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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 16, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON ALTMIRE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, the beginning and the end of all things, our spring celebrations speak to our national identity and to the soul of each individual. Out of the cold of winter comes new life, fragile yet wonderful.

The Passover renewed and the eternal meaning of Easter usher in an abiding sense of being the free children of God because we celebrate Your presence once again revealed in the course of history and in the ordinary affairs of daily life. May the cloud of Your mystery guide us day and night and never be lifted from our conscious endeavors.

Be with Congress as it takes up the affairs of state. Both by law and policy, this government seeks to establish a world fresh with creativity, born out of freedom and brilliant with hope, because faith is renewed and trust is placed more squarely in You who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 11, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 11, 2007, at 10:40 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 521.

That the Senate passed S. 801.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 137.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 753.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER. Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 12, 2007, at 9:56 am:

That the Senate passed S. 5.

That the Senate passed S. 30.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER. Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 13, 2007, at 11:00 am:

That the Senate passed S. 229.

That the Senate passed S. 1104.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed:

By Speaker pro tempore VAN HOLLEN on Wednesday, April 11, 2007:

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S. 1002, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to reinstate certain provisions relating to the nutrition services incentive program.

VISITING THE FAR EAST

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor 2 weeks ago of joining Congressman SOLOMON ORTIZ for a codel across the Far East. We were privileged to meet with officials in Guam, U.S.A.; China; South Korea; and Vietnam. Having visited most of those capitals before, this most recent trip reaffirmed my hope for the future. This extraordinarily fast growing region presents great opportunity for growing friendships for America.

In Korea and Guam, where America begins its day, we visited our servicemembers who are an inspiration of dedication, providing front line security for American families.

In Vietnam and China, we saw dynamic developing free-market economies. Amazingly, Vietnam has become one of the fastest growing modern economies on Earth, and its number one trading partner is America.

I am confident that phenomenal economic transformation can lead to expanded freedoms for the people of Vietnam and China.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11. Our prayers are with Virginia Tech families.

HONORING SERGEANT HOWARD PLOUFF

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SGT Howard Plouff who was killed last month while answering the call for help from sheriffs deputies in Winston-Salem. Sergeant Plouff was known as an honorable man who selflessly served his family and community for more than 17 years in the Winston-Salem Police Department.

He was dedicated to community development and service. He was an assistant coach in the Southwest Forsyth Little League and was a member of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Clemmons. His is a legacy of the spirit of service that permeates this great country, and I am saddened by the profound loss that his death will be to his family, his police colleagues, his friends and our community.

He grew up on Long Island in New York City. He joined the Winston-Salem Police Department in 1989 and was promoted to sergeant in 1999.

Sergeant Plouff's career as a police officer was punctuated by his commitment to serving our community in North Carolina with distinction and honor. He earned the respect of his fellow officers and did not hesitate to go above and beyond the call of duty. In fact, during his time with the Winston-Salem Police Department, he was awarded its highest honor, the Medal of Valor, in 2003 for helping to prevent the suicide of a woman who had threatened to jump to her death from her apartment building. His death leaves a gaping hole not only with his family but within the ranks of Winston-Salem's Police Department.

He left behind a loving wife, Joyce, who is a third grade teacher at Southwest Elementary School, and his 13-year-old daughter, Brandy, and 11-year-old daughter, Holly.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Plouff's wife and daughters and his extended family. May God bless them and comfort them during this difficult time. The city of Winston-Salem is fortunate to have been served by such an honorable and brave officer. He was a blessing to the many whose lives he touched. He will be sorely missed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE MARILYN MUSGRAVE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable MARILYN MUSGRAVE, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued in the County Court for Weld County, Colorado, for testimony and documents in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoenas is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

MARILYN MUSGRAVE,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE DARRELL E. ISSA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable DARRELL E. ISSA, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a judicial subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by House Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

DARRELL E. ISSA,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE DUNCAN HUNTER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable DUNCAN HUNTER, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a judicial subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by House Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

DUNCAN HUNTER,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

LIEUTENANT TODD JASON BRYANT POST OFFICE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 988) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the ''Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 988

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

SECTION 1. LIEUTENANT TODD JASON BRYANT POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 988 is legislation introduced by Representative KEN CALVERT to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office.

On October 31, 2003, somewhere in the Iraqi desert between Fallujah and Baghdad, First Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant was killed when his Humvee was struck head-on by a rocket-propelled grenade. His life was taken instantly at age 23. He was assigned to C Company, 1–34 AR where he assumed duties as platoon leader, 3rd Platoon.

□ 1415

First Lieutenant Todd Bryant received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon for his distinguished service to his country.

First Lieutenant Todd Bryant is survived by his wife, Jenifer, his parents, Larry and Linda Bryant, his brother, Major Timothy Bryant, USMC, and his sister, Tiffany Bryant.

The memory of this jovial fun-loving man will live on forever through his family and friends. Jenifer Bryant said, ''There was a lot more to him than just a soldier. He was my best friend. His goal in life was to make people think that he was the most hilarious man alive.''

I support H.R. 988 and urge its passage.

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

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

Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant was a proud and loyal American who served his country in fighting the war on terror. He made the ultimate sacrifice, defending freedom and liberty, when he lost his life on October 31, 2003, in Iraq.

Todd Jason Bryant was born in Long Beach, California, on January 14, 1980. As a young student, he was very athletic and always involved in school activities. During high school, he played football and golf, and also played the tuba in the marching band. He was the youngest of three and was determined to follow in his siblings' path by enlisting in the military.

At 17, he joined the Army Reserves and completed boot camp before graduating from high school. He received his nomination to West Point Academy from the sponsor of this bill, Congressman KEN CALVERT. He graduated from West Point in 2003 with a degree in political science. He had said before his death that he dreamed of being either a Member of Congress or a high school football coach.

His military training took him to installations in Kentucky and Kansas. Only 9 days before Lieutenant Bryant was sent to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, he happily wed Jenifer Reardon in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

On Friday, October 31, 2003, at the age of 23, Lieutenant Bryant was killed when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his Humvee while on patrol in Fallujah. Lieutenant Todd Bryant was an ambitious man who was able to accomplish much in his short but meaningful lifetime. Among his military awards are the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Lieutenant Bryant will always be remembered as a fun-loving, humorous, cheerful, proud and loyal friend, husband, son and brother. He brought joy to all those around him, easily making friends through his contagious laughter.

Lieutenant Bryant was honored to serve his country, and he served it well. Let us honor his ultimate sacrifice by renaming this post office for him.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as the author of H.R. 988, I rise today to pay tribute to First Lieutenant Todd Bryant. The legislation would designate a post office in my district as the "Lieutenant Todd Bryant Post Office." Todd was born on January 14, 1980, in Long Beach, California. Todd came from a military family and his desire and determination to join the military was nothing short of resolute. He enlisted in the Army Reserve and completed Basic Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma before his senior year of high school.

In the fall of 1997, Todd came to my office seeking a nomination to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the following March, Todd accepted an Appointment to West Point. I was proud to nominate this ambitious young man who I knew would distinguish himself throughout his military service, just as he had done throughout his whole life.

Todd interned in my district office before his senior year at West Point and graduated with a degree in Political Science on June 1, 2002. He would often joke that he was going to run for my congressional seat some day—I have no doubt he would have succeeded. After graduation, Todd attended the Armor Officer's Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, graduating in December 2002.

On August 30, 2003, Todd and Jenifer Reardon were married in Pennsylvania, 9 days before shipping out with his unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. On Friday, October 31, 2003, Todd was killed by an improvised explosive device as his Humvee traveled on a road between Fallujah and Baghdad. He was 23 years old.

I ask you to support H.R. 988 to honor the service and sacrifice of Lieutenant Bryant. The naming of the post office in Rubidoux would be a fitting tribute to him, and the sacrifice of his wife and loving family. First Lieutenant Bryant was a true patriot and a brave young man, and our community feels his loss immensely.

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 988.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 273) supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 273

Whereas personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas personal financial management skills and lifelong habits develop during childhood;

Whereas a study completed in 2006 by the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier, and the average scores in both years were failing grades;

Whereas in recent years, the Congress, State legislatures and Governors around the country have increasingly recognized the importance and effectiveness of financial education, and, as a result, an increasing number of States now require financial education during high school, including Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia;

Whereas 55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 92 percent of college students acquire at least 1 credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money;

Whereas United States consumer debt totaled $2,400,000,000,000 in 2006, of which credit card debt alone exceeded $825,000,000,000;

Whereas personal savings as a percentage of income dropped to negative 1 percent in 2006, the lowest since the Great Depression;

Whereas, although more than 42,000,000 people in the United States participate in qualified cash or deferred arrangements described in section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (commonly referred to as ''401(k) plans''), a Retirement Confidence Survey conducted in 2004 found that only 42 percent of workers surveyed have calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement and 37 percent of workers say that they are not currently saving for retirement;

Whereas the average baby boomer has only $50,000 in savings apart from equity in their homes;

Whereas a study by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants found that 55 percent of people between the ages of 25 and 34 maintain an interest-bearing account or other savings instrument, a decrease of 10 percent since 1985;

Whereas studies show that as many as 10,000,000 households in the United States are ''unbanked'' or are without access to mainstream financial products and services;

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth;

Whereas public, consumer, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one counseling for individuals;

Whereas Members of the United States House of Representatives established the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus (FELC) in February 2005 to (1) provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to review, discuss and recommend financial and economic literacy policies, legislation, and programs, (2) collaborate with the private sector, nonprofits, and community-based organizations, and (3) organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as ''Financial Literacy Month'' in April 2007 and the annual ''Financial Literacy Day'' fair on April 24, 2007; and

Whereas the National Council on Economic Education, its State Councils and Centers for Economic Education, the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, its State affiliates, and its partner organizations, and JA Worldwide have designated April as Financial Literacy Month to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth and adults in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, including raising public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that have resulted from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the importance of financial and fiscal responsibility cannot be overstated. Personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit and debt and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders and citizens. That is why I am pleased to support H. Res. 273.

Personal savings as a percentage of personal income decreased from 7.5 percent in the early 1980s to a negative 0.2 percent in the last quarter of 2005.

As the resolution notes, 92 percent of college students acquire at least one credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money.

The Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy seeks to improve the personal financial literacy of young adults. Jump$tart's purpose is to evaluate the financial literacy of young adults and to develop, disseminate and encourage the use of financial education standards for grades K–12 and promote the teaching of personal finance.

To that end, Jump$tart has established 12 must-know personal financial principles for young people to improve their financial future. These 12 principles should be followed by adults as well.

The 12 financial principles stressed during the Financial Literacy Month for Youth are map your financial future;

Do not expect something for nothing, and high returns equal high risk;

Know your take-home pay, compare interest rates, pay yourself first, and money doubles by the rule of 72; to determine how long it would take your money to double, divide the interest into 72;

And your credit past is your credit future;

Start saving young, stay insured, budget your money, do not borrow what you cannot repay, and let me add one more thing, pay all your taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution supporting the goals of Financial Literacy Month and urge all my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Today many Americans do not know how to balance a checkbook, intelligently invest their money or financially plan for their retirement. Studies have shown that few young adults living in this country know how to responsibly use a credit card. This is a time when debt is on the rise and savings have dropped to negative 1 percent of personal income. It is clear that teaching financial literacy is imperative for individuals to learn how to manage their money, credit and debt.

While many States require high schools to teach financial education, increased economic education is still necessary. H. Res. 273 recognizes the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month and raises awareness of the importance of financial education. It is our hope that the President calls on the government, States and other organizations to observe the month with relevant programs and activities supporting financial education.

Learning about saving and investing is especially important for today's young generation because of the uncertainty of the future of Social Security. More so than ever, private savings play a larger role in determining one's retirement. While there may be Social Security reform in the coming years, everyone must be able to adequately plan their savings for the future.

Financial education has proven to be very effective. Simple projects such as stock market simulations help young people understand how to invest in stocks, bonds and mutual funds. It is our hope they will retain these skills when they begin investing their own money.

Organizations such as the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Finance Literacy help spread awareness, especially in school-age children. The National Council on Economic Education has established many programs which give teachers the tools to teach their students basic economic skills and help them apply their knowledge to daily life. These groups recognize the need for more widespread financial literacy, but it is necessary for Congress to place more emphasis on this idea and encourage other organizations to begin to participate in this movement as well.

With a solid background knowledge of financial literacy, we can raise America's youth to become responsible employees, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs and business leaders.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 273 that the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and I introduced earlier this year. The legislation supports the ideas and goals of Financial Literacy Month, which falls in April of each year.

Before I proceed, I want to take this opportunity to thank my good friend and colleague, Congresswoman WATSON from California, for managing time on this resolution for our side of the aisle. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of my Democratic colleagues who cosponsored this important resolution this year.

Together with the tremendous number of cosponsors Congresswoman BIGGERT obtained, we broke our old record of 91 cosponsors and garnered the support of 118 Members of Congress for this bill.

I am very pleased with this development. It shows that an increasing number of Members of Congress are beginning to see the light and come on board

the financial literacy cause with me and Congresswoman BIGGERT.

It is imperative that we, in Congress, pay more attention to the financial literacy rates of our citizens from prekindergarten all the way to retirement. The sooner that a person begins to learn good saving habits, the better off he or she will be in the future.

I am especially pleased and honored to inform you that 18 cities and three counties in my congressional district have issued proclamations honoring April 22–28, 2007, as National Financial Literacy Awareness Week.

The cities, in alphabetical order, include the following: Beeville, Combes, Cuero, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Falfurrias, Goliad, Harlingen, La Feria, La Villa, Mathis, McAllen, Mercedes, Pharr, Primera, Santa Rosa, Weslaco. It also includes three counties, which are as follows: Duval County, Jim Wells County and Karnes County.

□ 1430

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to thank several State legislatures for realizing the importance of financial literacy by taking action to address the diminishing understanding of basic finance by U.S. high school students.

A study completed in 2006 by the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than high school seniors did 7 years earlier, and the average scores in both years were failing. Our high school seniors are failing basic finance.

Add to that the fact that 55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 92 percent of college students acquire at least one credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money. Add all that together, and you have got a recipe for serious financial troubles down the road for college graduates.

Luckily, in recent years State legislatures around the country have increasingly recognized the importance and effectiveness of financial education. As a result, an increasing number of States now require financial education during high school. I hope my colleagues and their staff are taking note of this because the following States now require high school students to pass some form of financial education or literacy courses before they can graduate. Those States include the following: Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, my great State of Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

I strongly recommend that my colleagues contact their State legislators and encourage them to impose similar requirements.

Mr. Speaker, every day consumers deal with money from balancing a checking account to shopping for a mortgage or auto loan, researching a way to pay for a college education, checking credit card statements, saving money for retirement, understanding a credit report, or simply deciding whether to pay cash or charge a purchase. The list goes on and on and on. Many consumers do not really understand their finances.

Now that we know that high school students are failing basic financial literacy exams, it is even more disconcerting to learn that adults are not faring much better. High bankruptcy rates, foreclosures on homes, increased credit card debt, data security breaches, and identity theft make it imperative that all of us take an active role in providing financial and economic education during all stages of one's life.

Every year we here in Congress discuss the future insolvency of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; and that concerns me considerably. But now that I have done some additional research into the demographics and financial standing of the baby boomers, I was shocked to learn that the personal savings as a percentage of income dropped a negative 1 percent in 2006, the lowest since the Great Depression. Even worse, the average baby boomer has only $50,000 in savings for retirement apart from equity in their homes.

These are very serious and disturbing facts that we and our State counterparts must address, and soon. To address these problems and others, I cofounded and currently cochair the Congressional Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus with Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT. The caucus seeks to address these issues head on by increasing public awareness of poor financial literacy rates and working to find the ways and means to improve those rates. The caucus has provided a forum for my colleagues to promote policies that advance financial literacy and economic education.

It is my hope that through the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus we can continue to further educate Americans about financial and economic topics ranging from the importance of saving, reducing credit card debt, obtaining a free annual credit report, avoiding payday lenders, check cashers, and especially these days predatory lenders. Hopefully the caucus can teach individuals to take care of their finances, to lead them down the path to the American Dream of homeownership.

Mr. Speaker, I include for printing in today's RECORD letters in support of this resolution. They include letters from JA Worldwide; National Council on Economic Education; Financial Planning Association, Independent Bankers Association of Texas; MasterCard; the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the National Association of Mortgage Brokers; Networks Financial Institute; North American Securities Administrators Association. It includes HSBC, the Independent Community Bankers of America; Housing Assistance Council; National Association of Federal Credit Unions. It includes Capital One; as well as Visa; Charles Schwab Foundation; Financial Services Forum; Financial Services Roundtable, National Association of Realtors; Girls, Incorporated; AFSA Education Fund; Countrywide, First Nations Oweesta Corporation, Native Americans. It includes National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders; America's Community Bankers; Community Bankers Association; Consumer Mortgage Coalition; Texas Credit Union League; State Farm Insurance Company, Freddie Mac; Wells Fargo; and the National Youth Involvement Board.

Mr. Speaker, several of these groups will be participating in the Financial Literacy Day Fair that will take place April 24 from noon to 4 p.m. here on the Hill at the Cannon Caucus Room. It is my understanding that over 50 different groups will present their financial literacy products, their programs, and ideas during the fair. The last time we hosted the event, over 500 people attended the event not only to take advantage of the free financial literacy advice but also to enjoy a wonderful buffet. I encourage my colleagues and their staff to attend the Financial Literacy Day Fair. Again, I repeat, it will be held April 24 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Cannon Caucus Room and lunch will be served.

On the same day, April 24, at 3 p.m. in room 2220 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus is collaborating with Visa on a different financial literacy event. Visa is bringing Jean Chatzky to the Hill to provide some financial advice and respond to questions. Both Members and staff are invited to this event at 2220 Rayburn from 3:30 to 5 p.m., which I believe will be beneficial and a huge success.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, our country is suffering financially, and our constituents are not armed with the tools they need to provide for a good future. For these reasons and more, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT
WORLDWIDE HEADQUARTERS,
Colorado Springs, CO, April 9, 2007.

Hon. RUBEN HINOJOSA,
Rayburn House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
Longworth House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: On behalf of JA Worldwide™ and our 1,400 associates and 138,700 classroom volunteers around the country, I want to express our full-fledged support for H. Res. 273. This resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month once again demonstrates your leadership in promoting financial literacy and economic education.

With personal bankruptcies and debt continuing to soar, we believe that it is critical

that financial literacy education continue to place a high priority on targeting America's youth. According to the 2007 JA Worldwide Poll on Personal Finance, more than 75 percent of teens nationwide say they influence their parents' buying decisions, while nearly 29 percent of 18- and 19-year olds say they already own and use their own credit cards. The earlier we can provide youth with tools, tips, and strategies to help them successfully manage their finances, the better off our country will be.

I also would like to congratulate you both for your continued leadership of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, and for your commitment to events such as this month's Financial Literacy Day on the Hill. As the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to promoting economic education and financial literacy, JA Worldwide stands ready to assist you and the caucus in advancing the goals of H. Res. 273.

Thank you again for your resolve in championing the importance of a financially literate society. We look forward to working with you in the future to advance this critical issue.

Sincerely,

DAVID S. CHERNOW,
President and CEO, JA Worldwide.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION,
March 27, 2007.

Hon. RUBEN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: On behalf of the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) I am writing to express my support for H. Res. 273, a Resolution Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month. I want to commend you and your colleagues for once again highlighting the importance of financial and economic education.

The NCEE believes that our young people deserve to know about the economic system they will be laboring in, contributing to, benefiting from, and ultimately, inheriting. Since our founding, we have learned that economic and financial literacy, taught early, often, and well, is a key factor in our nation's future success in the global economy. Our charge is to ensure that young people have the tools to embrace an ''economic way of thinking'', a critical skill that will help them make informed decisions based on rational, ethical inquiry.

H. Res. 273 provides an important and timely ''call to action'' from the House of Representatives to improve financial and economic literacy. The first step to address the challenges described in the resolution is to provide our elementary and secondary students with the solid grounding in the fundamentals of economics and personal finance that will lead to sound decisions through life. H. Res. 273 correctly recognizes that ''personal financial management skills and lifelong habits develop during childhood,'' and that it is also essential to increase ''financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.''

We look forward to continuing to work with both of you, along with the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, and all Members of the House and Senate, to achieve the goals reflected in H. Res. 273.

Thank you again for your consistent leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. DUVALL,
President & CEO.

FPA COMMENDS REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT FOR SUPPORTING FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

DENVER, Apr. 10.—The Financial Planning Association® (FPA®) strongly supports the bipartisan congressional resolution (H. Res. 273) designating April as ''Financial Literacy Month'' co-sponsored by Representative Rubén Hinojosa (D–Texas) and Representative Judy Biggert (R–Ill.). This resolution seeks to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the U.S. Throughout the month and across the country, FPA has committed to increasing the public's awareness about the importance of financial education and financial planning.

In observance of Financial Literacy Month, FPA has planned a host of programs and activities to increase financial literacy for individuals of all ages and walks of life. Some of these events include:

April 5—FPA participated in a financial literacy panel featuring Senator Wayne Allard (R–Colo.) at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

April 11—FPA panelist will speak to Capitol Hill staff on issues surrounding retirement and Thrift Savings Plans in conjunction with the Savings Coalition.

April 12—Financial education seminar at the Teen Center in Capital Heights, Md.

April 13—Reverse mortgages seminar at Point East Senior Condominium in Aventura, Fla.

April 13—Presentation for soon-to-be law graduates at University of Michigan School of Law.

April 18—Investing presentation at Wachovia in Richmond, Va.

April 18—Investing presentation at Nexus in Plymouth, Minn.

April 18 and May 9—Forging your financial future, budgeting and investing presentations at the Bronx Community College in New York.

April 19—Tax planning, investment and wealth building seminar for the Black Law Students Association at Yale Law School in New Haven, Conn.

April 24—Participate in exhibit hall at the Financial Literacy Fair sponsored by Jump$tart Coalition in Washington, D.C.

April 25—Budgeting presentations for the Greater Washington Jump$tart Coalition in 17 public high schools in the Washington, D.C. public school system.

April 26—Financial planning 101 presentation at the St. Charles Public Library in St. Charles, Ill.

FPA highly commends Representative Hinojosa and Representative Biggert for leading the Congressional efforts to encourage financial education.

IBAT EDUCATION FOUNDATION,
April 11, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: The Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT), representing over 500 community banks and thrifts, is pleased to wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support House Resolution 273.

A financially literate populace is of paramount importance to the continued economic prosperity of our country and its citizens. The IBAT Main Street Foundation was created to foster and promote the goals outlined in this resolution, and our membership is committed to delivering financial education in a number of venues.

We are especially pleased with a new collaborative agreement with Junior Achievement, with a strong focus on financial education.

We applaud you for your multiple initiatives in this important area, and very much appreciate the support of the many co-sponsors and supporters of this resolution.

We look forward to working together with you and others who share the passion of enhancing the financial knowledge and expertise of our citizenry.

Sincerely,

MARY LANGE, CAE,
President, IBAT Education Foundation.

AICPA SUPPORTS HOUSE RESOLUTION ON APRIL AS FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

NEW YORK, NY, Apr. 10, 2007.—The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) strongly endorses the bi-partisan Congressional resolution (H.R. 273) supporting April as ''Financial Literacy Month.'' This resolution raises awareness about the critical need for financial education in the United States and encourages government, as well as the private sector, to collaborate on this important public service issue.

''The CPA profession is dedicated to improving the financial literacy of all Americans,'' said Barry C. Melancon, AICPA President and CEO. ''The AICPA applauds Reps. RUBÉN HINOJOSA (D–TX) and JUDY BIGGERT (R–IL) and the more than 100 co-sponsors of this resolution for their concern and recognition that a financially educated citizenry is essential to the strength of our country.

''Across the nation, our members are volunteering in their communities every day to help educate Americans about managing their personal finances more effectively. By volunteering in America's schools, providing financial management workshops for deployed soldiers and their spouses, helping protect senior citizens from financial abuse, and many other examples, CPAs are sharing their time and expertise to get Americans moving in the right financial direction.''

The CPA profession is actively committed to improving Americans' financial understanding. In 2004, the AICPA launched 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy (www.360financialliteracy.org) to help Americans understand how financial issues affect them at different life stages. In 2006, the Institute debuted a related campaign with the Ad Council, Feed the Pig™ (www.feedthepig.org), for 25–34-year-olds. A study commissioned by the AICPA found that Americans in this particular age group have seen their median net worth decline over the past 20 years despite increases in income. Moreover, they seem to be willing to take on greater amounts of unsecured debt.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (www.aicpa.org) is the national, professional association of CPAs, with approximately 330,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies; federal, state and local governments; and non-profit organizations. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination. Headquartered in New York, the AICPA also maintains offices in Washington, D.C.; Durham, N.C.; and Lewisville, TX.

CAPITAL ONE FINANCIAL CORPORATION,
McLean, Va, April 9, 2007.

Hon. RUBEN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: On behalf of Capital One, I am writing to express our strong support for H. Res. 273 and its affirmation of the goals and ideals of financial literacy month.

The legislation highlights the importance of greater financial literacy skins for all individuals: ''personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens.'' For several years, Capital One has been a proud supporter of the bill's fundamental principles.

Capital One has an on-going commitment to bettering financial literacy skills in communities across the country. We are particularly proud of our multi-faceted program to develop and deliver financial education to low- and moderate-income populations and others within our local communities and across the country. This program is described below.

Highlights of Capital One's comprehensive efforts in financial education and its partnerships follow:

Finance Park. In 2006, Capital One partnered with Junior Achievement Worldwide to create a signature program—Capital One/Junior Achievement Finance Park—to introduce seventh—and eighth-grade students to money management basics. This unique, mobile program traveled to select cities to provide students the opportunity to experience a day-in-the-life of an adult. The goal is to prepare students to make wise financial decisions. The mobile unit will travel to a number of additional markets in 2007.

MoneyWi$e with Consumer Action. More than five years ago, Capital One partnered with Consumer Action to launch MoneyWi$e, a national literacy partnership. It is the first program to combine free, multilingual financial education materials with community training and seminars. Since 2001, regional conferences have delivered training to more than 400 CBOs from 27 states. Together with Consumer Action, Capital One has also established a stipend program to help ensure that CBOs have access to the resources they need to conduct financial education programs and outreach in their communities.

As a result of this partnership, Capital One has been able to facilitate the distribution of more than 1.5 million free financial education brochures in five languages through a network of 7,300 CBOs nationwide. The program addresses financial literacy across both income and ethnic barriers. All information is provided for free.

Jump$tart Coalition. Together with the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Finance, Capital One works with local and state governments to include a financial education curriculum in public school systems nationwide. Capital One also played a very active role in helping to form a Coalition in Virginia—and Capital One has co-sponsored the Coalition's annual summit for the past two years.

MoneyWi$e University. To help give students the information they need to become financially responsible, Capital One introduced MoneyWi$e University, a program to teach responsible spending and basic money management skills to college-aged students. Developed in partnership with Visa and first introduced on campuses in 2002, the MoneyWi$e University curriculum educates college students about the fundamental elements of credit and budget management. MoneyWi$e University has provided personal instruction to hundreds of students on five campuses around the country.

Ongoing Local Efforts. Capital One has an ongoing program through which associates present financial education seminars directly to clients of local community development organizations.

Through partnerships with leading national non-profit organizations, a grassroots approach to training non-profits to lead Capital One programs on a local level, and direct delivery of financial education to local non-profit organization clients, Capital One has a multi-faceted and comprehensive approach to improving financial literacy. Links to our programs can be found at www.capitalone.com/financialeducation.

Again, we would like to thank you for your introduction of H. Res. 273 and your ongoing leadership with the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus in Congress.

Sincerely,

LARRY STEIN,
Senior Vice President, Policy Affairs.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT, I am writing on behalf of over 1.3 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® to convey our support for H. Res. 273, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. We also commend you and your colleagues for your commitment to raising public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States.

As you know, our Nation's finance system offers access to capital and credit to consumers of almost every economic condition, which has significantly contributed to the highest homeownership rates in our Nation's history. Homeownership is the primary source of a household's net worth and the fundamental first step toward accumulating personal wealth.

For most households, purchasing a home is one of the largest financial transactions they will ever make. However, research reports indicate that many Americans lack the financial knowledge that empowers them to make sure their American dream does not turn into a nightmare. For example, Center for Responsible Lending found that an overwhelming majority of consumers can not calculate interest charges on a loan and the Federal Reserve recently reported that almost half of borrowers with adjustable rate mortgages (ARMS) do not know the potential maximum interest rate for their loan.

REALTORS® believe that financial education is an important defense to helping prevent consumers from getting into abusive mortgages that will undoubtedly be financially destructive. NAR, in partnership with the Center for Responsible Lending, has issued three consumer education brochures, ''How to Avoid Predatory Lending,'' ''Specialty Mortgages: What Are the Risks and Advantages?'' and ''Traditional Mortgages: Understanding Your Options.'' The brochures emphasize how important it is for consumers to make sure they fully understand how traditional non-traditional mortgages work before deciding which is the right choice and how to avoid the pitfalls and entrapments of predatory loans.

In addition to NAR's consumer education materials, many of our state and local associations have high-profile financial education programs in partnership with cities and community groups. Some examples include:

In Maryland, a number of local REALTOR® associations, including in Anne Arundel County, Howard County, Prince George's County, and the Greater Baltimore Board of REALTORS® have partnered with Freddie Mac to develop CreditSmart, a credit education workshop. REALTORS® instructors teach the course to renters, homebuyers, students, and others, on how to manage critical money skills. The skills that course participants obtain help point them in the right direction to managing credit and saving to buy a home.

In 1996, the Illinois Association of REALTORS® organized the Partnership for Home-Ownership, Inc. to help assist low-income rural Illinois residents achieve the dream of homeowners hip. The Partnership has administered several multi-million dollar mortgage programs (in excess of $130 million), provided pre-purchase homebuyer counseling to over 1,500 Illinois residents, and is a HUD approved housing counseling agency. The Partnership also recently oversaw the development of a high school financial educational Web site that is available both in English and in Spanish.

In Arkansas, the Fort Smith Board of Realtors® and the city of Forth Smith have teamed up to create a homebuyer assistance program. Participants receive credit counseling and mortgage readiness education. The program also offers a five-week financial fitness course on budgeting, money management, credit and avoiding predatory lending. Since 1997, more than 200 families have purchased a home as a result of the program.

NAR stands ready to work with you and the members of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus to promote the goals of H. Res. 273 and to support a national strategy focused on helping improve the financial education of all Americans.

Sincerely,

JERRY GIOVANIELLO,
Senior Vice President.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Illinois (Ms. Biggert), the cosponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 273, to designate April as Financial Literacy Month. This will be the fourth year that I have had the pleasure of working with my friend and colleague and fellow Chair of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, Mr. HINOJOSA, to promote the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

I am amazed at the progress that we have made so far over the last few years in raising awareness about the importance of greater financial literacy and economic education. Hundreds, if not thousands, of public-private sector, nonprofit, and community-based organizations across the country have established financial literacy programs. More than 50 of them will be on hand in the Cannon Caucus Room on April 24 to share the benefits of their knowledge and experience at the annual Financial Literacy Day Fair, and I encourage all of our colleagues to attend and learn more about these important efforts.

As Mr. HINOJOSA mentioned, we have received dozens of letters in support of these efforts and this Financial Literacy Month resolution from various financial and educational organizations. And I think that this year we have set a new standard for unity on this issue, with well over 100 Members of Congress co-sponsoring this resolution. In doing so, I think we send a clear, unambiguous message that the

House is committed to addressing one of America's most pressing needs.

And while we have made great strides in raising awareness, the need for improved financial education has never been greater. According to the Federal Reserve, consumer debt in America now exceeds $2.4 trillion. According to the Department of Commerce, the personal savings rate in America recently dropped to negative 1.1 percent, a level that has not been seen since the Great Depression.

The fact is that today's marketplace abounds with options for managing wealth. Credit and investment opportunities are presented to consumers on a daily basis. For instance, by the time they reach their second year in school, the vast majority, 92 percent, of American college students have at least one credit card, and yet just a small fraction of those students have sat down with their parents and learned the basic principles of money management, like compound interest and supply and demand.

We have a responsibility to ensure that Americans of all ages have access to the tools and resources they need to capitalize on their investment choices, succeed in today's sophisticated economic market, and enjoy a secure financial future. And the key to this success continues to be basic financial education starting early, during grades K through 12.

It is a testament to the progress we are making that 38 States now include personal finance education in their curriculum guidelines. But we must continue building on this progress if we are to help today's students become tomorrow's successful investors, entrepreneurs, and business leaders.

The Financial Literacy and Education Commission established by Congress in the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act of 2003 recently held a national summit to develop better methods of teaching money management skills. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Education and Labor Committee to implement and enhance economic education initiatives as we work to reauthorize No Child Left Behind in the coming year.

I also look forward to working with my colleagues on legislation that will put young Americans on the path to an affordable education and a firm financial future.

At the start of the 110th Congress, I introduced one such bill, H.R. 87, the 401 Kids Family Savings Act of 2007. This bill will allow parents and family members to set aside money in a child's account that will accumulate interest tax free and can be used for college tuition, a first home, or even retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is critically important that families have access to effective savings mechanisms like these if they are to secure their financial futures. But it is even more important that Americans have the know-how and motivation to use them, and that is the goal of the Financial Literacy Month and the resolution before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my good friend and distinguished colleague from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for introducing this resolution and for his dedication to improving financial literacy. I also would like to thank Mr. HINOJOSA's staff, especially Greg Davis, for all their hard work, diligent work in bringing this resolution to the floor. I would also like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. TOM DAVIS, for helping to move this resolution through their committee in such a timely and bipartisan manner. And, finally, I would like to thank the gentlelady from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for their support and for managing this resolution on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters regarding H. Res. 273, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month":

MASTERCARD WORLDWIDE,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: I am writing to communicate MasterCard Worldwide's strong support for House Resolution 273, which highlights the goals and promotes the spirit of financial literacy month.

MasterCard Worldwide shares your vision of increasing financial literacy, illustrated by our various consumer education programs. Specifically, MasterCard has developed two programs called Debt Know How and Are You Credit Wise? which target consumers at different stages of their financial lives and aims to increase successful financial planning.

By offering consumers easy-to-understand tips and resources to increase their financial planning efforts, MasterCard's Debt Know How program helps consumers successfully manage debt. The program was developed in conjunction with the University of Minnesota Extension Service and is available in both English and Spanish. Debt Know How is offered in both a "trainer the trainer" format for community leaders as well as in a direct-to-consumer format design to reach families currently struggling with debt.

Are You Credit Wise? is MasterCard's consumer education program which aims to increase financial literacy rates among America's college students by teaching successful financial planning skills. The program employs a peer-to-peer teaching model to maximize its effectiveness, as college students are more inclined to listen and act upon information coming from their peers than from parents, teachers or counselors. In its eighth year, the Are You Credit Wise? program has reached more than 420,000 students on 58 college and university campuses in the U.S. and Canada.

We once again applaud your leadership and your tireless efforts to improve the lives of the American people through increased financial literacy.

Sincerely,

JOSHUA PEIREZ,
Group Executive, Global Public Policy.

NAMB,
Washington, DC, April 10, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AND CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT: On behalf of the 27,000 members of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers (NAMB), I would like to thank you and your colleagues for your work on House Resolution 273, supporting the goals of National Financial Literacy Month.

At a time when home buyers and consumers face the hurdles of a complicated marketplace and predatory lenders, your work educating consumers is invaluable. As you know, an educated consumer is a protected consumer.

As H.R. 273 makes clear, smart financial management is the result of a lifetime of sound spending habits and financial education. Encouraging consumers to develop these good habits is essential to ensuring strong credit and a healthy financial outlook.

NAMB joins you in our dedication to maintaining the highest commitment to consumer education on mortgage and home-buying issues. Our members work to improve the financial understanding of consumers across the country in a variety of ways. First, our work with Freddie Mac's CreditSmart and CreditSmart Español has helped lower-income workers and families better manage their financial futures. Second, we inspire a commitment to consumer education in the next generation of mortgage brokers through our work with Delta Epsilon Chi (DECA). DECA is an international association of high school and college students studying business and entrepreneurship.

NAMB applauds your commitment to this issue and your dedication on behalf of consumers and across the Nation. We salute your efforts to improve the lives and financial futures of hard-working Americans.

Sincerely,

HARRY DINHAM,
President, National Association of Mortgage Brokers.

NETWORKS FINANCIAL INSTITUTE,
Indianapolis, IN, April 10, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: On behalf of Networks Financial Institute at Indiana State University (NFI), I am writing to express our strong support for H. Res. 273 as well as our appreciation for your leadership on the critical issue of financial literacy.

In recent years, the need to improve financial literacy has gained a significant amount of attention as Americans save less for their retirement and spend more of their disposable income. In our consumer oriented society, long-term saving and investing for retirement have become overlooked priorities and resulted in unsustainable credit card debt and personal bankruptcies. This trend has the potential for long term negative consequences on the well being of both individual households and our nation's economic stability.

NFI works diligently to effect positive change in the financial literacy of all Americans through our research, collaboration,

and implementation of financial literacy education programs. A deep body of research exists that shows the importance of introducing literacy skills as early in a child's cognitive development as possible. This continuum of learning extends to financial literacy. As such, NFI is committed to providing financial literacy education to all age levels beginning in early childhood. Parents and teachers are in the best position to shape the knowledge and behaviors of future consumers, and to give children the foundation they need to make the best financial literacy choices.

NFI commends you for the very crucial role you play in the financial education of Americans, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues in the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus to insure that the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month are realized each and every day.

Sincerely yours,

ELIZABETH A. COIT,
Executive Director.

Washington, DC, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: HSBC–North America strongly supports H. Res. 273, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. On behalf of HSBC, I would like to commend you and Congresswoman Biggert for your ongoing efforts to highlight the importance of financial literacy at the national level.

As an industry leader, HSBC champions several issues important to consumers, including financial education. Through the Center for Consumer Advocacy, a repository of information on financial literacy education, insights, and guidance, HSBC continues its commitment to improving America's financial literacy rates.

Signature initiatives include:

YourMoneyCounts.com—HSBC's consumer education website provides information in a broad range of financial and money management topics. There are over 1,900 site visitors per month.

Adult Financial Literacy Workshops—In partnership with the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE), HSBC provides financial education workshops at numerous community locations. More than 5,000 families were educated in 2006.

Financial Education Grant Program—HSBC provides $1 million in grant funding to support consumer financial education, credit management, and home buyer counseling programs. These programs are provided by twelve organizations in nine states, and assisted more than 164,000 families in 2006.

YourFutureCounts—In partnership with the Society for Financial Education and Professional Development (SFED), HSBC presents credit management and personal financial management seminars in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) campuses nationwide. More than 11,000 students have attended seminars since the program's inception in 2005.

Additionally, during Financial Literacy month, HSBC will host and participate in many financial literacy activities across the nation, including Capitol Hill, that help Americans gain critical information necessary to successfully manage their personal finances. For example, once again this year, HSBC will serve as a lead sponsor of the Federal Reserve Bank's Chicago Money Smart Week from April 30–May 5. We are proud of our involvement in this important program which offers consumers a wealth of information on how to better manage their personal finances through more than 300 events ranging in topic from credit to home buying to retirement.

We, at HSBC, believe financial education empowers consumers to use credit wisely, build assets and accumulate wealth, providing everyone with an opportunity for a secure and comfortable future.

Your leadership on this issue is essential to raise awareness and to implement a national strategy to improve the money management, credit use, and debt management skills of all individuals. We look forward to continuing to work with you and greatly appreciate your efforts to make financial literacy a nationwide endeavor.

Sincerely,

J. DENIS O'TOOLE,
Senior Vice President, Government Relations HSBC–North America.

[From the Independent Community Bankers of America]

ICBA APPLAUDS REPS. HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT FOR RESOLUTION ON FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

WASHINGTON, DC. (April 4, 2007)—The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) strongly supports the bi-partisan congressional resolution (H. Res. 273) designating April as ''Financial Literacy Month,'' which calls on government, non-profit organizations and the private sector to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that can result from a lack of understanding about personal finances.

''Managing money wisely is critical to success in life,'' said James P. Ghiglieri, Jr., ICBA chairman and president of Alpha Community Bank, Toluca, Ill. ''Too many Americans lack the skill and knowledge to make appropriate financial decisions. The more consumers and young adults know, the better they are at managing their finances, and the better they manage their finances, the more likely they are to enjoy a secure financial future.''

ICBA has an on-going commitment to improving financial literacy by encouraging community banks to provide financial education within their communities and by forging government, nonprofit and private-sector partnerships, such as the FDIC Money Smart program, JumpStart Coalition, and Practical Money Skills for Life.

''We commend Reps. Rubén Hinojosa (D–Tex.) and Judy Biggert (R–Ill.), along with the more than 100 cosponsors, for introducing a resolution that supports the goals and ideas of Financial Literacy Month,'' said Ghiglieri. ''Financial education is important for today's consumers so that they can understand and make good decisions when faced with the complex array of financial products and services available.''

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS,
Arlington, VA, April 5, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AND CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT: On behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU), the only trade organization that exclusively represents the interests of our nation's federal credit unions, I want to thank you for introducing H. Res. 273, in support of the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

As you know America's savings rate has been steadily decreasing for years. While there is no easy solution to the problem, highlighting the most problematic issues and focusing on creating a comprehensive national plan to improve financial literacy is a very important step forward. NAFCU and its membership was particularly pleased to see Congress acknowledge the importance of increasing financial literacy awareness through the strong bi-partisan support of this resolution. With America's savings rate at its lowest point in years and consumer debt continuing to steadily grow, designating April as Financial Literacy Month is an excellent step in raising public awareness on this important issue.

As I am sure you are already aware, improving financial education and teaching members to invest prudently is a hallmark of the credit union movement. I wanted to take this opportunity to offer NAFCU's expertise in that field should you have any questions regarding the many diverse and unique programs that credit unions offer in this regard. With nearly 800 member credit unions, NAFCU and its members have a number of knowledgeable individuals who have helped design and implement numerous financial literacy programs.

Again, if NAFCU can be of any help to you or the Committee, please contact me or NAFCU Director of Legislative Affairs.

Sincerely,

FRED R. BECKER, Jr.,
President/CEO.

VISA.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: I am writing to commend you for your efforts on behalf of financial education, and for introducing H. Res. 273, a ''Resolution Supporting the Goals of Financial Literacy Month.''

Visa, through its ''Practical Money Skills for Life'' program, has been working to expand and improve financial literacy for youth in schools, as well as consumers at all stages of life. This award-winning comprehensive educational program includes interactive, computer based activities, as well as plans that can be used by teachers to deliver financial literacy lessons in the classroom.

Visa developed Practical Money Skills for Life in close consultation with educational and nonprofit financial literacy organizations. These materials are available for free through the Internet at http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/.

Recently, Visa announced its first ever statewide rollout of its ''Financial Football'' program in West Virginia. Financial Football is a popular, interactive computer game that incorporates content from Practical Money Skills for Life, and tests students' knowledge by combining the structure and rules of the NFL with financial education questions.

This statewide rollout, conducted in partnership with West Virginia State Treasurer John D. Perdue, distributed Financial Football game and curriculum CDs to all high schools in the State.

Visa is encouraged by your leadership on financial education issues. We look forward to working with you, the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, your House and Senate colleagues, and the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, to advance this very important cause.

Thank you again for your dedication to improving financial literacy.

Sincerely,

LISA B. NELSON,
Senior Vice President & Director, Government Relations.

THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ROUNDTABLE,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINJOSA AND BIGGERT: The Financial Services Roundtable applauds your leadership in introducing House Resolution 273, recognizing the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. We strongly support your efforts to strengthen Americans' understanding of the financial world.

The Roundable considers financial literacy integral to Americans in realizing their dreams by preparing them to save, invest, and manage their money. This resolution highlights the positive impact of sound financial literacy on achieving life's goals. Whether you are just entering the workforce, purchasing your first home or nearing retirement age, everyone can benefit from increased financial awareness and education.

The Roundtable has put in place trusted resources like www.MyMoneyManagement.net and 888–995–HOPE to help consumers. MyMoneyManagement.net is the first industry-wide financial education effort to provide comprehensive information to help Americans with their financial difficulties and direct them to nonprofit credit counselors. 888–995–HOPE is available 24/7 to homeowners in America having trouble paying their mortgage. Homeowners receive free foreclosure prevention counseling by expert counselors at HUD approved agencies.

The Financial Services Roundtable represents 100 of the largest integrated financial services companies providing banking, insurance, and investment products and services to the American consumer. Member companies participate through the Chief Executive Officer and other senior executives nominated by the CEO. Roundtable member companies provide fuel for America's economic engine, accounting directly for $65.8 trillion in managed assets, $1 trillion in revenue, and 2.4 millions jobs.

We thank you for your leadership in recognizing Financial Literacy Month through H. Res. 273. The Roundtable is proud to support this important resolution.

Best regards,

STEVE BARTLETT,
President and CEO.

AFSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Re: Support for House Resolution 273

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA AND REPRESENTATIVE BIGGERT: The American Financial Services Association Education Foundation (AFSAEF) and AFSA strongly support H. Res. 273—the bi-partisan resolution designating April as Financial Literacy Month. Furthermore, we commend your exemplary leadership in championing financial literacy education for youth and adults.

AFSAEF and AFSA are committed to improving the financial literacy of all Americans and especially our youth through our initiatives. AFSAEF developed and made available free of charge MoneySKILL®, an interactive online personal finance curriculum, aimed at the millions of high school students who graduate each year without a basic understanding of money management fundamentals. It is designed to be used as all or part of their grade for courses in economics, math, or social studies. The 34-module curriculum includes the content areas of income, expenses, assets, liabilities and risk management that is targeted at high school students. A life simulation module asks students to project their own life expectancies regarding jobs, neighborhood, cars, education plans, marriage plans and the number of children they plan to have. The simulation allows students to incorporate MoneySKILL® personal finance concepts into their everyday lives. It challenges them to make the concepts their own, providing them with skills that will last a lifetime.

Since it was introduced, high school teachers in all 50 states have been successfully incorporating MoneySKILL® into their course curricula. In fact, in the past two months teachers from 40 states have enrolled more than 9,100 new students to use the course. Teacher-training workshops have proven to be the most effective way to reach teachers. Currently we have 21 workshops scheduled for this year; more are being added as conference plans are finalized. In addition to MoneySKILL, AFSAEF provides a comprehensive array of financial brochures and ''how to'' materials for use by adults.

AFSAEF and AFSA strongly support the goals of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and especially your unwavering leadership. We encourage the U.S. House of Representatives to pass H.R. 273.

Sincerely,

M. SUSIE IRVINE,
President and CEO, AFSA Education Foundation.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AND CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT: Congratulations on your introduction of H. Res. 273, the resolution designating April as Financial Literacy Month. Congratulations also on your outstanding leadership on this vitally important issue. The Housing Assistance Council strongly supports your efforts through your caucus and this resolution to increase awareness about the importance of financial education and economic literacy in our nation.

HAC sees on a regular basis the consequences that can result from a lack of understanding about personal finances. The local housing development nonprofits that HAC assists often have a difficult time qualifying potential homebuyers because of financial and credit problems. In addition, some families that become homeowners may suffer if they do not budget carefully or unwisely borrow against the equity in their homes. These and other problems likely could be avoided if the families and individuals involved learned better personal financial literacy at a younger age, or in pre- and post-purchase counseling.

Please let us know if we can be of any help in your admirable and essential work.

Sincerely,

MOISES LOZA,
Executive Director.

APRIL 11, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: On behalf of the Charles Schwab Foundation, I offer my congratulations on your reappointment as Co-Chairs of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus for the 110th Congress. I also want to thank you for introducing H. Res. 273, which designates April as ''Financial Literacy Month,'' and for attracting a bipartisan group of more than 100 co-sponsors of the resolution. At Schwab, we share your belief that increasing financial literacy is critically important to ensuring that Americans save more, spend responsibly, and plan for their futures.

As you know, Schwab partners with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America to offer a financial education program, ''Money Matters: Make It Count,'' in teen Clubs around the country. This program of fun, interactive lessons teaches teenagers everything from the basics of opening a savings account and writing checks to managing a budget, getting financial aid for college and even the basics of investing and entrepreneurship. This highly successful program has helped provide financial confidence to more than 40,000 teens in the first two years it was offered. It has also provided a great opportunity for Schwab employees to offer their expertise as teachers, both in the Clubs and in local schools.

The need for improved financial education, particularly for teens, was underscored by the results of Teens & Money, an annual survey released last month by Schwab. We found that teens have lofty expectations about their futures, estimating that they will be earning an average salary of $145,500, despite the fact that only 5 percent of the U.S. population currently earns a six-figure income, and the average national wages are about $40,000. And while 62 percent of teens say that they are prepared to deal with the adult financial world after high school, further probing finds gaps that do not correspond with this confidence. Only 41 percent say they are knowledgeable about how to budget, just 26 percent understand how credit card fees and interest work, and only 24 percent know whether a check-cashing service is a good thing to use. The credit card issue is of particular concern, because our survey found that almost a third (29 percent) of teens have already incurred debt.

The positive news from the survey is that teenagers want to learn more about personal finance. Nearly 90 percent want to learn how to make their money grow, and 60 percent say that learning about money management is a top priority. But teens are not getting the education they need. Just 28 percent are being taught about budgeting, spending and saving by their parents or guardians. Only 24 percent say that their parents have taught them how to use a credit card responsibly. Interestingly, two-thirds of the teens surveyed say they would prefer to learn through experience rather than in the classroom.

To help address these issues, Schwab is launching this month Schwab MoneyWise™, a comprehensive cross-generational package of financial education materials, including a web site, which will offer tools for parents who would like to help their teens learn more about money.

We believe that programs like our partnership with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and our new MoneyWise initiative are important ways to reach young people, and there are numerous other programs sponsored by other companies and organizations that are

focused on the same goal. We also believe that there needs to be a concerted national effort to raise awareness about the importance of financial literacy. Every level of government, our schools, our private sector companies, our non-profit organizations, and, perhaps most importantly, our parents all have an important role to play. We need to continue to work together to find creative solutions and encourage a national discussion of the basics of financial education. Efforts like designating April as ''Financial Literacy Month'' and the April 24th Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill are important parts of this effort, and we are very pleased to support both.

Thank you very much for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

CARRIE SCHWAB POMERANTZ,
President, Charles Schwab Foundation.

□ 1445

Ms. WATSON. I have no further speakers, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 273.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to acknowledge that today our country has been struck by a terrible, terrible tragedy. The death toll at Virginia Tech now is reported to be over 30. This is the worst campus shooting in the history of our country.

As the Virginia Tech community struggles with the mourning and questioning that is certain to follow, the continued prayers of this Congress are with the students, their families, the faculty and the staff at Virginia Tech.

Leader BOEHNER joins me in extending our condolences to all concerned. And we ask for a moment of silence to be observed in this body. Would we all please rise to observe the moment of silence.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED IN MEMORY OF THOSE SLAIN AT VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the Nation's 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 71

Whereas the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) was founded July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by eight visionary Greek immigrants to help unify, organize, and protect against the bigotry, discrimination, and defamation faced by people of all ethnic, race, and religious backgrounds perpetrated predominantly by the Ku Klux Klan;

Whereas the mission of AHEPA is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, which include philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism;

Whereas since its inception, AHEPA has instilled in its members an understanding of their Hellenic heritage and an awareness of the contributions made to the development of democratic principles and governance in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas AHEPA has done much throughout its history to foster American patriotism;

Whereas members of AHEPA served in the Armed Forces of the United States to protect American freedom and to preserve those democratic ideals that are part of the Hellenic legacy, and specifically in World War II, were parachuted behind enemy lines in Nazi-occupied Greece to help liberate it;

Whereas AHEPA raised more than $253 million for United States War Bonds during World War II, for which AHEPA was named an official Issuing Agent for United States War Bonds by the Department of Treasury, an honor that no other civic organization was able to achieve at the time;

Whereas the members of AHEPA donated $612,000 toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, New York, for which AHEPA received special recognition by the Department of the Interior;

Whereas the AHEPA National Housing Program was awarded $500 million by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its Section 202 Program that has yielded 4,370 units in 80 properties across 21 states and 49 cities which has provided dignified, affordable housing to senior citizens;

Whereas AHEPA was recognized by the Department of State as an organization that has engaged in ''Track Two Diplomacy'' to foster reconciliation and rapprochement in the Eastern Mediterranean, which is in the best interest of the United States;

Whereas members of AHEPA raised $110,000 for the creation of the George C. Marshall Statue erected on the grounds of the United States Embassy in Athens, Greece in celebration of the historic relationship between the United States and Greece, and in tribute to an outstanding Statesman and Philhellene, General Marshall;

Whereas AHEPA financially supports scholarships, educational chairs, medical research, and countless other charitable and philanthropic causes by contributing more than $2,000,000 annually from its national, district, and local levels collectively;

Whereas in the spirit of their Hellenic heritage and in commemoration of the Centennial Olympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia, members of AHEPA raised $775,000 for the ''Tribute'' to Olympism Sculpture, the ''fan-like'' structure of which helped to save lives during the Olympic Bombing at Centennial Olympic Park;

Whereas members of AHEPA have been Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States, United States Senators and Representatives, and United States Ambassadors, and have served honorably as elected officials at the local and State levels throughout the United States; and

Whereas President George H.W. Bush cited AHEPA as one of America's ''thousand points of light'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of American citizens of Hellenic heritage to the United States,

(2) commemorates the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), applauds its mission, and commends the many charitable contributions of its members to communities around the world, and

(3) requests the President of the United States to issue a proclamation acknowledging the 85th Anniversary of AHEPA and its many accomplishments.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 71, to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, a leading association for 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution, and I thank Mrs. MALONEY for her leadership as the author of the resolution and as one of the Chairs of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, known as AHEPA, was born out of the cruelty and subjugation imposed upon many minorities by hate groups during the early 20th century. The organization was founded in Atlanta in 1922 to respond to growing attacks on Greek Americans and Greek American businesses by the Ku Klux Klan. It has since grown to become the largest and oldest American-based, Greek-heritage grass-roots membership organization.

AHEPA's initial interests were to cultivate Greek-owned businesses and help its members assimilate into American culture. Today, AHEPA's mission is to carry the legacy of Greek culture throughout generations. The organization continues to do this through diversification, language immersion and educational enrichment. AHEPA is known for its philanthropic resources which fund equal opportunity housing, hospitals, specialty schools and academic scholarships.

While AHEPA primarily is a membership organization for Greek Americans or Americans of Greek descent, membership is open to all Americans who support the organization's mission. This is the finest tradition of Philhellenism, and reminds us that the modern relationship between the people of America and of Greece was forged by their parallel struggles for freedom from foreign tyranny, and by the inspiration we both take from the democracy first developed centuries ago in Greece.

For 85 years the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association has remained an organization that embodies the true meaning of America. I commend AHEPA, and ask that my colleagues support this commendation. I urge all my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 71.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

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

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, is the largest and oldest American-based, Greek-heritage, grass-roots membership organization. It was created on July 26, 1922, in response to the alarming number of local and national groups whose missions were based on racism.

The founders of AHEPA were Greek immigrants who strove to find ways to adapt to their new country and honor their heritage and cultural ideals. Their mission is to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and family and individual excellence. These efforts are made through community service and volunteerism. It is an organization with over 1.3 million participants, making it the largest association for American citizens of Greek ancestry.

AHEPA's commitment to education is one of its strongest components. Over $4 million is endowed at the local, district and national levels toward the use of scholarships, and a half million dollars is awarded annually to thousands of students. By providing these scholarships, it affords students the opportunities to educate and be educated on the rich, cultural history of relations between Greece and the United States.

Other AHEPA achievements include securing funding for the ''Tribute to Olympism'' sculpture in Atlanta, Georgia, the creation of the George C. Marshall statue at the United States Embassy located in Athens, Greece, and the Federal grant of $500 million providing affordable housing to senior citizens. A few of AHEPA's philanthropic successes include the restoration of the Statue of Liberty at Ellis Island, and they continue to send care packages to our troops through the USO.

In their 85th year, the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association continues to promote its ideals of ancient Greece through community service and volunteerism. The association has grown tremendously over the years, and it is to be congratulated for its charitable contributions to society both in the U.S. and throughout the world.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great Greek American pride that I rise today to offer my congratulations on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association. Founded in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 26, 1922, as a reaction to racism and bigotry, AHEPA is the oldest and largest American Hellenic organization in the United States today. Its mission, to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence, set the standard for ethnic organizations, and has helped Greek Americans become one of the most successful ethnic groups in the United States.

AHEPA's list of accomplishments is amazing. It has endowed millions of dollars in academic scholarships, and the AHEPA family has contributed over $1 billion in national projects for such deserving entities as Saint Basil's Academy, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, the Special Olympics, and Muscular Dystrophy research.

Additionally, the AHEPA National Housing Corporation has secured over $4 million to develop and complete over 70 housing projects for low-income seniors.

AHEPA's patriotic endeavors have included helping thousands of Greek immigrants assimilate into American life, and four of those immigrants were my grandparents, Mr. Speaker, raising $253 million for the U.S. bond drive during World War II, helping to restore the Statue of Liberty, providing tens of thousands of dollars to the 9/11 relief effort, and sending countless care packages to our troops overseas.

Its good works are endless, Mr. Speaker. That is why I am so proud to tell you that I am a member of AHEPA. And I will tell you that I am a member on the local level of the Tarpon Springs Chapter in Florida, the George Washington Chapter, Number 16, which was founded in the 1920s.

As cochair of the Caucus on Hellenic Affairs, I will continue to work closely with my cochair, CAROLYN MALONEY, my fellow Greek American Congressmen and women, Philhellenes in Congress, as well as AHEPA president, Gus James, to encourage the wonderful educational and philanthropic endeavors that have characterized AHEPA for 85 years.

Also, I promise to work in conjunction with AHEPA to continue to strengthen U.S./Greece relations, secure religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and that is our number one issue, Mr. Speaker, and promote solutions to the Cypress and the FYROM issues.

I wish Mr. Gus James and the whole AHEPA family continued success and a long life as it continues to serve as a beacon of hope, true and good things. That is what Hellenic Americans want. Bravo AHEPA, and at least 85 more.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the founding of an organization truly worthy of the praise of this body and of our Nation.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, was founded to embrace ideals which are prized by the United States and Greece both individually and jointly. The Greek American community seeks to embody the principles of AHEPA's mission, most notably: freedom from bigotry and discrimination, philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that the Greek-American community is represented by an organization of the caliber and effectiveness of AHEPA.

AHEPA has done much over the years to strengthen and support our Nation domestically and to further our interests internationally—from providing dignified affordable senior housing at home, to encouraging a more stable Eastern Mediterranean and a stronger EU.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in strong support of this resolution commemorating the 85th anniversary of the founding of AHEPA and recognizing the significant contributions of Greek-Americans to the United States.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are able to bring before the House today H. Con. Res. 71, commemorating the 85th anniversary of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA.

I am a proud original cosponsor of this resolution that honors an organization that spreads the universal truths of Hellenism—humanity, freedom, and democracy—across the United States and around the world.

AHEPA was founded to stand against the forces of bigotry and hate and to help Greek immigrants to become part of our Nation. The organization also helps young people achieve their dreams of education and supporting philanthropy and public service that helps the neediest in our society.

As a Member of Congress, I am proud to participate in the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs. In this capacity, I work with fellow Members to enhance and strengthen the United States' relationship with Greece and the Republic of Cyprus. The friendship

between our nations has a long and rich history, and by continuing to further this important bond, we can stand together to advance the causes of liberty and democracy.

At this 85th anniversary we can reflect on AHEPA's past successes and upon the many ways in which Greek-Americans have enriched the fabric of our country. It is also a time to look forward with hope and anticipation to a future of continuing to build the vision that is AHEPA.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 71, which pays tribute to the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, on the occasion of its 85th anniversary. I commend my colleague, the chair of the Hellenic Caucus for her leadership on this and other issues of importance to Hellenism.

AHEPA was formed in July of 1922 as part of an effort to combat the bigotry of the Ku Klux Klan and others who were espousing anti-immigrant sentiments toward immigrants, including those of Greek descent. It soon joined forces with the likes of the NAACP and B'nai B'rith to engage in the fight against discrimination and for a just and equal society.

Early on, AHEPA also sought to help newly arrived Greeks become United States citizens and to share in the civic life of our country by forming schools that taught English and the principles of American government. At the same time, AHEPA sought to educate all Americans about the significant heritage and contributions immigrants of Greek descent add to the American community.

As an organization, it fast grew to make enormous contributions to our society. To cite one early example, AHEPA raised more than $253 million in the U.S. War Bond drive during World War II, which earned it distinctive recognition from the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Today the AHEPA mission has evolved, but it still seeks to bring the ideals of ancient Greece—including philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence—to the modern day community. AHEPA's Educational Foundation now has an endowment of over $4 million which annually provides for more than a half a million dollars in scholarships at the local, district and national levels. Thousands of young men and women have benefited from AHEPA scholarships. From its Centennial Foundation and its Cooley's Anemia Foundation to its National Housing Corporation, the contributions AHEPA now makes, both here in the United States and around the globe are too vast to mention individually.

But Mr. Speaker, I take personal pride in each of these contributions and accomplishments because I myself am a member of AHEPA. So on this important occasion, I am especially honored to commend President Gus James and the rest of the AHEPA leadership not only for continuing AHEPA's phenomenal tradition of service and philanthropy, but also for their very thoughtful innovations which have helped AHEPA make distinct strides in the evolution of its mission for today.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 71 which commemorates the 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this resolution to pay tribute to AHEPA, which is a leading association for the 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry.

AHEPA was founded on June 26, 1922. Since that day, AHEPA remained true to its mission to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence.

AHEPA, has helped its members gain a richer understanding of Hellenic heritage and awareness of its contributions to democratic principles in the United States and across the globe.

AHEPA members have served in our Nation's Armed Forces, helped raise funds for United States War Bonds during World War II, helped in the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, and performed many other acts to help foster American patriotism.

As a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise to honor the AHEPA and all American citizens of Greek ancestry for their ongoing contributions to our country.

When establishing our democratic Nation, our founding fathers drew a great deal from the ancient Greeks. Our democratic system, that is founded on the principals of popular representation, was introduced by the ancient Athenians who were the first to create a civilization based on the rule of the people. Our founding fathers continued the Greek tradition of debating how best to govern and pursued a government that would provide liberty and justice for all. Our dual experiments in democratic government will forever link the United States and Greece.

Not only can we trace the origins of our democratic government to Greece, but also the foundation of science. As some of the first philosophers, the Greeks explored the fields of mathematics, logic, astronomy, physics and biology. The Greeks focused on thinking and understanding, rather than the practical use of their findings in science. Through Aristotle's concepts we built the foundations for the modern scientific method. Our basic understanding of the Earth and its place in the solar system came from the studies of Ancient Greeks.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Con. Res. 71, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 71.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST GALLO

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) honoring the life of Ernest Gallo.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 88

Whereas Ernest Gallo was born March 18, 1909, in Jackson, California, the son of Italian immigrants, graduated from Modesto High School in 1927, earned a degree from Modesto Junior College, and married Amelia Franzia, daughter of the founders of Franzia Winery in 1931;

Whereas Ernest Gallo, with his brother Julio Gallo, founded E. & J. Gallo Winery at the end of the Prohibition Era in 1933, beginning with only $5,900 in savings and a winemaking pamphlet from the Modesto Public Library to make their first batch, growing their small family-owned winery into the world's second largest by volume, and selling an estimated 75,000,000 cases a year worldwide under approximately 100 different labels;

Whereas Ernest Gallo began his illustrious career at a young age, working in his parents' vineyard while attending Modesto High School and demonstrating his entrepreneurial spirit early in life by traveling at the age of 17 to complete his first business deal;

Whereas Ernest Gallo, demonstrating great vision, anticipated the growth of the wine industry and developed the first-of-its kind vertically integrated company, with vineyards stretching across California, an on-site bottling plant, and an art department to design bottles and labels, changing the face of California's wine industry;

Whereas the Gallo Winery employs 4,600 people in the State of California, providing critical highly-skilled employment opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley and greatly contributing to the economic strength of the State;

Whereas Ernest Gallo and the Gallo Winery were bestowed countless awards for achievement in winemaking, including the American Society of Enologists Merit Award, the wine industry's highest honor, in 1964 for outstanding leadership in the wine industry, the Gold Vine Award from the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine wine fraternity, the 1983 Distinguished Service Award from The Wine Spectator, and the Winery of the Year Award in both 1996 and 1998 by the San Francisco International Wine Competition; and

Whereas Ernest Gallo was widely known for his generous philanthropic work in the City of Modesto and throughout the state of California, including an endowment for the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, the establishment of the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco for research into genetic, biochemical, and neurobiological aspects of alcohol abuse, and countless other healthcare and educational endeavors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors the life of Ernest Gallo, a pioneer in the field of winemaking, dedicated philanthropist, and community leader.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Ernest Gallo, who learned his craft of winemaking from a recipe in the basement of the Modesto public library with his brother Julio and with $5,900 of borrowed money, developed one of the largest wine empires in the world. They founded the E. & J. Gallo Winery in 1933 at the end of Prohibition. The Gallos rented a building and made an ordinary wine for 50 cents a gallon. They made $30,000 their first year of business. Mr. Ernest Gallo was an aggressive business leader who worked long hours and then went home and worked some more. His company made wines under more than 40 labels and employed 4,600 workers with wine sales in over 90 countries.

For decades the name ''Gallo'' was synonymous with inexpensive California wine. Mr. Gallo battled that image with advertisement; with humor; and to a large extent, by buying up wineries with more exclusive labels than his own company.

Robert Mondavi of Napa Valley, and a friend, said, ''Ernest was a visionary. He was committed to making America a wine-drinking country.''

Mr. Gallo lived and breathed wine. He aired wine commercials on TV and participated on wine promotion boards. He chaired the Wine Institute and mentored generations of winemakers. He erected wine billboards and traveled the country checking on wine displays in supermarkets. He enjoyed drinking his own wines, particularly a product that morphed over years from ''red table wine'' to ''Cabernet Sauvignon.''

Mr. Gallo had an uncanny talent for tapping into consumer tastes with sweet products such as Boone's Farm, which was so popular in the 1970s, which caused a worldwide shortage in the apple concentrate it was made from, and other products like Ripple and Thunderbird.

He moved upscale in 1974, introducing high-quality, cork-finished varietal wines, but the venture failed. He also developed E. & J. brandy and Bartles & Jaymes wine coolers. Additionally, Mr. Gallo developed its Gallo of Sonoma line and began buying upscale competitors, including the Mirassou and Louis M. Martini labels, and introducing foreign brands Ecco and other types of wine.

Mr. Gallo died unexpectedly in his Modesto home on March 6 of this year. He lived to the ripe old age of 97. And his brother Julio Gallo passed in 1993.

I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) for introducing H. Con. Res. 88, honoring the life of Ernest Gallo, and I urge its swift passage.

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

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

Today we honor the lifetime achievements of Ernest Gallo, one of the most celebrated American winemakers of the last century.

Ernest Gallo was the eldest of three brothers, born in the Sierra Nevada foothills of California to Italian immigrants. He and his brothers grew up learning about vineyards and winemaking from their father. Upon their parents' untimely death in 1933, Ernest and his brother Julio took control of the family business. Learning from library-issued pamphlets on winemaking, their goal was to make their company nationally known for affordable and quality wine. They founded E. & J. Gallo Winery with a humble investment of $5,900. Over time they went on to develop one of the largest wine empires in the world, now employing 4,600 workers and selling to 90 different countries. In fact, his winery currently sells one out of every four bottles of wine that Americans now consume.

Along with founding E. & J. Gallo Winery, Ernest Gallo often supported the industry through philanthropic work. He founded the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto. He established the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco, which conducts numerous studies and research for genetic, biochemical, and neurobiological aspects of alcohol abuse, as well as health care and education related to alcohol use.

Along with great financial success, Ernest Gallo and his winery won numerous prestigious awards, including the wine industry's highest honor, the American Society of Enologists Merit Award, in 1964 for outstanding leadership in the industry. They won the Gold Vine Award, the 1983 Distinguished Service Award from Wine Spectator, and the Winery of the Year Award in both 1996 and 1998 from the San Francisco International Wine Competition.

After a long and successful career as a winemaker, businessman, and philanthropist, Gallo passed away on March 6 at the age of 97 at his home in Modesto, California. His many distinguished accomplishments in the wine industry and his strong community involvement deserve to be recognized and honored by the Congress.

I urge all Members to support H. Con. Res. 88.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to Representative DENNIS A. CARDOZA of California.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of House Concurrent Resolution 88, honoring the life and many achievements of Ernest Gallo.

I am proud to say that Ernest Gallo was not only a constituent of mine but he was also a dear friend. Over the years I served in the California State legislature and here in Congress, Ernest's deep commitment to California and to winemaking was a constant presence that guided many of my legislative efforts.

Decades ago Ernest Gallo, along with his brother Julio, recognized the great potential of the San Joaquin Valley, with its temperate weather and its extraordinary fertile soil, to foster the growth of a strong domestic wine industry. They cultivated the Gallo Winery from a small plot of land with just a few grape varieties to a multinational beverage company that ranks as the second largest in the world.

My district, California's 18th Congressional District, grows nearly 250 different crops, from asparagus to sweet potatoes, and is home to a number of agricultural businesses, some small and some quite large. But not one business has had more impact on the rich tapestry of the valley than Gallo Winery.

The Gallo Winery provides hundreds of my constituents with high-skill employment opportunities and serves as a solid foundation for continued growth in the region. The Gallo family has contributed to countless community projects throughout the valley and to medical research projects devoted to curbing alcoholism.

Ernest Gallo and the Gallo Winery revolutionized the U.S. wine industry. But what was once a boutique industry reserved for the upper crust of society is now a billion dollar business that equalizes social classes by allowing the masses to participate in wine drinking and winemaking.

In his youth, Ernest and his brother Julio recognized an unmet need in the wine industry. Demonstrating his acute business skills, Ernest quickly capitalized on the market gap and set about to create inexpensive wines for the enjoyment of all citizens. The trend of affordable wines caught on, and quickly Gallo Winery became one of the most respected companies in the business.

For agriculture, the impact has been just as immense. The success of the Gallo Winery was one of the catalysts to bringing much-needed attention to the other side of American agriculture, that which was taking place outside of the traditional farming that was done in the Midwest.

Furthermore, Gallo's commitment to environmentally sustainable farming permeates the wine grape growing industry even today and will surely be the standard for years to come.

Ernest and the entire Gallo family have long partnered with the surrounding community, especially with the city of Modesto, to give back in a number of generous ways. For instance, the Gallo Arts Center in Modesto, which is under construction now, once completed will attract quality arts and entertainment performances where there had been virtually none before. For the first time, valley residents can participate in the cultural experiences on par with our urban neighbors.

However, above all, beyond Ernest's commitments and achievements in his professional life, he must also be lauded for his personal story. He was the son of Italian immigrants who

started out with nothing and, armed with little else than a brochure in winemaking from the local library, he grew the Gallo Winery empire.

Ernest Gallo is one of the finest examples of an American success story. Our culture praises individuals like Ernest, and rightly so. It is what we teach our children and our children's children, that you can take nothing for granted, that you always must take what you are given, and in Ernest's case it was his keen business sense, and turn that gift into something substantial.

I am proud to have represented Ernest Gallo all these years and even more proud to have called him my friend. He will be remembered fondly for his contributions to the industry, to agriculture, and to the community.

I thank my colleagues for their consideration.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished Californian, a great American, and a dear friend—Ernest Gallo, the patriarch of the family-owned E&J Gallo Winery. After 97 full years, Ernest Gallo passed away on March 6.

Ernest and his brothers grew up growing grapes in the vineyard of their father, an Italian immigrant. With the repeal of Prohibition in 1933, the Gallo brothers saw an opportunity to expand the family business. With just $900 in savings, a $5000 loan, and a wine recipe from the Modesto Public Library, Ernest and Julio began to build what would become the world's largest winemaking empire.

Ernest became the head of the family and the head of the business; he ran the business and Julio produced the wine. They worked throughout their lives to improve the quality of American grapes and deserve much of the credit for turning America into a wine-drinking country.

Their success resulted from passion and hard work. Ernest's entrepreneurial skills, instinctive business sense, and marketing ideas were extraordinary. He was as innovative, as he was visionary.

Ernest Gallo was also deeply generous—a patron of many charities, education and political campaigns. He funded the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at UCSF, one of world's preeminent academic centers for the study of the biological basis of alcohol and substance abuse.

Ernest deeply loved his family, especially his wife Amelia and his son David, who both preceded him in death, his son Joseph, and his four grandchildren. I extend my deepest sympathies to them all today.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res 88.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 76) honoring the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and its past contributions to space research, and looking forward to future accomplishments.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 76

Whereas the year 2007–2008 is the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) of 1957–1958;

Whereas the IGY initiated the Space Age with the successful launch of the first artificial satellites, Sputnik by the former Soviet Union, and Explorer I by the United States;

Whereas the interdisciplinary approach of IGY and the use of new space-based platforms enabled fundamental changes in the conduct of research concerning the Earth and its surrounding space environment;

Whereas the interdisciplinary approach of IGY enabled coordinated, synchronous, global observations and measurements of the Earth, oceans, atmosphere, ice, and near-Earth space environment;

Whereas the IGY increased our understanding of the causes of magnetic storms, ionospheric disturbances, and the origins of cosmic rays;

Whereas the use of new space-based platforms enabled the discovery of the Van Allen radiation belts, which are trapped, charged particles in the Earth's upper atmosphere, showed that those particles form belts of energy around the Earth, and contributed to the understanding of the Northern Lights;

Whereas the IGY, involved thousands of scientists from 67 nations;

Whereas the IGY, which occurred during the height of Cold War tensions, facilitated international cooperation in science and helped lead to the Antarctic Treaty, which established the use of Antarctica for peaceful purposes and promoted continued, cooperative scientific investigations on the continent;

Whereas the IGY led to the creation of institutional structures that continue to promote and enable the international exchange of scientific research related to the Earth and space, including the International Council on Science's Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), and Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR); and

Whereas this 50th anniversary celebration offers as an opportunity to inspire our public and youth to build on the legacy of success of the IGY, recognizing that a coordinated, international approach to interdisciplinary scientific challenges such as climate change, high energy physics, and space exploration contributes to the advancement of knowledge and sustains the cooperative spirit and goodwill among nations set forth in the IGY: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) honors the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and its contributions to the scientific investigations of the Earth and outer space; and

(2) encourages the public, and especially American youth, to attend IGY celebrations and seminars, such as those being planned at locations around the United States by the National Academy of Sciences and other organizations, and participate in discussions about the future of space science and Earth science.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on House Concurrent Resolution 76, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1515

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 76, honoring the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, and would like to take this opportunity to recognize Chairman MARK UDALL for his hard work on this resolution. This resolution marks the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, honors its contributions to space research and looks forward to future accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, the International Geophysical Year of 1957–1958 was a highly successful international effort in involving 67 nations that came together during the Cold War to coordinate global observations and measurements of the solid Earth, the oceans, the atmosphere and the near-Earth space environment.

During the IGY, the successful launches of the first artificial satellites took place, Sputnik 1 by the former Soviet Union and Explorer 1 by the United States, marking the dawn of the Space Age. Explorer 1 also enabled one of the most notable achievements of the IGY, the discovery of belts of trapped, charged particles in the Earth's upper atmosphere by the late Dr. James Van Allen of Iowa.

This year's commemoration serves not only to remember the great scientific work that was done during the IGY, but also, Mr. Speaker, to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, who will be critical to our continued progress and economic well-being. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 76 encourages the public, in particular our young people, to participate in the celebrations that are planned for this IGY anniversary year and to embrace challenging goals for future research in space science and Earth science.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not mention the activity of the International Polar Year and its 200 approved IPY research efforts, including

studies of environmental changes in the Arctic and marine life in the Arctic Ocean.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 76 and honor this 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year. Through future research in Earth, science and space science, including that of the IPY, we have tremendous opportunities for new knowledge and new discoveries, and I hope we can look back 50 years from now on equally exciting accomplishments.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 76, honoring the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year. In 1882–1883, the first International Polar Year counted 12 participating countries, with 13 expeditions to the Arctic and two expeditions to the Antarctic to study the geophysical attributes of the polar regions.

In order to expand research opportunities beyond the polar regions, in 1957 and 1958, organizers changed the name of the third International Polar Year to the International Geophysical Year. Beginning in March of 2007 and running through March of 2009, the fourth International Polar Year celebrates the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year.

In the United States, not only NASA, which is highlighted in this resolution, but the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Energy are all actively participating in the fourth International Polar Year and the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year.

The International Geophysical Year brought about the launching of the first artificial satellites and successful scientific collaborations that continue today. The current International Polar Year and 50th anniversary celebration of the International Geophysical Year seek to encourage and challenge the young men and women in scientific and engineering careers to bring about fundamental advancements in many areas of science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 76.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the first International Geophysical Year was held from July 1957 to December 1958, and this year marks its 50th anniversary. The International Geophysical Year was modeled after the successful International Polar Year of 1882 and its 50th anniversary in 1932. The International Geophysical Year allowed over 60,000 scientists from 67 countries around the world to take part in a series of coordinated observations of various geophysical phenomena.

I remember the International Geophysical Year well because, as a youngster, it was reading about it that sparked my interest in science and set me toward the career in physics which I pursued before coming to Congress.

The scientific activities spanned the globe from the North to the South Poles. For example, the research in the Antarctic yielded new estimates of the Earth's total ice content—a number of importance given today's melting of major glaciers due to global warming. In addition, radiation detectors to record cosmic rays, spectroscopes to analyze the aurorae, and balloons were put to use to explore the upper reaches of the atmosphere and the formation of thunderstorms. Finally, post-World War II developments in rocketry made possible the exploration of space, employing the exciting new technology of artificial satellites.

Today, almost 50 years after Sputnik was launched, it is crucial that we reflect on how we responded to scientific challenges in the Geophysical Year and how we proceeded to invest in research and education in subsequent years. Today, we are falling behind other nations in many measurable ways, particularly in math and science education. Unlike 50 years ago with the launch of Sputnik, we are unlikely to have a sharp wake-up call before we find ourselves unable to maintain the leadership role and quality of life to which we are accustomed.

Investment in education and research, as prescribed by, for example, the Democratic Innovation Agenda, would be a good idea in any year. It is particularly apparent that we should make these investments as we reflect today on the path we followed when Sputnik was a recent stimulus and the findings of the International Geophysical Year were so inspiring.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 76 honoring the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, IGY, and its past contributions to space research, and looking forward to future accomplishments.

I would like to recognize the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year and its past contributions to global observations and ocean research that led to the discovery of ocean ridges and creation of the Scientific Committees on Ocean Research and Antarctic Research. The memory of the success of the International Geophysical Year during the height of the Cold War should serve as inspiration in this age of global warming. The impacts of global warming will have impacts in all nations and addressing it and its repercussions including sea-level rise, increased number and strength of storms, and ocean acidification, will take a coordinated scientific effort, such as that generated by the International Geophysical Year, to monitor these changes, develop new technology to address them, and the ability to provide timely hurricane warnings.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of House Concurrent Resolution 76, honoring the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, IGY.

This resolution marks the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, IGY, honors its contributions to space research, and looks forward to future accomplishments.

I am pleased that several of my colleagues from the Science and Technology Committee have joined me as cosponsors and would like to thank Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee Ranking Member CALVERT, Chairman GORDON, and Research and Science Education Subcommittee Chairman BAIRD for their support for this measure.

I would especially like to thank the Chairman for his leadership in getting this bill on the floor today.

The International Geophysical Year (IGY) of 1957–1958 was an international collaboration to coordinate observations and measurements of the solid Earth, oceans, the atmosphere, and the near-Earth space environment on a global scale. Despite the tensions of the Cold War, 67 nations and thousands of scientists came together to make the IGY a resounding success.

A particularly significant aspect of the IGY was that it extended science into space through the launch of artificial satellites—signifying the dawn of the Space Age. Explorer I, the first successful U.S. satellite launch, made possible an important scientific result of the IGY—the discovery of belts of trapped, charged particles in the Earth's upper atmosphere, which are now known as the VanAllen radiation belts.

Equally importantly, the IGY has been a shining example of the benefits of international cooperation in scientific endeavors. The coordination of global interdisciplinary observations by researchers from multiple nations during a time of geopolitical tensions continues to be an inspiration and a model for those who recognize the significant contributions that can be achieved when nations come together in the peaceful pursuit of scientific knowledge.

Indeed, scientists around the world continue to build on the impressive research legacy left to them by their IGY predecessors 50 years ago. As a current example, I support the International Polar Year (IPY) and the IPY research efforts that are planned to take place over the next 2 years, efforts that will encompass a wide range of research topics—for example, on studies of environmental change in the Arctic and marine life in the Arctic Ocean.

I introduced an IGY resolution in the 108th Congress, which passed the House, to mark the then-upcoming IGY and to encourage the celebration of its 50th anniversary throughout the country and across the globe. This year's IGY concurrent resolution both honors the great scientific work that was done during the IGY, as well as works to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. We will be looking to those young men and women to continue to advance our knowledge, strengthen our nation's economy, and improve our quality of life. That is why H. Con. Res. 76 encourages the public, and in particular our young people, to participate in celebrations planned for the IGY anniversary year and to seek to build on the scientific legacy of the IGY by striving to achieve challenging new goals in space science and Earth science.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 76 and honor the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year. The IGY set a high standard of achievement. I am confident that by means of future research in Earth science and space science, including that of the IPY, we can achieve equally meaningful advances over the next 50 years.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WILSON)

that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 76.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, 110TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming met on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 and approved by voice vote and without amendment the following rules to govern the activities of the Select Committee during the 110th Congress.

RULES FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, 110TH CONGRESS

Rule 1. General Provisions. The Rules 0f the House are the rules of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming (hereinafter ''Committee'') so far as they are applicable.

Rule 2. Time and Place of Meetings.

(a) Regular Meeting Days. The Committee shall meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., for the consideration of any pending business, if the House is in session on that day. If the House is not in session on that day and the Committee has not met during such month, the Committee shall meet at the earliest practicable opportunity when the House is again in session. The Chairman may, at his discretion, cancel, delay, or defer any meeting required under this section, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(b) Additional Meetings. The Chairman may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purposes pursuant to that call of the Chairman.

(c) Vice Chairman; Presiding Member. The Chairman shall designate a member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chairman of the Committee. The Vice Chairman shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the Chairman. If the Chairman and Vice Chairman are not present at any meeting or hearing, the most senior present member of the majority party shall preside at the meeting or hearing.

(d) Open Meetings and Hearings. Each meeting and hearing of the Committee for the transaction of business shall be open to the public, including to radio, television and still photography coverage, consistent with the provisions of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

Rule 3. Agenda. The agenda for each Committee meeting other than a hearing, setting out The date, time, place, and all items of business to be considered, shall be provided to each member of the Committee at least 24 hours in advance of such meeting.

Rule 4. Procedure.

(a) Hearings. The date, time, place, and subject matter of any hearing of the Committee shall be announced at least one week in advance of the commencement of such hearing, unless the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines in accordance with clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner. In such cases, the Chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(b) Meetings. The date, time, place, and subject matter of any meeting (other than a hearing) scheduled on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday when the House is scheduled to be in session shall be announced at least 24 hours (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, except when the House is in session on such days) in advance of the commencement of such meeting.

(c) Motions. Pursuant to clause 1(a)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House, privileged motions to recess from day to day, or recess subject to the call of the Chair (within 24 hours), shall be decided without debate.

(d)(1) Requirements for Testimony. Each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least two working days in advance of his or her appearance, sufficient copies, as determined by the Chairman, of a written statement of his or her proposed testimony to provide to members and staff of the Committee, the news media, and the general public. Each witness shall, to the greatest extent practicable, also provide a copy of such written testimony in an electronic format prescribed by the Chairman. Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a brief summary of the testimony. The Chairman, or the presiding member, may waive the requirements of this paragraph or any part thereof.

(2) Additional Requirements for Testimony. To the greatest extent practicable, the written testimony of each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(A) Questioning Witnesses. The right to question witnesses before the Committee shall alternate between majority and minority members. Each member shall be limited to 5 minutes in the interrogation of witnesses until such time as each member who so desires has had an opportunity to question witnesses. No member shall be recognized for a second period of 5 minutes to interrogate a witness until each member of the Committee present has been recognized once for that purpose. While the Committee is operating under the 5–minute rule for the interrogation of witnesses, the Chairman shall recognize, in order of appearance, members who were not present when the meeting was called to order after all members who were present when the meeting was called to order have been recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee.

(B) Questions for the Record. Subject to the Rules of the House, each member may submit to the Chairman additional questions for the record, to be answered by the witnesses who have appeared. Each member shall provide a copy of the questions in an electronic format to the clerk of the Committee no later than ten business days following a hearing. The Chairman shall transmit all questions received from members of the Committee to the appropriate witness and include the transmittal letter and the responses from the witnesses in the hearing record.

(C) Opening Statements. (1) All written opening statements at hearings conducted by the Committee shall be made part of the permanent hearing record.

(2) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member (or their respective designees) are entitled to deliver a 5 minute opening statement prior to the recognition of the first witness for testimony. Opening statements by other members of the Committee are subject to the discretion of the Chairman.

Rule 5. Waiver of Agenda, Notice, and Opening Statement Requirements. Requirements of rules 3, 4(a)(1), 4(a)(2), and 4(d) may be waived for good cause by the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member.

Rule 6. Quorum. Testimony may be taken and evidence received at any hearing at which there are present not fewer than two members of the Committee. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum when otherwise required by the Rules of the House. For the purposes of taking any action other than those specified in the preceding sentences, one third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 7. Journal. The proceedings of the Committee shall be recorded in a journal which shall, among other things, show those present at each meeting and hearing, and shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded, a description of the motion, order, or other proposition voted, and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members voting present. A copy of the journal shall be furnished to the Ranking Minority Member and made available to the public in a timely fashion.

Rule 8. Committee Professional and Clerical Staff.

(a) Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of Rule X, as well as any written personnel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt. The Chairman shall determine the remuneration of legislative and administrative employees of the Committee.

(b) The Chairman shall appoint, and may remove, the legislative and administrative employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority.

(c) Minority Professional Staff. Professional staff members appointed pursuant to clause 9 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, who are assigned to the Ranking Minority Member, and not to the Chairman, shall be assigned to such Committee business as the Ranking Minority Member considers advisable.

(d) Additional Staff Appointments. In addition to the professional staff appointed pursuant to clause 9 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Chairman shall be entitled to make such appointments to the clerical staff of the Committee as may be provided within the budget approved for such purposes by the Committee. Such appointees

shall be assigned to such business of the Committee as the Chairman considers advisable.

Rule 9. Supervision, Duties of Staff.

(a) Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9(b) of Rule X.

(b) Supervision of Majority Staff. The professional and clerical staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he determines appropriate.

(c) Supervision of Minority Staff. The professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority shall be under the supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he determines appropriate.

Rule 10. Committee Expenditures. Copies of each monthly report (prepared by the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration and showing expenditures made during the reporting period and cumulative for the year by the Committee), anticipated expenditures for the projected Committee program, and detailed information on travel, shall be available to each member.

Rule 11. Broadcasting of Committee Hearings. Any meeting or hearing that is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by radio or television or still photography, subject to the requirements of clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House. The coverage of any hearing or other proceeding of the Committee by television, radio, or still photography shall be under the direct supervision of the Chairman and may be terminated in accordance with the Rules of the House.

Rule 12. Subpoenas. The Committee may authorize and issue a subpoena under clause 2(m) of Rule XI of the House.

Rule 13. Travel of Members and Staff.

(a) Approval of Travel. Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the Committee for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee thereof and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chairman, in writing, the following: (1) the purpose of the travel; (2) the dates during which the travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made; (3) the location of the event for which the travel is to be made; and (4) the names of members and staff seeking authorization.

(b) Approval of Travel by Minority Members and Staff. In the case of travel by minority party members and minority party professional staff for the purpose set out in paragraph (a), the prior approval, not only of the Chairman but also of the Ranking Minority Member, shall be required. Such prior authorization shall be given by the Chairman only upon the representation by the Ranking Minority Member, in writing, setting forth those items enumerated in (1), (2), (3), and (4) of paragraph (a).

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

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

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

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

REPUBLICAN TAX CUTS REDUCE THE TAX BURDEN ON AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the day that Americans are required to pay their taxes. It is the last possible day in this year that they can do that. We call it ''tax day.'' It is normally on April 15th, but because of the calendar and because today is a holiday in the District of Columbia, it has been delayed.

I want to say something about the fact that our taxes are something that people feel obliged to pay the Federal Government and to State and local governments too, but many people do it grudgingly. We do it grudgingly because we feel concern about the way too many of our tax dollars are being spent. However, this year, taxpayers are paying less than they have paid before as a result of the tax cuts that have occurred in 2001 and 2003, tax cuts that were pushed through under a Republican Congress and asked for by a Republican President.

Children often ask me when I speak to them in school groups, what is the difference between Democrats and Republicans? I tell them that the most simple definition that I can give them is that Republicans believe that Americans should keep more of their money than Democrats do and that Democrats believe that very often the government is the answer to the problems that we have in this country, while Republicans think that individual Americans have the capability for solving most of their problems. So Republicans believe that the government that governs least governs best, and that is the philosophy that I have.

The tax cuts that were instituted in 2001 and 2003 were designed for Americans to keep more of their money than the government had been taking from them, and those tax cuts have been very effective. We see that our economy is doing extremely well as a result of those tax cuts. We have the lowest unemployment rate in this country in many, many years, the highest homeownership rate, the highest level of income in many, many years; and just on and on and on the economic indicators go that are very, very positive in this country. Those are as a result of the tax cuts.

Democrats will talk about ''investing in government.'' Well, we don't invest in government when we give money to the government to spend. Our investments come from individual Americans who are entrepreneurs who create new jobs and create new businesses. That is where investments come from, and that is where a good return on investments come from.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express some thoughts and concerns about taxation. Certainly, as taxes are due today, I know that post offices around the country are well staffed, up to midnight. It is interesting as I have paid my taxes in the past, kind of pushing it up to the last minute, to see everyone else who pushes up the payment of their taxes to the last minute. But the fact is, it does take place.

But I rise today to very briefly reflect on what today means. Certainly I realize that paying taxes is a necessary function of a civilization, but I also rise to express my concern that some tax policies that have been working over the past few years are in jeopardy. The tax relief packages offered by President Bush and certainly those in the House and Senate who supported tax relief have done good things, in fact, great things, in terms of revenues to the Federal Government, but I would say so in terms of revenues to the household budget even more importantly.

We in Congress cannot utilize what we call ''dynamic scoring,'' the reflection of what lower taxes can do in terms of tax revenue. I understand that. I think it is unfortunate. Be that as it may, we are faced with some tough decisions, decisions impacting the budget long term, and I wish to speak of my concern for the long term.

I have learned over the years that government spending compounds once a new program is started. We have to be very mindful of that. We have to be mindful that as we look down the road, we have to come up with ways to cover the expenses of new programs. That is why I believe we should be careful when we talk about adopting new programs.

When it comes to the tax burden in general, certainly April 15th, and now the 16th, speaks volumes not only in the 3½ months it takes to prepare taxes owed from the prior year, but we often hear about ''tax freedom day.'' Preliminary research tells us most recently this year's tax freedom day is actually April 30. It takes a full 4 months, on average, for Americans to earn enough money in their household to pay their Federal income tax.

Now, throw on top of the Federal income tax State income tax, and in a State like my State of Nebraska, property tax, it is a heavy burden in Nebraska, and sales tax, plus the other

fees and taxes associated; and I just think it is important that we reflect on this.

We heard earlier about financial literacy. Yes, we have an issue with credit card debt, for example. But I think that it would serve us well to make sure that for consumers and citizens of all kinds, that we teach them about the tax burden, tax freedom day, and not just paying taxes by April 15th or 16th, but more so what it might mean to take some of those dollars paid in taxes and perhaps invest those.

□ 1530

And it is interesting, as we look at our economy in general, what available capital means to a business, to an individual.

I am inspired to hear of individuals who wish to start a business but for the available capital. When we look at what available capital can do in a house, whether it is a project around the house or whether it's a small business incubating, I think that we should look at various ways we can avail capital to our citizens, primarily through tax relief.

It is absolutely vital that we always keep this in mind, especially as we constantly need to look at growing our economy. And that it is not just coincidence, as some might suggest, that tax relief actually led to job creation and increased revenues to the Federal Government. I don't believe that that's just coincidence. I believe that that is through fashioning good tax policy and allowing individuals, individual taxpayers, to keep more of what they earn because when they spend those dollars, they spend them more wisely, and those dollars are leveraged into actually greater Federal revenue so that we can provide for those who cannot provide for themselves.

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank my colleague. He is in his first term in Congress, but he speaks very, very eloquently of this issue and other issues. I am very grateful to him for his sharing his concerns and his perspective on this.

As I said earlier, when people ask me what is the difference between a Democrat and a Republican, I say, well, Republicans think that you should keep more of your money and spend it and take care of yourself; and Democrats want to take more of your money away from you and give it to the government. And let me give you an example of what is happening. I don't have to just talk about that in the abstract; I can talk about it in concrete terms.

The tax decreases that were put through by a Republican Congress and advocated by a Republican President are due to expire in 2010 because of the rules of the Senate, which would not allow those tax cuts to be made permanent. Now, 2 weeks ago, the Democrats, who are now in a majority here in the House, and our Constitution requires that spending bills and budget bills have to begin in the House, they passed their budget. It passed, and it assumes that the 2001/2003 tax cuts will expire. The effect of that will be to impose the largest tax increase in American history, nearly $400 billion over 5 years, mainly to finance their immense new spending. And as my colleague from Nebraska said, we have to be very much concerned about the long term, and we are concerned about the long term.

Now, if the Republican tax relief is not extended, what happens when the clock strikes midnight on December 31, 2010? Well, here's what happens: the tax rates are going to go higher. In 2010, the top income tax rate will be 35 percent. The Democrats propose that that tax rate goes to 39.6 percent in 2011. The capital gains tax, 15 percent in 2010, 20 percent immediately thereafter. The tax on dividends, from 15 percent to 39.6 percent. The death tax: the death tax has been gradually going down since the tax cuts of 2001/2003. In the year 2010, the death tax will be zero. In 2011, it goes back to 55 percent.

I am particularly offended by the death tax, and I think most Americans are. It is probably the third time that that same income is going to be taxed when you impose a death tax, because we are paying taxes on our income, if you have an opportunity to invest any of that money you are going to pay capital gains tax on it, and then you are going to pay 55 percent on whatever is left over. Again, I think it is a particularly offensive tax to most Americans.

But how do the Democrats, who talk so much about the value of children, act about the child tax credit? The child tax credit went to $1,000 under the tax cuts of 2001/2003. It will be cut back to $500. We all know that you can't raise children even on $1,000 as a tax credit, let alone on $500.

The lowest tax bracket, hurting the lowest income people in our country, and Democrats say that they stand for the little people and they want to help the low-income people in this country, but what they propose to do is take the taxes on the lowest income people in our country and go from 10 percent to 15 percent. I think, again, that is an abomination. Why in the world do we want to burden those folks who are making the lowest income in this country?

Another part of the problem that we have in this country is the fact that our Tax Code is so complicated. We believe now that more than 60 percent of tax returns are prepared by a professional. If you add the number of Americans who use computer tax software to file a return, the proportion of people who seek outside help rises to 90 percent. We shouldn't live in a country where the Tax Code is so complicated that the average American citizen cannot complete his or her income tax forms.

The Office of Management and Budget estimates that we spend about 6.4 billion hours, and we did in 2006, complying with the Federal Tax Code. That many hours is the equivalent of a 40-hour work week for every employed person in America. Take your pick: do your taxes or go on a week-long vacation.

While the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 have lowered taxes across the board and encouraged investments that lead to job creation, we are still saddled with an incomprehensible Tax Code that costs more than $265 billion a year to comply with.

As a supporter of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, I pledge to work towards scrapping the Tax Code in order to build a new one that promotes transparency and common sense. By signing on to the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, I have also promised to work to balance the budget, to exercise the fiscal discipline needed to rein in the growth of the Federal Government, and to protect the Social Security trust fund from congressional raiding.

Let me say something about Social Security here, even though we're talking about taxes today.

Many people don't understand the or origin of the Social Security fund. After the Depression, President Roosevelt was desperate to raise money for the social programs that he wanted to institute in this country, but he knew that if he wanted to raise taxes that would raise a hew and cry among the people. At that time, 1936/1937, the average life expectancy of Americans was 59 years. People still weren't living very long in this country. We had come a long way from the early part of the century, but still life expectancy was only 59 years of age. So they came up with a scheme to take money away from Americans and have it available to spend on social programs, and they came up with a Social Security fund. It was for every American to pay a small amount. It was designed to provide a retirement income, or at least that is the way it was sold to the American people. But what most people didn't realize again at the time, the life expectancy was 59 years of age. And when did they set Social Security up to be redeemed? Age 65. The idea was that they would take in a lot of money to develop the programs that they wanted to develop, and that very few people would ever draw on Social Security for their retirement. So that's why the average age was set at 65, way beyond the average life expectancy for Americans at the time.

And immediately the money was going into other programs other than into what most Americans thought would happen, which was a fund to pay for Social Security. That has continued to the present time under both Democrats and, I am sorry to say, under Republicans. Rather than putting that money into a special fund and leaving it alone just to pay for Social Security, most of that money is going into paying for government programs, and those programs have become dependent on that Social Security money, which

is why you find people very reluctant to create that mythical lock box that has been talked about so much. But we now have groups who are trying very hard to make sure that the money being paid into Social Security stays in the Social Security account. That's what I believe in, and I think that is what most Americans believe in.

The President proposed personal accounts so that people could take an interest in where their Social Security money was going and manage that money better than the Federal Government has been able to manage it. That has been demonized as a way to do something bad with the Social Security fund. But if people had a way to manage their own money, they would get a lot more from Social Security.

The average Social Security payment right now is about $1,000 a month, and I know of very, very few people who can live on that. And we know that Social Security is going to be in deep trouble in the next few years because there will be more people drawing on Social Security than are paying into Social Security. So not only are we going to have to come up with the money to pay for Social Security; we are going to have to either cut the funding that is dependent on the Social Security money or cut out programs or raise taxes. Republicans are opposed to raising taxes and continuing to fund those programs, most of which were begun in the 1930s.

What people can do in this country is to sign an online petition with the grass-roots group Freedom Works to support the initiative of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. They can sign this petition at www.freedomworks.org/action/taxpayer. I am sure if you put in the words ''freedom works,'' you can probably find out how to get on to that. But we need to do everything we possibly can to keep the tax rate low, protect Social Security, and reduce the burden of government on our citizens.

I want to go back over the effects of the Democrat tax hike, which were in the budget that the Democrats passed 2 weeks ago here. They will be raising the 10 percent tax rate bracket to 15 percent. More than 15 million individuals and families, who previously owed no taxes under the Republican plan, would now become subject to the individual income tax if the Democrats were successful in raising the 10 percent tax rate bracket to 15 percent and reducing or eliminating other low-income tax benefits.

That budget eliminates the marriage penalty relief. Most Americans I think now know that if you are married and you file jointly, you pay a penalty for being married in this country. Twenty-three million taxpayers would see their taxes increase on average by approximately $500 when that goes into effect. As I said earlier, it would cut the child tax credit in half. Thirty-one million taxpayers would see their taxes increase on average by $859 when this goes into effect.

□ 1545

Elderly couples with $40,000 in income would see their tax bill rise by 156 percent from $583 to $1,489. And a single parent with two children and $30,000 in earnings would see their tax benefits decline by 67 percent. With tax relief, the single parent qualifies to get back $2,214. With the Democrat tax hike, this single parent would get back only $799.

So we would see a major impact on the American family with the effects of the budget that the Democrats passed here a couple of weeks ago. It is not the way we should be going in this country.

The tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 have brought us one of the most vibrant economies this country has ever seen. The stock market is at a new high. Home ownership is at a new high. Personal income is at a new high. Unemployment rates are at an all-time low. New business creations are at an all-time high. Job creations are at an all-time high. All of the things that should be positive in this country are positive; all of the things that should be negative are negative in terms of our economy, and those come as a result of the tax cuts that were made in 2001 and 2003.

I personally cannot take any credit for that because I was not here, but I applaud those who voted for those tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 because they have had an extremely positive effect on our economy and on American families.

I want to talk some more about the dysfunctional Tax Code that we have and the impact that it has on Americans. I mentioned earlier how much it costs to file income taxes and how much is being spent by Americans because they have to go to professionals to get their taxes done. But I want to put this into sort of an allegory.

Can you imagine a business that with every passing year grows more difficult to manage, gets harder for its customers to understand, and becomes increasingly susceptible to theft? You would be right to think that such an operation would quickly go out of business.

Unfortunately, this imaginary business is more of an apt description of the United States tax system. Every year the Federal Tax Code grows larger and more complex. New rules and guidelines are added. Deductions and special exemptions proliferate. As a result, each tax season more Americans are throwing up their hands in disgust and calling in a professional to do their taxes.

According to the IRS, more than 60 percent of tax returns are prepared by a professional; and if you add the number of Americans who use computer tax software to file a return, the proportion of people who seek outside help rises to 90 percent.

Congress puts out a little-known tax law report each session that serves as a chilling picture of the obscene complexity of our tax system. The most recent version entitled ''The General Explanation of Tax Legislation Enacted in the 109th Congress'' runs to 806 pages and purports to explain the 109th Congress' changes to tax law. As you might imagine, it is mind-numbing. That we need a publication of this size simply to explain the 109th Congress' Tax Code additions is ample evidence that we have a massive problem on our hands.

What ails our Tax Code is not just the fact that it is 7,000 pages long. Rather, the real ailment is the burden, above and beyond the actual financial burden of tax day, of complying with a chameleon Tax Code.

As I said earlier, the government's Office of Management and Budget estimated that we spent about 6.4 billion hours in 2006 complying with the Federal Tax Code. That many hours is the equivalent of a 40-hour work week for every employed person in America. While the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 have lowered taxes across the board and encouraged investments that lead to job creation, we are still saddled with an incomprehensible Tax Code that costs more than $265 billion to comply with each year.

Our tax professionals can't even understand it. I am sure you have read and heard the horror stories about how 10 different people will call the IRS to ask for an interpretation of a rule, and get 10 different interpretations. That, again, is a really sad commentary on our Tax Code that you can't call 10 employees from the IRS and get the same answer from 10 different people on a code that millions of us are supposed to be adhering to because the way the Tax Code is written is so incomprehensible.

While the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 have lowered taxes across the board and encouraged investments that lead to job creation, we are still saddled with this incomprehensible Tax Code.

The IRS reports that the tax gap, the difference between what people owe and what they pay is around $300 billion. This gap is composed of the cheaters and those who simply don't know any better because the system is too murky for the average taxpayer to accurately decipher.

Realities like the tax gap, the 6 billion hours of annual compliance time, and the thousands of pages of rules and regulations have led me to join with the approximately 100 fiscal conservatives of the Republican Study Committee in support of the American Taxpayer Bill of Rights. We need a taxpayer bill of rights passed. Many States have passed a taxpayer bill of rights, and we need to do that at the Federal level.

Those of us who have signed that pledge have pledged to work towards scrapping the Tax Code in order to build a new one that promotes transparency and commonsense. I have also promised to work to balance the budget. I have done that every chance that I have had since I have been in Congress, to exercise the fiscal discipline needed to rein in the growth of the Federal Government.

I want to say that 2 years ago, when we dealt with the Hurricane Katrina relief, I am very proud to say that I pushed for an offset in Federal spending at that time. We were faced with spending outside the budget, $52 billion in one fell swoop, to offer relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We had no good plan for how that money was going to be spent, and we needed a plan. We did not have an offset set up when we first passed that $52 billion. I urged the Republican Study Committee to demand offsets.

In just a few weeks' period of time, we were able to come up with $39 billion in offsets to the $52 billion. We weren't able to come up with $52 billion, but we came up with $39 billion. One of my colleagues who gives me the credit for that, calls me the ''mother of offsets.'' It is a title I wear proudly. All of us need to be doing that here in the Congress. We all need to make sure that when we ask for any funding, that we are looking for ways to offset that funding, and certainly any new funding.

Unfortunately, the war supplemental that was passed 3 weeks ago did not have offsets in it because the rules here in the House say that emergency spending, such as the Katrina bill, don't have to have offsets in them; and yet our Democratic colleagues promised that in this session of Congress they would not do what the Republicans did and that was spend outside the budget and expand the growth of the Federal Government.

They just ignored that. They had $24 billion in new spending, pork-barrel spending, I would call it, spending to buy votes to pass the war supplemental, which were outside the budget and expanded the scope of spending, violating all of the promises that they made last year to do PAYGO. They found ways to get around those promises to pay as you go and not expand spending by putting it within the supplemental which was supposedly for the war and is emergency spending. That, to me, is one of the most cynical things that a person can do.

But as we file our taxes on April 17, we need to imagine the alternatives to piles of tax forms and schedules and endless hours calculating Uncle Sam's take. We need a system that is fair, simple and transparent. It is time for radical change in the way we collect taxes.

The first step is ditching the leviathan code we have inherited from decades of congressional tinkering and start a real tax debate over how to collect taxes responsibly, efficiently and fairly. I challenge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bring forth legislation that will relieve the burden that so many Americans feel at this time of the year where they have to spend hours and hours and weeks at a time preparing their taxes and paying a lot more out to the Federal Government than we should be paying.

Many years ago I read an article in the Wall Street Journal where they had done a survey of every segment of our society and asked, what do you think would a fair amount of money that you should be paying to the Federal Government in taxes. Most people felt 25 percent was about the fair amount that they should pay, and they would pay that willingly. But once you get beyond that, then people begin to begrudge it and avoid trying to pay their taxes.

We have way too many people in this country at this stage of the game paying approximately 48 percent of all of their income in taxes at all three levels, so we are at twice the level that most people feel is the fair amount to pay. I think most people would say that much of their money is being wasted. Not only do they think that they should pay only approximately 25 percent, but they want to know that the Federal Government is spending their money wisely.

I want to say that as far as I am concerned what we should be doing at the Federal level is funding primarily defense, the Federal system of interstate highways, and national parks. Beyond that, we should not be doing it.

Our Constitution shows that the things that are not mentioned in the Constitution, and in the 10th amendment we say those things not mentioned in the Constitution are the responsibility of the States. What we have done at the Federal level is we have taken on many, many more responsibilities than the framers and the founders of this country envisioned that we would do. What we need to do is step back, look at what we are funding at the Federal Government level and say, is it constitutional, is it something that we should be funding, and if not, then how can we get out of funding this and allow the States to do it. If it is a project that is worthy to be funded, then the States and localities should be doing it and not the Federal Government.

Our Federal Government was formed to provide for the defense of this Nation. The States and localities cannot do that; only the Federal Government can do it. That is our responsibility.

When people talk about the fact that we are taking money from education and putting it into the war effort, that is not accurate. We should not be funding education at all at the Federal level because that is not one of the parts of the Constitution that we should be funding. So I say if we could take the Federal Government back to its roots, to those things that we should be funding, then we would be able to lower the tax burden tremendously because much of the money that is taken at the Federal level is wasted.

President Jefferson said: ''The government which governs least governs best,'' and I think that is accurate.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today through May 25, 2007.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

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

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and April 17, 18, and 19.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, April 17, 18, and 19.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, April 17, 18, and 19.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and April 17, 18, and 19.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 30. An act to intensify research to derive human pluripotent stem cell lines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 229. An act to redesignate a Federal building in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the ''Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S. 801. An act to designate a United States courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the ''Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 1104. An act to increase the number of Iraqi and Afghani translators and interpreters who may be admitted to the United States as special immigrants; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN on Wednesday, April 11, 2007, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1002. An act to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to reinstate certain provisions relating to the nutrition services incentive programs.

□ 1600

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1035. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness,

Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the Critical Skills Retention Bonus (CSRB) program, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 323 (h) Public Law 106-398, section 633 (a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1036. A letter from the Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting a determination that the Nunn-McCurdy Unit Cost thresholds for the enclosed programs' Program Acquisition Unit Cost and Average Procurement Unit Cost metrics have been breached, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433(e)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1037. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement Vice Admiral James D. McArthur, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1038. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the enclosed list of officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1039. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report for 2006 in accordance with Section 361(b) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5314; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1040. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Public Access to HUD Records Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Regulations [Docket No. FR-5069-F-02] (RIN: 2501-AD22) received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1041. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Timeliness Expenditures Standards for the Insular Areas Program [Docket No. FR-5012-F-02] (RIN: 2501-AD15) received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1042. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Twenty-Ninth Annual Report to Congress consistent with Section 815 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1692m; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1043. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Technical Amendments to Regulations S-T [Release No. 34-55502] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1044. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Alternative Fuel Transportation Program; Replacement Fuel Goal Modification (RIN: 1904-AB67) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1045. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 03-07 informing of an intent to sign the Project DIAMOND Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the United Kingdom, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1046. A letter from the Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's FY 2008 Cooperative Threat Reduction Annual Report, pursuant to Public Law 106-398, section 1308; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1047. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1048. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1049. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1050. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1051. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1052. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1053. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1054. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1055. A letter from the Presidential Appointments Officer, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1056. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report on the amount of the acquisitions made from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States in fiscal year 2006, pursuant to Public Law 109-115, section 837(a); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1057. A letter from the EEO Director, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting a report about the Commission's activities in FY 2006 to ensure accountability for antidiscrimination and whistleblower laws related to employment, pursuant to Public Law 107-174, section 203 of Title II; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1058. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Best Efforts in Administrative Fines Challenges [Notice 2007-7] received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on House Administration.

1059. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Chesapeake Bay Science, Service, and Stewardship: A Biennial Report to Congress,'' pursuant to Public Law 107-372 section 401(a)(307)(b)(7); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1060. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Boating and Water Use Activities (RIN: 1024-AD07) received March 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1061. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Curecanti National Recreation Area, Personal Watercraft Use (RIN: 1024-AC99) received March 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1062. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cape Lookout National Seashore, Personal Watercraft Use (RIN: 1024-AD44) received March 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1063. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Dry Tortugas National Park-Special Regulations (RIN: 1024-AD45) received March 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1064. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Glacier Bay National Park, Vessel Management Plan Regulations (RIN: 1024-AD25) received March 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1065. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; South Portland, Maine, Gulf Blasting Project [CGD01-07-012] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 29, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1066. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30538; Amdt. No. 466] received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1067. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30530 Amdt. No. 3200] received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1068. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program — Initial Evaluations (RIN: 2900-AM25) received March 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1069. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Establishment of the Snake River Valley Viticultural Area (2005R-463P) [T.D. TTB-59; Re: Notice No. 60] (RIN: 1513-AB22) received March 16, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1070. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and

Trade Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Green Valley of Russian River Valley Viticultural Area (2005R-412P) [T.D. TTB-60; Re: Notice No. 58] (RIN: 1513-AB18) received March 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1071. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Weighted Average Interest Rates Update (Notice 2007-27) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1072. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department Store Inventory Price Indexes By Department Groups — received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1073. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Request for Comments and Interim Guidance Regarding Allocation of Costs under the Simplified Methods of Accounting under 263A (Notice 2007-29) received March 15, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1074. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Hospital Conditions of Participation: Requirements for Approval and Re-approval of Transplant Centers to Perform Organ Transplants [CMS-3835-F] (RIN: 0938-AH17) received March 29, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

1075. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program; Competitive Acquisition for Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) and Other Issues [CMS-1270-F] (RIN: 0938-AN14) received April 10, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means H.R. 1677. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance taxpayer protections and outreach, with an amendment (Rept. 110–84). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GORDON: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 362. A bill to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 110–85). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1515. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to treat certain communities as metropolitan cities for purposes of the community development block grant program (Rept. 110–86). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. LANTOS: Committee on Foreign Affairs. H.R. 1681. A bill to amend Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American National Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes, with an amendment the (Rept. 110–87). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1257. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation, with an amendment (Rept. 110–88). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. HOEKSTRA, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 1857. A bill to restore State sovereignty over public elementary and secondary education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. REGULA):

H.R. 1858. A bill to provide for the retrocession of the District of Columbia to the State of Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 1859. A bill to reinstate the prohibition on the possession or transfer of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and to strengthen that prohibition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 1860. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 100 percent deduction for expenses related to identity theft; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota:

H.R. 1861. A bill to urge the Government of the Republic of Armenia to resolve the murder case of Joshua Haglund, a United States citizen, in Yerevan, Armenia, and to fund scholarships at the University of Minnesota in the memory of Joshua Haglund for study abroad and diversity training; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H.R. 1862. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage new school construction through the creation of a new class of bond; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Con. Res. 111. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Lionel Hampton should be honored for his contributions to American music; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H. Res. 296. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Eosinophil Awareness Week, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Res. 297. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that A. Philip Randolph should be recognized for his lifelong leadership and work end discrimination and secure equal employment and labor opportunities for all Americans; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEARNS (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. KELLER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MACK, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. PUTNAM, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MICA, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. WELDON of Florida, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H. Res. 298. A resolution to commend the University of Florida Gators for their historic win in the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 18: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 39: Ms. WATERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 74: Mr. WYNN and Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 82: Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 89: Mr. HAYES, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 96: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 111: Mr. COBLE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. SHULER, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. WEINER, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 145: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 156: Ms. HOOLEY.

H.R. 171: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H.R. 176: Ms. CLARKE and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 197: Mr. WU, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 211: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 260: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 297: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 303: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. CUBIN, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 322: Mr. PICKERING.

H.R. 358: Mr. GINGREY, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 362: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 442: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 473: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 522: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. CASTOR, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 526: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 563: Ms. FALLIN.

H.R. 579: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HODES, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. HILL, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 621: Mr. KUHL of New York and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 661: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 664: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 694: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 699: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 717: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 725: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 728: Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WU, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 768: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H.R. 776: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 782: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BONNER, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. WAMP, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 783: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 840: Ms. WATSON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 853: Mr. TOWNS and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 861: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 891: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. EMANUEL.

H.R. 899: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 938: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 943: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. OLVER, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 951: Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 964: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 971: Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SNYDER, and Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 998: Mr. WYNN.

H.R. 1014: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. STUPAK.

H.R. 1022: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FARR, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1023: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1029: Mr. WAMP, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GILLMOR, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1071: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 1076: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 1084: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky and Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1088: Mr. OBERSTAR.

H.R. 1108: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. CARSON, Mr. LAMPSON, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 1110: Mr. KINGSTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HERGER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. WEINER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1125: Ms. FOXX, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. FEENEY.

H.R. 1134: Mr. PITTS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. JINDAL.

H.R. 1137: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Ms. CARSON.

H.R. 1153: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1164: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1170: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1191: Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 1192: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HARE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. GORDON, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1199: Mr. WAMP, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1224: Mr. FILNER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 1225: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. FILNER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1236: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. BEAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. STARK, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. HARMAN, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

H.R. 1237: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 1240: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1246: Mr. SIRES and Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 1260: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1261: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. TIAHRT.

H.R. 1279: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1280: Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FARR, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1281: Mr. WYNN.

H.R. 1283: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1286: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 1300: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. HILL.

H.R. 1307: Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 1330: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 1332: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1344: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1350: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 1354: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 1355: Mrs. DRAKE and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1380: Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 1390: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina and Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.

H.R. 1391: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1400: Mr. LATHAM, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. BACA, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1414: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1415: Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. ARCURI.

H.R. 1416: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ARCURI.

H.R. 1431: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1434: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1436: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia and Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 1439: Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. WEINER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 1440: Mr. WOLF, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. REYES, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1453: Mr. INSLEE.

H.R. 1465: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1467: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1469: Mr. FILNER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1474: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. JINDAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1479: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 1506: Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1512: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 1522: Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. EHLERS.

H.R. 1537: Ms. LEE, Ms. WATSON, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCHUGH, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BILBRAY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. REYES, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. BACA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HARE, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. LANTOS.

H.R. 1554: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1560: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1565: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1566: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1568: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1582: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1589: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GOODE, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 1590: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1593: Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. LEE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. REYES, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 1636: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.

H.R. 1653: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Ms. SOLIS.

H.R. 1671: Mr. MELANCON and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1678: Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1681: Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 1687: Mr. WU, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1731: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. RENZI, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. WYNN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1732: Ms. FOXX and Mr. BARTON of Texas.

H.R. 1738: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1742: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. EMANUEL.

H.R. 1756: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 1760: Mr. KAGEN.

H.R. 1791: Mr. WAMP and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 1810: Mr. CANTOR, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. MEEK of Florida.

H.R. 1823: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1833: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. LINDER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. HAYES, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. KING of New York.

H. Con. Res. 39: Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. HARE.

H. Con. Res. 48: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HAYES, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H. Con. Res. 71: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H. Con. Res. 72: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. LANTOS.

H. Con. Res. 73: Mr. ANDREWS.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. STARK, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Con. Res. 92: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KIND.

H. Con. Res. 102: Mr. MANZULLO and Ms. CLARKE.

H. Con. Res. 108: Mr. NADLER, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. HARE.

H. Res. 106: Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. REICHERT, and Ms. CLARKE.

H. Res. 111: Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H. Res. 137: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 146: Mr. HARE, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 154: Mr. KUHL of New York and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 179: Mr. FORBES, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 185: Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 189: Mr. WOLF, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H. Res. 194: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Res. 231: Mr. TIAHRT.

H. Res. 263: Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 264: Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. MCNULTY, and Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 272: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. WEXLER.

H. Res. 273: Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H. Res. 289: Mr. POE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 292: Mr. REGULA.

H. Res. 295: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TIAHRT, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.