

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CURRENT SITUATION IN DARFUR

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week the House Committee on Foreign Relations held an important hearing on the current situation in Darfur. I am grateful to Chairman TOM LANTOS for keeping this critical issue in the spotlight of the committee.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir has proven that he considers the people of Darfur to be merely pawns in a game that he is playing with the international community. Even as his representative is sending a letter to the UN Secretary General accepting the Heavy Support Package that is supposed to lead to a joint UN-AU protective force in the region, we are receiving news reports that his government is flying arms and heavy military equipment into Darfur under the disguise of UN and AU aircraft in order to fuel the conflict.

The gulf between Bashir's actions and his words is as wide as the callous attitude I encountered when I met with him personally in Khartoum and the desperate, deeply grieved look on the faces of the refugees I met in the camps of Darfur. It is time for the global community to stop considering Bashir as a legitimate negotiating partner and to start treating him as he is—the despotic tyrant responsible for more than 400,000 deaths and 2 million people displaced from their homes in Darfur. That is in addition to the 2 million dead and 4 million who were displaced during the war in the south.

I welcome President Bush's announcement last week that our government will be taking several new steps if the Sudanese Government does not meet its commitments. I strongly urge the President to make that window of opportunity for Bashir to finally follow through on his word extremely short. Bashir has long since lost any entitlement to one day more than is absolutely necessary to establish peace in Darfur.

In order to be effective, however, the efforts of the United States must be joined by those of the international community. We must ALL decide that NOW is the time to end this crisis. Our partners on the UN Security Council should agree immediately to the resolution that will be introduced by the United States applying new sanctions against the Sudanese Government and any individual that violates human rights or obstructs the peace process. Particularly given the revelations of the government's continued military support to the Arab militias, the Security Council must also impose an expanded embargo on arms sales to the government of Sudan, prohibit Sudan's government from conducting any offensive military flights over Darfur, and strengthen the international community's ability to monitor and report any violations.

The Government of the People's Republic of China, in particular, should take a leadership

role in ending the Darfur conflict. Instead of lending money to Bashir for a new presidential palace, the Chinese Government should be pressuring him to enable the people of Darfur to live in their own homes in peace and security. I have long exhorted the Chinese Government to stop the reprehensible violation of the human rights of its own people, and I have signaled the upcoming 2008 Olympics in Beijing as a singular opportunity for the international community to insist on the respect of those rights. I applaud the outstanding efforts of Ms. Mia Farrow, one of our distinguished witnesses at the hearing, to galvanize the world to object to China's hosting of the Olympics at the same time it is ignoring the plight of our brothers and sisters suffering in Darfur. I would encourage my colleagues here in Congress to join these efforts with respect to the Olympics and to seek other measures to end the genocide.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 59TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate Israel's 59th birthday. We all know some of the reasons why our 2 countries remain so close—an appreciation of democracy, human rights and peace, as well as a commitment to fighting terrorism and radicalism. But beyond the obvious lie a remarkably similar national narrative which has shaped our values and sense of national purpose.

In his recent book "Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East," Michael Oren examines that narrative as well as the rich history of American support for a Jewish state in Israel. When William Bradford and the persecuted Puritans landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620, Bradford exclaimed "Come, let us declare the word of God in Zion." That's because the Puritans saw themselves as the New Israelites. They believed that God had finally delivered them from bondage to their new promised land. There, in freedom, they could shine a glowing light for the rest of the world to see. During the American Revolution, Oren describes, our leaders drew strong parallels to the Jews' struggle for repatriation. Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin even proposed for the Great Seal an image of Moses leading the Children of Israel toward the Holy Land.

This longing for freedom and tolerance in a new homeland also spawned the American democratic experiment. While our democracy remains imperfect, it has been our vision of a new, exceptional land that has motivated us to make America the greatest beacon of hope in the world. The Israelis are driven by similar desires.

Fifty-nine years ago today, Jews declared a state of their own. Several thousand had been

in Nazi concentration camps just a few years prior. In Israel, they saw a 2,000-year overdue opportunity to live free of persecution in their ancestral homeland. But before they could rejoice, five Arab armies attacked the nascent state on all fronts. Israel, despite long odds, emerged victorious and finally celebrated its victory. Still, it was bittersweet, since they had lost 6,000 people, at least 1 percent of the population.

Israel chose the song Hatikva, or "The Hope," as its national anthem. Fittingly, in a small Democracy perpetually terrorized by hostile enemies surrounding its territory, hope has sustained it. Israel's territory, devoid of natural resources, has been transformed into a prosperous state. Just as the United States has represented hope to the rest of the world for years, so too does Israel represent the limitless possibilities of freedom and hope.

HONORING PATRICK TURLEY OF PALMER, MASSACHUSETTS, RECIPIENT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S PHOENIX AWARD FOR SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER RECOVERY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor today to acknowledge Patrick Turley from Palmer, Massachusetts upon being named the recipient of the Small Business Administration's Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery.

Patrick Turley, President of Turley Publications, received the Phoenix Award in Washington, DC today for his tremendous commitment to his community. SBA Administrator Steven Preston describes recipients of these awards as "individuals [who have] displayed tremendous courage and selflessness in the midst of the most devastating disasters ever experienced by our Agency." The SBA also describes the Phoenix Award as an acknowledgement of an individual's heroic efforts, and as "a token of appreciation for their support of the physical and economic recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast and New England States."

Turley Publications is one of New England's largest printers of community and university newspapers. Located in Palmer, Massachusetts, the company was founded in 1962 when Patrick H. and Thomas A. Turley purchased the Palmer Journal & Monson Register. From these humble beginnings, this locally owned family business has grown from 1 weekly newspaper into a chain of 15 weekly newspapers ringing the Springfield market and 3 monthly specialty publications with national circulations.

In addition, Turley Publications prints student newspapers and magazines for the 5 sister colleges in the Springfield/Holyoke region—as well as for Harvard University, Yale

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

University, Boston University, Boston College, Tufts University, and UMass-Amherst. Turley Publications has been printing the Daily Collegian, the UMass Amherst student newspaper, since that publication went daily in 1967. It also prints other newspapers, including the Worcester Business Journal and its sister publications Hartford Business Journal, and MaineBiz, as well as the Holden Landmark.

Today, Turley Publications remains locally owned and operated by Patrick Turley and his sons Keith and Doug. They are responsible for nearly 250 employees working in various locations. The two main production facilities are located in West Springfield and Palmer, Massachusetts.

Turley Publications was forced to stop the presses in October 2005 when floodwater caused property losses over 900 thousand dollars. I visited Turley Publications immediately after the flooding occurred and can personally attest to the severity of the damage at the Water Street facility in Palmer.

But high water didn't stop Patrick Turley from tackling the job that needed to be done. He decided he wasn't going to miss a deadline. Dedicated employees helped with the cleanup, electricity was restored, and 2 university newspapers were printed on time. Turley received an SBA disaster loan and within 5 months the plant was running once more at full capacity.

I had the honor of meeting with Patrick Turley and his wife Ann today when they visited my Washington office. I would like to echo the accolades of the Small Business Administration in recognizing Patrick Turley as an extraordinary businessman and citizen. Congratulations.

COMMON-SENSE GUN LEGISLATION IS NEEDED NOW

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my condolences to the families of the 32 Virginia Tech students and teachers who lost their lives due to senseless gun violence on April 16, 2007. I would also like the families of Columbine High School tragedy—which occurred 8 years ago on April 20th—to know that my thoughts and prayers are with them as well. As those two tragedies demonstrate, we are not doing enough to protect our schools, workplaces, homes, and communities from gun violence. In honor of all the victims of gun violence, I call on my colleagues to pass tougher gun laws, including requiring more stringent background checks and banning the use of assault weapons and high-ammunition clips.

It is a well-known fact that it takes very little time and is very easy and for individuals to buy powerful weapons in this country. In fact, depending on the state, it takes anywhere from just 2 hours to a mere 2 minutes to conduct a background check. Since it took the assailant in the Virginia Tech case only 10 minutes to get approval to buy a gun, it is no wonder that the store from which he made his purchase missed the fact that a court had ordered him to undergo outpatient treatment. Federal law states that anyone who has been

adjudicated for being a "mental defective", as the assailant had, cannot purchase weapons. Had there not been an expedited process for buying a gun, and the background check relying on the self-reporting of mental illness, perhaps this tragedy could have been prevented. I support the efforts of my colleagues, Representatives MCCARTHY and DINGELL, to provide federal funding to states for computers systems that will allow them to promptly upload information about potential gun buyers from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. As we have tragically learned, we can no longer wait for all states to get online.

Additionally, we need to renew the bans on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips. We have allowed this ban to expire, every day more police officers and innocent families are in sight of criminals wielding Uzis, Tec-9s, AK-47s. And, high-capacity ammunition clips—which have no purpose other than to kill people—allowed the gunman at Virginia Tech to kill 32 students and teachers. Because of the high-capacity ammunition clips, even those who survived were left with multiple bullet wounds.

Every day that we allow to pass without a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips is another day that Americans are needlessly put at risk. We need to support and pass Representative McCarthy's, H.R. 1022, the Assault Weapons Ban, which would renew that ban.

I am proud to represent the 9th Congressional District, a district that is strongly in favor of getting guns off our streets. Chicago, Wilmette, Morton Grove and Evanston have laws outlawing handguns, and I think this is a great start. We need to bring that commitment to our children's safety, to the safety of our neighborhoods, and to the safety of our schools, to the rest of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber yesterday, April 23, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 245, 246 and 247.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, April 23, 2007.

Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes No. 245, 246, and 247.

H.R. 1338, THE PAYCHECK
FAIRNESS ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Equal Pay Day. Issues of equity and fairness are integral to the strength of our democracy. Pay equity, and its effect on every person in the U.S., is a vital issue and it is unconscionable that in the 21st century, the vast majority of women are still not paid fairly for their work. I look forward to the day when every person, regardless of their gender, race or ethnicity, is receiving equal pay for equal work.

According to the Census, women are paid, on average, 77 cents per one dollar earned by a man. Racial and ethnic disparities exacerbate this difference with African American women making 66 cents, Latinas making 55 cents and Asian American women making 80 cents. A recent study by the American Association of University Women reveals that the income gap between men and women widens dramatically following graduation from college, growing from a 20 percent difference immediately following graduation to a 31 percent difference ten years later. This gap persisted despite controls for numbers of hours worked, parenthood, and occupation choice.

I am a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will improve the remedies available to victims of wage discrimination based on sex. Passage of this legislation will be one of many societal changes we have seen over the past one hundred years of women's struggle for equality in America, but there remains much to be done. The current income gap continues to stand in the way of true equality and as a Nation we must work to close the gap faster than the current, abysmally slow, 1.5 cents per year. There are rays of sunshine to be seen on the horizon, but we cannot consider this particular battle won. I look forward to continuing the struggle for equality with my colleagues in Congress during the 110th Congress.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF MARTIE J.
"JAY" ABOUSSIE, JR.

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Martie J. "Jay" Aboussie, Jr., the devoted son of Martie and LeEllen Aboussie and the loving brother of Amy Aboussie.

Jay earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from St. Louis University, and graduated with honors on May 14, 2005 while maintaining nearly perfect attendance in spite of his chronic health problems.

Jay's family, friends, and numerous people unknown to Jay have been inspired by his bravery, courage, and deep religious faith. He refused to surrender to the debilitating physical ailments which ultimately took his life.

Jay's leadership qualities and academic excellence were recognized by the Faculty and

Administration of Christian Brothers College High School when they selected Jay as "Senior of The Year" among a class of 217 seniors. Moreover, Jay was a member of the National Honor Society and was regularly on the Honor Roll at CBC.

Jay's family and high school colleagues have chosen to honor his life and preserve his memory by supporting the Martie J. "Jay" Aboussie, Jr. '01 Scholarship Fund at Christian Brothers College.

I commend the efforts of his friends and family in honoring Jay's life to ensure that his memory lives on.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman government ordered the deportation of 2.5 million Armenians. Over the next year, 1.5 million Armenians had been killed or sent to the horrors of concentration camps.

April 24 lives in the hearts and minds of an Armenians. And while this day of remembrance is somber, the day also brings a sense of encouragement that stems from the success of Armenian-American communities here at home in the United States, as well as the independent nation of Armenia. This nation's independence has become a living testament of honor to the memories of the survivors and their descendants.

I have always supported the Armenian community. In 2003, I had the opportunity to visit Armenia and to plant a tree at the Genocide memorial. We must never forget the horrors that took place 92 years ago. Let us never forget the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in 1915 and 1916. We know such mass murder is not a tragedy from a distant past, but a continuation of the failing to recognize these barbaric acts before they are executed.

Mr. Speaker, again, I wish to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and I urge the leadership to bring H. Res. 106 to the floor for a vote. If we are to change the future, we must recognize the past.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of remembrance and commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, one of the darkest chapters of World War I, and the first of the series of genocides we saw in the 20th Century. We set today aside to remember, as we do every year, because it is essential to reflect upon these terrible events, but we also do so because we know that the Armenian people

must continually confront and surmount the legacies and the consequences of those dark days.

The writer Milan Kundera once wrote that "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting." There are those that would deny the Armenian Genocide, just as there are those that deny the reality of the Nazi Holocaust. In commemorating the Armenian Genocide we collectively engage in that struggle of memory against forgetting. We do this not only to remember the past, but to reaffirm our commitment to prevent such things from ever happening again, and to strive towards making a better future for the Armenian people.

It has taken Armenia decades to reach a point where its people could enjoy their rights as a free people. Today, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to help ensure that the Armenian people can build a better future. And so, I look forward to continuing to work with the Armenian-American community and Members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenia to address the issues facing this long-time friend and important ally of the United States, so that together we build something positive, something hopeful, something good for the future—a peaceful, prosperous and secure Armenia.

The Armenian Genocide is sometimes called the "Forgotten Genocide." In fact, as most of you know, back in 1939, prior to the invasion of Poland, Adolph Hitler argued that his plans for a Jewish holocaust would in the end be tolerated by the West, stating: "After all, who remembers the Armenians." But we do remember, and we shall never forget. And our memory and commemoration is stronger than the hate of those who would perpetrate the greatest crime known to humanity, the attempt to exterminate an entire people.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Our voices, as well as those of Armenian-Americans across the Nation, are essential in the effort to bring needed attention to such a historic tragedy. The Armenian-American community has made tremendous contributions to our country, and their efforts and passion will help ensure that those who lost their lives will not be forgotten.

Today, we pay tribute to the memory of those who died, reflect on all those who have suffered from such prejudice, and vow to raise awareness so that such an atrocity never occurs again. As a member of the Armenian Caucus and a cosponsor of the genocide resolution, I will keep fighting to ensure that the Armenian Genocide is appropriately recognized.

It is a shame that we have not learned from our mistakes in the past regarding genocide, but it is not too late to heal these wounds and also help end atrocities occurring as we speak. To that end, we must not stand by as the situation deteriorates in Darfur. It is our

duty to end this human suffering, and I will continue to work to stop this conflict and promote peace in Sudan. Together, let us make this world a better place.

As an ardent supporter of Rhode Island's Armenian-American community throughout my public service career, I am proud to join my colleagues today in honoring the victims of the genocide by paying tribute to their memory, showing compassion for those who have suffered from such prejudice, and never forgetting the pain that they have endured.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RALPH
FORD JR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise with a level of sadness to pay tribute to a good son, a good husband, a good father, a good citizen and one of Chicago's finest of the men and women in blue, Police Sargent Ralph Ford Jr.

It has been my pleasure and that of my wife to know the Ford Family for many years. I first knew Ralph's mother, Mrs. Jacqueline Ford, when she was a pioneer community activist serving on the board of the Martin Luther King Jr. neighborhood health center. She and my wife Vera have attended Carey Tercentenary AME Church together forever. I first knew Ralph well when he was a young Chicago police officer and I began to run for public office; he was a diligent and enthusiastic volunteer who was not afraid to be associated with our campaign even though I was running as an independent against the existing political machine. The fact that Ralph had attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff added another star to his crown because I had attended the old Arkansas A.M. & N College before it attained University status. Being the excellent police officer that he was, Ralph made Sargent and outdistanced many of his peers. He was jovial, a good talker, had a great personality and a wonderful sense of humor.

Family meant everything to Ralph, he was totally devoted to his wife and children, he had a great affinity for other members of the family, and of course he and his mother Jackie had an absolute long-standing love affair.

Madam Speaker, Sargent Ralph Ford Jr. was an absolute credit to his law enforcement profession, the apple of his wife and family's eyes and a joy to humanity. He shall be sorely missed.

H.R. 362 AND H.R. 363

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I am encouraged by the continued development of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs in the United States as we seek to stay competitive at the global level. While H.R. 362 and 363 attempt to boost these endeavors, we have to examine at what cost and whether

that cost is commensurate with what they accomplish. H.R. 363 alone would cost \$1.25 billion over 5 years and H.R. 362 represents an expenditure of \$1.5 billion over 5 years.

Oddly, these duplicative bills seek to establish programs that are already in existence and expand others that have yet to show a return on their original investment. As outlined by the Statement of Administrative Policy, "the Academic Competitiveness Council has identified 105 existing STEM education programs spending over \$3 billion annually, including 45 programs that support training of STEM teachers, and found that very few of these programs demonstrated evidence-based effectiveness."

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to pour more money into programs that are simply not working. I have continued to support successful legislation like loan forgiveness for science and math teachers to encourage development in this field. I also encourage individual states to look into programs like that in New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content standards, which I was proud to work on in the New Jersey Assembly. Under this program, students are taught the highest level of math and science while also providing development of pre-engineering and design and equipping students with modern computer literacy.

Out of a sense of responsibility to our Nation's next generation, I could not in good conscience support these expensive, bureaucracy-laden bills. I will continue to support measures that are proven to work while upholding states' Constitutional right to design STEM programs which work well for them and their students.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to remind the world that the 24th of April marks the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a systematic and deliberate campaign of the Ottoman Empire to exterminate an entire people. I also rise to reaffirm my support for the adoption of the Armenian Genocide Resolution, H. Res. 106. This legislation contains a long list of U.S. and international involvement against the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term 'genocide' in 1944, and who was the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the 20th century. The time is now for the Administration to describe what occurred as a genocide. There is no option for continued denial.

Atrocities which fell upon a nation almost a century ago are still crying out for commemoration. Armenia's people did not get sufficient recognition of their devastation and our government has yet to take an appropriate position in this matter. Considering how well documented the Armenian genocide is in U.S. archives and through an overwhelming body of

firsthand, governmental, and diplomatic evidence, this is nothing less than a disgrace.

Previous Congresses undertook many efforts to pass legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Unfortunately, all those attempts failed. Now, however, the movement to recognize the genocide has generated enough momentum that passage of this resolution is finally possible. Congressman PALLONE, Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, has been a stalwart champion of this legislation.

The grassroots campaign "End the Cycle of Genocide" focuses on the lessons we can learn from this tragic chapter in history. We understand the horror of past genocides and recognize that mass exterminations underway today need to be stopped. We cannot remain silent as we observe from a distance how perpetrators execute their power over minorities. Now more than ever, as the world is gripped by unrest and terrorism, the memory of the Armenian Genocide underscores our responsibility to help convey our cherished traditions of respect for fundamental human rights and opposition to mass slaughter.

For these reasons, I support H. Res. 106 and call upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects an appropriate level of understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to the Armenian Genocide.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR
PAY ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the 1963 Equal Pay Act (EPA), the first of the great civil rights statutes of the 1960s, was highly successful for close to 20 years, but it is too creaky with age to be useful today. It is long past the time to amend the EPA to meet the changed economy, where women work almost as much as men. Every year, my House colleague ROSA DELAURO and I, and scores of other Members, introduce the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill to amend the EPA to make its basic procedures equal to those used in other antidiscrimination statutes. However, the Fair Pay Act (FPA), which Senator TOM HARKIN and I have also introduced, not only amends the EPA, but it picks up where the EPA leaves off to bring the EPA into the 21st century by taking on sex segregated jobs where gender influenced wages leaves average women workers without any remedy too long. Congresswoman DELAURO and I have long pressed for the passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and both of us will testify at its first hearing today before the Committee on Education and Labor about what is at bottom a procedural update that should have occurred 25 years ago. I will be testifying from my own experience as the first woman chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), when President Jimmy Carter moved the EPA and other civil rights statutes to the EEOC as parts of a historic organization when I became chair.

Along with my indispensable Senate partner, TOM HARKIN, I again introduce the Fair Pay Act to reach the average woman worker,

who is often first steered to and then locked into jobs with wages that are deeply influenced by the gender of those who have traditionally held those jobs. Women are greatly underused today because of employer steering, and because of deeply rooted wage stereotypes that result in pay according to gender and not according to the skills, efforts, responsibilities and working conditions necessary to do the job. I introduce the Fair Pay Act because the pay problems of most women today stem mainly from this sex segregation between the jobs that women and men traditionally do. Two-thirds of white women, and three quarters of African American women, work in just three areas: sales and clerical, service, and factory jobs. Only a combination of more aggressive strategies can break through the ancient societal habits present throughout human time the world over, as well as the employer steering of women into women's jobs that is as old as paid employment itself.

The FPA recognizes that if men and women are doing comparable work, they should be paid a comparable wage. If a woman is an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, for example, she should be paid no less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because each of these jobs has been dominated by one sex. If a woman is a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, she should earn no less than a probation officer, a traditionally male job, simply because of the gender associated with each of these jobs.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the market system. As with the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. She must show that the reason for the disparity is sex discrimination, not legitimate market factors. Corrections to achieve comparable pay for men and women are not radical or unprecedented. State employees in almost half the State governments, in red and blue States alike, have already demonstrated that you can eliminate the part of the pay gap that is due to discrimination. Twenty States have adjusted wages for women State employees, raising pay for teachers, nurses, clerical workers, librarians, and other female-dominated jobs that paid less than men with comparable jobs. Minnesota, for example, implemented a pay equity plan when they found that similarly skilled female jobs paid 20 percent less than male jobs. There often will be some portion of the gap that is traceable to market conditions, but 20 States have shown that you can tackle the discrimination gap without interfering with the free market system. The States generally have closed the discrimination gap over a period of 4 or 5 years at a one-time cost no more than 3 to 4 percent of payroll.

In addition, routinely, many women workers achieve pay equity through collective bargaining, and countless employers on their own, as they see women shifting out of vital female-dominated occupations, the resulting effects of the shortage of workers, and the unfairness to women, and are raising women's wages with pay equity adjustments. Unequal pay has been built into the way women have been treated since Adam and Eve. To dislodge such deep seated and pervasive treatment, we must go to the source, the female occupations where pay now identifies with gender and always has.

Recently, I thought we were seeing progress when the census reported last year that Black, college-educated women actually earned more than white, college-educated women, although the overall wage gap for Black women, at 65 percent, remains considerably larger than the gap for white women. No explanation was offered for the progress for Black women, but other data and information suggest that even when women seem to catch up it may not be what we had in mind. I suspect that African American women are represented disproportionately among the 50 percent of all multiple job holders who are women. I am certain that this progress for African American women also tells a tragic story. The decline in marriageable Black men, eaten alive by ghetto life, also means that many college-educated Black women are likely to be single with no need for even the short time-out for children that many white women often take that may affect their wages as compared with Black women.

The best case for a strong and updated EPA with at least the Paycheck Fairness Act occurred here in the Congress in 2003, when women custodians in the House and Senate won an EPA case after showing that women workers were paid a dollar less for doing the same and similar work as men. Had they not been represented by their union, they would have had an almost impossible task using the rules for bringing and sustaining an EPA class action suit. The FPA simply modernizes the EPA to bring it in line with later passed civil rights statutes. From my tenure as EEOC chair, I know all too well the several ways that this historic legislation needs a 21st century make-over.

We cosponsored both these two bills every year to say let's at least start with the Paycheck Fairness Act so we can be prepared to go further with the Fair Pay Act. Start where you like, but Congress should be ashamed to let another year go by while working families lose more than \$200 billion annually—more than \$4,000 per family—because even considering education, age, hours works and location, women are paid less than they are worth. Let's start this year to make pay worthy of the American women we have asked to go to work.

HAMAS BREAKS TRUCE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, early this morning, the day that marks the 59th year of Israeli independence, Hamas militants broke their truce by launching dozens of rockets and mortars into Israel. While no one was hurt and there was no reported damage, this is yet another setback for Middle East peace and for the kidnapped Gilad Shalit and his family who have patiently awaited his return.

Hamas remains an organization full of contradictions. While their militant wing says the cease fire is over, the political wing insists that the cease fire is to be resumed. Hamas claims that Shalit is a prisoner of war and yet they bar the Red Cross from visiting him and have offered only scant proof the he even remains alive.

There cannot be lasting peace in the Holy Land until the Palestinian people insist that all armed parties come under the control of a freely elected government. Palestinian terrorist groups operate under their own authority, planning and carrying out their attacks based on their warped view of Israeli grievances. This is just as destructive for peace-loving Palestinians as for peace-loving Israelis.

Hamas continues to call for the destruction of Israel in its official policy statements. How can Israel hope to negotiate a lasting peace if the stated goal of the other sitting government is the very annihilation of their state? There can be peace, but only if Hamas shows in word and deed that coexistence is its goal.

Until that time, the international community should support Israel, a state that abides by international treaties and is actively seeking a long-term solution to violence. As long as Hamas continues to promulgate random attacks on civilians and violate international prisoner of war standards, it cannot be trusted to sit down with the Israelis in good faith negotiations for peace.

RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observation of Equal Pay Day, a day where we recognize that women and people of color continue to suffer the consequences of inequitable pay. This day symbolizes the time in the year which wages, especially paid to American women, catch up to the wages paid to men from the previous year.

Ever since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law in 1963, the wage gap between men and women has only been closing at a slow rate. Back then, women who worked full-time year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. Even today, women only earn 77 cents to the dollar, which means that the gap has narrowed by less than half a cent per year. In 2006, there were 70.2 million women aged 16 and over in the workforce, which made up 46 percent of all workers, and reflected a significant increase from only 18.4 million working women in 1950. Over a working lifetime, this wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family \$700,000 to \$2 million in lost wages, and thus impacting social Security benefits and pensions.

With the growing rate of women in the workforce, and more families reliant upon their paychecks for livelihood, the issue of equal pay is not simply a women's issue, but a family issue. The wage gap hurts everyone because it decreases a family's income that pays for their essential needs. When women earn more, the entire family benefits.

For these reasons Madam Speaker, I am in strong support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. I hope that this Congress will bring new light to this bill do what has not been done over the past 40 years. It will be through our bipartisan efforts that we eradicate the unfair treatment of women in the labor market, and help families gain the resources they need to ensure that their children have access to a better future in the 21st century.

MR. LAMBORN CONDEMNNS TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize but not celebrate the 40th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the State of Colorado. On April 25, 1967, the Colorado State Legislature passed its first law legalizing abortion. Since the passage of this law, hundreds of thousands of Coloradans have lost their lives as a direct result. Today the death toll continues to mount in Colorado as well as the rest of the country, and with it the tremendous cost to our society.

What would have become of the 50 million Americans whose lives were so untimely taken from them? What discoveries will we never see? What diseases will never be cured because we allowed these lives to be taken? The loss to society, resulting from the perverse logic that the life of an "unplanned" child does not possess the same value as that of any other child, is staggering.

The most common medical procedure performed in the United States, abortion is also a deplorable attack on the health of American women. Abortion, though it was legalized in the name of women's health, causes immediate medical complications for over 140,000 women a year, increases the risk of premature birth in subsequent pregnancies, and results in a higher chance of infertility. Furthermore, post-abortion syndrome, which is similar to post-traumatic stress disorder, has led to untold amounts of suffering among American women. Compared to women that give birth, women who abort their unborn children are almost three times more likely to require psychological care.

I believe that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will one day look upon abortion as we now look upon slavery, as an evil so great it tore apart the moral fabric of our Nation. While fighting slavery, the inhumane scourge of his own era, Frederick Douglass said, "one and God makes a majority." Those who fight in the name of life are therefore the majority, and will ultimately prevail. I hope and pray that I will never again have to observe this dark anniversary, and promise that I will continue to do everything in my power to protect innocent lives and the well-being of women.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, due to a funeral, I was unable to return in time to vote on Monday, April 23, 2007. Please find below a listing of my missed votes and a record of my votes, had I been present.

Rollcall #245 on H. Res. 179, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall #246 on H.R. 1434, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall #247 on H.R. 1402, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE ISSUE OF PREDATORY
LENDING PRACTICES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out on the issue of predatory lending practices within the subprime lending industry.

Madam Speaker, I have heard from countless constituents in my district regarding this issue. As you may know, Ohio has one of the highest rates of foreclosure in the country. Members of my community that I have known for years are being faced with foreclosure after owning a home for over 40 years in some cases. Seniors are being affected at a disproportionate rate. Lenders prey on seniors who have been in their homes all of their lives, and have a substantial amount of equity in their home. They promote these balloon and adjustable rate mortgages that look attractive and are affordable in their initial stages. However, after 2 years or more, these loans readjust to much higher payments with higher interest rates. For instance, one of my constituents is currently in an adjustable rate mortgage, which locked in a payment of \$1088 for 2 years. After 2 years, the mortgage payment increased to \$1488. Three months later the payment increased to \$1715. This payment increase has had a significant impact on this individual's budget and because they are not in a position to refinance, they are currently facing foreclosure.

Creating wealth is the most fundamental and important goal of minorities that seek economic equity. One of the first steps toward creating wealth is homeownership. The equity from owning a home is often the only means to secure funding for a new business, college tuition, or retirement. Predatory lending targets low income and minority communities. It compromises the opportunity to own a home and hinders economic stability, creating greater disparities in wealth.

The nonprofit Center for Responsible Lending projects that as this year ends, 2.2 million households in the subprime market will either have lost their homes to foreclosure or hold subprime mortgages that will fail over the next several years. These foreclosures will cost homeowners as much as \$164 billion, primarily in lost home equity.

It is also projected that one out of five (19 percent) subprime mortgages originated during the past two years will end in foreclosure. This rate is nearly double the projected rate of subprime loans made in 2002, and it exceeds the worst foreclosure experience in the modern mortgage market, which occurred during the "Oil Patch" disaster of the 1980s.

The nonprofit Center for Responsible Lending analyzed 15.1 million subprime loans from 1998 through 2006 and found that only about 1.4 million were for first-time home buyers. Most were for refinancing. To date, more than 500,000 of those subprime borrowers have lost their homes to foreclosures. An additional 1.8 million are likely to follow as the market

deteriorates. That's nearly 2.4 million lost homes.

In Ohio the foreclosure epidemic went from bad to much worse last year as the number of new cases grew by nearly 24 percent from 2005. Cuyahoga County led the state in new cases with 13,610 new filings last year. This ranking has attracted national attention with Ohio's foreclosure rate currently at 18 percent which is higher than the national average of 17 percent. The problem has gone from bad to worse and from worse to regress in Ohio, with 7,479 filings in February 2007 alone.

Predatory lending has expanded its reach beyond mortgage lending. Predatory practices are becoming increasingly prevalent in refund anticipation, auto, and payday loans.

There were over 12 million Refund Anticipation Loan borrowers in 2003. Tax preparers and lenders strip about \$1.57 billion in fees each year from the earned-income tax credits paid to working parents, according to a 2005 study by the National Consumer Law Center.

It is also estimated that Predatory payday lending practices cost American families \$4.2 billion annually. In addition, research indicates that minorities pay on average \$2,000 more per vehicle purchased than nonminorities. Predatory auto lending is taking an estimated \$2 billion dollars a year out of African American communities alone.

Madam Speaker, I have been hollering about this issue since I came to Congress in 1999. It is unfortunate that the issue is being given some serious national attention only after posing a threat to corporations and financial and mortgage security industries. Last August, I along with the Financial Services Committee organized a field hearing in my Congressional District to hear from local officials and community representatives that work with this issue on a day-to-day basis. The hearing brought Ohio to the forefront of the foreclosure issue as it held rankings among the highest in the Nation.

To continue in the fight, this week, I will be introducing the Predatory Lending Practices Reduction Act. This legislation serves to accomplish three main goals: 1) Establish a federal certification program to require mortgage brokers and other agents involved in subprime loan transactions to become certified and pass a written examination that covers, among other things, Federal law relative to Truth in Lending, Fair Housing, Equal Credit Opportunity Act and other Federal legislation. 2) Sets up minimum standards as they relate to providing information to consumers as well as best practices for dispute/complaint resolution; and 3) Creates civil penalties for violations of federal law pertaining to predatory lending; In addition it addresses appraisal fraud which has become increasingly popular among predatory practices.

I commend Chairman BARNEY FRANK of the Financial Services Committee on his commitment to working on this issue. I look forward to working with the Chairman and my colleagues on a solution to an issue that has devastated minority communities for over a decade.

Thank you to my colleague Mr. CUMMINGS for organizing this effort.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD remarks on the life and work of the Honorable Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD served seven terms for the 37th Congressional District as a Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives. She died of cancer on April 22, 2007 at age 68.

Mrs. MILLENDER-MCDONALD was born in Birmingham, Alabama on September 7, 1938. She always placed education and women's rights in the forefront of her issues and values; after graduating from the University of Redlands with an undergraduate degree, she became a teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District. When she attained her Master's Degree from California State University at Los Angeles, she gave up her job as a teacher to be an editor and writer for the school district. Her lifelong fight for women's rights emerged when she became the manuscript editor for Images, a textbook designed to enhance the self-esteem of young women.

Before running for local office, she was named the Director of Gender Equity Programs for the Los Angeles school district. In 1990, she was elected the first African American woman to the Carson City Council, and in 1992 the first woman to represent the 55th Assembly District in the California State Legislature in 1992. In both roles she attacked the congestion and transportation problems of California infrastructure. As an assemblywoman, she helped push the Alameda Corridor, a \$1.8 billion public works project to lay new tracks and build trenches and bridges. Her concern with transportation continued in her national office.

As a member of the House, she was appointed to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its Subcommittees on Aviation and Surface Transportation. She also served on the Committee on Small Business and as one of the ranking members on the Subcommittee on Tax, Finance, and Exports. After two years in the House, she was named the Region One Democratic Whip, and was honored with the Watts Walk of Fame for her work on behalf of the 37th District. In 2006, the Congresswoman became the first African American chair of the House Administration Committee.

For her entire life, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD has fought for social justice. She was a leader in election reform, women's rights, and transportation solutions; she was a credit to her district and to all the people she served as a Representative of the United States. Her husband, five adult children and five grandchildren survive her. I commend her and her life's work, and ask my colleagues to recognize her memory.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today we solemnly commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide where, over the course of eight years, from 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire launched a systematic campaign to exterminate its Armenian community. During that time, more than 1.5 million Armenians suffered through mass killings, deportations, forced slavery and torture.

Once the genocide ended, many survivors rose above their anguish and terrible experiences to rebuild their lives. Armenian communities began to flourish as numerous immigrants found a new home here in the United States, as well as in my home state of California. Even though their communities discovered solace and success in America, the scars of genocide remain deeply embedded in their history and in our conscience.

If we are to pro actively engage the international community, we must realize the significance of commemorating the Armenian Genocide. Equipped with information and education, we can ensure that the legacy of the genocide endures and that atrocities such as those that befell the Armenian people never happen again.

Together we can educate, commemorate, remember, and stand united in promoting a clear message that the United States does not condone, nor does it tolerate acts of genocide.

Today we mourn the victims, pay tribute to the survivors, and stand together with all who are committed to promoting awareness about the atrocities of genocide. Today we remember to never forget.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I was saddened to learn of her passing after her courageous battle with cancer, and my thoughts and prayers are with her husband, James McDonald, Jr., their five children and five grandchildren—as well as the people of the 37th district of California.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD served this Congress honorably for over five terms, during which time she was a tireless advocate for underserved communities in the U.S. and around the globe. Among her many accomplishments, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD secured critical funding for counseling services for our servicemen and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan,

and was instrumental in the passage of important AIDS-prevention programs in Africa. The Congresswoman was also a staunch advocate for the rights of women, minorities, children, and the elderly.

Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD will also be remembered as a preeminent leader and trailblazer. She was the first-ever African-American or woman to chair the Committee on House Administration where she worked hard to ensure that all Americans would be guaranteed their rights at the voting booth. As the Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD convened groundbreaking meetings with then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to discuss global poverty programs, as well as the New York Stock Exchange to find ways to empower women in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD led an exemplary life of public service that included her most recent position as the "Mayor of Capitol Hill". The House community lost a true friend. May God rest her soul.

HONORING THE OREGON-DAVIS
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to express my congratulations to the Oregon-Davis boys' basketball team for winning the Indiana 1-A boys' basketball state championship on March 24, 2007. The Bobcats' victory comes just 3 weeks after the Lady-Bobcats captured the 1-A girls' State crown with a 54-46 victory in the title game. This is the first time in Indiana High School Basketball history that both the boys' and girls' State basketball titles were won by the same school in the same year.

The Bobcats' 63-52 victory over the Barr-Reeve Vikings was the crowning achievement to an almost perfect season. Oregon-Davis finished with a record of 27-1 and held the top ranking in Division 1-A for most of the season. The Bobcats' win was led by the individual performances of seniors Justin Egger and Nathan Ferch who scored 19 and 18 points, respectively, the victory was a team effort. The boys made 20 of 25 free throws throughout the game, tying the Indiana record for most free throws in a State championship.

The Bobcats' varsity roster consisted of 11 young men, including seniors Justin Egger, Nathan Ferch, Brandon Johnston, Joseph Baughman, Austen Cornell, and Adam Pflugshaupt; juniors Daniel Henigsmith, Ryne Sweeney, Andy Lawrence, and Josh Taylor; sophomore Mike Wood; and freshmen Travis Collings and Nick Hofferth. Following the game, Adam Pflugshaupt was awarded with the prestigious Arthur L. Tester "Award for Mental Attitude" for his excellence in leadership, scholarship, and athletic ability.

The boys were supported throughout the season by the dedicated coaching staffed by Head Coach Travis Hannah; assisted by coaches Ryan Reese, Jim Ash, and Shaun Johnston; and managed by Brandon Surma.

School administrators such as Superintendent William Rentschler, Principal Greg Biles, and Athletic Director Will Hostrawser must also be recognized for their crucial role in the team's success.

Finally, recognition must be given to the school community of Oregon-Davis and its surrounding areas for the enthusiastic support of the team both during the season and in the State finals. Despite Oregon-Davis's enrollment of only 246, the athletic department sold over 1,800 tickets to Bobcat fans who then traveled to Indianapolis to support the team in the State finals. This show of support no doubt was instrumental in the team's victory.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the Bobcats' boys basketball team, as well as to all Oregon-Davis students, staff, and supporters for the team's outstanding achievements in the 2006-2007 basketball season.

HONORING THE PLYMOUTH HIGH
SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise before you to offer a word of congratulations to the Plymouth High School boys' basketball team. The Pilgrims were crowned Division 3A Indiana state basketball champions on March 24, 2007, at Indianapolis's Conseco Fieldhouse. Plymouth captured the state title with a 72-61 victory over Evansville's Benjamin Bosse High School.

The boys worked tirelessly throughout the season and compiled an overall record of 25-2. This season's efforts bested the team's 2005 finish of State runner-up. This is only the second time in the school's history that the boys' basketball team has captured the State title, and this season's triumph marks the 25th anniversary of the school's 1982 championship season.

This year's team was led by seniors Jason Renz, Jared Wendel, Chad Clinton, Jacob Palmer, and Bryon Faulstich. Other members of the team include juniors P.J. Gretter, Randy Davis, Nick Neidlinger, Sam Faulstich, Ryan Welch, and Blaine Schafer, and sophomore Jeremy Renz. Randy Davis and Jared Wendel gave impressive individual performances in the championship game, scoring 28 and 20 points, respectively. Individual honors were also bestowed upon Jason Renz as he was awarded the prestigious Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award for his distinguished leadership, scholarship, and athletic ability.

This team's achievements would not have been possible without the support of a wide variety of coaches and school officials. Head Coach Jack Edison—in his 34th season of coaching at Plymouth—and his assistant staff of John Scott, Michael Edison, Joel Grindle, Zach Scott, Tony Plothow, and Tom Ienbarger provided the players with guidance both on and off the court. Administrators such as Superintendent Dr. John Hill, Principle Richard Tobias, and Athletic Director Roy Bengel must also be recognized for their efforts in support of the team's continued success. Last, but certainly not least, all the Plymouth fans, and in particular the always energetic student body, should be recognized for their enthusiasm and pride in the team.

The 2006–2007, Plymouth boys' basketball team has secured a place in the storied history of Indiana high school basketball. I offer my congratulations to the members of the team, the coaching staff, the school, and the greater Plymouth community on their accomplishments throughout the season.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 30

2 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism
Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Halliburton
and United States business ties to Iran.
SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
fairs
Oversight of Government Management, the
Federal Workforce, and the District of
Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Federal
government's role in empowering
Americans to make informed financial
decisions.
SD-342

MAY 1

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
fairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomina-
tion of Howard Charles Weizmann, of
Maryland, to be Deputy Director of the
Office of Personnel Management.
SD-342

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine improving
air service to small and rural commu-
nities.
SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine No Child
Left Behind Reauthorization, focusing
on measuring progress and supporting
effective interventions.
SD-106

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine process pat-
ents.
SD-226

2 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine conserva-
tion policy recommendations for the
farm bill.
SR-328A

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 129, to
study and promote the use of energy-
efficient computer servers in the
United States, S. 838, to authorize
funding for eligible joint ventures be-
tween United States and Israeli busi-
nesses and academic persons, to estab-
lish the International Energy Advisory
Board, H.R. 85, to provide for the estab-
lishment of centers to encourage dem-
onstration and commercial application
of advanced energy methods and tech-
nologies, and H.R. 1126, to reauthorize
the Steel and Aluminum Energy Con-
servation and Technology Competitive-
ness Act of 1988.
SD-366

Armed Services

SeaPower Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Depart-
ment of Defense transportation pro-
grams in review of the Defense Author-
ization Request for Fiscal Year 2008
and the Future Years Defense Pro-
gram.
SR-222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Ma-
rine Infrastructure, Safety and Secu-
rity Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Electronic
On-Board Recorders (EOBR's) and
truck driver fatigue reduction.
SR-253

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the Foreign
Intelligence Surveillance Act (Public
Law 95-511).
SD-106

MAY 2

9:15 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism
Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine United
States trade relations with China.
SR-253

10 a.m.

Judiciary
Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Se-
curity Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine strength-
ening the security of international
travel documents, focusing on inter-
rupting terrorist travel.
SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Aging
To hold hearings to examine the Nursing
Home Reform Act (Public Law 100-203),
focusing on what has been accom-
plished and what challenges still re-
main.
SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 27, to au-
thorize the implementation of the San
Joaquin River Restoration Settlement.
SD-366

3 p.m.

Appropriations
Financial Services and General Govern-
ment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed
budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for

the government of the District of Co-
lumbia, focusing on the federally-fund-
ed entities.
SD-192

MAY 3

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the United
States Central Command in review of
the Defense Authorization Request for
Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years
Defense Program.
SD-106

10 a.m.

Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed
budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for
the Office of the Secretary of the Sen-
ate and the Library of Congress.
SD-124

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Devel-
opment, and Related Agencies Sub-
committee
To hold hearings to examine proposed
budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for
the Department of Housing and Urban
Development.
SD-138

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine pending
nominations.
SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 390, to di-
rect the exchange of certain land in
Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties,
Utah, S. 647, to designate certain land
in the State of Oregon as wilderness, S.
1139, to establish the National Land-
scape Conservation System, H.R. 276,
to designate the Piedras Blancas Light
Station and the surrounding public
land as an Outstanding Natural Area to
be administered as a part of the Na-
tional Landscape Conservation System,
and for other purposes, H.R. 356, to re-
move certain restrictions on the Mam-
moth Community Water District's abil-
ity to use certain property acquired by
that District from the United States, S.
205, to grant rights-of-way for electric
transmission lines over certain Native
allotments in the State of Alaska, and
H.R. 865, to grant rights-of-way for
electric transmission lines over certain
Native allotments in the State of Alas-
ka.
SD-366

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider cer-
tain intelligence matters.
SH-219

9:30 p.m.

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 310, a bill
to express the policy of the United
States regarding the United States re-
lationship with Native Hawaiians and
to provide a process for the recognition
by the United States of the Native Ha-
waiian governing entity.
SR-485

MAY 9

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine farm bill
policy proposals relating to farm and
energy issues and rural development.
SR-328A

Veterans' Affairs

MAY 16

MAY 17

To hold hearings to examine benefits legislation.

10 a.m.

10 a.m.

SD-562

Veterans' Affairs

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Consumer Affairs, Insurance, and Automotive Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

To hold hearings to examine rail safety reauthorization.

To hold hearings to examine All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) safety.

SD-562

SR-253

SR-253

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine health legislation.

SD-562