

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF NAOMI GRAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, with deep sadness, I rise to pay my respects to one of San Francisco's most beloved and admired community leaders. Naomi Thomas Gray died peacefully on December 29 at Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco after a lifetime of service to our City and our Nation.

Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Naomi earned a Master of Science Degree in Social Services at Indiana University. She moved to New York to work for Planned Parenthood as a field organizer, quickly rising to Vice President for Field Services. For two decades, she crisscrossed America developing community education and organizing programs for Planned Parenthood. She lived among migrant workers where she taught family planning. She forged links with black communities in the rural South by winning over Baptist preachers. She served as a consultant to family planning programs around the globe.

Upon retirement in 1972, she turned her knowledge and might to San Francisco, where she became a champion of the African American and health communities.

Naomi served as a consultant to numerous family planning and health organizations. She founded and served two terms on San Francisco's Health Commission, where she worked to increase access to health care for our City's most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents and she strengthened the affirmative action programs at the San Francisco Department of Health. She warned of the danger of HIV/AIDS to the black community and founded the Black Coalition on AIDS and the African American AIDS Leadership Group.

She was an intrepid champion of the African American community. As founder and president of the Institute for Urban Affairs, she focused on issues of concern to African American children and families. As Executive Director of the Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency, she advocated for and mentored children in the foster care system. She was President of the Black Leadership Forum, member of the Black Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Public Housing and the Mayor's Task Force on Children, Youth and Their Families.

An advocate for excellence in education, Naomi Gray founded the Twenty-First Century Academic School and co-founded the African American Education Leadership Group.

She received awards and commendations too numerous to list. For 30 years, I have been blessed with her support, advice, and friendship. It is an honor to stand before the House to celebrate the life of San Francisco's beloved Naomi Gray.

I hope it is a comfort to her loving nieces, nephews, and other extended family that so many people are mourning her loss and praying for them at this time.

HONORING CHRISTY WALSH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to remember and honor Christy Walsh. Christy was Woodland Middle School counselor in Franklin, TN. After a life dedicated to helping mold the youth of America and a valiant 4-year battle with cancer, Christy finally has peace and rest.

We all know how important counselors and educational officials are to our communities. In our school systems throughout America, counselors are there for our children, to guide them, advise them through their education and life choices, and to celebrate with them in good times and comfort them in the bad. Christy was innovative, energetic, and dedicated to our kids and we can't thank her enough for that.

Christy served as a Students Taking a Right Stand (STAR) counselor where she led a movement to help guide students away from drug abuse and held support groups for children with social issues such as grief and anger. Her dedication to STAR has had a tremendous positive impact on these students and left a ray of hope for the children she influenced.

I invite my colleagues to, again, join me in extending our condolences to her son Brennan and the entire Walsh family and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. May Christy and her work live on in the hearts of her family, friends and the children that she helped throughout her life.

HONORING MUHAMMAD ALI ON
HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 58, to honor Muhammad Ali, global humanitarian, on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Mr. Ali was crowned "Sportsman of the Century" by Sports Illustrated in 1999 and has traveled around the world working for hunger and poverty relieve, supporting education efforts of all kinds, and encouraging people to respect and better understand one another.

Muhammad Ali was born in Louisville, KY, on January 17, 1942, and was named Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr. He later changed his name after joining the Nation of Islam and subsequently converted to Sunni Islam in 1975. He won the World Heavyweight Boxing championship three times, and won the North American Boxing Federation championship as well as an Olympic gold medal.

Ali received the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony on November 9, 2005, and the prestigious "Otto Hahn peace medal in Gold" of the United Nations Association of Germany in Berlin on December 17, 2005, for his work with the United States civil rights movement and the United Nations.

Ali, since retiring from boxing, has devoted himself to humanitarian endeavors around the globe. It is estimated that he has helped to provide more than 22 million meals to feed the hungry. He travels, on average, more than 200 days per year to promote his humanitarian efforts. Please join me in support of this bill honoring Muhammad Ali and extending best wishes to him and his family on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF
H.R. 6, CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the bill being considered before the House today that would raise taxes on the energy industry, encourage American jobs to go overseas and cause us to become more dependent on foreign sources of oil and gas. H.R. 6 can only make energy more expensive for the American people. And I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this anti-manufacturing bill.

Raising taxes on a legitimate American manufacturing industry, regardless of its size or profitability, is not good for our economy or for creating and retaining more domestic jobs. H.R. 6 would siphon billions of dollars out of the energy economy that otherwise could have been reinvested into jobs and domestic energy projects.

In the past few years when fuel prices skyrocketed, I heard regularly from my constituents who were experiencing financial hardship due to these high energy costs. Farmers and ranchers were stuck with rising energy bills, small businesses were forced to raise prices for their products and services and American families were forced to spend more of their disposable income on gasoline.

Rather than focusing on ways to continue lowering energy costs, the Democrats are intent on doing precisely the opposite. Raising taxes on the American manufacturing industry that produces our oil and gas is not the way to help lower energy costs for consumers.

Not only could H.R. 6 lead to higher gasoline prices by raising taxes, but it could also bring about more expensive natural gas. Higher natural gas prices are a very real possibility if natural gas investment, exploration and production fall. Americans already pay more for

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

natural gas than any other country in the world. Higher natural gas will not just be an inconvenience; it will cost more American jobs.

Because we pay as much as 600 percent more for natural gas than other countries, American businesses are often at a competitive disadvantage when trying to compete with foreign businesses.

As elected officials sent to Washington to represent the interests of our constituents, we cannot afford to pass legislation that harms jobs and raises the cost of doing business for domestic manufacturers of energy. Singling out one domestic industry and excluding it from manufacturing tax breaks that other manufacturers are entitled to use is nothing more than pandering by the Democrats for political gain.

Instead of voting to raise taxes on energy manufactures, we should instead be considering proposals today that would encourage more domestic energy, which in turn would produce more American jobs and would boost our economy. We should be voting on legislation that would help America increase its refining capacity. We should be making it easier for energy companies to invest in American jobs by exploring for new sources of domestic oil and natural gas. Instead, we are voting on a Democrat energy bill that will encourage more dependence on foreign sources of oil and gas.

This bill is especially harmful for small and medium refineries that are reinvesting their profits to expand refining capacity. In a time when America imports 10 percent of its refined fuel, we should be encouraging expansion of our own refining industry, not raising their cost of doing business. When we raise taxes, we discourage reinvestment and make it more likely the United States will become more dependent on foreign countries for our refined energy products.

As many have already pointed out, the United States dependency on foreign oil is already more than 60 percent, and growing. When we become even more dependent on unstable regions of the world for our oil and gas energy needs, we are placing more of our security into the hands of unpredictable and often hostile foreign governments and dictators.

As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, I can tell you placing more of our energy security into dangerous regions of the world is the wrong path for America.

I am a supporter of both using and investing in alternative forms of energy as one way to decrease American dependency on foreign oil. The State of Kansas has great potential for being a leader in wind energy production and being a supplier of biomass for biofuel production.

But while our present economy depends largely on safe access to dependable sources of oil and natural gas, we must not penalize these manufacturing industries that provide us with the energy we all use.

I urge all my colleagues who care about keeping American jobs, boosting our economy and treating manufacturers tax equity to vote against this misleading Democrat energy bill.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the College Student Relief Act. America's economy continues to change, and a college education has grown increasingly more important. Unfortunately, it has also grown increasingly more expensive, with tuition and fees for a four-year public college rising 41 percent—after inflation—since 2001. Federally subsidized loans provide a crucial helping hand to middle class students and families. This legislation will lessen the burden on hard-working students and families by cutting interest rates on federally subsidized student loans in half over a period of five years, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent.

In California, the average college student with federally subsidized loans graduates with more than \$15,000 of debt. The costs of college are such that it is simply unaffordable for many students without help. Over the next decade, 4.4 million high school graduates will be prevented from attending a 4-year college by financial barriers. Our Nation's economic competitiveness relies upon having the best educated workforce possible and investment in postsecondary education will yield great societal benefits.

Madam Speaker, this legislation will make a difference in the lives of millions of young people, helping to put them on secure financial footing as they move from college to the working world. And it does so responsibly, within the structure of the PAY-GO rules that ensure that the entire \$6 billion in costs will be paid for by reasonable offsets. I urge a "Yes" vote on this important legislation.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ARTHUR F. WESTFALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Arthur F. Westfall, whose personal service to the Valley View community in Ohio is a shining example of the commitment and devotion that holds this great country together. Arthur's life was marked by his dedication to country, community, and family.

Arthur graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School and worked as a homebuilder as a young man, before he was elected mayor in 1971—a position he held for almost 30 years before he retired in 1999, along with being a public insurance adjuster. During these years, his work and commitment as a mayor helped Valley View prosper and become one of the main economic power centers in Northeast Ohio.

Throughout his life Arthur was enthusiastic about and devoted to the citizens of his community. As a public insurance adjuster, he did appraisals that helped claimants receive compensation from insurance companies following

catastrophes. And, as a devoted citizen and mayor, Arthur studied law enforcement and criminology at Case Western Reserve University to inform development of a strong police department.

Arthur also helped to improve infrastructure for the citizens of Valley View by building capacity in the water supply, developing a transportation program, as well as a number of benefits for the elderly, things that were not available for the small farmland village back in 1971.

Arthur's legacy continues through his wife, Helen; three children, Sharon White, Randall and Lance; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Arthur F. Westfall as a loving community leader. Arthur's lifelong commitment to both community and family is a great example of how one man can dedicate his life to helping others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, on January 9 and 10, 2007, I was absent and missed rollcall votes 12–18. For the record, had I been present on January 9, I would have voted: rollcall vote 12—"yea"; rollcall vote 13—"no"; rollcall vote 14—"yea"; and rollcall vote 15—"yea".

Further, had I been present on January 10, I would have voted: rollcall vote 16—"no"; rollcall vote 17—"no"; and rollcall vote 18—"yea."

I support an increase in the minimum wage. The last time the minimum wage was increased was 10 years ago and workers deserve to have the minimum wage increased to \$7.25.

I am pleased the House of Representatives passed the initial version of H.R. 2 and look forward to voting on its final passage in the coming weeks.

CONGRATULATING BISHOP HENRY BARNWELL FOR RECEIVING THE CALVIN C. GOODE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Bishop Henry Barnwell for receiving the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement award during the 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Breakfast in Phoenix. This award, named after Phoenix City Councilman Calvin C. Goode, recognizes an exceptional individual who has made Phoenix a better place through a lifelong dedication to promoting social and economic justice, defending civil rights, and enhancing the dignity of all people. Bishop Barnwell exemplifies all of these qualities.

Bishop Barnwell is the retired pastor of the First New Life Missionary Baptist Church, a

position he held for over 40 years. As pastor, he was an advocate for human and civil rights and the less fortunate. He mentored and was a role model for other men in his parish, urging them to help those in need. Bishop Barnwell also led the effort to declare Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a State holiday. Even before this occurred, I remember Bishop Barnwell bringing us together to celebrate Dr. King's birthday at Phoenix's Patriot Square Park.

Bishop Barnwell continues to be an active member in many Phoenix community organizations. For example, he serves on the Boards of the Phoenix Opportunities Industrialization Center, OIC, and St. Mary's Food Bank. He is also a member of the Mayor's Human Relations Commission, the Maricopa County branch of the NAACP, and the Sheriffs Religious Advisory Committee of Maricopa County. Bishop Barnwell will add the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement award to a long list of local, state, and national recognitions, including Arizona Pastor of the Year, 1989, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Ageless Hero Award, and Honorary Citizen of Tucson, AZ.

Born and raised in Florida, Bishop Barnwell first arrived in Phoenix to attend Grand Canyon College and the Arizona College of the Bible. In 1954, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired after 20 years of service. Bishop Barnwell is the devoted husband of Sheila Yvonne Barnwell; he is a proud father and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Bishop Barnwell for this award and to thank him for his enduring commitment to improving the lives of Arizona's citizens.

HONORING TRO JUNG-BRANNEN

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in the acknowledgement of the architectural and design firm TRO Jung-Brannen located in Shelby County, TN.

On October 19, 2006, TRO Jung-Brannen was awarded the Export Achievement Certificate given by the United States Department of Commerce in recognition of the firm's export excellence, increased export sales, and the opening of new international markets.

TRO Jung-Brannen is an architectural and design firm with 325 people on staff with billings in excess of 50 million. The Shelby County office has 13 architects and 38 additional employees. The firm specializes in designing healthcare, educational and commercial facilities. The firm was established in 1909 and has served over 500 clients with projects totaling more than six billion dollars.

Please join me in honoring TRO Jung-Brannen on their wonderful award and remarkable record of accomplishments.

OBSERVING THE BIRTHDAY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD my strong support for H.R. 61, in observation and celebration of the birthday, life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; his life of service in promoting peace and justice for all people of every nation, and the preservation of his legacy in our continued efforts to ensure peace and justice to every man, woman, and child.

In celebrating the birthday of Dr. King, we are reminded of his sacrifice and leadership in ensuring that this great nation live up to its highest potential by acknowledging and practicing the self-evident truth "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

As we are engaged in a war that has taken the lives of thousands of American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives, we must revisit Dr. King's stance of nonviolence and his opposition to the Vietnam war; a war that oppressed the poor and voiceless, a war that obstructed the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Dr. King would have us on the frontlines of the anti-war movement, questioning whether our actions in Iraq and around the world are doing more than just creating more chaos and violence. He would ask us to attack the root causes of poverty, building bridges between the private sector and non-profits to provide educational and work opportunities to everyone. He would challenge us to put the fate of our brothers and sisters ahead of property and profit, to invest in people and ideas, not guns and violence.

On April 4, 1967, a year to the date of his death, Dr. King addressed the Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York City, condemning the Vietnam war and urging his fellow citizens to break their silence. His message echoes the plight that we face today in Iraq; his words, etched in history, serve as a guide that we must heed.

Dr. King stated that ". . . Somehow this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours."

One need only substitute the word Vietnam with Iraq to recognize the analogous gravity that our Nation is engaged in. We must embrace Dr. King's legacy to achieve equality for the poor and to promote peace.

The invasion of Iraq has led the poor in our country to bear the brunt of military responsibility, while the children of government officials

and the wealthy make no sacrifice. Dr. King's remarks serve as a mirror to this country's unwillingness for all to make a sacrifice in engaging in war. He said "perhaps the more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem."

We must take this day to get our national priorities back in order. We must recognize our obligation to the citizens of this country, and our responsibility to promote peace around the world.

Now is the time to grab a comfortable pair of shoes for a new journey of activism. If we truly want to honor our king, we must renew our commitment to the world congregation that he loved. To follow footsteps as large as his is definitely difficult, but not beyond our hearts and minds. The task may well prove to be easier if more of us can take them together.

I want to especially thank the Baptist Ministers Conference, the National Action Network, and the 16th Council District's Annual MLK Memorial for allowing me to honor the life of Dr. King with them, and to follow in his footsteps.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for our Nation's seniors. In 2003 this body passed historic legislation that provided America's senior citizens with a true prescription drug benefit under Medicare Part D. I was pleased to vote for this bill. Since enactment, this program has been extremely successful. More than 38 million Medicare beneficiaries now have drug coverage, either through Medicare or another source. This represents about 90 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries.

We have been able to provide seniors with low cost, life saving medicines. In fact, the program has been so successful in encouraging private sectors to compete for enrollment, that the cost to seniors is much lower than anticipated. In fact, seniors are saving, on average, \$1,200 a year on prescription drugs. And the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) reports that prices are continuing to decrease, due to this competition in the private sector. The 'bids' by the prescription drug plans are 10 percent lower, on average, in 2007 than 2006. At the same time, Part D recipients saw a 13 percent increase in the number of medications available.

I strongly support the Republican motion to recommit which will ensure that the progress of the past several years continues. I will vote for the proposal to assure continued access to covered Part D drugs and pharmacy networks,

and to protect against increasing drug prices for veterans.

I cannot support H.R. 4 for one important reason: it will limit access to prescription drugs for senior citizens. The Washington Post shares these concerns, "A switch to government purchasing of Medicare drugs would choke off this experiment before it had a chance to play out, and it would usher in its own problems."

The Democrats want you to believe that this legislation will not limit the number of drugs available on a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan's formulary. They point to programs like the Veterans Administration and Medicaid to assure the public that access to drugs won't be limited. But the truth is that both the VA and Medicaid programs restrict patients' choice of drugs. Veterans have access to less than one-third of the prescription drugs available under Medicare Part D plans. State Medicaid programs also routinely limit the number and types of drugs that patients can receive.

In addition, and of particular concern to my constituents, the VA distributes 70 percent of its medications by mail. Seniors deserve the right to speak to their local pharmacist about their prescriptions, and not having that opportunity is a potential health risk. In contrast, the current Part D plan uses mail for less than 2 percent of its medications. We should not alter this important program.

As Leslie Norwalk, the Acting Administrator for CMS said, "The bottom line from the news today is that beneficiaries are paying less in premiums and taxpayers are seeing billions of dollars in lower costs, without the need for government to interfere and reduce access or convenience for beneficiaries." As in many areas, the best thing the government can do is to step back and allow the current trend to work. Government interference would risk the value of this important benefit to our seniors. I encourage my colleagues to join me in standing up for low cost and full access to prescription drugs for senior citizens and vote against H.R. 4.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3, the Stem Cell Research Advancement Act of 2007.

In California, we have devoted State funds, nearly \$300 million a year, to pursuing research on embryonic stem cells, and it has helped make California a destination for researchers on the cutting edge of biotechnology. But the promise of stem cell therapies will not benefit just the people of California, but all Americans, and indeed the entire world. Shutting the National Institute of Health out of this research is misguided, and turns our back on the many millions who may benefit from the cures it may provide.

More than five years after the Administration instituted restrictions on Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research, the promise of this potential line of treatment is greater than ever.

There are those who suggest that research on adult stem cells is equally promising and has produced new therapies—and I welcome further research in that area. But we, as legislators, should not prejudge which avenues are most promising. We should leave the science to the scientists.

Embryonic stem cells have the potential to transform the way we treat diseases that afflict millions of Americans. There is not a person in America who doesn't know someone who suffers from diabetes or Alzheimer's or cancer or heart disease, and embryonic stem cell research hold tremendous promise for the treatment of each of those, along with many other potential therapies.

Medical and biological ethics are a serious issue and we can have differences of opinion, but I believe that a commitment to lifesaving medical research that holds the potential to cure diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer's is consistent with a commitment to the sanctity of human life.

Last year, I voted to override the President's veto of this important legislation. I hope the President will reconsider his opposition, and it will not be necessary to vote on an override again.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON
SCHIRMER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Don Schirmer and his many years of service to the community of Maple Heights as a high school varsity football referee. Don's five decades of tireless dedication to the game of football is a testament to his heartfelt love of sports and the Maple Heights community.

Don began his tenure as a referee in 1954 in Maple Heights, where his knowledge of sports translated into a position as a varsity official. Over the years, the students playing the game changed, but their referee, Don Schirmer, remained a staple of the community. Through all the victories, losses, and dramatic twists of the sport, one man has stood behind it all.

More than just a referee, Don served as a pillar of his community by volunteering, often cooking for the homeless. It is this spirit of giving, sharing, and brotherly love that Don Schirmer has contributed to the community of Maple Heights. A modest man of many accomplishments, Don can count being an umpire in Major League Baseball, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, and the Captain of the Maple Heights Fire Department all as notches in his all-American belt of experience.

Even at the ripe age of 79, Don's energy, passion, and love of life are at an all-time high. An avid hunter, Don is giving up his striped referee uniform for an orange vest. Though nearly an octogenarian, his zesty vigor keeps him active in the outdoors.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Don Schirmer as a true American sportsman. His undying presence on the field has been a joy, honor, and privilege to the students of Maple Heights for over 50 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDENT
FINANCIAL READINESS ACT OF
2007

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a very important piece of legislation that will provide additional relief for families as they plan for the financial cost of their children's education.

The cost of college tuition continues to rise in the United States. In fact, over the past 5 years, the cost of obtaining a college education has increased by 35 percent. The higher cost of college should not prevent individuals from receiving an advanced education.

That is why I am introducing the Student Financial Readiness Act of 2007, which will increase the annual tax-free contribution a family or an individual may contribute to a student's elementary, secondary, or college expenses.

Coverdell Education Savings Accounts allow families to make an annual tax-free contribution of \$2,000 to assist each of their children with their education. The money can be spent on both K-12 education and college. By allowing families to make tax-free contributions to education savings accounts, we promote ownership of education. Families that save for their children's education are empowering their children. However, the current \$2,000 annual limit needs to be adjusted with the increasing tuition rates. The Student Financial Readiness Act of 2007 would permit a contribution level of \$5,000 annually and index the contribution amount by the cost-of-living adjustment.

We must give families the option to provide the very best education possible for their children. Our Nation's future depends on educating our children and they must be given every chance to receive the highest education. Our children deserve a competitive advantage in our Nation's job market.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the support of my colleagues for this important piece of legislation that will ensure the future success of our Nation's children.

CONGRATULATING MR. CALVIN C.
GOODE ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly bring to your attention the 80th birthday of a fellow Arizonan who is one of the most respected leaders in my home State and city—Mr. Calvin C. Goode. Calvin Goode is celebrating his 80th birthday this month and, therefore, it is the perfect time to pay tribute to this well-revered public servant who is best known for dedicating 22 years of his life as a Phoenix City Councilman. He has been equally dedicated to the promotion of education and the advancement of civil rights and continues to stand up to injustice, even in his retirement.

Goode's family came to Arizona to work in the agricultural fields when he was an infant,

and he remembers picking cotton as a boy. Calvin graduated from eighth grade in Gila Bend and then moved to Prescott to attend high school. When he was a junior, he was diagnosed with a heart condition and was expected to live only a year. He moved to Phoenix for his health, where he enrolled in Carver High School, the only high school in Arizona built exclusively for African American students. Upon graduating from Carver High in 1945, he attended Phoenix College for two years, and went on to Arizona State University where he earned a business degree in 1949. He later earned a Master's degree in education at ASU.

Goode recalls his earlier years as a time when African Americans were not allowed to eat in many restaurants, housing was restricted to certain areas, and jobs were limited. Under these conditions, Goode returned to Carver High as the school accountant. When Phoenix schools were integrated in 1954, Carver High was closed, but Goode continued working in the Phoenix Union High School District for a total of 30 years. During those years, he also ran a tax accounting business—Calvin Goode and Associates—which began with people coming to his home and receiving help over the kitchen table. He kept prices low to help those who needed it.

In 1960, Calvin married Georgie, a school teacher. Together they raised three sons, Vernon, Jerald and Randolph—a family which has now grown to include six grandchildren. During these years, he served on the local school board and chaired the Phoenix LEAP Commission to improve education and job training opportunities. In 1971, Goode was persuaded to run for a seat on the Phoenix City Council. With strong community support, the soft-spoken Goode was elected and came to serve a total of 11 terms—a record 22 years. As a councilman, Goode became the “Conscience of the Council,” using his voice to raise questions and push for support to neglected parts of the community. In honor of those efforts, the Phoenix Municipal Building bears his name.

Although retired, Goode continues to serve his community. He is president of the Phoenix Elementary School Board and worked on the transition committee for Governor Janet Napolitano. He is active with his local neighborhood improvement association and the Booker T. Washington Child Development Center. Goode is also helping bring back his high school alma mater as the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, which will showcase the achievements of African Americans in Phoenix and Arizona.

These represent only a handful of the achievements that have earned him the Phoenix Urban League's Most Distinguished Citizen Award and the Black Heritage Celebration Griot Award, which is given to people who perpetuate the African storytelling tradition. Further recognition has resulted in the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement Award which is given annually at the Phoenix Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast to recognize individuals who have made Phoenix a better place to live.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt Calvin C. Goode is an exemplary leader and a profoundly committed individual who is a true role model for the Nation. He has effected change that has improved the lives and broken down barriers for many Arizonans. Therefore, I am pleased to pay tribute to my friend Calvin C.

Goode, and I know my colleagues will join me in wishing him continued success.

HONORING HOUSTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege for me today to take a moment and honor the group of dedicated students and faculty of the Houston High School Marching Band and their remarkable 2006 Marching season accomplishments.

With a history of academic and competitive success, the Houston High School Band has contributed a sturdy foundation for the students involved with this distinguished family. Director Jim Smith continues this program of good works through instilling lessons of citizenship, character, and team-building as the current director of the Houston High School Band.

The Houston High School Marching Band's show, “An American in Paris,” earned championships in the Dixie Marching Band Championship, Vanderbilt Marching Invitational, Briarcrest Marching Invitational, and JCM Marching Invitational. These triumphs have certainly earned Houston High School the well deserved title of Champion Marching Band of the Mid South.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim Smith and the Houston High School Marching Band of Germantown for their dedication of success during the 2006 marching season.

A TRIBUTE TO JANE BOLIN—THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN JUDGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Jane Bolin, the first African-American judge in the United States, who left this world at the age of 98 years and to enter into the RECORD an article in the New York Times by Douglas Martin entitled “Jane Bolin, the Country's First Black Woman to Become a Judge, Is Dead at 98.”

Jane Bolin was born in Poughkeepsie, NY, daughter of the late Gaius C. Bolin and the late Matilda Emery. Her father was the first black graduate of Williams College, had his own legal practice and was president of the Dutchess County Bar Association. She grew up enamored of her father's shelves of leather-bound books on the law and went on to be the first Black woman to attend Yale Law School, after graduating with honors from Wellesley College.

Bolin was appointed to Domestic Relations Court—now the Family Court—of New York in 1939 by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, where she served with distinction for 40 years. As judge, two major changes she accomplished, along with Judges Justine Wise Polier and Hubert Delaney, were the assignment of probation officers to cases without regard for race or religion and a requirement that private child care

agencies that received public funds had to accept children without regard to ethnic background.

Bolin served on the board of the Wiltwyck School for Boys, the Child Welfare League of America, the Neighborhood Children's Center, the New York State Board of Regents, and took an active role in the local and national NAACP. Judge Bolin has received honorary degrees from Morgan State University, Western College for Women, Tuskegee Institute, Hampton University, and Williams College.

Even though Jane Bolin passed away on January 8, 2006, her contributions to the practice of law brought revolutionary changes to New York's legal bureaucracy and her legacy will live through all those families she touched throughout her years on the New York family court bench.

[From The New York Times]

JANE BOLIN, THE COUNTRY'S FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO BECOME A JUDGE, IS DEAD AT 98

(By Douglas Martin)

Jane Bolin, whose appointment as a family court judge by Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia in 1939 made her the first black woman in the United States to become a judge, died on Monday in Queens. She was 98 and lived in Long Island City, Queens.

Her death was announced by her son, Yorke B. Mizelle.

Judge Bolin was the first black woman to graduate from Yale Law School, the first to join the New York City Bar Association, and the first to work in the office of the New York City corporation counsel, the city's legal department.

In January 1979, when Judge Bolin had reluctantly retired after 40 years as a judge, Constance Baker Motley, a black woman and a federal judge, called her a role model.

In her speech, Judge Motley said, “When I thereafter met you, I then knew how a lady judge should comport herself.”

The “lady judge” was frequently in the news at the time of her appointment with accounts of her regal bearing, fashionable hats and pearls. But her achievements transcended being a shining example. As a family court judge, she ended the assignment of probation officers on the basis of race and the placement of children in child care agencies on the basis of ethnic background.

Jane Matilda Bolin was born on April 11, 1908, in Poughkeepsie, NY. Her father, Gaius C. Bolin, was the son of an American Indian woman and an African-American man. Her mother, the former Matilda Emery, was a white Englishwoman.

Mr. Bolin, who was the first black graduate of Williams College, had his own legal practice and was president of the Dutchess County Bar Association. His daughter grew up enamored of his shelves of leather-bound books on the law. But her comfortable girlhood was profoundly shaken by articles and pictures of lynchings in Crisis magazine, the official publication of the N.A.A.C.P.

“It is easy to imagine how a young, protected child who sees portrayals of brutality is forever scarred and becomes determined to contribute in her own small way to social justice,” she wrote in a letter at the time of her retirement in December 1978.

She attended Wellesley College, where she was one of two black freshmen. They were assigned to the same room in a family's apartment off campus, the first instance of many episodes of discrimination she said she encountered there.

At her graduation in 1928, she was named a Wellesley Scholar, a distinction given to the top 20 students of the class.

When she broached the subject of a law career to a Wellesley guidance counselor, she

was told that black women had little chance. Her father also discouraged her at first, saying that lawyers had to deal "with the most unpleasant and sometimes the grossest kind of human behavior."

But Mr. Bolin did not know she had already been admitted to Yale Law School, and he eventually agreed to her career choice.

At Yale, Ms. Bolin was one of three women in her class and the only black person. In an interview with *The New York Times* in 1993, she said that a few Southerners at the law school had taken pleasure in letting the swinging classroom doors hit her in the face. One of those Southerners later became active in the American Bar Association and invited her to speak before his bar group in Texas. She declined.

After graduation, she practiced for a short time with her father in Poughkeepsie. She then married a lawyer, Ralph E. Mizelle, and the two practiced in New York. He died in 1943. In 1950, she married Walter P. Offutt Jr., a minister; he died in 1974. In addition to her son, she is survived by a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter.

In 1937, six years after her graduation from Yale, she applied for a position in the New York City corporation counsel's office. An assistant there was initially dismissive, but the counsel, Paul Windell, walked into the office and hired her on the spot. She was assigned to Domestic Relations Court, renamed Family Court in 1962.

On July 22, 1939, she was told that Mayor La Guardia wanted to see her at the New York City building at the World's Fair, which had just opened. She worried that she was going to be reprimanded. Instead, she was sworn in as a judge. The ceremony made news around the world.

In an interview with *The New York World-Telegram* the next day, she said she hoped to show "a broad sympathy for human suffering," adding, "I'll see enough of it."

Her cases included homicides and other crimes committed by juveniles; nonsupport of wives and children; battered spouses; neglected children; children in need of supervision; adoptions; and paternity suits. She chose not to wear judicial robes in order to make children feel more comfortable.

She was reappointed to 10-year terms by Mayors William O'Dwyer, Robert F. Wagner Jr. and John V. Lindsay. When she resigned in December 1978 because she had reached the mandatory retirement age of 70, she complained, "They're kicking me out."

After her retirement, she was a volunteer reading instructor in New York City public schools for two years, and was appointed to the Regents Review Committee of the New York State Board of Regents.

She was outspoken on civil rights issues of many kinds. When she returned to her hometown of Poughkeepsie in 1944 as a judge and something of a local heroine, she pointed out that the city government, schools and hospitals remained segregated.

"Poughkeepsie is fascist to the extent of deluding itself that there is superiority among human beings by reasons solely of color, race or religion," she said in an interview with *The Poughkeepsie New Yorker*.

In 1958, speaking on women's rights, she said, "We have to fight every inch of the way and in the face of sometimes insufferable humiliations."

ON INTRODUCTION OF THE "HOME-OWNERSHIP FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS ACT OF 2007"

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my fellow Californian in introducing the Homeownership for America's Veterans Act. This bill proposes to make an important change to our Nation's tax laws in order to assist thousands of veterans, in the State of California and elsewhere, realize the American dream of owning their own home.

Currently, a provision in the federal tax code allows states to issue tax-preferred Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds, or QVMBs, to provide favorable financing on home mortgages for certain veterans. In California, these bonds are used to help provide low-cost mortgages through the California Department of Veterans Affairs, or Cal-Vet, home loan program.

As written in the tax code, two of the five states that use QVMBs, California and Texas, are prohibited from using this bond-generated revenue to provide mortgages to veterans who entered military service after 1977. Obviously, this significantly limits the usefulness of these bonds to provide mortgages to subsequent generations of military servicemen and women. In fact, according to Cal-Vet's own estimations, only 4.1 percent of California's total veteran population is eligible for home loans financed through QVMBs.

I want to thank my California colleague, Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, for her work on this important legislation. Like her, I believe it is important for us to open this bonding authority to allow QVMBs to be used to support home loans for more recent members of the armed forces, who have served our country so ably and with such determination. I look forward to continuing to work on this issue, and am pleased this bill has the strong support of California's veteran community, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 6, the Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation—CLEAN Energy—Act. At a time of record profits for the oil and gas industry, H.R. 6 repeals many incentives that I have not supported over the years and it takes a vital first step in bringing the energy policies of the United States into the 21st century. By recouping Federal revenues through the repeal of nearly \$13 billion in subsidies and tax breaks to oil and gas companies, H.R. 6 appropriately dedicates this revenue to create a research and development fund for renewable energy sources including solar and wind energy, alternative fuels like ethanol and biodiesel, efficiency efforts, and conservation incentives.

H.R. 6 rightly creates an incentive for offshore fuel producers to renegotiate leases issued in the late 1990s; an error that has not yet been corrected, which allowed companies to skirt royalty payments because no price threshold was included in lease agreements. It also repeals provisions that authorize additional royalty relief, as well as two tax breaks benefiting oil companies. This is not a tax increase as some may lead you to believe, it is sensible governing. I opposed legislation authorizing the subsidies in the first place and this is why I strongly support directing this money towards conservation and investment in the development in alternative sources of energy.

Continued and increased investment in renewable and alternative fuels, efficiency, and conservation domestically is critical to severing the United States' dependence on fossil fuels, which has been linked to national security concerns as well as significant environmental harm, including global warming pollution.

With the negative impacts of climate change on the security, economy, environment and health in our Nation and around the world abundantly clear, we can no longer delay in implementing policies to address the damaging effects of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We also need to set reasonable CAFE standards, which I believe are both achievable and valuable to a good energy policy.

I remain committed to broadening the energy debate to sound and balanced proposals to meeting America's energy needs—while still acting as a steward of the environment. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 6.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MESQUITE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of my constituents in Mesquite, Texas, to recognize the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce on its 50th Anniversary. Tonight, we will celebrate this profound accomplishment at the 28th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet in Mesquite.

The Mesquite Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1956. The first group of businessmen who comprised the Chamber made the decision to incorporate what had previously been known as the "Mesquite Merchants' Association."

For the past 50 years, the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce has worked to improve the City of Mesquite by promoting the free enterprise system and developing the community. Through their hard work and sense of civic pride and duty, the membership of the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce has helped make Mesquite a wonderful place to live and work for the past half century.

I offer my congratulations to the general membership, past and present, along with the current Board of Directors, who will lead the Chamber into the next 50 years of success. This year's Board of Directors Officers include: Todd Price; Greg Loshier; Robert Bowmer; John Bass; Gary Bingham; Cathy Rideout; Sharon Hoskin; and Mark Miller. I would also like to recognize President Terry McCullar.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce for their hard work and effort on behalf of Mesquite and the State of Texas. I wish them the best of luck as they enter into the next 50 years of service benefiting the City of Mesquite. They truly do know the meaning of Real. Texas. Business.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCES
WILLIAMS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in mourning for one of Philadelphia's most well-known and loved moms. "Mom" Frances Williams, a mother of five sons and a civic leader in her own right, left us to go home on January 12, 2007 at the age of 94.

Born in Philadelphia on February 7, 1912, "Mom" was a devoted member of Mount Zion Baptist Church since the age of 12, and over the years generously contributed her time and talents to the church. As a member of the Mt. Zion family, she was the longest serving president of the Young Women's Industrial Club and initiated the first "Get Set" program for children in the church.

"Mom" was considered a surrogate mother to countless young people she mentored over the decades. Many can attest to having found their first jobs with the help of "Mom" Williams. Numerous young people entered college and joined the church because of her guidance. She often went into her pocketbook, cupboard, and closet to help someone else.

She served her community and city as a block captain, committee person and civic leader. Later in life, she directed her energy towards helping seniors in need. She was a member of many organizations and boards. "Mom" founded and served as president of Save Our Senior and Concerned Citizens. She served as a board member of the Philadelphia Corporation of Aging and commissioner on the Philadelphia Commission of Human Relations.

"Mom" ran for City Council At-Large in 1979 on a platform that pledged housing programs for seniors, crime-reduction programs, and initiatives to serve and empower at risk youth and people with disabilities. She also gave our city two generations of leaders in her son former State Sen. Hard Williams and grandson State Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams.

In March 1999, article in the Philadelphia New Observer she explains "It's all very simple. Keep yourself clean and if something makes you sick, don't eat it. Tell the truth and don't follow the crowd. Most of all have faith."

She is survived by one sister, Ruth Lacy of Philadelphia; five sons: James Williams (Gloria) of Blackwood, NJ; Hardy Williams, Fredrick A. Williams (Ernestine); Theodore; and Ali Robinson (Ramona) of Philadelphia; one niece, Vivian Whitt; one nephew, Carl Lacy, both Philadelphia; twenty one grandchildren; numerous great and great, great grandchildren; and a host of grand and great grand nieces and nephews.

I know that all my colleagues will join me in honoring her memory today.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT B.
GILBERTSON, JR.

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Robert B. Gilbertson, Jr., the innovative leader of the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA. After more than 20 years with the Tampa YMCA, Bob is leaving Florida for Seattle in order to serve as the CEO of the YMCA of Greater Seattle.

During his tenure, Bob, led an effort to greatly expand the Tampa YMCA by the creation of 12 new branches throughout Hillsborough County. The expansion effort has resulted in the YMCA membership growing from 5,000 to 130,000 members and their yearly budget has grown from around \$1,000,000 to over \$33,000,000. More importantly, this expansion has provided the opportunity for the YMCA to expand its charitable mission of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities. No child or family is turned away from the YMCA due to their inability to pay. Today, scholarships are provided to over 30,000 children and families so they can enjoy one of the largest social service charitable organizations operating in Hillsborough County.

I met with Bob recently at the Brandon Family YMCA where he introduced me to some very special children who were involved in the foster care system. I was proud to play a role in ensuring that the U.S. Department of Labor provided the Tampa YMCA with funding to create a job training program for youth aging-out of the foster system. This extremely important program will be one of Bob's lasting legacies in Tampa.

Bob Gilbertson has certainly made his mark in Tampa and I am grateful for the leadership he has provided. I wish him great success as he moves to Seattle.

FEDERAL MINE VENTILATION ACT
OF 2007

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, one year ago today tragedy struck for the second time in less than three weeks in the coalfields of West Virginia. A fire broke out along the conveyor belt in the Aracoma Mine, at Alma, Logan County, taking the lives of two good men and turning the national spotlight on a sorely risky industry practice.

The use of the belt air entry to ventilate a mine, as was the case at Aracoma, is egregiously dangerous. The belt entry—the tunnel through which the coal conveyor belt runs—has long been recognized as the dirtiest, most fire-prone entry in the mines. To use it to draw air to the working face exposes miners to higher levels of health-endangering, flammable coal dust and noxious gases. And, although saving operators the cost of adding more entries into the mine, it limits the escape routes for miners trying to evacuate in an emergency—an unacceptable tradeoff.

For at least 35 years, from the time the Mine Act was signed into law, the use of the conveyor belt entries to draw fresh air into working areas of coal mines was effectively "ruled out" as an acceptable standard practice. The use of belt air, during all that time, was considered to be the exception.

Under an initial Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rule, issued decades ago, mines could use the method, but only after obtaining an exemption through a petition process—a process that, at least, required high-level scrutiny on a mine-by-mine basis. The idea was that, if a mine wanted to take a higher degree of risk, it had to provide a higher level of safety precautions and prove that it was doing so.

Over time, however, MSHA allowed a growing number of mines to use this suspect practice, until in 2004, when the existing, more cautious rule was replaced. The new rule superceded the prohibition Congress had written into law, and opened the door wide to belt air ventilation and all of the dangers it brings with it.

That 2004 rule was a symptom of a shifting set of priorities at MSHA that put promotion of coal production above the protection of miners. That rule should be jettisoned.

Madam Speaker, the Aracoma fire of a year ago, demonstrates how the deteriorating mine safety policies at MSHA have combined with insufficient numbers of inspectors and lax enforcement to intensify the dangers associated with the use of belt entry air.

In issuing that 2004 rule, MSHA decided that the use of modern air monitoring technologies had improved to a degree in recent years to sufficiently reduce the risk posed by belt air ventilation. But at Aracoma, the air-sensing technology failed. The agency put faith in presence of water systems to suppress the outbreak of fires. At Aracoma, the water system malfunctioned. Portions of a wall needed to separate the conveyor belt from the miners primary escapeway, although on the mine map, were missing.

At every turn, some safety measure that should have been taken to protect lives at that mine failed. Even the inspections, on both the state and federal levels, failed.

The problems in our Nation's coalfields are thickly layered and will take years to sufficiently unravel. It makes no sense for the MSHA to retain a rule that allows broad use of this dangerous ventilation method in the midst of an inspector shortage and an overhaul of the mine safety system.

I am at a loss to understand why MSHA has failed to withdraw the 2004 rule, even temporarily. The fact that it has failed to do so demonstrates to me that MSHA is still not putting its duty to protect our miners above the profits of the industry.

So today, Madam Speaker, I, along with my colleague from West Virginia, ALAN MOLLOHAN, am introducing the Federal Mine Ventilation Act of 2007. The bill simply requires the Secretary of Labor, "no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act," to revise: regulations to require, in any coal mine that belt entries "not be used to ventilate active working places." I note that it is my intention with this bill to return to the pre-2004 rulemaking procedure, where the use of belt-entry ventilation was generally prohibited, while retaining the petition process and the associated heightened safety controls.

If MSHA will not act to correct its mistakes then the Congress must.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I oppose H.R. 5 as it is written and support the alternative proposal by Ranking Member BUCK MCKEON. As the father of three college graduates and a college freshman, I am all too familiar with the financial burden higher education poses to families and students. That is why I am proud of Republican efforts to expand college access and increase affordability.

During the past decade, House Republicans under the leadership of John Boehner and BUCK MCKEON tripled overall Federal aid to a record \$90 billion, helping millions of Americans achieve their dream of a college education.

In addition, Republicans increased new aid for Pell students more than \$4 billion over 5 years, establishing the first ever grant program for high achieving Pell students in their first and second years of college. The program also provides grant aid to low income, high achieving students pursuing degrees in math, science, and critical foreign languages in their third and fourth years.

As lawmakers, our number one concern with regard to higher education should be to ensure that college is affordable for any student. Unfortunately, as H.R. 5 is currently written, it pits the Federal Family Education Loan Program, FFEL, against the Direct Loan program, DLP, and by doing so creates an imbalance in the student loan industry that is so lopsided only the largest FFELP lenders will survive.

While the Democrat bill was well-intentioned, its focus on interest rate reduction does not expand college access for new students which the McKeon alternative does. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it, because it truly expands college access for young Americans.

I encourage Congress to help foster an environment that will build a student loan marketplace and not play politics with college educations.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
PRICE NEGOTIATIONS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will take up, H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiations Act of 2007. H.R. 4 will require the government to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies in order to obtain reduced drug prices for seniors enrolled in the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. The bill prohibits, that in conducting these negotia-

tions, the government may not restrict access to certain drugs by requiring a particular list of covered drugs, otherwise known as a formulary. Under the Republican majority, the government was prohibited from engaging in any negotiations to utilize its buying power to reduce costs to consumers.

I have been assured by my colleagues that H.R. 4 will not involve or allow restrictions on patients' access to medicines during the negotiation process. Specifically, I have been assured that H.R. 4's prohibition against government mandated formularies is intended to protect against all forms of government imposed restrictions on patients' access to needed medicines, and that no such restrictions will be allowed under the Medicare Modernization Act as amended by H.R. 4. In casting my vote for H.R. 4, I am relying on these assurances because I firmly believe that all patients must have unrestricted access to doctor prescribed medications.

Overall, I am optimistic about this bill. While the government should have the ability to negotiate on behalf of the 43 million seniors on Medicare, we must be careful that negotiations do not result in reduced access to prescriptions. We must strike a delicate balance to ensure that lower prices do not cause drug companies to withdraw vital drugs from the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. As H.R. 4 moves forward to conference, I ask that the conferees affirmatively strengthen and clarify the rules against government imposed restrictions. If implemented properly, this bill has the potential to cut the cost of health care and improve access to medicines for millions of seniors on Medicare.

According to Families USA, while providing some relief, the current Medicare Prescription drug law has failed to slow the rapid growth in drug prices. As a cosponsor of H.R. 4 and a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I will be exploring additional legislative measures designed to reduce costs for seniors, without reducing access to life saving drugs.

INTRODUCTION OF STIMULATING
LEADERSHIP IN CUTTING EX-
PENDITURES ("SLICE") ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I disagree with President Bush on a number of things, but we agree that a constitutionally-sound version of a line-item veto could help increase fiscal responsibility and Congressional accountability.

In fact, I first introduced such legislation even before the president first proposed it, and last year I joined in helping win House passage of a line-item veto bill.

Unfortunately, the Senate did not complete action on that bill before the end of the 109th Congress.

So, I am today again introducing a similar measure—the "Stimulating Leadership in Cutting Expenditure, or "SLICE" Act of 2007, co-sponsored by Representative RYAN of Wisconsin.

Over the last 6 years we've seen a dramatic change in the Federal budget—a change for

the worse. We've gone from budget surpluses to big deficits, and from reducing the national debt to increasing the "debt tax" on our children.

There's no mystery about how this happened.

Partly, it was caused by a recession. Partly, it was caused by the increased spending needed for national defense, homeland security, and fighting terrorism. And in part it was caused by excessive and unbalanced tax cuts the president pushed for and the Republican-led Congress passed.

Some of those tax cuts—for example, eliminating the marriage penalty, fixing the 10 percent bracket and extending child care tax credits—were good. I supported them because they gave a reasonable boost for the economy and increased the fairness of the tax laws. But overall they were excessive.

Many of us warned against reducing the surplus so recklessly. We urged the administration and Congress to be more responsible, and we voted for Blue Dog budget resolutions that would have set a better course.

But our pleas for restraint were ignored, and since the attacks of 9/11—which led to increased spending on homeland security, a military response in Afghanistan, and a war in Iraq—the budget has nosedived from surplus into deep deficit. And, even in the face of national emergency, neither the president nor the Republican-led Congress has called on Americans for any sacrifice, and instead of temporarily scaling back some of the tax cuts the president has insisted on making all of them permanent even as Federal spending has skyrocketed.

So we have gone on putting the costs of war and everything else the government does on the national credit card—but the debt is owed not just to ourselves (as in the past), but to China, Japan and other foreign countries.

Why have we allowed things to get so far out of hand?

Part of the answer is that budget and tax policy in Washington has been so captive to very partisan and extreme ideological voices that it has been hard to find common ground and moderate consensus.

Even in this time of war, extremists in the Republican Party view tax cuts as almost a religious calling, while some in my party tend to reject any spending cuts. And the Vice President has dismissed complaints by saying "deficits don't matter."

But this cannot go on forever. Sooner or later, something has to give. And, if the result is a new sense of responsibility, sooner is better—because there is an urgent need to rethink and revise our budget policies, including both taxes and spending.

Last year, the House did belatedly take one step forward, by passing a bill similar to the "SLICE" bill I am introducing today.

And already this year, under our new leadership, the House has taken another good step by restoring the "PAYGO" rules that helped bring the budget into balance in the past—something the Republican leadership refused to even consider last year.

But I think we also should take the step of again passing a constitutionally-sound line-item veto—like SLICE—because it also can help to promote transparency and accountability about spending.

We have heard a lot of talk about spending "earmarks"—meaning spending based on proposals by Members of Congress instead of the

Administration. And here, too, the new leadership of the House has made possible important changes in our rules that will increase their transparency and our accountability—changes I supported.

But while some people are opposed to all earmarks, I am not one of them.

I think Members of Congress know the needs of their communities, and I think Congress as a whole has the responsibility to decide how tax dollars are spent. And earmarks can help fund nonprofits and other private-sector groups to do jobs that federal agencies are not able to do as well. In short, not all earmarks are bad. In fact, I have sought earmarks for various items that have benefited Coloradans—and I intend to keep on doing that.

Still, we all know some bills have included spending earmarks that might not have been approved if they were considered separately.

That's why President Bush—like many of his predecessors—has asked for the kind of line-item veto that can be used by governors in Colorado and several other states.

And that's why about ten years ago Congress actually passed a law intended to give President Clinton that kind of authority.

However, in 1998 the Supreme Court ruled that the legislation was unconstitutional—and I think the Court got it right.

I think by trying to allow the president to in effect repeal a part of a law he has already signed—and saying it takes a two-thirds vote in both Houses of Congress to restore that part—that Republican-led Congress of 1998 went too far. I think that kind of line-item veto would undermine the checks and balances between the Executive and Legislative branches of the government.

But the SLICE bill is different. It is a practical, effective—and, best of all, constitutional—version of a line-item veto.

It is not unprecedented. It follows the approach of legislation passed by the House of Representatives in 1993 under the leadership of our distinguished colleague, Representative SPRATT and others, including our former colleagues Charlie Stenholm, Tom Carper, Tim Penny and John Kasich.

Under SLICE, the president could identify specific spending items he thinks should be cut—and Congress would have to vote, up or down, on whether to cut each of them.

Current law says the president can ask Congress to rescind—that is, cancel—spending items. But Congress can ignore those requests, and often has done so.

SLICE would change that.

It says if the president proposes a specific cut, Congress can't duck—it would have to vote on it, and if a majority approved the cut, that would be that.

So, it would give the president a bright spotlight of publicity he could focus on earmarks, and it would force Congress to debate those items on their merits.

That would give the president a powerful tool—but it also would retain the balance between the Executive and Legislative branches.

Madam Speaker, presidents are elected to lead, and only they represent the entire nation. My SLICE bill recognizes this by giving the president the leadership role of identifying specific spending items he thinks should be cut.

But, under the Constitution it is the Congress that is primarily accountable to the

American people for how their tax dollars will be spent. The bill respects and emphasizes that Congressional role by requiring a vote on each spending cut proposed by the President.

Of course, without knowing what the president might propose to rescind, I don't know if I would support some, all, or any of his proposals.

But I do know that people in Colorado and across the country think there should be greater transparency about our decisions on taxing and spending. And I know that they are also demanding that we be ready to take responsibility for those decisions.

That is the purpose of this bill. It will promote both transparency and accountability, and I think it deserves the support of all our colleagues.

For the information of our colleague, I am attaching an outline of the bill.

STIMULATING LEADERSHIP IN CUTTING
EXPENDITURES (SLICE) ACT

The purpose of the bill is to facilitate Presidential leadership and Congressional accountability regarding reduction of other spending to offset the costs of responding to recent natural disasters.

The bill would amend the Budget Act to provide as follows—

The President could propose rescission of any budget authority provided in an appropriations Act through special messages including draft bills to make those rescissions.

The House's majority leader or minority leader would be required to introduce a bill proposed by the president within two legislative days. If neither did so, any Member could then introduce the bill.

The Appropriations Committee would be required to report the bill within seven days after introduction. The report could be made with or without recommendation regarding its passage. If the committee did not meet that deadline, it would be discharged and the bill would go to the House floor.

The House would debate and vote on each proposed rescission within 10 legislative days after the bill's introduction. Debate would be limited to no more than four hours and no amendment, motion to recommit, or motion to reconsider would be allowed.

If passed by the House, the bill would go promptly to the Senate, which would have no more than 10 more days to consider and vote on it. Debate in the Senate would be limited to 10 hours and no amendment or motion to recommit would be allowed.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES
CURTIS JOHNSON ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charles Curtis Johnson on his retirement from the United States Capitol Police. With devotion, professionalism, and expertise, from September 16, 1974, until his retirement on December 31, 2006, Sergeant Johnson, or "CC" as he is called by his friends, has fulfilled the mission of the United States Capitol Police to protect the Congress, its legislative processes, Members, employees, visitors, and facilities from crime, disruption, or terrorism. I would like to wish him and his family all the best as he embarks upon this new chapter of his life. He will be truly missed.

Sergeant Johnson was first assigned to the Capitol Division and served there as an officer for 14 years, performing various law enforcement duties and assisting Members of Congress, congressional staff, and the general public. In 1998, he was promoted to sergeant and, for 3 years, supervised officers in and around the House and Senate Chambers. In 1992, he was assigned to the First Responder Unit and supervised the officers assigned to the outside of the Capitol as well as serving as the administrative sergeant.

In 2004, Sergeant Johnson earned a post as one of the supervisors of the U.S. Capitol Police Horse Mounted Unit. In addition to undergoing the rigorous training and maintenance of skills required of all members of this elite unit, Sergeant Johnson also supervised and directed all operations of the unit, including maintaining the unit's budget and equipment procurement. With the loss of the unit in 2005, Sergeant Johnson moved to the Patrol/Mobile Response Division and used his considerable expertise and institutional knowledge to supervise and direct the patrol officers within the Capitol Police primary and extended jurisdictions. A tireless performer and distinguished law enforcement professional, Sergeant Johnson deserves the admiration of all who come into contact with him.

In addition to his commitment to the U.S. Capitol Police, Sergeant Johnson is the devoted husband of fellow USCP member Captain Shirley Jo Johnson, and the proud father of three daughters and one son: Angie, Becky, Rachael, and Daniel. He is also the proud "Papa" of three granddaughters and one grandson: Kiera, Sydney, Nate, and Kaylie. He is the proud father-in-law of Greg Lawrence.

In his upcoming retirement, Sergeant Johnson plans on spending plenty of time with his family and is especially looking forward to "Grandbaby Day." Last, but certainly not least, he also plans to buy himself a horse so he can truly ride off into the sunset.

Thank you, Sergeant Johnson, for your exceptional service to the United States Capitol Police, the Congress, and the American people, and congratulations on achieving this important milestone.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TEACHER
TRAINING EXPANSION ACT OF
2007"

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, in this country we have made a commitment to fulfill the promise that all students will receive a high quality education. As part of this commitment, assessments mandated under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) require, among other things, that all students will have access to classrooms led by highly qualified teachers. In its implementation of the law, the Department of Education has made good on this promise, holding students that have traditionally been allowed to slip through the cracks, such as students with disabilities, to a high standard.

Students with disabilities, under NCLB and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), are increasingly being integrated into

general education classrooms. We have seen great progress from this practice. By holding students with disabilities to the same high standards that we hold general education students, we encourage them to achieve at higher levels. As with all students, students with disabilities respond well to being challenged.

Unfortunately, too many children with disabilities are underserved in general education classrooms because general education teachers often are not trained to meet their needs. As more of these children enter general education classrooms, it is critical that curricula be adapted to suit them. General education teachers and personnel must be equipped to collaborate with special education teachers to ensure that these students receive the best available education.

That is why I am reintroducing the "Teacher Training Expansion Act," legislation that is designed to support training programs for teaching students with disabilities. Specifically, this legislation would authorize the Secretary of Education to give preference, in the distribution of certain grants under IDEA, to local educational agencies and certain public or private nonprofit organizations that provide such training.

Under current law, institutions of higher education are already granted this preferential status in the distribution of these grants. However, I firmly believe that most also make eligible the local educational agencies and public or private nonprofit organizations that are at the forefront of training teachers who work with disabled students.

Madam Speaker, by supporting this legislation we will help our teachers gain the skills they need to work effectively with disabled students in general education classrooms and help make good on our promise to provide a quality education to all students.

In conclusion, let us be vigilant in leveling the playing field for our disabled and special needs communities in any way that we can. The Teacher Training Expansion Act would help in furthering this goal and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor it.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007. We must be mindful in the creation of long-term energy alternatives for the future of our nation, as the acronym CLEAN denotes. I am honored to be among my many esteemed colleagues as an original cosponsor of this legislation.

At this juncture, we must move beyond the obvious motivations for responsible energy policies. As my colleagues have acknowledged, scarcity of resources, national security, greenhouse gas emissions, and the impact of oil exploration top the list of concerns addressed by this legislation. However, we must also acknowledge the true impact of these challenges on our nation's most vulnerable populations. In this sense, progressive energy

policy is inextricably linked with the pursuit of true environmental justice.

Madam Speaker, my support for this legislation is founded in a profound desire to confront the diminishing life changes and debilitating health conditions attributed to polluting energy sources. Asthma has significantly increased over the past few decades, especially among African American populations. In 2004, 17 percent of African Americans under the age of 18 lived with asthma compared to only 11 percent of their white counterparts. On behalf of our children, we must understand the root cause of this disparity and take action to pursue alternative sources of energy for posterity.

Furthermore, I support the thrust of this legislation because it discourages extraction from offshore oil and natural gas reserves. I stand with many of my constituents in acknowledging that the pursuit of these resources has the potential to cause life-threatening accidents and irreversible environmental damage to our Outer Continental Shelf. Rescinding incentives for this form of oil and natural gas production set forth in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act will undoubtedly protect our fragile marine ecosystems and stimulate the quest for alternative energy sources.

Madam Speaker, complemented by other pieces of legislation, the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007 will bring accountability to the industries responsible for many environmental injustices and shift our nation away from a defunct paradigm of reliance on irresponsible energy sources. A new age for energy use is upon us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, because of a death in the family, I was absent for rollcall votes 24 through 33.

If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 24—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 25—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 26—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 27—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 28—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 29—"No"; Rollcall No. 30—"No"; Rollcall No. 31—"Yes"; Rollcall No. 32—"Yes"; and Rollcall No. 33—"Yes."

IN HONOR OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Japanese American Citizens League of the Monterey Peninsula. On January 25, 1932, two years after the national Japanese American Citizens League was formed, 18 charter members organized this local chapter to fight against discriminatory legislation and racial prejudice, and to help their first generation citizens (Issei) navigate through the American bureaucracy in such matters as alien registration.

Throughout the 1930's, the chapter involved itself in the larger community. In 1937, they made a giant American Flag to carry in the Independence Day parade. They reasoned that only a few people could ride on a float but 60 people could carry this huge flag. Another way they assimilated into the community was to participate in organized sports. The JACL-sponsored Monterey Minato established a formidable reputation and broke records in several sports because of its gifted athletes. From 1934 to the outbreak of World War II, the Monterey Minatos virtually dominated all other teams within the Central California Coast Counties Athletic Association. In 1938, just three Minato trackmen won nine of the eleven events at the YMCA Olympics at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco.

Built in 1927, the JACL Hall was originally the Japanese Association building, erected for the purpose of creating a community center for immigrant Japanese. In 1942, the leaders of the Japanese Association gifted the building to the JACL as a way to keep it serving the community. During World War II, the building was used by the National Guard, and after the war it became a hostel for returning internees. Today the Hall plays host to the JACL Japanese Language School, Nisei Memorial Post 1629 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Chinese Language School, Nisei Bowling League, Monterey and Satsuma Bonsai Clubs, Mugen Shinshu Daiko (Japanese Drum) classes, Tai Chi, and Jazzercise. The JACL Hall has truly become an Asian Cultural Center.

Today the chapter continues to fight for tolerance and diversity, helps its members preserve their cultural heritage, and assists new immigrants assimilate into society. As they begin their eighth decade, they will build on their 75-five year commitment to redress racism in our society, so that the next generation truly experiences equal justice under law.

Madam Speaker, I know all our colleagues join me in applauding the JACL and in wishing them continued success for these most admirable goals.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, access to quality affordable higher education is a national imperative and should be a priority of this Congress. Yet despite the clear necessity of an accessible higher education system, the ever rising cost of a college education continues to put more students at risk of not being able to afford to pursue their dreams. I supported this legislation because I believe it will give relief to middle-class graduates on the interest rates they pay on student loans. But, unfortunately the legislation before us today does little to address students' immediate needs such as rapidly rising tuition costs.

This bill instead provides for a limited benefit for a limited number of borrowers already through college. Student loan programs are a critical piece of the education financing puzzle. They have served millions of students who have relied on them to achieve their dreams of obtaining a postsecondary education.

In New Mexico, students and families are served by the New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation; a not-for-profit organization that doubles as a loan provider and a student service provider. As a not-for-profit organization, the New Mexico Educational Assistance Foundation reinvests its revenue in students and the programs that serve them. That includes loan forgiveness programs, outreach, college planning and rate and fee relief. I want to be sure the services and programs by organizations like NMEAF are not hampered by this legislation; these programs make a real difference in the real lives of students.

College affordability should be at the top of our agenda. This bill does nowhere near enough in that regard. I hope we will have an opportunity to make a real difference for students as we move forward with discussions on how best to address the high cost of a college education in this country and encourage more young Americans to go to college.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 27, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 31, honoring the Mare Island 21ers, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 41, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 62, congratulating the Grand Valley State University Lakers for winning the 2006 NCAA Division II Football National Championship, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 40, on passage of H.R. 6, Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act, had I been present, I would have voted, "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 39, to table appeal of the ruling of the Chair on H.R. 6, Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 38, on motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 6, Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 37, on consideration of the bill H.R. 6, Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 36, on agreeing to the resolution, providing for the consideration of H.R. 6, Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 35, on ordering the previous question, providing for the consideration of H.R. 6, Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 34, on motion to adjourn, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 33, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 58, to honor Muhammad Ali, global humanitarian, on the occasion of his 65th birthday and to extend best wishes to him and his fam-

ily, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 32, on passage of H.R. 5, College Student Relief Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 29, on ordering the previous question for H. Res. 65, providing for the consideration of H.R. 5, College Student Relief Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 30, on agreeing to the Resolution for H. Res. 65, providing for the consideration of H.R. 5, College Student Relief Act, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 31, on motion to recommit with instructions H.R. 5, College Student Relief Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 28, on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 434, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 31, 2007, and for other purposes, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MS. LAUREN LAUSTERN

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Lauren Laustern for her academic achievement in receiving the Homeland Security Scholarship from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate. This scholarship will be used to further her studies in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Ms. Laustern and each of the other 200 scholars and fellows visited Washington, DC for an orientation in November of 2006 to formally introduce the Scholars and Fellows to the Department of Homeland Security and other DHS-affiliated organizations and facilities. The Department of Homeland Security Scholars and Fellows Program was developed to inspire, stimulate and support students conducting research relevant to homeland security. The DHS provides many opportunities and resources to a variety of students from all over the county. The program offers two years of support at the undergraduate level and three years of support at the graduate level. In addition the students are also required to complete a 10-week internship to complete their studies. Today I commend her for her hard work and dedication in furthering her education.

TRIBUTE TO BYRON WOOD

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to bring to my colleagues' attention the retirement of a man dedicated to the U.S. Space

program. The President of Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, Byron Wood, has announced his retirement after 44 years of service, not just to Rocketdyne, but to the people of the United States.

Byron has seen his career go full circle, from his early work on the J-2 engine for the Apollo moon program, to his leadership today in resurrecting the J-2 for America's return to the moon. In between, Byron was instrumental in the development of the space shuttle main engine, which has served our national space program flawlessly for 25 years. Byron is the proud recipient of two NASA awards; the Exceptional Engineering Achievement medal and the Public Service medal.

During his career, Byron also made valuable contributions to the national security needs of the United States. His leadership in the development of the RS-68 engine for the Delta IV launch vehicle will help ensure that America's military will maintain information superiority through the reliable launch and placement of our national space based assets. His continued support for the development of small liquid propulsion systems has greatly strengthened our missile defense capability through Rocketdyne's contributions to the Theater High Altitude Area Defense System.

America will miss Byron's service. As we refocus our efforts to return humans to the moon and beyond, and as space systems continue to become more vital to the national security of our country, wisdom and leadership of the type possessed by Byron will be ever more essential. Please join me in wishing Byron the best in his retirement and in thanking him for his work.

SUPPORT FOR THE SAFE COMMISSION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, earlier this week I reintroduced legislation in the House of Representatives aimed at addressing the looming financial crisis facing the Nation, the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act. The bill would establish a national bipartisan commission that will put everything—entitlement spending as well as all other federal programs and our Nation's tax policies—on the table and require Congress to vote up or down on its recommendations in their entirety, similar to the process set in 1988 to close military bases. Mandating congressional action on the panel's recommendations is what differentiates this commission from previous ones.

Support for the bill is coming from both sides of the aisle. I submit for the RECORD letters from several former Members.

This legislation will be good for the future of America.

THE BLACKSTONE GROUP,
New York, NY, June 28, 2006.

HON. FRANK WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. WOLF: Thank you for sending me a summary of your bill creating a bipartisan commission on long-term fiscal policy and for the excellent statement you made in introducing the bill. I read both with great interest and I wholeheartedly approve of what

you are trying to do. I understand that George Voinovich has introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

While I would like to think that the economic and moral case for serious reform is compelling enough to spur action without resort to another commission, I fear that the reality is otherwise. Given the harsh partisan environment you note in your letter, I have come to believe that a new commission could serve a very useful trust-building purpose—so long as it is truly bipartisan and all policy options are on the table.

You clearly agree with these principles, which is one reason I think your bill could help break the political gridlock. It is an added bonus, in my view, that your bill would require the commission to hold public hearings around the country and compel congressional consideration of the commission's recommendations. As one who has sat on many commissions, including the Kerrey-Danforth entitlement and tax reform commission more than 10 years ago, I think all of these special attributes bode well for the success of a commission formed pursuant to your bill.

As you may know, I serve as President of The Concord Coalition. Former Senators Warren Rudman (who I know you have spoken to about this) and Bob Kerrey are co-chairs of The Concord Coalition. We have been urging bipartisan action to bring about a more sustainable and generationally equitable fiscal policy for many years. Our executive director, Bob Bixby, has sent you a letter with our approval on behalf of The Concord Coalition expressing our appreciation and commending you for your leadership in drawing attention to one of the nation's most daunting challenges. To that, let me add my personal thanks and encouragement.

Sincerely,

PETER G. PETERSON.

MANATT JONES,
GLOBAL STRATEGIES,

Washington, DC, June 26, 2006.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you for your letter and for sending me a copy of your legislation, H.R. 5552. I can't speak highly enough in commending you for leading this much needed effort and for the comprehensiveness of your proposal.

As a former House Budget Committee Chairman who subsequently headed the American Stock Exchange among other business activities since leaving the Congress, I have been appalled and discouraged by the recklessness and disregard of our government's fiscal policy. These unconscious deficits and mounting federal debt load financed primarily by foreigners are an economic time bomb waiting to explode. If I were managing a private company this irresponsibly, the shareholders should demand my resignation.

We hear much talk about our national security and energy security. But to put our economic security so much in the hands of foreign interests is gambling at its worst.

In addition to the economic dangers, this is also a moral issue in that our generation is saddling our children and grandchildren with the responsibility for paying off our profligacy. That can only reduce the standard of living of future generations. How can we justify such immorality?

I am so proud that you are stepping forward to try to pass legislation with teeth to force both the Congress and the Executive Branch to make hard choices to get our fiscal house on a path to responsibility. I hope that you will make this a bipartisan effort. I will be pleased to support you in every way I can and to urge my fellow Democrats to join you in this effort.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. JONES.

THE URBAN INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2006.

Representative FRANK WOLF,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: In response to your letter of June 16, I strongly support your bill to establish a national bipartisan commission on entitlement spending and tax policy. Although many are cynical about the prospects for the success of any commission, I think that you are right that the current political climate is not conducive to passing constructive legislation without some prodding from the outside.

I also believe that the American public is not ready to accept the sacrifices necessary to avoid a crisis, because the dire nature of the situation has not been well communicated by policy makers. Therefore, I particularly commend your idea of holding town meetings across the country and I would hope that the commission has a large budget for this purpose, because I believe that we need lots of meetings. Ideally, the commission would first produce a white paper that could be discussed at the meetings. It would outline the problem in the most objective way possible and describe the major options for solving it.

It is interesting to note that Canada had such meetings prior to a significant reform of their social security system and Canadian officials will tell you that they were extremely helpful in finding a solution. Similarly, Britain is in the midst of reforming their public pension system and they used large focus groups to test their options. I would prefer a town meeting to a focus group format, but however one proceeds, the involvement of the public is absolutely crucial.

I wish you success in getting your idea enacted and would be willing to help in any way that I can.

Yours sincerely,

RUDOLPH G. PENNER.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL
CENTER FOR SCHOLARS,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2006.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK: Thank you for sending along your excellent proposal to establish a national bipartisan commission on America's looming fiscal crisis. I agree that we must hastily address the very grave financial challenges before our Nation. You have laid out a thoughtful and effective way forward. In particular, it is important to put everything on the table—entitlement spending, federal programs, and tax policy. Mandating congressional action would also ensure that a prospective commission does not issue a report that gathers dust on a shelf.

On another note, the Iraq Study Group continues to make excellent progress, and I once again thank you for your leadership and support of our efforts.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON.

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION,
Washington, DC, July 14, 2006.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK: I am writing to express my hope your bill, H.R. 5552, Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Act, will be swiftly enacted. You and I have discussed this bill and the impending fiscal crises it is designed to avoid.

I am not able to detail in a single page all the fiscal difficulties we face, nor to list all the arguments in favor of H.R. 5552, but I believe it offers the Congress an opportunity

for a comprehensive fiscal solution, so the country will not have to face an ongoing series of crises, each demanding a patchwork, probably temporary, and certainly painful, response.

While the BRAC-type Commission necessarily forces Legislation action, H.R. 5552 does provide unusual, extra Legislative discretion by giving the Congress opportunities to enact alternatives not suggested by the Commission.

H.R. 5552 has my enthusiastic endorsement. I hope the House passes it first.

Sincerely,

BILL FRENZEL.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 33, H. Res. 58, "To honor Muhammad Ali, global humanitarian, on the occasion of his 65th birthday and to extend best wishes to him and his family."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to vote on H.R. 4, the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007 because I had to travel back to California due to a death in the family. I would like the record to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted "no" on H.R. 4 and "aye" on the Motion to Commit. H.R. 4 will not, as some claim, save Medicare beneficiaries money on their prescription drugs. All that this ill-conceived bill will do is to restrict beneficiary access to necessary drugs, stifle medical advancements, and limit the pharmacies that seniors can utilize.

In the last year, seniors have been able to enjoy outpatient prescription drug coverage under Medicare for the first time in the program's history. Every Medicare-eligible senior now has access to a voluntary, affordable prescription drug benefit, with extra help available for low income seniors. Consumers in my state of California can choose from over fifty national, state and regional plans, which cover brand name and generic drugs. The hallmark of this program is choice. Under the current system, covered seniors can continue to visit their neighborhood pharmacies and have access to the medications that have been prescribed to them by their doctors.

Recent data indicates that the current system of incorporating private sector principles into the prescription drug plan is working to control costs, while providing prescription drug coverage to millions of seniors who did not have it previously. Independent estimates for the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit for Fiscal Year 2008 show that net costs are thirty percent less than were originally predicted when the benefit was created four

years ago. In addition, based on strong, competitive bids by health care plans for 2007, average monthly premiums will be approximately \$22 for beneficiaries, a drop from last year's average premium and well below initial premium estimates.

The bottom line is that consumer choice is working. There are currently many different drug plans available to seniors. These plans compete with each other and negotiate prices with the pharmaceutical companies. As we have seen, this competition has resulted in lower costs for the program than originally expected. Such cost savings have been achieved while preserving the ability of seniors to obtain the drugs their doctor has prescribed from a local pharmacist of choice.

The misguided proposal before us today to put the government in charge of negotiating prescription drug prices does not serve the interests of seniors. Government controls will lead to restrictive formularies, denying seniors coverage for the drugs their doctors prescribe. While seniors will have fewer prescriptions to choose from, they will not realize savings from this reduction in prescription options. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) affirmed that government negotiation will only yield savings if access to medicines is restricted.

H.R. 4 will limit seniors' choice of plans and access to necessary treatments; what's more, it will stifle innovation. In examining ways to control the costs of prescription drugs, we must not forget that innovations by pharmaceutical companies lead to the development of newer and better treatments. Price controls create barriers to pharmaceutical innovation that can hurt patients and slow the potential for innovative therapy discovery. Some estimates find that almost 200 new drugs would go undiscovered over the next two decades as an indirect result of federal price negotiations.

We all want to ensure our seniors can get the prescriptions they need at the lowest cost. The debate before us today is about who we think is most effective in negotiating with the drug companies to achieve this low cost. We do not need to speculate on the answer to this question. The current program of senior choice and market competition has already lowered costs by forty percent in one year. In contrast, the CBO has said that the proposal to move toward socialized medicine will not save seniors any money unless access to needed medications is limited. I cannot support limiting access and choice for the 66,000 Medicare Part D beneficiaries in my district and as such strongly oppose H.R. 4.

CORRECTING THE COLLOQUY OF
JANUARY 19

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, during this afternoon's colloquy between the Republican Whip and the Democratic Leader, I was in a bipartisan meeting of the leadership of the California delegation. However, I understand that the distinguished Majority Leader indicated that I had objected to consideration of the member pension bill today. While I am flattered that my colleagues believe that I still

wield that level of influence now that I am the Ranking Republican of the Rules Committee, I simply want to clarify that at no time did the Republicans object, but simply pointed out to the new majority that a meeting to consider a rule would need to be an "emergency" meeting under the committee rules.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION DIRECTOR

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and individual of the highest integrity, Larry Welch, who has announced he is retiring after 12 years as director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and a lifetime of public service in law enforcement.

A graduate of the University of Kansas, with undergraduate and law degrees, and of the FBI Academy, Larry Welch served as an FBI agent and supervisor from 1961–1986 in Tennessee, Washington, Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas, Missouri and Kansas. From 1986–1989, he served as deputy director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, where he also served as director from 1989–1994. In 1994, he was named director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation; his longevity in that post is exceeded only by the first director, Lou Richter, who served from 1939–1956.

The KBI has approximately 300 employees, including about 80 agents posted across Kansas. It has four forensic labs, with 53 forensic scientists at the labs in Topeka, Great Bend, Pittsburg and Kansas City. The labs provide technical support to local police agencies in areas including DNA analysis and fingerprint analysis.

Larry and Shirley Welch have three grown children and eight grandchildren. During my twelve years as District Attorney of Johnson County, I worked closely with Larry in his capacity as administrator of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. He is a public servant of unquestioned dedication and skill. The people of Kansas have been extraordinarily lucky that he has served them in a series of sensitive, important law enforcement positions in our state.

Madam Speaker, I include with this statement a column by the editor of the Lawrence Journal-World, Dolph Simons, Jr., entitled "Welch has run KBI with integrity and professionalism." I couldn't have said it better myself, and I commend the career of Larry Welch to all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

[From LJWORLD.COM, Jan. 13, 2007]

SIMONS: WELCH HAS RUN KBI WITH INTEGRITY
AND PROFESSIONALISM

(By Dolph C. Simons, Jr.)

Kansas and the residents of the state are losing the services of an excellent lawman.

At the end of May, Larry Welch will step down as director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

He has done a superb job as KBI director since assuming the role in 1994 at the invitation of then-Attorney General Bob Stephan. Welch became the KBI's 10th director and served in this position under four Kansas attorneys general, including the recently sworn-in Paul Morrison.

Whether Welch's decision to leave at this time has anything to do with the new attorney general is anyone's guess. However, his announcement about plans to retire said nothing to indicate he has any differences with the new leadership in the AG's office.

The KBI does not have a high public profile, and it is obvious Welch has directed the agency with the goal of being an excellent arm of the law enforcement business, conducting its affairs and efforts in a professional manner, not trying to capture headlines and public attention. Welch and his associates have been far more interested in capturing those who violate the law rather than tooting their own horns or patting themselves on the back.

Welch is a professional and served as a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent before moving into the KBI director's office. He has put together an effective, efficient and lean staff and has gained the respect and high regard of Kansas legislators. He has kept lawmakers informed about KBI activities, and his annual reports detail the work of his agents, scientists and other members of the KBI team.

In his latest report, he notes the success of the KBI in identification and seizure of meth labs in 2006. Over the past five years, the number of meth labs seized and put out of operation has dropped from a high of 846 in 2001 to an estimated 155 for 2006. He attributed this success to the support of Kansas legislators and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and the legislation that provided funding and manpower to discover, seize and destroy the labs.

He points out, however, "Before we form a circle, hold hands and sing 'Kumbaya,' let me hasten to admit that even one meth lab, with all its dangers and attendant dire consequences is too many, and let me also remind you that, as I have been advising you since 1997, the majority of methamphetamine in Kansas, probably more than 80 percent, has always been of foreign origin, mostly Mexican, and not manufactured locally."

Welch tells the lawmakers the effort to seize and shut down meth labs "remains one of the most dangerous of all law enforcement activities."

He added there still will be meth labs to seek out, investigate, seize and prosecute, but with the effectiveness of the current program, KBI agents will be able to spend more time on efforts to reduce the importation, trafficking and interdiction of methamphetamine in Kansas. He noted, "We will not completely solve our state's methamphetamine problem, of course, until our nation's Southern and Southwest borders are better secured, in my opinion. If that's ever possible."

Not only has Welch's professionalism added stature and respect to the KBI, but also his personal manner has reflected credit on the organization.

The public must have respect for those in the law enforcement business. They don't have to like a local police officer, a member of the sheriffs staff, a local judge, a KBI agent or judges on high state and federal benches, BUT it is essential that citizens respect these men and women. Those in the law business, at whatever level, must perform in a manner that reflects credit on their respective agencies if our system of laws is to work and be effective.

Larry Welch certainly has done this in how he supervised and led the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. All law-abiding Kansans are better off and safer today because of the efforts of Welch and his fellow agents.

The state will miss Welch, and it is important he be succeeded by an equally committed, effective and professional individual.

This is no place for political games to be played; the KBI office should never be used as a means of passing out a paycheck or IOU for some previous political or monetary favor.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI
BIAN'S VISIT TO THE UNITED
STATES

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud our government's decision to allow Taiwan President Chen Shui Bian to visit the United States earlier this month. As you know, President Chen visited both Los Angeles and San Francisco as part of a larger North American trip.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, the government of Mexico was not nearly as hospitable to our democratically elected friend.

While President Chen was on his way to Los Angeles, however, he was informed by Mexican authorities that his plane was prohibited from flying over Mexican air space. This unexpected notification forced the President's plane to make a detour over the Pacific Ocean, extending his flight time to Los Angeles from 5 to 10 hours. This arbitrary decision delayed some of President Chen's meetings with U.S. officials, and more importantly, put President Chen and the other passengers on his plane in danger.

Mexico had given Chen permission to fly over Mexican air space on Chen's way to Nicaragua, so why did Mexican officials refuse to grant Taiwan's democratically elected President the same courtesy on his return flight? I think we all know the answer to this question, Madam Speaker.

In all likelihood, Mexico's sudden change of heart is attributable to pressure exerted by the People's Republic of China. Beijing has been relentless in its efforts to isolate our democratic friends on Taiwan, and this shameless move by the mainland is just the latest in a long series of indignities that the Beijing authorities have visited on the Taiwanese people.

Madam Speaker, communist China is always quick to talk about how much they respect the "Taiwan Compatriots" across the Taiwan Strait. Unfortunately, their hostile actions never reflect that deceptively rosy rhetoric. By continuing to insult and disrespect Taiwan's democratic government, China insults and disrespects the people of Taiwan who elected that government.

By outsourcing their campaign of intimidation to other countries like Mexico—who seem more than willing to subcontract their foreign policy to Beijing—China continues to drive the people of Taiwan further and further away.

I hope that the next time Taiwan's democratically elected president visits the United States; we can host him here in Washington.

And finally, Madam Speaker, I hope next time Taiwan's democratically elected president visits North America, that other democratic countries in our region will treat him with the courtesy and respect they would afford to any other democratically elected head of state.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ROBERT E.
LEE

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to General Robert E. Lee in celebration of the bicentennial of his birthday. A U.S. war hero, Lee has been lauded by past presidents and historians and as one of our nation's greatest men and greatest generals.

His birthday has been celebrated in Georgia as a state holiday since 1889 and the Georgia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans will be marking the occasion this year with a birthday celebration at the Georgia State Capitol. It is my pleasure to also recognize this event within our nation's Capitol.

Robert Edward Lee was born on January 19, 1807, in Virginia to parents who played instrumental in some of our country's early history.

Lee also dedicated himself to his country—graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and accepting a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lee's first assignment was in Georgia, where he supervised the construction of Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island.

While Lee is probably best remembered as a commanding officer in the Confederate States Army, he also played a key role in defending our country during the Mexican-American War, protecting settlers on the Texas frontier and educating future leaders as superintendent of West Point.

Following the Civil War, Lee accepted a position as president of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. As president, Lee worked to rebuild the war-ravaged South and stressed the importance of moving forward as a nation of united Americans. Lee also is credited with transforming the college, which has since been renamed Washington and Lee University, into one of the nation's finest institutions of higher education.

Lee continued to serve as president of Washington College until his death on October 12, 1870. Years later during the unveiling of the Robert E. Lee Memorial Statue, President Franklin D. Roosevelt would call Lee "one of our greatest American Christians and one of our greatest American gentlemen."

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in recognizing the accomplishments of this great American.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI WIL-
LIAM ABRAHAM GREENEBAUM II
ON HIS 50TH YEAR AS A RABBI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Rabbi William A. Greenebaum of Monterey County, CA, who is celebrating 50 years in the Rabbinate. From the American Civil Rights movement to the Allocations Panel for United Way, Rabbi Greenebaum has spent his days working to

improve the lives and spirits of the elderly, the powerless, and the poor.

Rabbi Greenebaum was born in Philadelphia to a rabbinical family that included a grandfather and great uncle who held prominent positions in the Jewish community. Rabbi Greenebaum received his bachelor's degree in Ancient and Medieval History from the University of Cincinnati in 1948, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Hebrew Letters as well as a Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causa from the Hebrew Union College in 1957.

Shortly after his ordination as a rabbi from the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Rabbi Greenebaum enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as Jewish Chaplain for two years in San Antonio, Texas. After his military service, he served in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as Assistant Rabbi, led Congregation Beth Torah in their efforts to build a synagogue in Prairie Village/Overland Park, Kansas, served as Rabbi in Flint, Michigan, and also in Fremont, California, where he met Nancy, his wonderful wife of 35 years.

In 1972, Rabbi Greenebaum enlisted in the active duty U.S. Army and served as Chaplain in Columbia, South Carolina, Heidelberg, Germany, and Monterey, California. After his retirement in 1990, he continued to serve as a civilian chaplain to the Jewish military community in the Monterey Bay region until 2001.

Since his retirement in 1990, Rabbi Greenebaum has continued to serve the Monterey Bay Area full time; as a member of the Board of Directors and substitute rabbi for Congregation Beth Israel in Carmel Valley; interim rabbi for Temple Beth El in Salinas, California; as Assistant District Commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America; as a Monterey County Civil Grand Juror; and as a member of the distinguished Allocations Panel for the Monterey County chapter of the United Way. Rabbi Greenebaum also spends many hours visiting the sick, elderly, and others in his community who are in need of spiritual comfort.

In the 1960's, Rabbi Greenebaum met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when they both addressed the National Bar Association Convention in Milwaukee. In 1969, he was appointed Chairman of the Flint, Michigan, Human Relations Commission and served as President of the Flint Ministerial Association. He served as volunteer Jewish Chaplain at the Kansas State Prison and at the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth. In 1962, the mayor of Kansas City appointed Rabbi Greenebaum to the Cuban Refugee Committee where he helped the city prepare for and welcome more than one hundred Cuban refugees to Missouri.

The principle of Tikkun Olam, "world repair" through social action and justice, has guided the actions of Rabbi Greenebaum throughout his life. As a prominent community leader, human rights activist, and helping friend, he has given countless hours, tears, and moments of laughter to many who would otherwise have suffered alone, while building religious and civil institutions to support spiritual values and integrity in every sphere of our community lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Rabbi William A. Greenebaum for more than fifty years of outstanding dedication and public service. His deeds are a strong example and inspiration to us all.