

Humvee and armored gun-truck in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As Mr. Morgan retires from the work he has been involved in for over 40 years, I would like to thank him for his great contributions and advancements in the field, and acknowledge the loyal service he has given to his employers and country. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

SUPPORT FOR THE WATER
QUALITY FINANCING ACT OF 2007

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the inclusion of Davis-Bacon in H.R. 720, the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007. I was absent for the vote taken on this legislation on March 9, 2007, because I was leading a House Armed Services Committee delegation to Iraq. I wish to state for the record that, had I been present for this vote, I would have supported the inclusion of Davis-Bacon language in H.R. 720. The Davis-Bacon Act, which dates back to 1931, requires every construction contract in excess of two thousand dollars to which the federal government is a party to pay all laborers and mechanics not less than the locally prevailing wage. I believe it is important for Oklahomans that federal contracts are not awarded to firms that seek to undercut the prevailing wages paid in our region. Government contracts should not be won by sacrificing fair wage rates for Oklahoma workers. For these reasons, I have supported the passage of Davis-Bacon in the past and would have also supported it on March 9th as part of the Water Quality Financing Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to air traffic delays. I was unable to record rollcall votes No. 157, No. 158, and No. 159. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on all three.

HONORING RUTH CAMPBELL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ruth Kueffer Campbell who turned 80 years of age on March 9, 2007.

Ruth was born in Milwaukee, WI, to Ernest and Alma Kueffer. Her father was an immigrant from Switzerland and her mother was from Davenport, IA. Completing the family was Ruth's brother, Carl, 8 years her senior.

Ruth was a good student in high school and was selected for the National Honor Society.

Upon graduation, she entered cadet nurses training at the Misericordia Catholic Hospital in Milwaukee. She always wanted to be a nurse and also wanted to serve in the military.

With her RN degree in hand, Ruth enlisted in the Air Force. She did her basic training at Chanute AFB in Illinois and then was off to flight school at Maxwell AFB in Alabama. From there she was assigned to France, where, on her very first night she and the other new nurses were invited to have dinner with the officer who headed the Office of Special Investigations. That officer eventually became her husband, John Campbell. But that took some time and off-duty travel with close friends to Spain and other neighboring countries.

When Ruth was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1954, she planned to move to the state of Washington where she had relatives. She wrote to her AF buddy, John who was stationed at Lowry, to tell him about her move. John encouraged Ruth to stop in Denver on her way to Washington. Needless to say, she never made it to Washington. Instead, she continued her nursing career at the VA Hospital in Denver.

Ruth and John were married in the Chapel at Lowry AFB in 1955. Within the next 2 years, their daughters Pat and Terry were born at Fitzsimons. Soon after Terry's arrival, John was transferred to an OSI unit in Okinawa, and the family went along. Son, Mike, was born there in 1960. The following year, John was reassigned to Lowry and the Campbells bought a home near Geneva Street and Montview Boulevard in Aurora. Ruth quickly settled into her new community and soon was volunteering with the PTA at Crawford Elementary School, teaching Sunday school at the Fitzsimons Catholic Parish, starting a girls' softball league and serving as a scout leader—she was the Girl Scout Cookie chair for all of Aurora for five years.

In 1964, John retired from the Air Force and joined the Adams County Sheriff's Department, specializing in investigations, handwriting analysis and polygraphs. Four years later, John ran for the State House. While he didn't win that election, Ruth was hooked and became very involved in Democratic Party politics—first as a precinct committee person and then as a captain. Nearly a decade after Ruth caught the political bug, John was appointed to fill a vacancy as an Adams County Commissioner. Two years later, he successfully ran for that office. In 1979, Ruth's beloved husband of 24 years passed away at the age of 59 at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.

Ruth continued her political involvement and became a mentor for a host of candidates from City Council to County Commission and the State House and everything in between. Among the Democratic office holders who benefited from Ruth's knowledge and experience are Don Armstrong, Guillermo deHerrerra, Bob Grant, Mary Hodges, Molly Markert, Bill Shear, Stephanie Takis, Frank Weddig and Leo Younger. Ruth has always been strongly committed to political activism and was a founding member of the Aurora Democratic Club more than two decades ago.

Ruth's political savvy wasn't limited to candidates. She also became involved in several important ballot measures, the 1986 Adams County mill levy for mental health services and most recently the Aurora Sports Park near Colfax and Tower.

If it wasn't a political campaign, Ruth found many other places where her energy, common sense and organizational skills were more than welcome. She served on the Board of Directors of the Aurora Mental Health Center for 6 years, has been an active member of the Northwest Aurora Neighborhood Organization, NANO, since its inception in 1975, was a 23 year member of the City of Aurora Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, is an active member of the Society of Military Widows, and serves on the Accountability Committee at Fletcher School. Ruth also records textbooks for sight-impaired students at the Community College of Aurora.

Ruth's good works have not gone unnoticed. She has received a number of honors, including the 1980 Liberty Bell Award as "Outstanding Citizen of Adams County." She has been honored with a Circle of Life Award in recognition for her many contributions to the north Aurora community. In 2002, Ruth was named a "Woman Sculptor of the Community," an honor for which she was nominated by the Aurora Democratic Club.

As Ruth celebrates her 80th birthday and a lifetime of civic and political involvement, I know Republicans and Democrats alike wish her the very best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall votes 157 through 159. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for each measure.

IN MEMORY OF EAST BAY
DENTIST DR. THOMAS CURTIS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I would like to make a few remarks in memory of Dr. Thomas Curtis DDS who passed away on February 17, 2007. Dr. Curtis was a World War II veteran who led a life of service to both his country and the bay area community in which he lived. During the war, Dr. Curtis served in the Army's 10th Mountain Division and fought in the Italian theatre. He was awarded two Purple hearts, the Bronze Star, and the Silver Star for his heroic actions.

After the war, Dr. Curtis enrolled at UC Berkeley and eventually graduated from UC San Francisco's dentistry school. He joined his father's dental practice and was a professor at UCSF until he retired in 1991. As an expert in maxillofacial prosthodontics, the reconstruction of the upper jaw, Dr. Curtis worked with surgeons to design replacements for trauma and cancer patients, allowing them to eat and speak again. Dr. Curtis had a passion for helping those in need and never turned away a patient that was referred to him even when some of those patients could not pay for his services. During the Vietnam War, Dr. Curtis volunteered regularly at the Letterman Army

Hospital treating injured soldiers. He also served on the board of directors of the Bay Area Tumor Institute. As chairman of a voluntary organization that helped East Bay cancer patients consult with specialists prior to surgery to develop strategies for reconstruction before their tumors were removed.

Dr. Thomas Curtis was a healer and a teacher. He defended his country in battle, helped heal those in need in his community, and passed down his knowledge and experience to his students at the University of California, San Francisco. His passing shall be mourned and his exemplary service to our country and community remembered.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM ACT OF 2007"

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to introduce the "National Levee Safety Program Act of 2007".

We know, following the terrible devastation of Hurricane Katrina, how important reliable hurricane and flood protection infrastructure is.

Congress has taken steps in the past to ensure that the nation's flood damage reduction infrastructure is properly inventoried, inspected, and assessed. In 1986, Congress authorized "the National Dam Safety Program Act" to conduct an inventory and assessment of all dams nationwide. "The National Levee Safety Program Act" is modeled after this successful program and law.

Thanks to the Dam Safety Program Act, we know a great deal more about our nation's dams. When it comes to our nation's levees, however, we know very little. We do not know where they are all located and we often do not know their condition. We do not even know how many levees there are in the United States, how old they are, and, in many cases, who constructed them or who is responsible for their operation and maintenance. Much of this is due to the fact that levees have been built for decades by different entities, at different times, and to different standards.

There has never been a national inventory of levees. I am introducing the "National Levee Safety Program Act" so we can develop such an inventory and work with the states to encourage them to develop their own levee safety programs.

This legislation authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct an inventory, inspections, and assessments of all levees nationwide. The legislation establishes an Interagency Committee on Levee Safety to create standards for federal levees, and creates a National Levee Safety Advisory Board made up of state, local, and private officials to advise the Committee on Levee Safety on the safety of levees in the United States, the implementation of this Act by state levee safety agencies, and policy relating to national levee safety. The bill also provides incentives for states and localities to participate in the program.

The National Levee Safety Program Act builds on my efforts in the last Congress encouraging states and local jurisdictions to work

together to establish modern, statewide building codes which help mitigate costly future natural disasters, improving public safety and hopefully saving lives as well as taxpayer dollars. Similarly, creating an inventory of our levees is a valuable way for us to reduce the likelihood of costly, unforeseen future disasters.

I am aware of at least three important levees built by the Corps of Engineers in Southern Ohio providing flood protection to Cincinnati, Portsmouth, and New Boston. This legislation would ensure the Corps maintains an up-to-date assessment of these levees while it also builds a broader inventory of levees throughout Ohio and our nation that were built by non-federal stakeholders.

This legislation is fiscally responsible. In order to make the best investment of taxpayer dollars, we need to do an inventory, an inspection, and an assessment of levees across the United States. We need to know what they are protecting and what level of risk is associated with them. This should help us prioritize future spending on flood protection so we can spend taxpayer dollars more wisely.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING DEBORAH COHN AND THE USPTO

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Deborah Cohn, Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO, for her leadership in promoting government telework. Telework offers a great opportunity for the Federal Government to help solve environmental, traffic, and possibly continuity-of-operations issues, especially on the busy highways of Northern Virginia. It is well known that the Federal Government lags behind the private sector in providing telework options for its workforce. Yet, USPTO has set itself apart with its telework program.

With her foresight, creativity, and perseverance, Deborah Cohn pioneered the development of USPTO's first telework program at a time when telework was far from the norm. Ms. Cohn not only convinced reluctant agency executives, she forged coalitions with managers, IT personnel, and the employee union to create an innovative, award-winning telework program at the USPTO.

This month, the Trademark Work at Home, TWAH, program celebrates its 10th anniversary. TWAH, which began as a feasibility pilot of 18 teleworkers, today stands as the most innovative and progressive program in the Federal Government. It involves more than 220 employees, or 85 percent of eligible examining attorneys, who spend the vast majority of their workweek at home.

The USPTO program has received awards from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Telework Exchange, the Mid-Atlantic Telework Advisory Council, and the International Telework Association and Council. Just last month, USPTO received the 2007 Work-Life Innovative Excellence Award

from the Alliance for Work-Life Progress for the Trademark Work at Home Program.

The TWAH program now serves as a prototype of an innovative telework program, combining management-by-objective with hoteling, resulting in documented savings of space and cost savings for the agency. The ability to manage employees remotely using clear, measurable performance goals, regardless of where they work, models an extremely successful telecommuting program for government agencies. The TWAH program also demonstrates that flexibility of time and location enables employees to maximize efficiency, which is reflected by production gains of teleworkers. The phenomenally low attrition rate among TWAH participants should encourage agencies that face recruitment and retention problems to consider such programs.

It is essential that federal agencies maintain procedures for continuing government operations in the midst of, and following, a national emergency caused by terrorism or natural causes. Effective telework plans and procedures help ensure critical agency operations continue uninterrupted. Federal agencies with telecommuting programs receive significant benefits, including a more productive workforce, increased employee morale and quality of life, and the ability to better accommodate employees with health problems or child- or elder-care responsibilities. Teleworking eliminates a significant number of vehicle trips during peak hours, which aids the environment. The Federal Government should be a telecommuting leader, yet many federal agencies have been reluctant to embrace the concept. That is why I am delighted to congratulate Ms. Cohn on her outstanding leadership on telework issues.

Ms. Cohn began her career at USPTO in 1983 as a trademark examining attorney. In 2001, she joined the Senior Executive Service as a Trademark Group Director. She became Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations in 2005 and currently oversees the examination and processing of applications throughout the trademark operation.

Throughout her legal career at USPTO, Ms. Cohn has been involved in work-life improvement initiatives. She is a former Council of Excellence in Government Fellow, where she first developed the seeds of the trademark work-at-home program. Ms. Cohn is a graduate of The American University and George Mason University School of Law. Ms. Cohn is a sought-after resource and speaker as an expert on the development and management of telework programs.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Cohn's efforts in making USPTO's telework program the most successful operation of its kind within the federal government. Additionally, I call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Trademark Office's award-winning telework program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, March 19, 2007, I