their children. On behalf of the entire Senate, I thank them for their tireless volunteerism to end domestic violence and giving women what they haven't had before—hope.

HOLD EXPLANATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have placed a hold on the nomination of Roger A. Martella, Jr., to be general counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Consistent with my policy of publicly announcing whenever I place a hold on a nomination, I want to notify my colleagues of my objection to allowing Mr. Martella's nomination to be considered under a unanimous consent agreement and to take a few minutes to explain to my colleagues why I am doing so.

After many years of delay, the EPA has finally proposed regulations under the Clean Air Act to protect Americans from toxic air pollutants from cars and trucks and other mobile sources. But instead of proposing a rule that would protect all Americans from these toxic emissions, EPA's proposal would essentially turn the Pacific Northwest into an environmental sacrifice zone.

EPA's analysis shows that the biggest risk from these pollutants comes from benzene which is naturally found in petroleum products and ends up in the gas tanks of our cars and in the gas cans in our garages. Some of the highest levels of benzene in gasoline are found in the Northwest. In fact, our region of the country has the highest average levels of benzene in gasoline in the United States, more than three times higher than gasoline here on the east coast.

Benzene is a known carcinogen. Exposure to benzene has been shown to cause leukemia and poses other health risks, such as genetic changes. Although the EPA has never set a health standard for benzene in the environment, the Department of Environmental Quality for the State of Oregon has, and we have levels of benzene in Downtown Portland that are 20 times higher than the State's standard. The majority of this benzene comes from gasoline. So it should be good news that EPA is finally acting to regulate the amount of benzene in gasoline.

Unfortunately, EPA has proposed a regulatory scheme that will simply not ensure that these levels are reduced as much as they need to be, and let me explain why.

First, EPA rejected the idea that there should be a maximum level of benzene in gasoline. The current Federal requirements for reformulated gasoline contain a maximum threshold for benzene. The State of California's fuel standards include a provision limiting the percentage of benzene in gasoline sold in California. Canada has a benzene limit. Korea has a benzene limit. Japan has a benzene limit. The European Union has a benzene limit. And according to a recent article in the industry trade press, Vietnam is going to establish a benzene limit. But not EPA.

Instead, what EPA has proposed is the establishment of a national average for benzene in gasoline. Every refinery or gasoline importer is theoretically supposed to sell gasoline that meets this average standard, but there is no maximum level and EPA has coupled this requirement to a credit-trading system. Under EPA's scheme, refineries that make gasoline below the standard will get credits that they can give away, trade, or sell to refineries which make gasoline above the standard. Many refineries that make gasoline with high benzene levels would never have to meet the EPA standard. And again, because under the EPA proposal there would be no maximum level of benzene in gasoline, many refineries are expected to make little, if any, reduction in the amount of benzene in their gasoline and rely instead on credits to meet the standard. According to EPA, five refineries producing gasoline over the EPA standard would take no action whatsoever to reduce their benzene levels.

The reason this is all so important is that Americans don't get their gasoline from a gasoline terminal filled with ''average'' gasoline. They get their gas from regional refineries and distributors. In Oregon, we get almost all of our gasoline from refineries on Puget Sound in the State of Washington—refineries which, for the most part, produce gasoline with high benzene levels. Even if everything worked as EPA intended, benzene levels in gasoline in the Northwest would be 40 percent above the national standard. However, the plain fact is that there is no assurance that gasoline in our region will be cleaner because EPA leaves the decision of whether the refineries in Puget Sound reduce their benzene levels up to the companies that own those refineries. If oil companies decide that it is in their economic interest to simply buy their way to compliance by using credits instead of investing in equipment that will actually reduce the amount of benzene in our gas, EPA says they can. The only thing that EPA will care about is that those companies have begged, borrowed, or bought enough credits to meet the national average. And we will continue to have the same high levels of benzene we have now. In fact, without any sort of overall cap on the amount of benzene that can be in gasoline, benzene levels in our gasoline in the Northwest could even go up.

I have focused my remarks on the impact that this proposal has on the Northwest, but it is not just a problem for the Northwest. Other parts of the country will also have gasoline with benzene levels over the national standard, and without any maximum level of benzene no American can be sure of how much benzene might be in their gasoline and in the air they breathe.

I also want to emphasize again that under the EPA approach, it will be the oil companies that decide whether they reduce their benzene levels at any given refinery, not EPA. If EPA's analysis is correct, a single major oil company, which EPA identifies only as ''Company No. 2,'' would be responsible for producing more than a third of all of the gasoline exceeding the proposed national benzene standard. Rather than make the investment in benzene control and removal technology, EPA, from the beginning, simply expects this company to use credits to meet the standard for all of this high benzene gasoline. Who is Company No. 2 and why is EPA proposing to give them this license to pollute?

This would all be bad enough if EPA hadn't actually thought about these problems. They acknowledged in their rulemaking process that there would be regional inequities. They examined alternatives for setting maximum levels of benzene that should be in gasoline. In one case, they looked at the additional cost to Americans of imposing an average maximum level of benzene of 1.3 percent as part of the standard in order to address these problems. EPA's own analysis concluded that this would cost consumers in my region of the country less than one-half of 1 cent a gallon and Americans, nationwide, an additional 5/1000ths of a cent per gallon

of gasoline. That is not five cents. That is .005 cents. The bottom line is that EPA is proposing to allow my constituents to breathe more toxic emissions and face greater risk of cancer so that oil companies can save a fraction of a cent per gallon of gas.

I am not going to sit back and let EPA just go ahead with this rulemaking without complaint. The Office of General Counsel is the chief legal advisor to EPA. Mr. Martella was the principal deputy general counsel when this rule was proposed. He is now the acting general counsel. I am placing a hold on his nomination to send as strong a signal to EPA as I can at this time that they need to take another look at their own figures. They need to take another look at their own regulatory analysis. The regional problems that they identified would occur in setting up a national cap-and-trade program are real problems and must not be ignored. They need to come up with a real solution. Until they do, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to allow Mr. Martella's nomination to come to a vote in the Senate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF CHARLES PLUMMER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer, who is retiring after more than 54 years of dedicated service in law enforcement.

Sheriff Plummer began his career in law enforcement in 1952 with the city of Berkeley Police Department. His dedication to the Berkeley Police Department was evident over the 23 years he spent with that agency, where he ultimately rose to the rank of acting chief of police.

Following his service with the Berkeley Police Department, Sheriff Plummer was appointed chief of police for the city of Hayward in June of 1976. During his 10 years with the Hayward Police Department, Sheriff Plummer employed many innovative and successful programs. In 1979, Sheriff Plummer volunteered the Hayward Police Department to be one of five trial sites to test the law enforcement service standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, CALEA, becoming the ninth law enforcement agency in the Nation, and the first west of the Mississippi, to be accredited by CALEA. Sheriff Plummer was later elected to CALEA, served as its president, and has since been a strong advocate for the accreditation of law enforcement agencies.

Most memorably, in his role as Hayward chief of police, Sheriff Plummer initiated what became known as ''The Cardinal Sins,'' a set of simple, straightforward rules demanding honesty from all employees and prohibiting bigotry, the acceptance of bribes, and the use of controlled substances. Many officers felt that adherence to these rules helped build a bond of trust between law enforcement and the communities they served. Today, ''The Cardinal Sins'' have become standard in many law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation. Under his leadership, the Hayward Police Department became one of the most highly respected law enforcement agencies in the country.

In 1986, Sheriff Plummer was elected sheriff of Alameda County. In his capacity as sheriff, he opened the new Santa Rita jail, the sixth largest facility of its kind in the United States; he established a marine patrol unit to protect the shoreline of Alameda County; he opened a state-of-the-art Office of Emergency Services Center; he has achieved CALEA accreditation for the sheriff's office; and has also received accreditation for many branches of the sheriff's office, including Prison Health Services, the County Crime Laboratory, and the Explosive Ordinance Unit. Under his leadership, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office is the only agency in California to earn the National Sheriff's Association prestigious ''Triple Crown Award.''

In addition to his regular duties as Alameda county sheriff, Sheriff Plummer has served as head of Region II in the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System, a statewide program under the Office of Emergency Services that restores order during emergencies, including civil unrest, and provides assistance to local agencies during other unusual events. Throughout his career, Sheriff Plummer has also been active in numerous professional organizations including the Peace Officer's Research Association of California, the Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

In his spare time, Sheriff Plummer has been very involved in his community, serving as past president and a member of the Hayward Rotary Club. He is a lifetime volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America, serving on the executive council in San Francisco, and a lifetime member of the Southern Alameda County Chapter of the NAACP. Sheriff Plummer has generously given his time to such organizations as the YMCA and the Salvation Army.

For over half a century, Sheriff Plummer has dedicated his life to promoting excellence in law enforcement and the communities he has served. He has served with honesty, integrity, and a commitment to excellence. I am confident that, even in retirement, Sheriff Plummer will continue to touch lives with his good will and compassion. I wish him the very best and hope he enjoys his much deserved retirement.•

DELANO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DELANO, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Delano Elementary School, in Delano, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Delano Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The school takes great pride in involving parents in their children's school experiences. Last spring, the rate of parents' participation at parent-teacher conferences was an impressive 99 percent. Parents contributed over 6,000 hours of volunteer services during the 2005–2006 school year.

The Partners in Education organization at Delano Elementary raises over $30,000 per year for student activities and supplies for teachers and classrooms. Recently, the organization contributed $8,000 toward the purchase of SMARTBOARD technology, an interactive, electronic blackboard system. The money was also used to install sound-field systems in a number of the primary grade classrooms.

Delano Elementary also offers several programs to challenge children of high potential. The school's Tiger's Tale publishing center allows children to turn their own creative stories into books that have a professionally published look. The math lab extends and enriches skills taught through classroom instruction.

An organized gifted and talented program, with a teacher of gifted and talented children, offers several opportunities for pupils beyond their classrooms, including Destination Imagination, Continental Math League, and other unique units of instruction, designed specifically for high-potential pupils.

Delano Elementary consistently receives five-star ratings from the Department of Education in both reading and math. Last year, 87 percent of Delano third-graders scored in the top three levels on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Reading Test, and 93 percent of the third-graders scored in the top three levels in math.

Much of the credit for Delano Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Darren Schuler, and the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Delano Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Delano Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Delano Elementary School in Delano for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.•

ORONO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, ORONO, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Orono Intermediate School, in Orono, MN, which recently earned an

Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Orono Intermediate School is truly a model of educational success, where students are advancing to a new phase in their educational experience. Exercising higher levels of responsibility and independence in their learning, students achieve within a challenging and caring environment. The dedicated staff at Orono work closely with students to foster personal and academic success. The staff are committed to providing students with rigorous academic curricula that challenge them to achieve higher standards. To this end, staff strive to develop an educational program that addresses each child's individual needs and allows all students to achieve to their full potential.

Orono Intermediate School is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, NCA. Accreditation is granted to schools that demonstrate a commitment to continued improvement and curriculum review.

Orono Intermediate School enhances educational opportunities through a variety of programs and policies, including: a concentration on small class sizes, field trips, computer/media labs, an aquatics program, a United Nations peace site, competitive academic teams, an artist-in-residence program, service learning projects, and world languages, taught before and after school.

The success of Orono Intermediate School is reflected in its test scores. In 2005, Orono Intermediate received five stars in both math and reading from the Minnesota Department of Education. In 2004, the school received four stars in math and five stars in reading.

Much of the credit for Orono Intermediate School's success belongs to its principal, Paula Martin, and the dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Orono Intermediate School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Orono Intermediate School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Orono Intermediate School in Orono for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

IN MEMORY OF SIGMUND STROCHILTZ

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I speak in memory of Sigmund Strochiltz, a truly remarkable man from New London, Connecticut who passed away on Monday October 16, at the age of 89. I was saddened to hear about Mr. Strochiltz's death, and I will keep his friends and family in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Strochlitz was best known as the owner of Whaling City Ford, a successful car dealership that became a local institution in New London. Almost anyone who has lived in southeastern Connecticut can recall the television commercials for his dealership, in which Mr. Strochiltz would pleasantly invite the viewer to ''Come in. I would like to meet you,'' a simple slogan that reflected his pleasant demeanor and truly optimistic outlook on life. Those who knew him best say that he had a deep appreciation for the simple joys in life, like dining with friends or spending time with his grandchildren.

Mr. Strochiltz's optimism is incredible considering the horrors he had to endure early in life. Mr. Strochiltz grew up in Poland, where he lived through both world wars. During the Second World War, he was held in a concentration camp in Auschwitz, Poland, for over 15 months. During this truly horrible experience, Mr. Strochiltz was forced to watch as his parents, two sisters, his first wife, and countless others marched off to their deaths.

Yet Mr. Strochiltz's spirit could not be broken, and he refused to give up hope that the people of all nations could live together in peace. After being released, he was determined to ensure that no one else ever had to suffer as he had.

Mr. Strochiltz believed that if mankind was never allowed to forget the atrocities committed by the Nazi regime, such atrocities might never be repeated. He worked tirelessly toward this end. He served on the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Council, which worked to establish the National Holocaust Memorial and Museum. He served as chairman of the council's remembrance committee, where he lobbied the governments of every State and the District of Columbia to hold annual ceremonies to remember victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

In addition to his great work with the council, Mr. Strochiltz helped elevate the writer Elie Wiesel, a close friend of his, to international fame. The two were partners in their mission to make sure the world never forgot the evils of the Holocaust. Together they traveled the globe, meeting with world leaders, such as German Chancellor Helmut Schmitt and Pope John Paul II. Mr. Strochiltz also lobbied Capitol Hill to have Mr. Wiesel nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize; he was successful, and Mr. Wiesel was deservedly awarded the prize.

The passing of Sigmund Strochiltz is truly a loss for the people of Connecticut and throughout the world. May his kind nature and devotion to promoting peace and tolerance in the world live on in all those he has touched.●

RECOGNIZING EARL MCVICKER

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I congratulate a Kansan, and a friend, Earl McVicker, whose hard work, perseverance, and dedication has earned him recognition by those in his profession. Last month, Earl, who started his banking career at a bank in a town of 400, was elected chairman of the American Bankers Association. I join his friends, family, and colleagues in extending my congratulations and best wishes to him during the upcoming year.

Earl's career in the banking industry began shortly after his graduation from Kansas State University, home of the always optimistic and fighting Wildcats. Although Earl earned an engineering degree from K-State, he had taken a few business classes and a course on rural banking, which captured his interest. His first job was at the Bazine State Bank. Earl worked hard, learning the banking business from the ground up. His strong work ethic paid off, and he rose steadily in the banking industry, moving on to banks in Colorado and Kansas before becoming CEO of Central Bank and Trust, in Hutchinson, KS. By this time, Earl was looking for more than just another job at another bank. He was looking for the opportunity to make policy decisions, and he knew the only way to achieve that was to buy a bank.

Well, Earl succeeded in this goal, in part, by doing something we should all take a lesson from. When he became CEO at CB&T, he made the decision that he would continue to live off the amount of his previous salary and save and invest the difference in order to buy CB&T stock. This self-discipline, along with some help from his parents and a loan from another bank, allowed Earl to continue buying stock in CB&T, eventually gaining majority ownership. Further, the loan that he took out, that he hoped to pay off in 10 years? He paid it off in 5. Earl acknowledges that he risked everything on this one venture, but it is certainly a risk that has paid off.

Perhaps the quote that Earl has framed and hanging in his office best sums up what guides him. The quote, by President Calvin Coolidge, reads: ''Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.''

Earl's own hard work, persistence, and willingness to take risks gives him an understanding and an empathy for people who are looking to start and own their own business. His commitment to promoting entrepreneurship, his willingness to help individuals start a business, and his ability to recognize the potential of these individuals, even those who may not have business experience, makes him unique and reminds us all of the important role hometown

banks play in a community. They understand the needs of the customers, their community, and know that their role in helping individuals and businesses succeed is vital to economic health.

Now, I don't want to leave you with the impression that Earl is just another skilled businessman, although over the past 14 years, his private investment company, Central Financial Corp., has grown to include banks in a dozen States and has outperformed Warren Buffet's Berkshire Hathaway, as well as the Dow and the S&P 500. In fact, Earl wears several hats, including a Stetson when he is out horseback riding with his wife Molly or helping out on his parent's farm near Ness City. And he's particularly fond of the motorcycle helmet that he wears when he takes his Harley for a ride up to Sturgis, SD. Maybe not what you expected from the incoming ABA chairman.

Earl has reached a milestone in his career, but in this success, he has also helped others succeed in starting and growing their businesses and has taken an active role in helping communities like Hutchinson thrive. I am proud to call Earl a friend. I know he will approach his year as chairman of the ABA by expanding his ''commitment to community'' philosophy throughout the country. It is this commitment, working as a partner with his community, that has made him a leader in the banking profession.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 864. An act to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking.

H.R. 1245. An act to provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers.

H.R. 6314. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law and to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program.

H.J. Res. 96. Joint resolution recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy.

H.J. Res. 100. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 496. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 435. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

S. 819. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate costs of the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, South Dakota, to reflect increased demands for municipal, industrial, and fish and wildlife purposes.

S. 1131. An act to authorize the exchange of certain Federal land within the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

S. 1140. An act to designate the State Route 1 Bridge in the State of Delaware as the ''Senator William V. Roth, Jr. Bridge''.

S. 3880. An act to provide the Department of Justice the necessary authority to apprehend, prosecute, and convict individuals committing animal enterprise terror.

H.R. 409. An act to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 860. An act to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas.

H.R. 1129. An act to authorize the exchange of certain land in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 3085. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5842. An act to compromise and settle all claims in the case of Pueblo of Isleta v. United States, to restore, improve, and develop the valuable on-reservation land and natural resources of the Pueblo, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 3:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following enrolled bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6326. An act to clarify the provision of nutrition services to older Americans.

At 4:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 101. An act to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation.

S. 4001. An act to designate certain land in New England as wilderness for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation system and certain land as a National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5585) to improve the netting process for financial contracts, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3699. An act to provide for the sale, acquisition, conveyance, and exchange of certain real property in the District of Columbia to facilitate the utilization, development, and redevelopment of such property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6314. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law and to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4051. A bill to provide sufficient resources to permit electronic surveillance of United States persons for foreign intelligence purposes to be conducted pursuant to individualized court-based orders for calls originating in the United States, to provide additional resources to enhance oversight and streamline the procedures of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to ensure review of the Terrorist Surveillance Program by the United States Supreme Court, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Committee on Armed Service.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. James B. Mallory III to be Major General.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Patrick M. Walsh to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr. to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of Thomas C. Hankins to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jeffery C. Carstens and ending with Marcia Wheeler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2006.

Army nominations beginning with Robert E. Suter and ending with Dawn Harold, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2006.

Army nomination of John M. Cotten to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Laureen A. Otto and ending with Dee A. Paoli, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2006.

Army nominations beginning with Steven F. Williams and ending with Jessica N. Stanton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2006.

Army nomination of Lee A. Knox to be Major.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 4052. A bill to authorize refugee relief and reconstruction assistance for North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 4053. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Summer of Service State grant program, a Summer of Service national direct grant program, and related national activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 4054. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 4055. A bill to address the effect of the death of a defendant in Federal criminal proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 4056. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 614. A resolution honoring the firefighters and other public servants who responded to the devastating Esperanza Incident fire in southern California in October 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 408

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 408, a bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking.

S. 440

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 440, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the medicaid program.

S. 910

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.

S. 1687

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1687, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

S. 3677

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3677, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the in the home restriction for Medicare coverage of mobility devices for individuals with expected long-term needs.

S. 3744

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3744, a bill to establish the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Program.

S. 3808

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3808, a bill to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.

S. 3913

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3913, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to eliminate funding shortfalls for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for fiscal year 2007.

S. 3980

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 3980, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3980, supra.

S. 3984

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3984, a bill to improve programs for the identification and treatment of post-deployment mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder, in veterans and members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 4046

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4046, a bill to extend oversight and accountability related to United States reconstruction funds and efforts in Iraq by extending the termination date of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

S. 4049

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4049, a bill to provide for the redeployment of United States forces from Iraq by July 1, 2007.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FRIST:

S. 4052. A bill to authorize refugee relief and reconstruction assistance for North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4052

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''North Korea Refugee Relief and Reconstruction Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to help the people of North Korea gain freedom from political oppression.

SEC. 3. NORTH KOREA REFUGEE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the ''North Korea Refugee Relief and Reconstruction Fund'' (in this Act referred to as the ''Fund''), consisting of such amounts as may be appropriated to the Fund pursuant to subsection (b) and such articles and services as may be made available to the Fund pursuant to subsection (c). The resources of the Fund shall be available to carry out the programs and activities identified in section 4.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for

contributions to the Fund such sums as may be necessary, not to exceed $10,000,000,000. Amounts appropriated for the Fund shall remain available until expended.

(c) DRAWDOWN AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, pursuant to section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2)), draw down articles and services from the inventory and resources of any agency of the United States Government for the Fund to carry out the programs and activities identified in section 4.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE BY CONTRACT OR OTHERWISE.—The assistance authorized under paragraph (1) may include the supply of articles and services that are acquired by contract or otherwise.

(3) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—

(A) LIMIT.—The aggregate value of assistance provided under this subsection, as defined under section 644(m) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403(m)), may not exceed $1,000,000,000.

(B) ASSISTANCE NOT COUNTED TOWARD SPECIAL AUTHORITY LIMIT.—Assistance provided under this subsection shall not count toward any limitation under section 506 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318).

(4) REIMBURSEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Articles and services provided under this subsection shall be made available to the Fund without reimbursement to the applicable appropriation, fund, or account except to the extent that funds are appropriated pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the applicable appropriation, fund, or account for the value of articles and services provided under this subsection, as defined under section 644(m) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403(m)).

(ii) OFFSET.—The maximum amount authorized to be appropriated for the Fund under subsection (b) shall be reduced by an amount equal to the aggregate value of the articles and services made available under paragraph (1).

SEC. 4. PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FUND.

(a) REFUGEE RELIEF, RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE.—The President may use amounts in the Fund to provide relief to refugees that have escaped from North Korea, to relocate such refugees to South Korea or other countries prepared to accept them, and to assist in the resettlement of such refugees in any country willing to accept their resettlement. These activities may be carried out pursuant to the authorities provided in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.).

(b) REUNIFICATION AND RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE.—The President may use amounts in the Fund to provide for the benefit of persons living in the territory of North Korea the types of assistance authorized for the Independent States of the former Soviet Union under section 498 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2295) and for the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia under sections 499A, 499B, 499C, and 499D of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2296a, 2296b, 2296c, and 2296d) in the event of—

(1) the reunification of North Korea with South Korea; or

(2) the emergence in North Korea of a new national government committed to respect for human rights, nonproliferation, and peaceful relations with the United States and the other countries of the region.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Governments of South Korea, Japan, China, and Russia and other concerned governments should make commitments commensurate to those that the United States is offering under this Act—

(1) to assist refugees fleeing political oppression in North Korea; and

(2) to meet humanitarian and reconstruction needs arising in connection with—

(A) the reunification of North Korea with South Korea; or

(B) the emergence in North Korea of a new national government committed to respect for human rights, nonproliferation, and peaceful relations with the United States and the other countries in the region.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 4053. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Summer of Service State grant program, a Summer of Service national direct grant program, and related national activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to introduce, along with Senators COCHRAN, KENNEDY, BAUCUS, ROCKEFELLER, SALAZAR, BOXER and KERRY, the Summer of Service Act of 2006. This bill offers middle school students the chance to spend a summer in service to their communities as they transition into high school.

Summer of Service creates a competitive grant program that enables States and localities to offer middle school students an opportunity to participate in a structured community service program over the summer months. It employs service-learning to teach civic participation skills, help young people see themselves as resources to their communities, expand educational opportunities and discourage ''summer academic slide.'' Providing tangible benefits to their communities, Summer of Service projects direct grantees to work on unmet human, educational, environmental and public safety needs and encourage all youth, regardless of age, income, or disability, to engage in community service. The program also grants participants with an educational award of up to $500 which can later be used to pay for college.

Volunteerism not only brings support and services to communities in need, it also provides significant benefits to the students who participate. When young people participate in service activities they feel better able to control their lives in a positive way, avoiding risk behaviors, strengthening their community connections and become more engaged in their studies. When service is tied to what students are learning in school, they make gains on achievement tests, complete their homework more often, and increase their grade point average. Students who engage in service learning also improve their communication skills, gain increased awareness of career possibilities, and develop more positive workplace attitudes, setting the foundation for their place as America's future leaders. Studies also show that students who participate in community service are more likely to graduate high school and demonstrate interest in going to college.

We often hear today of the tremendous pressures our young people face at home, in school and in the afterschool hours. Summer of Service provides young people with the chance to be a positive change in their communities. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Summer of Service Act of 2006. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 4053

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Summer of Service Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Throughout the United States, there are pressing unmet human, educational, environmental and public safety needs.

(2) Americans desire to affirm common responsibilities and shared values, and join together in positive experiences, that transcend race, religion, gender, age, disability, region, income, and education.

(3) Americans of all ages can improve their communities and become better citizens through service to their communities.

(4) When youth participate in service activities and see that they are able to improve the lives of others, the youth feel better able to control their own lives in a positive way, avoiding risky behaviors, strengthening their community connections, and becoming more engaged in their own education.

(5) When youth service is tied to learning objectives, that service is shown to decrease alienation and behavior problems, and increase knowledge of community needs, commitment to an ethic of service, and understanding of politics and morality.

(6) When service is tied to what students are learning in school, the students make gains on achievement tests, complete their homework more often, and increase their grade point averages.

(7) Students who engage in service-learning improve their communication skills, increase their awareness of career possibilities, have a deeper understanding of social and economic issues that face the United States, and develop more positive workplace attitudes, preparing them to take their places as future leaders of the United States.

(8) In a national poll, more than 80 percent of parents said that their child would benefit from an after school program that offered community service and 95 percent of teens agreed that is important to volunteer time to community efforts.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) offer youth the chance to spend a summer in service to their communities as a rite of passage before high school;

(2) teach civic participation skills to youth and help youth see themselves as resources and leaders for their communities;

(3) expand educational opportunities and discourage ''summer slide'' by engaging youth in summer service-learning opportunities;

(4) encourage youth, regardless of age, income, or disability, to engage in community service;

(5) provide tangible benefits to the communities in which Summer of Service programs are performed; and

(6) enhance the social-emotional development of youth of all backgrounds.

SEC. 3. SUMMER OF SERVICE PROGRAMS.

Title I of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subtitles F, G, H, and I as subtitles G, H, I, and J, respectively;

(2) by redesignating sections 160 through 166 as sections 159A through 159G, respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subtitle E the following:

"Subtitle F—Summer of Service Programs

"SEC. 161. DEFINITIONS.

''In this subtitle:

''(1) EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—The term 'educational award' means an award disbursed under section 162B(d) or 163B(d).

''(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a public or private nonprofit organization, an institution of higher education, a local educational agency, a public elementary school or public secondary school, or a consortium of 2 or more of the entities described in this paragraph.

''(3) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—The term 'eligible youth' means a youth who will be enrolled in the sixth, seventh, eighth, or ninth grade at the end of the summer for which the youth would participate in community service under this subtitle.

"PART I—SUMMER OF SERVICE STATE GRANT PROGRAM

"SEC. 162. GRANTS TO STATES.

''(a) GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer shall award grants on a competitive basis to States, to enable the State Commissions—

''(A) to carry out State-level activities under subsection (d); and

''(B) to award subgrants on a competitive basis under section 162A to eligible entities to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out community service projects.

''(2) FUNDS FOR EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—The Chief Executive Officer shall decide whether funds appropriated to carry out this part and available for educational awards (referred to in this part as 'educational award funds') shall be—

''(A) included in the funds for such grants to States and subgrants to eligible entities; or

''(B) reserved by the Chief Executive Officer, deposited in the National Service Trust for educational awards, and disbursed according to paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 162B(d).

''(3) PERIODS OF GRANTS.—The Chief Executive Officer shall award the grants for periods of 3 years.

''(4) AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—The Chief Executive Officer shall award such a grant to a State for a program in a sum equal to—

''(A) the amount obtained by multiplying $500 and the number of youth who will participate in the program (to be used for program expenses);

''(B) unless the Chief Executive Officer decides to deposit funds for educational awards in the National Service Trust, as described in paragraph (2)(B), an additional amount equal to the amount described in subparagraph (A) (to be used for educational awards); and

''(C) an amount sufficient to provide for the reservation for State-level activities described in subsection (d).

''(b) STATE APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall submit an application to the Chief Executive Officer at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Chief Executive Officer may require, including information that—

''(1) designates the State Commission as the agency responsible for the administration and supervision of the community service program carried out under this part in the State;

''(2) describes how the State Commission will use funds received under this part, including funds reserved for State-level activities under subsection (d);

''(3) describes the procedures and criteria the State Commission will use for reviewing applications and awarding subgrants on a competitive basis under section 162A to eligible entities for projects, including how the State Commission will give priority to an entity that—

''(A) offers a quality plan for or has an established track record of carrying out the activities described in the entity's application;

''(B) has a leadership position in the community from which the youth participating in the project described in the application will be drawn;

''(C) proposes a project that focuses on service by the participants during the transition year before high school;

''(D) plans to ensure that at least 50 percent of the participants are low-income eligible youth;

''(E) proposes a project that encourages or enables youth to continue participating in community service throughout the school year;

''(F) plans to involve the participants in the design and operation of the project, including involving the participants in conducting a needs-based assessment of community needs;

''(G) proposes a project that involves youth of different ages, races, sexes, ethnic groups, religions, disability categories, or economic backgrounds serving together; and

''(H) proposes a project that provides high quality service-learning experiences;

''(4) describes the steps the State Commission will take, including the provision of ongoing technical assistance described in subsection (d)(2) and training, to ensure that projects funded under section 162A will implement effective strategies; and

''(5) describes how the State Commission will evaluate the projects, which shall include, at a minimum—

''(A) a description of the objectives and benchmarks that will be used to evaluate the projects; and

''(B) a description of how the State Commission will disseminate the results of the evaluations, as described in subsection (d)(4)(C).

''(c) APPLICANT REVIEW.—

''(1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Chief Executive Officer shall evaluate applications for grants under this section based on the quality, innovation, replicability, and sustainability of the State programs proposed by the applicants.

''(2) REVIEW PANELS.—The Chief Executive Officer shall employ the review panels established under section 165A in reviewing the applications.

''(3) NOTIFICATION OF APPLICANTS.—If the Chief Executive Officer rejects an application submitted under this section, the Chief Executive Officer shall promptly notify the applicant of the reasons for the rejection of the application.

''(4) RESUBMISSION AND RECONSIDERATION.—The Chief Executive Officer shall provide an applicant notified of rejection with a reasonable opportunity to revise and resubmit the application. At the request of the applicant, the Chief Executive Officer shall provide technical assistance to the applicant as part of the resubmission process. The Chief Executive Officer shall promptly reconsider an application resubmitted under this paragraph.

''(d) STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES.—A State that receives a grant under this section may reserve up to 5 percent of the grant funds for State-level activities, which may include—

''(1) hiring staff to administer the program carried out under this part in the State;

''(2) providing technical assistance, including technical assistance concerning the professional development and training of personnel, to eligible entities that receive subgrants under section 162A;

''(3) conducting outreach and dissemination of program-related information to ensure the broadest possible involvement of eligible entities and local eligible youth in the program carried out under this part; and

''(4)(A) conducting an evaluation of the projects carried out by eligible entities under this part;

''(B) using the results of the evaluation to collect and compile information on best practices and models for such projects; and

''(C) disseminating widely the results of the evaluation.

"SEC. 162A. SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.

''(a) SUBGRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under section 162 shall use the grant funds to award subgrants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out community service projects.

''(2) PERIODS OF SUBGRANTS.—The State shall award the subgrants for periods of 3 years.

''(3) AMOUNTS OF SUBGRANTS.—The State shall award such a subgrant to an eligible entity for a project in a sum equal to—

''(A) the amount obtained by multiplying $500 and the number of youth who will participate in the project (to be used for project expenses); and

''(B) unless the Chief Executive Officer decides to deposit funds for educational awards in the National Service Trust, as described in section 162(a)(2)(B), an additional amount equal to the amount described in subparagraph (A) (to be used for educational awards).

''(b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a subgrant under this section for a project, an entity shall submit an application to the State Commission at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State Commission may require, including information that—

''(1) designates the community in which the entity will carry out the project, which community may be the service area of an elementary school or secondary school, a school district, a city, town, village, or other locality, a county, the area in which a public housing project is located, a neighborhood, or another geographically or politically designated area;

''(2) describes the manner in which the entity will—

''(A) engage a substantial portion of the youth in the designated community;

''(B) engage a variety of entities and individuals, such as youth organizations, elementary schools or secondary schools, elected officials, organizations offering summer

camps, civic groups, nonprofit organizations, and other entities within the designated community to offer a variety of summer service opportunities as part of the project;

''(C) ensure that the youth participating in the project engage in service-learning;

''(D) engage as volunteers in the project business, civic, or community organizations or individuals, which may include older individuals, volunteers in the National Senior Volunteer Corps established under title II of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5000 et seq.), participants in the school-based and community-based service-learning programs carried out under parts I and II of subtitle B, participants in the AmeriCorps program carried out under subtitle C, or students enrolled in secondary schools or institutions of higher education;

''(E) ensure that youth participating in the project provide at least 100 hours of community service for the project;

''(F) recruit eligible youth to participate in the project;

''(G) recruit service sponsors for community service activities carried out through the project, if the eligible entity intends to enter into an arrangement with such sponsors to provide project placements for the youth;

''(H) promote leadership development and build an ethic of civic responsibility among the youth;

''(I) provide team-oriented, adult-supervised experiences through the project;

''(J) conduct opening and closing ceremonies honoring participants in the project;

''(K) involve youth who are participating in the project in the design and planning of the project; and

''(L) provide training, which may include life skills, financial education, and employment training, in addition to training concerning the specific community service to be provided through the project, for the youth; and

''(3)(A) specifies project outcome objectives relating to youth development or education achievement, community strengthening, and community improvement;

''(B) describes how the eligible entity will establish annual benchmarks for the objectives, and annually conduct an evaluation to measure progress toward the benchmarks; and

''(C) provides an assurance that the eligible entity will annually make the results of such evaluation available to the State.

''(c) CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive funds under this section for a second or subsequent year of a subgrant period, an entity shall demonstrate that the entity has met the annual benchmarks for the objectives described in subsection (b)(3).

''(d) SELECTION OF SUBGRANT RECIPIENTS.—In awarding subgrants under this section, the State shall ensure that projects are funded in a variety of geographic areas, including urban and rural areas.

''SEC. 162B. SUMMER OF SERVICE PROJECTS.

''(a) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a subgrant under section 162A shall use the subgrant funds to carry out a community service project.

''(2) SPECIFIC USES.—The eligible entity may use the subgrant funds to pay for—

''(A) hiring staff to administer the project;

''(B) developing or acquiring service-learning curricula for the project, to be integrated into academic programs, including making modifications for students who are individuals with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency;

''(C) forming local partnerships to develop and offer a variety of service-learning programs for local youth participating in the project;

''(D) establishing benchmarks, conducting evaluations, and making evaluation results available, as described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 162A(b)(3);

''(E) conducting outreach and dissemination of program-related information to ensure the broadest possible involvement of local eligible youth and community partners in the project;

''(F) conducting ceremonies as described in section 162A(b)(2)(J);

''(G) carrying out basic implementation of the community service project; and

''(H) carrying out planning activities, during an initial 6 to 9 months of the subgrant period.

''(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligible entity that receives a subgrant under section 162A shall provide the non-Federal share of the costs described in section 162A(a)(1) from private or public sources other than the subgrant funds. The sources may include fees charged to the parents of the youth participating in the community service project involved and determined on a sliding scale based on income.

''(b) SERVICE PROJECTS.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE SERVICE CATEGORIES.—The eligible entity may use the subgrant funds to carry out a community service project to meet unmet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs.

''(2) INELIGIBLE SERVICE CATEGORIES.—The eligible entity may not use the subgrant funds to carry out a service project in which participants perform service described in section 132(a).

''(c) PERIOD OF SERVICE PROJECTS.—The eligible entity—

''(1) shall carry out the community service project funded under section 162A during a period, the majority of which occurs in the months of June, July, and August; and

''(2) may carry out the project in conjunction with a related after school or in-school service-learning project operated during the remaining months of the year.

''(d) EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—

''(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Each eligible youth who provides at least 100 hours of community service for a project carried out under this part shall be eligible to receive an educational award of not more than $500. An eligible youth may participate in more than 1 such project but shall not receive in excess of $1,000 in total for such participation.

''(2) DISBURSEMENTS BY ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—If the Chief Executive Officer decides under section 162(a)(2)(A) to include educational award funds in subgrants under this part, the eligible entity carrying out the project shall—

''(A) disburse an educational award described in paragraph (1) in accordance with regulations issued by the Chief Executive Officer, which—

''(i) may permit disbursal of the award to the parents of the youth that have established a qualified tuition program account under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, for deposit into the account; but

''(ii) shall not otherwise permit disbursal of the award to the parents; or

''(B) enter into a contract with a private sector organization to hold the educational award funds and disburse the educational award as described in subparagraph (A).

''(3) DISBURSEMENTS BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—If the Chief Executive Officer decides under section 162(a)(2)(B) to reserve educational award funds, the Chief Executive Officer shall disburse the educational award as described in paragraph (2)(A).

''SEC. 162C. SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer may award a supplemental grant to an eligible entity that demonstates the matters described in subsection (b), to assist the entity in carrying out a community service project in accordance with the requirements of this part, as determined appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer.

''(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a supplemental grant under subsection (a), an entity shall submit an application to the Chief Executive Officer, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Chief Executive Officer may require, including information demonstrating—

''(1) that the entity received a subgrant under section 162A for a community service project; and

''(2) that the entity would be unable to carry out the project without substantial hardship unless the entity received a supplemental grant under subsection (a).

''(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The Chief Executive Officer shall award such a grant to an eligible entity for the project in the amount obtained by multiplying $250 and the number of youth who will participate in the project (to be used for project expenses).

''SEC. 162D. INDIAN TRIBES AND TERRITORIES.

''From the funds made available to carry out this part under section 165(b)(2)(A) for any fiscal year, the Chief Executive Officer shall reserve an amount of not more than 3 percent for payments to Indian tribes, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be used in accordance with the requirements of this part, as determined appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer.

''PART II—SUMMER OF SERVICE NATIONAL DIRECT GRANT PROGRAM

''SEC. 163. NATIONAL DIRECT GRANTS.

''(a) GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer shall award grants on a competitive basis to public or private organizations (referred to individually in this part as an 'organization')—

''(A) to carry out quality assurance activities under subsection (d); and

''(B) to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out a community service program—

''(i) in a State where the State Commission does not apply for funding under part I; or

''(ii) in multiple States.

''(2) FUNDS FOR EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—The Chief Executive Officer shall decide whether funds appropriated to carry out this part and available for educational awards (referred to in this part as 'educational award funds') shall be—

''(A) included in the funds for such grants to organizations and any subgrants to local providers; or

''(B) reserved by the Chief Executive Officer, deposited in the National Service Trust for educational awards, and disbursed according to paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 163B(d).

''(3) PERIODS OF GRANTS.—The Chief Executive Officer shall award the grants for periods of 3 years.

''(4) AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—The Chief Executive Officer shall award such a grant to an organization for a program in a sum equal to—

''(A) the amount obtained by multiplying $500 and the number of youth who will participate in the program (to be used for program expenses);

''(B) unless the Chief Executive Officer decides to deposit funds for educational awards in the National Service Trust, as described in paragraph (2)(B), an additional amount equal to the amount described in subparagraph (A) (to be used for educational awards); and

''(C) an amount sufficient to provide for the reservation for quality assurance activities described in subsection (d).

''(b) NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section for a community service program, an organization shall submit an application to the Chief Executive Officer at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Chief Executive Officer may require, including information that—

''(1) describes how the organization will use funds received under this part, including funds reserved for quality assurance activities under subsection (d);

''(2)(A) describes the procedures and criteria the organization will use for reviewing applications and awarding subgrants on a competitive basis under section 163A to local providers for projects, including how the organization will give priority to a provider that, with respect to each project described in the application—

''(i) offers a quality plan for or has an established track record of carrying out the activities described in the provider's application;

''(ii) has a leadership position in the community from which the youth participating in the project will be drawn;

''(iii) proposes a project that focuses on service by the participants during the transition year before high school;

''(iv) plans to ensure that at least 50 percent of the participants are low-income eligible youth;

''(v) proposes a project that encourages or enables youth to continue participating in community service throughout the school year;

''(vi) plans to involve the participants in the design and operation of the project, including involving the participants in conducting a needs-based assessment of community needs;

''(vii) proposes a project that involves youth of different ages, races, sexes, ethnic groups, religions, disability categories, or economic backgrounds serving together; and

''(viii) proposes a project that provides high quality service-learning experiences; or

''(B) if the organization will carry out the community service program directly, demonstrates that the organization meets the requirements of clauses (i) through (viii) of subparagraph (A) with respect to each project described in the application;

''(3) describes the steps the organization will take, including the provision of ongoing technical assistance described in subsection (d)(2)) and training, to ensure that projects funded under this part will implement effective strategies; and

''(4) describes how the organization will evaluate the projects funded under this part, which shall include, at a minimum—

''(A) a description of the objectives and benchmarks that will be used to evaluate the projects; and

''(B) a description of how the organization will disseminate widely the results of the evaluations, as described in subsection (d)(3)(C).

''(c) APPLICANT REVIEW.—

''(1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Chief Executive Officer shall evaluate applications for grants under this section based on the quality, innovation, replicability, and sustainability of the programs proposed by the applicants.

''(2) REVIEW PANELS.—The Chief Executive Officer shall employ the review panels established under section 165A in reviewing the applications.

''(3) NOTIFICATION OF APPLICANTS.—If the Chief Executive Officer rejects an application submitted under this section, the Chief Executive Officer shall promptly notify the applicant of the reasons for the rejection of the application.

''(4) RESUBMISSION AND RECONSIDERATION.—The Chief Executive Officer shall provide an applicant notified of rejection with a reasonable opportunity to revise and resubmit the application. At the request of the applicant, the Chief Executive Officer shall provide technical assistance to the applicant as part of the resubmission process. The Chief Executive Officer shall promptly reconsider an application resubmitted under this paragraph.

''(d) QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES.—An organization that receives a grant under this section may reserve up to 5 percent of the grant funds for quality assurance activities, which may include—

''(1) hiring staff to administer the program carried out under this part by the organization;

''(2) providing technical assistance, including technical assistance concerning the professional development and training of personnel, to local providers that receive subgrants under section 163A; and

''(3)(A) conducting an evaluation of the projects carried out by local providers of the organization under this part;

''(B) using the results of the evaluation to collect and compile information on best practices and models for such projects; and

''(C) disseminating widely the results of the evaluation.

''SEC. 163A. SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL PROVIDERS.

''(a) SUBGRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An organization that receives a grant under section 163 may use the grant funds to award subgrants on a competitive basis to local providers to pay for the Federal share of the cost of carrying out community service projects.

''(2) PERIODS OF SUBGRANTS.—The organization shall award the subgrants for periods of 3 years.

''(3) AMOUNTS OF SUBGRANTS.—The organization shall award such a subgrant to a local provider for a project in a sum equal to—

''(A) the amount obtained by multiplying $500 and the number of youth who will participate in the project (to be used for project expenses); and

''(B) unless the Chief Executive Officer decides to deposit funds for educational awards in the National Service Trust, as described in section 163(a)(2)(B), an additional amount equal to the amount described in subparagraph (A) (to be used for educational awards).

''(b) LOCAL PROVIDER APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a subgrant under this section, a local provider shall submit an application to the organization at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the organization may require, including information that—

''(1) designates the communities in which the local provider will carry out projects under the subgrant, each of which communities may be the service area of an elementary school or secondary school, a school district, a city, town, village, or other locality, a county, the area in which a public housing project is located, a neighborhood, or another geographically or politically designated area;

''(2) for each project described in such application, describes the manner in which the local provider will—

''(A) engage a substantial portion of the youth in the designated community involved;

''(B) engage a variety of entities and individuals, such as youth organizations, elementary schools or secondary schools, elected officials, organizations offering summer camps, civic groups, nonprofit organizations, and other entities within the designated community to offer a variety of summer service opportunities as part of the project;

''(C) ensure that the youth participating in the project engage in service-learning;

''(D) engage as volunteers in the project business, civic, or community organizations or individuals, which may include older individuals, volunteers in the National Senior Volunteer Corps established under title II of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5000 et seq.), participants in the school-based and community-based service-learning programs carried out under parts I and II of subtitle B, participants in the AmeriCorps program carried out under subtitle C, or students enrolled in secondary schools or institutions of higher education;

''(E) ensure that youth participating in the project provide at least 100 hours of community service for the project;

''(F) recruit eligible youth to participate in the project;

''(G) recruit service sponsors for community service activities carried out through the project, if the local provider intends to enter into an arrangement with such sponsors to provide project placements for the youth;

''(H) promote leadership development and build an ethic of civic responsibility among the youth;

''(I) provide team-oriented, adult-supervised experiences through the project;

''(J) conduct opening and closing ceremonies honoring participants in the project;

''(K) involve youth who are participating in the project in the design and planning of the project; and

''(L) provide training, which may include life skills, financial education, and employment training, in addition to training concerning the specific community service to be provided through the project, for the youth; and

''(3)(A) specifies project outcome objectives relating to youth development or education achievement, community strengthening, and community improvement;

''(B) describes how the local provider will establish annual benchmarks for the objectives, and annually conduct an evaluation to measure progress toward the benchmarks; and

''(C) provides an assurance that the local provider will annually make the results of such evaluation available to the organization.

''(c) CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive funds under this section for a second or subsequent year of a subgrant period, a local provider shall demonstrate that all the projects for which the subgrant was awarded met the annual benchmarks for the objectives described in subsection (b)(3).

''(d) SELECTION OF SUBGRANT RECIPIENTS.—In awarding subgrants under this section, the organization shall ensure that projects are funded in a variety of geographic areas, including urban and rural areas.

''SEC. 163B. SUMMER OF SERVICE PROJECTS.

''(a) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A local provider that receives a subgrant under section 163A shall use the subgrant funds to carry out a community service project.

''(2) SPECIFIC USES.—The local provider may use the subgrant funds, to pay for—

''(A) hiring staff to administer the project;

''(B) developing or acquiring service-learning curricula for the project, to be integrated into academic programs, including making modifications for students who are individuals with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency;

''(C) forming local partnerships to develop and offer a variety of service-learning programs for local youth participating in the project;

''(D) establishing benchmarks, conducting evaluations, and making evaluation results available, as described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 163A(b)(3);

''(E) conducting outreach and dissemination of program-related information to ensure the broadest possible involvement of local eligible youth and community partners in the project;

''(F) conducting ceremonies as described in section 163A(b)(2)(J);

''(G) carrying out basic implementation of the community service project; and

''(H) carrying out planning activities, during an initial 6 to 9 months of the grant period.

''(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—A local provider that receives a subgrant under section 163A shall provide the non-Federal share of the cost described in section 163A(a)(1) from private or public sources other than the subgrant funds. The sources may include fees charged to the parents of the youth participating in the community service project involved and determined on a sliding scale based on income.

''(b) SERVICE PROJECTS.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE SERVICE CATEGORIES.—The local provider may use the subgrant funds to carry out a community service project to meet unmet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs.

''(2) INELIGIBLE SERVICE CATEGORIES.—The local provider may not use the subgrant funds to carry out a service project in which participants perform service described in section 132(a).

''(c) PERIOD OF SERVICE PROJECTS.—The local provider—

''(1) shall carry out the community service project funded under section 163A during a period, the majority of which occurs in the months of June, July, and August; and

''(2) may carry out the project in conjunction with a related after school or in-school service-learning project operated during the remaining months of the year.

''(d) EDUCATIONAL AWARD.—

''(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Each eligible youth who provides at least 100 hours of community service for a project carried out under this part shall be eligible to receive an educational award of not more than $500. An eligible youth may participate in more than 1 such project but shall not receive in excess of $1,000 in total for such participation.

''(2) DISBURSEMENTS BY LOCAL PROVIDER.—If the Chief Executive Officer decides under section 163(a)(2)(A) to include educational award funds in subgrants under this part, the local provider carrying out the project shall—

''(A) disburse an educational award described in paragraph (1) in accordance with regulations issued by the Chief Executive Officer, which—

''(i) may permit disbursal of the award to the parents of the youth that have established a qualified tuition program account under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, for deposit into the account; but

''(ii) shall not otherwise permit disbursal of the award to the parents; or

''(B) enter into a contract with a private sector organization to hold the educational award funds and disburse the educational award as described in subparagraph (A).

''(3) DISBURSEMENTS BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—If the Chief Executive Officer decides under section 163(a)(2)(B) to reserve educational award funds, the Chief Executive Officer shall disburse the educational award as described in paragraph (2)(A).

''(e) APPLICATION OF SECTION.—References in this section to local providers, with respect to the use of subgrant funds received under section 163A, apply equally to organizations that carry out community service projects directly, with respect to the use of grant funds received under section 163.

''SEC. 163C. SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer may award a supplemental grant to a local provider that demonstates the matters described in subsection (b), to assist the provider in carrying out a community service project in accordance with the requirements of this part, as determined appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer.

''(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a supplemental grant under subsection (a), a provider shall submit an application to the Chief Executive Officer, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Chief Executive Officer may require, including information demonstrating—

''(1) that the provider received a subgrant under section 163A for a community service project; and

''(2) that the provider would be unable to carry out the project without substantial hardship unless the provider received a supplemental grant under subsection (a).

''(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The Chief Executive Officer shall award such a grant to a local provider for the project in the amount obtained by multiplying $250 and the number of youth who will participate in the project (to be used for project expenses).

''PART III—SUMMER OF SERVICE NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

''SEC. 164. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

''(a) NATIONAL QUALITY AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—The Chief Executive Officer may use funds reserved under section 165(b)(1), either directly or through grants and contracts, to—

''(1) provide technical assistance and training to recipients of grants and subgrants under parts I and II;

''(2) conduct outreach and dissemination of program-related information to ensure the broadest possible involvement of States, eligible entities, organizations, local providers, and eligible youth in programs carried out under parts I and II; and

''(3) to carry out other activities designed to improve the quality of programs carried out under parts I and II.

''(b) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—

''(1) RESERVATION.—For each fiscal year, the Chief Executive Officer shall reserve not more than the greater of $500,000, or 1 percent, of the funds described in subsection (a) for the purposes described in paragraph (2).

''(2) EVALUATION.—The Chief Executive Officer shall use the reserved funds—

''(A) to arrange for an independent evaluation of the programs carried out under parts I and II, to be conducted in the second and third years in which the programs are implemented; and

''(B) using the results of the evaluation, to collect and compile information on models and best practices for such programs; and

''(C) to disseminate widely the results of the evaluation.

''(3) REPORT.—The Chief Executive Officer shall annually submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report concerning the results of the evaluations conducted under paragraph (2). Such reports shall also contain information on models of best practices and any other findings or recommendations developed by the Chief Executive Officer based on such evaluations. Such reports shall be made available to the general public.

''PART IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''SEC. 165. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS AND AVAILABILITY.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

''(b) AVAILABILITY.—Of the funds appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Chief Executive Officer—

''(1) shall reserve not more than 4 percent to carry out activities under part III (relating to national activities); and

''(2) from the remainder of such funds, shall make available—

''(A) a portion equal to 66⅔ percent of such funds for programs carried out under part I (relating to the State grant program), including programs carried out under section 162D; and

''(B) a portion equal to 33⅓ percent of such funds for programs carried out under part II (relating to the national direct grant program).

''(c) REALLOCATION.—If the Chief Executive Officer determines that funds from the portion described in subsection (b)(2)(A) will not be needed to carry out programs under part I for a fiscal year, the Chief Executive Officer shall make the funds available for programs under part II for that fiscal year.

''SEC. 165A. REVIEW PANELS.

''The Chief Executive Officer shall establish panels of experts for the purpose of reviewing applications submitted under sections 162, 162C, 162D, and 163.

''SEC. 165B. CONSTRUCTION.

''An individual participating in service in a program described in this subtitle shall not be considered to be an employee engaged in employment for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).''.

SEC. 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REDESIGNATION OF SUBTITLES.—

(1) Section 118(a) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12551(a)) is amended by striking ''subtitle H'' and inserting ''subtitle I''.

(2) Section 122(a)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''subtitle I'' and inserting ''subtitle J''.

(3) Section 193A(f)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12651d(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''subtitles C and I'' and inserting ''subtitles C and J''.

(4) Section 501(a)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12681(a)(2)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''SUBTITLES C, D, AND H'' and inserting ''SUBTITLES C, D, AND I'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''subtitles C and H'' and inserting ''subtitles C and I''; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''subtitle H'' and inserting ''subtitle I''.

(b) REDESIGNATION OF SECTIONS.—

(1) Section 155(d)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12615(d)(3)) is amended by striking ''section 162(a)(3)'' and inserting ''section 159C(a)(3)''.

(2) Section 156(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12616(d)) is amended by striking ''section 162(a)(3)'' and inserting ''section 159C(a)(3)''.

(3) Section 159(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12619(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(i), by striking ''section 162(a)(2)'' and inserting ''section 159C(a)(2)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''section 162(a)(2)(A)'' and inserting ''section 159C(a)(2)(A)''.

(4) Section 159B(b)(1)(B) of such Act (as redesignated by section 3(2)) is amended by striking ''section 162(a)(3)'' and inserting ''section 159C(a)(3)''.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARD PROVISIONS.—

(1) NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.—Section 145 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting '', other than interest or proceeds described in paragraph (4)(B); and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(4)(A) any amounts deposited in the Trust under subtitle F; and

''(B) the interest on, and proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held by the Trust for a program carried out under subtitle F.''; and

(B) in subsection (c), by inserting ''(other than any amounts deposited in the Trust under subtitle F)'' after ''Amounts in the Trust''.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS IN NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.—Section 148(a) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12604(a)) is amended by inserting ''(other than any amounts deposited in the Trust under subtitle F)'' after ''Amounts in the Trust''.

Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 4054. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the number of individuals qualifying for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury protection coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment on legislation that the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Senator AKAKA, and I are introducing today. This bill would expand the number of eligible recipients of retroactive payments under the Traumatic Injury Protection under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, or ''TSGLI'', benefit. Most of my colleagues have perhaps heard the story of how this important benefit became law and what its intended purpose is, but I believe it is worth repeating.

In April of 2005 I was visited by three servicemembers who were seriously injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). They were members of an organization called the Wounded Warrior Project, and they told me of their lengthy recovery times at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the financial toll that that period of convalescence had on them and their families. They talked about wives, parents, and other relatives who had taken long absences from work, and some who had even quit their work, in order to spend time with those recovering at Walter Reed. And they told me that the Department of Veterans Affairs compensation system was no help because, by law, those benefits do not kick in until after separation from service.

Based on their experiences, these wounded warriors recommended that I pursue legislation to create a new insurance benefit for those with traumatic injuries such as theirs. The insurance would pay between $25,000 and $100,000 as soon as possible after an injury occurred, thereby bridging the gap in assistance needed during the time of a wounded servicemember's recovery and the time of his or her separation from service. They asked that I make the legislation prospective only, meaning that they, and hundreds of others, would go without any TSGLI payment. I honored that request and, together with Senator AKAKA and other Members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, introduced an amendment to the 2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill then pending before the Senate.

A second degree amendment was later unanimously agreed to which authorized retroactive benefit payments to all of those injured in the Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) theaters of operation—providing for TSGLI payments to hundreds of servicemembers who had been seriously injured since the start of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. At the time, the retroactive TSGLI provision was consistent with other retroactive benefits approved within the Emergency Supplemental bill, such as $238,000 in combined Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and death gratuity benefits that were provided retroactively to survivors of those killed in combat operations since the start of the War on Terror. Needless to say, the TSGLI amendments were approved by the Congress and enacted into law.

Fast forward to the present. TSGLI has been up and running since December 1, 2005, and provides financial assistance of $25,000 to $100,000 to traumatically injured servicemembers within, on average, 60 days of the date of the injury causing event. As of September 2006, almost 2,300 wounded OIF/OEF servicemembers have benefited under the retroactive portion of the program. For those with injuries post December 1, 2005, it does not matter if an injury occurs as a result of combat operations or training exercises—payment under TSGLI is available in either situation.

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on the TSGLI benefit this past September. The Committee received testimony from the Wounded Warrior Project, the organization largely responsible for TSGLI's conception. While very pleased with the program overall, a serious concern was raised regarding the equity of only extending retroactive TSGLI payments to those injured during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Mr. Jeremy Chwat, testifying for the Wounded Warrior Project that day, used the example of one servicemember as representative of others who are not now eligible for benefits:

> Brave men and women like Seaman Robert Roeder who was injured on January 29, 2005 when an arresting wire on the aircraft carrier, the USS Kitty Hawk, severed his left leg below the knee.... Although the ship was on its way to the Gulf and the training exercises being conducted were in preparation for action in either Operation Enduring or Iraqi Freedom, Robert's injury does not qualify for payment.

Furthermore, since enactment of the 2005 Emergency Supplemental, retroactive SGLI and death gratuity benefits combining $238,000 have been expanded to provide payments to survivors of all servicemembers who died on active duty, whether in combat or not. The reason behind the expansion of retroactive benefits was a recognition that military service is universal in character; that each military man or woman, no matter where they are serving, contributes in a unique way to make the United States Armed Forces second to none.

The legislation I am introducing today, along with Senate AKAKA, will make the TSGLI retroactive payment eligibility criteria consistent with the other benefit program retroactive payment criteria I just mentioned. Thus, if this legislation is enacted, all traumatically injured servicemembers who served between October 7, 2001, and December 1, 2005, will be eligible for TSGLI payments, irrespective of where their injuries occurred. Unofficial estimates from the Department of Veterans Affairs suggest that approximately 700 individuals would be covered under this bill.

Both the Wounded Warrior Project and the National Military Families Association have expressed their support for this bill. And I now ask my colleagues for their support. This is the right thing to do for our military men and women.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF INDIVIDUALS QUALIFYING FOR RETROACTIVE BENEFITS FROM TRAUMATIC INJURY PROTECTION COVERAGE UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 501(b) of the Veterans' Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006 (120 Stat. 414; 38 U.S.C. 1980A note) is amended by striking '', if, as determined by the Secretary concerned, that loss was a direct result of a traumatic injury incurred in the theater of operations for Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended by striking ''IN OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM''.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 4055. A bill to address the effect of the death of a defendant in Federal criminal proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the ''Preserving Crime Victims' Restitution Act of 2006.'' The Act would clarify the rule of law and procedures that should be applied when a criminal defendant, such as former Enron CEO Kenneth Lay, dies after he has been

duly convicted, but before his appeals are final.

I am pleased that Senator SESSIONS is joining me as a cosponsor in introducing this bill. We have worked closely with the Department of Justice in crafting this legislation, and have used much of DOJ's transmitted language. DOJ fully supports the principles contained in this bill, and has indicated its support for this bill's efforts to fix this problem now to ensure that, despite a defendant's death, hard-won convictions are preserved and restitution remains available for the victims of crime.

This bill that I introduce today would do the following: Establish that, if a defendant dies after being convicted of a Federal offense, his conviction will not be vacated. Instead, the court will be directed to issue a statement stating that the defendant was convicted (either by a guilty plea or a verdict finding him guilty) but then died before his case or appeal was final.

It would codify the current rule that no further punishments can be imposed on a person who is convicted if they die before a sentence is imposed or they have an opportunity to appeal their conviction.

It would clarify that, unlike punishment, all other relief, such as restitution to the victims, that could have been sought against a convicted defendant can continue to be pursued and collected after the defendant's death.

It would establish a process to ensure that after a person dies, a representative of his estate can stand in the shoes of the defendant and challenge or appeal his conviction if they want, and can also secure a lawyer—either on their own or by having one appointed, and

If the Government had filed a criminal forfeiture action—in which it had sought to reach the defendant's assets that were linked to his crimes—the Government would get an extra 2 years after the defendant's death to file a parallel civil forfeiture lawsuit so that it could try to recover those same assets in a different, and traditionally-accepted manner.

The need for this legislation was vividly demonstrated last month. On October 17, 2006, U.S. District Judge Sim Lake, of the Southern District of Texas, wiped clean the criminal record of Enron founder Kenneth Lay, even after a jury and judge had unanimously found him guilty of 10 criminal charges, including securities fraud, wire fraud involving false and misleading statements, bank fraud and conspiracy.

That decision was not based on an error in the trial or any suggestion of unfairness in the proceedings. Instead, it was simply based on the fact that Mr. Lay died before his conviction had been affirmed on appeal, under a common law rule known as ''abatement.''

In other words, this order essentially means that Mr. Lay is ''convicted but not guilty''—''innocent by reason of his death.''

Judge Lake granted this dismissal even in the face of DOJ Enron Task Force filings, which noted how Mr. Lay's conviction ''provided the basis for the likely disgorgement of fraud proceeds totaling tens of millions of dollars.'' In other words, the dismissal means that millions dollars, that the jury found were obtained by Mr. Lay illegally, will now remain untouched in the Lay estate. And everyone agrees that former Enron employees and shareholders will now find it much harder to lay claim to these ill-gotten gains held by Mr. Lay's estate, because they will be unable to point to his criminal conviction as proof of his wrongdoing.

I do not fault Judge Lake for issuing this order. He made it clear that he was simply following the binding precedent issued in 2004 by the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, in a case called United States v. Estate of Parsons.

But as I noted in a letter I wrote to Attorney General Gonzales on October 20, 2006, the Fifth Circuit's Parsons decision goes far beyond the traditional rule of law in this area. While the common-law doctrine of abatement has historically wiped out ''punishments'' following a criminal defendant's death, the Supreme Court has never held that it must also wipe out a victim's right to other forms of relief such as restitution, which simply compensate third parties who were injured by criminal misconduct.

As the six dissenters in Parsons noted, the majority's '' 'finality rationale' is a completely novel judicial creation which has not been embraced or even suggested by . . . other courts.'' The Third and Fourth Circuits, for example, have expressly refused to take this position, and upheld a restitution order after a criminal defendant's death.

The Parsons decision was remarkable in several other respects, including the fact that (as the dissenters noted), its new rule of law was apparently inspired by a single law review article. That academic piece boldly claimed that a criminal defendant's right of appeal is ''evolving into a constitutional right,'' and suggested that a conviction untested by appellate review is unreliable and illegitimate. This notion runs contrary to the traditional rule applied in virtually every other context—where a jury's findings are typically respected under the law.

Of course a defendant is presumed innocent at the outset of his case. After a jury has deliberated and unanimously issued a formal finding of guilt, however, that presumption of innocence no longer stands.

The Parsons ''finality'' rationale raises the absurd possibility that even a defendant who fully admitted his wrongdoing and pleaded guilty, but who then died while an appeal of his sentence was pending, could have his entire criminal conviction erased. In fact, this has already occurred, in the 1994 case of United States v. Pogue, where the D.C. Circuit ordered the dismissal of a conviction of a defendant whose appeal was pending—even though the docketing statement had said that the defendant intended to challenge only his sentence, and not his underlying conviction.

I have urged the Attorney General to continue to fight for Enron victims by appealing Judge Lake's dismissal to the Supreme Court. There, he should ask for a resolution of this split in the law between these Circuits, so that he can try to get the Parsons rule overturned. Unfortunately, the Justice Department has been noncommittal—it refuses to say if it will appeal the Ken Lay dismissal or not, even with the filing deadline fast approaching.

In the meantime, rather than remaining silent on this issue, and hoping that the Attorney General will appeal the Lay case as he should, I believe the time has come for Congress to take action.

While I have no desire for our Government to punish a criminal defendant who dies, the calculation should be different when we are determining how to make up for harm suffered by other individuals.

There is surely a legal and moral basis for not punishing the dead. But there is also, more importantly, a legal and moral basis for defending the living. The legislation that I introduce today codifies that distinction.

This legislation offers a fair solution and orderly process in the event that a criminal defendant dies prior to his final appeal.

Enron's collapse in 2001 wiped out thousands of jobs, more than $60 billion in market value, and more than $2 billion in pension plans. When America's seventh largest company crumbled into bankruptcy after its accounting tricks could no longer hide its billions in debt, countless former Enron employees and shareholders lost their entire life savings after investing in Enron's 401(k) plan.

Many of these Enron victims have been following closely the years of preparation by the Enron Task Force, and the four-month jury trial and separate one-week bench trial, hoping to finally recover some restitution in this criminal case. And despite Mr. Lay's vigorous efforts to avoid being held accountable for his actions, a conviction was finally secured.

Yet now these people have essentially been victimized again. They will be forced to start all over in their efforts to get back some portion of the pension funds on which they expected to subsist, and the other hard-earned assets that will remain beyond their reach, despite the unanimous, hard-fought verdicts finding Mr. Lay guilty of all ten counts with which he had been charged.

The time has come for Congress to end this injustice—hopefully, by acting quickly enough to assist these Enron victims, but in any event in a way that

will prevent this type of injustice from ever happening again in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 614—HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO RESPONDED TO THE DEVASTATING ESPERANZA INCIDENT FIRE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN OCTOBER 2006

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 614

Whereas, in late October 2006, the mountain communities west of Palm Springs, California were struck by a vast wildfire, which came to be known as the Esperanza Incident and which authorities believe was started by an arsonist;

Whereas the Esperanza Incident fire tragically claimed lives, homes and other buildings, and more than 40,000 acres of terrain;

Whereas nearly 3,000 firefighters from dozens of fire crews courageously battled the fast-spreading blaze, which was fanned by Santa Ana wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour;

Whereas 4 firefighters—Mark Loutzenhiser, Jess McLean, Jason McKay, and Daniel Hoover-Najera—made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives when flames overtook them as they tried to protect a home;

Whereas an additional firefighter, Pablo Cerda, joined them in that sacrifice when he too lost his life, after fighting to survive for 6 days in a hospital before succumbing to burns he had received fighting alongside his fallen colleagues;

Whereas firefighters honored the spirit of their fallen colleagues by completing the job they started and controlling the blaze, even while recognizing considerable danger to their own well-being;

Whereas skilled and courageous aircraft personnel and additional emergency personnel, including law enforcement and medical personnel, also responded to the threat posed by the fire; and

Whereas law enforcement personnel are aggressively pursuing the conviction of the arsonist, and generous Californians have offered additional funds, on top of those offered by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, to help bring the arsonist to justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors—

(A) all of the firefighters who responded to the devastating Esperanza Incident fire in southern California in October 2006; and

(B) all others, including emergency, law enforcement, and medical personnel and aircraft crews, who contributed to controlling the fire, keeping Californians safe, and finding and arresting the suspected arsonist; and

(2) commends the firefighters and other personnel who responded to the fire for dedicated service to the people of California.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5149. Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5150. Mr. DAYTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5151. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5152. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5153. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5154. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5155. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5156. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5157. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5158. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5159. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5160. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5161. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5162. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5163. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5164. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5165. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5166. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. OBAMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5167. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5384, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5149. Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 168, strike lines 7 and 8 and insert the following: ''the purchase of land and moving of utilities;

(6) the Town of Boone, North Carolina, a rural area for purposes of eligibility for Rural Utilities Service water and waste water loans and grants; and

(7) the Cities of Alamo, Mercedes, Weslaco, and

SA 5150. Mr. DAYTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 175, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 758. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to take an action that would violate Executive Order 13149 (65 Fed. Reg. 24607; relating to greening the government through Federal fleet and transportation efficiency).

SA 5151. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 175, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 758. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Food and Drug Administration may be used to prevent an individual not in the business of importing a prescription drug (within the meaning of section 801(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(g))) from importing a prescription drug from Canada that complies with sections 501, 502, and 505 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 351, 352, and 355).

SA 5152. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 175, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 758. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Food and Drug Administration may be used to prevent an individual not in the business of importing a prescription drug (within the meaning of section 801(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(g))) from importing a prescription drug from Canada that complies with sections 501, 502, and 505 of such Act (21 U.S.C. 351, 352, and 355): *Provided*, That this section shall apply only to a personal-use quantity of the prescription drug,

not to exceed a 90-day supply: *Provided further*, That the prescription drug may not be—

(1) a controlled substance, as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802); or

(2) a biological product, as defined in section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262).

SA 5153. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for the World Food Prize, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $350,000.

SA 5154. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for the Population Management Center, and the total amount made available in this act is reduced by $200,000.

SA 5155. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for Alternative salmon products, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $1,088,000.

SA 5156. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for goose control in the State of New York, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $194,000.

SA 5157. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $232,000.

SA 5158. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for a Lettuce Geneticist/Breeder, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $36,276.

SA 5159. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for Seafood Waste, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $160,000.

SA 5160. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for the planning and design of the Biotechnology Laboratory in West Virginia, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $2,500,000.

SA 5161. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for the Montana Sheep Institute, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $591,000.

SA 5162. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be available for Termite Species in Hawaii, and the total amount made available in this Act is reduced by $150,000.

SA 5163. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 175, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 758. (a) In this section, the term ''earmark'' means a provision of law, or a directive contained in a joint explanatory statement or report accompanying a conference report or bill (as applicable), that specifies—

(1) the identity of an entity, program, project, or service to receive assistance not authorized in the provision or directive; and

(2) the amount of the assistance to be received.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress, and make available to the public on the Internet website of the Department of Agriculture, the following information:

(1) A description of each earmark made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act, including—

(A) the location (by city, State, country, and congressional district, as the Secretary determines to be relevant) at which the earmarked funds will be used;

(B) the purpose of the earmark (if known); and

(C) the recipient of the earmark.

(2) The total cost of administering each earmark made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act, including—

(A) the amount of the earmark;

(B) the cost of compensating applicable personnel;

(C) administrative expenses; and

(D) any other applicable costs.

(3) The total cost of administering all earmarks made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act.

(4) An assessment of the utility of each such earmark in meeting the goals of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with a rating system as follows:

(A) An assessment of ''A'' for an earmark that directly advances the primary goals of the Department (including any agency, element, or component of the Department).

(B) An assessment of ''B'' for an earmark that advances many of the primary goals of the Department (including any agency, element, or component of the Department).

(C) An assessment of ''C'' for an earmark that may advance some of the primary goals

of the Department (including any agency, element, or component of the Department).

(D) An assessment of ''D'' for an earmark that is not demonstrated to be cost-effective in advancing the primary goals of the Department (including any agency, element, or component of the Department).

(E) An assessment of ''F'' for an earmark that distracts from or otherwise impedes the capacity of the Department to meet the primary goals of the Department.

SA 5164. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 175, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 758. Any limitation, directive, or earmark contained in the House of Representatives or Senate report accompanying this Act shall be included in the conference report or joint statement accompanying this Act in order to be considered as having been approved by both Houses of Congress.

SA 5165. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 121, line 4, before the period insert '': *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no loan guaranteed under this heading shall be used to construct, improve, renovate, expand, or otherwise develop a golf course''.

SA 5166. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. OBAMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 175, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 758. (a) Each report described in subsection (b) shall be posted on the Internet website of the Department of Agriculture for the public not later than 48 hours after the submission of the report to Congress.

(b) The reports described in this subsection are the following:

(1) Each report required by a provision of this Act to be submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) Any report required to be submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture to Congress in support of the budget of the President for fiscal year 2008 (as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) for the Department of Agriculture, including any budget justification documents in support of such budget for the Department of Agriculture.

(c) In posting a report on the Internet website of the Department of Agriculture under subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture may redact any information the release of which to the public would, as determined by the Secretary, compromise the national security of the United States.

SA 5167. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5384, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 97, line 10, before the semicolon insert '', of which not less than $351,939 shall be for early disease identification, comprehensive composting for cull disposal, and potato late blight research activities in the State of Maine''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 15, 2006, at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., to receive testimony on the current situation and U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MCDEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 15 at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the December 2005 report from the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's Status.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, November 15, 2006, following the first vote of the day, the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a business meeting to consider the following agenda: Alex Beehler to be Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at 3 p.m. in SD–430.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Joel Rubin, a congressional fellow in my office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the duration of my comments.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, on behalf of Senator BINGAMAN, that Jonathan Epstein, a fellow from his office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the pendency of S. 3709, H.R. 5682, and any rollcall votes thereon.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 5385

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, notwithstanding passage of H.R. 5385, I ask unanimous consent that the Akaka amendment No. 5128 and Reed amendment No. 5125 be further modified with the changes at the desk.

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

The amendments, as modified, are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 5125, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To provide that, of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps, $3,410,000 shall be available for the replacement of a vehicle bridge at Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island, and to provide an offset)

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. (a) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading ''MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS'' and available for ''Replacement Vehicle Bridge, Increment 2, Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island'' is hereby increased by $3,410,000.

(b) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading ''MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS'' and available for ''Hazardous Material Storage Facility, Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island'' is hereby reduced by $3,410,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 5128, AS FURTHER MODIFIED

(Purpose: To propose a substitute)

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. _____. Of the amount appropriated by this title under the heading ''VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION'', up to $1,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Inspector General.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, pursuant to Public Law 109–236, appoints Thomas P. Mucho, of Pennsylvania, to serve as a member of the MINER Act Technical Study Panel.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4051

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4051) to provide sufficient resources to permit electronic surveillance of United States persons for foreign intelligence purposes to be conducted pursuant to individualized court-issued orders for calls originating in the United States, to provide additional resources to enhance oversight and streamline the procedures of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to ensure review of the Terrorist Surveillance Program by the United States Supreme Court, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Without objection, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

SIGNING AUTHORIZATION

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and the occupant of the chair, Senator COBURN, be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2006

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on tomorrow, Thursday, November 16. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and there be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, tomorrow we will conduct a short period of morning business before turning to the United States-India nuclear bill. We were able to reach an agreement to limit amendments to the bill earlier today, and it is my hope that we will be able to expedite consideration and vote final passage tomorrow. We are also attempting to begin work on the Agriculture appropriations bill.

We were able to pass the short-term continuing resolution today. I thank everyone for clearing that joint resolution for the President's desk.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:32 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 16, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate November 15, 2006:

THE JUDICIARY

TERRENCE W. BOYLE, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE J. DICKSON PHILLIPS, JR., RETIRED.

WILLIAM JAMES HAYNES II, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE H. EMORY WIDENER, JR., RETIRING.

PETER D. KEISLER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT, VICE JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR., ELEVATED.

WILLIAM GERRY MYERS III, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE THOMAS G. NELSON, RETIRED.

JAMES EDWARD ROGAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE NORA M. MANELLA, RESIGNED.

BENJAMIN HALE SETTLE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, VICE FRANKLIN D. BURGESS,RETIRED.

NORMAN RANDY SMITH, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FORTHE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE STEPHEN S. TROTT, RETIRED.

MICHAEL BRUNSON WALLACE, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, VICE CHARLES W. PICKERING, SR., RETIRED.

MARGARET A. RYAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS TO EXPIRE ON THE DATE PRESCRIBED BY LAW, VICE HERMAN F. GIERKE, TERM EXPIRED.

SCOTT WALLACE STUCKY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS TO EXPIRE ON THE DATE PRESCRIBED BY LAW, VICE SUSAN J. CRAWFORD, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

ANDREA L. CONTRATTO, 0000
STEPHEN B. NYE, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

JERZY J. CHACHAJ, 0000
EDWIN MEDINA, 0000
MICHAEL A. RIPLEY, 0000

To be major

GREG GORDON, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

NORMAN B. DIMOND, 0000

To be major

MARK A. DEATON, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531 AND 3064:

To be major

SHELLY M. TAYLOR, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

OMAR L. HAMADA, 0000
SETH W. WRIGHT, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

KEITH T. ADKINS, 0000
JEFFREY A. ANDERSON, 0000
GABRIEL A. ANSEEUW, 0000
CARL BENTON, 0000
JASON L. BIRCH, 0000
KEVIN H. CADY, 0000
JOSEPH J. CASALE, 0000
BLAKE CHANEY, 0000
PAUL D. CLARKE, 0000
BRIAN G. CUNNINGHAM, 0000
MICHAEL J. DAIGLE, JR., 0000
TRAVIS DAUN, 0000
RAVI M. DESAI, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. DOMENCIC, 0000
DANIEL P. DUHAN, 0000
DAVID F. ETHERIDGE, 0000
STEVEN C. EVERHART, 0000
ADAM L. FLEMING, 0000
WILLIAM D. FRANCIS, JR., 0000
PETER D. FRENCH, 0000
GREGORY G. GALYO, 0000
CESAR S. GONZALEZ, 0000
ROBERT J. GRIFFITH, 0000
BRIAN G. GUGLIOTTA, 0000
MARK W. HANEY, 0000
JAMES A. HAYES, 0000
AARON D. JOHNSON, 0000
ROBERT S. JONES, 0000
JOHN M. LONG, 0000
ALEX T. MABINI, 0000
MICAH D. MAXWELL, 0000
JEREMIAH D. MINNER, 0000
DONALD L. MORRISON, JR., 0000
PAUL S. NAGY, 0000
DOUGLAS A. PATTERSON, 0000
LAWRENCE J. PENN, 0000
JOSHUA D. PETERS, 0000
ERICK A. PETERSEN, 0000
COREY A. POORMAN, 0000
JOHN D. PORADO, 0000
DAVID M. RAY, 0000
ROBERT P. ROBBINS, 0000
THOMAS A. RYNO, 0000
ROBERT W. SAWYER, 0000
BENJAMIN J. SELPH, 0000
HAROLD A. SEXTON, 0000
RYAN P. SHANN, 0000
BRIAN T. TURNEY, 0000
DAMIAN K. VILTZ, 0000
WYATT T. WATERS, 0000
DONALD G. WETHERBEE, 0000
WILLIAM J. WILBURN, 0000
SAI G. WILLIAMS, 0000
DORSEY WISOTSKI, 0000

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN GARY M. KELLY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilman Gary M. Kelly, an American hero—a soldier, a leader, a father, a husband, and city councilman in the City of Cibolo, who recently passed away on October 15th, 2006. Councilman Kelly was recently named Mayor pro tem by the City of Cibolo before his death in honor of his lifetime commitment to the city and to the community.

Gary M. Kelly was born on October 1st, 1948, in the City of Utica in the State of New York to his parents, Raymond and Arlene Kelly. He graduated from high school in Whitesboro, New York, and then attended the Syracuse University College of Forestry in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science. He earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks in 1975. Shortly after graduate school, Gary joined the Squadron Officer School in 1976, thus beginning nearly thirty years of service in the United States Air Force.

Councilman Kelly served his country with great honor in the United States Air Force and received numerous military awards and accolades such as the Legion of Merit, Joint Service Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, to name just a few. He also rose quickly within the military ranks from Second Lieutenant to Colonel. His military career was focused on program management and logistics support of weapon systems for the United States Air Force at Kelly Air Force Base. It was just not his country he served with great passion, it was the City of Cibolo in the State of Texas as City Councilman. He was sworn into office on May 25th, 2005, and made numerous accomplishments such as writing the charter for the City, overseeing the creation of two fiscal budgets, establishing the Streets and Drainage Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and the Business Development Committee. He worked as the liaison to the Capital Improvements Committee, and Planning and Zoning Commission. He also was known for being a great mentor to new members of the City Council and to commission chairs.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia C. Kelly, his two sons, Allen Dearborn and Scott Kelly, his mother, Arlene, his two sisters and their spouses, Cindy and Gregory Hobbs, Karen and Raymond Jankowski, his brother, Chris Kelly and his wife, Kathleen, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, and friends of the family. He truly led by example and inspired his children to be the best they could be in achieving their dreams and goals. He will be missed by us all and especially by the City of Cibolo in the State of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize Councilman Gary M. Kelly.

A TRIBUTE TO CARMEN S. COMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the jazz musician, Carmen S. Comas, distinguished musician. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding artist and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

With a smile of grace that can light up a room, Carmen S. Comas was born on November 9, 1939 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico to Arthur Comas and Patricia America Justiniano. At the young age of eighteen, Mrs. Comas was voted "Misses Smile of Mayaguez." This was just a reminder that her smile had an impact on her neighbors and her community.

At the age of twenty-one, Mrs. Comas was married with two daughters, when she decided to move to New York City. Mrs. Comas is a woman of many talents and was unsure which she would use to become the entrepreneur that she was determined to be. While attending secretary school she changed gears to open a clothing factory. She became a mentor to people in the community, showing them that opportunity does exist with guidance and determination.

Mrs. Comas' drive and expectations allowed her to continue to pursue the land of opportunity. After thirty wonderful years of learning and growing, she pursued her second passion—cooking.

After working for Heart Share Human Services of New York for ten years as a resident cook she changed gears to Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation. This experience allowed her to do her best work of nurturing children.

Loved and adored by many, Mrs. Comas acknowledges the support of her growing family. Aside from her four beautiful daughters, she has her life partner Luis who has provided her with support and empowerment throughout their lives together. She has three granddaughters: Christina, Alisson and Javalia and six grandsons: Hector, Nelson, Javier, Thomas, John and Anthony. Mrs. Comas is also a part of the extended family at the Democratic Club of North Brooklyn, the Brooklyn Highland Park Lions club.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Carmen S. Comas. Her willingness to get involved and the smile she brings makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate November as National Adoption Month. Originating in Massachusetts in 1976 as National Adoption Week under Governor Michael Dukakis, the honor was celebrated nationally by President Ford in 1976 and then extended to the month of November in 1990. It is a time during which we celebrate the families who have shown their commitment to children in need by opening their homes and a time to promote awareness of the need to find permanent homes for our most vulnerable children.

Permanency is important in the life of a child; with over 523,000 children in foster care, we must focus our attention on finding permanent, stable, and caring relationships for these children. Approximately 20 percent of the children in foster care have the ultimate end goal of adoption. This equals around 104,600 who are awaiting or working toward adoption. The need for quality, loving and permanent homes for these children is great. Children who age out of the foster care system are more likely to be homeless and more likely to end up in jail than their counterparts.

The issue of safe and permanent homes is of particular concern to my district, the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois. The Seventh District has the highest percentage of kinship care providers in the entire United States. I hope that our efforts in the 110th Congress will promote permanency for these children and support them and their families.

I urge organizations to continue their hard work advocating for adoption and permanency. Organizations such as the National Council for Adoption, Voice for Adoption, the Child Welfare League of America, the Children's Defense Fund, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, and the North American Council on Adoptable Children, just to name a few. Parents who adopt face many challenges and deserve our recognition and thanks. These families commit themselves to a child, emotionally, financially and mentally. The bonds they form are lifelong, and, most importantly, they positively affect the life of a child.

Mr. Speaker, as John F. Kennedy once said, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." We must make sure that all of our Nation's children have hope for their future. To do this, we must ensure them loving, stable, and caring environments. Adoptive parents provide this for thousands of children every year. I thank adoptive parents as well as the numerous organizations dedicated to helping promote permanency for their commitment and sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to The Shiloh Baptist Church, its many congregants and The Reverend James B. Rodgers. During the month of October, 2006, they are celebrating Shiloh Baptist Church's 150th Anniversary, a truly remarkable achievement. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Shiloh Baptist Church family and Dr. James B. Rodgers, Pastor on this momentous occasion.

The Shiloh Baptist Church is located in Sacramento, California and was first organized in 1856 as the Siloam Baptist Church. Shiloh is the oldest African-American church west of the Mississippi River and the first Baptist Church organized by African-Americans in Sacramento. Its current faithful leader is Dr. James B. Rodgers, but Shiloh has been shepherded by 27 pastoral leaders during its 150 years.

When Shiloh was first conceived it had no facilities in which to hold religious services, so it forged a strong relationship with the Chinese Americans in the area. As a result, an offer was extended to Shiloh to hold religious services at the Chinese Chapel, located at historic Sixth and H Streets in Sacramento.

The Shiloh Baptist Church is no ordinary church. It has overcome many obstacles through faith and determination. It overcame foreclosure in the 1860s; significant reduction in congregant membership because of relocations; destruction of the church facility by fire in 1861 and 1905; and the inability to secure building loans on several occasions. However, today Shiloh stands firm as a testament to the strong faith, perseverance, determination, character and courage of its founders and early congregations.

With the outstanding leadership of Pastor Emeritus Willie P. Cooke, Shiloh has provided dedicated service to the citizens of the Sacramento region through its 26 year history. Shiloh provides numerous services through its many ministries and participates in a multitude of community based programs. In recognition of these services Shiloh has deservedly received numerous Presidential, Congressional, Gubernatorial and State Legislative commendations since its inception.

In honor of its 150th anniversary, Shiloh Baptist Church began a week long celebration on Monday, October 16, 2006, culminating on Sunday, October 22, 2006. The celebration's theme takes inspiration from Ezekiel 34:26, ''Shiloh, A Godly Heritage: Blessed Future.''

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to thank and congratulate the Shiloh Baptist Church for its 150 years of invaluable service to the greater Sacramento community. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the Shiloh Baptist Church and Dr. Rodgers continued success in all their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF PROFESSORS MARK LEWINE AND ORMOND BRATHWAITE FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Professors Mark Lewine and Ormond Brathwaite, both of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) located in my congressional district, who will be honored on Thursday, November 16, 2006 here in Washington, DC for their excellence in undergraduate teaching as part of the U.S. Professors of the Year awards program.

For more than 20 years Dr. Mark Lewine has remained committed to undergraduate education. During his tenure at Cuyahoga Community College, he has done much to support the teaching and learning environment. He founded and directed the Center for Community Research at the college and was active in promoting the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges. He is active with the American Anthropological Association, serving on its Advisory Committee. Dr. Lewine regularly gives informative and passionate presentation about undergraduate teaching and the importance of providing opportunities to non-traditional students. For his work, Tri-C has awarded him with the College's Besse Award recognizing the energy, creativity, discipline and high expectations he brings to his teaching.

Dr. Ormond Brathwaite has consistently demonstrated effective teaching both in and out of the classroom. Dr. Brathwaite holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the City University of New York. He began his career at Cuyahoga Community College in 1994 as an assistant professor in chemistry and biology. Dr. Brathwaite is committed to student learning and student success. He serves as a faculty mentor to Bridges to Success in the Sciences students and has been very instrumental in the success of the program. Additionally, Dr. Brathwaite was a recipient of the NISOD Excellence Award in 2004 and received the National Role Model Mentor Award in 2003.

Therefore it is my pleasure, on behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District to recognize Professors Mark Lewine and Ormond Brathwaite—two gifted educators whose commitment to providing quality education to all is to be commended.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LEAP ACADEMY LANCER BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the LEAP Academy Lancer Basketball Team on their first South Jersey Group I championship.

The Lancer Basketball team completed their season 18–7–0. The LEAP Academy basketball program, in its second year, is affiliated with Rutgers-Camden University. Much of their schedule consists of playing teams from the Philadelphia area and Central and North Jersey.

Coach Marco Morcos led his team to a phenomenal season that included a seven game winning streak and defeating teams like Bishop Eustace from the South Jersey region. The team included four seniors, Earl Knight, Nathaniel Cooper, William Mace, and Lance James; four juniors, Crawford John, Michael Craig, Chauncey Gillian, and Jamal Baylor-ali; two sophomores, Gary Lyons and Dylan Talley; and four freshmen, Jeremy Delgado, Orlando Hidalgo, Tyrone Parker, and Eric Johnson. Scoring leaders of the team include William Mace (196), Lance James (191), and Dylan Talley (190). Assists leaders include Lance James (103), Crawford John (42), and Dylan Talley (34). Blocks leaders include William Mace (40), Crawford John (19), and Earl Knight (10). Rebound leaders include William Mace (161), Crawford John (121) and Dylan Talley (89). Steals leaders include Crawford John (54), Lance James (40), and William Mace (26). Three point field goal leaders include Lance James (17), Dylan Talley (17), and Crawford John (12).

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the LEAP Academy Basketball Team for an exceptional 2005–2006 season and on their championship. I wish the entire team and school the best of luck in their future athletic, personal, and professional lives.

TRIBUTE TO THE GATEWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inauguration of the new Main Facility of the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., on October 20th, 2006, in the City of Laredo.

The Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., first began as a Migrant Health Clinic administered by the Laredo-Webb County Health Department in 1963, and has rapidly grown to one of the largest community health centers in South Texas in providing a variety of much-needed services to underserved residents of Webb County. Today, the Gateway Community Health Center operates over five sites in Webb County, serving over 18,007 residents of Webb County in 2005 alone. The new facility, which is being inaugurated today, is expected to increase the number of users in late 2006 and 2007.

The continued growth of the population in Webb County present challenges for the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., but the dedication of its staff, especially that of Mr. Miguel Trevino, the C.E.O., will be able to make sure these challenges are met with the support they have from the community. The new Main Facility will help Gateway in providing more services and expanding its outreach to the residents of Webb County. I am very proud of the staff of Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., and their partners in making this dream possible for Laredo and Webb County.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the inauguration of the new

Main Facility of the Gateway Community Health Center, Inc., in the City of Laredo in the Great State of Texas.

A TRIBUTE TO BRITTANY SIMPKINS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brittany Simpkins, one of Brooklyn's rising stars. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding young woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

Brittany Simpkins is a very active and gifted young woman with a determination to become all that she can be. The daughter of Nanette Simpkins, Ms. Simpkins is a graduate of Fashion Industries High School and she has a deep passion for the creative arts and fashion design. She is wonderfully gifted in that area and has designed fashionable dresses for young ladies. Ms. Simpkins has participated in various modeling assignments and provided assistance to teachers in her school's annual fashion shows. Recently, she did community work with Artmaker, Inc., painting a mural on the wall of one of Bedford Stuyvesant's edifice at Nostrand and Green Avenues in Brooklyn, portraying famous African American women who contributed tremendously to the African American community.

Ms. Simpkins currently attends Baruch College in New York City where she majors in Business/Marketing. As a dedicated member of Berean Baptist Church since the age of 4, she has been active with the choir, Girl Scouts, and the Ministry of Sacred Dance. Ms. Simpkins was recognized by her pastor, congregation and peers as a "Member of the Week." She enjoys working with children from the community and her church home and was employed by Berean's Summer Day Camp as an assistant teacher. She has also been a strong advocate for the cure for breast cancer and has demonstrated her concern by participating in the annual American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk-A-Thon.

Ms. Simpkins has received numerous awards, namely an art award from the United Federation of Teachers, as well as an Incentive Award for her academic studies. In addition, she has won several medals participating on the track team. Ms. Simpkins desires to become one of New York's greatest entrepreneurs in fashion design, and she is currently working on her business logo and developing her clientele.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Brittany Simpkins. Her deep commitment to her family and community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Field Museum of Natural History on its recent award of a $10,000 grant from the Illinois Humanities Council. This grant helps fund the development of public outreach programming related to the Halls of the Ancient Americas exhibition.

The Field Museum is a world-class institution dedicated to providing outstanding educational experiences to the millions of people who walk through its doors every year. Founded as the Columbian Museum of Chicago in 1893, the Field Museum's original goal was, "accumulation and dissemination of knowledge, and the preservation and exhibition of objects illustrating art, archaeology, science and history." The Field Museum continues the same goals and objectives today, continuing its commitment to preservation and education.

The Field Museum is so much more than a museum, it is a world class education and research facility; the Field Museum also boasts an impressive 250,000 piece natural history collection. In addition, this wonderful institution is committed to giving back to the community through outstanding learning opportunities and important research.

I am proud that the Field Museum calls Chicago home. Its impressive exhibits and collections have the ability to educate the people of both Chicago and the world. With important education programs such as the Halls of the Ancient Americas, the Field Museum has the ability to instruct those who walk through its doors on their heritage, culture and history.

Once again I would like congratulate the Field Museum on receiving the grant from the Illinois Humanities Council. The Field Museum has served and will continue to serve both Chicago and the nation for decades to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CURTIS J. MITCHELL'S TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Curtis J. Mitchell's twenty years of service to the people of Sacramento as pastor of Antioch Progressive Church. Over the weekend of October 7th and 8th Dr. Mitchell's parishioners, family and friends will gather to recognize his good work. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring one of Sacramento's finest leaders.

For over thirty years Pastor Mitchell has been in the gospel ministry in various locations across our Nation. He has earned a Doctorate of Philosophy and Master of Ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburg, Indiana, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

His tireless work on behalf of the Sacramento community has been surpassed by few. Since coming to Sacramento, Pastor Mitchell has turned Antioch Progressive Church into a pillar of the community by offering a welcoming spiritual environment and a wide range of needed services to area residents. Since the church was established, the immediate neighborhood has greatly improved its well-being and spirit.

The church's motto, "We Dare to be Different" aptly describes their continued service to our community. Under Pastor Mitchell's guidance, the church has offered job fairs, after school programs and marriage counseling, just to name a few. Every week the church's parishioners give back to the community by distributing free food to the most needy among us.

Pastor Mitchell has personally shaped our community. He has worked with the Sacramento County Department of Health, the Task Force on AIDS, the Board of Directors of the Goodwill Industries, and with the Sacramento Police Department in an effort to steer kids away from gangs.

With almost a thousand parishioners, a large and beautiful house of worship and acres of land for the community to enjoy, Antioch Progressive Church has become a staple of the Sacramento Community.

Mr. Speaker, as Pastor Curtis Mitchell, his wife Kay, their children and grandchildren gather on this momentous occasion, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most distinguished citizens. His successes have been many, and it is an honor for me to recognize his twenty years of contributions to the people of Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Pastor Mitchell continued success at Antioch Progressive Church and in our community.

HONORING RUTGERS-CAMDEN UNIVERSITY ON THE NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rutgers-Camden University Women's Softball Team for winning the NCAA Division III Women's Softball Championship in 2006.

The Scarlet Raptors defeated the defending champion, the University of St. Thomas, in a thrilling 3–2 decision during play at Peace College in North Carolina last spring in May 2006. This is the first national sports title in Rutgers-Camden history, and also the first NCAA title for a team sport earned on any Rutgers campus.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the outstanding season of the Rutgers-Camden Women's Softball Team. I applaud every member of the Scarlet Raptors softball team, as well as Coach Carl Taylor and his staff, for this outstanding accomplishment. I am proud of their skill, determination, and fierce competitiveness, and thank them for the excitement they created for all Rutgers-Camden supporters throughout the season.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF GERALD LEVERT

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of Gerald Levert. On November 10, 2006, beloved entertainer, father, son, brother, and friend Gerald Levert departed this life at the age of 40. Gerald was

one of the greatest entertainers of our time. Known for his silky-smooth vocals and electrifying showmanship, Gerald was adored the world over and will truly be missed. He was a son of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

Born in Philadelphia on July 13, 1966 and raised in Cleveland, Gerald is the son of legendary singer Eddie Levert of The O'Jays and Martha Levert. Gerald was exposed to music at an early age, traveling with his father's band regularly. While attending Shaker Heights High School, Gerald formed the group LeVert along with his brother Sean and friend Mark Gordon. The group would go on to record seven albums, four of which were certified platinum. The albums yielded such memorable hits as ''Pop, Pop Goes My Mind,'' ''Casanova,'' and ''ABC–123.''

In 1991, Gerald launched his solo career with the album Private Line which went on to be #1 on the R&B charts. It was during this time that he began writing and producing songs for other artists including Stephanie Mills, James Ingram, Teddy Pendergrass, and even The O'Jays. Gerald earned a Grammy nomination for his work on Barry White's 1995 hit ''Practice What You Preach,'' and helped launch the careers of many Cleveland-area R&B groups including Men At Large and the Rude Boyz.

Some of Gerald's most memorable works were his collaborations with his father Eddie Levert. In 1992 they recorded the #1 R&B single ''Baby Hold On To Me'' and later in 1995 recorded the album Father & Son which topped the R&B charts. Gerald and Eddie allowed the old school generation and the hip-hop generation to have a meeting of the minds that ultimately produced beautiful music for all to enjoy.

Affectionately known as the ''teddy bear'' of the music industry, Gerald carried himself with a gentle kindness. He always would greet you with a smile and was a friend to all he encountered. News reports of Gerald's death talked about his recent trip to South Africa with his father. They reported that he and his father were well received throughout the country and treated like kings. Gerald was our king and his legacy of love and zest for life will forever live in our hearts.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the citizens of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I would like to offer my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Gerald Levert. On a personal note, I cherish the times I was in cities when he was on the road and Gerald recognized me as his Congresswoman and gave me my own teddy bear. I also will never forget the last time we spent together in New York during the induction of The O'Jays into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GEORGE P. KAZEN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge George P. Kazen as a recipient of the 2006 Longhorn Legacy Awards, given to him on October 5th, 2006 by the Laredo Chapter of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association.

Judge Kazen received his law degree with honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1961, and thus began a long, accomplished career in law. Shortly after graduation, he served a term as a briefing attorney for the Texas Supreme Court, entered the United States Air Force as a JAG officer, and was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal in 1965. He returned back to the city of Laredo in 1965 where he practiced law until he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to become United States District Judge in 1979 for the Southern District of Texas. The Southern District of Texas includes divisions in Houston, Galveston, Victoria, Laredo, Corpus Christi, McAllen, and Brownsville. Judge Kazen also is a member of the FISA Court based in Washington, DC.

He has received a number of accolades and awards such as the Dean Leon Green Award from the Texas Law Review Association in 1998, the Samuel Pessarra Award for Outstanding Jurist from the Texas Bar Association in 2004, and the Mr. South Texas Award in 2000. He is extensively involved in several legal and civic organizations such as the Fifth Circuit District Judges' Association, the Laredo Civic Music Association, the Boys and Girls Club of Laredo, and the St. Augustine-Ursuline Board. He served as a member of the Laredo Community College Board of Trustees from 1972 to 1979 and has lectured at various legal and judicial seminars throughout the country.

Judge Kazen has been married to the wonderful Barbara Ann Kazen for 44 years since 1962 and has four children and seven grandchildren. He is a member of the Blessed Sacrament Church, where he is president of the Parish Council and is a lector and eucharistic minister.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Judge George P. Kazen to the city of Laredo and to promoting the University of Texas at Austin as one of its most accomplished alumni members.

A TRIBUTE TO CARL JAMESON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Carl Jameson, a distinguished citizen of Brooklyn, NY. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding man and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive service.

Mr. Jameson retired after 24 years of service as a police officer with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1960 to 1970. While serving, Mr. Jameson was called upon to provide instruction and enlist men in the physical therapy programs. Mr. Jameson was also heavily involved with the All-Marine Judo Team. He toured 22 countries as captain of the team and received his second degree black belt in 1969. For the past 18 years, Mr. Jameson has been participating in the New York State Police Olympics. He has won several bronze and silver medals for cycling and track and field. In 1974, Mr. Jameson started the Union United Methodist Self Defense School. By 1985, he had awarded 150 black belts to students. This community outreach program was started to foster good minds and strong bodies for local youth. Mr. Jameson currently serves as the Imperial director of the Imperial Bicycle Department of the Prince Hall Masonic Temple.

Mr. Jameson is currently employed as a customs enforcement officer with the United States Customs Border Protection. He has also volunteered extensively with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on search and recovery missions. Mr. Jameson has worked in the Disaster Recovery Centers of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Carl Jameson is a product of the New York public school system and he remains a part of the Brooklyn community today. Mr. Jameson received his associate in applied science degree in physical therapy from LaGuardia Community College and his bachelor of arts degree from the College of New Rochelle. He also did post-baccalaureate work at Queens College.

Mr. Jameson is a member of Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, where he serves as a trustee and member of three choirs. Mr. Jameson has been married to his lovely wife Ella for the past 43 years and is the proud father of four.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Carl Jameson. His deep commitment to service and community makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT PRESERVATION TRUST

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust. The American Association of Museums recently conferred accreditation on the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust. Accreditation is a prestigious honor; it is the highest national recognition of a museum's commitment to professional museum standards, accountability, public service, and excellence in education.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust works tirelessly to preserve both Wright's home and studio as well as the Frederick C. Robie House, arguably one of Wright's most significant architectural works. Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the most influential architects of the 20th century and one of the most prominent American architects of all time. The Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust provides a great service to the people of my congressional district, the Seventh District of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to extend my sincerest congratulations and thanks to the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust for all of their hard work and recent accreditation.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization with a distinguished history of community service to the Sacramento capital region. Legal Services of Northern California is celebrating 50 years of providing free legal services to the low-income residents of Sacramento County and 22 other counties in Northern California. As the staff and supporters of Legal Services of Northern California gather to celebrate this momentous milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most important and respected organizations.

In 1956, Legal Services of Northern California, then known as the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County, was born out of the insight of prominent members of the Sacramento Bar Association and a budget of $12,000. With the assistance of volunteer pro bono attorneys and a staff consisting of one part-time attorney and one social worker, the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County finished its first year having provided assistance to nearly 2,900 low-income clients.

From these humble beginnings 50 years ago, the Legal Aid Society has grown significantly. In 1967, the organization began to expand its services beyond Sacramento County and opened offices in Yolo County. By the late 1970s, the Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County had acquired a state-wide reputation for resolute and effective advocacy on behalf of the poor and disabled, and had won significant victories on behalf of its clients. To reflect its expanding geographic reach, the organization changed its name in 1979 to Legal Services of Northern California, which today operates offices serving 23 counties, with a budget of over $7 million and a staff of over 120 employees and 1,000 volunteers.

Legal Services of Northern California has also greatly expanded its scope of services beyond providing traditional legal assistance to low-income individuals. The organization now operates the Senior Legal Hotline, the Health Rights Hotline, Ombudsman Services of Northern California, and the Disability Employment Rights Advocacy Program, As a testament to its far-reaching services, the Senior Legal Hotline fields almost 9,000 calls each year from seniors all over California. Also notable was in early 2006 when Legal Services of Northern California acquired the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, an organization that advises thousands of seniors on the different prescription drug plans available to them under Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years the good men and women of Legal Services of Northern California have dedicated countless hours to identifying and defeating the causes of poverty and injustice. As the staff and volunteer attorneys gather to reflect upon a half century of exemplary service to the community, I am proud to recognize such a reputable organization. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Legal Services of Northern California and wishing them many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ELMO LOPEZ, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Elmo Lopez, Sr., as a recipient of the 2006 Longhorn Legacy Awards, given to him on October 5, 2006 by the Laredo Chapter of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association.

Elmo Lopez, Sr. is a native of the city of Rio Grande and now currently resides in the city of Laredo in the State of Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with degrees in music, a Bachelor of Arts in 1953 and a Masters in 1957, and thus began a long, accomplished musical career. Shortly after graduation, he worked as Band Director for the Laredo Independent School District, bringing his experience as a band member of the UT Longhorns Band to Lamar Junior High, Martin High School, and Nixon High School from 1953 to 1967. During this time, he served in several posts with the Texas Music Educators Association.

Mr. Lopez's passion for music was recognized by the Texas Legislature for promoting good will between the United States and Mexico through musical exchange programs. He also was honored in 1963 with Laredo Paso Doble, a musical composition written by Professor Clifton Williams at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition to having guest conducted the UT Longhorn Band on numerous occasions, he also conducted the United States Armed Forces band and the Special Presidential Band of Mexico.

In 1987, Mr. Lopez founded the Laredo Chapter of the UT-Exes as a way to keep the connection between the University of Texas at Austin and its alumni in the city of Laredo. He dedicated his time and energy to the University including 12 years of service on the Board of Directors of the UT Dad's Association, and was named Distinguished Alumnus in 1993 and honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Laredo UT-Exes.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of Mr. Elmo Lopez, Sr. to his music and to the community of the city of Laredo.

A TRIBUTE TO ESMERALDA BROWN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Esmeralda Brown, a distinguished citizen of Brooklyn, New York, and contributor to the world community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

As the Resource Center Specialist for Economic and Environmental Justice at the United Methodist Office for the United Nations, Esmeralda Brown deals with issues of concern to the Women's Division constituency in the area of economics, the environment, and development. Ms. Brown has been involved in organizing several workshops and meetings in Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America. Issues discussed include racism, militarization, and the situation of women in the Americas.

Ms. Brown is the chairperson of the United Nation's NGO committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Ms. Brown is also the Southern Co-Chair of the NGO Steering committee to the NGO Commission on Sustainable Development. Ms. Brown holds the chairperson position for the Southern Caucus of NGO's that form part of the Regional and National Networks on Sustainable Development in developing countries of the world. She is also the Economic and Environmental Justice Specialist at the United Methodist Office for the United Nations. Additionally, Ms. Brown is a United Nations representative for the Commission of Human Rights in Central America and the Pan African Movement for the Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

In 1992, Ms. Brown was co-founder of the Peoples' Alliance for the Earth Summit. This organization did the preparatory work for the Non-Governmental Organizations invited to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Ms. Brown's work has not gone unnoticed. In June 1990, she was honored by the Ecumenical Program for Inter-American Communication and Action (EPICA) in Washington for Outstanding Contributions to the Struggle for Human Rights in Central America.

Esmeralda Brown is a native of Panama, and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Esmeralda Brown. Her deep commitment to the international community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the John G. Shedd Aquarium, the 2006 recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services. It comes as no surprise to me that this superior institution was selected as the recipient of this award. The Shedd Aquarium has served not only Chicago, but the entire Nation, for well over 75 years. It very much deserves our admiration and respect.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is a world class institution that enjoys a national reputation for excellence. The Shedd Aquarium is truly the world's aquarium. In addition to being the largest indoor aquarium in the world, the Shedd was one of the first aquariums to offer an education program. Through its unique ability to make education fun, the Shedd has touched the lives of the more than 2 million of people who walk through its doors every year.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is so much more than a museum; the scientists and staff are leaders throughout the world in research and conservation. The research initiatives that

the Shedd undertakes are vital to understanding and preserving our environment, especially in the Chicago area.

As a Chicagoan, I am proud to have the Shedd Aquarium located in my congressional district. The Shedd's genuine commitment to serving the greater Chicagoland community has for decades made it one of the most distinguished non-profits in our area. In particular, the Shedd demonstrates an exceptional commitment to the community in Chicago through education programs and other service-related initiatives. One of its most important projects is its participation in the Great Lakes Forever initiative. Roughly 37 million people depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, recreation, and livelihood. The Shedd is committed to ensuring that the Great Lakes are healthy and continue to serve those around them for centuries to come.

Clearly, the Shedd understands its role as a community leader and gives a great deal back to the people of Chicago. Mr. Speaker, as Gifford Pinchot once said of conservation, "Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men." Conservation is paramount at the Shedd Aquarium, and every operation is carried out to reflect this ideal; it is truly working for the lasting good of man. Chicago and its citizens are privileged to call its city the home of the John G. Shedd Aquarium. The Shedd Aquarium works tirelessly to give back to the community, including both Chicago and the Nation. Again, it is my great honor to announce that the John G. Shedd Aquarium is the 2006 recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOURNALIST MIKE BOYD

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mike Boyd, a legendary television reporter and anchor whose level of career achievement was matched only by his passion for living life to its fullest. Sadly, Mr. Boyd passed away on October 14, 2006 at the age of 74. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Mike's remarkable life, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this outstanding citizen and model reporter.

Mike Boyd was born in Maine in 1932, the son and grandson of attorneys. He graduated from the University of Maine and after a number of broadcasting jobs along the East Coast, he joined Sacramento's KCRA Channel 3 News in 1963 where he remained until his retirement in 2001. Mike became an institution in Sacramento as thousands of Sacramento residents tuned into his hard-hitting, exclusive stories throughout his 38-year tenure at KCRA. His memorable, deep, and booming voice made him ideal for a career in broadcast journalism.

His tenacity as an investigative reporter led him to cover some of the past half-century's most unforgettable stories. In 1968, Mike Boyd was at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles when Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated and his reporting of the tragic event was broadcast across the country. When the rumors began to circulate about Ronald Regan running for President, it was to Mike Boyd that Nancy Reagan admitted that she hoped Ronald would not run.

Perhaps Mike Boyd will be most remembered for his coverage of some of the nation's most notorious crimes. Boyd was always looking for the scoop, and he was often successful. He was the first reporter to interview Charles Manson in prison. Manson went so far as to offer Boyd his steak dinner. Years later, in 1988, he had an exclusive interview with the infamous landlady Dorthea Puente, who was convicted of killing eight of her tenants in downtown Sacramento. His ability to connect with his interview subjects clearly showed through, as evidenced by the retirement gift Puente sent Boyd from prison.

Mr. Speaker, as Mike Boyd's friends and family gather to honor this great American, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most respected citizens. His integrity, morals and enthusiasm for his job were inspirations to young reporters everywhere. He will be deeply missed. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Mike's invaluable contributions to Sacramento and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DENISE ASHBAUGH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denise Ashbaugh in commemoration of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Denise is a 17-year survivor of breast cancer who has dedicated herself to the fight to eradicate breast cancer.

Denise has exhibited unparalleled commitment to the push for breast cancer awareness in Southern Nevada. She has served both as the vice president and president of the Las Vegas, Nevada, Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. She has organized volunteers to conduct fundraising events, educational events, support groups and early detection programs. Denise also participated in establishing the MammoVan, a state-wide program to provide mammography to underserved and uninsured women, and a local news station's buddy check program.

At the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's National Headquarters, Denise was the National Spokeswoman for the Cure. She also served as Special Program Director of Board Breaks for the Cure, a national fundraising and breast cancer awareness program that she conceived and developed. She represented the Foundation on national talk shows, ad campaigns, speaking engagements, and local news networks. Denise's dedication and commitment to this cause has not only increased awareness in her own community, but nationwide.

Currently, Denise is involved with breast care specialists and other experts in developing a breast prosthetic device that can be worn immediately after mastectomies. She is personally working to provide these devices free to underserved breast cancer patients. As a result of her activism, Denise has been designated as a Lifetime Honorary Mrs. United States and has received numerous other awards including the Governor's Certificate of Commendation.

Throughout her years of extensive commitment to the fight against breast cancer, Denise has maintained a balanced family life. She is a loving wife and mother of two outstanding children. Through her example, she has instilled in her children the importance of community service, civic involvement and positive activism.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Denise Ashbaugh on the floor of the House today. Denise has not only made a difference in our community through her commitment to breast cancer education and fundraising, but she has been a beacon of hope for countless women and families who have confronted the challenges of breast cancer. Her tireless dedication and unwavering optimism, despite her own health challenges, is truly admirable. I commend Denise for her leadership in the fight against breast cancer and I thank her for her incredible commitment to this most important cause.

CONGRATULATING LEONARD VERRASTRO AS THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY COLUMBUS DAY ASSOCIATION NAMES HIM 2006 MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Leonard A. Verrastro, a prominent businessman and community leader in the borough of Dunmore, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Verrastro was selected by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County as their 2006 "Man of the Year," an honor he truly deserves.

Born in 1923, Mr. Verrastro was one of eight children of the late Dominic Verrastro and the former Vita Grace Bochicchio. His father was a veteran of World War I and then worked in the anthracite coal mines before starting Leonard's Bar and Grill in Dunmore.

Leonard was the oldest of six boys, five of whom served in World War II. Mr. Verrastro was educated in Dunmore public schools after which he attended the University of Scranton.

Mr. Verrastro founded Best Dry Cleaners and later operated Leonard's Bar and Grill. He also founded the Dunmore Hoagie Shop and later went into the real estate business where he acquired many homes and converted them into remodeled apartments.

He is the last surviving charter member of the Dunmore Lions Club. He is also a member of the Dunmore American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Saint Anthony's Holy Name Society, the Willow Club, the Dunmore Senior Citizens Center, the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association and the San Cataldo Club.

Mr. Verrastro is also well known for his political activity, having been first elected to the Dunmore Borough Council in 1963 where he has served for 44 years. He also served as Dunmore's representative on the Scranton Sewer Authority and as Lackawanna County

Treasurer for two years. He continues to serve as deputy treasurer.

Mr. Verrastro was married to the former Angelina Mecca, who died in 1996, and the couple had three children: Vita Grace Masucci, Carmel Ann Biko and Dominic Verrastro. He has seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Verrastro on being selected as "Man of the Year." His contributions to his community demonstrate his selflessness and commitment to improving the quality of life.

A TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN LODGE 459 NO. 63

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of African Lodge 459 No. 63, ardent supporters of the community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding organization and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing their impressive accomplishments.

African Lodge 459 No. 63 was founded in 1921 from a group of Brooklyn's outstanding young men: Bro. Francis F. Giles, Widow Sons' No. 11, Mr. A.P. Portias, J. Francis Mickens, W.R. Lee, William Odell, Cornelius Moore and Samuel W. Green. Due to their success in Masonic circles, African Lodge 459 No. 63 was granted bona fide Lodge status and on November 19, 1921, they became an integral part of the Masonic Fraternity of the State of New York and the nation. The Lodge is appropriately named after African Lodge 459, the original lodge of the illustrious founder of Masonry among men of color in the United States, Prince Hall.

Down through the years, the Lodge has achieved and maintained a very prominent place in the jurisdiction. It has furnished the fraternity with numerous officers and is currently represented in the Grand Cabinet by R.W. Richard A. Grady, Judge Advocate, R.W. Elwood E. Gregory, District Deputy Grand Lecturer.

With 13 living members and 9 honorary members, their mission as Prince Hall Masons is to serve God through selfless service to others. They strive to give our youth a positive direction and high self-esteem; our elderly the love, respect and attention they deserve; and our poor and down trodden brothers and sisters whatever assistance they can provide. Over the past 84 years, they have raised funds for college scholarships, summer camps, reading clinics, community feeding programs, Christmas gifts for needy and/or hospitalized children, and their Knights of Pythagoras youth group.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of African Lodge 459 No. 63. This groups' deep commitment to love, support and assist one another makes them most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERBERT H. RICHARDSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for his incredible dedication to the scientific community at Texas A&M University as Director of the Texas Transportation Institute and Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering.

Dr. Richardson was born in the State of Massachusetts and was educated at Colby College in Maine and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received a B.S. and M.S. degree with honors in 1955, and the Sc.D. in 1958 from MIT. Shortly after graduation, he served as a faculty member, then as head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Association Dean for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 27 years. Under his leadership, he conducted and directed a wide-ranging research program, and made numerous publications of his research in mechanical engineering and transportation systems.

He then served as the first Chief Scientist of the U.S. Department of Transportation from 1970 to 1972, and joined the Texas A&M University System in 1984 as Vice Chancellor for Engineering, and Dean of the College of Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Engineering. Dr. Richardson brought together the three engineering research and service agencies—the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension Service, and the Texas Transportation Institute—to form an integrated Engineering Program. In 1993, he became Director of the Texas Transportation Institute, the largest university-affiliated transportation research organization, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering. Under his leadership, the Texas Transportation Institute has become home to nine national research centers with expenditures ranging to $36 million.

Dr. Richardson has also received numerous accolades and awards from his peers for his exemplary academic leadership such as the recently awarded 2006 Roy W. Crum Distinguished Service Award from Transportation Research Board, Rufus Oldenberger Medal, Centennial Medal and the Benjamin Garver Lamme Medal by the American Association for Engineering Education; and in addition to these awards, he was elected to several notable organizations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Associate of the National Academies and the Research Council.

In his 22 years of academic service with the Texas A&M University System, Dr. Richardson has shown exemplary leadership in building strong academic and research programs, thus helping make the College of Engineering and the Texas Transportation Institute one of the unparalleled centers for excellent education in engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the strong academic leadership of Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for the Texas A&M University System.

MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND, STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Marcus High School Marching Band of the 26th District of Texas. The band won the State championship at the UIL Class 5A Marching Contest in San Antonio, TX.

The breakdown of a travel bus did not deter the Marcus High School Band from capping off their marching season with excellence. At the rigorous UIL competition, Marcus surpassed 35 elite Texas programs before receiving the top honor of State champions. Marcus competed against all 5A Texas high schools reserve a spot in the State competition.

The band's achievements are the combined efforts of many extremely talented students, dedicated school administrators, and a strong support network of parents and community. The students have cultivated strong leadership skills among their peers, and excelled under the capable direction of Director Amanda Drinkwater.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of the Marcus High School Marching Band. I extend my sincere congratulations to these hard-working students, and I look forward to their future successes.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. BINNS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor James J. Binns for his service to the people of Philadelphia. Jimmy Binns is a Philadelphia attorney specializing in litigation who has always been a friend of labor. His unflinching service to labor is shown by his achievement of 51 consecutive "not guilty" verdicts on behalf of those accused of picket line violence during the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers strike. It is clear his efforts enabled union members to unite to better their lot without fear of intimidation.

Mr. Binns is more than a friend of labor. He is also an important member of the community as seen through his service on numerous boards, including the Boy Scouts of America, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and St. Luke's Hospital. He also dedicated the James J. Binns Fitness Center at LaSalle University, his alma mater. Mr. Binns founded the Judeo Christian School at Roman Catholic. Additionally, Mr. Binns initiated the current fundraising drive to replace 65 motorcycles for the Philadelphia Police Highway Patrol.

Mr. Binns also chaired the Organized Crime Task Force of the Citizens Crime Commission and served as Pennsylvania's Boxing Commissioner under Governors Dick Thornburgh and Bob Casey. Due to his service he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Boxing Hall of Fame.

It is readily apparent that James J. Binns has played a vital role in the betterment of the community of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania

as a whole. His continued contribution is to be applauded, and I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending James J. Binns for his immeasurable contribution to the City of Philadelphia.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES LAMAR SHULER

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and to mourn the passing of James Lamar Shuler, a civic leader, successful entrepreneur, talented businessman, community role model, devoted husband, beloved family man and loyal friend.

Mr. Shuler will be remembered as a selfless individual who spearheaded economic development and neighborhood revitalization programs within the community. What Mr. Shuler practiced, he preached; vision was followed by action. I grieve with Mr. Shuler's wife, Barbara Carey-Shuler, a former Miami-Dade Commissioner and political icon in South Florida. During this difficult time, the Carey and Shuler families do not mourn alone: They are joined in prayer by a saddened and indebted community.

James Lamar Shuler was born on August 14, 1953 to Marian Steward Shuler and Cleveland Shuler of Delray Beach, Florida. Mr. Shuler attended S.D. Spady Elementary School and graduated from Atlantic High School in 1971. He then graduated from Miami-Dade Community College in 1976 with a degree in Mortuary Science and became a Licensed Funeral Director in 1977. Mr. Shuler soon purchased the House of Albert Funeral Home on West Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach, then renovated and dedicated Shuler's Memorial Chapel Inc. on May 26, 1985. An institution that served the community was borne. Mr. Shuler was a professional who provided funeral services to all, irrespective of their economic status.

Mr. Shuler hosted a re-dedication celebration on May 21, 2001 to recognize the renovation and expansion of his funeral home. The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by approximately 800 well wishers, including government officials and celebrities. Mr. Shuler achieved iconic status within the community.

Personal successes were coupled with community leadership activities. Mr. Shuler served as chairman of the West Atlantic Redevelopment Coalition which supported business and investment activities along the West Atlantic corridor. Mr. Shuler also served actively as chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency, guiding neighborhood renewal projects throughout Delray Beach.

Mr. Shuler was named 1998 Mortician of the Year and served as 1st Vice President of the Florida Mortician Association. He attended Saint Paul AME Church in Delray Beach. He was also a member of the Delray Beach Masonic Lodge #275, the Zeta Iota Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary fraternity, the Vision 2000 Committee for Delray Beach.

Mr. Shuler is survived by his wife, Barbara Carey-Shuler; sons, Victor Shuler and Wesley Potts; daughter, Jessica Coogle; stepson, Archie Carey; two brothers, Jerry Shuler and Cleveland Shuler; and a sister, Marion Stewart.

When families throughout Delray Beach and South Florida experienced the passing of a loved one, they came to Shuler's Memorial Chapel for funeral arrangements. It was James Lamar Shuler who would comfort the bereaved, in a manner that bespoke his grace, empathy and humanity. We stand united as one community honoring this remarkable man.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY IN THE DULLES TOWN CENTER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of the Cheesecake Factory located in the Dulles Town Center.

The Dulles Town Center is a commercial, retail, and office park located in Loudoun County, VA, which is the second fastest growing county in the nation. This exciting restaurant addition will add to the elegant atmosphere and tasty restaurant choices already provided by the existing 185 surrounding stores and restaurants.

The history of the Cheesecake Factory begins with Oscar and Evelyn Overton in the 1940's. Evelyn created her Original Cheesecake recipe, and it immediately gained praise from family and friends. With the dream of owning a successful family business, Evelyn opened a small cheesecake shop in her hometown Detroit. The business then moved to the Overton family's basement kitchen to continue to provide the local restaurants with her famous cheesecakes.

In 1971, the Overtons decided to move their cheesecake business to Los Angeles. Using their retirement savings, they opened a small bakery selling only Evelyn's Original Cheesecake. They called it "The Cheesecake Factory." In 1978, son David joined the family business and founded The Cheesecake Factory restaurant in Beverly Hills to showcase his parents' delicious, high-quality baked goods. The restaurant became an immediate success, not an easy feat in the culinary business. Today there are more than 100 Cheesecake Factory restaurants nationwide, and the residents of Loudoun, Prince William, and Fairfax counties will surely enjoy the additional restaurant in the Dulles Town Center.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the opening of the Cheesecake Factory in the Dulles Town Center.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR EURIPIDES L. EVRIVIADES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ambassador Euripides L. Evriviades, who has served as the Cypriot ambassador to the United States since December 2003.

As a co-founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I have worked closely with Ambassador Evriviades on several issues of importance to both the United States and Cyprus. He exemplified uncommonly exceptional service in building on the harmonious relations between our countries.

Ambassador Evriviades worked diligently with Congress to ensure that lawmakers understood the importance of ending the division of Cyprus. Over the last three years, he has worked with untiring devotion to create awareness and compassion for finding a peaceful solution for Cyprus. I commend him for his commitment to the reunification of Cyprus.

The people of Cyprus have been fortunate to have such an accomplished individual represent them not only in the United States but in a variety of other diplomatic posts. As a career diplomat, he has held positions at Cypriot embassies in Libya, USSR/Russia, Germany, and served as the Ambassador to Israel and the Netherlands before coming to Washington.

As a testament to his exemplary public service over the years, he was lately honored with the King Legacy Award for International Service in recognition for his distinguished leadership and contributions and for his steadfast dedication to sharing and implementing Dr. King's historical work wherever he has traveled.

While I am sad to see Ambassador Evriviades leave his post in the United States, I am grateful for his three years of stellar service. I am confident that he will bring this same level of passion and integrity to his next endeavor.

NEW BOOK DETAILS ATROCITIES AGAINST SIKHS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in the June issue of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon reviews a book entitled "Tabai Ros Jagio," which translates into English as "Details of Fundamentalist Hindus' Attacks on the Sikh Faith," by Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke. The book details how the fundamentalist Hindus who run India have been attacking Sikhism and other faiths since the very earliest days of the Indian republic. Despite the fact that the Brahmin caste is only 3 percent of the population, they run Indian society, according to Dr. Udhoke.

Dr. Udhoke details those Sikhs who have supported the Hindu fundamentalists in their effort to enforce Hinduism on the entire population of India. He details those who connived with India on the attack on the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion. He recorded the brutality of the Brahmins and the Hindu fundamentalists. He writes about how their umbrella organization, the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), was founded to support the Fascists in Europe. He describes the RSS as a terrorist organization. India claims to be our ally in the War on Terror, but their preeminent ideology is a brand of Fascism that practices violence against minorities and their neighbors.

We should stop aid and trade with India and we should be vocal and active in supporting self-determination for all the people there. That is how we can help bring freedom to all in the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend Dr. Sekhon's excellent review of Dr. Udhoke's excellent book to my colleagues, and I would like to place the review in the RECORD now.

[From the International Journal of Sikh, Affairs, June 2006]

BOOK REVIEW

(By Awatar Singh Sekhon)

Title: Tabai Ros Jagio, translation in English Details of Fundamentalist Hindus' Attack on the Sikh Faith 2005, by Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, is an eye opener. with regard to the premeditated attacks by the fundamentalist Hindus, belonging to the Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh and the members of the ''Sangh Parivar/family'', on the followers of the Sikh Faith.

It was a great pride and pleasure for the reviewer, who is the Editor in Chief, The International Journal of Sikh Affairs ISSN 1481–5435, published from Canada, to write a few words on the publication of Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke. Dr. Udhoke is a medical professional but is devoting most of his precious time in recording the much needed events of the Sikh history of the 20th and 21st centuries. These events pertain to the persecution of the Sikh youth in particular and for the present and coming generations of the Sikh faith, the Guru Khalsa Panth. Dr. Udhoke's first publication, Tabai Ros Jagio, published in July 2004, was an excellent treatise relating to the ''Attacks on the Sikh faith, Sikh culture, Sikh heritage, Sikh pride, Sikh esteem, Guru Granth Sahib (Holy Scripture of Sikhs), the Sikh identity, and the Sikh nation, Punjab, Khalistan, struggling for its independence by peaceful means.'' His book clearly reflects the intimidation of the Sikhs of their holy and historic homeland, Punjab, by their traditional and notorious enemy, the fundamentalist Hindu organizations as well as the politicians of the preceding and present administrations of the Indian democracy, its New Delhi administrations of J.L. Nehru to Manmohan Singh, run primarily by the Brahmins (who are only 3 percent of the total population of India of over a billion hungry mouths) and about 15 percent pro-Brahmins. This group has captured more than 80 percent of the total decision-making jobs of the Indian administration. Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke's task at hand was not an easy one, especially when his, his forefathers, and the Sikhs' holy and historic homeland is under the occupation of the Sikhs' enemy, the Brahmins, ''Butchers of our world'', according to the founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak Sahib.

The Indian administration and their international news media's term, the ''largest democracy of the world'', India, made Dr. Udhoke's task highly difficult in describing the reality and tragedy of the Sikh nation, Punjab, and beyond the understanding of an ordinary citizen of the Sikhs' holy and historic homeland.

It is amply clear that the Sikh leaders, of Punjab so to speak, and most commonly known as the Dastaardhari (turbaned) Hindus in the Sikh identity, have failed to respond to the psyche and aspirations of the Sikhs of Punjab, the Sikh Diaspora and the Sikh nation. Rather, these Dastaardhari Hindus in the Sikh Identity have fallen into the trap of the Brahmins and pro-Brahmins. The day in and the day out, the Sikhs' Darbar Sahib Complex (Golden Temple Complex), which includes the Supreme Seat of Sikh Polity, Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar, and other religious and political places of the Sikhs, Gurdwaras (Houses of God), are desecrated, to humiliate the Sikh nation. The saddest moment of the Sikh history of post-15th August, 1947, is that a Dastaardhari Hindu in the Sikh Identity, Prakash Singh Badal, his clan and the Badal faction of Akali Dal were the party for the desecration of Darbar Sahib Complex. So much so the custodian, the so-called jathedar, of Akal Takht Sahib, Vedanti Joginder Singh Saran actively watched the ball game of his employer, the executive of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee (SGPC), and SGPC's member as well as the president of the Akali Dal-Badal faction, Prakash Singh Badal himself. What an unfortunate part of the Sikh history!

The present and former custodians of the Akal Takht Sahib, Vedanti Joginder Singh Saran, Puran Singh of Luv and Kush, Manjit of Kesgarh, Kirpal Singh, etc. failed to provide any directions to the Sikh Nation, Guru Khalsa Panth or the Sikhs of Punjab. They however, collaborated with the enemy of the Guru Khalsa Panth.

Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, a young Sikh full of energies, recorded in his book, the brutality of the Sikhs' traditional enemies, the Brahmins and pro-Brahmins belonging to the Hindumahasabha (mother of all evils) and its offshoots such as Swam Sevak Sangh, Jansangh, Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh (RSS), a terrorist organization as declared by the United States administration, Rashtriya Sikh Sangat (formed at the directions of A. B. Vajpayee and his clique in 1990s) the ''Sangh family'', responsible for anti-non-Brahmin and anti-non-Hindus activities, and other such organizations, as well as the activities of the Saffaronized fundamentalist Hindu organizations Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Hanuman Sena, Shiv Sena, Bajrang Dal, to cite a few. The RSS was formed in support of the Fascists of Europe. Dr. Udhoke has exposed Saffaronization of the Sikh history, disrespect and character assassination of the Sikh Gurus, Guru Nanak Sahib to Sahib Guru Gobind Singhji, by these organizations and their supporters. Finally, I wish Dr. Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, who is a gifted and prolific writer and speaker all the best. May the the Almighty Lord shower. His blessings on him.

RECOGNIZING OREST DEYCHAKIWSKY'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to pay tribute to Orest Deychakiwsky for his 25 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. Orest began his work as a member of the professional staff on November 15, 1981, just six years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, a period marked by ruthless Soviet repression and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Driven by a deep commitment to aid the victims of Communist oppression, Orest devoted himself to documenting the human rights cases, particularly those involving divided families, an especially poignant task given his own family's history under Soviet domination and repression. He was responsible for compiling and maintaining the lengthy lists of individuals seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union and Romania. Each spring would bring an opportunity to secure the exit of some of the thousands effectively held hostage in Romania by the Ceausescu regime. Orest was faithful in making representations to the Romanian Embassy on behalf of all those seeking to exercise their right to leave their country. When Moscow began to accept emigration lists from the Commission in the mid-80s, Orest's diligent efforts on behalf of refuseniks began to pay off for families, including some with American spouses, who were finally allowed to leave the Soviet Union after a decade or more of waiting.

With a passion for Ukraine, his familial homeland, Orest helped document modern Soviet repression in that country including imprisonment of human rights activists, suppression of Ukrainian culture and language as well as harsh actions against the Ukrainian Catholic Church. He was at the forefront of efforts in support of the restoration of Ukrainian independence and the consolidation of democracy in that country following the demise of the Soviet empire. Despite setbacks, Orest was optimistic that the people of Ukraine would insist on a democratic future for their country. On a cold November night in 2004, he witnessed firsthand their determination as he stood in Kiev's Independence Square where tens of thousands of Ukrainians gathered to protest fraudulent elections.

Fifteen years earlier he had stood in the main square in Sofia, Bulgaria as peaceful demonstrators stood up to tyranny, ushering in the demise of Eastern Europe's longest standing dictatorship. In recent years, he has been active in confronting the repressive regime of Aleksandr Lukashenka in Belarus, Europe's last dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, in this year when we observe the thirtieth anniversary of the Helsinki Commission, as a long serving Commissioner and Co-Chairman, I am pleased to recognize and commend Orest Deychakiwsky for his faithful service and tireless defense of human rights and dignity.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Diabetes Month. Since 1975, November has served as a time of increased public awareness and understanding of diabetes, as well as a time to celebrate the institutions and people that labor year round to improve diabetes care. This November, the American Diabetes Association has placed a specific focus on increasing care for those affected by the disease. As one of the 21 million Americans with diabetes, I truly understand the fundamental importance of diabetes awareness, education, detection, and research.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body fails to produce or properly use insulin, a necessary hormone needed to process the sugar and starches that our bodies use for energy. The disease can lead to a series of complications, including increased risk of heart disease

and stroke. Although research has yet to produce a cure, scientists continue to advance diabetes tests and insulin monitors—improving the quality of life for many affected by the disease. Advanced education, detection, and research are all essential considering that approximately one in three Americans born after 2000 will suffer from diabetes.

Continuing to fight the struggle against diabetes, the American Diabetes Association participated in World Diabetes Day on November 14, 2006. The objective was to provide Americans with information on signs that show an increased risk of having diabetes. Additionally, the worldwide campaign raised awareness in communities around the globe that have difficulty assessing the impact of diabetes in their respective countries.

It is my honor to recognize November as the National Diabetes Month and thank all those working to improve the quality of life for the millions of people affected by the disease. We continually strive to increase diabetes awareness and assist those with the disease not only during the month of November but at every opportunity throughout the year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LARRY ''DOC'' MOSES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Larry ''Doc'' Moses for his service to his country and his community.

Larry was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa and is a product of the Des Moines School System. After studying at Tarkio College in Tarkio, Missouri and Drake University in Des Moines, Larry decided to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. Following his tour of duty in the Marine Corps, Larry obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History and Education from Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

Following the completion of his Master's program, Larry obtained a teaching position in Idaho Falls, Idaho. After one year, Larry moved to Las Vegas where he pursued and earned his Doctorate in Education from UNLV in 1983, and entered educational administration. His first educational administration post was as a principal in Yerington, Nevada, followed by a vice-principalship in Moapa Valley, other assistant principal positions in Las Vegas, and culminating in the principal's position at Moapa Valley High School, where he opened the new school in 1993.

Larry retired in 1997 and immediately became involved in the historical restoration business. His perseverance and determination led to the restoration of the Old Logandale School, the old Overton Gymnasium, and the old Overton Hospital—all of which are now being (re)used as valuable community resources. Larry has also been an active member of Rotary Club and serves on the Overton Power District Board of Trustees and is a perennial part of the annual Clark County Fair operations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Larry ''Doc'' Moses. His years of service to his nation and community are admirable. I applaud his efforts and with him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REDINGTON HOTEL, NOW THE GENETTI HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Gus Genetti, owner of the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Redington Hotel.

Mr. Genetti acquired the Redington Hotel in 1963 and proceeded to renovate and expand that facility into a landmark haven of hospitality in Wilkes-Barre's downtown.

Built by John Redington, the hotel was opened October 11, 1906, at the corner of East Market Street and South Pennsylvania Avenue. The lavish seven story hotel was designed by the prominent architectural firm of McCormick and French. The facility contained many modern conveniences, such as a dining room, telephone exchange, public bath, barber shop, butcher shop and bakery. Many notable visitors stayed at the hotel including comedians Abbott and Costello.

In October, 1922, John Redington retired and leased the hotel to the Keystone State Hotel Association. In 1930, Mr. Redington with his son, John A., Jr., resumed management of the hotel until John Senior's death on January 24, 1941.

In February, 1942, the hotel was purchased from the Redington estate through a sheriff's sale by Conrad F. Goeringer. Goeringer sold the hotel to Morgus Enterprises on May 20, 1960.

With the decline and eventual termination of the Lehigh Valley Rail Service, changing hotel standards and the opening of motels on the outskirts of Wilkes-Barre, the Redington fell on hard times.

The hotel changed hands once again at sheriff's sale, eventually being purchased by Mr. Genetti in July, 1963. The hotel was subsequently upgraded, modernized and reopened in September, 1963, as the Genetti Hotel.

The hotel was again renovated after the Agnes flood of 1972 and has been continually improved and enlarged since then. The hotel's frontage now extends along the entire second block of East Market Street.

Despite the Agnes flood of 1972 and a fire on New Year's Day in 1999, the Genetti Hotel has maintained its position as a premier lodging, dining and meeting destination in Wilkes-Barre.

On a personal note, I have known the Genetti family for more than 50 years and Mr. Genetti's prominence as a hotelier and restaurateur parallels that of his father, who was equally well known and respected throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Genetti on this milestone occasion. Throughout adversity and success, Mr. Genetti has proven himself to be one of Wilkes-Barre's outstanding businessmen and community leaders. His commitment and dedication to Wilkes-Barre's economic development is exceptional. And, for that, he deserves the gratitude of the entire region.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT HUNTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert Hunter, who has served for twenty years in the Texas State House of Representatives, and his dedication to the City of Abilene, Abilene Christian University, and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas.

Robert Hunter was born in 1928 in Dodge City in Kansas, as the tenth child of twelve children. He enrolled at Abilene Christian College after graduating from San Mateo High School in California in 1948. Shortly after graduation from college, he married his wife, Shirley Long of Austin, in Thailand, and served in the United States Navy as Security Aide to two admirals in the South Pacific and in Washington, D.C., from 1952 to 1955. Hunter then accepted the invitation of Abilene Christian College President Don H. Morris to become director of special events. There, at his alma mater, he quickly moved up the academic ladder to become the Executive Vice President of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas. During his work with the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, he coordinated the passage of the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program, which helped Texas students attend private colleges and universities in the State of Texas.

In 1970, Hunter served on the City Council in the City of Abilene, and thus began his passion for civic service in which he ran for the Texas State House of Representatives in 1986, won the seat to this day which he has remained a wonderful voice for his constituents and for the State of Texas. In the Texas House of Representatives, Hunter chaired the House Committee on International and Cultural Relations, and is currently vice-chairman of the Regulated Industries Committee and serves on the Government Reform Committee. He also serves on committees for several national legislative organizations.

In 2006, Hunter will have completed his tenth term as State Representative, with more than $1 billion appropriated for the Texas Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program, and more than fifty years of service with the Abilene Christian University.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the passion Dr. Bob Hunter has in serving as State Representative for the State of Texas, and his wonderful commitment to higher education for Texas students.

A TRIBUTE TO TRUDY HAYES-SARGEANT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Trudy Hayes-Sargeant, a dedicated citizen of New York. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

A native of the island of Trinidad & Tobago, Trudy Hayes-Sargeant is proud to call New York her home. She serves as a Clinical Technician Assistant with Forest Research Institute and is the CEO/Owner of her own construction firm—Trucomm Construction.

Quoting Maya Angelou, "If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded," Mrs. Hayes-Sargeant dedicates her time to several organizations such as the Canarsie Lions, The American Breast Cancer Society, Pleasantville Senior Sec. Old Boyz, East New York Diagnostic & Treatment Center and the East New York Scholarship Fund.

Mrs. Hayes-Sargeant received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington, D.C. in Computer Information and System Science and holds several Microsoft certifications. She is the loving mother of one son, Jarrell.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Trudy Hayes-Sargeant. Her deep commitment to community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENTON POLICE DETECTIVE DANNY FLETCHER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Denton Police Detective Danny Fletcher for his valiant efforts in saving a family trapped in their burning car. He was recently awarded the Meritorious Conduct Bar for his heroism by the Denton City Police Department in the 26th District of Texas.

Detective Fletcher witnessed the family get into the auto accident as he was driving home from work on June 13, 2006. He responded without hesitation and called for the help of emergency services. He then heroically approached the flaming vehicle and pulled out three young children, aged 4, 2, and 2 months, trapped in the backseat of the car. He continued to assist the family to safety, while smoke and fire entered the car, and the vehicle's tires began to explode.

Detective Fletcher was awarded the Meritorious Conduct Bar by the Denton Police Department for his role in saving the lives of the three children. His calm and rational thinking is to be applauded. This award is the second highest honor an individual can receive in the Denton Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Detective Fletcher for his display of active heroism during the car accident. His service to our community both on and off duty is inspiring. Detective Danny Fletcher is an asset to the Denton City Police Department and the Denton community, and I am honored to represent him in Washington, DC.

A TRIBUTE TO WADE H. STEVENS, JR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of Philadelphia's most important leaders, my friend, Wade Stevens. Mr. Stevens is the Business Manager of the Laborer's International Union's District Council of the Metropolitan Area of Philadelphia and Vicinity. In this capacity he has been a tireless contributor to the betterment of Philadelphia's workers.

Mr. Stevens, who has served most of his life as a union activist, is celebrating his 10th year as a Business Manager. He joined Laborer's Local 135 in Norristown, PA in 1971, and served in varying capacities as a Delegate, Sergeant of Arms, and Judge of Elections. He still maintains his membership having transferred to Laborers' Local 332 in Philadelphia.

Mr. Stevens became a part of the Laborers' District Council as a Field Representative in 1989, and as a part of his duties was a Building Trades Committee Representative. In 1996, Mr. Stevens was elected to his current passion as the Business Manager of the Laborers' District Council. He worked in conjunction with local business managers, delegates, and management to create unprecedented services and benefits for Council members. In, 2001 Mr. Stevens was appointed to the Tax Review Board of Philadelphia by Mayor John Street.

Mr. Stevens is also active in his community having sat on the Board of the All-Star Labor Classic Committee, raising thousands of dollars for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP and a sponsor of the Norristown Bandits Midget Football Team. Mr. Stevens is proudly married to Cora Stevens and has been blessed with three sons and three grandchildren. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate Mr. Wade H. Stevens, Jr. for his 10th year as the Business Manager of the Laborers' International Union North America Laborers' District Council of the Metropolitan Area of Philadelphia and Vicinity.

TRIBUTE TO 93RD STREET COMMUNITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the 93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its 45th church anniversary celebration, from Monday, October 16 until Sunday, October 22, 2006. Pastor Carl Johnson led his congregation in celebrating the milestone in the history of this beloved church, which has become a citadel of faith in Miami's Miami-Dade County community.

Pastor Larry Lovett II of the Antioch Baptist Church of Brownsville and Pastor Jeffrey Mack of the Second Canaan Baptist Church joined Pastor Johnson on the climax services on October 22 with the theme: "Coming Out of the Comfort Zone." Indeed, it is fitting and proper to give praise to Almighty God for blessing this church with its longevity of service to its members and to all those who seek comfort and solace in its sanctuary.

In 1961, a group of dedicated Christians committed themselves to laying down the foundation of this church. Reverend Alonzo Anderson sought a place of worship that was located on Northwest 22nd Avenue and 76th Street. In 1968, he sought a larger place of worship, which was subsequently named the 93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church—a name that has continued on to this day. In March 1971, the church was duly incorporated. The congregation suffered a great loss with the passing of Reverand Anderson on November 22, 1992.

In January 1993, Minister Carl Johnson was appointed pastor of the church. This visionary pastor became God's shepherd par excellence, as he guided and well-served the congregation, which grew from 200 congregants to its current 3,000 members. He has led his church with a good mixture of old-time religion and civic responsibility that continues to strengthen church members and our entire community.

In the year 2000, God led Reverend Johnson into the challenge of the Millennium Revival, to help bring churches together. Through his creative efforts and hard work, the faith-action service that now defines the 93rd Street Community Baptist Church has truly persevered in showing its congregation the truth that emanates from the study of Holy Scripture.

As a servant of God and as a deeply spiritual leader immersed in scriptural commitment, Pastor Carl Johnson has earned our deepest respect and commendation. This is the legacy with which he now guides the church, and we now congratulate his pastoral ministry and extend our heartfelt congratulation on the 45th church anniversary celebration of the 93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church.

HONORING NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK, NOVEMBER 19–25, 2006

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Honor National Family Week. National Family Week takes place November 19th through November 25th. This event is sponsored by the Alliance for Children and Families. The Alliance for Children and Families represents an impressive group of advocates who have a tremendous effect on our children and families. National Family Week reflects a commitment to ensuring healthy, stable communities—communities where families that have the resources, affordable housing and the social networks they need to thrive

and where children have the quality education, child care, and the health care they need to grow into our leaders of tomorrow.

The Alliance for Children and Families represents several vital organizations in Chicago. There are fifteen Alliance members who work in the heart of Chicago. Included in this group of advocates are: Casa Central; Centers for New Horizons, Inc.; Chicago Children's Advocacy Center; Child Care Association of Illinois; Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois; ChildServ; Generations of Success; Jane Addams Hull House; Jewish Child and Family Services; Kids Hope United; Lawrence Hall Youth Services; Methodist Youth Services, Inc.; Metropolitan Family Services; and Salvation Army Family Services. I am grateful for each of them and all the wonderful work that they do. Specifically I would like to recognize the Jane Addams Hull House, which recently received a $3 million dollar grant from the Department of Education for its Early Reading First program. This grant illustrates the outstanding work that the three-hundred member organizations of the Alliance for Children and Families do for our citizens. I recognize and understand the importance of groups like the Jane Addams Hull House that provide important services to communities. I also want to recognize the efforts of the numerous other organizations in the Seventh District of Illinois that are not members of the Alliance but who are committed to the betterment of child welfare and well-being. These organizations work hard to teach our children, advocate on behalf of families everywhere, and provide necessary services to help strengthen communities.

As George Bernard Shaw once said, "Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to this country and to mankind is to bring up a family." The Alliance for Children and Family and their three hundred members help families and communities successfully achieve the greatest social service by providing the tools necessary to ensure healthy and stable communities. It is my great honor to recognize National Family Week, the Alliance for Children and Families, and all that they do to ensure the success of our nation's children and families.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR JOHN R. MILLER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of one of the leaders of the modern-day abolitionist movement, Ambassador John R. Miller, who has announced he will step down as Director of the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

He will be greatly missed.

As Ambassador Miller has often reminded us, trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery. With that conviction, he has led his office, and the whole of U.S. government, on a mission to settle for nothing short of the abolition of this terrible international crime.

Under Ambassador Miller's leadership, the U.S. government has grown in its commitment—both at home and abroad—against modern-day slavery. His work has helped spotlight the issue of slavery around the world, through the annual Secretary of State's Trafficking in Persons Report, diplomatic engagement, speeches and multiple prosecution, protection, and prevention programs around the world.

Earlier this year, New York Times columnist Nicholas D. Kristof praised the U.S. commitment to abolishing modern-day slavery, noting:

> [T]he heaviest lifting has been done by the State Department's tiny office on trafficking—for my money, one of the most effective units in the U.S. government. The office, led by a former Republican congressman, John Miller . . . puts out an annual report that shames and bullies foreign governments into taking action against forced labor of all kinds.

The 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Along with previous editions, its findings have raised global awareness and compelled countries to take effective actions to counter human trafficking. Under Ambassador Miller's direction, the Report has steadily increased its country assessment total each year—from 124 governments reviewed in 2003 to 158 countries assessed in the 2006 TIP Report.

During that time, Ambassador Miller also oversaw crucial refinements to the Report, elevating the annual compendium to a level of sophistication rarely enjoyed by a publication of its kind: the Trafficking in Persons Report has become the gold standard on which governments and the media are able to weigh progress on the global effort to fight human trafficking.

Annual release of the report has also generated increasing media coverage, helping raise global consciousness of the existence and widespread problem of modern-day slavery. Release of the 2006 Report, for example, produced widespread coverage by national and international print, broadcast, and Internet media, reaching, for the second year in a row, more than 400 million people across the globe. Media coverage was particularly intense in many of the Tier 3 and Tier 2 Watch List countries, such as Saudi Arabia and India.

Today, the TIP Report is the essential reference for global benchmarks that challenge all governments to join the 21st century abolitionist movement. The annual Trafficking in Persons Report serves as the primary diplomatic tool through which the U.S. Government encourages partnership and increased determination in the fight against forced labor, sexual exploitation, and modern-day slavery.

"In our judgment," declared Dr. Mohamed Mattar, Executive Director of the Protection Project, "this report constitutes the primary reference and main source of information on efforts made by foreign governments to combat trafficking in persons."

Armed with the report, Ambassador Miller has engaged with governments from Japan to Jamaica, from Belize to Bangladesh, to bring about improved law enforcement, victim protection, and prevention of this odious crime. Worldwide, Ambassador Miller's diplomatic leadership helped spur new or improved anti-human trafficking legislation in 41 countries in 2005, along with the establishment of dozens of new survivor shelters. That effort paid huge dividends: anti-trafficking convictions worldwide increased from several hundred, before Ambassador Miller arrived at the State Department, to over 4,700 in 2005. Last year's figure—an increase from about 3,000 the year before—was especially dramatic among countries in Africa (from 29 TIP convictions in 2004 to 58 in 2005) and East Asia and Pacific nations (from 348 TIP convictions in 2004 to 2,347 in 2005).

Specifically, Ambassador Miller's diplomatic efforts helped persuade Japan to vastly reduce the number of TIP-exploitable "entertainment visas" Japan issued for young women from the Philippines—to fewer than 5,000, from a high of 80,000 a year. In addition, Ambassador Miller has carefully honed the report's system of tier rankings to cultivate global anti-TIP efforts. This year, for example, Malawi rose from Tier 2 to Tier 1 on the TIP Report, while Ecuador rose from Tier 3 to Tier 2.

Over the last 2 years, Ambassador Miller helped enhance the U.S. government's anti-trafficking efforts to include a greater focus against child sex tourism (CST), a crime in which people travel from their own country to developing countries, such as Laos or Cambodia, looking for anonymity and the availability of children in prostitution. Ambassador Miller's leadership against CST has netted success, as Time magazine recently observed:

> Those working to protect children in Cambodia agree that the police force has recently shown a far stronger commitment to targeting pedophiles. But it's not just law and order that is doing the trick. A new political will to root them out is the result of diplomatic incentives and pressures, both the carrots of international donors and the stick of the U.S. State Department, say child protection workers. . . . But the stick came in 2005 when the U.S. State Department, fed up with the impunity enjoyed by traffickers here, relegated Cambodia to it lowest tier three rating on its global trafficking report. Cambodia was lumped in with Burma, Cuba and North Korea, and Washington threatened sanctions against Phnom Penh for its inability to comply with 'minimum standards' to combat human trafficking and convict officials involved.

In part because of Ambassador Miller's efforts, since 2003 over 30 American pedophiles have been extradited back to the U.S. and sent to jail.

With Ambassador Miller's prodding, the United States last December became an official party to the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol. The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Protocol, which supplements the U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, is an important multilateral component of the worldwide effort to combat modern-day slavery. It seeks to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and promote anti-trafficking cooperation among nations.

As chairman of the interagency Senior Policy Operating Group, Ambassador Miller has improved coordination among U.S. agencies, helping to make the panel a decision-making body whose participants have furthered the U.S. effort against trafficking in person both at home and abroad. For example, the Department of Justice (DOJ), in 2005 charged 116 individuals with human trafficking, almost doubling the number charged in FY 2004. Approximately 80 percent of those defendants were charged under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. Forty-five traffickers were convicted, of which 35

were implicated in sexual exploitation. As of May 22, 2006, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had certified 1,000 victims of human trafficking since the TVPA was signed into law in October 2000. In FY 2005, HHS certified 230 foreign victims of human trafficking from a remarkably diverse array of countries.

On a personal note, during his tenure as Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ambassador John R. Miller has been a friend and colleague to those of us in Congress who have taken a leadership role against modern-day slavery. We wish him well in his future work as a Professor of International Studies at George Washington University.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN HAS SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh publicly stated that India is the victim of cross-border terror. The Council of Khalistan under the leadership of Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh wrote to Prime Minister Singh and reminded him that India has been sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Sindh, a province of Pakistan, as the Washington Times reported on January 2, 2002 and that it created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam, which our government has identified as a terrorist organization, according to Indian Today, which is the leading news magazine in India.

It has also sponsored domestic terrorism against the minorities within its borders, including murdering a quarter of a million Sikhs and holding another 52,000 as political prisoners; killing Muslims by the tens of thousands in Kashmir, where more than 90,000 have been killed, Gujarat, where between 2,000 and 5,000 died in a massacre preplanned by the government, and elsewhere; killing Christians throughout the country, including over 300,000 just in Nagaland; and mass killing many other minorities. Yet India proclaims itself the victim of terrorism and proclaims itself a democracy. Well, Mr. Speaker, it certainly doesn't act that way.

The repression and terrorism must be stopped. We should end all aid and trade with India until such time as the repression ends and people enjoy the most basic human rights, and we should throw our full support behind self-determination in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagalim, and wherever people are trying to be free. In addition, we should designate India a terrorist state and impose the sanctions that that designation brings.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's open letter into the RECORD. It is a frightening record of Indian terrorism.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, October 10, 2006.

OPEN LETTER TO INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH: INDIA IS A TERRORIST STATE, NOT A VICTIM

DEAR PRIME MINISTER SINGH: On October 4, you said that India is it victim of crossborder terrorism. India is a terrorist state itself and should be subject to the penalties that are imposed on terrorist states.

On January 2, 2002, the Washington Times reported that India is supporting cross-border terrorism in Sindh, a province of Pakistan, the very same kind of thing that Prime Minister Singh was claiming is victimizing India. In addition, India's leading newsmagazine, India Today, reported that the Indan government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), identified by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization, and its leaders were put up by the Indian government in the finest hotel in Delhi, How can you blame Pakistan when India started cross-border terrorism with its own actions?

The Indian government has committed terrorism against its own minorities. It has murdered over 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women, and elderly since 1984, as well as more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Mulims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the ''Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act'' (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984! There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails, Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Tell the families of these innocent Sikhs and others that there is no terrorism in India.

lndian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khalra was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra. The only witness to the Khalra kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a note to then British Home Secretary Jack Straw. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. How can making speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Talkht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him, He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing ''if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]'' The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs ''worse than a genocide.''

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted ''Victory to Hannuman,'' a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried, The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. Recently, militant Hindus from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva (a youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the Fascist RSS) attacked the Convent of Loreto and the school there. A spokesman for the BJP, Mr. H. Dikshit, demanded an investigation of the school!

The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. The most important mosque in India, the Babri Mosque, was destroyed by militant Hindu fundamentalists who have never been held responsible for their actions.

It is good that you have admitted the guilt of the Indian government for the Delhi massacres, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, by apologizing for the massacres, but what good does it do the Sikh Nation? Where are the apologies for the Golden Temple attack, the destruction of the Akal Takht, and the desecration of Darbar Sahib, and the other atrocities? Where is the compensation for the victims' families? That operation was yet another act of Indian domestic terrorism.

The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying ''In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi.'' We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of ''Khalistan Zindabad'' and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Whoever is honest and dedicated in leading that Shantmai Morcha deserves our support. Every rooming and evening we recite, ''Raj Kare Ga Khalsa.'' Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The flame of freedom continues to burn blightly in the heart of the Sikh Nation. No force can suppress it. Recently, Dal Khalsa and the Shiromani Khalsa Dal announced that they are uniting for sovereignty for Khalistan. This was met with chants of ''Khalistan Zindabad.'' The Punjab Legislative Assembly proclaimed the sovereignty of Punjab when it cancelled the water agreements. Only by liberating Khalistan can we put an end to the repression and terrorism against the Sikh Nation by the Indian regime. Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to the liberation of Khalistan.

Last year, Sikh farmers were expelled from Uttaranchal Pradesh and their land was seized. They were beaten up by the police. Their homes were bulldozed by paratroopers. Their homes in many cases were built using their life savings and by their own hands. We condemn this act of state terrorism by the government of Uttaranchal Pradesh. As you know, Sikhs are prohibited from buying land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Now Uttaranchal Pradesh joins that list. Yet there are no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Sikhs. People from anywhere can buy land in Punjab, including people from Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. It is incumbent on the Sikh diaspora to free Khalistan. We must redouble our efforts. That is the only way to keep these atrocities from continuing and to protect the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikhs during June 1984 in Punjab. Among those who conspired with the government, according to Chakravyuh: Web of Indian Secularism, were Dr. Chohan, Ganga Singh Dhillon, and Didar Singh Bains

It appears the Indian regime is even willing to arrest its own agents to suppress the movement for Khalistan! Now Badal and Chief Minister Amarinder Singh have been accusing each other of being tied in with ''terrorists.'' These leaders view support for Khalistan as terrorism, as the Indian government does. They have shown where their loyalties lie. How will these so-called Sikh leaders account for themselves? Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: ''If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.''

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo calling Sikhs ''a criminal tribe.'' What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. Our moment of freedom is closer than ever. Sikhs will continue to work to make certain that we shake ourselves loose from the yoke of Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
PRESIDENT,
Council of Khalistan.

HONORING THE MILLS-PENINSULA MEDICAL CENTER GROUND BREAKING

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2006 is a day that will long be remembered in Burlingame, California, as the ground breaking for the construction of the Mills-Peninsula Medical Center. This medical facility, located in my Congressional District, is a continued example of why the Bay Area continues to be at the forefront of nation's healthcare system.

The New Mills-Peninsula Medical Center, scheduled to open its doors to the public in 2010, will be an extraordinary facility integrating the latest environmentally friendly technology design into a state-of-the-art $528 million 450,000-square-foot building. This newly constructed modern marvel will boast an emergency room 40 percent larger then that of the existing Mills-Peninsula Hospital, and will also provide 243 patient beds in all-private rooms. This new hospital will also have space designated for accommodations for family members of patients, allowing for those who have traveled great distances the ability to remain close to sick loved ones. The blueprints also include an attached office building that will offer space for physician offices, a new parking garage and gardens for people to get away from the hustle and bustle of the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the Mills-Peninsula Hospital has been in existence for nearly 100 years and is consistently held up as a beacon of excellence for hospitals in the Bay Area. The hospital has been a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including, being named the Best Hospital in San Mateo County 14 years running by the readers of the San Mateo County Times as well as being named the best place to work in the Bay Area for two consecutive years by the Business Journal Publications. Professional recognitions include being designated as one of the top eight hospitals in the State of California for cardiovascular surgery by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

Mr. Speaker, the ground-breaking and planned opening of this hospital has come to fruition due to the tireless efforts of the members and board of the Peninsula Health Care District, Mills-Peninsula Health Services, and Sutter Health, as well as the extraordinary support of community leaders and residents. Without their spectacular efforts, this state-of-the-art facility would be nothing more then a dream. I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mills-Peninsula Hospital community on the successful ground breaking of their new hospital.

RECOGNIZING JOHN FINERTY'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased o pay tribute to John Finerty for his 25 years of faithful service to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission. John began his work as a member of the professional staff on November 8, 1981, just 6 years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, a period marked by ruthless Soviet repression and widespread violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Driven by a passion for upholding the dignity of the downtrodden, John devoted himself to documenting the cases of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience cast into the Soviet gulag or banished because of their beliefs. His career at the Commission began in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a situation he followed closely. He also focused on the plight of Soviet Jewry, abuse of psychiatry and use of slave labor in the USSR, the persecution of human rights defenders, and repression of religious believers. His determined efforts were undertaken for well-known dissidents and the unknown alike without distinction. The resolution of hundreds of Soviet human rights cases were brought about in no small measure as a result of John's diligence.

The end of the Cold War brought new challenges and opportunities and once again John's talents proved invaluable to me and my fellow Commissioners as freedom began to take root in the former Soviet Union and the subjugation of the Baltic States came to an end. Throughout the turbulent transition, John remained focused on promoting peaceful democratic change while continuing his vigilant defense of human rights. He was part of the first teams to monitor elections in the former USSR. While the conflict in Chechnya has faded from the focus of many, John has not been willing to forget its victims. Similarly, he has helped draw attention to those who have fallen victim to terrorists in places like Beslan.

Mr. Speaker, in this year when we observe the 13th anniversary of the Helsinki Commission, as a long-serving Commissioner and Co-Chairman, I am pleased to recognize and commend John Finerty for his faithful service and tireless defense of human rights and dignity.

HONORING CHIEF TERRENCE P. LIPINSKI OF THE BRIDGEVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Terrence P. Lipinski of the Bridgeview Fire Department, in recognition of his retirement, after 30 years of dedicated service. Chief Lipinski has been an invaluable asset to the fire and emergency management community in the United States and we are forever grateful for his passion, wisdom, and guidance.

Terrence Lipinski began his career with the Bridgeview Fire Department as a firefighter, rising to the ranks of lieutenant and shift commander before becoming chief. He has served as chief for over a decade, while simultaneously taking on other state and national leadership roles.

During his career, Chief Lipinski has been president of the Bridgeview ETSB Board, president and vice president of the MABAS Division 21 Chief's Board, a trustee for the Bridgeview Fireman's Pension Fund, and a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Executive Board. During times of devastation and disaster, as in the aftermaths of the tornado in Utica, IL and Hurricane Katrina, Chief Lipinski has responded as a member of the first command incident team. He has also assisted in establishing a mutual aid system in Texas and, recently, the State of Illinois appointed him as a lead coordinator for a statewide exercise. Currently, Chief Lipinski is vice president of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and serves on the Region 7 EMS Advisory Board, the Christ Advocate EMS Advisory Board, and the Moraine Valley Community College Fire Education Advisory Board.

It is my honor today to recognize Chief Terrence P. Lipinski. After 30 years, the Bridgeview Fire Department is privileged to have had his dedication, determination, and impeccable service. Chief Lipinski's contributions, insights, and hard-work have truly made our great nation a better place to live. I wish him the very best in retirement and congratulate him on his accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAUL C. FISHER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Paul C. Fisher, who passed away on Friday, October 20, 2006.

Paul was a genius and a dreamer, an advocate of the scientific technique in social sciences and a philosopher. Paul is most well known for his invention of the ''space pen'', which was first used by NASA on Apollo 7 in 1968. Paul was the recipient of the Governor's Distinguished Nevada Business Award in 1989. As a result of his marketing and manufacturing efforts, Paul was presented with the Governor's Industrial Appreciation Award as Exporter of the Year in 1996 by Nevada's Governor Bob Miller.

Paul was also a public servant. He was an outstanding example of a civic and community minded person that I had the privilege of knowing and interacting with during his many years as a resident of southern Nevada. Throughout the years, Paul demonstrated his passion and pride for both his community and country. Having twice run for the President of the United States, he was a strong advocate of economic and tax reforms to better the lives of our Nation's poor. Paul also ran for U.S. Congress in Nevada in 1986 and in Illinois in 1954.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of my good friend Paul C. Fisher. He dedicated his life to the pursuit of ideas that would help improve conditions for mankind. I applaud all his efforts; he was truly a distinguished humanitarian and will be profoundly missed.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REDINGTON HOTEL, NOW THE GENETTI HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Gus Genetti, owner of the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Redington Hotel.

Mr. Genetti acquired the Redington Hotel in 1963 and proceeded to renovate and expand that facility into a landmark haven of hospitality in Wilkes-Barre's downtown.

Built by John Redington, the hotel was opened October 11, 1906 at the comer of East Market Street and South Pennsylvania Avenue. The lavish seven-story hotel was designed by the prominent architectural firm of McCormick and French. The facility contained many modem conveniences, such as a dining room, telephone exchange, public bath, barber shop, butcher shop and bakery. Many notable visitors stayed at the hotel including comedians Abbott and Costello.

In October, 1922, John Redington retired and leased the hotel to the Keystone State Hotel Association. In 1930, Mr. Redington with his son, John A. Jr., resumed management of the hotel until John Senior's death on January 24, 1941.

In February, 1942, the hotel was purchased from the Redington estate through a sheriffs sale by Conrad F. Goeringer. Goeringer sold the hotel to Morgus Enterprises on May 20, 1960.

With the decline and eventual termination of the Lehigh Valley Rail Service, changing hotel standards and the opening of motels on the outskirts of Wilkes-Barre, the Redington fell on hard times.

The hotel changed hands once again at sheriff's sale, eventually being purchased by Mr. Genetti in July, 1963. The hotel was subsequently upgraded, modernized and reopened in September, 1963, as the Genetti Hotel.

The hotel was again renovated after the Agnes flood of 1972 and has been continually improved and enlarged since then. The hotel's frontage now extends along the entire second block of East Market Street.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ETHEL MINOR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ethel Minor, the outgoing President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), for her 14 years of service to the San Antonio Chapter of the NAACP.

Ms. Minor was born on November 26, 1922 in the City of San Antonio in the State of Texas. She attended Prairie View A&M University and majored in Business Administration at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. She then began her 35 years of service to Kelly Air Force Base as an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist in the Black Employment Program, fighting for equal treatment of employees at the Kelly Air Force Base until her retirement in 1980.

Ms. Minor was involved in the civil rights marches and protests throughout Bexar County during the turbulent 1960s, was elected to the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP in 1987, and served for 10 consecutive years from 1987 to 1996, and 4 years from 2003–2006. Under her remarkable leadership, the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP succeeded with the voter registration drives. She also promoted the education of the African-American youth, advocated for the local African-American community, and organized the San Antonio Annual Martin Luther King Day March Celebration, which has become the largest annual civil rights celebration in the entire Nation with over 100,000 attendees.

In addition to her work as the first female President of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP, Ms. Minor is extensively involved in many community service and educational organizations including the Centennial, Scholarship, and Diversity Committees at St. Philip's College, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the National Council of Negro Women. She was the first black PTA President at Brackenridge High School, a Member of the District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) in the East Central School District, and the Program and Nominating Chair of the International Training and Communication ITC. She has received numerous honors and awards such as: the Yellow Rose of Texas which was given to her by then-Governor Mark White, the Key to the City of New Orleans, the Friend of Education Award from American Federation of Teachers, Top Ladies of Distinction Spirit Award, and the Martin Luther King Award. She was also an inductee into the Women's Hall of Fame and has been presented several awards by the local branches and the state chapter of the NAACP as well involved in the religious community at the Antioch Baptist Church where she remains a devoted member.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the passion Ms. Minor has demonstrated in advancing the civil rights of the African-American community.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH D. HUNT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ruth D. Hunt, a distinguished citizen of Brooklyn, NY. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

Ruth D. Hunt is the director of Marketing and Outreach for the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation North Brooklyn Health Network. She has greatly improved the public image of the network, expanded partnerships and promoted health services. Last year, Ms. Hunt coordinated and provided over 300 community outreach health events in Brooklyn and screened over 15,000 participants.

Ms. Hunt is an accomplished manager and developer. She has an extensive background in special events planning, fundraising and has coordinated major events with the Jackie Robinson Foundation, the Doll League, Inc: Women and AIDS Resource Network, Meharry Alumni Association and the National Association of Health Services Executives. Ms. Hunt has also had an extensive career in fashion. She has modeled professionally for more than 100 New York City fashion designers and manufacturers and has graced countless runways, showrooms and trade-shows. She founded Ruth Hunt Associates in 1988. The mission of the company is to help build self-esteem by teaching clients how to look, act and speak their best to achieve career advancement.

Ms. Hunt is most proud of working with Rachel Robinson during the inception of the Jackie Robinson Foundation. She served as the foundation coordinator and implemented the production of four major Jazz concerts. Under the guidance of her mentor, Mrs. Robinson, Ms. Hunt administered and creatively established the historical collection of Jackie Robinson's life and career. This collection later became a traveling exhibition that was sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Ruth D. Hunt. Her deep commitment to her community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Texas Motor Speedway for celebrating 10 successful years of racing. The facility is located in the heart of North Texas, between Fort Worth and Denton in the 26th District of Texas.

The Texas Motor Speedway has hosted several NASCAR, Indy Racing League, and other prestigious motor sport races since its inaugural year in 1997. Millions of enthusiastic fans have flocked to enjoy the modern racing and entertainment facilities at one of the fastest tracks in the Nation.

The Texas Motor Speedway has a tremendous impact on the North Texas economy by bringing millions of dollars to businesses, hotels, restaurants, and attractions in the area. The Speedway continues to exceed predictions of its regional economic impact each year.

As an avid racing fan, I regularly attend events at the Texas Motor Speedway. I am pleased to have such a fine facility in the North Texas community, and I proudly boast of its accomplishments on my Congressional Web site. In addition to hosting races, the Texas Motor Speedway also supports a number of worthy charities in the North Texas community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Texas Motor Speedway for 10 distinguished years of serving the racing and Texas communities. I look forward to many more.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SERGIO DE GREGORIO HONORABLE ROBERT A. BRADY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our colleague from the Republic of Italy, the Honorable Sergio De Gregorio.

Senator De Gregorio was elected Senator of the Republic of Italy on April 10th, 2006. As President of the Defense Committee for the Republic of Italy, Senator De Gregorio is one of the most important national security officials in one of our most important allied states.

Prior to his election to the Senate, Mr. De Gregorio served as a pioneering journalist who produced many important reports on organized crime, various wars and conflicts in almost every corner of the world. He further established his international credentials during his tenure as Assistant to European Parliament, a position he held until 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Philadelphia is proud to host Senator De Gregorio and 15 distinguished Italian delegates, including four members of his committee: Hon. Paolo Guzzanti; Hon. Filippo Berselli; Hon. Calogero Mannino; and Hon. Gianni Nieddu, as well as Princess Josephine Pritchard Borghese and Hon. Salvatore Ferrigno, to Philadelphia for a four-day tour of the city and its various Italian American businesses, factories and importers. Their visit will also include three events to raise funds for the construction of an Italian American Cultural Center to be located in Northeast Philadelphia.

The Republic of Italy has long been a critically important ally in the fight against terrorism and against organized crime. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am pleased that this important delegation will be touring defense facilities in my District. And, as a son of Italy, I am equally proud that they will be doing so much to help us create the Italian American Cultural Center. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in welcoming them to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP-ELECT RANDALL E. HOLTS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Bishop-Elect Randall E. Holts on the occasion of his recent election and appointment as Bishop last Sunday, November 12, 2006. He is currently serving as the senior Pastor of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church of Miami.

Deeply devoted to his vocation, Bishop Holts has spearheaded many spiritual revival symposia that have enlightened the community through his insightful theological teachings and preaching of God's Word. Guided by the motto, ''Building Strong Families for the 21st Century,'' he has admirably paved the way for a clearer understanding and deeper commitment on the part of his Congregation toward the Sacred Scriptures.

In 1997, he formed a leadership team that focused on the emergence of the ''New Hope Development Center, Inc.,'' a 501c3 non-profit corporation, to ensure self-sufficiency of families through economic empowerment to enhance the quality of life of both Church members and other people from surrounding neighborhoods. Indeed, it is fitting and proper to give praise to Almighty God for blessing this Church with the longevity of Bishop-Elect Holt's service to his Congregation, and to all those who seek comfort and solace in its Church Sanctuary.

A native of Miami, Florida, Bishop-Elect Holts obtained his early education from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and went on to get his Bachelor's degree in 1976 from the University of Florida's School of Business majoring in Banking and Finance. He worked in the banking profession for the next 20 years, for which he obtained praise and tribute from his colleagues. As he retired from his professional banking ventures, he committed his full-time service as Pastor of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. He now also serves on the Board of Directors for North Shore Medical Center, as well as on the Collective Banking Group of Miami-Dade & Vicinity, and other community-based organizations.

He is married to Prophetess Sharlene Denise Holts and has been blessed in this Holy Matrimony for over 30 years. Three children were born out of this happy union—Shontel, Ericka and Randall II—along with two grandsons, Jaelyn and Justin. He has led his Church with a good mixture of old-time religion and civic responsibility that continues to strengthen the members, not only to become spiritual and moral leaders, but also responsible and conscientious guardians of good government and civic pride.

Indeed, his inspiring leadership is genuinely admirable. As a servant of God and as a spiritual leader he has earned the community's deepest respect. This is the legacy with which he now guides his Church, and I extend to him my heartfelt congratulations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO E. STEVEN SMITH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of E. Steven Smith, who passed away on Monday, October 16, 2006.

Dr. Smith, a leader in forensic dentistry, was the founding dean of the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, the first dental school in the State of Nevada. He oversaw the school's founding from 1999 until 2002, when the first students entered the school.

When he moved to Las Vegas to lead the dental school, Dr. Smith began volunteering his time and expertise with the Clark County coroner's office in examining dental records. His efforts often provided closure for family members who may otherwise not have know the fate of a missing loved one.

Dr. Smith was also the founder of the Crackdown on Cancer Initiative. This body would travel to schools throughout Nevada to warn students about the effects of tobacco on the mouth, providing an invaluable public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of E. Steven Smith. Under his leadership, Nevada now has a world class institution for Dental Medicine education. His amalgamation of professional success and community activism is exemplary. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR WALTER CONWAY UPON BEING NAMED ''CITIZEN OF THE YEAR'' BY THE DELAWARE WATER GAP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Walter Conway, mayor of Delaware Water Gap, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

Mayor Conway has been named ''Citizen of the Year'' by the Delaware Water Gap Chamber of Commerce and will be honored at an award dinner Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Water Gap Country Club.

A graduate of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Mayor Conway and his wife, Cathy, have two children, Cathleen Conway and Mrs. Wendy Scott.

Mayor Conway is a veteran of the United States Army, having served in Vietnam where he distinguished himself and was the recipient of numerous medals and commendations.

Mayor Conway began his community involvement in Delaware Water Gap in 1997 as a member of the Planning Commission. He has been chairman of the Planning Commission since June, 2004. During this time, he has been instrumental in revising numerous zoning ordinances.

Mayor Conway is active in the Delaware Water Gap Chamber of Commerce and is the backbone of the current annual golf tournament. He also sponsors a Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament.

Mayor Conway has obtained over $485,000 in grant money for the borough and other related organizations, such as the Antoine Dutot Museum, the police department and the fire department.

And even though he resides in the borough's flood zone, he is well known for helping his neighbors even before he works on his own home. He also coordinates all flood recovery efforts.

He was a past member and president of the Kittatiny Lions Club. He is currently a veteran member of the Kiwanis Club. He served as Lt. Governor for Division 17 in 1993 for the Pennsylvania District of Kiwanis International. He was also a recipient of the Pennsylvania Kiwanis International Keystone Award.

For the past 15 years, he has been involved with golf tournament fund raising for the Geisinger Children's Heart Program. He is also active with the Children's Miracle Network.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mayor Conway on this happy occasion. His commitment and service to the Borough of Delaware Water Gap has greatly enriched the quality of life in that community.

TRIBUTE TO THE VAQUEROS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, whereas, the Vaqueros are the true original cowboys of South Texas, and they were an essential part of the early ranching industry in Jim Hogg County.

Whereas, Vaqueros were renowned for their exemplary ranching and stock-handling skills, which were needed for the development of ranches and without them, the ranching industry would not have developed to the State it is today.

Whereas, the skills and the ranching practices shown by the vaqueros have left a lasting impact on modern ranching. The equipment of the vaquero—saddle, chaps, bandana, lasso, and spurs—has become the standard gear of all Texas cowboys.

Whereas, the first ranches founded in the area with the help of the vaqueros were Randado, Las Noriacitas, Las Animas, San Antonio Viejo, Las Emamadas, Las Viboritas, El Baluarte, and San Javier. Some of these ranches are still held by descendants of the original owners such as Randado, which was visited by General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War.

Whereas, ranching remains one of the vital elements of the economy in Jim Hogg County, and the City of Hebbronville is located on the land that once was a part of the Las Noriacitas Ranch. W.R. Hebbron, the town's namesake, established the city along the route of the Texas Mexican Railway in 1883.

Be it hereby resolved, That Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, in representing the 28th Congressional District of the State of Texas, commends the City of Hebbronville on its celebration of the history of the vaquero on November 4, 2006.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patricia Williams, a community leader and entrepreneur. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding woman and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her impressive service.

Born to the Honorable Kathryn Williams and the late James Williams, Patricia Williams credits living and growing up in evolving neighborhoods like Harlem, Bedford Stuyvesant and East New York as an inspiration to work for social and economical change.

Ms. Williams knows hard work is an investment. She currently is the President/CEO of Ecotech Enterprises, Inc., a firm she established to provide consultant services to government agencies, private sector corporations, and small, minority-owned business enterprises. In the past, Ms. Williams provided community outreach and event planning for the Brooklyn Museum of Art Construction Project. She has delivered bottom line services such as marketing and sales to well known small businesses and she provides fundraising and workshop development assistance to several non-profits. Ms. Williams has been called upon as a panelist and guest speaker on numerous occasions and is considered an authority on business development.

Prior to starting her own consulting firm, Ms. Williams was executive Director of the Minority Business Opportunity Center under the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency where she provided business services to more than 70,000 minority/women-owned and small businesses. As senior Administrator of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity for Morse Diesel International, she successfully implemented policies to ensure 100 million dollars of contracting opportunities for minority-owned and small businesses where she exceeded labor force and contracting goals set for women and minority skilled workers at JFK Airport's Terminal 4 construction project. She was Senior Employment Specialist and Career Development Instructor for Non-Traditional Community College, Operations Manager for Madison Avenue firm Durham Temporaries Inc., and has several years of experience at the U.S. Small Business Administration, Finance Division.

Ms. Williams attended John Jay College where she majored in Criminal Justice and Labor Law. Her work has not gone unnoticed. Ms. Williams has been recognized by several government agencies and community organizations. She is also the recipient of the Columbia University Non-Profit Executive Management Scholarship. Ms. Williams is the proud mother of two, Leah and John.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the work of Patricia Williams. Her deep commitment to her community makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS WITH THE EVERMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Everman Independent School District as they celebrate their 100th anniversary of providing quality education for its students. The Everman School District has been a fixture in southwest Fort Worth since 1906.

The School district was first established in 1906 when the Enon School and the Antioch School consolidated to make the Everman School. After the merger the School district prospered, experiencing massive growth in the community as well as the student body population.

During its 100-year history, Everman ISD has earned state and national recognition in academics, athletics, fine arts, leadership, and service disciplines.

The mission of Everman Independent School District is to provide all students with an educational program which allows them to develop their full potential intellectually, physically, and socially in order to be responsible citizens and contributing members of society. With a century of success behind them, I am more than confident that Everman ISD will continue to educate and inspire the young adults that walk the halls of their schools.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand here today and honor the 100th anniversary of the Everman Independent School District for their dedication and continuing commitment to education in Everman, Texas.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH J. FLEISHER, ESQ.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a man who personifies the finest traditions of the legal profession. Kenneth J. Fleisher is a Philadelphia native. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Yale University and a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School.

For more than a decade he has been a member of the prestigious law firm Zarwin, Baum, DeVito, Kaplan, Schaer, Toddy, P.C. in Philadelphia.

He also serves as the chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Real Property Section.

In spite of his impeccable legal credentials I did not meet Mr. Fleischer in a board room, at a big ticket gala or as the attorney of record

representing a powerful client. I came to know him because of the countless hours that he and an amazing group of attorneys have put into representing, on a pro bono basis, my constituents who were forced from their homes because their properties were literally sinking on a street in my district.

Mr. Speaker, putting aside any question of profit, Ken and his fellow volunteers at the Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program have worked tirelessly to ensure that these constituents who found themselves in the middle of a bureaucratic nightmare had the best legal representation possible. No words can express the gratitude I have for their diligence and commitment to work through the legal maze these homeowners faced.

But, Mr. Fleisher's efforts would come as no surprise to anyone who knows the culture of the Zarwin firm. It has been home to many people I have been honored to work with and call my friends over the years. It is a firm that inspires leadership and dedication in its attorneys. Two of my good friends, the late Rotan Lee, a former Philadelphia School District president, and Seth Williams, Philadelphia's Inspector General, both were a part of the firm.

Mr. Speaker, as the Philadelphia legal community today honors Mr. Fleisher for his highly successful tenure as chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Real Property Section, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service and wish him well in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MELANIE TEEMANT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Melanie Teemant for her outstanding achievements as a seventh-grade teacher.

On October 18, 2006, Melanie was named 2007 Nevada Teacher of the Year for hard work and dedication to her young students at Bob Miller Middle School in Henderson, Nevada. The award was presented by the Department of Education and it is also part of a nationwide program from the Council of Chief State School Officers.

As part of the award, Melanie was given a key to the city of Henderson and she is entered in the nationwide competition for teacher of the year. She is given a trip to the Nation's capital in April, during which she'll have the opportunity to meet President Bush. Melanie was also awarded a trip to Huntsville, Alabama, this summer where she will be visiting a NASA space program.

Once a year, Melanie holds a performance entitled Dancing Through the Decades, where she gives her students a chance to share some of what they learned in her reading class. She heads the school's teacher mentor program, which is designed to help new teachers acclimate to the school as well as helps them develop lesson plans and reviews classroom management skills. Melanie is active in afterschool activities, such as student council, guitar club, and the scrapbook club.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ms. Melanie Teemant for her commendable devotion to improving the lives of her students. Her perseverance and dedication is an admirable trait. I applaud her efforts and I wish her luck in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DON COOPER UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WYOMING VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE JEWISH FEDERATION IN WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Don Cooper, retiring executive director of the Wyoming Valley Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, PA.

During his tenure, Mr. Cooper developed an active and involved membership that included commitment and participation from all elements of the community. He also enhanced JCC programming in all areas by developing and encouraging an outstanding, competent, productive and loyal staff.

Mr. Cooper made exceptional contributions in the areas of day care, elder programming and leadership development. He has protected, improved and expanded the JCC facility in downtown Wilkes-Barre and its day camp facility nearby.

He has overseen successful fundraising and grant writing applications that have assisted in securing the financial future of the JCC.

Mr. Cooper received a BA in sociology and economics from the University of Cincinnati and a MSW; ACWS in community organization from Western Reserve University.

During the course of his career, Mr. Cooper served as a field worker in the Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers Association; assistant executive director for the Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association in New York; assistant executive director for the Jewish Federation and Council of Greater Kansas City; executive director for the Tampa Jewish Federation/Jewish Community Center; and as executive director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

Mr. Cooper is affiliated with the Academy of Certified Social Workers, National Association of Social Workers, National Association of Jewish Community Organization Personnel, CJF and UJA regional and national planning committees; professional advisory board of Joint Distribution Committee; University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work Board of Visitors; and the Beth Israel Zion Synagogue in Philadelphia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Cooper on the occasion of a well deserved retirement. The contributions he made to the Jewish community as well as the community at large have been responsible for improving the quality of life for so many people, a fact for which Mr. Cooper should be justifiably proud.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEBASTOPOL HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the Sebastopol House State Historic Site in the City of Seguin, located in the 28th District of Texas.

This 3,000 square foot home was built in 1856 and is constructed mainly of limecrete, an early form of concrete, a material rarely used in the area. Joshua Young, who lost his son in the Civil War, built the Sebastopol House and later sold the house to his sister, who then sold it to Joseph and Nettie Zorn. Joseph Zorn served as Alderman, Postmaster, and Mayor of Seguin for twenty years, was instrumental in the growth and the modernization of the city, and left a remarkable legacy in the creation of the trustee-managed, free public school system in 1891. The house remained with the Zorn family until the death of Calvert Zorn, when the house was rented out to families, including that of Robert and Mary Ybarra, who lived in the house for many years.

The Sebastopol House faced the threat of demolition in the early 1960s, but was saved by the Seguin Conservation Society to serve as a historic house museum until 1976, and was restored to its original condition in the 1980s by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to preserve this important piece of Texas architectural history. As we look back on the past 150 years of this house and its inhabitants with pride, we also look forward to an enduring future for the Sebastopol House State Historic Site.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the 150th anniversary of the Sebastopol House State Historic Site.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN DAVID LYNN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Assistant Chief of Police John David Lynn as he retires from 34 years of service in the North Richland Hills Police Department.

Assistant Chief Lynn began his career in 1973 as a patrolman. He was assigned to the Criminal Investigations division, and by 1975 he had been promoted to Sergeant. Throughout Mr. Lynn's career, he has served as a patrol supervisor, been promoted to the rank of Captain, and served as the Investigative Services Division Commander for 11 years. During his service as Captain, Mr. Lynn attended the 139th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

In May of 1993, Mr. Lynn was promoted to his current rank of Assistant Chief of Police. As commander of the Management Services Bureau, Assistant Chief Lynn was awarded his second Meritorious Service Award. He also

served as Interim Chief of Police for several months in both 1998 and 2005 for the Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Assistant Chief of Police John David Lynn's 34 years of dedicated service to the North Richland Hills Police Department and Community. I am proud to serve as his representative in Washington, D.C.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN B. BRIGHT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John B. Bright for his service to our Nation's veterans.

John was appointed by the Veterans Health Administration as the Director of Veterans Affairs of the Southern Nevada Healthcare System in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 1, 2006. He was previously the Associate Director since May 6, 2005.

Prior to his appointment in Las Vegas, John was the Chief Financial Officer at the VA Facilities at Big Spring and Amarillo, Texas since 1998. He has also been the Chief Financial Officer at Phoenix, AZ and Reno, NV. He began his career in 1985 at the VA in Seattle, WA and served in management positions at VA Hospitals in Durham, NC, Prescott, AZ, Battle Creek, MI and San Antonio, TX. John is a Veteran who served in the United States Army from 1972 through 1975.

As Director of the Southern Nevada Healthcare System, John has continually advocated for the construction of the new Las Vegas Veterans Hospital Complex. John is devoted to our veterans in Southern Nevada and goes above and beyond to ensure that veterans receive care. He has always been a remarkable resource to the Congressional Delegation and their staff. Dedicated public servants like John understand the contributions that our Nation's veterans have made and are an indispensable component of the veterans' healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John B. Bright. His long and distinguished career in service to our Nation's veterans is commendable. I applaud him for all his hard work and success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN L. CHURNETSKI, WILLARD G. KRESGE, AND LEE W. ECKERT, FOUNDERS OF QUAD THREE GROUP INC. IN WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to John L. Churnetski, Willard G. Kresge and Lee W. Eckert, founders of Quad Three Group, Inc. in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Quad Three Group is a full service architectural, engineering and environmental science firm that has grown from a single proprietorship in 1967 to a firm employing 70 people today in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Pittsburgh, PA.

From 1967 through 1987, the company was a multidiscipline professional engineering firm known as Utility Engineers which served a large number of architectural firms, commercial and industrial clients and municipalities. A large part of the firm's growth came from contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense.

In 1987, Utility Engineers, which had employed 35 people, merged with the largest architectural design firm in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area, Pyros and Sanderson, which employed 15 people, to form Quad Three Group, Inc.

Noteworthy regional projects they completed included Blue Cross Blue Shield of Northeastern Pennsylvania headquarters, Luzerne County Community College Technology Building, Penn State University Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton campuses, Martz Trailways Office Building, InterMetro Industries Corporate Headquarters Building, the environmental impact study for the Francis E. Walter Dam Hydroelectric Project, Newport, Rhode Island and Lakehurst, New Jersey Naval Base Utility System Upgrade and the $85 million Steamtown Mall project in downtown Scranton.

They also completed the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Base Re-Alignment and Closure project, ten major K–12 and higher education projects, the $45 million Wachovia Arena at Casey Plaza and the $30 million Mount Laurel Center for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Churnetski received his bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Notre Dame University. Mr. Kresge received his bachelor of electrical engineering from Penn State University and Mr. Eckert received his bachelor of science in civil engineering from Penn State University. Between the three founders, they have 127 years of combined engineering experience.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these three talented men who have distinguished themselves in the engineering world as well as in their northeastern Pennsylvania community. Their commitment to excellence and professionalism has benefited everyone associated with Quad Three Group and has contributed to improving the quality of life in the entire region.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTER PHIL PFISTER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor one of my constituents, Charleston firefighter Phil Pfister on becoming the World's Strongest Man.

This award was bestowed after a long and arduous competition amongst 25 athletes from around the world. The ten day contest in Sanya, China included events such as bus pulls, car pushes, stone lifts, and tire turns.

Mr. Pfister, is the first American to win this competition in 24 years. After trailing in the early events, Mr. Pfister focused his strength, discipline, and determination to win the final five events leading him to the title. His hard work and dedication during training certainly paid off.

Nonetheless, after all his glory of winning this prestigious competition, Mr. Pfister returned to West Virginia a few days later and promptly resumed his daily work of protecting our wonderful city of Charleston as a firefighter.

I am proud to honor Mr. Pfister for his accomplishments in the World's Strongest Man competition and his dedication to the Charleston community through his service as a fireman. West Virginia is truly fortunate to have him as a Mountaineer.

CONGRATULATING KEN SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Ken Smith, who is retiring from the Santa Rosa County School Board after 28 years of service. Mr. Smith's dedication to his community and the education of its children is profound and commendable.

Mr. Smith was born in Bagdad, Florida. He first got active in the school system in Santa Rosa County when he volunteered at his children's schools as a PTA member. After serving as PTA President at Oakhurst Elementary, he was elected to his first term on the Santa Rosa County School Board in 1978. He is currently the second longest serving School Board member in the State of Florida, having served with 17 Board Members and 3 Superintendents. He has held the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board 7 times each.

Through the years, Mr. Smith has served on several Board committees, most notably the Vocational Committee, working with the State to acquire the Locklin Technical Center, the first and only vocational center located in Santa Rosa County. He has also been active in the Lions Club, Optimist Club, and the Ferris Hill Baptist Church.

Mr. Smith's effort to better Santa Rosa County schools is admirable. His devotion to the education of the children of his community is inspirational. I congratulate him on his accomplishments and his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS PHILLIP B. WILLIAMS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of United States Army Private First Class Phillip B. Williams who was killed on October 9, 2006, in Baghdad, Iraq, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Private First Class Williams was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

4th Brigade Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Infantry Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During his service, Private First Class was decorated with the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. For his bravery on October 9th, Private First Class Williams was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of United States Army Private First Class Phillip B. Williams. Private First Class Williams made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while defending democracy and freedom. He was a true patriot who served the United States of America with valor and courage. I am saddened by his loss and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLLEGE OF THE OZARKS

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay honor to an institution celebrating its centennial milestone this month. College of the Ozarks is an institution of higher learning that for many years was known as ''The School that Runs on Faith.'' This small Christian college, located in the hills near Branson and Hollister, Missouri, has seen its share of struggle and triumphs. But central to the College is its mission of providing a Christian education to young people from the Ozarks who are deserving, yet financially unable to procure such training.

Originally, the purpose of The School of the Ozarks, also known by its students and graduates as ''Hardwork U,'' was to provide an opportunity for a high school education. This mission was pursued without significant change until 1956, when The School of the Ozarks added 2 years of junior college to the 4-year high school program. This format continued until 1964 when the Board of Trustees and the faculty voted to expand the 2-year program into a 4-year liberal arts program. The 4-year college program of The School of the Ozarks began classes for juniors in September 1965. In 1990, the Board of Trustees approved changing the operating name of The School of the Ozarks to ''College of the Ozarks.''

The distinctive tradition of the work program and the College's commitment to its five-fold mission of academic, spiritual, cultural, vocational, and patriotic growth in its students has attracted and continues to attract famous guests, including U.S. Presidents and First Ladies, U.S. Commanding Generals, Prime Ministers, and other dignitaries who recognize its uniqueness. Today, the College offers degrees in 34 academic areas, and student enrollment is approximately 1,400.

More than ever, our country needs young men and women with these values to serve as leaders. Dr. R. M. Good, who led the school during the Depression years once said, ''Investments in humanity bring substantial and sure dividends.'' This is why the College has a renewed commitment this centennial year to continue its worthy, distinct mission—a tradition that works. It is these things—a respect for and appreciation of our roots and work tradition, as well as the prospect of a promising future—that College of the Ozarks will celebrate throughout its centennial year.

I want to wish College of the Ozarks another 100 years of service to the region, educating and inspiring students with a curriculum that emphasizes character, faith and excellence.

FARM RESERVOIR ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today, along with my colleagues Reps. JO BONNER and MIKE ROGERS, to assist American farmers in dealing with drought conditions and enable them to increase their farm productivity. The need for on-the-farm drought management has become increasingly evident as farmers and the government struggle to keep ahead of the effects of Mother Nature. In recent years, droughts have had a costly impact on agricultural producers throughout the country, and the current drought conditions for the 2005 and 2006 crop years dramatically underscore the devastating toll these natural disasters have on our Nation's farmers and ranchers. Ad hoc government disaster assistance is often slow and inadequate, and frankly, a better use of tax dollars would be to help farmers take steps to minimize the impact of drought on their crop before the disaster strikes.

The Farm Reservoir Act would provide cost-share assistance to agriculture producers for the construction of reservoirs on their farms. For many farmers, pumping water from streams, lakes and wells during the growing season is not an option. However, by collecting and storing surface water in reservoirs during the off-season, when rainfall and stream levels are typically high, farmers can attain an effective source of irrigation. As population growth places more demand on water resources, we will need new sources of irrigation water. On-farm irrigation storage, which is made possible by my legislation, has the potential to greatly expand agricultural irrigation capacity and make farming more productive. Under the Farm Reservoir Act, cost share assistance would be provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist farmers with the construction of reservoirs. The maximum amount of cost share assistance is 50 percent of the cost of the reservoir. In order to qualify, a project must meet EQIP eligibility requirements and be deemed eligible based on its cost-effectiveness. The producer must maintain agricultural production on the land for at least 5 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TONI CLARK-FINUF

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Toni Clark-Finuf for her dedication to the community of Las Vegas.

Toni, known throughout town as ''The First Lady of Las Vegas,'' helped her late husband, Wilbur Clark, establish the prominent Desert Inn Hotel and Casino. The fifth resort on a 2-lane highway, now the Las Vegas Strip, with 300 rooms and a 3-story tower opened on April 24, 1950. On October 23, 2001, Toni watched as her late husband's hotel was reduced to rubble in order for the now-popular Wynn Hotel and Casino to be erected.

In 1958, the Fashion Foundation of America named Toni to its 10 Best Dressed Women in America. She was among a small group who helped high-fashion designs from Paris and New York become stock in the forum shops of Las Vegas.

Toni was also a civic leader who spent seven decades sponsoring and promoting cultural arts as well as other philanthropic work in Las Vegas. Her and her husband donated land to the Catholic Church, now the location of the Guardian Angel Cathedral. Toni and Wilbur traveled throughout the world as goodwill ambassadors, praising the virtues of Las Vegas to various presidents and kings as well as Pope Pius XII. In January 2000, Governor Kenny Guinn presented the honor Nevada Ballet Theatre's Women of the Year to Toni during the Black and White Ball.

Seven years ago, Toni was diagnosed with progressive super nuclear palsy, a rare neurological disease. Sadly, on October 4, 2006, Toni passed away. She was 91.

Toni contributed a great deal to her community. She will truly be missed by everyone she touched. Her service and care helped shape Las Vegas into the thriving metropolitan city known today and we thank her for all her service.

RECOGNIZING THE PHILANTHROPIC WORK PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE MILLENNIUM CIRCLE FUND OF THE LUZERNE FOUNDATION IN WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the Millennium Circle Fund of the Luzerne Foundation in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the members of which perform philanthropic work that benefits the community in many ways.

The Millennium Circle Fund is a special group of donors whose gifts of $2,000 play a pivotal role in helping identifying significant unmet community needs.

October 2006 has been designated as Millennium Circle Month in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Members of the Millennium Circle Advisory Committee have held a series of

events in recent months to help spread the word about the good works of the organization and to introduce the concept of perpetual giving.

Since 2001, the Millennium Circle Fund has granted $65,000 to non-profit organizations throughout Luzerne County.

In 2001, a $10,000 grant was used to present 28 ''Follow Your Dreams'' motivational presentations to local high school students.

In 2002, a $10,000 grant was presented to the Diamond City Partnership for downtown Wilkes-Barre revitalization.

In 2003, a $10,000 grant was presented to Candy's Place, a community support center for cancer patients and their loved ones.

In 2004, a $15,000 grant was presented to Friday's Child, a Jewish Community Center of Wilkes-Barre program for autistic children in the region.

In 2005, a $20,000 grant was presented to the McGlynn Center to support educational programs for at-risk children in the city of Wilkes-Barre.

Members of the Millennium Circle Fund are urged to recommend needy causes for grants and then the members vote in order to choose grant recipients.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating members of the Millennium Circle Fund for their unyielding devotion and commitment to the community in which they live.

Members of the Millennium Circle exemplify their motto, ''Local People . . . Identifying Local Needs . . . Providing Local Solutions.'' Clearly, this organization has contributed toward improving the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania and, for that, the entire community is grateful.

CONGRATULATING ANTHONY J. ZAGAMI ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. I rise today to honor to Mr. Anthony J. ''Tony'' Zagami on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of dedicated public service to the legislative branch and to our Nation.

I first met Tony in the mid-1960s, when we both served as pages in the United States Senate and attended the Capitol Page School. Tony continued his service to Congress while working his way through college and law school. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland School of Business and Public Administration, and a Juris Doctor from the George Mason University School of Law. He served in a variety of positions before leaving Capitol Hill in 1990 to become general counsel to the Government Printing Office, the agency responsible for producing the Congressional Record. He worked tirelessly to improve and modernize the organization.

Tony has been active in many professional, civic and social organizations, including the American and Federal Bar Associations, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, the National Italian American Foundation, the Make-A-Wish Children's Foundation of Greater Washington, and the U.S. Senate Staff Club, of which he served as a board member and counsel. He is an elected official and former chairman of the U.S. Senate Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, as well as the past president of the Capitol Hill Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Throughout his many years on Capitol Hill and at GPO, Tony was known for his dedication and commitment to public service. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, among them being listed in *Who's Who in Washington* and *Who's Who In American Law*. His vast experience and knowledge will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Anthony J. ''Tony'' Zagami and wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM WHALEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my final respects to William J. Whalen III, a great San Franciscan and a great American who died on September 28, 2006. Bill Whalen gave a lifetime of service to our National Parks and our Golden Gate National Recreation Area, GGNRA. Together with Congressman Phillip Burton and environmentalist Edgar Waybum, he preserved and enhanced an area of unsurpassed beauty, ecological benefit and recreation for present and future generations. The GGNRA is a monument to the tenacity of a handful of leaders and interested citizens who struggled to realize their dream.

Bill Whalen's career began as a youth counselor in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. He moved on to serve as deputy superintendent of Yosemite National Park where he implemented a pioneering mass transit program to reduce traffic congestion.

In 1972, only 32 years old, Bill Whalen became the first superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where he embraced the daunting challenge of developing and expanding the GGNRA. He masterminded the immense task before him with extraordinary ability and innovative planning. He invited politicians, environmentalists and residents to collaborate in creating this world-class people's park. Bill created a Citizens Advisory Commission to encourage citizen participation and public-private partnerships, resulting in unprecedented public support and involvement. He transformed Fort Mason Center and launched the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy that raised over $100 million to implement the GGNRA's plans.

His great success led to an appointment by President Jimmy Carter in 1977 as the youngest director of the National Park Service. He believed that the American people should have a greater role and voice in managing our Nation's parks and directed emphasis on urban parks that had previously been ignored. Bill implemented the Alaska Native Lands Claims Settlement Act that created 44 national parks and doubled the size of national park lands nationwide.

God blessed San Francisco with a handful of extraordinary leaders and a troop of citizens whose teamwork produced the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Rarely do individuals of such caliber, intellect and determination converge in one place at one time. With the consummate political acumen of Congressman Phillip Burton, the vision of environmentalist Edgar Waybum, the executive genius of Bill Whalen, and the voice, vigilance and support of citizens led by Amy Meyer, the GGNRA flourished and today is the most visited National Park in America.

I offer my deepest sympathy to Mary, Bill Whalen's beloved wife of 47 years, his sons, William IV, Dennis, Timothy and Michael, and his five grandchildren as well as our deepest appreciation for sharing their magnificent husband, father and grandfather with us. As they have lost a loved one, so the San Francisco Bay Area has lost one of its distinguished sons. We will never forget the beauty and riches he brought to our lives as well as to future generations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TROOPERS EDDIE DUTCHOVER, ROSELL OWENS, AND SHAWN MARTIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Troopers Eddie Dutchover, Rosell Owens, and Shawn Martin for their roll in the apprehension of Warren Jeffs, one of the most wanted men in America.

On Monday August 28, 2006, Trooper Eddie Dutchover pulled over a maroon Cadillac Escalade along the northbound lanes of Interstate 15 for a routine traffic stop. Upon questioning the passengers of the vehicle Dutchover noticed discrepancies in the accounts given by driver Isaac Jeffs and his passenger—fugitive prophet Warren Jeffs, leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Isaac Jeffs had just consented to a search of the Escalade when two other troopers, Rosell Owens and Shawn Martin, arrived.

The three troopers conducted a comprehensive search of the vehicle and discovered: $67,500 in $100 bills; at least 14 cell phones; a radar detector; two global positioning system units; laptop computers; half a dozen pairs of sunglasses and three wigs—one blond, one black and one brunette.

Warren Jeffs, formerly of Colorado City, Ariz., was wanted on sexual abuse charges stemming from marriages that authorities say he arranged among minors and was one of the FBI's 10-most wanted. Due to the diligence and investigative prowess of these Nevada State Troopers one of the most dangerous men in America is now in custody and will be held accountable for his actions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Troopers Eddie Dutchover, Russell Owens, and Shawn Martin. Their actions on the evening of August 28, 2006 relieved the American people of one of its most wanted criminals. These three individuals are excellent examples of the service that America's first responders provide for this country. I applaud their actions and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING DR. C. RICHARD HARTMAN AS HE RETIRES AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SCRANTON PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Dr. C. Richard Hartman, who is retiring as president and chief executive officer for the Scranton Pennsylvania Community Medical Center.

Dr. Hartman has served at the helm of Scranton CMC since January 17, 1996.

During his tenure, Dr. Hartman made many improvements to CMC including a fully accredited Regional Level II Trauma Center.

He also introduced a comprehensive vascular service line that includes open heart surgery and interventional cardiology.

He established a partnership with Maternal and Family Health Services for women's and children's services. He also established a partnership with the Children's Advocacy Center and he was responsible for a newly expanded emergency department.

Dr. Hartman has kept CMC at the forefront of the many changes and challenges facing health care today. Mr. William E. Aubrey II, chairman of the board of CMC Healthcare Systems, noted that in addition to his responsibilities as President and CEO, Dr. Hartman served on many boards and displayed a dedication to the entire community. He also noted that Dr. Hartman was part of the effort to reform medical malpractice liability, Medicare reimbursement and, most recently, was part of the effort aimed at developing a new medical college in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Prior to serving at CMC, Dr. Hartman was vice president of medicine and academic affairs at St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio; vice president of medical affairs for the Washington DC Hospital Center; professor of Medicine for George Washington University and several posts at the University of Kansas Medical Center including chief of staff; Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs and Emergency Services Director.

Dr. Hartman is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He is board certified in internal medicine and endocrinology and he completed his medical education, residency in internal medicine and fellowship in endocrinology through the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Dr. Hartman's memberships include diplomat status in the American College of Healthcare Executives; president and board member of the American Heart Association, Lackawanna Division and board member of the United Way, the Scranton Everhart Museum and the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Non Profit Organizations, Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises through the Scranton Chamber of Commerce; Keystone College President's Advisory Council; the Lackawanna County Medical Society and the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dr. Hartman on the occasion of his retirement. His tireless efforts to improve medical care and treatment has enhanced the quality of life for thousands of people in northeastern Pennsylvania and, for that, we are all grateful.

RECOGNIZING BERNIE HANSEN'S SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE GREAT LAKES

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Great Lakes Task Force, I rise today to honor former Chicago Alderman Bernie Hansen for his outstanding service as a member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. As a member of this prestigious, binational commission, Alderman Hansen worked tirelessly to support measures that protect the Great Lakes fishery and helped to improve the regional economy and environment. He held several positions on the commission including Chair, Vice-Chair, U.S. Section Chair, and Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee. He retired from the commission earlier this year after 12 years of dedicated service.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission was established by the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, a treaty between the United States and Canada. The commission is responsible for conducting fisheries research, making recommendations to the government about how to improve fish stocks of common concern, and, most notably, controlling the destructive, invasive sea lamprey. U.S. commissioners are appointed by the President of the United States and serve because they are honored to do so, without compensation.

Alderman Hansen excelled at his job as commissioner. As a sitting Chicago Alderman, his knowledge of the Great Lakes' political landscape was a great benefit to the commission, particularly during the work of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, convened under President's Bush's Executive Order for the Great Lakes. He vastly improved communications between the commission and elected officials, he consistently brought new and relevant issues to the commission's attention, and he helped the commission better manage and evaluate its programs. He left a lasting mark on many commission products and programs including the Strategic Vision for the First Decade of the New Millennium and the communications program.

Alderman Hansen is a life-long resident of Chicago and served as Alderman for 20 years, retiring in 2002. He is particularly proud of his role on the City Council for environmental and recycling legislation, which gave Chicago one of the most aggressive and workable recycling programs in the country.

Alderman Hansen is a true asset to Chicago and to the Great Lakes region. Because of his work on the commission, the fishery is stronger, the environment is healthier, the people of the region are better off, and the commission itself is a better institution. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his remarkable service to the Great Lakes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TROOPS TO TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act of 2006, along with Congresswoman Doris Matsui, to improve opportunities for veterans to transition into second careers in teaching. I have been a supporter of the Troops to Teachers program since its authorization and I am proud of its success over the last decade. Since 1994, this program has placed nearly 10,000 veterans in our nation's classrooms.

Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides veterans with a $5,000 stipend to help cover the costs of teaching certification in exchange for three years service in a high-need school, which until recently was defined as receiving grants under part A of Title I. To further encourage participants to teach in schools with the greatest need, a $10,000 bonus is offered to those who agree to teach for three years in a school with 50 percent of students below the poverty level.

This structure has proven very effective in transitioning qualified retiring military personnel into second careers in teaching. Indeed, Troops participants fill several critical needs among educators: eighty-two percent are male, over one-third ethnic minorities, and a majority bring an expertise in science and math to the classroom. In an increasingly globalized economy, these valuable characteristics provide a vital resource for schools across the country.

However, this success is now in jeopardy due to a drafting error in the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act which has inadvertently restricted the number of schools in which participants may fulfill their service. The applicable definition for "high-need local education agencies" for Troops to Teachers was inadvertently changed as it was included in the section of the legislation regarding other alternative programs that had a different definition. This stricter definition requires a higher threshold for "high-need" requiring the school to have either 10,000 students or 20 percent of students from families below the poverty level. However, the original Title I definition of high-need was also retained in the law in the section specifically detailing the Troops program. Essentially, Congress accidentally created two conflicting definitions of "high-need" with regard to this program.

Early on, the Department and the Troops to Teachers program recognized this unintended, change in law and worked together to address it. From 2003–2005, while discussions were being held on how to reconcile this discrepancy, the program continued to operate under the original and intended definition. However, after the completion of a negotiated rulemaking process in September 2005, the Department issued a regulation stating that the new, stricter definition was not an error but congressional intent. As one of the leading supporters of this program during the drafting of No Child Left Behind, I can assure my colleagues that this was clearly not the intent of the supporters of the program.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate result of this, aside from limiting the number of schools in which veterans may teach and honor their obligation of three-years service in this program, is that it has disproportionately impacted western and rural states. In my home state of Wisconsin, the number of eligible school districts has been reduced from approximately 400 to 11. Not surprisingly, participation in the programs has fallen significantly since the implementation of the new definition last year. This decision, although understandable given the conflicting definitions contained in the law, is a disservice both to veterans wishing to continue their service to our nation as educators as well as children who stand to benefit from their unique expertise.

The bottom line is that we are losing out on great teachers because they cannot accept the certification stipend due to a lack of schools meeting the higher needs threshold in their community. The more we restrict opportunities for participation, the fewer teachers we will be able to bring into public education, and the fewer teachers we will eventually be able to attract to the schools with the greatest need. Further, given the President's recent focus on the need for more math and science teachers, as well as their support for adjunct and alternative routes to teaching programs, we should be removing, not creating, restrictions that prevent qualified teachers in these areas from teaching in our nations classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, with Troops to Teachers, the Department already has an established program that is well-funded and successful. Rather than restricting it, we should be maximizing this program's potential. The bill we introduce today simply clears the confusion surrounding the conflicting definitions of "high-need" and represents a compromise between the two. Specifically, it allows for participants to teach in high-need schools, as defined by having received grants under part A of Title I, if no other school, for which the member is qualified to teach, under the new definition exists within a 50 mile radius of the participant's residence.

This is a pragmatic solution that is perfectly in-line with the spirit of No Child Left Behind while also supporting our veterans and students by maximizing opportunities for participation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this successful program and restoring the opportunity to "serve again" to our nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TYRUS "T.P." TURNEY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to the late Mr. Tyrus "T.P." Turney and to recognize his many accomplishments. He was truly a man who embodies the American principles of hard work, dedication to one's family and service to one's community. T.P. Turney was born December 17, 1935 in Morgan County, Alabama to Alonzo Fletcher Turney and Alice Pauline Sharp Turney and raised in Northern Alabama. Mr. Turney served 18 months in the United States Army in Germany and worked for 43 years and three months at a chemical lab in Monsanto, Alabama. In 1976, Mr. Turney was appointed to serve on the Morgan County Board of Education and was re-elected the four following terms. He was a member of the Brewer Lions Club for 17 years and served as an officer for the Morgan County Cattleman's Association. He was a member at the First Christian Church in Hartselle, Alabama where he also served as a Deacon, an Elder and as Chairman of the Board. T.P. Turney was an avid supporter of Gospel music. He had a great love for new book "convention" singing and was, at the time of his death, President of the Morgan County Singing Convention. He was a devoted family man with great respect for his father and mother and the values that they instilled in him at an early age. Mr. Turney loved his country and was proud he had an opportunity to serve in the U.S. Army. T.P. Turney passed away at his home in Valhermoso Springs, Alabama on Sunday, July 23, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; two sons, Steven Turney of Trinity, Alabama and Irby Gray of Orlando, Florida; three daughters, R. Jeannine McCormick of Gardendale, Alabama, Teresa Burton of Saraland, Alabama, and Tammy Cowan of Okeechobee, Florida; two brothers, Gerald Turney of Valhermoso Springs, Alabama and Carleton Turney of Somerville, Alabama and seven grandchildren. T.P. Turney was an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his family and friends in remembering him today.

FREEDOM FOR LEONICO RODRÍGUEZ PONCE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Rodríguez Ponce is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners and an opponent of the dictatorship of the Castro brothers. He has committed himself to doing everything possible to bringing an end to the dictatorshp and to restoring democracy to that enslaved island. Because of his steadfast belief in freedom, democracy and the rule of law, Mr. Rodríguez Ponce has constantly been targeted by the dictatorship.

According to Prima News, Mr. Rodríguez Ponce was severely beaten in the gulag and confined to a punishment cell in 2002. According to Directorio, he has undertaken numerous hunger strikes while in the gulag to call attention to the gross human rights abuses in Cuba and in July of this year he courageously signed the following statement:

The Pedro Luis Boitel Association of Political Prisoners would like to express, once again, its complete and unconditional support for the measures presented by the commission for a Free Cuba, and we urge the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, to implement them immediately.

Cuban political prisoners, conscious of the intolerance and lack of political will of the Havana regime, support all measures which pressure the dictatorship to concede to openings with the objective of restoring a democratic system in Cuba with the rule of law where each Cuban can exercise the inalienable prerogatives and freedoms which they possess by the single fact that they are human beings.

We also support any initiative to offer support and help to the democratic forces that are struggling and resisting from inside Cuba in an unequal and titanic battle against the totalitarian hoards of hate and oppression. In the same way, we are sincerely encouraged by the great effort shown so that Cubans on the island may receive with greater reach and clarity truthful and objective information through Radio and Television Martí.

With the clear conviction and certainty of the importance of depriving the regime of its repressive organs and resources which uphold it and consequently are used to harass citizens, we look with enthusiasm on any action to put an end to such a terrible situation.

We Cubans long for and need democracy, and in order to obtain it we are willing to endure the greatest sacrifices. The government in Havana and its lackeys in the media are determined to distort the content and purpose of the aforementioned Commission. They try to make one think that it is a military threat from our neighbor to the north or an interventionist policy. On the contrary, the measures presented to the President of the United States by the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba only seek to accelerate the nonviolent transition to democracy in Cuba, which will have as its protagonists Cubans both in and out of the island.

For all of them, we urge all Cubans who long for the reestablishment of democracy and an open and pluralist society where the execution wall, exit permits, and exile cease to be paths for those who dissent from government policies, to support this initiative which together with others will contribute decisively to bringing down this unjust and undemocratic system which has lasted nearly half a century.

And to the frontmen of Castro's government-run press, it is time to stop manipulating information. Far from attacking and cowardly disqualifying their adversaries, they should have the dignity of providing the people with transparent information in its whole and unadulterated state so that after knowing it, the people may come to their own conclusions, without Machiavellian interference and deliberate gaps. The contrary is deceit and political cowardice.

Mr. Speaker, it takes extraordinary, truly admirable courage to sign a document that demands freedom when the signer knows the Castro brothers' machinery of repression will be unleashed on him and his family. Mr. Rodríguez Ponce is representative of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination, depravity, and oppression of the totalitarian tyranny. Mr. Rodríguez does not waiver in his conviction that freedom and democracy are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. Rodríguez, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Rodríguez Ponce is imprisoned because he refuses to accept the Castro brothers' dictatorship in Cuba today. Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against the abominable violations of human rights, human dignity, and human

freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of a Leoncio Rodríguez Ponce and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SILHAVY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. John Silhavy. I have known John for many years, and he is one of the most involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM & AW). John has been a member of the IAM & AW for an astounding 45 years, and his contributions to the organization are immeasurable. Though John has been a constant fixture within the organization, he will be retiring from the IAM & AW at year's end. For his efforts and many contributions to the union, John will be honored at a retirement celebration on Saturday, December 9, 2006, at the IAM & AW Local Lodge 1227 in Valparaiso, Indiana.

John Silhavy was born in Valparniso, Indiana in 1943 and grew up on a farm with his two brothers and two sisters. After graduating from the Valparaiso. School System in 1961, he joined the IAM while working for McGill Manufacturing. John's service as an elected member of the union began in 1965, when he was elected Union Steward in the external grinding department. From there, John's dedication to the union and its members continued as he was elected Vice President of Local Lodge 1227 in 1969. With John's commitment to serve, it is only fitting that in 1971, John was elected President of Local Lodge 1227, a position he would hold for an astonishing 23 years. Equally impressive, John also served as a member of the Bargaining Committee from 1970 to 1994.

Aside from his service to the local lodge, John also held many posts with District Lodge 72, a further demonstration of his commitment to the union and its membership. From 1976 to 1994, John served as a Delegate of the Lodge. The respect and trust the union's members have for John has never been questioned, and evidence of this can clearly be seen in the fact that John also was elected to serve as Trustee, Vice-President, and of course, President of District Lodge 72. John held this distinguished position until 1994, when he was elected to the position of Business Representative for District Lodge 90. Since then, John's service has continued, and in 1999, he was elected to his current position, Directing Business Representative for District Lodge 90, a post he will vacate through his retirement on December 31, 2006. Also important to note, in 1996, John served on the IAM Blue Ribbon Commission, which was established with the goal of finding ways to improve the IAM on a national level. John's knowledge of the union and his field, along with his willingness to serve, has made him one of the most well-respected individuals the union has ever seen. His daily presence will surely be missed.

When not engaged within the union, John spends his spare time with those closest to him, his family. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, John's commitment to the union and its members is surpassed only by his dedication to his family. John and his wife, Carolyn, have shared many wonderful years together. They have been blessed with two daughters, Tina and Tammy, and John's stepsons, Robert and James. John and Carolyn are also the proud grandparents of James, Jason, Joel, and Jordan.

Mr. Speaker, John Silhavy has given his time and efforts selflessly to the members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers for the past 45 years. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

PACTOLA RESERVOIR REALLOCATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 819, the Pactola Reservoir Reallocation Authorization Act, and its House companion H.R. 3967. As has been noted during numerous legislative hearings, markups, and previous Floor proceedings, this legislation is critical to meet the changing water needs of one of South Dakota's largest and fastest growing communities—Rapid City.

Part of this legislative process has included additional consultation with the Bureau of Reclamation, which administers the Pactola Dam and Reservoir, and the Ellsworth Air Force Base, one of the most important entities to rely on the reservoir's water. Accordingly, I would like to submit the following comments to clarify the intent of this legislation.

The Pactola Dam and Reservoir is currently authorized for both irrigation and municipal and industrial use with its costs allocated to reflect those uses. Over time, municipal and industrial uses have increased while irrigation uses have decreased, creating a need to reallocate costs better reflecting current usage. When the Secretary of the Interior needs to reallocate costs from an existing allocation where there are multiple uses to a new allocation with multiple uses in different amounts, Congressional approval is required under the McGovern Amendment.

The current language in the Bill under section 3 could be read to imply that the Pactola Dam and Reservoir is a single purpose, irrigation only project. This interpretation is incorrect as the Pactola Dam and Reservoir remain multipurpose projects. Both S. 819 and H.R. 3967 simply reallocate costs from an older multi-purpose allocation to a new multi-purpose allocation. This is consistent with the McGovern Amendment.

Some additional clarification is also warranted with respect to the needs of the Ellsworth Air Force Base. As already stated, this legislation allocates additional costs to the municipal and industrial component of the Pactola Reservoir effectively making available additional water for municipal and industrial use. It is anticipated that Rapid City, South Dakota will contract for much of this allocation. Nothing in the legislation should be construed to change in any way the Bureau of Reclamation's and Rapid City's existing obligations to the Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The definite plan report for this project prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation dated June 1952 makes it clear that the Air Force would contribute its share of the capital cost of the project in advance. The Air Force Appropriation for the year 1954 included funds to cover the Air Force share of the project. Accordingly, the Air Force has fully paid its capital contribution and remains entitled to its share of the water without paying additional capital cost. Ellsworth Air Force Base currently has an allocation of 1810 acre-feet per year of water from the project. The Air Force is required to pay only the reasonable cost of transporting, and if appropriate, treating the water it uses. Nothing in this legislation is intended to affect the Bureau of Reclamation's obligation to make that water available to Ellsworth, and nothing is intended to suggest in any way that the Air Force Base should pay more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water.

In entering revised contracts with Rapid City, the Bureau of Reclamation is expected to ensure that Rapid City provides the delivery of water to the Air Force Base at no more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water.

This legislation is not intended to limit in any way the Air Force's ability to make an arrangement with a party other than Rapid City for the delivery of its allocation of water from Pactola Reservoir. There may be private parties or others who are able to build a pipeline for water delivery at lower cost than using Rapid City's distribution system. Making such arrangements is not inconsistent with this legislation or the definite plan report.

Although Rapid City's increased demand for water is a key consideration supporting this legislation, Ellsworth Air Force Base may also be obtaining an additional allocation of water in the event that the Air Force directs new mission to Ellsworth or reconfigures Ellsworth's existing mission in such a way that it needs additional water beyond the amount it has already been allotted. It is Congress' intent that water from Pactola Reservoir is provided at no more than the reasonable cost of treating and transporting the water without regard to the number of missions at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

With these clarifications in mind, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I have appreciated the opportunity to advance this legislation on the House Resources Committee and would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their support.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW VERNON PURBAUGH

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a young friend of mine, Matthew

Vernon Purbaugh. While Matthew does not reside in my district, he and I share a great love of the English language and a great respect of words in general.

Matthew Purbaugh is an amateur published poet; his poem "Noon" appeared in the International Society of Poets' 2006 edition. He was awarded "Outstanding Achievement in Poetry" and Best Amateur Poet. Matthew was recently invited to submit a new work for "Who's Who in American Poetry."

I share his poem "Words" with you today.

WORDS

What is it in a word
That
Can Stir the heart of men
To bring them to do great and
Courageous deeds.?

What is it about words.
That,
Let them have the power
To topple empires of stone and steel?

What is it about words,
That,
Let them have the power
To topple empires of stone and steel?

What is it about words,
That
Let them go deeper than the strongest bullet?

What is it about words,
That
Let them hold sway over men
More than their fate
More than the point of a gun?

What is in words?
That
Lets something we have created
Hold sway over us, more than,
Our deepest fears?
And our greatest, Driving Desires?

HONORING DR. MUHAMMAD YUNUS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER 2006

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Yunus is a visionary in the effort to improve the economies of the developing world. He first began his revolutionary work in 1974 during a widespread famine in his native Bangladesh. Then an economics professor at Chittagong University, Dr. Yunus began experimenting with different ways to help the poor. He struck upon the concept of microcredit, the provision of very small loans to poor individuals to start or improve basic businesses.

Although desperately poor, those to whom Dr. Yunus lent money proved to be dependable clients and could be relied upon to repay their debts. When local banks declined to make small loans of this sort, Dr. Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in order to do it himself. To date, the Grameen Bank has disbursed more than $5.3 billion to nearly seven million borrowers, most of whom have no collateral.

Dr. Yunus' objective is to rid the world of poverty, and his microcredit concept has indeed showed promising results. Roughly half of Dr. Yunus' clients have achieved basic economic objectives: a home with a metal roof; clean drinking water; a sanitary latrine; warm clothes for winter and mosquito netting for summer; about seventy-five dollars in a savings account; and schooling for the children. Upon this foundation, one can envision a world in which the scourge of poverty is banished.

Dr. Yunus' achievements have long been praised; it is fitting that he has finally received the high honor of the Nobel Prize. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Yunus on this occasion.

DIVESTMENT FROM SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues my statement from a press conference I hosted with Congressman DONALD PAYNE, and the Genocide Intervention Network today calling on all state Governors to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. Local students from Langley High School and Westfield High School also participated, and I would like to commend them for being so active on this issue.

Thank you all for coming. Today I join my good friend and congressional colleague Donald Payne in calling on all states to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. I want to especially thank the Sudan Divestment Taskforce and the Genocide Intervention Network for working so hard on this issue. This movement started at UCLA and Swarthmore College and has gained recognition over the last 2 years. I also would like to thank all of the students in attendance. So many young people are embracing this issue. I commend them and urge them to remain vigilant.

For over 20 years the government of Sudan engaged in a brutal civil war with the people of southern Sudan. This conflict took the lives of over 2 million people. During this time slavery flourished and terrorism took root in Sudan. In 2003 a conflict in Sudan's Darfur region broke out. The government reacted by unleashing a war on innocent people and began the genocide. That was 3 years ago. Over 400,000 people have died since and over 2 million continue to be at risk.

I led the first congressional delegation to Darfur. I witnessed the horror these people live with day to day and the impact of decades of war. Just last week the United Nations reported fresh ongoing attacks. There is no question that the government of Sudan orchestrated and continues to direct the genocide in Darfur. In one village, 27 of the people that were killed were children under the age of 12. The United Nations is working to try to get desperately needed U.N. troops on the ground but the government of Sudan continues to reject this deployment.

Targeted divestment from companies doing business in Sudan is an action that can make a difference. The genocide in Sudan can be stopped. Every American can do his or her part. The United States Congress and the president have called it genocide. It is now up to the states to apply economic pressure on the government of Sudan and divest from companies doing business in Sudan. We have seen in the past that the government in Khartoum responds to economic pressure.

Last month I called on my home state of Virginia to divest and a state senator will be putting forth legislation when the General Assembly returns in January. I hope every state will follow the lead of California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey and Oregon which have already moved to divest from companies doing business with Sudan. Today we call on the remaining 44 states to do the same.

We encourage all governors to review their state's pension funds and identify companies which are doing the type of business in Sudan that is aiding the government and fulfilling this genocide, not helping the people. We ask that they work with their state legislators to enact legislation to divest from those companies.

California just passed a law last month and its model of targeted divestment limits the scope of companies and investments, providing a good plan for action. We need to send a signal to the government in Khartoum that America and the West will not stand silent in the face of genocide—that the women and children in those camps matter as much to us as our own families.

History will judge our willingness to act.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 people in the United States currently living with Spina Bifida, the most common permanently disabling birth defect. Each October we recognize these Americans during National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and recognize the importance to work year round to advance research, programs, and policies to meet the needs of this important community.

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is sponsored by the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), which for more than 30 years has helped those living with and affected by this debilitating birth defect. As co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I've had the honor to work with my co-chair, Representative CHRIS SMITH, and SBA to advance Spina Bifida awareness, research, and public health efforts in Congress. Founded in 1973, SBA is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. Through its nearly 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child with Spina Bifida. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends much needed support and provides hope and inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida is a birth defect that can happen to anyone. It is a neural tube defect that occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. Everyday, an average of eight babies are affected by Spina Bifida and approximately 3,000 pregnancies are affected by this birth defect each year. We do not know the exact cause of it, but research found that if a woman takes 400 mcg of folic acid every day before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70 percent.

No two cases of Spina Bifida are ever the same. While Spina Bifida typically causes a

host of physical, psychosocial, educational, and vocational challenges, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with Spina Bifida live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQ's, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. With access to appropriate and comprehensive care, people with Spina Bifida can live productive and fulfilling lives. The National Spina Bifida Program—which I helped to create with Representative CHRIS SMITH—plays a critical role in improving the quality of life for people with Spina Bifida. I am hopeful that the House allocation of $6 million for the program in FY 2007 will be maintained in the final FY 2007 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill and thank my colleagues in advance for helping to ensure this important funding is provided.

I thank the SBA for its partnership and its commitment to ensuring that we are doing all that we can to reduce and prevent suffering from Spina Bifida and I congratulate the SBA on the occasion of its 18th annual Roast that took place on October 3rd . I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the SBA of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for working tirelessly to help the families of those living with Spina Bifida meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their children.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF FLIGHT 587 ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FATAL CRASH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of the 265 people who lost their lives on November 12, 2001 when American Airlines Flight 587 crashed into Belle Harbor in Queens, NY.

November 12 will always be a solemn day in hearts of many, including my own. On that fateful day, when the American Airlines Flight 587 crashed into Belle Harbor Queens and killed 260 passengers and 5 residents, it changed the lives of not just their families, but also multiple communities here and in the Dominican Republic.

There is no rhyme or reason to such events. No amount of time or information will ever answer why it happened. Just two months after the tragedy of Sept. 11, the crash reminded us all of how fragile our lives are and how precious are the moments we share daily with our loved ones.

Leaders and government officials on every level of government have tried to do their best to ease the grief of the families and bring some sense of closure to this tragedy. We have organized economic and social resources for relatives, pressed the NTSB to conduct a thorough investigation, and urged American Airlines to do what is right when settling with families.

There are, of course, still some outstanding issues. Yet today, after a lot of hard work, we will see the unveiling of a memorial that is more than a reminder of an unexplained tragedy, but a beautiful testament to how they lived.

They were like millions of dreamers who come to this land, strapped with hopes for a better life for themselves and their children. These immigrants bring a dynamic energy to this land, achievements that can be seen in every part of society. Yet no matter how successful they are here, no matter how grateful they are to their American opportunities, part of their soul still remain in their homelands.

For thousands of Dominicans, that first flight of the morning—or any flight back to the Dominican—is what they dream about when they are pulling the long hours, working multiple jobs and stretching their paychecks to survive in this city. It is more than their reward for a job well done. It is their chance to enjoy a home cooked meal by midday with those they hadn't seen for months or years. It is their chance to feel complete again—if only for just a couple of days.

It is not easy, but it is a sacrifice that many do daily.

And so, while there is much to be sad about today, we can all take comfort that this memorial will always serve as a reminder of the beauty and strength of the Dominican people. A reminder that the families of Flight 587 have not been crushed by the weight of this devastating tragedy or the adversity that has followed.

A reminder that the spirit of a community did not die that day, but instead, continues to grow and inspire others.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleague, Mr. PETRI, and I introduced the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act of 2006. I am proud to bring this bipartisan effort before the House. I first learned about the Troops to Teachers program at a California Purple Heart Veterans Day event in my district. Two different veterans who are participating in the Troops to Teachers program spoke with me about the program and how it had offered them the chance to continue to contribute to our country. After serving their country in the Armed Forces, they were now able to teach in high-need school districts.

With a slogan like, "Proud To Serve Again," Troops to Teachers is a unique program that provides stipends to military retirees to obtain the necessary certification for a second career in teaching. Equally important, the program places much needed math, science and special education teachers in the classroom. In fact, over 46 percent of Troops to Teachers participants teach science, a significant improvement over the national average of 18 percent. Additionally, veterans who participate in the Troops to Teachers program fill another void for male and ethnic minority teachers. Right now, our country is seeing 7 percent of the Nation's teaching force leave every year, and we have a need for highly qualified science and math teachers. Simply put, the Troops to Teachers program has never been more important.

First authorized in 1993, the program was designed to help members of the military obtain teaching credentials to teach in large districts with low-income schools. A variety of retired, separated, active duty and transitioning military members and veterans—including disabled veterans—are eligible to participate. Those who are interested are required to have a bachelor's or advanced degree, or if applying for a vocational or technical teaching position, are required to have at least 6 years of experience in the field. The program has successfully recruited and placed almost 10,000 veterans in school districts since then. In my home State of California, 571 veterans are currently participating in the program.

Unfortunately, a small change under the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB, of 2001 greatly affected where veterans could teach to fulfill their stipend. In some areas of the country, retiring military and veterans interested in the program now have to drive 50 to 100 miles to find an eligible school. This has resulted in a 20–30 percent drop-off in veteran participation, which has seriously hindered this productive and necessary program.

The bill that my esteemed colleague Mr. PETRI and I are introducing today would fix this error. The bill would allow participants to fulfill their teaching obligation at any school that receives title I funding, and is therefore, considered a high-need school. Prior to the NCLB change, participants were able to fulfill their teaching obligation in any school within my district in Sacramento, as they all receive title I funding. However, under the more restrictive rule, only 211 of the 350 schools in my district are eligible. Currently, 61 percent of the high schools in my district are not eligible.

I believe in this program and want to see disabled and retiring military have a second chance at serving our country. Recently, the Disabled American Veterans magazine published a story about William Mimigia, a retired Marine Corps major who proudly served in our military for 31 years. Now a middle school special education teacher, Mr. Mimigia was recently named the 2006 Middle School Teacher of the Year by the California Troops to Teachers program. In the article, he is quoted as saying, "I served with good people who sacrificed so much for our country. I promised myself I would find a way to help them some day. What better way than to help their kids and the kids some of them would never have a chance to have? Teaching lets me do that."

Mr. Mimigia's dedication to serving our country and contributing to future generations is honorable. This program offers our returning veterans an opportunity for them to feel the same sense of fulfillment that Mr. Mimigia expressed. Troops to Teachers brings important math, science, and foreign language expertise to our classroom and fills a critical need among our educators. These characteristics make Troops to Teachers an excellent source of highly qualified educators and my colleague and I bring this bill before the House today to ensure that others can continue to serve our country—whether in the military or in the classroom. I hope that we can work swiftly on this bipartisan bill to do just that, and will continue to support the ideals behind the Troops to Teachers program in the 110th Congress.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA MILLS

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Linda Mills of Champaign, Illinois who passed away on Thursday, September 14, 2006. A great community leader and active businesswoman, Linda Mills has left a footprint in Central Illinois that will always be remembered.

Linda Mills was dedicated to improving the lives of those in the Champaign-Urbana community for many years. As President of Busey Travel and director of Busey Bank, Mrs. Mills volunteered at the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club where she served as president for many years. The executive director of this club remembers Linda Mills as an extremely compassionate lady, she was very interested in the education of our kids. Along with the Boys & Girls Club, Mrs. Mills also volunteered her time at the Cunningham Children's Home where the President and CEO of the Home always remembers Linda Mills' heart for the community, helping to meet the needs of children and adults who needed help overcoming the odds. She did so many great things in an unassuming fashion. She was someone who wasn't flashy. So much she did, no one would ever know about.

One longtime friend, Carol Scharlau, has said that Linda Mills had a commitment to building a better community and in such a sincere and caring way. Some people volunteer for different reasons. But with Linda, compassion for others came through in everything she did.

In 2005, Linda Mills and her husband Doug pledged $10 million to establish the Mills Breast Cancer Institute at Carle Clinic in Urbana. As one who had suffered from breast cancer herself, Mrs. Mills felt very strongly about the research and the help this organization could give to serve others who suffer from breast cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the memory of Mrs. Linda Mills.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARILYN MENNELLO

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marilyn Mennello of Winter Park, Florida, a wonderful friend, tireless advocate for the arts and community leader in Central Florida. She was a philanthropist who rose to national prominence as an arts patron who inspired all whom she met.

From humble beginnings in Pasadena, California, Marilyn moved to the Orlando area in 1962. Raising two daughters, she was a successful business woman and community activist.

She devoted her time and energy to charity work, especially in the arts. In 1964, she was appointed to the Cultural Affairs Committee and later founded a volunteer group of 101 women to raise funding for the Loch Haven Arts Center, now the Orlando Museum of Art. This group became one of the most successful fundraising organizations in Central Florida benefiting the Orlando Science Center, the Orlando Museum of Art, the American Heart Association of Central Florida and the Florida Hospital. In 1998 she and her husband, Michael Mennello cofounded the Orlando Mennello Museum.

She is credited for discovering the work of Earl Cunningham, a self-taught artist and shop owner from Maine. He displayed his paintings in his St. Augustine shop that included an array of vivid harbor scenes and Americana. Over 15 years, the Mennellos worked to promote him as an important folk artist. The Mennellos presented one of his pieces to President George W. Bush for the White House Collection. Cunningham's art now hangs proudly in the Mennello Museum. An exhibition featuring Cunningham's work will open in the Smithsonian in Washington, DC next year.

Not only was Marilyn Mennello special to art appreciation in America, she was a patriot who dearly loved our country. She was also a loving mother and grandmother to her daughters, Lynda and Sylvia, and her grandsons, Alec and Andrew.

To her devoted husband, Michael, we extend our deepest sympathy.

To Marilyn's entire family, we extend our condolences.

Mr. Speaker, because of Marilyn Mennello's dedication to our Nation and to art in America, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and remembering her life.

RETIREMENT OF PEARL MOORE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent and Oncology Nursing Society Chief Executive Officer Pearl Moore, for her life-long commitment to advancing oncology nursing and helping people with cancer. In January, Pearl will be retiring from her position as the CEO of the Oncology Nursing Society.

Ms. Moore has lived and worked in Pittsburgh all of her life, and we are proud to have her as a member of our community. Ms. Moore received both her Bachelor of Science of Nursing and Master of Nursing degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and has been an adjunct assistant professor at the University's School of Nursing since 1983.

As a pioneer practitioner, Pearl served at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh as one of the nation's first oncology clinical nurse specialists in the nation. Thirty years ago, Ms. Moore and other oncology nurses founded the Oncology Nursing Society and in 1983 she became its CEO. During her tenure, the Oncology Nursing Society has grown to the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 33,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. The Oncology Nursing Society honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities, and networks for peer support. I commend the Oncology Nursing Society's staff and members, especially Ms. Moore, for all that they do and have done to improve the quality of care for people with cancer.

Ms. Moore's strong leadership and experience in quality cancer care has been recognized by many organizations. In 1996, the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care presented her with its Distinguished Merit Award in recognition of steadfast and prolific contributions to the art and science of cancer care worldwide. In 2004, Ms. Moore was named a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate, which honors alumni who have been recognized for their outstanding personal and professional achievements. Additionally, Ms. Moore serves as a member of the School of Nursing's Board of Visitors at the University of Pittsburgh, as well as the Advisory Board for People to People, and the Johnson & Johnson Advisory Board for the Campaign for Nursing's Future. All of these honors are extremely well-deserved. I understand that despite all of her professional achievements, she is most proud of her role as beloved grandmother of her two grandsons, Niko and Tony. Niko and Tony are lucky young men to have such an accomplished and dedicated grandmother.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District and all people who have or may be touched by cancer, I would like to thank Ms. Moore for her outstanding and innumerable contributions to oncology nursing. As a nurse and leader in the field for almost 50 years, Ms. Moore has made it her life's mission to help others, and she should be applauded for all she has accomplished. Cancer patients and their families have benefited immensely from Ms. Moore's involvement and leadership in cancer care.

I am most grateful to Pearl Moore for her ongoing commitment to assuring access to quality cancer care for all cancer patients and their families, and I wish her all the best on the occasion of her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saturday, November 18th as National Adoption Day and to celebrate all adoptive families.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, courtrooms across the country will come together to dedicate the resources of our judicial system to finalize adoptions of kids currently in the foster care system.

In the five years since National Adoption Day was established, it has truly grown into a national celebration. Last year, 3,300 adoptions were finalized as part of 227 nationwide events.

Unfortunately, despite the declining number of children waiting in foster care, there are still 118,000 children seeking adoption.

This is simply unacceptable. It is our duty as a prosperous nation to unite and ensure these children find safe, loving homes.

Six years ago, my wife and I decided to expand our family and open our home to two foster care children.

Like many adoptive families, we faced many challenges during this process. But these experiences have only made our family stronger.

The adoption process is often complicated and riddled with paperwork, meetings, and home studies—important factors when accessing the ability of a family to care for a new child—but they can also discourage qualified parents from embarking on the adoption process.

The foster care community has been working with Congress and state governments across the country to streamline the adoption process and focus on limited resources, such as requiring frequent home visits and experienced caseworkers.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to be the voice for foster children and make sure their dreams are recognized. We owe it to them to streamline the adoption process to ensure positive outcomes for these kids.

It is important that we continue to make this process more accessible to families so that these children can be welcomed into loving homes.

Despite the obstacles that we still need to overcome, this is a time to celebrate those families that have decided to make a difference in the life of a child.

I commend these families and hope that children across the nation will find a place to call home this Saturday as part of National Adoption Day.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW METZGER-CROOK POST 6504

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in honoring the 60th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Metzger-Crook Post 6504 in Waterloo, Illinois.

In 1946, as many of our nation's veterans were returning from serving their country in World War II, a small group of veterans in Monroe County, Illinois began discussions about forming a local VFW post. With assistance from the Adjutant of the neighboring post in Belleville, and after the original group solicited additional veterans for membership, the Metzger-Crook Post was formed and received its charter on April 27, 1946. The name, Metzger-Crook, was selected in honor of the first two Monroe County residents to give their lives in World War II, Monroe Metzger and William Crook.

With 108 names on the original charter, John Mitchell was elected as the first president. Meetings in the early days were held in a variety of locations as the fledgling organization grew in size of membership and array of activities. The first fish fry and picnic was held on July 4, 1946 and was such an instant success that it developed into an annual event.

Post 6504 has provided support for countless individuals and organizations in Monroe County throughout their sixty years of service. Scholarship recipients, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, Operation Uplink and Adopt a Unit are just a few examples of the benefactors of Post 6504's support. The post also provides the use of assistance equipment such as canes, walkers and wheelchairs to anyone who asks.

The Metzger-Crook Post 6504 Auxiliary is also celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. In addition to their duties at the post, the Auxiliary has provided support for numerous organizations and individuals. Annual trips to visit nursing home residents, support of cancer research, local veterans hospitals and the children of veterans are just some of the ways that the Auxiliary has contributed to its community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of VFW Metzger-Crook Post 6504 both past and present on sixty years of serving veterans and the people of southwestern Illinois.

CONGRATULATING FOCUS: HOPE ON RECEIVING THE 2006 EXEMPLARY INTEREST CONTRIBUTION AWARD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Focus: HOPE and its wonderful team for being selected to receive the 2006 Exemplary Public Interest Contribution Award (EPIC). Focus: HOPE co-founder Eleanor Josaitis is one of my dear friends and one of the most admirable and inspiring women I know. She has put together an outstanding team of motivated, energetic individuals such as Keith Cooley, who recently became Chief Executive Officer.

The EPIC Award is one of the most prestigious honors recognized by the United States government through the Department of Labor, honoring public interest organizations that support equal employment opportunities and have worked with federal contractors to make these opportunities available for minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.

For nearly four decades, Focus: HOPE has been a leading voice for eliminating discrimination and injustice, starting in Southeast Michigan. Following the deadly and violent 1967 Detroit riots, Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis founded Focus: HOPE, a metropolitan civil and human rights organization committed to "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice." The belief is that this goal can be accomplished if the playing field is level and the economic mainstream is accessible to everyone.

Focus: HOPE programs assist individuals from all walks of life in many different ways. Their food distribution program is one of the largest in the nation, serving 43,000 children, mothers and seniors every month. Focus: HOPE career development programs are targeted towards preparing participants for employment in high-demand fields such as engineering and information technology. Since its inception, Focus: HOPE has literally helped thousands of individuals—particularly women and minorities—to become financially independent.

Focus: HOPE is one of the most successful organizations of its kind in this country, and this award is well-deserved. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Focus: HOPE on another momentous achievement and in sending the Focus: HOPE team our best wishes for another successful year.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN LENABURG

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reflect upon the life of a strong and good man, Dean Lenaburg from Valley City, North Dakota.

Dean was my mentor and my friend. Without his role in my life, I would never have been a Member of Congress. Dean passed away earlier this year after a long battle with kidney and liver disease, but his memory will continue to guide and inspire his family and friends in the years ahead.

Dean was easy to look up to—he towered over most of us with a height of 6′ 4″ and the athletic build of someone who excelled in sports. He easily transitioned from the small town competition of Portland, North Dakota to stand-out on the University of North Dakota football team.

Dean's parents obviously instilled in him an intellectual curiosity and love of learning—that would be an important feature of his character throughout his life.

Dean quickly completed his university years earning his undergraduate and law degrees in just 5 years. He married Mary Trom from Lisbon, North Dakota, and upon graduation they began the adventure of Dean's service in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dean would have been the very picture of an FBI agent in those days—tall, strong, smart, and absolutely committed to advancing justice and public safety. Dean was never one to talk about himself, so most of his experiences as an FBI agent were never shared—even with those closest to him. I know, however, he served with honor and that the FBI has never had an agent more trustworthy than Dean Lenaburg.

After several years Dean, Mary and their four young daughters, Kristin, Kathryn, Andrea, and Susan, came back to North Dakota where Dean began his career as a practicing attorney—briefly in Oakes and later in Valley City where he was a fixture in the area's legal community for more than 30 years.

In the course of these years, Dean made many positive contributions to his community, his clients and friends. He profoundly influenced my own life during this time, as revealed in three examples.

In 1971, my father died unexpectedly at the age of 57. Dean handled the estate. To this day, I vividly remember the competent and sensitive representation he provided to our grief stricken family. His example of service furthered my own thinking with regards to pursuit of a law career.

In 1974, Dean supported my application for the Rotary Foundation Award. With his help, I won the scholarship and was able to pursue graduate studies in England.

Finally, Dean and his law partner R. Jon Fitzner allowed me to fulfill my first career

goal—joining them in the practice of law back in my hometown.

Fortunately for me, both Dean and R. Jon had a broad and selfless view of my participation in the law firm. When I became interested in pursuing elected office—first for the legislature and then as a statewide candidate—they were completely supportive.

I believe the value of junior members in many law firms is found solely in the billable hours they generate for the benefit of the firm. Dean Lenaburg and R. Jon Fitzner thought I had something to offer in the area of public leadership. Without their understanding and support, I would never have been able to participate in the political process.

I only hope Dean knew the dimensions of gratitude I will always have for his allowing me to take my shot at elective office. As long as I may remain in public service, I hope and pray my efforts are worthy of the trusting support he provided.

One final aspect of Dean needs noting. He had a first rate intellect and insatiable appetite for learning. He was a lifelong student of history and read extensively. He would positively delight in uncovering a new insight or perspective on the historical development of our State and Nation.

His interest in scholarship led him to extended service on the Valley City Library Building. Our beautiful Andrew Carnegie building and its contents reflect his conscientious contribution to the preservation and enhancement of our community library.

Dean's spirit—including his active mind, his concern for others, and his good humor—lives on in his daughters and grandchildren.

Dean Lenaburg had a life well lived. All of us whose lives he touched feel grateful for having known him and will carry him in our thoughts and memories always.

IN MEMORY OF JON CORBIN, RECOGNIZING HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on November 6, 2006 the U.S. House of Representatives lost an institution in the Members' Dining Room when Jon Corbin, maitre d' until January 2006, passed on.

Jon started his lifelong career working for Congress in 1954 working for Representative Sam Rayburn and the Texas Delegation giving tours of the U.S. Capitol. He also took a second job at the U.S. Senate Post Office from which he retired in 2005. Jon became very popular working with the Texas Delegation and was assigned the position of personal server for Rep. Rayburn in his private dining room until Rep. Rayburn's death in 1961. Jon went on to become the maitre d' of the Main Dining Room, now the Members' Dining Room, in 1968.

Jon loved his job, working with the Members of the House. He was an astute listener and would gather all the facts before answering most questions asked of him, giving well thought out, honest answers and his views on many subjects. He was a huge sports fan and did his research on most scores and the who, what and when of big weekend games that Members would discuss with him. Jon was extremely knowledgeable about the U.S. Capitol and was considered the dining room staff information source on most questions concerning the Capitol. He was well liked and respected by his fellow workers and by Members of Congress. Jon had a great memory and knew most of the Members, past and present, by name on sight.

All who had the honor to meet and work with Jon Corbin will truly miss him. On behalf of the former and current Members Jon served over more than 50 years, and the entire House community, we celebrate Jon's contributions to this institution and extend condolences to his family and friends on his passing.

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1245, known as "Johanna's Law," which will increase the awareness and knowledge of gynecologic cancers. This legislation authorizes a national campaign to increase awareness of gynecologic cancers—including the creation of written information to distribute to the public.

This legislation was named after a constituent of mine, Johanna, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1997. Johanna was a healthy and active 54-year-old woman who had retired from teaching from Southfield Lathrup High School when she was diagnosed. It was a shock to Johanna and her family when they received the devastating news. Sadly, the cancer was not caught in time and she passed away on August 29, 2000.

Each year, more than 80,000 women are diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. One-third—or 28,000—of these women will die from the disease. Survival rates drop 50 percent or less if the cancer is not diagnosed early.

Early detection is critical to successfully treat gynecologic cancers. Many symptoms of this type of cancer often resemble non-threatening illnesses. Furthermore, many gynecologic cancers do not have a reliable screening test for the general public to utilize.

It is important that we educate the American public on early detection and prevention of gynecologic cancers. Public awareness is crucial to curbing this deadly disease, and Johanna's Law will help spread knowledge that can save the lives of women that may die needlessly each year. I thank my colleagues for supporting the passage of "Johanna's Law."

HONORING JEROLD L. HARRIS OF WICHITA, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jerold L. Harris of Wichita, Kansas. Jerold has served rural America for 43 years in his role with the Farm Credit System. American agriculture will miss this good friend come January when he plans to retire.

Jerold grew up on a farm near Denby, South Dakota, and later attended high school in Gordon, Nebraska. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business from Colorado State University in 1963, he went to work for the Farm Credit System, where his positive leadership helped people work together. Jerold embodies a statement he often quotes "There is no limit to progress when people work together."

During Jerold's 43 years of service, one accomplishment truly stands out. The Western Farm Credit Bank in Sacramento, California entered into a joint management agreement with the Farm Credit Bank of Wichita in January 2002. The Board of Directors named Jerold as President and Chief Executive Officer. Under this agreement, Jerold combined the operations of these two banks while developing and implementing a strategy to merge the two banks and form a new bank, U.S. AgBank, FCB, which would be headquartered in Wichita, Kansas.

The 1980s were a difficult decade for American agriculture. During part of this time Jerold was the Chief Executive Officer of the jointly managed Ninth District Federal Land Bank Association and the Ninth District Production Credit Association that served four states. Even in those difficult times, Jerold was able to bring people together, under a common objective, to produce results.

During his long and distinguished career, Jerold held numerous leadership positions within the Farm Credit System. He has served as a loan officer, an appraiser, a supervisor and a manager, a follower and a leader, but always with the same dedication and achievement.

Jerold has also provided distinguished service at the national level, serving 15 years as a member of the Farm Credit System Presidents Planning Committee, during three of which he served as Chairman. Jerold also served 11 years on the Board of Directors of the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, with three of those years as Chairman. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) and is a member of the NCFC Executive Council.

Jerold is also a familiar face here in Washington, DC. He has represented the Farm Credit System by testifying before both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees on numerous occasions, and always demonstrated a deep understanding of the issues and provided excellent input on the decisions facing congressional committees.

Jerold's honesty and integrity, keen intelligence, and an understanding of people has won him respect from his peers, workers, and the farmers and ranchers he has represented and served. His accomplishments speak volumes about his dedication to agriculture. He

has worked tirelessly to improve agriculture and rural America, and his leadership will be truly missed.

It is a great pleasure for me to share his impressive record of service with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to explain my absence from the House of Representatives on November 13 and 14th.

During that time, I was in Quebec City attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly annual meeting. In the beginning of the 109th Congress, I was honored to receive your appointment to serve as a member of the assembly.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly is vital in fostering an open dialogue on security issues between member nations. A main responsibility of the assembly is to serve as Congress's check and oversight of NATO executive policy decisions. Our delegation was able to meet with representatives from other NATO countries to further our diplomatic relationships. As you know, our security, both economic and military, is increasingly dependent upon building these relationships. For this reason, I consider it prudent to participate as much as possible in NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings.

Please let the RECORD show that had I been present I would have voted in the following ways: rollcall vote 517, ''yes''; rollcall vote 518, ''yes''; rollcall vote 519, ''no''; rollcall vote 520, ''yes''; rollcall vote 521, ''yes''; rollcall vote 522, ''yes''; rollcall vote 523, ''yes.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 511, which was on the question of passage of H.R. 4772, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act, I inadvertently voted ''no''. This bill was considered on September 29, 2006, and approved by the House on a vote of 231 to 181.

My intent was to vote aye on rollcall vote 511, and I wish the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to indicate my support for this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CORAN JAMES AS A POINT OF LIGHT

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, I have worked with Coran James in various activities for more than 10 years in education, political and social projects. In addition to her role as a community activist, she is a dedicated mother of a daughter who graduated from Spelman College. As an educator she recently retired from service as the principal of Freedom Academy High School in Brooklyn. Coran James went to Brazil in the Summer of 2005 as the recipient of the Fulbright Award Winning Principals Exchange Program. She was the host for the Brazilian principals in New York. Several of her students were also sponsored on an exchange program to Jordan in the Middle East after winning an award for technology.

Whereas, Coran James, the community leader, is a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators, NABSE; Association of Black School Educators of New York, ABENY; New York Urban League; NAACP; Net Generation of Youth-New York Metro Coordinator; YWCA; Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and the 100 Women for Congressman Major R. Owens.

Whereas, Coran James is a mentor for the Youth Congressional Award Program in Brooklyn. The Congress of the United States, through The Congressional Award Program, recognizes the initiative, achievement, and excellence of young persons who accomplish high goals in voluntary public service with the presentation of a Congressional Award by a member of Congress. Coran is a wonderful helper assisting Brooklyn youth to achieve personal goals in order to earn the Youth Congressional Award. Coran received the Congressman MAJOR R. OWENS' ''Youth Service Award for Outstanding Efforts in Developing Youth Leaders for the 21st Century,'' in September 2005.

Whereas, Coran James has been a supporter of numerous education and civic organizations over the years and is a leader in the community. She exhibits a superior level of personal integrity, motivation, intelligence and emotional control. She works extremely well as a productive leader and team member, has excellent problem solving abilities and can relate to others in an effective manner. On the occasion of her retirement Tribute on Friday, November 17, 2006, I am pleased, on behalf of the constituents of the 11th Congressional District to salute Coran James as a Point of Light for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM G. TIMME

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rear Admiral William G. Timme on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Navy on November 30, 2006, a service he entered as a Midshipman at the Naval Academy in 1974.

Over the past four years, Admiral Timme has performed superbly as the Naval Sea Systems Command's Deputy Commander for Undersea Warfare. His energy, drive, leadership, keen understanding of national goals, objectives, and priorities, and ability to develop innovative approaches has left an exceptionally positive impact across the Undersea Warfare enterprise.

Admiral Timme's personal efforts have successfully steered the Undersea Warfare directorate through trying workforce downsizing initiatives, delivered significant cost savings, and improved submarine maintenance planning. Most importantly, he directly supported key Team Submarine strategic goals in maximizing operational days for submarines and deep submergence vehicles, improvement of modernization fits, optimization of submarine fleet engagements, and preparation of personnel to meet future technical and management challenges.

Admiral Timme has worked closely with senior shipyard personnel to develop process changes that have resulted in reduced costs and increased efficiency at our nation's public and private shipyards. These include major initiatives in coordinating work across the Naval Shipyards and strengthening vital areas such as the innovative One Shipyard concept.

After the USS *San Francisco* grounding incident in January 2005, Admiral Timme developed the repair and transit procedures that directly help save this high value, and operationally critical platform for the Navy. Additionally, in his role as submarine safety certifying official, he has presided over the certification process for sea trials and unrestricted operations of over 47 submarines and manned submersibles.

The son of a career military officer, Admiral Timme attended Rutgers University for one year prior to entering the Naval Academy in 1974, graduating with distinction in 1978 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Following commissioning and completion of nuclear power school and basic submarine training, Admiral Timme reported to USS *Archerfish*. He served as Reactor Controls Assistant and Weapons Officer, completing three deployments. In March 1983, Admiral Timme was assigned to the Personnel Exchange Program with the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. He served on the staff of Flag Officer Submarines at the Commander-in-Chief Fleet Headquarters in Northwood, England. Admiral Timme completed Submarine Officers Advanced Course in October 1985, earning the L. Y. Spear Award as class honorman. He then reported as new construction Engineer Officer on the PCU *Tennessee*, where the ship earned the Navy Unit Commendation during the shipyard construction period.

Later, Admiral Timme served at the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C., as the submarine department head detailer. During this tour he earned a masters degree in Engineering Management from The Catholic University. He relieved as Executive Officer of USS *Chicago* in April 1991, earning the Battle Efficiency ''E'' award. Subsequently, he served as Flag Secretary and Senior Aide to Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

In March 1995, Admiral Timme relieved as Commanding Officer, USS *Helena* and conducted two western Pacific deployments, which included numerous exercises and operations, including supporting the USS *Constellation* Battle Group. Subsequently, USS *Helena* conducted an interfleet transfer and began a Depot Modernization Period at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. In May 1998, he reported to the New Attack Submarine Program as the Warfare Requirements and Fleet Liaison Officer. In June 2000, Admiral Timme relieved as the Program Manager for Undersea Weapons, responsible for all of the Navy's torpedo programs.

Admiral Timme's awards include the Legion of Merit Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and several unit and service awards.

The Department of the Navy, the Congress, and the American people have been well served by this dedicated naval officer. Admiral Timme's professionalism, superior technical and managerial expertise and determination to support the Fleet are unrivaled. He has been instrumental in ensuring that the U.S. Submarine force is, and will remain, the world's most preeminent in the 21st century. He leaves an enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to express appreciation to Admiral Timme for his outstanding service to the nation. I also want to recognize and thank his wife Suzette and his daughters Savannah and Morgan for their loyalty and support. No one in our armed serves can do their job without the love and understanding of their loved ones. They have shared equally in all of Admiral Timme's success. On behalf of the citizens of Virginia's 8th district, I would like to thank Admiral Timme for his steadfast service to his country over his illustrious 28-year career and wish him and his family fair winds and following seas in his retirement.

GERALD W. HEANEY FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AND CUSTOMHOUSE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bill to name the Federal building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in Duluth, Minnesota, in honor of Judge Gerald W. Heaney. Judge Heaney was appointed Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit on November 3, 1966. After 40 years of distinguished judicial service, Judge Heaney retired on August 31, 2006.

Judge Heaney was born on January 29, 1918, in Goodhue, a rural community in the southeastern part of Minnesota. As a child growing up in a farming community, Judge Heaney learned the value of a close family, honesty, and hard work. These qualities have marked not only his personal life but also his life as a public servant. He was educated at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1941.

Gerry Heaney is a decorated World War II veteran. He was a member of the distinguished Army Ranger Battalion and participated in the historic D-Day landing at Normandy. He was awarded the Silver Star for extraordinary bravery in the battle of La Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, France. He also received a Bronze Star and five battle stars.

At the end of the war, Judge Heaney returned home and entered private practice in Duluth. During that time he was instrumental in improving the state education system, and served on the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota. He was instrumental in helping the Duluth school system develop a payroll system that equalized the pay for both men and women.

In 1966, President Johnson appointed Judge Heaney to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. In that capacity, Judge Heaney has been a champion of protecting the rights of the disadvantaged. He is devoted to making sure that every person has an equal opportunity for an education, a job, and a home. He firmly believes the poor, the less educated, and less advantaged deserve the protections provided by the United States Constitution.

As a hard working, well-prepared, and fair-minded jurist, Judge Heaney left his legal imprimatur on school desegregation cases, bankruptcy law, prisoner treatment, and social security law.

His public service is discerned by industry, brilliance, and scholarly excellence. His compassion and dedication to our most disadvantaged are unparalleled.

It is fitting and proper for Congress to designate the Duluth, Minnesota Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in honor of Judge Gerald W. Heaney.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

DUTCH AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today, on Dutch American Heritage Day, I rise to recognize the history of warm relations the Dutch and American people have shared for over 400 years and also to celebrate the many contributions of Dutch Americans to U.S. history. Americans of Dutch descent include Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor Roosevelt, whose courage and strength helped lead the American people through difficult times in our Nation's past. Their ranks also include President Martin Van Buren, Walt Whitman, and Thomas Edison—and Senator Arthur Vandenberg who helped shape U.S. foreign policy after World War II.

The Dutch were deeply involved in the exploration of the New World and the settlement of the early colonies. In 1609, while searching for an easy route to Asia, Captain Henry Hudson discovered the river that bears his name. Soon after, Dutch settlements began springing up throughout and beyond modern-day New York State into what is now Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Today, Americans of Dutch descent live in concentrations in Michigan, California, Florida, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Washington, Texas, Ohio, and Illinois.

The ties between the United States and the Netherlands date back to the earliest days of the Republic. It was the Dutch who first recognized the United States of America and The Hague was home to the first American embassy in the world. The American people will not soon forget how on November 16, 1776, as the American warship, Andrew Doria, entered the harbor of the Dutch island of St. Eustatius in the West Indies, the fort fired a salute, recognizing the flag of the United States of America—the first of such acts by any country. This salute heralded the beginning of a relationship that would persist, unbroken, for three centuries.

Today we also celebrate the people of the Netherlands who have stood beside us in good and bad times since the War of Independence. The Dutch granted the U.S. Congress its first loan, helping to sustain a struggling Nation at one of its lowest points; in the wake of Pearl Harbor, the Dutch were among the first nations to align themselves with the U.S. and they fought proudly with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions in the occupied Netherlands during the Second World War. Today, the Dutch stand by us still in the ranks of NATO and among our troops in the ongoing efforts to combat terrorism in Afghanistan.

Dutch American Heritage Day is a special day not only because it celebrates the heritage and contribution of Americans of Dutch descent but because the day is also a celebration of a friendship that has helped shape and sustain our Nation from the days of its infancy. We are thankful to the people of the Netherlands and we look forward to continued strong ties and goodwill for years to come.

HONORING EMILY J.T. PEREZ

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 23, I attended the funeral services for Army Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez, an outstanding young officer who gave her life in service to her country while patrolling near Najaf, in southern Iraq, on September 12th of this year.

Emily J.T. Perez was a 23-year-young woman of great determination and distinction from Prince George's County, Maryland, who rose to the top of her class at Oxon Hill High School. Seeing her tremendous potential, I had the honor of nominating her for an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Emily rose to the top of her class to become the first minority female Command Sergeant in West Point's history.

With sadness I acknowledge her for another distinction; she is the first female graduate of West Point to die in Iraq. Lt. Perez, a platoon leader assigned to the 20th Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, perished when an improvised roadside device exploded underneath her Humvee.

Emily Perez was a young woman of many talents, with a passion to serve others. Born in Heidelberg, Germany to a military family, she decided early on that she wanted to be a soldier. Her family moved to Fort Washington, Maryland, and Emily enrolled at Oxon Hill High School and became Wing Commander of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. At Peace Baptist Church in the District of Columbia, she started an HIV–AIDS ministry to educate young people on the dangers of the life-threatening disease. She also volunteered with the Red Cross at an HIV–AIDS peer education center where she shared stories of those living with depression and the stigma of AIDS.

Emily was a sprinter. She ran the third leg for the Army's 400-meter relay team and "She

was the cream of the crop,'' according to her former high school track coach Nathaniel Laney. Emily had a wonderful voice and performed in the Military Academy's gospel choir, acting again as a shining example to her fellow women cadets.

''She was resilient. Her spirit was calm. She was resolute. She believed . . . the real tragedy is not to live while you are alive,'' said her godfather, Reverend Michael Bell, pastor of the Peace Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor the spirit of an outstanding young American patriot taken from us much too soon, United States Army Second Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 6

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine implementation of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (Public Law 109–8).

SD–226

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House agreed to H.J. Res. 100, Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007.

The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 496, Providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S10941–S10976

Measures Introduced: Five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 4052–4056, and S. Res. 614. **Page S10965**

Measures Passed:

Nutrition Services: Senate passed H.R. 6326, to clarify the provision of nutrition services to older Americans, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S10950**

Continuing Appropriations: Senate passed H.J. Res. 100, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S10954**

United States–India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, the Senate begin consideration of S. 3709, to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 United States exports of nuclear materials, equipment, and technology to India, and to implement the United States Additional Protocol; that a managers' amendment to be agreed to by Senators Lugar, Biden, and Frist, be agreed to as original text for the purpose of further amendment; that the only other amendments in order be the following: Ensign (relative to inspection, to be considered in closed session) Reed, Levin, Obama, Dorgan (two amendments), Feingold, Boxer, Feinstein, Harkin, Bingaman (up to seven amendments), Kennedy, and Dodd; that all amendments, except Senator Feingold's, be relevant second-degree amendments and that all be related to the subject matter of the bill; that once the bill has been amended, it be read a third time, and the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 5682, the House-passed companion, that all after the enacting clause be stricken, and the text of S. 3709, as amended, if amended, be inserted thereof and the Senate vote on passage of H.R. 5682, as amended; provided further that following passage of the bill, the Senate insist upon its amendment, request a conference with the House, the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees, and S. 3709 be returned to the calendar. **Pages S10941–42**

Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the September 14, 2006 passage of H.R. 5385, making appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, that Hutchison (for Akaka) Amendment No. 5128, and Hutchison (for Reed) Amendment No. 5125, be further modified. **Page S10975**

Signing Authority Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during this adjournment of the Senate, the Majority Leader, and Senator Coburn, be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S10976**

Appointments:

MINER Act Technical Study Panel: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives, pursuant to Public Law 109–236, appointed Thomas P. Mucho, of Pennsylvania, to serve as a member of the MINER Act Technical Study Panel. **Page S10975**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Terrence W. Boyle, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

William James Haynes II, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Peter D. Keisler, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

James Edward Rogan, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Benjamin Hale Settle, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Norman Randy Smith, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Michael Brunson Wallace, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Margaret A. Ryan, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law.

Scott Wallace Stucky, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for the term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy. **Page S10976**

Messages From the House: **Page S10964**

Measures Referred: **Page S10964**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S10964**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S10964–65**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S10965**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S10965–73**

Additional Statements: **Pages S10962–64**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S10973–75**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S10975**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S10975**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2:15 p.m., and adjourned at 6:32 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, November 16, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S10976.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch resumed hearings to examine progress of the Capitol Visitor Center construction, receiving testimony from Alan M. Hantman, Architect of the Capitol; Robert C. Hixon, Jr., Capitol Visitor Center Project Executive; and Bernard L. Ungar, Director, and Bradley M. James, Assistant Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office.

Hearings recessed subject to the call.

U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the current situation and U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, after receiving testimony from General John P. Abizaid, USA, Commander, U.S. Central Command; David M. Satterfield, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State and Coordinator for Iraq, Department of State; Lieutenant General Michael D. Maples, USA, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; and General Michael V. Hayden, USAF, Director, Central Intelligence Agency.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 31 routine military nominations in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

PUERTO RICO

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examinethe December 2005 report from the President's Task Force on Puerto Rico's status, after receiving testimony from Representative Fortúno; C. Kevin Marshall, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice; and Puerto Rico Governor Aníbal Acevado-Vilá, and Ruben Berrios Martinez, Puerto Rican Independence Party, both of San Juan.

FOOD SAFETY

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine current challenges and new ideas to safeguard consumers relating to food safety, focusing on foodborne illness in general and the response to the recent outbreak of E. coli infections associated with fresh spinach, after receiving testimony from Robert E. Brackett, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, and Lonnie J. King, Senior Veterinarian, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, both of the Department of Health and

Human Services; Kevin Reilly, California Department of Health Services, Sacramento; Robert J. Whitaker, MissionStar Processing, Salinas, California; Terri-Anne Crawford, Franwell, Inc., Plant City, Florida; Jeff S. Palmer, DayMark Safety Systems, Bowling Green, Ohio; and John Vazzana, Intralytix, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 6325–6337; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 101; H. Con. Res. 495–496; and H. Res. 1083–1087, were introduced. **Page H8672**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8672–73**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Chaplain Scott Crosley, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. **Page H8643**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

To convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation: S. 101, to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H8645–46**

New England Wilderness Act of 2006: S. 4001, to designate certain land in New England as wilderness for inclusion in the National Preservation system and certain land as a National Recreation Area—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H8646–49**

Providing a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105–331: H.R. 6325, to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105–331; **Pages H8649–50**

Financial Netting Improvements Act of 2006: Concur in Senate amendments to H.R. 5585, to improve the netting process for financial contracts, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 395 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 522—clearing the measure for the President; **Pages H8650–51, H8654–55**

Congratulating the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series: H. Res. 1078, to congratulate the St. Louis Cardinals on winning the 2006 World Series, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 395 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 523; and **Pages H8651–53, H8655**

Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007: H.J. Res. 100, to make further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007. **Pages H8653–54**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 1083, electing Representative Sekula Gibbs to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Transportation and Infrastructure. **Page H8655**

Conditional Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 496, providing for the conditional adjournment of the House and conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate. **Pages H8655–56**

Convening day of the 110th Congress: The House agreed to H.J. Res. 101, appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress. **Page H8656**

Authorization to print as a House document of "A History, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 1813–2006": The House agreed by unanimous consent to discharge from committee and pass H. Con. Res. 423, amended, authorizing to print as a House document of "A History, Committee on the Judiciary, United States House of Representatives, 1813–2006". **Page H8656**

Clarifying the provision of nutrition services to older Americans: The House agreed by unanimous consent to H.R. 6326, to clarify the provision of nutrition services to older Americans. **Page H8656**

Speaker pro tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Tom Davis of Virginia and Representative Wolf, to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through December 5, 2006. **Page H8657**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, December 6, 2006. **Page H8656**

Agreed, without objection, the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule is dispensed with today, November 15, 2006. **Page H8657**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings today and appear on

pages H8654–55 and H8655. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and at 1:16 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 496, the House stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of the concurrent resolution, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2006.

Committee Meetings

IRAQ—CURRENT SITUATION AND MILITARY OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the current situation and military operations in Iraq. Testimony was heard from David M. Satterfield, Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Coordinator for Iraq, Department of State; and GEN John Abizaid, USA, Commander, U.S. Central Command, Department of Defense.

SECURE BORDER INITIATIVE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight held a hearing entitled ''The Secure Border Initiative: Ensuring Effective Implementation and Financial Accountability of SBInet.'' Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Homeland Security: Gregory L. Giddens, Director, Secure Border Initiative Program; Deborah J. Spero, Deputy Commissioner, Customs and Border Protection; Elaine Duke, Chief Procurement Officer; and Richard L. Skinner, Inspector General; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR TEST: NEXT STEPS

Committee on International Relations: Held an oversight hearing on North Korea's Nuclear Test: Next Steps. Testimony was heard from R. Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary, Political Affairs, Department of State.

PREVENTING HARASSMENT THROUGH OUTBOUND NUMBER ENFORCEMENT ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing on H.R. 5304, Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement Act. Testimony was heard from Representative Murphy; Barry Sabin, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice; Philip G. Kiko, Chief of Staff and General Counsel, House Committee on the Judiciary; and a public witness.

OVERSIGHT—ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims continued oversight hearings entitled ''The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act: Are We Fulfilling the Promise We Made to Cold War Veterans When We Created the Program?'' (Part IV) Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense business systems modernization and financial management accountability efforts, 9:30 a.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Pipeline Safety Program, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kevin M. Kolevar, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability), 10 a.m., SD–366.

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 3636, to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for high quality economic development in Washington County, Utah, and S. 3772, to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for high quality development in White Pine County, Nevada, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider the nomination of Alex A. Beehler, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine the States' perspective of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine proposals to improve drug safety and innovation, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 4046, to extend oversight and accountability related to United States reconstruction funds and efforts in Iraq by extending the termination date of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, and the nominations of Thurgood Marshall, Jr., of Virginia, and James H. Bilbray, of Nevada, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, Stephen Thomas Conboy, of Virginia, to be

United States Marshal for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Dan Gregory Blair, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to resume hearings to examine Department of Defense travel policies and practices, focusing on the cost benefit analysis of the Defense Travel System, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold oversight hearings to examine the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters, 10:30 a.m., SH–219.

House

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on Intelligence Matters, 12 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, November 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will be in a period of morning business. Senate expects to begin consideration of S. 3709, U.S.–India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act, and H.R. 5384, Agriculture Appropriations Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1:30 p.m., Friday, November 17

House Chamber

Program for Friday: To be announced.

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