

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE NORTHERN NEW JERSEY WALK NOW FOR AUTISM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, yesterday, people of all ages, of all races, of all religions and walks of life joined together in Montclair, New Jersey for the Northern New Jersey Walk Now for Autism. Many of those who walked deal with autism on a daily basis in their homes. They walked for their sons and daughters, grandchildren, and brothers and sisters. They are remarkable for their strength and their spirit, and I commend each and every one of them for their efforts.

Each year, more and more children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, yet each year we seem to learn more and more about how little we know about autism and how to help those who must deal with it every day.

But, what we do know is that it can be a lonely world for many children with autism. It can be an equally lonely world for those who care for autistic children. What makes these walks so phenomenal is not just the awareness that they raise amongst the general public or the money they raise, but the community spirit that they generate. No parent or grandparent, sister or brother need feel alone. There is a whole family of people who know what you go through and are there to lend all the support that you need.

Because of the can-do spirit of autism families, today, we have new schools and new teaching methods to serve autistic children; we have new research to bring us closer to an understanding of autism spectrum disorders; and we have a fresh recognition of how bright and special children with autism are. I commend these families for taking on autism head-on, and I am certain that with the spirit they bring to this fight, they will change the future for all who struggle with autism.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR FRANK JACKSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Frank Jackson for his outstanding work and unyielding effort to assist the homeless population of Cleveland.

Ever since Mayor Jackson was elected to Cleveland City Council in 1989, he has been a leading force for bringing Cleveland together as one city and bridging the gaps that exist

between communities. As a result, Cleveland has blossomed into a city that unites the lives of its children, seniors, disabled people, families, businesses, and all vulnerable populations.

During his service to Cleveland, Mayor Jackson has made strong contributions to the advancement of equality, and has worked tirelessly to increase opportunities for the economically and socially disadvantaged. Mayor Jackson has supported subsidized affordable housing in Cleveland to ensure everyone has a roof over their heads. Moreover he has labored to include low income Clevelanders in the decision making process, rather than alienating them. During his successful mayoral campaign, he empowered the homeless community by involving them in the campaign and encouraging them to organize and advocate for themselves.

Mayor Jackson's tremendous service to Cleveland is a shining example of how we should all do our utmost to create a society where rather than hide from problems like poverty and homelessness, we face them and commit ourselves to their eradication. He is the first Cleveland Mayor to attend the annual Homeless Memorial Day during his term, demonstrating his solidarity with the homeless community and his commitment to addressing the concerns they face.

It is therefore with great honor that I celebrate Mayor Jackson as the recipient of the lone Biggs Award. The Award memorializes lone and celebrates her lifelong efforts to breaking down barriers in our society. Lone listened to everyone, including those with whom she did not agree. Mayor Jackson possesses the very same qualities, and I am proud of the work he is doing for our city.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mayor Frank Jackson for his outstanding and tireless efforts as an advocate for the homeless, as well as for bringing all people that share the great city of Cleveland together as one people.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES OF LAKE COUNTY ELECTRICIANS JOINT APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sincerity and admiration that I offer congratulations to several of Northwest Indiana's most talented, dedicated, and hardworking individuals. On Friday, June 1, 2007, the Lake County Electricians Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) will honor the class of 2007 at their annual Apprentice Completion Banquet, which will be held at the Avalon Manor Banquet Hall in Merrillville, Indiana.

This year, the Lake County Electricians JATC will be recognizing and honoring the following graduates, who have completed the apprentice training: Angel Alvarez, Gregory Breitzke, Ryan Cleveringa, Justin Copak, Christopher Curatolo, Matthew Deering, Sr., Steven Dodd, Brandon Fritzsche, Ryan Gregory, Brion Grooms, Dustin Hall, Daniel Kanelopoulos II, Michael Keilman, Antonio Kendrick, Christopher Levenson, Christopher Nighbert, Carlos Reices, Raymond Rodriguez, Jose Sanchez, Micah Schantz, Matthew Summers, Billy Thomas, Dave Waffler, Ryan Williams, and Robert Willis, Jr.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These outstanding graduates all exemplify these traits. They have mastered their trade and have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their commitment, hard work, and selfless sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these committed, hardworking individuals. Along with the other extraordinary men and women of Northwest Indiana's unions, these individuals have contributed in many ways to the growth and development of the economy in Indiana's First Congressional District, and I am very proud to represent them in Washington, DC.

IN MEMORY OF MR. CLYDE R. WESTFALL

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the achievements of Clyde R. Westfall, husband, father, and devoted citizen of Braxton County, West Virginia, who passed away on April 13, 2007.

Mr. Westfall had a passion for infrastructure improvements in his community. His perseverance to the Curry Ridge Water Project was instrumental in bringing many parties together to complete the goal of running, potable water in the homes and businesses of this community.

Mr. Westfall not only provided his valuable service to his fellow citizens, but as a foreman in the coal industry. His character brought credibility to his works. He was steadfast in his desire for the betterment of his community. His diligent work, particularly to the Curry Ridge Water Project, will be beneficial to many citizens and industry for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in honoring the life of Clyde Westfall, whose dedication and service is truly admirable. He will be sadly missed by many.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING THE BEVERLY
LIVING CENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to congratulate the Beverly Living Center in Maryville, MO, upon receiving the prestigious "Ten Karat" award, selected by Beverly Enterprise, to honor living centers that have consistently shown excellence through areas such as quality standards, employee retention, recognition and development.

The Beverly Living Center opened in 1977 as a 108-bed skilled nursing facility and in 1986 added an assisted living community consisting of 16 apartments known as "Maryville Chateau." This facility excels in a wide variety of assistance and rehabilitation areas, including physical, occupational, speech and joint replacement therapy.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership by the Executive Director Kim Bram. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Beverly Living Centers employees as additional keys to success.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending the Beverly Living Center, an exceptional employer in Missouri's Sixth Congressional District for winning the "Ten Karat" award. The Beverly Living Center's commitment to excellence is inspiring, and I am honored to represent so many of its fine employees and officers in the United States Congress.

COPS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1700, the COPS Reauthorization Act. This legislation is a much needed and renewed commitment by this Democratic-led Congress to combat crime in our local communities and neighborhoods.

Since its inception under the leadership of the Clinton administration, the COPS program has proven to ensure greater safety for citizens in large metropolitan areas and small communities alike by providing local law enforcement with the ability to hire more police officers, increased technology assistance such as laptops for patrol cars, and new funding for programs to allow prosecutors to go after more criminals. Since 1994 117,000 new police officers have hit the streets in the United States and 414 in the area of St. Paul, which I represent.

According to an independent study done by the GAO, COPS hiring grants were responsible for reducing the crime rate in the United States by roughly 200,000 crimes between 1998 and 2000. Unfortunately, past Republican-led Congresses sharp cuts in over a billion dollars to the COPS hiring grant programs have diminished the capacity of this great program that has been critical to decreasing the crime rate across this country. To make mat-

ters worse, this year President Bush is seeking to zero-out funding for the COPS hiring programs and must not see the value of more law enforcement officers on the streets. This Congress will answer the President's call of zero funding by restoring this important program to a respectable level and add 50,000 police officers in the next 6 years to fight crime.

COPS has provided an avenue to deploy more law enforcement officers in many areas of the United States and unsurpassed technology to assist the growing law enforcement community. It is a first-rate program, I commend the gentleman from New York, Mr. Weiner for bringing this legislation to the floor and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill and the men and women in law enforcement that continue to protect our communities.

IN HONOR OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF MARY ELLEN MILLER,
JANICE LOSCHIAVO, META
PITRELLI, AND CATHERINE ANN
THABIT

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor four public servants from Bergen County, New Jersey—four school nurses in Bergen County public schools. Throughout their respected careers they've acted as medical experts and comforting friends to countless students. And, as they retire in a ceremony tonight, they leave with fond memories of all the children on whose lives they've left an indelible mark of kindness.

The days when school nurses tended to skinned knees and the unexpected onset of flu are long gone. For many children today, school nurses are their first real medical relationship. They catch diabetes early when children can still make important behavioral changes. And, far too often, they catch violence in the home while there's still time to save children's lives. They give children the chance to learn trust and to develop healthy living and to mend. And, quite simply, they give children the chance to learn because healthy minds are minds that can absorb all there is around them.

Only days after we celebrated the healing power of nurses with National Nurses Week and National School Nurses Day, it is an honor to commend these women for their service to the parents, children, and teachers of Bergen County: Catherine Anne Thabit—Westwood Regional Public Schools, Mary Ellen Miller—Bergenfield Public Schools, Janice Loschiavo—Glen Ridge Public Schools, and Meta Pitrelli—Bergenfield Public Schools.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
RIDGWOOD YMCA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ridgewood YMCA, for over

30 years of service to the Parma, Ohio community, and for its efforts in creating a healthier, stronger and more active Northeast Ohio.

Since its groundbreaking in 1971, Ridgewood has been an invaluable resource for Ohioans of all ages. Regardless of circumstance, Ridgewood and its dedicated staff have gone to all ends to ensure community members have the resources and motivation to get fit and lead healthier lives.

Their latest program, the Y Express, has just completed its first year with resounding success. As a program aimed at meeting the needs of today's busy families the Y Express, from its strategic location in the Parmatown Mall, has logged over 40,000 member visits and continues to build partnerships and programs for its members.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Ridgewood YMCA and its successful Y Express program, as well as the efforts and energies of its committed and enthusiastic staff. Northeast Ohio is fortunate to have them.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. J.C. WADE,
JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I wish to honor Reverend Dr. J.C. Wade, Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his ministry, as well as his 42 years of service at Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East Chicago, Indiana. Zion Missionary Baptist Church will be honoring Reverend Wade on Friday, May 25, 2007, at the Pastor's Anniversary Banquet, which will take place at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. There will also be an anniversary service at Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, May 27, 2007.

Reverend Wade was born in Memphis, Tennessee and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. As a young child, Reverend Wade accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. He was licensed in 1957 and ordained in 1961 at the Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1961, he pastored at Samaria Baptist Church in Van Alstyne, Texas; then from 1964 to March 1965, he served the congregation at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Van Buren, Arkansas. In 1965, Reverend Wade relocated to the Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East Chicago, where he has been serving as Pastor and leader for 42 years.

Reverend Wade has held many prominent positions within the community. He is the former President of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Indiana and the State Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, for which he also serves on the Board of Directors. In addition, Reverend Wade serves as a Devotional Leader for the National Sunday School and is involved with the B.T.U. Congress—Pastors Division. He is a current member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Operation Push, and he is active with the Northwest Indiana Food Bank and the Twin City Ministerial Alliance. As if this were not impressive enough, Reverend Wade has also

found time to travel on a Foreign Mission's Preaching team to Africa. Further, he was Vice President of the East Chicago Board of Safety for 6 years, consultant to the Mayor of East Chicago from 2002–2004, and coordinator for "Operation Too Great to Wait" Hurricane Katrina Survivors, which took place at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary on September 11, 2005.

A true scholar, Reverend Wade has had a wide range of academic training. His degrees include a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Theology, Doctorate of Bible Theology, Master of Religious Education, and an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity, and he has had extensive International Studies in Oxford, England.

Reverend Wade has also received many accolades throughout his lifetime. To name a few, Reverend Wade has received a proclamation from the City of East Chicago. In May 2000, the City of East Chicago dedicated and renamed Drummond Street to Reverend Dr. J.C. Wade Street for his many years of service and dedication to the community. On March 22, 2007, the Indiana State Senate also issued a proclamation in his honor for his dedicated service. Reverend Wade has also been recognized nationally as he was selected to travel on 3 pilgrimages to the Holy Land as a Nationwide Evangelist, and he has conducted a workshop at the District Association Board Meeting in Germany.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Dr. J.C. Wade, Jr. as he is honored for his service and ministry. His 50 years of service have touched and improved the lives of all whom he has served. His unselfish and lifelong dedication is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO ROBEY THEATER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic Robey Theater, one of the longest continuously operating motion picture theaters in the United States. Since its establishment in 1907 as the Dreamland Theater, it has been central to the lives of the citizens of Spencer, WV. The theatre actually changed locations 4 times across Main Street during its first decade.

When it first opened, the Robey family had to run movies as many as 6 times a night to meet demand. The facility mixed live theater with silent pictures by putting scenery around the screen.

Even remodeling couldn't keep the theater from entertaining locals. Upon refurbishment in 1926, Mr. Robey moved the screen to a local school field and created a 'tentorium.' The movie star Little Jackie "Hoo" Ray performed at this event. Later that year, the theater hosted Congressman Harry Woodyard to celebrate its grand reopening.

Robey Theater was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Despite numerous technological updates and the addi-

tion of new releases to the theaters' showings, the theatre remains a small intimate setting to watch a movie, just as it was 100 years ago.

I join with the residents of Spencer and Roane County to recognize the Robey Theater for its 100 years of service.

RECOGNIZING JOHN IGO FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Igo, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Igo for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

H.R. 1684

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 1684, the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008. The legislation makes clear that this Congress is dedicated to providing the Department of Homeland Security with the proper tools to protect American citizens, and to ensure accountability and proper oversight of DHS.

With many entities rolled into the Department of Homeland Security at its inception in 2003 the bureaucratic structure of the department has consistently needed improvement. DHS has come under intense scrutiny and yielded many questions regarding its bloated size and its ability to function smoothly. This legislation will take necessary steps to correct large problems associated with the agency that includes streamlining the contracting and procurement process, and require the department to conduct comprehensive quadrennial reviews of its operations.

H.R. 1684 is a bipartisan effort to restore huge cuts by the Bush administration to important programs. The 52 percent cut to the State Homeland Security Grant Program, which funds first responder preparation and response, has been reinstated. The 55 percent cut to firefighter assistance grants has been added back into the bill. This bill also restores

the previously eliminated Local Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program to its entirety, and reverses the elimination of the SAFER program. Fully funding these crucial first responder programs dictates a dedication from Congress that is unparalleled.

The most important job of Congress is to keep America safe, and this legislation takes important steps to protect our communities. I want to commend the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON, for his work on this legislation and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF PARAMUS' D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT YAVNEH ACADEMY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, last week, the Paramus Police Department held its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Yavneh Academy. More than 70 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other Nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at Yavneh Academy, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship: Hannah Ash, Benjamin Atwood, Hadassa Bendavid, Simcha Borodach, David Carr, Shimon Cohen, Orly Davis, Shoshana Edelman, Oriel Farjun, Nicole Feigenblum, Alexander Feldman, Jacob Felig, Jacob Finkelstein, Joshua Finkelstein, Michael Finkelstein, Miryam Fischer, Aaron Fox, Jacob Furer, Sheri Goldman, Ayelet Golubtchik, Marlee Goodman, Akiva Gottlieb, Abigail Greenbaum, Rochal Greenberg, Tova Greenberg, Yosef Greenfield, Yehoshua Hanfling, Justin Hod, Leora Hyman, Michael Kahan, Ilana Noa Karp, Rami Laifer, Jason Lang, Yael Ledner, Jacob Levy, Shmuel Levy, Miriam Lichtenberg, Sara Linder, Benjamin Marans, Ally Margulies, Joshua Meier, Esther Meir, Leo Metzger, Philip Meyer, Daniel Nagar, Jennifer Nir, Shaya Oster, Elisha Penn, Jordan Plaut, Noah Potash, Ori Putterman, Rebecca Raab, Daniel Raykher, Daniel Rehanian, Jake Reichel, Samuel Rochlin, Micayla Rosenbaum, Elan Samoochi, Liana Sandor, Risa Scharf, Eli Scharlat, Hillel Sebrow, Dafna Secemski, Gabriella Shankman, Mira Shapiro, Alan Socelof, Lauren Stein, Tamar Weglein, Judah Wertenteil, Solomon Wiener, Jonathan Wietzschner, Shira Wolff, Alan Yomtobian, and Yehoshua Zirman.

BREAST CANCER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me and over 200 other Members in cosponsoring H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. With just one more day until Mother's Day, it is important for us in Congress to honor the women in our lives and work to bring an end to diseases such as breast cancer. Each year, tens of thousands of women die from this disease and more than 3 million women are currently living with breast cancer. Important advances have been made, but we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it.

This bill will establish a research program at the National Institutes of Health to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment—authorizing \$40 million a year for five years for NIH studies.

Hopefully, this research will help mitigate the devastating effects this disease inflicts on mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and families across the Nation. The National Breast Cancer Coalition has worked tirelessly to advance the fight against breast cancer, as we celebrate Mother's Day this year, I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring H.R. 1157, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON S.
CON. RES. 21, CONCURRENT RES-
OLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 21, a budget resolution designed and drafted by Democrats to end over a decade of Republican fiscal irresponsibility.

One of the best results of the Democrats gaining the majority in the Congress is the fact that we can realign the priorities of the Federal government. Instead of Republican tax cuts for the richest 1 percent, we can put those same resources into health care for our children and veterans. Instead of driving our Nation deeper and deeper into debt, we can put us back on track towards a balanced budget.

Twelve years of Republican budgets have left our fiscal house in shambles. We are nearly \$9 trillion in debt, and if Republicans had their way, we would never end the deficit. However, the Democratic budget resolution is a good first step towards ending the sea of red ink on our budget. Within the next 5 years, we will have balanced the budget, while at the same time providing necessary services to those who need them most.

This budget resolution incorporates the pay-as-you-go rule that the Democrats passed as one of our first acts in the majority. The rule

is simple. Any additional funds we spend, or any taxes that we cut, have to be paid for with cuts in other areas.

The budget resolution finally fulfills some of the promises we made to our military veterans. This legislation includes a \$6.6 billion increase in veterans spending, which is the largest increase in history. The Congress has failed to meet our obligations for over a decade in providing necessary services to our veterans, and this budget aims to correct some of this neglect.

In addition, this budget also provides \$50 billion over 5 years towards children's health care. The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has been extremely successful in improving access to healthcare for children whose parents earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to purchase private health insurance. Two-thirds of all uninsured children in this nation are actually eligible but not enrolled in SCHIP. With this budget, we can significantly improve health care coverage to millions more children across the country.

This budget resolution will also help protect our Nation from its enemies. The 9/11 recommendations, most of which have been ignored by the Republican Congress, can be implemented under this budget framework. We have also included additional funding for homeland security in order to better ensure the safety of our citizens.

It is no great secret that the Administration has severely underfunded schools across the nation with the No Child Left Behind Act. This is another program we intend to fix with our budget resolution. In this budget, we have included \$9.5 billion over what the President requested for fiscal year 2008. This necessary funding will help stop the decline in our Nation's education system.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have nearly enough time to speak about all the benefits of this budget resolution. Programs such as Head Start, LIHEAP, Social Security and Medicare all benefit. Residents of New Orleans and Mississippi benefit from the money to rebuild after Katrina. Higher education students will benefit from increased Pell Grants and we avoid cutting other student aid programs such as Perkins loans and special opportunity block grants, which was proposed in the President's failed budget plan.

I am strongly supportive of this Democratic budget resolution. This bill will go a long way towards putting our fiscal house in order, without relying on the massive middle class tax increase that the President's budget relies upon. I would urge all of my colleagues to support this budget resolution.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Chairman, as we debate the FY 2008 Defense Authorization bill, I am pleased to note the effort by my colleagues in working to ensure that our national defense funding and policy are focused on programs that will make our country safer and provide our troops in harm's way with the resources they need today.

I support making sure that Congress wisely, as well as robustly, provide for our national defense, including ensuring dollars are spent on systems that will actually protect our Nation and our allies. One of those systems drawing new attention during this debate is missile defense. Our country has already spent over \$100 billion over the last several decades to develop various missile defense systems. These Cold War efforts for which annual funding has increased from \$3 billion in the late 1990s to nearly \$10 billion have yet to bear fruit, even as our country faces the grave threat posed by terrorists smuggling nuclear weapons into our country across our borders or through our ports.

Supporters will point to successful tests recently of portions of this system. However, we all know the challenges of replicating limited success from carefully and highly scripted tests in real world conditions. Given that participants knew roughly when the test target would launch, what they would look like, how they would fly and what they would do, it may be even more concerning that these systems missed as often as they did.

I am troubled when I hear experts such as the Government Accountability Office report that while costs have grown, less work is being completed than planned. GAO found that "too few tests have been completed to have confidence in the models and simulations used to predict performance." One year after establishing 2006 goals for the program, the Missile Defense agency informed Congress that it planned to field fewer assets, reduce performance goals, and increase the program's cost goal.

Our citizens and our allies and their citizens are not made safer by rushing to deploy technology that "may" protect them when called upon.

The solution to a flat tire is not to blow more air into it. We cannot afford to expend valuable national defense dollars to develop technologies that we know today will not work at a time when these funds can be spent to improve our homeland security, provide needed equipment for our troops in the field, or increase foreign aid to our allies.

I am sure there is no need to remind my colleagues that the \$8.1 billion provided in the bill for the missile system is more than is currently authorized for port security grants or included in the recent House-passed COPS reauthorization bill to put more police officers on our streets.

Some have attempted to muddle this issue by inserting the nation of Israel into the missile defense issue. Our Nation recognizes the importance of our ally Israel and provides over \$2 billion in foreign military aid to help that nation meet its unique security challenges. However, simply putting more unproven, insufficiently tested, and unreliable missile defense systems into the field does not make our country or our allies safer.

I certainly believe the purpose of this \$645 billion Defense authorization bill is to help make our country safer including assisting our

allies. If we truly want to help protect important allies like Israel, let's develop and share with them defensive systems that will work effectively, reliably, and consistently. The history of this program has shown me that simply providing more funds will not accomplish that goal.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER EDWIN
LEAHY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to offer heartfelt congratulations to Father Edwin Leahy—Father Ed—as he receives an honorary degree from Rutgers-Newark. Father Ed will also serve as the commencement speaker on Thursday, May 17, 2007. He is the headmaster of St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark, NJ.

Father Ed graduated from St. Benedict's Prep in 1963 and from Seton Hall University in 1968. He received his training in theology, attaining an M.Div. with distinction in 1975 from the Woodstock College, the Jesuit School of Technology at Union Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a priest in 1972 after first taking vows as a monk in 1966 of the Benedictine Abbey of Newark.

Father Ed's appointment to headmaster of St. Benedict's Prep has been a true blessing to the young men who come through its door and to the community at large. Father Ed became headmaster at the age of 27 and took a school with an enrollment of 89 students and 14 faculty members to its current population of 550 and 46, respectively. In the process, he has touched the hearts of many of his young charges and their families. The students are mostly Black and Hispanic from humble backgrounds. Yet 95 percent of the school's graduates go to college; no small feat in a city where the dropout rate is very high.

Thanks to Father Ed and his perseverance, St. Benedict's Prep now has a waiting list with many suburban youngsters hoping to gain admission. The school received national attention when its comprehensive program was featured in Education Week.

Madam Speaker, Father Ed has served St. Benedict's and the greater community well for almost 25 years. I know my colleagues agree that Father Ed is a very good choice for commencement speaker and is a deserving recipient of an honorary degree from Rutgers-Newark. I wish him well as he continues his good works.

“FIFTY GOOD YEARS”

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, yesterday, May 20, marked the 41st anniversary of the date on which Jose F. & Valentina C. Giesta emigrated from the Azores to Massachusetts, landing, fortunately for me, in New Bedford. I say fortunately for me because while I believe in general that hard-working immigrants like the Giestas have been

a great boon to this country in so many ways, and have particularly added significantly to the economic and cultural richness of South-eastern Massachusetts, I've been a particular beneficiary of this immigration decision because their daughter, Maria, is my very capable Deputy Chief of Staff.

The Giestas are an excellent example of why so many of us continue to support an immigration policy that welcomes people from elsewhere in the world who want to come to America both to share in the life we have and to help it flourish. Next week, on June 1, the Giestas will mark another very important anniversary—that of their wedding. They were married in Faja de Baixo in the Azores on June 1, 1957—several weeks, I will note, with a politicians penchant for getting himself into the act, before I graduated from high school.

As the Giestas celebrate their 50th Anniversary with their family and friends in New Bedford, they will be with their five children, who are in addition to Maria Eugenia, Gualter, Jose Augusto, Aires, and Stephanie. Stephanie, incidentally, has become a very accomplished hairstylist of whose talents I regularly avail myself. Their five children have produced eight grandchildren, Melissa, Mark, Matthew, Jacob, Tyler, Austin, Quentin, and Daulton. As the family gathers in New Bedford next Saturday on this wonderful occasion, I take this opportunity to acknowledge this event here, not simply out of my personal feelings of gratitude and affection to the Giestas, as strong as they are, but because at a time when people have been hearing a lot of the negative arguments about immigration, the story of the Giestas—a representative one for my district and many other districts across the country—shows how in fact immigration has been of overwhelming benefit to this Nation of immigrants. I am delighted to send my best wishes to Jose and Valentina and to tell them that I regularly cite them as an example of why an open and welcoming immigration policy continues to be in our Nation's best interest.

TRIBUTE TO GALEN JAMISON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of Galen Jamison. Galen passed away on Thursday, May 17, in my hometown of Flint, Michigan at the age of 71. Galen was a committed public servant, always striving to improve the quality of life for the people of the greater Flint area. He was a dear friend and a valued advisor. I will miss his knowledge and wisdom.

He was a graduate of Central Michigan University and he had attended Arkansas State College and GMI. Mr. Jamison married Shirley J. Earns in 1955 and moved to Flint Township where he resided for over 50 years. Galen worked for General Motors as a General Supervisor. He was deeply committed to public service. Galen was elected as Flint Township supervisor and served 4 years. He was also elected 2 terms as Trustee on Flint Township Board of Trustees. Galen held several appointed positions over the years. These included State of Michigan Registered Codes Official and Inspector, Commercial Plan Reviewer, and 11 years on the Liquor Advisory Board where he drafted the first ordinance. He

served on the Planning Commission for 9 years, the Board of Appeals for 6 years, the Economic Development Authority, the Central Business District Authority, the Bicentennial Committee, and was the Anti Annexation Drive Coordinator.

Galen served on many Genesee County Boards including service as the Chairman of the Auto and Theft Grant Board. He held positions with the Water and Waste Board, the Retirement Board, the Parks Board, the Library Steering Committee, and as Genesee County Michigan Township Association Trustee. He had previously served on the CAMEO Executive Board and as a Flint Junior Achievement Advisor. He served as the Chairman for the Flushing Road Action Committee for Water for 4 years. At the time of his death Galen was currently serving as the Flint Township Chief Building Director and Chairman of the Genesee County Road Commission. Because of his commitment to public service Galen was awarded the G.M. Truck and Bus Plant Award for excellence in Community Activities.

Galen is survived by his wife of 51 years, Shirley, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers, sister, numerous nieces and nephews and a Godchild.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying respects to a wonderful man and a true public servant, Galen Jamison. The Flint area mourns his passing and will miss his leadership, insight and zeal to make the Flint community a better place to live and work.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RHEA, ARTHUR DALE JACKSON AND KEVIN DOAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on May 20, 2006, five men lost their lives in a coal mine explosion in Harlan, Kentucky. The number of casualties would have been greater, were it not for the heroic efforts of three mine inspectors who decided to go in and save whomever they could.

There were only a few seconds to decide what to do in this situation. There were no second chances. Information was conflicting and incomplete in those rushed minutes late at night on May 20. These three men—Robert Rhea, Arthur Dale Jackson and Kevin Doan—heard enough and chose to descend into the smoke-filled blackness of the Darby Coal Mine.

They were driven to help whomever they could, inserting themselves into this hellish furnace not knowing whether there would be additional explosions or structural collapses.

The person they rescued, Paul Ledford, had succumbed to the carbon monoxide gases caused by the explosion and was unable to move any further. He was a half-mile down and never would have made it out on his own.

We are reminded that coal miners face potential hazards deep underground, everyday, so that we can keep the lights on and appliances running. When tragedy strikes one of

our coal mines, we depend on those level-headed, brave individuals who do the best they can at the scene to save lives and manage the disaster.

While we sort out the lesson of the Darby mine tragedy, we must also recognize those who had little time to study, deliberate and analyze what to do. They acted.

And because they did, someone lived. I commend these three individuals for answering the most important call any of us could ever get—and having the courage that now provides some solace where there would otherwise be none.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, May 17, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on the following amendments to H.R. 1427.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 378 on the amendment offered by Rep. BACHUS, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 379 on the amendment offered by Rep. HENSARLING, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 380 on the amendment offered by Rep. MCHENRY, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 381 on the amendment offered by Rep. KANJORSKI, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 382 on the amendment offered by Rep. ROSKAM, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 383 on the amendment offered by Rep. GARRETT, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO 34TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 34th Annual National Emergency Medical Services Week, designated this year May 20–26, 2007. It is truly a privilege to honor these brave men and women who provide essential lifesaving services to our communities throughout the Eighth Congressional District.

EMS Week serves as a time to honor and celebrate our medical emergency personnel. These men and women respond to tragedies and situations we pray never come to us or our loved ones. They respond at a moment's notice to people caught in unimaginable circumstances and work tirelessly to provide emergency treatment and offer hope.

As children we all learned the value of stop, drop, and roll. Today our children learn those lessons and more that help keep them safe. From paramedics and EMTs to police officers and fire fighters, each serves a crucial role in keeping our communities educated and prepared to prevent future emergencies.

As we observe EMS Week this year let us not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while performing their duty. These great men and women who have dedicated

themselves to protecting and saving the lives of our loved ones should not be forgotten. The safety of our friends and families depends on individuals like them who arrive to work every day prepared to respond, protect, and save lives.

As we celebrate this week I salute every hardworking American for their role in ensuring the safety of our communities. I also encourage you as residents to become aware of health and safety issues and familiarize yourself with emergency procedures. Let's all chip in and do our part to ensure our neighborhoods and streets remain safe for all to enjoy.

HONORING EDITH DUPIN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edith Dupin, a constituent and good friend, retiring next month from the Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce after twenty years of service.

Ms. Dupin has overseen a vast expansion of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce over the course of the last two decades. Upon her arrival, the Chamber had fewer than 200 members. She leaves the Chamber with more than 700 members. During her tenure she has helped develop several local events that have become staples to the Hardin County community including the Heartland Festival, Leadership Elizabethtown, and the holiday favorite, Christmas in the Park.

Always a straight talker, she has found many friends in the community. Through her tenacity and straightforwardness, she has been able to accomplish many positive objectives for the Chamber and the Elizabethtown community. Her legacy is evident through, among many other things, the local farmers market, numerous job fairs, and laying the groundwork for a possible return of commuter flights to Addington Field.

I would like to congratulate Edith for her service to the Elizabethtown community. I join countless neighbors from the Hardin County community in wishing her well in her future endeavors.

It is my great privilege to recognize my friend, Ms. Edith Dupin today, before the entire House of Representatives, for her service to Hardin County. She is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR ENTERPRISE, BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY (EBT)

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology (EBT), of Williamsburg, Brooklyn in celebration of their 10th anniversary.

EBT's history has been one of hope, growth and a commitment to quality education for our community. More than ten years ago, the majority of local Williamsburg high school students attending the then Eastern District High

School had bleak prospects of graduating from high school. Thanks to the leadership of concerned education advocates, Eastern District was replaced by three new high schools, EBT being one of those entities. The school has evolved into one that has fostered educational growth and training to students throughout Brooklyn.

Since its inception in 1996, EBT has worked diligently to develop a solid learning and professional foundation, creating a wealth of opportunities for its students. The specialized curriculum serves as the school's cornerstone, offering our community's children an opportunity to pursue studies in areas, including: hospitality/tourism, computer science/networking, and business/finance. Through a classroom environment that emphasizes academic engagement, EBT has fostered the personal progress of countless residents.

The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology's dedicated staff has been successful in nurturing the intellectual development of hundreds of Brooklyn's children. Their commitment to promoting academic opportunities has strengthened the institution's programs thereby enabling comprehensive support services and encouraging parent participation. Through the exceptional leadership of Principal Juan Mendez, this remarkable high school has effectively increased both the graduation as well as the college placement rate, resulting in socially-minded young adults devoted to the interests of Williamsburg—and our nation at large.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology. I would like to express my sincerest congratulations in commemoration of its 10th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber during the evening of Thursday, May 17, 2007. Had I been present for six rollcall votes taken that evening on amendments to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007, I would have voted as follows: "no" on rollcall No. 378; "no" on rollcall No. 379; "no" on rollcall No. 380; "no" on rollcall No. 381; and "no" on rollcall No. 382; and "no" on rollcall No. 383.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL ROBERT W. GATES, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the life and dedicated service of Robert W. "Bob" Gates.

Robert Gates served this country for 31 years in the United States Air Force. Across three wars he flew in hostile skies from D-Day over France to the jungles of Vietnam. Colonel Gates was decorated with two Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Silver Star, the French Croix-de-Guerre, eight Air Medals and a Presidential Citation from President Roosevelt. He was the first Commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, FL. He commanded Project "Ice Skate," and successfully built a permanent base with a 5000-foot runway on a floating island (called T-3) near the North Pole. Additionally, Colonel Gates commanded Task Force HIRAN, which established the SHORAN radar tracking stations on the Greenland ice cap.

On May 18 2007, Colonel Gates will add to his lengthy roll of accolades the Spirit of Hope Award. In 1942, during Mr. Hope's first USO tour, then Lieutenant Gates was assigned to fly Mr. Hope and his troupe around the Alaskan and Pacific theaters. Multiple times during his career, he piloted Mr. Hope and other USO entertainers. Over these years, Colonel Gates and Bob Hope formed a life-long personal friendship. Mr. Hope nicknamed Bob Gates "Growing Pains," and often referred to him as his son. Bob Hope so inspired the young officer that Colonel Gates decided to dedicate his entire life, energy, and compassion to helping the spouses and family members of fallen comrades, as well as others less fortunate in the Fort Walton Beach, Florida area.

Colonel Gates was instrumental in organizing twelve USO tours to raise money for the purchase of 79 acres from nearby Eglin Air Force Base to build two world-class assisted living facilities, "Bob Hope's Enlisted Widows Village" and "Theresa Village." Bob Hope's Village includes 256 one, and two-bedroom apartments, gardening plots, a gift shop, swimming pool, nature trails, and a community center that seats over 400 people. Theresa Village has 123 units with similar facilities. In 2003, the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation donated \$1 million to build a one-of-a-kind welcome center in honor of Bob Gates' many years of support, dedication, and selfless contributions. Colonel Gates is often consulted on future facility construction plans, such as building future nursing care facilities on the Bob Hope Village complex. Additionally, Colonel Gates is an avid contributor and supporter of the Fort Walton Beach Children's Society Golf Tournament and auction that helps raise funds to support local children's agencies.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my deep appreciation to Robert W. Gates for his service to Florida and our country. As he is one of Fort Walton Beach's favorite sons, we are proud to see Bob receive the Spirit of Hope Award this year.

TRIBUTE TO CARTER CORNICK

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Ranking Member BACHUS to recognize L. Carter Cornick III for his dedicated service at the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

After serving nearly 5 years, an era of sorts, Mr. Cornick, the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, will return to the United States Senate as Chief of Staff to Senator JOHN WARNER. In his new role, he will once again be working for the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state he loves and ever-so-proudly calls home.

During his tenure, we have had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Cornick on many issues involving housing policy. We have relied on him to help turn some of the Committee's ideas into realities at HUD. Mr. Cornick has been helpful on several issues where it was important for us to work together.

In addition to his work as the Department's primary advocate before Congress, Mr. Cornick should also be recognized for the deep admiration he has earned within the halls of HUD. He has taken the time to learn and understand HUD's many complex programs, and has worked with and relied upon the career experts for their advice and historical knowledge of the issues.

We commend Carter Cornick for all of his tireless efforts in representing HUD before Congress, and congratulate him on his latest endeavor in public service. He will be missed.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDITH JACKSON

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. Judith Jackson, principal of Franconia Elementary School in Fairfax County, Virginia, since 1996: and a dedicated public servant for nearly 3 decades. While Dr. Jackson is retiring, she will leave behind a lasting impression of her caring nature and tireless devotion to the school she served so well.

A graduate of Marygrove College, Dr. Jackson, earned her master's degree at the University of Michigan and her doctorate in education at Nova Southeastern University. She began her teaching career as an elementary school teacher in the Detroit Public School System, and has taught soldiers in Germany, where her husband, David Jackson, was stationed with the United States Army, and ex-offenders in Pennsylvania. She arrived in the Fairfax County School system in 1980, where she rose to the rank of Assistant Principal at Woodley Hills Elementary School. In 1996, she passed through a rigorous selection process to become principal of Franconia Elementary. Dr. Judith Jackson is also the mother of 3 wonderful children, Teresa, David, and Kevin.

Throughout her service as principal, she has been ever present in the halls and classrooms of Franconia Elementary. She knows every student by name, and is involved in every aspect of life at the school. Dr. Jackson never misses an opportunity to read to the children at school events, and is unmatched in her advocacy of the development of reading and writing skills at the elementary level. As one member of her staff put it, "All she does, day after day, is tirelessly search for ways in which every student can achieve, and every student

can experience the joy of learning". Some of the innovative programs supported by Dr. Jackson to this end are the "Reading Restaurant", "Literary Lunch", "Friday Night Prime Time", and "Partners in Print", making learning, and reading in particular, fun for her students. In recognition of her efforts, the library at Franconia Elementary School has been renamed the "Judith Jackson Library."

A supporter of after-school programs, Dr. Jackson instituted Math and Science Nights, supported "CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts)", and regularly attended Parent-Teacher Association meetings that fostered dialogue with parents and teachers. She has also volunteered with the Red Cross, tutored members of the military at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and assisted with Koinonia's efforts to help the underprivileged.

The Franconia Mustangs will sorely miss her, but will not forget her any time soon. As the Ayoud triplets, second graders at Franconia put it, "We'll just have to retire too, since Franconia won't be the same without Dr. Jackson." Something tells me she won't let them.

I commend Dr. Jackson on her distinguished career in education, and wish her and her family health and happiness in her well-earned, much deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS KANSAS CITY DISTRICT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2007. Over the last century, the people who make up the Kansas City District have provided meaningful services to the people of Missouri and of our nation.

In the early days, the Kansas City District's primary mission was to develop and maintain a navigational channel along the Missouri River to encourage barge traffic. Barge traffic remains a vital concern along the river. Since the early 1900's, barges have been critical to moving farm products to markets and to control railroad freight rates via competition along the river. This commitment to navigation has always been so very important to those of us who hail from Missouri.

The Kansas City District has also played an important role in taming the turbulent and braided Missouri River. The men and women of the District have built numerous river control structures that have stabilized banks and used the force of the river's own current to carve a stable channel. They have constructed canals and river cutoffs that changed the course of the river. At the same time, they have offered easier navigation, opening the stream to, use, as a highway for goods.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Kansas City District tackled flood control concerns and helped protect property and lives along the river and its tributaries. Because of flooding and the federal government's commitment to employ Army engineer officers returning from battle in World War II, dams were constructed along the main stem of the river and on adjacent streams. The Flood Control Act of 1944

shaped the development of the entire Missouri River Valley region and transformed the landscape of America's heartland. The legislation authorized hundreds of dam and levy projects and established substantial changes in federal policy with regard to the management of the Missouri River. The Kansas City District played a key role in this national effort.

In addition to its responsibilities along the Missouri River, the Kansas City District operates eighteen lakes across Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. It also provides additional services to the nation, both inside and outside its own physical boundaries. Recently, the District has supported the United States Army by overseeing the construction of facilities for the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, KS, and of the new Lewis and Clark Classroom Facility for the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in congratulating the people who have worked to make the United States Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District a successful organization and will join me in sending thanks to them on their 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO CAROL AND PETER
CARROLL CELEBRATING THEIR
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 1957, Carol and Peter Carroll were married in St. Malachy's Church and went on to raise five children: Kathleen, John, Peter, Helen, and Paul.

Peter and Carol met while they were students at St. John's University. Peter was a starting center for the St. John's Redmen, and he and Carol met at a post-basketball game party.

Peter Carroll spent 40 years as a supervisor for Brooklyn Union Gas and coached basketball and baseball for St. Charles Parish and the Great Kills Little League. Carol worked for New York Telephone and then worked full time raising five children while also volunteering at the St. Charles School.

The Carrolls are proud grandparents of 17: Kathleen, Virginia, Caroline, Thomas, Amanda, Lindsey, Katie, Kevin, Billy, Andrew, McKenzie, Jennifer, Thomas, James, Victoria, Lauren, and Matthew. They currently split their time between Staten Island, Florida, and Long Beach Island.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Carrolls on this momentous occasion and wish them 50 more years of marriage.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF RONALD G. JOHNSON, PH.D.,
PRESIDENT OF MALONE COL-
LEGE, CANTON, OHIO

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, a native of Michigan, Ron Johnson attended Malone Col-

lege in 1960 and went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree in physics from Eastern Michigan University in 1963. He received a master's degree in radiation biophysics from the University of Kansas in 1967 and the doctorate in radiation biophysics, also from the University of Kansas, in 1970. Dr. Johnson returned to Malone College in 1970 to serve as assistant professor of physics, and was subsequently promoted to associate professor in 1974 and full professor in 1979. In 1981, he accepted the post of chief academic officer. His title was changed to provost in 1991 to more accurately describe his expanded duties and role at the College. He was named president in November 1994. At his inauguration in March of 1995 he announced the theme that would characterize his presidency—The Next Level of Excellence.

Throughout Dr. Johnson's 25 years of administrative leadership, Malone College has experienced unprecedented growth and development in academics, the number of students in attendance, and physical plant. Since 1981, the number of full-time faculty has increased from 33 to 111. In addition during his presidency, the percentage of faculty holding a terminal degree has increased from 48 percent to 71 percent. Enrollment has soared nearly 200 percent from 770 to 2300. Dr. Johnson has overseen the development of numerous academic programs, including the bachelor of science in nursing; two baccalaureate degree-completion programs in management and nursing; as well as graduate programs awarding master's degrees in education, counseling, Christian ministries, business administration, and nursing.

During his tenure Malone also has developed innovative academic programs in zoo biology, forensic chemistry, sports/youth ministry, commercial music technology, and community health education, to name only a few of the more than 90 programs of study. Also of note—it is within Dr. Johnson's presidency that Malone has been honored with 2 more prestigious distinctions: recognition by the Templeton Foundation as a national leader in character development, and ranking among the top colleges and universities in the Midwest under the category Universities—Master's according to U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2006 and again in 2007. Dr. Johnson's experience and leadership have been instrumental during 3 of the Higher Learning Council of the North Central Association's decadal reaccreditations, including the most recent in the spring of 2004. During Johnson's presidency the College's endowment has grown nearly 500 percent from \$3.1 million to approximately \$18 million.

Appearances of such record growth are also evident in the physical changes that continue to take place on the campus. Dr. Johnson supervised the completion of Malone's newest structures—the Brehme Centennial Center, the Ewing Varsity Center, Mitchell Hall, and Haviland Hall, the School of Nursing building addition, Wellness Center, and the purchase/renovation of the Johnson Center for Worship and the Fine Arts (formerly First Christian Church). Other campus renovations under Dr. Johnson's guidance include the attractively landscaped Herbert W. Hoover Courtyard; the Marjorie Johnson Memory Garden, named in honor of Malone's beloved, late first lady; and the newly completed dining facility and entranceway to the Brehme Centennial Center.

A leader in Christian higher education, Dr. Johnson is a member of the board of directors of the Christian College Consortium and its Fund, the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, Council of Presidents. At the state level he is vice-chair elect and a member of the executive committee of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges. His service in the Evangelical Friends Church—Eastern Region has included serving as presiding clerk of the Yearly Meeting for 11 years and currently as a member of the executive board and the board of directors of Barclay Press. Locally, Dr. Johnson is a member of the Stark Development Board and the P-16 Compact. He has served the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and was chairman in 2000. He has served on the boards of Leadership Stark County and the Medical Education Foundation of the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and been involved with United Way of Stark County.

He is father to 2 married children, Mark and Kristin, and grandfather to Cameron. He attends Jackson Friends Church, where he serves as an elder and Sunday school teacher.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on May 17, 2007 I left Washington to return to Kentucky to be with my family for a medical emergency. As a result, I missed the following votes: rollcall 375, ordering the Previous Question for the rule on S. Con. Res. 21, and had I been present I would have voted "nay"; rollcall 376 on agreeing to the resolution for the debate of S. Con. Res. 21 and had I been present I would have voted "nay"; rollcall 377 on passage of S. Con. Res. 21 and had I been present I would have voted "nay."

I oppose the Democrat Budget Conference Report because of the massive spending increases and higher tax burdens it places on Kentucky families. The budget outline includes \$22 billion in new non-defense discretionary spending, three times more than the President's request. Worse still, this conference report sets the course for one of the largest tax increases in American history—at least \$217 billion over the next five years.

The budget also ignores repeated warnings about the unsustainable rate of growth in entitlement spending, failing again to address the fiscal crisis facing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Our economy continues to enjoy one of the longest stretches of positive gain in recent memory. The out-of-control spending and massive tax increases outlined in this conference report threatens to bring our vibrant economy to a screeching halt.

Also on May 17 during consideration of amendments to legislation concerning certain Government Sponsored Enterprises (H.R. 1427) I missed the following votes: rollcall 378, on agreeing to the Bachus amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 379, on agreeing to the Hensarling amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 380, on agreeing to the McHenry amendment had I been present I

would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 381, on agreeing to the Kanjorski amendment had I been present I would have voted, "nay"; rollcall 382 on agreeing to the Roskam amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea"; rollcall 383, on agreeing to the Garrett (NJ) amendment had I been present I would have voted, "yea".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote on six amendments to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 378, the amendment offered by Mr. BACHUS. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 379, the amendment offered by Mr. HENSARLING. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 380, the amendment offered by Mr. MCHENRY. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 381, the amendment offered by Mr. KANJORSKI. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 382, the amendment offered by Mr. ROSKAM. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 383, the amendment offered by Mr. GARRETT.

METROPOLITAN POLICE AND FIRE SERVICE ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Metropolitan Police Service Act of 2007. This bill would conform the federal formula for calculating its share of the District of Columbia's Firefighters and Police officers pension to the new 20 year threshold adopted by the District government.

The original bill introduced to the D.C. City Council in 1999 set the minimum to 20 years of service, but then Chief of Police Charles Ramsey asked that the minimum be increased to 25 years. He was concerned that 300 police officers serving on the Police Department in 1999 who were eligible to retire at 20 years might retire en masse. The timeframe for these retirees has passed and the DC government has stepped up to take care of its firefighters and police officers, by resetting the eligibility to 20 years. These firefighters and police officers now request that the United States Congress fulfill its promises to these first responders.

The Federal government made a commitment to pay District of Columbia firefighters and police officer annuity payments that accrued before 1997. Thus, it was necessary when the District of Columbia changed its formula from 25 to 20 years, that the Federal government make the same change for these first responders, so that every first responder has the opportunity for the same annuity payments that accrue at the same time.

This legislation is consistent with what happened in 2000. At that time, the District first

changed the retirement plan for Metropolitan Police Department to permit service longevity payments to be considered part of the basic compensation used to calculate the retirement annuities. Congress then followed suit in 2001, by making the adjustment in the Federal Government's share of the payments, namely, the share attributable to service provided prior to July 1997. Thus, the federal formula for its share of each affected firefighter and police officer then mirrored the formula established by the District of Columbia government.

In January of 2007, Mayor Adrian Fenty signed a new law which amends the District of Columbia formula to provide that eligible firefighters and police officers must complete just 20 years of service to receive their long-term annuity. Chief Ramsey did not oppose the lowering of the threshold. Congress should now proceed, as it did it 2001, to change the federal formula for retirement annuities, so it mirrors the District of Columbia's.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA'S WOMEN VOTER'S

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, during Women Veterans Week, to honor California's more than 165,000 women veterans, whose proud service and unwavering dedication to our country deserve the highest recognition and commendation.

Throughout American history, women have courageously distinguished themselves by their service in the armed forces, even if they were not always under formal military command. Originally, women served as nurses, cooks, couriers, and spies during every American conflict from the Revolutionary War to the Spanish-American War, although it was only in 1901 that the Army Nurses Corps was established and uniformed women were formally incorporated into the military.

The role of women continued to expand throughout the early 20th century, and by the end of World War II, nearly 350,000 women had served in noncombatant military positions, stationed at the frontlines and often targeted by enemy soldiers. In 1948, President Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, granting women permanent status in our armed forces and paving the way for full integration of women in the military. Each decade since then, women have enlisted in dramatically increasing numbers, taking on increasingly diverse roles as engineers, communication specialists, intelligence analysts, and special forces.

These service members have demonstrated tremendous courage and patriotism, and it's our responsibility to provide them with the strong support they deserve. We owe them no less.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the women of armed forces. Their achievements have made our military the best in the world and their commitment to our country has safeguarded the freedom and way of life cherished by every American.

LARRY WELCH—LAWMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, "The police are the public and the public are police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence." These words spoken by Sir Robert Peel, founder of the Metropolitan Police Force in London, describe the obligation and dedication required to be a law enforcement officer in society.

Peace officers are the last strand of wire in the fence between the law and the lawless. They are all that stands between order and chaos. They are all that stands between the people and the outlaws. Peace officers are the rare breeds—the noble breed that wear the badge of Duty, Honor, Courage, and Service. Larry Welch is one of these Peace Officers.

For 46 years, Larry Welch has served his country and the citizens of the State of Kansas as a law enforcement officer. As a child, Larry knew that he wanted to be a law enforcement officer—specifically an Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI. While most kids in high school were thinking of football games and school dances and the coming college years, Larry was writing to the FBI, inquiring about becoming a Special Agent. After obtaining his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas in 1958 and his Juris Doctorate in 1961, Larry graduated the FBI Academy and became a Special Agent in 1961.

For the next 25 years, Larry served as a dedicated FBI Agent, a career that spanned eight cities and Puerto Rico. He investigated and served the Bureau in a variety of positions, including serving on the protective detail of U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy, shortly after President Kennedy was assassinated. Larry also had the experience of serving in a supervisory position with the FBI, including director of FBI operations in Kansas.

In 1986, Larry left the FBI to become the Associate Director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson, KS. The Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center serves as the headquarters for all law enforcement training in Kansas. By 1989, Larry was promoted to the Director of the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and was responsible for the certification of all law enforcement officers within the State of Kansas—an incredible responsibility.

But Larry still had his eye on a position with an organization that he had strived to become a member of for over 30 years. Before Larry was hired as an FBI Agent, he had applied to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, KBI. The KBI is the statewide law enforcement organization that provides investigative and laboratory services to criminal justice professionals across the State. A position with KBI appealed to Larry, so a family friend and mentor tried to pull some strings to get him hired; but, KBI refused to waive the 7 years of law enforcement experience requirement and instead Larry joined the FBI. This time, however, KBI was not saying no to Larry Welch and in 1994, he was hired as the 10th Director in the history of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Under Larry's leadership, KBI flourished as one of the premiere law enforcement agencies in the State. During his tenure, KBI increased the number of forensic laboratories throughout the State. KBI's forensic laboratory achieved national accreditation, on its first try, from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors—the first State crime laboratory to do so. Larry's KBI also assisted the Wichita Police Department in solving the Bind, Torture, Kill, BTK, murders in 2004. He has expanded KBI's investigative focus on computer crimes, such as identity theft and child pornography, as well as the rapid growth of the methamphetamine epidemic across Kansas.

I have had the privilege of calling Larry Welch my good friend for so many years. As a former Judge in Texas for 22 years, I have always been impressed by Larry's dedication to the people of our Nation and upholding the tradition of public service. His integrity is above reproach and his competence is extraordinary.

For Larry Welch, being a lawman was his life's calling, and after 46 years, this dedicated and well-respected law enforcement official is hanging up the badge that he has so proudly worn. The citizens and the State of Kansas are fortunate to have his service. In life, there are not many individuals who have the drive or dedication to a career that Larry has had. He is truly one of a kind, and I am honored to pay him this tribute today.

And That's Just The Way It Is.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CASSIE STATUTO
BEVAN

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Cassie Statuto Bevan, a woman who has served this House and the welfare of America's children for more than 20 years.

To Dr. Bevan, there was no such thing as liberal or conservative when it came to protecting the rights and safety of children. In her more than 20 years on the Hill, she worked with members on both sides of the aisle to write and pass meaningful, effective legislation that would keep kids off the streets and in safe, permanent homes. Widely considered the "in-House" expert on child welfare issues, there was rarely, if ever a piece of legislation dealing with the care of children that passed without the benefit of Cassie's expertise and passion.

And Dr. Bevan's service began before many of us were elected to serve in this chamber. She started her work in the House of Representatives in 1984 as a staff member for the newly established Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, and after several years, she became the Republican Staff Director. In 1993, Dr. Bevan joined the National Council for Adoption to become the Principal Investigator of the Child Protection Project and to head the Council's Office of Public Policy. In 1994, the Speaker of the House appointed Dr. Bevan to serve as a Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Child and Family Welfare. The following year, Dr. Bevan returned to the House of Representatives as a Profes-

sional Staff Member to the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means and was promoted to Staff Director at the beginning of the 107th Congress.

In 2001, Dr. Bevan joined then House Majority Whip, Tom DeLay, to serve as his Senior Policy Advisor handling child welfare, welfare reform, and other domestic issues. She continued to serve as the principal staff member to House Majority Leader DeLay on a wide range of issues, including his successful efforts to develop the D.C. Family Court in the wake of the Brianna Blackmond tragedy. Dr. Bevan was the principal staff member on many key pieces of child welfare legislation, including the Inter-Ethnic Placement Act of 1996; the Adoption Tax Credit of 1996; the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997; the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999; the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001 and the House passed welfare reform reauthorization—the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002.

Dr. Bevan's work has also been noted outside Capitol Hill and by many national organizations. The National Council for Adoption, the National Association of Psychiatric Treatment Centers for Children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse have all rightly honored Dr. Bevan for her leadership in child advocacy.

The House of Representatives may be losing one of our brightest, but her fight is not over. In her much-deserved retirement, Dr. Bevan will continue her commitment to helping abused and neglected children, and will raise awareness as a university professor, teaching future generations the battles she has fought, and won, on behalf of the kids who need it most.

We are very sorry to lose such a valuable member of our team, but I know our work together is not done. On behalf of all the members who have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Dr. Bevan, we wish her the best as she continues her fight outside these halls.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF
NORMANDY LANDINGS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to sixteen heroic veterans of the D-Day landing on the beaches of Normandy. On Saturday, May 19, 2007, the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de La Fayette, M. François Gauthier, Consul General of France in Boston, presented the cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor to sixteen citizens of Massachusetts: George Belesoz, Peter B. Bennan, Espen H. Christensen, John B. Crawford, James H. Curran, Mario J. De Cristofario, Michael Delisle, George DePaulo, James A. Foster, Milton Issengberg, George A. Jonic, Robert H. Lubker, John E. McBurney, Thomas I. Powers, Seymour L. Schnuer, and Riley P. Shirley. These remarkable men were already a highly decorated band of brothers: twelve had earned the Purple Heart; nine, the Bronze Star; two, the Silver Star; and three had previously been

awarded the Croix de Guerre. Representatives of the Mohawk Nation also received honor and thanks for their contribution to the Allied victory.

M. Gauthier read a letter from His Excellency Jean-David Levitte, French Ambassador to the United States, who had returned to Paris to serve as national security adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy. M. Levitte praised the heroes who, as young men, risked their lives for freedom: They came to Europe because they believed in the power of liberty and democracy; they believed in the power of human rights. They came to liberate populations from oppression and tyranny. And for this we are and we will always be grateful.

I thank the government and the people of France for the honor bestowed on the soldiers and sailors of Massachusetts, and, like them, we must never forget the sacrifices of the greatest generation. I look forward to close friendship and continuing cooperation between our sister Republics as we carry on the struggle for human rights and human dignity.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
HURRICANE RESEARCH INITIATIVE ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Florida, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN and almost 20 bipartisan original cosponsors to introduce the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act.

Although the United States possesses the most capable research enterprise, the largest economy, and the most sophisticated social infrastructure in the world, it remains extremely vulnerable to damage and loss of life from natural disasters. Among weather hazards, hurricanes account for over half of the total economic damage inflicted in the United States.

Since 2001, hurricane damage has cost our nation an average of \$35.8 billion in economic losses per year. Even more, the past two years, hurricanes have caused over 1,450 innocent lives to be lost.

With less than a month before this year's hurricane season is set to begin, now is the time to nationally invest in new research to better prepare, respond and mitigate these disasters.

The National Science Board task force, a 24-member independent advisory body to the President and Congress on national science and engineering issues, recently released a report on January 12, 2007 entitled, Hurricane Warning: The Critical Need for a National Hurricane Research Initiative. Their report warns that relative to the tremendous damage future hurricanes will inflict, the current federal investment in hurricane science and engineering is entirely insufficient. More than ever before, our nation needs a National Hurricane Research Initiative (NHRI) to provide vital hurricane research to adequately respond to these threats.

I come to the floor today to introduce the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act, a comprehensive hurricane research bill which will improve hurricane research dramatically in

the United States. The bill authorizes \$4.35 billion in critical hurricane research funding to help scientists study and better understand how hurricanes form and intensify. This bill also provides enhanced information on early warning systems, infrastructure durability standards, and hurricane tracking and prediction capabilities.

The National Hurricane Research Initiative Act of 2007 takes the general recommendations of the National Science Board and assembles the expertise of the nation's science and engineering experts to gain a better understanding of hurricane prediction and intensity. Under the bill, research is directed to further develop communications emergency networks for government agencies and non-government entities to improve disaster response and recovery. This bill also establishes a National Infrastructure Data Base to develop standards and establish public policy to better understand hurricanes and tropical storms.

Madam Speaker, our nation, and my State of Florida in particular, are all too familiar with the immense damage hurricanes can inflict. When faced with strong hurricane predictions for this year, it could not be more appropriate time for Congress to act. We need a forward thinking approach that collects and utilizes comprehensive and improved hurricane research. My legislation would do just that. By investing in scientific research now, before the hurricanes strike, we will be able to better plan and mitigate these disasters, saving infrastructure and lives.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration.

CHRISTOPHER RYAN COOMES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, 11-year-old Christopher Ryan Coomes, or Ryan, as he is more familiarly called, is an outstanding young man. A native of Texas, born in Houston and raised in the suburb of Spring, Texas, Ryan lives a normal, average American life with his father, Tim, mother, Brenda, big sister, Candance, and little brother, Chase.

Ryan is finishing the 5th Grade at Salyers Elementary in Spring, Texas; however, he is no ordinary 5th grader because Ryan has a gift for excelling in school. In December 2005, when Ryan was a 4th grader, he competed in the Salyers Elementary Spelling Bee. Spelling the word, "walrus," Ryan was named the champion of the spelling competition. When he competed the following year, in 2006, Ryan beat out 30 other participants and would-be spelling bee champion hopefuls to win by spelling the word "staccato"—which is a musical term, meaning to cut short or crisply. Ryan also competed in the Spring ISD District Spelling Bee competition in February of 2007.

Spelling is not the only thing Ryan excels in. Ryan is also an outstanding student, who has been and is on the honor roll at Salyers Elementary. His favorite subjects are history (which also happens to be mine), science, and math. While most kids scheme to get out of going to school in the morning, Ryan eagerly gets up and goes. Currently, he is trying to

maintain a perfect attendance record for the 2006–2007 school year. Ryan has a love of reading and is very skilled at writing, having his work continually used by his teacher as an example. He participates in several extra-curricular activities, such as the Chess Club and the Safety Patrol.

Already at 11, Ryan has set goals for himself: He wants to make Eagle Scout—an honor only 5 percent of Boy Scouts ever achieve; he wants to attend college at either Texas A&M, Rice, or an Ivy League college (Yale); he wants to visit England and see Stonehenge.

Ryan has been a long time member of the Cub Scouts, which is a division of the Boy Scouts. The Cub Scouts were formed for boys in the first through fifth grades and was established to promote character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Boys involved with Cub Scouts are required to go through 5 different award levels of the Cub Scouts before they are promoted to the highest award level, Arrow of Light.

To be awarded the Arrow of Light, the Cub Scout must demonstrate the specific skills and activities of each of the previous Cub Scout levels. The Cub Scout is also required to learn the Scout Promise and Scout Law. Finally, the Cub Scout is required to attend one Boy Scout Troop meeting and one Boy Scout Troop Activity. Ryan Coomes has met all of these requirements and on March 3, 2007, he was awarded the Arrow of Light for the Cub Scouts of America, Pack 355.

Madam Speaker, Ryan Coomes is a remarkable young man. An honor student, spelling bee champion, and Cub Scout recipient of the Arrow of Light award, Ryan is an example to his fellow students, his fellow citizens of Spring, and his fellow Texans. We need more young people like Ryan. I congratulate Ryan on being awarded the Arrow of Light for the Cub Scouts and I am proud to pay him this tribute today.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST ROBERT J. DIXON OF MINNEAPOLIS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Specialist Robert J. Dixon of Minneapolis who died on May 6th in Baghdad. His funeral service occurred on Thursday May 18th in Minneapolis and I would like to read the following May 11th, 2007 Associated Press Article about Army Specialist Dixon into the record:

A Minneapolis soldier who graduated from high school in Gladwin and was just three months into his tour in Iraq was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle, the military said.

Army Spc. Robert J. Dixon, 27, died May 6 in Baghdad, the Defense Department said Wednesday. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan.

Dixon was born in Portland, Ore., but moved to Gladwin in 1992, said Irene Dixon, who said she and her husband Daniel were

Robert Dixon's legal guardians. In high school, Robert was a running back for the football team, set the school record in the 100-meter dash and also wrestled, his mother said.

"He especially enjoyed family activities," Irene Dixon told The Associated Press on Thursday. "We did a lot of family activities. He hunted, he paint-balled, he snowboarded. We went camping, snowmobiling.

"If you ever knew Bobby, you'd love him. Every time we got a report from a teacher it couldn't have been any better. We got a call from a commander who said everybody there (in Iraq) loved him."

After graduating from high school, Dixon attended Olivet College for a year and later was briefly enrolled at Northwood University in Midland.

Dixon joined the Army in the summer of 2005, shortly after he moved to Minneapolis in search of work, his mother said.

"He wanted to further his education, and he always had a desire to be in the Army," she said. "He had planned to make it his career."

Dixon said she last heard from her son last Friday, when he called during a funeral for her uncle to express his condolences.

Robert Dixon is survived by his wife of 1½ years, Rusty Rose-Dixon, and two children. Funeral arrangements were incomplete but were likely to take place at the Gladwin High School gymnasium.

"I can't even convey to you how we're going to miss not having him here," his mother said. "But I also know that he is a Christian and he is with the Lord now."

Madam Speaker, Specialist Dixon served our country, Minnesota and the 5th District with incredible distinction and made the ultimate sacrifice. I know I speak for you, the entire House of Representatives, and our country in sending my deepest condolences to Specialist Dixon's family and loved ones in their time of grief.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this bill.

I applaud Chairman SKELTON for his leadership in guiding this bill to the floor today. He and Ranking Member HUNTER have done a tremendous job, and they have been ably supported by the expert staff of our committee.

I'm grateful to Chairman SKELTON for working with me to include things important for Colorado, including limits on how the Army can pursue possible expansion of the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in Colorado. I agree with Senator SALAZAR and others in the Colorado delegation that any expansion, if it takes place at all, must be conducted in a way that it is a win-win situation for the Army and for Colorado and that any expansion plan should not

involve condemnation of private land. My proposal will shine a necessary caution light before the Army charges forward, and force the Army to do what it has so far failed to do—that is, to make a compelling case for why the proposed expansion is necessary to meet the training needs of our soldiers in the 21st Century.

Other provisions I offered in the bill include: Funding for a new squadron operations facility for the Colorado Air National Guard; promoting agreement between the Air Force and the city of Pueblo about flight operations at the Pueblo airport; urging the Defense Department to use on-site disposal of chemical weapons stockpiled at the Pueblo Chemical Depot; asking the Army to track pilots who train at the High-Altitude Aviation Training School in Eagle, Colorado; reporting on opportunities for leveraging Defense Department funds with States' funds to prevent disruption in the event of electric grid or pipeline failures and encouraging the Defense Department to leverage Energy Savings Performance Contracts with Energy Conservation Investment Program funds to provide additional opportunity for renewable energy projects; and naming a housing facility at Fort Carson in honor of our former colleague Joel Hefley.

I am also pleased that the Committee adopted two of my amendments, including one to repeal a provision adopted last year that makes it easier for the president to federalize the National Guard for domestic law enforcement purposes during emergencies. By repealing this, my amendment restores the role of the Governors with regard to this subject. My other amendment will continue the office of the Ombudsman that assists people claiming benefits under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and expands its authority.

Mr. Chairman, this bill rightly focuses on our military's readiness needs.

After 5 years at war, both the active duty and reserve forces are stretched to their limits. The bill will provide what's needed to respond, including a substantial Strategic Readiness Fund, adding funds for National Guard equipment and training, and establishing a Defense Readiness Production Board to mobilize the industrial base to address equipment shortfalls.

It also provides important funds for the Base Realignment and Closure process, including \$62 million to assist communities expected to absorb large numbers of personnel as a result of the BRAC decision. This funding is especially important to Colorado, given that Fort Carson in Colorado Springs will add 10,000 soldiers and will be home to 25,000 troops by 2009.

The bill provides substantial resources to improve protection of our troops, including additional funds for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles, body armor, and up-armored Humvees for our troops in the field. The bill enlarges the Army and Marine Corps, consistent with the Tauscher-Udall Army expansion bill in the last Congress. And it will provide for a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for service members, boost funding for the Defense Health Program, and prohibit increasing TRICARE and pharmacy user fee increases.

The bill incorporates provisions from the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which recently passed the House and was driven by

the revelations of mistreatment and mismanagement at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. These provisions establish new requirements to provide the people, training, and oversight needed to ensure high-quality care and efficient administrative processing at Walter Reed and throughout the active duty military services. The bill also establishes a Military Mental Health Initiative to coordinate all mental health research and development within the Defense Department, and establishes a Traumatic Brain Injury Initiative to allow emerging technologies and treatments to compete for funding.

Given the increased use of the National Guard and Reserves in recent years, the bill gives important new authorities to the National Guard to fulfill its expanded role, including authorizing a fourth star for the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, making the National Guard Bureau a joint activity of the Department of Defense, and creating a bipartisan Council of Governors to advise the president on how best to use the National Guard for civil support missions. The bill also requires the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to consider how to incorporate more National Guard and Reserve personnel into positions at Northern Command, based in Colorado.

I'm pleased that the bill fully supports the goals of the Department of Energy non-proliferation programs and the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction program, consistent with the 9-11 Commission recommendations. The bill also slows development of a Reliable Replacement Warhead and the construction of a new plutonium production facility, and establishes a bipartisan commission to evaluate U.S. strategic posture for the future, including the role that nuclear weapons should play in our national security strategy.

I also want to mention funding for missile defense in the bill. The bill increases missile defense funding for systems that address current needs and vulnerabilities, while reducing funding for less mature and higher risk systems. The cuts in missile defense programs in the bill have been cause for concern among some on the other side of the aisle. But the bill funds 93 cents of every dollar of the president's missile defense request, so the cuts are far from extreme. It fully funds the budget request for the Patriot PAC-3 missile, the Ground Based Missile Defense System, and THAAD development and deployment, and adds funding for Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense. But it makes reductions to the Airborne Laser program and funding for the 3rd BMD Site which the Administration has proposed building in Eastern Europe.

Importantly, the bill provides for an independent study to examine the political, technical, operational, force structure, and budgetary aspects of the proposed European missile defense deployment; an independent study to examine the future roles and missions of the Missile Defense Agency; a 2 year extension of the requirement for GAO to annually assess the missile defense program; and assurance that the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation has access to all MDA operational test evaluation information.

In my view, the bill strikes the right balance with regard to missile defense. I did not support the amendment by Rep. FRANKS (R-AZ) to increase missile defense funds because I believe the Committee takes a better approach in its bill. Likewise, I did not support

the amendment offered by Rep. TIERNEY (D-MA) to decrease missile defense funds because I thought it went too far in the other direction. There are emerging and real, near-term threats facing the Nation, the warfighter, and our allies that we need to be able to counter, so I think it would be irresponsible to terminate the longer-term missile defense programs, as Rep. TIERNEY's amendment proposed to do.

Finally but no less importantly, the bill requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a detailed report on the implementation of the Joint Campaign Plan for Iraq, on national reconciliation efforts on the part of the Iraqi government, and on metrics to measure American efforts in Iraq, based on assessments by Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker. The bill also requires the Secretary to produce a report outlining the direction of U.S. activities in Afghanistan along with indicators of progress, and the bill establishes a Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

Mr. Chairman, the bill we are considering today does an excellent job of balancing the need to sustain our current warfighting abilities with the need to prepare for the next threat to our national security. It is critical that we are able to meet the operational demands of today even as we continue to prepare our men and women in uniform to be the best trained and equipped force in the world.

This is a good bill, a carefully drafted and bipartisan bill, and I urge its passage.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CREATE-21

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce CREATE-21, a measure aimed at "Creating Research, Extension, and Teaching Excellence for the 21st Century."

America has arrived at a critical juncture with respect to the food, agricultural, and natural resource sciences. Ahead of us are two paths. The first is the path of the status quo. It is not a bad path—after all, it has provided the Nation and the world with bountiful and affordable food and numerous other benefits. No, this path is not bad; it's just not as good as it should be.

The other path—the CREATE-21 path—recognizes that the status quo, when it comes to the Federal-State Partnership in the Food and Agricultural Sciences (as that term is broadly defined by statute), is no longer sustainable and thus no longer acceptable. This Nation and the whole planet face both daunting challenges and tremendous opportunities that will require structural and funding improvements. Here are some examples:

Challenges such as the effects of changing climate on farms and forests cannot be solved with an inadequate USDA science organization and woefully inadequate funding.

Opportunities for replacing a substantial portion of U.S. petroleum consumption through increased production of renewable fuels (without raising grain and livestock prices unduly) cannot be attained without a major increase in funding for basic research and applied research and "integrated" efforts (where research is combined with education and technology transfer through extension agents).

Efforts to boost the U.S. specialty crops and organic food industries will not come to fruition in a timely manner—thereby threatening America's world leadership positions—if part of the responsibility for research continues to lie within one USDA agency and part in another, with inadequate coordination between the two!

Problems such as the twin (and related) epidemics of obesity and diabetes cannot be overcome with Federal research, education, and extension efforts divided among two USDA agencies (and some 105 land-grant universities) unless the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics has under his immediate supervision a national program staff that can provide overarching vision, guidance, and leadership for those two agencies.

Madam Speaker, these are only four examples—among dozens that I could have chosen—but they make the case for the comprehensive approach embodied in CREATE-21. They demonstrate that the opportunities and challenges we face demand both an improved organizational structure and enhanced funding.

When the House Committee on Agriculture sits down in the next few weeks to develop the 2007 Farm Bill, I am hopeful that the foundational precepts and specific provisions embodied in the legislation I introduce today will form the basis for the Committee's Research Title. Therefore, I want to take a few minutes to highlight three key provisions:

CREATE-21 will increase planning and implementation across intramural (e.g., ARS and ERS) and extramural (e.g., land-grant) facilities through a single national program staff working directly for the USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

CREATE-21 will also establish a new National Institutes for Food and Agriculture (replacing the current Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service) to provide continuing and expanded support to America's land-grant and other universities and related institutions.

Finally, CREATE-21 will double authorized funding for the food, agriculture, and natural resource research, teaching, and extension programs currently administered by Cooperative State Research, Education, and Economics Service in order to address the enormous opportunities and daunting challenges that face the country and the greater global community.

Besides these distinctive elements, CREATE-21 has three other unique attributes:

CREATE-21 will strengthen the land-grant system with its integrated, National network of State Agricultural Experiment Stations, more than 3,000 Cooperative Extension offices, and universities in all 50 states, DC, and the U.S. territories.

CREATE-21 will augment "integrated" USDA funding programs so that many more grants which integrate research with extension and/or education are awarded through competitive, peer-reviewed procedures.

Lastly, CREATE-21 will bolster university capacity, especially for the historically black (1890), tribal (1994), insular area, and small 1862 land-grant universities and members of the American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources (AASCARR).

In addition to these provisions, the legislation I am introducing today contains many

other amendments to USDA research, extension, and teaching statutes, reflecting the best thinking of a broad cross-section of America's land grant community. These provisions include critical updates that will enhance, among other things, the basic programs providing sustenance for the 1890 land-grant institutions and critical food, health, and nutritional information to low-income families and youth through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. In fact, this legislation addresses ALL of the Farm Bill priorities outlined by the Presidents of the 1890 colleges.

While I support the key tenets of this legislation and am pleased to introduce it in the House, we all recognize that difficult problems require consensus-based solutions and I remain open to suggestions. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee as we develop a Research Title for the 2007 Farm Bill that truly has at its core mission: "Creating Research, Extension, and Teaching Excellence for the 21st Century."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, on Monday and Tuesday, May 14 and 15, 2007, I was attending to personal family matters in the District. Consequently, I missed Rollcall Votes No. 342, "To extend the District of Columbia College Access Act;" No. 343, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims;" No. 344, "Recognizing National Americorps Week;" No. 345, "American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin;" No. 346, "Army Specialist Joseph P. Micks Federal Flag Code Amendment Act of 2007;" No. 347, "John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007;" No. 348, "COPS Improvement Act of 2007;" and No. 349, "Safe American Roads Act of 2007."

If present, I would have voted "aye" on all matters.

THE AFFORDABLE GAS PRICE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Affordable Gas Price Act. This legislation reduces gas prices by reforming government policies that artificially inflate the price of gas. As I need not remind my colleagues, the American people are being hard hit by skyrocketing gas prices. In some parts of the country, gas prices have risen to as much as \$4 per gallon.

This increase in the price of gas threatens our already fragile economy and diminishes the quality of life for all Americans. One industry that is particularly hard hit is the trucking industry. The effects of high gas prices on the trucking industry will be reflected in increased costs for numerous consumer goods, thus further harming American consumers.

Unfortunately, many proposals to address the problem of higher energy prices involve increasing government interference in the market through policies such as price controls. These big government solutions will, at best, prove ineffective and, at worst, bring back the fuel shortages and gas lines of the seventies.

Instead of expanding government, Congress should repeal federal laws and policies that raise the price of gas, either directly through taxes or indirectly through regulations that discourage the development of new fuel sources. This is why my legislation repeals the federal moratorium on offshore drilling and allows oil exploration in the ANWR reserve in Alaska. My bill also ensures that the National Environmental Policy Act's environmental impact statement requirement will no longer be used as a tool to force refiners to waste valuable time and capital on nuisance litigation. The Affordable Gas Price Act also provides tax incentives to encourage investment in new refineries.

Federal fuel taxes are a major part of gasoline's cost. The Affordable Gas Price Act suspends the federal gasoline tax any time the average gas prices exceeds \$3.00 per gallon. During the suspension, the federal government will have a legal responsibility to ensure the federal highway trust fund remains funded. My bill also raises the amount of mileage reimbursement not subject to taxes, and, during times of high oil prices, provides the same mileage reimbursement benefit to charity and medical organizations as provided to businesses.

Misguided and outdated trade policies are also artificially raising the price of gas. For instance, even though Russia and Kazakhstan allow their citizens the right and opportunity to emigrate, they are still subject to Jackson-Vanik sanctions, even though Jackson-Vanik was a reaction to the Soviet Union's highly restrictive emigration policy. Eliminating Jackson-Vanik's threat of trade-restricting sanctions would increase the United States' access to oil supplies from non-Arab countries. Thus, my bill terminates the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Russia and Kazakhstan, allowing Americans to enjoy the benefits of free trade with these oil-producing nations.

Finally, the Affordable Gas Price Act creates a federal study on how the abandonment of the gold standard and the adoption of freely floating currencies are affecting the price of oil. It is no coincidence that oil prices first became an issue shortly after President Nixon unilaterally severed the dollar's last connection to gold. The system of fiat money makes consumers vulnerable to inflation and to constant fluctuations in the prices of essential goods such as oil.

In conclusion Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Affordable Gas Price Act and end government policies that increase the cost of gasoline.

JAY EAGEN'S RETIREMENT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jay Eagen on the occasion of

his retirement from the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the U.S. House of Representatives, effective May 31, 2007.

For the past 20 years, Jay Eagen has dedicated himself to serving the public through a variety of roles in the House of Representatives. He began his career as a Legislative Assistant in 1982 and a year later was appointed chief of staff to Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin. In 1985, he joined the office of Rep. Bill Goodling of Pennsylvania first as his chief-of-staff, then as minority and majority staff director of the Committee on Education and the Workforce under Goodling's leadership.

When Republicans assumed the majority in 1994, we were determined to professionalize the operations of the House, many of which currently exist within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. In 1997, Jay was chosen to become the CAO. For the past 10 years, Jay Eagen has demonstrated what a commitment to the effective, transparent administration of the House will yield. Once he assumed the role of CAO, Jay quickly established an environment of financial stewardship and responsibility, which would yield eight consecutive "clean opinions" on the House's annual financial statements. A considerable achievement considering that previously those records were so poorly kept they could not even be audited.

Although Jay was appointed and sworn in by Speaker Newt Gingrich, he always conducted himself as a steward of the institution, without regard to party or politics. He mastered that rare feat of catering to all Members, while being beholden to none. Members often sought Jay on this very floor to express their feelings on everything from the menu selections in the Members' Dining Room, to the preparations for such historic events as the passing, and subsequent lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda, of Presidents Reagan and Ford. Regardless of whether an "R" or "D" followed the Member's name, no issue was too large or too small for Jay to attend to. He personally took responsibility for countless requests, and worked with the staff of his organization to find a resolution to each one.

Madam Speaker, in an institution where it is rare for Members on both sides of the aisle to agree, few will dispute the dedication that Jay Eagen has demonstrated to this body over the past 20 years. Soon Jay, his wife Cathy, and their son Keiran will leave the Washington, D.C., area for the tranquility of Durango, Colorado. While Jay will likely welcome the change provided by his newly sylvan surroundings, those Members whom he has so capably assisted for these many years will acutely feel the loss of this tireless public servant.

On behalf of the Members and staff of the House, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to Jay and his family in the months and years ahead as they embark upon the next chapter of their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OCEAN
AND COASTAL MAPPING INTE-
GRATION ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, Thomas Jefferson, in 1807, signed into law an Act re-

quiring the President "to cause a survey to be taken of the coast of the United States . . . together with such other matters as he may deem proper for completing an accurate chart of every part of the coasts." The mapping and charting of our coasts and marine waters continues to be an issue of great national importance two hundred years later.

President Jefferson's original intent with that Act was to provide seafarers with nautical charts that would allow for them to safely navigate in the new nation's coastal waters. Since that time, our mapping needs have expanded significantly, and federal agencies have risen to the occasion. Today, at least ten federal agencies conduct mapping and surveying activities to support myriad U.S. interests. Mapping continues, of course, to be done to ensure safe navigation. Understanding the contours of our ocean's floors is imperative for national security. Hydrographic surveys are used to locate and protect cultural resources, such as shipwrecks, and natural formations and other areas worthy of protection. We use them to identify sensitive habitats, and to manage and conserve fishery resources and protected species. Mapping efforts are conducted to identify sources of energy for the country, and to ensure that energy development is done in a way that is compatible with other uses of our oceans, and that protects the natural resources that exist there. Mapping is, in addition, necessary to ensure that ocean observation platforms are sited in a similarly sensitive way.

These ten agencies, along with dozens of private entities, academic institutions, and state and territorial agencies, conduct these activities in a largely, if not entirely, uncoordinated matter. Agencies may use a variety of techniques and spatial frameworks in collecting data and developing products, which leads to incompatibility between data sets and products from one agency to another. One agency is generally unaware of mapping efforts being undertaken by other entities, leading to redundant efforts and unnecessary spending. In addition, these data are not easily accessible, and there exists no central portal through which they can be obtained. The lack of availability means that the public and private sectors both miss out on a significant and useful informational resource.

As you are well aware, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released a report at the request of the President recommending actions needed to improve ocean policy in the United States. The work of this Commission, as well as that of the Pew Oceans Commission, is being carried on and championed by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, which I chair, held a hearing on March 29, 2007, to learn of the most pressing problems with our current ocean management system. A recurring theme during this hearing was that the lack of coordination between federal agencies and other levels of government is a serious shortcoming of our current ocean management framework. It is in the spirit of this need for better coordination that I introduce today the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act.

Among the suggestions made by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy was a recommendation that existing federal mapping activities be consolidated and coordinated, and that the National Oceanic and Atmos-

pheric Administration (NOAA) lead this effort. At the same time, the National Research Council (NRC) completed a study to identify the most pressing national needs for coastal mapping and charting. This study, requested by NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), three of the primary agencies involved in ocean and coastal surveys, identified the same need for coordination. Their findings included a need for a consistent spatial framework, increased access to geospatial data and mapping products, and increased inter- and intra-agency communication, cooperation, and coordination. The bill that I have introduced today is a direct response to these recommendations.

I have already described the myriad reasons for mapping our oceans and coasts. As a resident of the island of Guam, whose Exclusive Economic Zone includes approximately 80,000 square miles of ocean, it is easy for me to understand the urgency of these needs. I recognize, however, that many Americans, especially those that do not live on the coast, may not share a similar appreciation for the need to improve our country's capabilities in this area. For them, I offer a more simple statement of need. And that is, are not the lands that lay beneath our waters as much a part of this country and our resources as those that lie on our highest peaks and in our deepest valleys? We have mapped every plateau, river, and canyon across our landscape, but have very little detailed information on what lies beneath the waters of our Exclusive Economic Zone and the Great Lakes. Where would we be if 200 years ago Thomas Jefferson had not sent Lewis and Clark out to explore the uncharted West? The need for improving our mapping and charting capabilities could be as simple as a desire to fully understand the extent and nature of our resources.

For some, the thirst for knowledge and to learn what lies beneath our waters may not be a compelling argument for seeking to improve our ocean and coastal mapping capabilities. The issue, however, can be further explained and reframed. If the United States Senate were to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, we will have the opportunity to extend our seaward claim to the edge of our continental shelf, where an estimated \$1.3 trillion in oil, mineral, and sedimentary species resources lie. Without proof of the extent of that shelf, we forgo these claims.

It is in the interest of national and economic security, the advancement of ocean science, the protection of our cultural and natural resources, and safety of navigation to better coordinate the ocean and coastal mapping capabilities of the United States. By passing this Act, Congress will ensure that our mapping and charting needs are met in an efficient and coordinated manner, that ocean science will advance, and that ocean exploration technologies will continue to develop. It is my hope that my colleagues will support this bill and that they will join me in ensuring that federal agencies' mapping and charting capabilities and products are developed and utilized to their full potential.

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 Tuesday, May 22, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine rising crime in the United States, focusing on the federal role in helping communities prevent and respond to violent crime.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine health care legislation.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine communications, taxation and federalism.

SR-253

Finance

To hold hearings to examine funding Social Security's administrative costs, focusing on the budget resolution.

SD-215

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the United States petroleum industry, focusing on potentially harmful conditions for consumers.

SH-216

11:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 126, to modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park, S. 175, to provide for a feasibility study of alternatives to augment the water supplies of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District and cities served by the District, S. 324, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources in the State of New Mexico, S. 542, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in the State of Idaho, S. 553, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. Con. Res. 6, expressing the sense of Congress that the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located in Jackson, Wyoming, should be designated as the "National

Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States", S. 580, to amend the National Trails System Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to update the feasibility and suitability studies of four national historic trails, S. 637, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor in Alabama and Georgia, S. 686, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historical Trail, S. 797, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail, S. 890, to provide for certain administrative and support services for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, S. 1037, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the planning, design, and construction of the Tumalo Irrigation District Water Conservation Project in Deschutes County, Oregon, S. 1110, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to provide for the conjunctive use of surface and ground water in Juab County, Utah, S. 1139, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, S. 1152, to promote wildland firefighter safety, S. 1281, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, H.R. 161, to adjust the boundary of the Minidoka Internment National Monument to include the Nidoto Nai Yoni Memorial in Bainbridge Island, Washington, H.R. 235, to allow for the renegotiation of the payment schedule of contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and the Redwood Valley County Water District, H.R. 247, to designate a Forest Service trail at Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest in the State of Oregon as a national recreation trail in honor of Jim Weaver, a former Member of the House of Representatives, 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 National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, H.R. 376, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefields and related sites of the First and Second Battles of Newtonia, Missouri, during the Civil War as part of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield or designating the battlefields and related sites as a separate unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, H.R. 482, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project, and certain other pending calendar business and nominations.

SD-366

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

1:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 1257, to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives, focusing on ending taxation without representation.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Security and International Trade and Finance Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United States economic relations with China, focusing on strategies and options on exchange rates and market access.

SD-538

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

SR-222

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine opportunities and challenges associated with coal gasification, including coal-to-liquids and industrial gasification.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael E. Baroody, of Virginia, to be Chairman and Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Charles Darwin Snelling, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine potential impacts of global warming on recreation and the recreation industry.

SD-406

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine federal real property, focusing on the property management problems highlighted in a recent Government Accountability Office report.

SD-342

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1327, to create and extend certain temporary district court judgeships, and S. 185, to restore habeas corpus for those detained by the United States, and possible authorization of subpoenas in the connection with investigation into the replacement of U.S. attorneys.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Russia, focusing on the reemergence of Russia as a major political and economic power.

B318RHOB
11:30 a.m.

JUNE 13

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 392, to ensure payment of United States peace-keeping operations for the 2005 through 2008 time period, S. Con. Res. 25, condemning the recent violent actions of the Government of Zimbabwe against peaceful opposition party activists and members of civil society, S. Res. 110, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-United States dialogue and relationship, and the nominations of Phillip Carter, III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, R. Niels Marquardt, of California, to be Ambassador of America to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of America to the Union of Comoros, Janet E. Garvey, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, Dell L. Dailey, of South Dakota, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, Mark P. Lagon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large, and James K. Glassman, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of

Governors, and a promotion list in the Foreign Service.

S-116, Capitol

2 p.m.
Finance
Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine energy efficiency, focusing on tax incentives for reducing consumption.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine terrorist ideology.

SD-106

3 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues relative to residents of Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita, focusing on the goals, costs, management and impediments facing Louisiana's Road Home Program.

SD-342

JUNE 7

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine S. 453, to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to markup pending legislation.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, focusing on cooperation on employment issues.

SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 23

2 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the investigation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Inspector General.

SR-253