

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TOM KIM

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to native San Franciscan Tom Kim, a trailblazing community leader, organizer, and youth activist of Korean heritage, who recently passed away at the age of 64. Tom Kim lived in San Francisco all his life, growing up in Chinatown, residing and organizing in the predominantly Hispanic Mission District, and in the predominantly African American and Japanese-American Western Addition.

Tom was a mentor to many of our local and national community and political leaders. He was a staunch unionist, having joined the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union upon becoming a longshoreman after graduating from high school.

Tom was a champion of the oppressed and underrepresented, especially for our youth. As a catalyst for social justice, Tom co-founded the Real Alternatives Program to help alienated and troubled youth find an alternative to street life and the juvenile justice system. He was one of the first to advocate for community-based alternatives to detention. Many of the modalities for which he advocated early on are now accepted as the best practices in youth work today.

Tom was in the forefront of founding numerous groundbreaking organizations that trained and inspired a lineage of professional social workers and psychologists serving the Asian American community—the first national Asian American Social Work Training Center; the first national Asian American Psychology Training Center; Asian American Social Work Training at one of California's State Universities—San Francisco State; San Francisco-based Asian American Communities for Education and Asian Youth Substance Abuse Prevention.

At San Francisco State University, Tom helped establish the College of Ethnic Studies and was an early faculty member, teaching juvenile law and community alternatives to detention, as well as Asian American Studies. In 1972, he helped organize the first Asian American Mental Health Conference, which was held in San Francisco. Sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health, this seminal conference gave voice to overlooked, underserved, and negatively understood Asian Americans to communicate their needs and concerns.

Tom was a leader in policy development. He held a number of policy positions—White House consultant for the International Year of the Child proclaimed by the United Nations in 1979; member of the California Bar Association Committee on Juvenile Justice; member of the President's Commission on Mental Health, Asian American Panel; consultant to

and witness before the United States Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy in 1979 and 1980; and member of the oversight committee for the 1980 United States Census.

I was honored to work with Tom when he co-founded the groundbreaking Asian Pacific Caucus of the Democratic Party, which debuted at the 1984 National Democratic Convention in San Francisco. The Caucus became a vehicle for Asian Americans to figure prominently in the democratic process.

Tom never forgot his own community. He co-founded the first bilingual, bicultural organization that provided Koreans in Northern California social services, a senior center, and direct service programs, such as immigration and crisis intervention. He was the first Executive Director of the Korean Community Service Center of San Francisco.

Tom also started the first Korean American ethnic heritage project in the United States, co-producing "Lest We Forget: Korean American Oral History Videos," featuring prominent Korean Americans such as Olympic diving champion Dr. Sammy Lee, and United States Army Col. Young Oak Kim, who served with the highly decorated 442nd all Japanese American regimental combat unit during World War II.

I extend my deepest sympathy to Tom's family, especially to his two beloved sons, to whom Tom was a devoted father.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
JOHN J. NYGARD ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that John J. Nygard of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

John's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this summer with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. It is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

John brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio, John attained a grade point average which placed him at the top of his class. While an accomplished athlete, John has maintained

the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. John has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar.

Outside the classroom, John has remained extremely involved in his community by actively participating in the efforts of the Toledo Seagate Food Bank. In addition to assisting the less fortunate in Northwest Ohio, John has volunteered to assist the Central American Ministries this summer. By doing so, John will be working to improve the lives of the children of Guatemala. I have no doubt that John will employ the lessons of his student leadership as he excels among the leaders at the United States Air Force Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John J. Nygard on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that John will do very well during his career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

RECOGNIZING THE FRENCH AND
PICKERING CREEKS CONSERVATION
TRUST ON ITS 40TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust on its 40th Anniversary of preserving open spaces and historic treasures throughout Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Trust was founded by Samuel and Eleanor Morris as a vehicle for saving and protecting the valuable lands and natural resources in the watersheds of northern Chester County that they cherished so much. Spanning nearly 110 square miles, these watersheds contain some of the most beautiful and amazing open spaces, forests, streams and rivers in all of Pennsylvania.

Through the hard work and dedication of countless people, the Trust has successfully partnered with individuals, other organizations and government entities to preserve nearly 8,100 acres of valuable open space, build trails and promote greenways along the French and Pickering Creeks, and place more than 60 sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the founders, members, supporters and staff of the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust for 40 years of preserving and protecting

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

the unparalleled natural resources and outstanding quality of life in Chester County. This wonderful nonprofit organization should be applauded for their hard-work and dedication to this most worthy cause.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GINA
ROBISON-BILLUPS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Robison-Billups, for being honored by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration as the Home Based Business Champion of the Year.

Gina attended Loyola Marymount University and, shortly thereafter, began running her parents' home-based entertainment business. Gina then started her own business, the Marketing and Business Development Corporation, which specialized in providing marketing and business strategy services to small business clients. During her tenure at the head of the Marketing and Business Development Corp., Gina noticed that there was no organization that specifically targeted women business owners and she committed to help the 64 million working mothers in America.

In addition to her successful business endeavors, Gina has also established the Moms in Business Network and the International Association of Working Mothers. Through these networks, Gina has provided valuable networking opportunities as well as educational and financial opportunities through the grant program run by the Moms in Business Network. Presently, the network has over 250 members and the International Association has over 1,500 members worldwide.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Gina Robison-Billups; her dedication to helping working mothers is truly commendable. I congratulate her for her recent recognition by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1867) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1867, which authorizes \$21 billion in funding for the National Science Foundation over the next 3 years.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) was created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, with a broad mission of supporting science, engineering and funding basic research across many disciplines. As the only

agency dedicated to the support of education and fundamental research in all scientific and engineering disciplines, we must continue to be generous and fund the NSF at the necessary levels to remain at the forefront of discovery, learning, and innovation.

In 1952, the NSF began by funding 28 research grants—in 2005 the number has grown to well over 10,000. In 2005, the agency received 42,000 proposals for research, fellowships, and projects in science, mathematics, and engineering.

There have been more than 100 Nobel Prize Winners and thousands of other distinguished scientists and engineers that have conducted their groundbreaking research with funding from the NSF.

From successfully splitting the atom, to landing the first man on the moon, to mapping the human genome, it is because of our investment in science and technology that the United States can be credited for these accomplishments. The majority of the research supported by the NSF is conducted at U.S. colleges and universities and approximately 82.6% of its estimated research and development (R&D) budget for 2005 was awarded to U.S. colleges and universities.

Today, we live in a global society and must continue to invest in our research and development to ensure we remain competitive in this global society. Every year, China and India graduate 950,000 engineers in comparison to the 70,000 the United States graduates each year. We must adequately fund and support the NSF, in order to be internationally competitive and continue to make those cutting-edge discoveries that have forever changed the way we view innovation.

I thank Mr. Baird for bringing this legislation to the floor and encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT P.
BINKLEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Robert P. Binkley for his unyielding dedication to the Social Security Administration of Northeastern Ohio.

Robert Binkley has been a devoted member of the SSA for over 40 years. He worked at the first social security teleclaims taking center in Cleveland, where he provided all the agency's beneficiaries with the prompt and courteous service they deserve. He continued his personal commitment to help those in vulnerable positions as a field representative in Michigan.

Robert later returned to the Cleveland area as a supervisor in the Akron office. It was no surprise to his peers when he was promoted the Manager of the Teleservice Center in Cincinnati, and then Cleveland. While manager of the Cleveland Teleservice Center, Robert spent time at the SSA's headquarters in Baltimore, where he was instrumental in developing a national 800 number service guide for the nation's teleservice centers. Because of his ingenuity, many telecommunication services across the country are able to better

serve their clients. Robert's continued dedication to improving the customer experience led to the development of a nonreceipt method so that SSA beneficiaries could receive replacement checks seven to ten days sooner.

With the same enthusiasm Robert demonstrated when assisting the public, he encouraged his staff to attain higher positions within the agency. He continuously offered advice and expertise and many careers have been cultivated under Robert's tutelage.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Robert P. Binkley for his exceptional public service. His selfless devotion to the Social Security Administration and his staff has left an indelible mark on the community.

ON PASSAGE OF THE TORTURE
VICTIMS RELIEF ACT—H.R. 1678

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, last week I was pleased to have the opportunity to vote to extend the Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA). I have been a cosponsor of this legislation since 2003. In the last Congress, the bill became law, but it authorized appropriations only through the end of fiscal year 2007. So it's important that Congress act to renew it before the current authorization expires. H.R. 1678 authorizes for two years additional appropriations for domestic centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture, for foreign centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for the U.N. Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

There is no question about the need for this funding. Two-thirds of the world's countries still practice torture. An estimated 500,000 torture survivors live in the United States, and about 1,100 refugees and 400 asylum seekers enter my state of Colorado alone each year. Repressive governments use torture to target the very leaders who share our principles of freedom and democracy. Without their voices, communities are fearful. But torture treatment can undo the legacy of torture and reclaim the leaders who stand with us in promoting human rights and the rule of law.

I am proud that one of the most effective domestic torture treatment centers is located in Colorado. This year is the tenth anniversary of the Rocky Mountain Survivors Center (RMSC), which has served over 1,000 survivors of torture from over 53 different countries and regions around the world, in 35 languages. The RMSC is working hard to ensure that torture survivors in Colorado become functioning members of the citizenry through its in-house Legal Services, physical and mental healthcare, psychosocial services, and interpreter services. Most recently, RMSC introduced a community development effort to bring the topic of torture and its impact to newcomer communities in Colorado and hear from those newcomers what that impact has been on the larger community, the families of survivors and the survivors themselves.

The Rocky Mountain Survivor Center also educates providers, healthcare systems, and community members about torture and how to work to heal the wounds of torture, as well as

how to work to ameliorate and eradicate torture itself. The RMSC stands firmly as a voice for the voiceless in Colorado and as a beacon of hope for those whose hope has been stolen by torture. Domestic centers like RMSC receive funding from the Office of Refugee Settlement in the Health and Human Services Department and other private sources to assist survivors of torture and war trauma and their families. But levels of funding for the domestic and international parts of this program don't begin to match authorization levels. Domestic torture treatment programs were funded at almost \$10 million in FY 2007 (and have been funded at this same level since 2000), fully \$15 million short of authorized levels. International torture treatment centers were funded at \$8.5 million in FY07, \$4.5 million short of authorized levels. And the U.S. contribution to the U.N. Fund for Victims of Torture was funded at \$6.5 million in FY07, \$1.5 million short of authorized levels.

The Torture Victims Relief Act is vitally necessary for the work of rehabilitation in this country, but the domestic portion of the bill is woefully underfunded to accomplish this task. There are well over 500,000 survivors of torture in America today, many of whom do not get the services they need because of the shortage of funds. The U.N. Fund and international portions of the bill should also be generously funded to ensure America's leadership in the fight against torture throughout the world through partnerships and building capacity at centers devoted to healing of torture victims.

When Congress adopted the Torture Victims Relief Act last year, we made a commitment to ensure our population of victims of torture wouldn't be left behind. Now is the time to fulfill that promise and demonstrate that survivors of torture won't be forgotten on our watch.

So I am pleased that this bill passed overwhelmingly in the House, and I urge my colleagues to demonstrate the same enthusiasm when considering appropriation levels for TVRA programs in the next fiscal year.

TRIBUTE TO BLY STORY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to Bly Story, an outstanding citizen from Cave City, AR. His recent death was a great loss to the community and the State of Arkansas.

Bly Story was born on October 18th, 1918, at Cave City, Arkansas. Story was a WWII U.S. Air Force veteran and a farmer. Story strongly believed in giving back to the community, which is why he coached the Tuckerman High School baseball team for 8 years, where he led them to multiple district championship titles and served as the All-State basketball coach for 2 years.

Story also served on the Riceland Food board of directors from 1957 to 2005 and the Arkansas Electric Co-op board of directors from 1999 to 2002.

Bly Story's service to his community and his Nation go far beyond the details enumerated here. He was a great American, a wonderful

friend and a counselor to me. He will be missed by all who loved him.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR. JOHN HORACE MOSTELLER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Dr. John Horace Mosteller was a devoted family man, nationally recognized dentist, and dedicated community leader.

As an officer in the United States Navy, dentist, author, special lecturer at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry and Loyola University of New Orleans School of Dentistry, clinical professor at the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, and essayist, Dr. Mosteller dedicated his 84 years to helping others.

Dr. Mosteller served as editor of the Journal of the Alabama Dental Association for 42 years and was inducted into the inaugural class of the Alabama Health Care Hall of Fame in 1998. Over the course of his distinguished career, he published more than 250 papers in the dental literature and was author or coauthor of nine books.

It goes without saying that Dr. Mosteller was well known throughout the dental community. He served as an essayist at more than 800 dental meetings in 46 states and a dozen foreign countries, lectured at 43 American universities, and was a national consultant for restorative dentistry to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army for 14 years, a position equivalent to the rank of brigadier general.

Dr. Mosteller had the distinction of serving as the first vice president of the American Dental Association and was a member of the board of trustees of the Alabama Dental Association for 30 years. He was presented with Loyola University's 50th anniversary Award of Merit and was named Dentist of the Year by the Alabama Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

But his contributions did not end in the professional arena—Dr. Mosteller devoted much of his time to the Mobile community. He was a member of the Mobile Kiwanis Club and chairman of the dental division of the United Fund. When his busy schedule did allow for free time, you could likely find Dr. Mosteller at the Mobile Country Club, where he was a member for 50 years and served as both board member and president.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Dr. John Horace Mosteller will be deeply missed by his family—his children, Matt Mosteller, Charles Mosteller, Cynthia Mosteller, Nancy Mosteller Hoffman, Mary Lou Mosteller, Pauline Mosteller Danner, and Barbara Mosteller Price and his 15 grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IMPROVING HEAD START ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1429) to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in fervent support of H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act. This bill represents one of the most important pieces of legislation that Congress will deliberate because it affects a countless number of our young children and helps prepare them for a lifetime of learning and success.

Specifically, I applaud and support Congresswoman JOHNSON's amendment which addresses the need of engaging low-income and minority students, who overwhelmingly attend HCBU's, and provides them with additional opportunities to train in early childhood education at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels.

These same college students would then be required to teach in Head Start programs educating students who share similar backgrounds and family situations.

Mr. Chairman, the Johnson amendment is a win-win for our college students, our beginning students, and for the health and future of this country.

Research verifies what we already understand, that the earlier our children are engaged in the learning process the higher their chances of success later in school and in life.

Head Start promotes school readiness by providing our youngest students with early reading and math skills, enhancing their social and cognitive development, and providing them with health, nutritional, and other services.

By addressing the educational needs of our youngest children early on, we will increase our chances of closing existing achievement gaps. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Johnson Amendment, and the Improving Head Start Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAUPACK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. CARNEY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of the Paupack United Methodist Church. The Paupack United Methodist Church in Paupack, Pennsylvania is a long-standing institution and contributor to our community.

Originally founded in 1807 as the Paupack Methodist Episcopal Church, they will celebrate their 200th anniversary in July. The church was founded after the first American Methodist Bishop, Francis Asbury, sent a

horse-riding preacher, Gideon Draper, on the Wyoming-Minisink Trail.

Reverend Draper's readings from the Methodist Discipline of that time inspired the people of Paupack to accept those disciplines as organizing principles and to form a church. Originally, the church met in members' homes and in local schoolhouses. In 1906, the newly formed Ladies' Aid Society began construction on a church.

For 200 years, this congregation has persevered in preserving their faith and their Church. They credit the dedicated service of the laity and the faithful preaching of the clergy for this tremendous accomplishment.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Paupack United Methodist Church for their 200 years of distinguished service to Paupack, Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

CHERYL MCKISSACK FELDER—ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the business achievement of Cheryl McKissack Felder and to enter into the RECORD an article from the *Carib News*.

I am so proud to acknowledge the achievements of Cheryl McKissack Felder, descendant of Moses McKissack, a slave who became a master builder and one of America's first contractors. Ms. McKissack is a part of a family that has a long history of entrepreneurship and accomplished architects. She obtained a BS degree in civil engineering from Peabody Demonstration School and a M.S. degree from Howard University. Her career began at the Department of Defense where she was involved with quality assurance and control for government research projects. Later, she worked for firms in New York City as a civil engineer and estimator. A major project that she worked on involved the restoration of the Schomburg Theatre. Following in the footsteps of her ancestors, she opened the architecture and design firm McKissack and McKissack in 1999.

Her firm has worked on several significant projects including the Lincoln Financial Field football stadium and the US Airways International Terminal both in Philadelphia. Most recently the firm was selected to oversee the reconstruction of the Vanderbilt Rail Yards as a part of the Atlantic Yards Project in Brooklyn New York. Being selected for this project is remarkable and I congratulate Cheryl McKissack and her firm.

I'm extremely happy to know that minority owned firms are being selected for projects that will enhance the economic and residential life for New York City residents. The Atlantic Yards Project will provide much needed jobs, housing, and commercial real estate. For that I'm grateful and wish Cheryl McKissack and her firm well on this and other future projects.

CHERYL MCKISSACK FELDER, CEO OF THE MCKISSACK GROUP INC. TAKES ON FIRST PHASE OF ATLANTIC YARDS PROJECT

Construction crews recently kicked off the prep work needed for the first phase of The

Atlantic Yards project in Brooklyn, a residential and commercial development that will include an arena for the Nets basketball team. Under the Atlantic Yards Community Benefits Agreement, negotiated with Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC), qualified minority- and women-owned contractors were among the firms given due consideration for execution of the project.

Cheryl McKissack Felder, CEO of The McKissack Group, confirmed to *Carib News* that her firm has been selected to oversee the reconstruction of the Vanderbilt Rail Yards. A firm with a proven track record of having successfully executed similar projects, CEO Cheryl McKissack comes from a family of architects that started with an enslaved Ashanti ancestor in 1790.

As a slave, Moses McKissack first became a master builder under the tutelage of his owner, William McKissack, one of America's first contractors. Grandfather Moses McKissack founded the family business in 1905. Felder's father, William DeBerry McKissack, took it over in 1968 and Felder's mother, Leatrice Buchanan McKissack managed the business after her husband died.

Felder attended Peabody Demonstration School, earning a B.S. degree in civil engineering in 1981 and M.S. degree in 1983 from Howard University. At the United States Department of Defense, Felder provided quality assurance and quality control for government research projects, including MX missile silos, the United States Embassy anti-terrorist program and a large space structures project for NASA.

From 1985 to 1989, she worked as a civil engineer for Weidinger Associates and, in 1989, she served as an estimator for Turner Construction, both New York City firms. Felder also served as the estimation manager for the \$2.5 million restoration/addition of the historic Schomburg Theatre. In 1991, she formed The McKissack Group (TMG), a full service construction management firm now with offices in New York City and Philadelphia. In 1999, Felder launched McKissack and McKissack Associates, an architecture and design company.

As The McKissack Group's chief executive officer, Felder managed construction of the US Airways maintenance hangar in Philadelphia. She also served as project executive for the Medgar Evers Academic Building and Student Support Services buildings in Brooklyn, New York. Felder was the principal in charge of Philadelphia's \$395 million Lincoln Financial Field football stadium, the \$450 million US Airways International Terminal in Philadelphia and the \$1.5 billion renovation and reconstruction of the School District of Philadelphia.

As Felder intimated, the prep work will involve the reconstruction of the Vanderbilt Rail Yards and is expected to extend for some two years into 2008, alongside the works for construction of the arena. In her view, this represents a great economic boost for Brooklyn in terms of the creation of jobs. In spite of protest from some community groups, the inclusion of an affordable housing component as part of the plan will also ensure that not all of the residents will be permanently uprooted.

"The Atlantic Yards" CBA is an important milestone for New York's construction industry," she said. "By including diverse firms—and diverse individuals—from the start, I think this project is living up not only to the extraordinary standards of Forest City Ratner, one of the most committed and progressive companies out there today, but living up as well to the values of Brooklyn, where inclusion is a way of life and diversity is a badge of honor."

In response to queries regarding challenges faced in the industry, Ms. McKissack re-

marked that she is fully cognizant of the myriad challenges faced by minorities with regard to venture funding and career advancement. However, on the strength of a stellar family reputation in the construction field, her firm has acquired an excellent track record and will continue to maintain the tradition and performance standards commensurate with that of the oldest minority-owned professional design and construction firm.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DONALD J. KLEMAN ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Donald J. Kleman of Fort Jennings, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Donald's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this summer with the incoming midshipmen class of 2011. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer.

Donald brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class at the Naval Academy. While attending Fort Jennings High School in Fort Jennings, Ohio, Donald attained a grade point average which placed him at the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Donald has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Donald has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Donald has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by participating in both cross country and track. Donald has proudly earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and has remained involved in his community by actively participating in 4H Club as both a Junior Leader and Junior Fair Board Member. Donald's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Naval Academy. I have no doubt that Donald will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to Annapolis.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Donald J. Kleman on his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Donald will do very well during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the nation.

RECOGNIZING KENHORST BOROUGH AND THE KENHORST VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Borough of Kenhorst, Berks County and the Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 upon their 75th Anniversary.

It was a rally against an excessive streetlight tax that moved the residents of 6 neighborhoods in Cumru Township, Berks County to leave and form their own borough. Incorporated in August 1931, Kenhorst Borough was so named by combining two of the largest land parcels included in the new municipality—the Kendall Park and the Horst Family tract. With nearly 3,000 residents, Kenhorst is the 12th largest borough in Berks County and is situated outside of the City of Reading. It provides an excellent quality of life for its residents and is one of the outstanding municipalities of the County.

The Fire Company has been serving the Borough and protecting the community since the late 1930s. Through these years, hundreds of community volunteers have provided exemplary firefighting and emergency services to their fellow citizens and this anniversary reminds present residents of their heroic service. The joint anniversary celebration taking place on Saturday, May 5 will involve a parade through town and fun and merriment for everyone.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Borough of Kenhorst, Berks County and the Kenhorst Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 upon their 75th Anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. DONALD E. HAYDEN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Don E. Hayden for 37 years of teaching with the Clark County School District and a lifetime full of goodwill and service to the residents of Southern Nevada. His commitment to his fellow Nevadans has resulted in the CCSD Board of Trustees in naming and dedicating a new elementary school in his honor.

Don was raised in Palmyra, Missouri and graduated from Palmyra High School in 1942. After high school, Don enlisted with the U.S. Navy where he served 3½ years as a torpedo man aboard a destroyer in the South Pacific during World War II. After the end of World War II, Don attended college at Weber College in Ogden, Utah. He taught school in McGill, Nevada for 5 years and he then moved to Payette, Idaho where he met his wife, Eldine. After his marriage to Eldine, Don continued his educational pursuits and earned both his Bachelor of Science in Education and his Masters of Education from Colorado State

College. In addition to these academic accolades, Don earned his doctoral degree from Mississippi Southern University.

In 1955, Don and Eldine moved to Las Vegas. Don had accepted the position of Principal at John C. Fremont Elementary School. Don would later serve as an Assistant Principal at Hyde Park Junior High School, Principal at Roy W. Martin Junior School and again as Principal at J.D. Smith Junior High School. During his many years of dedicated service as an educator, Don had the honor to open four new middle schools. As an educator, Don is committed to the belief that schools have the responsibility to ensure that each student has the fundamental skills to be successful, active, and independent members of their community. He believes that the education of our children is a collaborative effort between educators, parents, community members, and governmental agencies.

In addition to his many achievements, Don has also been involved with several organizations. He has served as a member for the Parent Teacher Association and as a member of the Board of Managers for the Nevada Congress of PTA. He has held several leadership positions which include serving as the Treasurer for the Secondary Principal's Association, the President of the Las Vegas Masters Club, the Chairman for the Clark County Teachers Credit Union and a member of the Board of Trustees for the First Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Don Hayden for his many outstanding civic achievements and congratulate him and his wife, Eldine and their two children, Patrick and Dawn for the honor that the CCSD has bestowed upon Don with the dedication of a school in his name.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE BOLZAN FAMILY REUNION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the reunion of the Bolzan, Milluzzi and Venier families, and to acknowledge their indestructible family bond that has spanned numerous decades and generations.

All too often, as technology makes communication with loved ones easier, it also drives us farther from the ones we care about. As families drift apart, we must take time to recognize those among us who, having dedicated themselves to preserving those ties that bind, remind us all of the enduring power of family love. It is with much admiration that I recognize the Bolzan, Milluzzi and Venier Families on the occasion of their reunion in Esch sur Alzette, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

As the Bolzan, Milluzzi and Venier families share their fondest memories and exchange news and other current events, I would like to recognize in a special way Amelie Haan-Bolzan, Fernand Bolzan, Clemy Berg-Bolzan, Aldo Bolzan, Sylvia Kieffer-Milluzzi, and Robert Wengler, whose efforts were instrumental in coordinating this intercontinental gala and ensuring a memorable time for all.

The Bolzan Family now spans the Atlantic Ocean and can be found across the United States and Europe; their heritage could not be

richer and their lineage could not be stronger. As they enter a new era, I wish that their family continues to flourish as they honor their traditions and create new ones.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the Bolzan Family on the occasion of their reunion. May their dedication, love and commitment to each other endure for generations to come and act as a model for us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, in reviewing the formal record of rollcall 209, the vote on the Kilpatrick substitute to H. Con. Res. 99, the budget resolution for fiscal year 2008, I find I am recorded as having voted "yes." However, I had intended to vote "no," and my recollection is that I did vote "no."

TRIBUTE TO CODY CARITHERS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to an extraordinary student that will graduate from Highland High School in Hardy, Arkansas with thirteen years of perfect attendance. Cody Carithers, a promising young man with an even brighter future, will graduate from High School on May 18th 2007. Along with Highland High School, I am proud to recognize this remarkable young man who is a fine example of the many talented students we have in Arkansas.

Over the years at Highland, Cody has been a member of various clubs and organizations. He played sports, was active in the FFA, and served as treasurer and member of the Opening Ceremonies, Parliamentary Procedures and Show Teams. Cody has also been a devoted member and president of the Rebels Against Drugs (RAD) program and has represented the program for the past four years as a staff member with the Teens of North East Arkansas organization.

In addition to school and extracurricular activities, Cody worked as a volunteer for the Sharp County Library and has been employed at Ivey's Automotive Center in Highland, AR for two years. After graduation, Cody intends to continue working while attending Black River Technical College to pursue a degree in airplane or auto mechanics.

Cody's determination to make it through all thirteen years of school without missing a single day is impressive—but it was not easy. About two years ago, Cody was diagnosed with a brain tumor near his optic nerve, which caused debilitating headaches. Despite numerous trips to the Children's Hospital for MRIs and consultations with Neurosurgeons, the Children's Hospital worked with him to schedule all of his appointments in the evenings and on school holidays so he could achieve his goal of having an unblemished attendance record.

Cody is the first student in the Highland Public School district who has maintained perfect attendance for all thirteen years. I am asking Congress to join me in recognizing this amazing young man, who despite hardships, has already accomplished so much in his academic career. Although he will be graduating with a diploma this spring, I'm positive this is just the beginning of many other successes to come in his future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
W.O. MOZINGO

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the memory of W.O. Mzingo.

Before moving to Mobile, "Mo" as he was known to his friends, joined the U.S. Army during World War II and served in the 65th Infantry Division of the European Theatre. He led a mine platoon, locating and disarming land mines. He was wounded in action and became a Disabled American Veteran and lifetime member of the VFW, Post 49.

Considered by many to be the father of the labor movement in southwest Alabama, Mr. Mzingo began his career with the former National City Bus Line in Mobile and joined the Amalgamated Transit Union Local No. 770 in 1943. He served in various capacities as a union member, including 20 years as president and 19 years as president of the Southwest Alabama Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

It goes without saying that Mr. Mzingo was well known throughout the Mobile community. He served on numerous boards of directors, including the American Red Cross, Volunteers of America, the United Way of Southwest Alabama, Mobile United, South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, and the Advisory Board for Springhill Memorial Hospital. Mr. Mzingo was also a lifelong Democrat. In 1999, the Mobile County Democratic Party awarded him the Democratic Award of Distinction.

Mr. Mzingo's awards were also just as numerous. In 1992, he was inducted into the Alabama Organized Labor Awards Foundation Hall of Fame. The Southwest Alabama Labor Council, AFL-CIO, honored him by creating an annual award known as the "W.O. Mzingo Community Services Award." He earned the distinction of being one of only five Mobilians to achieve Emeritus status with the United Way board.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. W.O. "Mo" Mzingo will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of sixty eight years, Myrtle LaBarreare Mzingo; their three children, William Gary Mzingo, Linda Mzingo Murphy, and John W. Mzingo; his sister, Josephine Beddingfield; three grandchildren; and two great grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

SUPPORTING H.R. 362 AND H.R. 363

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to show my strong and enthusiastic support for H.R. 362 and H.R. 363. Both of these bills are extremely timely and worthwhile pieces of legislation that will provide much needed assistance to my constituents, and to the country as a whole.

As we advance forward in this new century, it is of the utmost importance that we prepare our young people for the challenges that lay ahead. Addressing issues such as global climate change and making our nation more energy efficient require that we train our students to become the scientists, mathematicians, and engineers of the future.

In the district that I represent, families are yearning for more schools that focus on math and science. Such curriculums offer greater opportunities to help prepare our students to attend college and graduate school in these areas and to secure jobs in the new millennium in the fields of biofuels, biotechnology, and biodefense.

I have personally been involved in trying to secure more funding to address these concerns and bring science and math-oriented schools into my district.

Additionally, with the selection of Chicago as a potential host for the 2016 Olympics, our great city will need to fulfill the demand for more civil engineers, technicians, and architects. We will need to construct new buildings, roads, and stadiums, and we would like to utilize the limitless talent of Illinois' most skilled and well trained mathematicians, scientists and engineers.

H.R. 362 and H.R. 363 will help address the needs of my community, as well as the many challenges that this great country faces. I urge all of my colleagues to support these bills.

TRIBUTE TO THE LACKAWANNA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. CARNEY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lackawanna Historical Society and their commitment to celebrating the coal-mining heritage of Pennsylvania.

The Lackawanna Historical Society is proud to be partners with the Olyphant Coal Miners Association in a visionary project to celebrate the heritage of coal miners in Pennsylvania. On Father's Day, June 17, 2007, they will unveil a monument to honor the mid-valley miners who worked to fuel the world's energy supply in Olyphant collieries.

These dedicated individuals worked to supply anthracite coal and energy to others. In doing so, some lost their lives. It is fitting that we remember their sacrifice, and this monument is a just and proper way to do so.

The monument will feature a bronze statue with a stainless steel pick, crafted by local sculptor Frank "Wyso" Wysochansky. The monument will be placed in Olyphant. This is an appropriate place to honor all miners from the Mid-Valley due to its central location. This memorial will remind everyone of the dedication and sacrifice of the coal miners of Mid-Valley, Pennsylvania.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Lackawanna Historical Society and the Olyphant Coal Miners Association, and all the citizens of Pennsylvania who lost their lives helping to fuel the world's energy supply.

RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY AND
LIFE OF SUGAR RAY ROBINSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the birth of Walker Smith Jr., a boxing phenomenon, whose boxing style was so smooth and sweet that he earned the nickname "Sugar Ray."

Sugar Ray Robinson was born Walker Smith Junior on May 3, 1921 in Ailey, Georgia. His family relocated to Harlem, New York to escape the racial injustice of the South when he was just 12 years old.

After a few years of living in Harlem, he was introduced to the sport of boxing. Since he was too young to register, he borrowed a registration card from his friend, Ray Robinson. He used his name to begin boxing under the Amateur Athletic Union. His boxing style was unique and drew crowds. A boxing coach, George Gainford, thought his style was sweet as sugar and others agreed. Thus, he was called Sugar Ray Robinson.

It was his unique style that made him a boxing legend. It all began in 1940, when he won the New York Golden Gloves championship. He was just 19 years old. Immediately after that victory, he became a professional boxer. By 1946, he became the world welterweight champion, a title he held for 5 years winning 91 straight matches. His success continued when he entered the middleweight division. He held the middleweight title five times from 1951 to 1960. He retired from boxing in November of 1965 after his last fight. His outstanding boxing record includes a total of 202 professional fights of which he won 175, and during his career he came to define boxing as "the sweet sacrifice."

Due to health conditions, he passed away on April 12, 1989, at the age of 67. He was elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1967 and created a foundation for youth in California. A postage stamp was created in his honor in 2006. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 359, recognizing the athletic achievements and commitment to young people of this great American boxer.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAMELA
CLANCY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pamela Clancy who is receiving the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award.

Pamela has over 20 years experience in the nursing profession and presently serves as director of all Spring Valley Medical/Surgery Nursing Units. In addition to her professional competence, Pamela is a very caring individual and goes above and beyond to help patients feel at home. She is most known around the hospital for helping a couple put on a wedding when the groom became ill and had no way of rescheduling the ceremony. Pamela was also instrumental in the opening of the Joint and Spine Center and has received the service excellence award where she was the star champion employee of the month.

In addition to her professional successes, Pamela is also very active in a number of philanthropic and charitable organizations. She volunteers at her church, Walk for a Cure, March of Dimes, the Spring Valley Hospital Health Fair, and the MDA yard sale as well as health screenings.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Pamela Clancy. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend her efforts and commitment and congratulate her on receiving the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award and applaud her efforts.

IMPROVING HEAD START ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1429) to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1429, The Improving Head Start Act of 2007. As a key initiative in President Johnson's "Great Society," Head Start has been one of our Nation's most important educational programs. Since its creation in 1965, Head Start has served more than 20 million children and has focused and redefined its approach to assisting disadvantaged children in their social, physical and educational growth.

As one of two remaining Members of the House who helped pass the original Head Start bill, I am pleased that after 4 years of deadlock between the House and Senate this program finally will be reauthorized. Democrats are once again showing the American public that Congress is back at work addressing our Nation's critical domestic needs.

Americans know what a huge difference early childhood education can make in a

child's development; they understand that early childhood education needs to be a national priority. Evidence of this can be seen in the congressionally-mandated Impact Study that found that after less than one school year, Head Start narrowed the achievement gap by 45 percent in pre-reading and by 28 percent in pre-writing. The long-term impact of these programs is also clearly demonstrated in the high percentage of low-income children who participated in Head Start and were subsequently more likely to be developmentally on par with their peers in kindergarten, to behave well in class, succeed in school and ultimately to graduate.

By passing H.R. 1429 today, we will also increase classroom and teacher quality and make use of the latest science to strengthen Head Start. The new teacher qualifications in the Improving Head Start Act require that 50 percent of Head Start teachers nationwide have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education or a related field by 2013. It also directs the majority of new funds in the bill to program improvement activities, including significant new funds to increase teacher salaries. Furthermore, this reauthorization will require that all Head Start programs use research-based practices to support the growth of children's pre-literacy and vocabulary skills and improve professional development and classroom practices to better support children's cognitive, social and emotional development.

Our Nation has long recognized that education should be a universal right to all, regardless of race, religion or socioeconomic status. I am pleased to stand with Chairman MILLER, Subcommittee Chairman KILDEE and Subcommittee Ranking Member CASTLE in improving America's education system by voting for H.R. 1429.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall votes 273, 274 and 275 taken on May 2, 2007. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted "nay" on these measures.

REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS PRIORITIES AD-
DRESSED IN H.R. 1591 "U.S.
TROOP READINESS, VETERANS'
HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ACT"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise to express my profound disappointment that the President lacked the vision, wisdom, and respect for the will of the American people to sign H.R. 1591, the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act." This legislation, which was crafted under the combined leader-

ship of the Speaker and Democratic Caucus, Appropriations Committee Chairman OBEY and Defense Subcommittee Chairman MURTHA, with substantial input from the Congressional Black Caucus, provided a glide path to the day when our troops can return home where we can "care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan." But it did more than that. It also would help to repair the damage to America's international reputation and prestige and bring long overdue oversight, accountability, and transparency to defense and reconstruction contracting and procurement.

Madam Speaker, the American taxpayers have paid nearly \$400 billion to finance the misadventure in Iraq. I stand with the 3,222 fallen heroes who stand even taller in death because they gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. And I am reminded that while it is the armed forces which do the fighting, it is a Nation that goes to war. And it is the costs to the Nation that I wish to speak about today.

Madam Speaker, it must be noted that the cost of the war in Iraq to the United States has also been high regarding the new and neglected needs of the American people. Americans have been exceedingly tolerant and patient with this Administration's handling of the situation in Iraq. We have postponed, foregone, or neglected needed investments in education, infrastructure, housing, homeland security.

That is why it is right and good and just that the new Democratic majority included in the supplemental appropriations bill for Iraq and Afghanistan \$4.3 billion for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster recovery grants, including \$910 million to cover the cost of waiving the matching fund requirements in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 174 (Public Law 93-288) (Stafford Act) for state and local government meaning the Federal government will finance 100% of the grants.

Waiving the Stafford Act's matching fund requirement is critically important to the Gulf Coast states devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Based on my multiple listening trips to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region, and my numerous meetings and discussions with government officials at all levels in the affected states and with survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, many of whom now are relocated to my Houston congressional district, the most important lesson I have learned is that the Stafford Act is in its present form is simply inadequate to address the scale of devastation and human suffering wrought by a disaster the magnitude of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I thank Mr. OBEY and Mr. MURTHA for responding to concerns I expressed to President Bush about the need to modernize the Stafford Act so that it remains relevant to the 21st Century.

I believe the Stafford Act must be amended to grant the Federal Government explicit authority and flexibility to provide long-term recovery assistance to communities devastated by disasters of the magnitude of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Such authority currently does not exist and the Stafford Act's emphasis on temporary assistance to affected individuals and communities is simply inadequate to address the scope of human suffering we witnessed last August and which is still with us

today. I will continue my efforts to modernize the Stafford Act. But I very much approve of the nearly \$1 billion included in the bill to waive the matching fund requirements for hard-pressed State and local governments coping with emergencies of the scale of Hurricane Katrina.

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding has been extended to September 30, 2010. SSBG funding provides critically needed social services, including programs for mental health, child welfare, and the treatment of addictive disorders.

Also allocated is \$1.3 billion dollars for east and west bank levee protection and coastal restoration systems in New Orleans and surrounding parishes.

There is included \$25 million for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans and

\$80 million for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) tenant-based rental assistance. The supplemental also adds \$400 million to restore partial cuts to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This funding will bring much needed relief to many States that are running out of LIHEAP funds just as many utility shut-off moratoriums are set to expire.

The supplemental adds \$750 million to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to ensure continued healthcare coverage for children in 14 states that face a budget shortfall in the program. By taking prompt action now, these States will not be forced to stop enrolling new beneficiaries or begin curtailing benefits.

Finally, Madam Speaker, the supplemental provided \$30 million for K-12 education re-

cruitment assistance; \$30 million for higher education assistance; and \$40 million in security assistance for Liberia. It also includes an additional \$1 billion to purchase vaccines needed to protect Americans from a global pandemic. Development of production capacity for a pandemic vaccine must be accelerated so that manufacturers can quickly produce enough quantities to protect the population.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, let me say that although the bill may not be the best I might have hoped for, it was the best that can be achieved at this time, this moment in history. I applaud the leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus for its critical role in helping craft legislation that represents a change of course and a new direction in our policy on Iraq and that is responsive to the unmet and pressing needs of the American people.