

and his work to end world hunger. Through this he envisioned a prize that would honor others who had made contributions to helping feed the world.

Dr. Borlaug's life is marked with accomplishments; one such accomplishment was founding the World Food Prize, which is now located in Des Moines, Iowa. The World Food Prize recognizes contributions by individuals who have worked to improve the quality, quantity and availability of the world food supply.

Dr. Borlaug is an amazing man and because of him billions of lives have been saved. The implications of his life's work will be felt for years to come. I again thank Mr. LATHAM for helping to ensure this true American hero is properly honored.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was on official leave of absence due to a health matter in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 483, 491, 497, and 498 and "no" on rollcall votes 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 492, 493, 494, 495, and 496.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 15, 2007*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, and to congratulate Chairman PRICE on crafting an excellent bill. As the new Chairman of this subcommittee, Congressman PRICE worked hard to adequately fund programs that would enhance the security of all Americans while still maintaining a fiscally responsible budget. He has been a true champion and advocate for real and effective security for our Nation. This bill is a testament to the Chairman's leadership.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the subcommittee staff for their hard work and dedication both throughout the extended hearing process and in preparing the bill and committee report.

Chairman PRICE and our subcommittee based this bill on careful consideration of expert testimony given before our committee on the many serious security concerns facing our Nation. Over and over again we heard that another terrorist attack against our country was not a question of if, but of when.

This bill helps to address these concerns by giving long overdue and sorely needed additional financial support to agencies and programs with major responsibility to protect our country.

I would like to highlight several of these programs and their importance to our national security.

This Homeland Security bill strengthens port facilities and infrastructures that remain vulnerable to a terrorist attack by increasing badly needed funding for port security grants.

This is important, for example, because an attack on our Nation's largest container port complex at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach would negatively affect our entire national economy to the tune of \$1 billion a day.

Passage of this bill will also make available to our first responders increased Firefighter Assistance Grants and Safer Grants to purchase critical equipment and hire and train additional firefighters.

This will help address the outstanding issues that impair our first responders' ability to safely respond to a major disaster, as was identified by the events of September 11 and Hurricane Katrina.

The Homeland Security bill also makes border security a top priority by providing funds for 3,000 additional Border Patrol agents.

Finally, following the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to improve the explosive screening of checked baggage, this Homeland Security bill increases funding for the procurement, installation and maintenance of the latest explosive detection systems at our airports.

Experts agree that the cargo hold of the passenger airplanes is the "soft underbelly" of our aviation system.

Providing this equipment for our airports will help harden that potential target, which is critical to the safety of thousands of passengers who travel not only through the Los Angeles World Airports, but airports throughout our country.

Mr. Chairman, these are just a few of the key improvements this legislation makes to better protect our Nation. I strongly support the bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BILL DEARMAN

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Bill Dearman of Alexandria, Virginia. Bill Dearman's retirement will mark the conclusion of 10 years of extraordinary and dedicated leadership and service to the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Mr. Dearman's skilled leadership and devotion to Alexandria have led to a number of great accomplishments. Among these as the challenge of redeveloping the Samuel Madden Housing Project into what is now the nationally recognized award-winning Chatham Square. In addition he oversaw the development of various site replacements at Braddock Road, and the rehabilitation and refinancing of Jefferson Village, Quaker Hill and Cameron Valley projects.

Through his dedication to the Citizens of Alexandria, he helped ensure housing needed to Alexandria's neediest. His creativity led to effective reorganization of the authority and expansion of services to residents. Through his tireless efforts, Mr. Dearman has improved the general appearance and maintenance of all Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority properties.

In closing I wish to commend Mr. Dearman for his years of service to the City of Alexandria. I wish all the best to him on his retirement with his family in Atlanta.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BIRTHDAY RESOLUTION FOR WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with my friend and colleague from New York, Representative NITA LOWEY, I am introducing a resolution to recognize President Clinton's 61st birthday, which we will celebrate this August 19th. President Clinton has had a long and distinguished career in public service including serving as Governor of Arkansas and President of the United States. During Clinton's two terms in the White House, this country experienced unprecedented economic expansion including the creation of 22 million jobs. He worked with our NATO allies to end the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, and played a fundamental role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. Since leaving office in 2001, President Clinton has continued to dedicate his life to public service through the Clinton Foundation, which serves to strengthen the capacity of people throughout the world to meet the challenges of global interdependence. Notably, the Clinton Foundation has worked to make HIV/AIDS medication more accessible in poor and middle income countries and develop sustainable economic growth in Africa. Most recently, President Clinton launched the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) to help in the fight against global climate change.

I am honored today to recognize President Clinton's birthday as he has dedicated and continues to dedicate his life to serving the American people and noble causes around the world. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

#### NICS IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support of H.R. 2640, the McCarthy-Dingell National Instant Criminal Background Check Improvement Act. It is high time Congress acted to strengthen the gun laws in this country and implement common sense policies to ensure that guns are not ending up in the wrong hands.

H.R. 2640 will strengthen the National Instant Background Check System (NICS) by creating incentives for states to submit legal records about individuals who are not eligible to purchase guns.

This bill also permits Federal law enforcement grants to be cut for states that do not submit such records to the electronic database and requires greater information-sharing among Federal agencies.