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No. 103

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 25, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, eternal judge of all, when the mighty Sampson was brought into the temple of the Philistines to be made sport of, they placed him between two pillars. Sampson called on You, Lord. He said, "Remember me, O Lord God, remember me. Give me strength just one more time, O God. Let me with one strike avenge those who took sight from my eyes." He pushed his mighty arms against the two supporting pillars and the whole place came tumbling down.

As of old, Lord, give strength to Members of Congress and the people of this Nation; that Your judgment may reign and bring about unity and peace.

May Your truth remember us and recall our best selves. Pressing against the pillars of lies from others and self-deception, may faith and moral integrity triumph over evil within and around us both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BOUSTANY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1099. An act to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make individuals employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain Federal health insurance.

S. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of observing the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11 of each year to raise awareness of and opposition to human trafficking.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6 p.m. today.

ROBERT E. COYLE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 801) to designate a United States courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the "Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 801

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

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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H7013

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse bordered by O Street, P Street, Tulare Street, and Capitol Street in Fresno, California, shall be known and designated as the "Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 801.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

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

S. 801 is a bill to designate the United States Courthouse bordered by O Street, P Street, Tulare Street and Capitol Street in Fresno, California, as the Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse.

Judge Coyle recently retired from Federal service, was appointed to the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California, in 1982. He has served on the bench for 25 years, including 6 years as chief judge.

Judge Coyle is a native Californian. He was born in Fresno in 1930, graduated from Fresno State College in 1953 and from the University of California, Hastings College of Law in 1956. Judge Coyle's career includes time as Fresno County Deputy District Attorney.

He is a member of numerous associations, including the American Bar Association, American Board of Trial Advocates, State Bar of California, and the Fresno County Legal Services. He is a trusted mentor and a highly respected member of the ninth circuit.

Judge Coyle has devoted his public career to the citizens of California's central valley and was instrumental in supporting the construction of the courthouse. It is both fitting and appropriate to honor his legacy with this designation.

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

□ 1415

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

S. 801 designates the United States Courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse. The bill honors Judge Coyle's dedication to public service.

After earning his law degree from the University of California, Hastings Col-

lege of Law in 1956, Judge Coyle worked for Fresno county as a Deputy District Attorney. He then entered private practice in 1958, where he remained until his appointment to the Federal bench.

In 1982, Judge Coyle was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California by President Ronald Reagan. He served as chief judge from 1990 to 1996, and assumed senior status on May 13, 1996.

I support this legislation, and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 801, a bill to designate the United States Courthouse located at 2500 Tulare Street in Fresno, California, as the "Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse". The bill was introduced by Senator BOXER, Chairwoman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the U.S. Senate.

Judge Coyle was born in Fresno, California, in 1930. In 1953, he graduated from Fresno State College and received his law degree from Hastings College of Law in 1956.

From 1956 until 1958, Judge Coyle was Deputy District Attorney for Fresno County. From 1958 until 1982, he was a lawyer in a private practice. He was appointed to the Federal bench in 1982, and served as the Chief Judge for the Eastern District of California from 1990 to 1996. In 2006, he retired as a Senior Judge.

Judge Coyle is a dedicated jurist and active in many professional organizations, including the Fresno County Legal Services, President of the Fresno Bar Association, Vice President of the California State Bar Association, and a faculty member at the Hastings College of Law. Judge Coyle has a particular connection to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management through his work with the courts on development of the Design Guide for construction of U.S. courthouses.

It is fitting and proper that we honor Judge Coyle's prestigious and outstanding career by designating the United States Courthouse in Fresno, California, as the "Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse". I support S. 801 and urge its passage.

Ms. NORTON. I have no additional speakers.

Mr. BOUSTANY. We have no further speakers on our side either. I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I urge passage, and yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 801.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE RECREATIONAL BOATING COMMUNITY AND THE BOATING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 505) recognizing the innumerable contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity and affluence of the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 505

Whereas the boating community in the United States includes over 73,000,000 individuals, generates more than \$39,000,000,000 annually in the United States economy, and provides jobs for 380,000 citizens of the United States;

Whereas boaters often serve as stewards of the marine environment of the United States, educating future generations of the value of these resources, and preserving such resources for such generations' enjoyment;

Whereas there are approximately 1,400 active boat builders in the United States, using materials and services contributed from all 50 States;

Whereas boating, as an activity, provides opportunities for families to be together, appeals to all age groups, and has a beneficial effect on the physical fitness and scholastic performance of those who participate; and

Whereas, July 1, 2007, would be an appropriate day to establish as National Boating Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the recreational boating community and the boating industry of the United States should be commended for their innumerable contributions to the economy of the United States, the well-being of United States citizens, and responsible environmental stewardship of the marine resources of the United States; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe National Boating Day with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 505, which recognizes the contributions made by recreational boating community to our national economy, and calls on the President to issue a proclamation to observe National Boating Day.

There are now more than 13 million recreational boats registered in the United States. These boats support some 380,000 jobs in the U.S. and generate an estimated \$39 billion to the U.S. economy. They depend on 12,000 marinas across the waterways of the United States for essential services.

Impressive as they are, however, these numbers do not begin to reveal the many contributions that boating makes to recreational life in the United States.

Boating offers people the chance to catch up with family and friends while watching the world float by, to introduce their children to the natural environment, and to slow down and enjoy a relaxing weekend on a vacation away from home.

Perhaps not surprisingly, a survey conducted by the National Marine Manufacturers Association found that boating was among the top three stress-relieving activities among survey respondents.

Recreational boating is also far more accessible than many may assume. More than 90 percent of Americans live less than an hour's drive from a body of water on which recreational boating can be undertaken.

Because of boating's importance to our Nation, the United States already observes many days to honor different aspects of the boating industry. For example, on August 11, the United States will observe National Marina Day. During the week prior to Memorial Day, we observe National Safe Boating Week, intended to remind boaters of the need to practice safe boating habits and to use personal flotation devices while on the water.

The message of National Safe Boating Week bears repeating. In 2005, nearly 5,000 boating accidents resulted in just under 3,500 injuries and nearly 700 deaths, the vast majority of which were caused by accidental drowning that could have been prevented if those who fell in the water had been wearing life jackets.

H. Res. 505 now calls on the President to set aside a day specifically to honor recreational boating and the boating industry. I believe such recognition is due to the pastime of boating, and I commend the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) for introducing this resolution and supporting a wonderful activity in our country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 505 recognizes and commends the recreational boating community and the boating industry for their contributions to the economy of the United States, the well-being of the United States citizens, and responsible environmental stewardship of the marine resources of the United States.

There are more than 73 million individuals that make up the recreational boating community in the United States. This important industry generates more than \$39 billion annually in the United States economy, and provides jobs for 380,000 citizens of the United States.

While the industry and the community are important parts of our national economy, these individuals also play an important role in conserving our natural resources for future generations' enjoyment. Recreational boaters act as stewards of the marine environment of the United States and

take lead and hands-on roles in educating future generations of the value of these resources.

The legislation also encourages the President to mark the importance of the recreational boating community and industries by establishing July 1 as National Boating Day. It is fitting that we consider this resolution so closely to the Fourth of July, when tens of thousands will be enjoying our Nation's inland and coastal waters aboard recreational vessels.

I commend the resolution's sponsor, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, and all the measure's cosponsors for introducing the legislation, and I join them in urging all Members to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, I urge passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) such time as she may consume.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 505, to highlight the important contribution of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to our way of life, and to call upon the President to issue a proclamation asking the American people to observe National Boating Day.

As a Representative of Florida's 20th Congressional District, I can attest to the important contribution recreational boating and the boating industry has had upon South Florida's economy and quality of life. The marine industry is responsible for more than \$18 billion of revenues and 220,000 jobs in Florida.

Recreational boating is integral to the way of life in Florida. From fishing to snorkeling to scuba driving in our beautiful coral reefs, or simply taking a scenic cruise through Florida's intra-coastal waterways, recreational boating and South Florida go hand in hand.

In fact, recreational boating is such an important part of Ft. Lauderdale that the city has earned the well-deserved nickname, the "Venice of America."

But the contributions of the recreational boating community go far beyond my home State. The boating population exceeds 73 million individuals utilizing and enjoying an estimated 18 million recreational watercraft. In addition, the recreational boating industry provides more than \$39 billion in sales and services to the U.S. economy, and provides nearly 380,000 manufacturing jobs.

Boating helps to bring us closer to the wonders of nature, and it helps us to appreciate the need to be good stewards of our natural resources.

It's no surprise that boaters often are some of our most ardent conservationists, because they see firsthand the importance of protecting our fragile ecosystem for generations to come.

It's for these reasons that I rise in support of H. Res. 505, recognizing the

contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity and affluence of the United States. This resolution calls upon the President to issue a proclamation to observe National Boating Day, with an appropriate day being July 1.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 505 and vote for its final passage.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 505, which urges the President to proclaim July 1, 2007, as "National Boating Day".

Recreational boating is enjoyed by millions of Americans and is a major force in the U.S. economy, providing jobs for almost 400,000 citizens and generating more than \$39 million in revenue.

Recreational boating provides enjoyment, rest and relaxation for families of all ages. In addition, recreational boaters often serve as educators and stewards of our natural resources.

Recreational boat-builders—from the large corporation to the individual—build vessels for the enjoyment of millions of people, using both natural and manmade materials from across our great Nation.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) for introducing this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 505, which urges the President to proclaim July 1 as "National Boating Day".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 505.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GEORGE HOWARD, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2011) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2011

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

SECTION 1. GEORGE HOWARD, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other

record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2011.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2011 is a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas as the George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Judge Howard, who recently died at age 82, was an icon of the judicial community in Arkansas. He had a lifetime filled with accomplishments, first African American Federal judge in Arkansas, distinguished legal career, Navy veteran, and dedicated family man. He served with distinction on the Arkansas Supreme Court, the Arkansas Court of Appeals, and the Arkansas State Claims Commission.

After graduating from the University of Arkansas Law School, George Howard, Jr. began a long illustrious, trailblazing legal career in his home State of Arkansas. After initially working as an attorney in private practice, Judge Howard received his first appointment in 1967 to the Arkansas State Claims Commission. He was then appointed to the Arkansas State Supreme Court as an Arkansas State Supreme Court Justice, and was later appointed by then Governor Bill Clinton as State Court of Appeals judge in 1979. Judge Howard later began his Federal service in 1980, when President Jimmy Carter appointed him a Federal District Judge in Arkansas.

The bill has bipartisan support from the Arkansas delegation. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor Judge Howard's legacy with this designation. I support H.R. 2011 and urge its passage.

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

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

H.R. 2011 designates the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse. The bill honors Judge Howard, who was the first African

American appointed to the Federal bench in Arkansas.

Judge Howard served in the United States Navy during World War II. And after receiving his law degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, he engaged in the private practice of law in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

His career in public service included serving on the Arkansas State Claims Commission, the Arkansas Supreme Court, and the Arkansas Court of Appeals, and culminated in his appointment to the Federal bench.

In 1980, President Carter appointed Judge Howard to the United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. Judge Howard's tenure on the bench ended with his passing at the age of 82 on April 21, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of the bill, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2011, a bill to dedicate the Federal building and United States courthouse in Pine Bluff, Arkansas as the George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

□ 1430

First I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairwoman NORTON, Congressman BOUSTANY, and others for their support and assistance in moving this bill from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in a bipartisan manner to the floor of the United States House of Representatives. I am also pleased that the entire Arkansas congressional delegation, Congressmen MARION BERRY, VIC SNYDER, and JOHN BOOZMAN, are supporting and cosponsoring this very important bill with me in a bipartisan way.

Judge George Howard, Jr., was a great American who served his country in the State of Arkansas with great dignity. He was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where he practiced law and actively served in the community for over 40 years. He attended Lincoln University in Missouri and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he received his law degree in 1954, among the first African Americans to graduate from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Law School.

During World War II, he chose to serve his country by enlisting in the Navy. Judge Howard was known to be a pioneer throughout his career as he became the first African American in the State of Arkansas to serve on the State Claims Commission, State Supreme Court, the court of appeals, and eventually rising to become the first African American Federal judge for the U.S. District Court in Arkansas.

Judge Howard was the first African American member of the State Su-

preme Court, appointed by then Governor David Pryor in 1977 before being appointed to the State court of appeals by then Governor Bill Clinton in 1979.

As a judge, George Howard, Jr. was admired for his fairness and deep belief in the fundamental idea of justice for all. Judge Howard will forever be remembered as a dedicated public servant who cared deeply about his faith, his family, his work, his State, his country, and the judicial process.

In respect to Judge Howard's life, career and public service, I felt that it was appropriate to introduce legislation in Congress to dedicate the Federal building and courthouse in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better way to recognize his legacy and his steadfast commitment to justice and equality than by officially renaming this Federal building and courthouse in the city he loved and called home, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

His life and service have paved the way for so many others who pursue careers in public service and law. His life and service opened many doors for African Americans throughout Pine Bluff in southeast Arkansas.

Judge Howard passed away on April 21, 2007. He will forever be remembered and his contributions to the State of Arkansas and our Nation live on. It is my hope that each person who walks through the doors of the George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and Courthouse in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, will have an even greater appreciation for the countless contributions Judge Howard made in the lives of people across the State of Arkansas. May this courthouse that hopefully will soon bear his name serve as a reminder to all of us that while he is no longer with us, the example, the shining example, of community service, public service, and of being fair to all people can live on.

This recognition will serve as a reminder to young people in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and to future generations that committing one's self to education, hard work, and pursuing a career in public service can be good and noble.

I am proud to sponsor this bill in Congress, and I urge my fellow colleagues to vote in favor of it today.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I commend the Arkansas delegation for its consideration of Judge Howard's tenure and time on the bench.

I support this legislation and urge its adoption.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Arkansas for recognizing a true civil rights and judicial pioneer when that was not easy at a time when there were few like him.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2011, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States Courthouse in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

Judge George Howard, Jr. was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on May 13, 1924. He began his service to our Nation at the age of 18 when he was drafted into military service during World War II. Judge Howard served with distinction in the United States Navy with the Construction Battalion—or the "Seabees"—in the South Pacific.

After completing his military service, Judge George Howard, Jr. returned to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and re-enrolled in high school to complete his high school education. Upon graduating from high school, Judge Howard attended the pre-law program at Lincoln University in Missouri and graduated with honors. Judge Howard subsequently attended the University of Arkansas School of Law. He was the first African-American student to live on campus in the newly desegregated campus dormitories. He earned his law degree in 1954.

After graduating from law school, Judge Howard began a long, illustrious, and trailblazing legal career in his home State of Arkansas. In the 1950s, Judge Howard started a private law practice and devoted his energies to representing those whose voices would not otherwise be heard. He subsequently served on the Arkansas State Claims Commission, the Arkansas Court of Appeals, and the Arkansas Supreme Court. In 1980, President Carter appointed Judge Howard to the U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. Judge Howard was Arkansas' first African-American Federal judge.

Through his pursuit of legal and racial equality, and his exemplary career in public service, Judge Howard helped to pave the way for other African-Americans to pursue careers in law and public service. From his time as a private attorney, to his service as President of the State Council of Branches of the National Association of Colored People, NAACP, Judge Brown's judicial ideals were grounded in the fundamental belief of justice for all.

Judge Howard passed away on April 21, 2007, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of 82. In honor of Judge George Howard, Jr.'s outstanding contributions to the State of Arkansas, the Federal judiciary, and his distinguished legal career, it is both fitting and proper to designate the courthouse located at in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2011.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2011.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISCHARGE AND REREFERRAL OF H.R. 123, SAN GABRIEL BASIN RESTORATION FUND AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 123) to authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund and that the bill be rereferred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 505.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 416) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the public service of Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 416

Whereas Tony Blair has served as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for more than a decade, winning three general elections as leader of the Labour Party;

Whereas Mr. Blair played an instrumental role in achieving peace in Northern Ireland and negotiating the Good Friday Agreement which brought all communities into the political and governmental process and ended centuries of division, conflict, and strife;

Whereas Mr. Blair committed himself to bringing devolved government to Northern Ireland which was achieved with the recent decision of the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Féin agreeing to form a power-sharing government;

Whereas the United Kingdom and the United States have had a long-standing alliance which was further strengthened during Tony Blair's tenure as he and the United Kingdom stood side-by-side with the United States during conflicts in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas Mr. Blair showed British solidarity with the United States after the 9/11 terrorist attacks by being the first foreign leader to visit Ground Zero and attending President Bush's speech before a joint session of Congress on September 20, 2001;

Whereas Mr. Blair displayed exemplary leadership as Prime Minister when the United Kingdom suffered its own terrorist attacks on July 7, 2005, when suicide bombers killed 52 people traveling on London's public transportation system;

Whereas the United Kingdom has been a steadfast ally to the United States in the Global War on Terror as it is the second largest contributor of coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas on July 17, 2003, Mr. Blair was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal that declared "Congress finds that Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom has clearly demonstrated, during a very trying and historic time for our two countries, that he is a staunch and steadfast ally of the United States of America.": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the remarkable public service of Tony Blair during his tenure as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; and

(2) expresses appreciation to Mr. Blair for his steadfast support for the United States and Britain's invaluable alliance to our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution. As one of the co-Chairs of the bipartisan United Kingdom Caucus, I am honored to have the opportunity to speak in support of H. Res. 416, a resolution saluting the public service of Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

I would first like to commend our distinguished colleague, Mr. PETER KING of New York, for introducing this timely resolution that pays tribute to the remarkable political career of one of America's strongest allies.

Two days from now, Prime Minister Tony Blair will leave 10 Downing Street for the last time. He will be leaving behind a legacy of domestic reform and international activism. His successor, Gordon Brown, praised his accomplishments and told him that "Whatever we achieve in the future will be because we are standing on your shoulders."

Mr. Blair was first elected to Parliament in 1983 and served as Prime Minister for over a decade, securing a place in the record books as the only Labor leader to have won three successive elections.

Mr. Blair has been a strong and steadfast ally of the United States throughout his time in office. No American will ever forget the solidarity he expressed on behalf of our British cousins in the days following the devastating terrorist attacks of

9/11, when he announced, "We were with you at the first. We will stay with you to the last."

Mr. Blair was the first foreign leader to visit Ground Zero. He further demonstrated his support by sitting in this Chamber during President Bush's speech before a joint session of Congress 2 weeks later.

American hearts went out to Mr. Blair and the British people in July of 2005 when cheers of celebration over London's successful Olympic bid turned to tears of mourning following the devastating terrorist attack on the city's public transportation system.

Domestically, Mr. Blair was unwavering in his commitment to securing a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. Blair aided the negotiations that led to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement on April 10, 1998. This momentous agreement brought all communities into the governmental process, providing a framework in which the ballot box replaced the bomb as a means of political expression.

During his final months in office, Mr. Blair witnessed the fruits of his labor as age-old enemies Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist Party and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein took their places as first and deputy first ministers in the restored Northern Ireland Assembly. Mr. Blair welcomed the opportunity for Northern Ireland to "escape the heavy chains of history" and "make history anew."

It is appropriate that this House recognizes the outstanding public service of Tony Blair during his decade as Britain's Prime Minister and thank him for his unfailing friendship during our Nation's time of greatest need.

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

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

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

First I would like to thank our distinguished colleague, Mr. PETER KING from New York, for sponsoring this bill. He is the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, as you know.

I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the service of a true friend of the United States, Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Throughout his long career in office, more than a decade in total, Prime Minister Blair has been a strong champion of the trans-Atlantic alliance between the United States and Britain and the United States and the other states of Europe.

The U.S.-British relationship has indeed been made stronger due to Tony Blair, building an Anglo American alliance that has faced some of the darkest threats in the history of humankind. Our relations with all of Europe have benefited because of Tony Blair.

Just as Sir Winston Churchill inspired Americans in his time, the American people will never forget

Blair's solidarity with the United States in visiting Ground Zero just days after the September 11 terrorist attacks that killed so many of our citizens. We recall that he sat in our House gallery just a few days later when President Bush addressed a joint session of Congress concerning the tragic results of that terrorist attack.

Prime Minister Blair has backed up his words with real commitment in the struggle against extremism that may well determine the future of our modern civilization, a civilization that has been built on the principles of rational thought and the liberty of men and women rather than on extremism.

Indeed, British troops today stand beside our troops in the major conflicts of the struggle. Moreover, British law enforcement works in close cooperation with American law enforcement agencies, cooperation that has produced important results, as we saw in the successful prevention of terrorist plots, including the planned attack on U.S.-bound passenger jets in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, on a separate issue of great importance to many Americans, we recognize that in responding to the strife of Northern Ireland with the Good Friday agreement, Prime Minister Blair's contribution was nothing short of remarkable. He and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern inherited a divisive, violent conflict that has continued for half a century and that has, unfortunately, taken over 3,000 lives. Many had tried earlier to resolve the conflict in Northern Ireland, but none achieved the extent of progress that Prime Minister Blair has during his time in office.

□ 1445

Rather than resigning himself to the status quo of senseless violence, Prime Minister Blair chose to commit himself fully to this endeavor, collaborating with his Irish counterparts and working towards achieving real progress toward peace in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, let us take this opportunity to reflect on Tony Blair's accomplishments and to reaffirm our gratitude.

I ask my colleagues to voice their support for this resolution.

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

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York, PETER KING, the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding, and thank him for the service he has rendered to this body in the 6 brief months he's been here. He is certainly following well in the tradition of his father, who is a long-time friend of mine.

Let me also say how gratifying it is to be on the floor and have the manager of this bill which pertains to Tony

Blair being managed by the distinguished Ambassador WATSON, who does such an outstanding job as cochair of the United States-United Kingdom Congressional Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in support of this resolution. I was especially privileged to introduce it because as Tony Blair exits from the Office of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, he takes with him the admiration and the best wishes of all freedom-loving people throughout the world.

No one certainly has been a closer ally to the United States than Prime Minister Tony Blair. No one personifies the close links between the United States and Great Britain than Tony Blair; certainly follows in the tradition of Winston Churchill, who did more than anyone until his time to cement that relationship, and Tony Blair has even advanced it more. Whether it was President Clinton or President Bush, Tony Blair always stood as our strongest ally in Bosnia, in Kosovo, in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the international war against terrorism, and standing up for democratic principles and values.

And certainly as a New Yorker, I will always remember the fact that he was the first foreign leader to come to New York, to come to Ground Zero to meet with the firefighters and meet with the police officers and express the solidarity of the British people toward the people of New York, and of course, to the people of the United States, and to all peoples who were opposed to international terrorism. And then, as Ambassador WATSON mentioned, the fact that he was here in the House Chamber on September 20, 2001 when President Bush addressed the American people also showed his absolute commitment to the United States and to the war against terrorism.

As an Irish American, I have been involved for many years in the quest for a peaceful solution to the struggle in Northern Ireland. And depending on which historian you're talking to or which analyst you're talking to, this is a struggle that went back 800 years, 300 years, 80 years, 35 years. It really doesn't matter what timeline we're using, the reality is it was a seemingly unending struggle which was going to go on and on and on. And then the stars were properly aligned and Tony Blair became the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Bertie Ahern became the Prime Minister of Ireland, and President Clinton committed himself to using the good offices of the United States as an honest broker to try to bring about a peaceful resolution in the north of Ireland. And through incredible hard work and perseverance and dedication, it worked. And not only did Tony Blair deal with Prime Minister Ahern and President Clinton, what he did even took more courage, and that was to reach out to historic enemies, if you will, of the British Government. He reached out to people such as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness and Sinn

Fein, and he brought them to the negotiating table and sat down with them and worked with them. And he had them to 10 Downing Street and he broke down centuries of division and hatred. And at the same time, he worked with those on the other side, strongly on the other side, not just David Trimble of the Ulster Unionist Party, but also Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist Party.

And the Good Friday Agreement would not have been possible in April of 1998 without Tony Blair, but also the Good Friday Agreement went on for almost 9 years afterwards until it was finally brought to its ultimate fruition earlier this month. And it was done because Tony Blair never yielded. There were so many times between April of 1998 and May or June of this year that that agreement could have fallen apart, that it could have splintered, that it could have shattered if Tony Blair was not willing to take that extra step, and he did that.

And during this entire time that he was bringing peace to Northern Ireland and standing with us as our strongest ally, also Britain itself was under attack. And as Mr. BILIRAKIS and Ambassador WATSON mentioned, on July 7, 2005, when the London underground was attacked by terrorists causing large scale carnage and loss of life, and Tony Blair again stood strong and stood firm.

So, this is a moment where it's seldom that we see giants in history, and it's important, I think, that we not wait 50 years or 100 years or several centuries to acknowledge them, but to acknowledge them in their own time as being prophets with honor.

So I, again, say I've had the privilege a number of times of being with Tony Blair. I was with him with President Clinton in Washington and in Belfast and Armagh City in Northern Ireland, and just last month, again, at the British Embassy. He certainly is a man of stature, he's a man of achievement and he's a man of courage.

I am proud to support this resolution, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, there was nothing hesitant about Prime Minister Blair's resolve to fight back and send a message to terrorists that the United Kingdom, like the United States, would not succumb to ideology that espouses violence and death.

Like Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before him, who stood shoulder to shoulder with President Ronald Reagan to bring down the greatest dark force of the 20th century, communist, Mr. Blair stood with President Bush even when few others would accept the challenge to eliminate the dark force of this new century.

Mr. Speaker, as all the previous speakers have suggested, this is most worthy resolution for a most worthy leader. I urge all of my colleagues to

join me in congratulating Prime Minister Tony Blair for his remarkable tenure as Prime Minister of the U.K., and for his steadfast support of the United States, and our invaluable alliance with Great Britain.

We look forward to his successor, Mr. Gordon Brown, following in Mr. Blair's footsteps by maintaining and building on our transatlantic alliance so we can stand strong and together face the uncertainties of a troubled world.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank Ranking Member KING for bringing forth this resolution. And also Ambassador WATSON, I thank you very much. Tony Blair is a true statesman, a man of principle.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 416.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING JACK VALENTI

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 361) recognizing and honoring Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 361

Whereas Jack Valenti was born in Houston, Texas, on September 5, 1921, and resided in Washington, DC and Beverly Hills, California;

Whereas Jack Valenti graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts degree and from Harvard University with a Master of Business Administration degree;

Whereas Jack Valenti served as special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson;

Whereas Jack Valenti was the distinguished president of the Motion Picture Association of America for 38 years;

Whereas Jack Valenti was a trusted presidential advisor, a war hero, an author, and a pioneer in the American film industry;

Whereas Jack Valenti was a great humanitarian who served as a powerful spokesperson for the global fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria;

Whereas Jack Valenti was a loving husband to his wife, Mary Margaret, and an exceptional father to his three children, Alexandra, John, and Courtenay;

Whereas Jack Valenti's spirit touched everyone he encountered, whether in his political career or in his time spent with the Motion Picture Association of America;

Whereas Jack Valenti revolutionized the movie industry through the creation of a voluntary movie rating system that has endured to this day;

Whereas Jack Valenti's vision for the movie industry has withstood the test of

time, and has provided guidance for families in their movie viewing experiences as well as safeguards for our filmmakers;

Whereas the vision and character Jack Valenti brought to the movie industry will be greatly missed; and

Whereas on April 26, 2007, Jack Valenti passed away, prompting his friend and confidant, Dan Glickman, to say, "Jack was a showman, a gentleman, an orator, and a passionate champion of this country, its movies, and the enduring freedoms that made both so important to this world. He also embodied the theatricality of our industry with his conviction, quick wit and boundless energy. In a very real sense, he was the ultimate leading man." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes Jack Valenti as one of the greatest contributors to the motion picture industry;

(2) honors Jack Valenti for his service to his country, for his tremendous accomplishments, and for his contributions to the movie industry and to the Nation; and

(3) extends its deepest condolences to the family of Jack Valenti.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the discussion of H. Res. 361, recognizing and honoring Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences to the House of Representatives to his family on his death.

H. Res. 361, which has 95 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative DIANE WATSON on May 1, 2007. H. Res. 361 was reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2007 by voice vote.

Jack Valenti was born September 5, 1921 in Houston, Texas. An honor student and debate champion at Sam Houston High School, he graduated at age 15. Lacking the funds to attend college, he worked for \$11 a week as an usher at a movie theater.

At age 20, Mr. Valenti served in the U.S. Army, which in 1941 was called the Army Air Forces. He flew 51 missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He received his MBA degree from Harvard University in 1948 and 4 years later started an advertising business.

Mr. Valenti served as a Special Assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1966, he left the White House to become president of the Motion Picture Association of America for 38 years. He died on April 26, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative DIANE WATSON of California, for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentelady from D.C. and look forward to the time that she will be a full Member of this Chamber, with all the rights and privileges.

Much as been said about the life of Jack Valenti, and rightfully so. It is impossible to sum up his great life and achievements in the short time we have today.

He held powerful influence on both coasts in the United States, in Washington, D.C., where he served as a political adviser to President Johnson, and in Hollywood, where he served as chief lobbyist of the Motion Picture Association of America. Valenti negotiated both power centers with dignity, determination and deference.

He was born to Houston, Texas, as was pointed out, the grandson of Sicilian immigrants. He excelled in school and finished high school at an early age. Unable to afford college, he worked for a short time in a movie theater, then at an oil company, until he could afford night classes at the University of Houston. His leadership skills, solidified at college, and he was elected student body president. From there, he went on to earn his MBA from Harvard University.

His interest in politics began during a chance meeting with President Johnson, who was looking to reach out to fellow Texans while serving in the Senate. At the meeting, Jack Valenti was fascinated by Johnson and chose to work on his next campaign in Texas. They kept in touch, and he was soon employed by Johnson when he became Vice President.

Jack Valenti was inspired by the Vice President and viewed him as a mentor. Valenti was in the presidential motorcade as it traveled through downtown Dallas, Texas on that fateful tragic day of November 22, 1963, when President Kennedy was assassinated. He said later that that day changed his life forever. Indeed, he became President Johnson's special assistant, and even lived in the White House during the early months of the new President's term.

He left the White House when he was approached by two Hollywood studio executives to take over their fledgling trade group. With a pay raise almost impossible to turn down, he accepted the position and became the chief lobbyist for the Motion Picture Association of America in 1966.

He revitalized the film rating system, bringing it into line with current culture. It is a system which has remained intact, other than modifications Valenti also helped put in place for decades.

Through the years, movies and technologies changed and progressed, as did

his work. He helped the industry thrive even as television and home videos chipped away its dominance. He fought digital piracy and other threats to the film industry.

Valenti left MPAA in 2004, but he remained active in the public stage. He concentrated on the world health issues such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. He helped devise the technology by which parents control what programs their children watch.

He continued this work almost until the day in April when he died. He leaves behind his wife of 45 years, three children and two grandchildren. He also leaves behind a legacy of service of principled advocacy and of human warmth appreciated by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His character, his warm personality and his deep southern accent all will be missed as much his has legacy in the worlds of film and public policy.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. SHAYS, for his remarks concerning my membership in this House. It is typical of his generosity, and I appreciate it. I also appreciate his voting for the bill for the residents of the District of Columbia to have a vote in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the sponsor of this bill, the gentelady from California (Ms. WATSON).

□ 1500

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the author, with my good friend, DARRELL ISSA, of this resolution to honor the life of a great American and dear friend, Jack Valenti. Both Washington and Hollywood lost an icon in April with the passing of Jack Valenti. For nearly four decades, Jack served as the public face of Hollywood as the head of the Motion Picture Association of America where he was most famous for creating the film rating system we use today.

Jack's career as a public servant began during World War II when he flew B-25 bombers for the United States Army Air Force. After the war, Jack served as one of President Lyndon Johnson's closest advisers. Jack left the White House after several years to become a pioneer in the entertainment industry. Joining MPAA in 1966, Jack created the movie rating system that we use today. Jack served as one of Washington's most effective lobbyists, moving easily between Hollywood and Washington as the president of the MPAA for 38 years.

After his tenure at the Motion Picture Association, Jack joined the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as a final mission in his extraordinary life and committed himself to working tirelessly to increase the quality of life of those suffering from the devastating effects of disease and poverty across the globe. He served as a relentless spokesman for disease-devastated com-

munities across the globe while navigating the Halls of Congress with statesmanlike agility to ensure that the United States increased its funding to the Global Fund to fight AIDS and to fight tuberculosis and malaria and other programs that save lives.

Not only has the global health community lost a great advocate, but so has the entertainment industry and Washington lost a truly great friend.

So I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague in urging passage of this resolution.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentelady from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today for me to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Valenti. As it has been said, by age 15, he was the youngest high school graduate in Houston. He began work as an office boy with the Humble Oil Company, which is now Exxon Mobil, which is near my congressional district.

As a young pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II, Lieutenant Valenti flew 51 combat missions as the pilot commander of a B-25 attack bomber with the 12th Air Force in Italy. He graduated with a B.A. from the University of Houston and an M.B.A. from Harvard. In 1952, he co-founded the advertising and political consulting agency, Weekly & Valenti, which was in charge of press during President Kennedy's and Vice President Johnson's tragic visit to Texas. He was in the motorcade, six cars behind the President, in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Within an hour of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Mr. Valenti was aboard Air Force One flying back to Washington with the new President as the first newly hired special assistant to President Johnson.

Later in his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the MPAA, Mr. Valenti presided over tremendous worldwide change in the industry. New technologies, the arrival of the importance of international markets and the tyranny of piracy radically changed the landscape of the American film and television industry. It was Mr. Valenti's leadership and personal efforts that led the confrontation with these global dangers, problems and opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and our country have always relied on the contributions of those individuals who have the ability to rise above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of others, both personally and professionally. Jack Valenti was one of those rare individuals that demonstrated unflinching and tireless commitment to the betterment of the U.S. movie industry and the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, though our community is diminished by his loss, I ask that my

colleagues join me and his friends and his family in celebrating the remarkable life of this man who truly symbolized America at its best, Jack Valenti, a true and loyal Texan.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a true patriot and dedicated public servant, Jack Valenti, whose passing we continue to mourn. From his days as a brave fighter pilot in World War II to his sound advice and counsel to President Lyndon Johnson, Jack always served his country with distinction and honor. A Democrat committed to the ideals of justice and equality, he approached each issue in the spirit of bipartisanship, earning respect on both sides of the aisle for his intellect and his passion.

As a fellow Italian-American, I take special pride in the life, leadership, and many accomplishments of Jack Valenti. His brilliant career, in both the public and private sector, was marked by humanity, humor, and excellence. As head of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack's leadership helped promote and spread the best of American art and creativity on the silver screen all around the world. It was his sense of responsibility for the well-being of our children that inspired his efforts to establish a rating system to help parents monitor what their children watched.

As a passionate advocate for our children, Jack fought to protect our next generation, lending his powerful voice for those who could not be heard. His concern for the health and well-being of our children spurred his efforts as founder and president of the Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB, and Malaria, fighting diseases across the globe that for too long have extinguished the flame of hope that should burn brightly in the eyes of every child.

Jack Valenti will be greatly missed, and his accomplishments will be long remembered in the lives of all those he touched. My husband Paul and I express our deepest sympathy to his family, whom he adored, and hope that it is a comfort to his wife Mary Margaret, his children Courtenay, John, and Alexandra, and his two grandchildren that so many people share their loss and continue to pray for them.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 361, recognizing and honoring the life of Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family.

Jack Valenti was an American icon who holds a special place in the history of the United States. He was a principled leader, a fiery advocate, but always a gentleman. For over 40 years Jack dedicated himself to one of our country's most enduring and influential cultural exports, the motion picture. While most of the world knows Jack for his work at the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), many of us would be surprised to know that Jack was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, not Hollywood.

Prior to his life promoting and defending the motion picture industry, Jack piloted a B-25 bomber for the Army Air Forces during WWII, founded his own advertising company and worked for an oil firm in Texas. It was Jack's Texas roots that helped propel him into national politics following the assassination of President Kennedy. As a loyal political advisor to President Lyndon Johnson, Jack cemented his roots in Washington, DC. This city and this country have lost someone that practiced the art of advocacy and consensus that is rarely achieved and sorely missed.

My father, California Senator Fred Farr knew and worked with Jack when they both served in the Johnson Administration and I can say from personal knowledge that Jack was indeed a gentleman who would always offer a kind word, even to his greatest antagonists. The difficulty of Jack's job for the MPAA should not go overlooked, for uniting and assuaging the heads of major Hollywood studios would probably drive even the most savvy party leader batty. That ability to form consensus was only overshadowed by the eloquence in his usage of the English language.

Jack is survived by his wife of over 45 years Mary Margaret Valenti and their three children, John, Alexander and Courtenay; his sister, Lorraine Valenti Dinerstein; and two grandchildren.

As Jack's love of classical literature is well known, I find it fitting to quote Shakespeare in honor of a man that lived several lives in one lifetime:

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players.
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

I was pleased to call Jack Valenti a friend.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, even as a young child, Jack Valenti showed signs of great leadership and oratory skills. He was a debate champion at his high school. Making good use of his natural ability to persuade and his interest in entertainment, Jack worked as a movie theater usher before enrolling in the University of Houston. After receiving his B.A., he enlisted in the Army Air Force where he participated in 51 flying missions and was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross. Following his time in the armed forces, Jack graduated from Harvard University in 1948 with a Master's degree in business administration.

Jack Valenti entered the political arena when he was invited to a reception at a Houston Hotel to meet his future mentor and friend, Lyndon B. Johnson. He was immediately inspired by Johnson, who at the time was the U.S. Senate Majority Leader. When Johnson was selected as Kennedy's running mate in 1960, Jack worked on their media campaign. He remained close to Johnson after he became the Vice President.

Following the tragic Kennedy assassination in Dallas, TX, Jack was asked by then-President Johnson to accompany him to Washington where he became a special assistant and close confidant to the new President. After defending Johnson through criticism of the Vietnam War and conspiracy connecting Johnson to the Kennedy assassination, Valenti was offered a lucrative job by MCA Inc. head Lew Wasserman and United Artists' Arthur Krim as head of the Motion Picture Association of America.

In this position, Valenti created the MPAA rating system which initially labeled movies into four distinct ratings: G, M, R and X. This was Valenti's crowning achievement in the entertainment industry; the MPAA system is still used today to provide guidance for movie-viewing families. During his 38 year tenure as president of the MPAA, he was extremely well known in Washington as an advocate for the entertainment industry's major issues. He lobbied for the protection of movie copyrights and the prevention of digital piracy. His voluminous and eloquent style of speaking, coupled with

his unique silver hair and cowboy boots, made him one of the most recognizable figures on the Hill.

His sage observations and folksy wisdom made Jack Valenti one of the most effective players in Washington. He was an advisor to Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle; and all of us fortunate enough to receive his council benefited greatly from our association and friendship with him. We all miss him greatly.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 361, recognizing and honoring Jack Valenti and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death. I also want to thank my colleague from California, DIANE WATSON, for introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Valenti was a giant of a man in many respects. While he was well known for his service to Presidents and his work at the Motion Picture Association of America, I came to know Jack best from his tireless and selfless work on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Jack came to this final mission in his life with the same dedication, creativity and vigor that he had so long displayed in serving the MPAA and our nation.

He was a champion for communities devastated by disease throughout the world, and brought both Republicans and Democrats together with his impassioned testimony about the terrible toll that AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria had taken on Africa and the developing world.

I had met with Jack a number of times over the last few years to talk specifically about his work on behalf of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Each time we met I always came away inspired by his energy and his advocacy on behalf of the most vulnerable among us.

We had talked about traveling to Africa together so that he could bear witness to both the tragic impact of AIDS, TB and malaria, and to the hope and dedication of the people—who through it all still maintained their dignity and their optimism for a better tomorrow. Although we never managed to take that trip together, Jack finally made it to Africa for the first time in his life in July of 2006, and I know that he was deeply affected by what he saw.

We had been in the process of organizing another meeting together in March to strategize about AIDS policy and funding for the coming year when he had a stroke. Unfortunately I regret that I never had the chance to talk to him again before he passed away. But I will always remember Jack Valenti for his determined spirit, his compassion, and his friendship. As we continue the global fight against these three diseases, his legacy and his advocacy will continue to serve as a true inspiration for all of us.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H. Res. 361, as offered by my distinguished colleague from California and chair of the Congressional Entertainment Caucus, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON. This resolution recognizes and honors the life and lifetime accomplishments of Jack Valenti, while also expressing condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death. Having served as a long-

time president of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack Valenti deserves no better tribute than that of being honored by members of the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Valenti began his political career during the era of the "Great Society." He briefly served as the first special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson during his tenure in the White House. However, he resigned from the White House commission in 1966, when he respectfully earned the position as President of the Motion Picture Association of America. Nevertheless, public admiration of this prominent young man followed him from his tenure in politics, unto his career in the film industry and thereafter.

Jack Valenti was born in Houston, Texas on September 5, 1921. During the era of World War II, Mr. Valenti served as a lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corps, flying 51 combat missions as the pilot-commander of a B-25 attack bomber. It was also at this time that he received four decorations—the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation with one cluster, as well as the European Theater Ribbon with four battle stars.

His educational attainments are marked with his graduation from high school at the age of 15, the youngest high school graduate in his city. He took several years hiatus to work in the field of oil and gas, as well as to serve his Nation as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. He later went on to earn a Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Houston, where he worked full-time during the day and attended undergraduate courses at night. He continued to advance his education by obtaining a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard University. In 1952, Valenti assisted in the co-founding of an advertising/political consulting agency. It was this agency that led the press during President John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson's Dallas, Texas visit in 1963.

Valenti's legacy is prevalent through his invention of the movie/film rating, which is still used today. Such a vision and innovation not only transformed the movie industry, but also provided guidance for families, protection for children moviegoers and their parents, as well as safeguard for our filmmakers.

Mr. Speaker, among many things, it will be the vision and character of Mr. Jack Valenti that will greatly be missed. Rarely are we given the opportunities to recognize and honor the lifetime accomplishments of our American heroes, as well have today. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in honoring the life and lifetime accomplishments of the late Jack Valenti. We who knew and loved him will always remember him as a gentleman, a man with boundless energy, a leader in our Nation, a wartime hero, a proud father and a loving husband, a political consultant, and a movie industry powerhouse. He was one in a million and will greatly be missed.

Today, I ask that we join in recognizing Valenti as one of the greatest contributors to the motion picture industry and honoring him for his service, accomplishments, and contributions to our Nation. I also ask that we extend our deepest condolences to his family—wife, Margaret, and children, Alexandra, John and Courtenay.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, we have lost a dear friend and national treasure with the

passing of the legendary Jack Valenti, but, his legacy lives on. I know this is a tremendous loss for his family, friends, and many admirers, and I join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in extending our deepest condolences to all those who loved him. We should all be grateful for the many wonderful memories we share of Jack, memories that cannot ease the pain of our loss but remind us of the amazing accomplishments of this remarkable man. I join with others in the House in expressing our sympathy to Jack's beloved wife of 45 years Mary Margaret Valenti, his three children John, Alexandra, and Courtenay Valenti, and his 2 grandchildren.

Born in 1921 as the grandson of Sicilian immigrants, Jack Valenti became part of the "Greatest Generation" of Americans who served our country in World War II; and he continued to serve our country long after the War. Jack fought tyranny and served the United States by piloting a B-25 attack bomber in the European theater, flying 51 missions, and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and extraordinary achievement. Following the War, Jack made his home in Texas where he established a successful business in Dallas and became a close friend and ally of President Lyndon Johnson. The terrible events in Dallas on November 22, 1963 pulled Jack Valenti back into the service of our country when soon to be President Johnson asked him to return from Dallas to Washington DC to join his Administration where he served his close friend as confidant and key aide to the President. From the Johnson Administration, Jack Valenti was lured into the film industry as the head of the Motion Picture Association of America where he achieved great success as the preeminent trade representative in Washington, D.C. Among other achievements, Jack was the architect of the revolutionary movie rating system, which is essentially still intact today, providing generations of parents and filmgoers with guidelines on the content of films that carried the MPAA rating designation. Jack spoke often about the importance of open and free markets for Hollywood films, and was a passionate and staunch advocate for the protection of intellectual property rights in the digital age.

But, this is only a brief snapshot of what he did, it does not identify who he was. For Jack Valenti was much larger than any of his numerous accomplishments.

Jack was a dear friend to many, and a truly gifted and remarkable individual. Jack earned the respect of Presidents and porters; his common touch and old world style enticed people to gravitate to him. These attributes, teamed with his keen mind and ability to consider a different point of view, allowed Jack Valenti to gain the admiration and respect of people on both sides of the aisle and even on opposite sides of many issues.

But for me, the most important thing to recall is the humanity and warmth he conveyed to everyone whose lives he touched. I was proud and privileged to call Jack my friend. He counseled me on issues we cared about, encouraged me to accept the challenges of this great institution, and comforted me during times of personal tragedy. I will be forever grateful for his friendship, guidance, and counsel.

Jack Valenti is truly the embodiment of the phrase, "his like shall not soon be seen again." He was an original, he became a legend, and, he was ours.

He will be missed.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Jack Valenti—a man whose prowess as a lobbyist for the movie industry was outshined only by the passion he brought to his work and the steadfast love he had for our country. Jack was a trusted Presidential advisor, a war hero, an author and a pioneer in the American industry.

As President of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack was one of the most hardworking and dedicated advocates you would find anywhere on Capitol Hill. When he spoke, people listened—and by inventing the movie industry's rating system, he demonstrated just how vital America's business community can be in providing for the common good.

Jack was a consummate professional, a good friend, and someone that I will never forget. My deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends as we mark his passing and commemorate a life that meant so much to people all across this great land.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 361, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING A WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 189) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" should be established.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 189

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with United States Armed Forces and South Vietnam;

Whereas the United States became involved in Vietnam because policy-makers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam fell to a Communist government then Communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961;

Whereas as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which effectively handed over war-making powers to President Johnson until such time as "peace and security" had returned to Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and

by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded;

Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War;

Whereas the establishment of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas March 30 would be an appropriate day to establish as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Res. 189, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day be established.

H. Res. 189, which has 54 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ on February 16, 2007. H. Res. 189 was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 12, 2007 by voice vote.

The Vietnam War was the longest military conflict in U.S. history. The hostilities in Vietnam claimed the lives of more than 58,000 Americans, and some 304,000 were wounded in com-

bat. The Vietnam War was a military struggle fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1973. The patriotic men and women who served valiantly and faithfully in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War were caught, upon their arrival and return home, in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to establish a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The time for a Welcome Home Day is long overdue. I know every Member of this House and every American would want to come forward to welcome home these veterans who were not always welcomed home in the way we should always welcome home those who have served us in the Armed Forces regardless of our feelings on the particular conflict in which they came forward bravely to serve us all.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ, for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, on March 30, 1973, American combat troops serving in Vietnam completed their service and returned home to the U.S. After 8 years of hard-fought battle and the loss of over 58,000 soldiers, we welcomed our servicemen and women home and wished them a safe return. Over 300,000 troops returned wounded during the war. House Res. 189 seeks to establish March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. It is an opportunity to recognize the heroic service of these many veterans.

For fear that Southeast Asia would fall into communism, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1964, thereby giving powers to President Johnson to conduct military command in South Vietnam until peace and security had returned to the war-torn nation. One year later, U.S. combat troops were sent to the embattled country. By 1969, approximately 543,000 American troops were in Vietnam.

Thousands of Vietnam veterans participated in various festivities, parades and reunions every year.

□ 1515

We see them proudly wear their unit numbers, banners, T-shirts and hats covered with pins, sharing stories and updating each other on their lives. It is only fitting that we show our support for these brave men and women by expressing our gratitude for their courageous service.

Around 3 million people visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial each year. The wall and two accompanying sculptures offer an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the history of the

war and its numerous casualties. It is appropriate to commemorate this significant piece of history by recognizing the day combat troops returned home from war as welcome home Vietnam Veterans' Day.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly rise in support of H. Res. 189. I have a large number of Vietnam veterans in my district. Several years ago, I had a commemorative coin struck that I gave to the Vietnam veterans. I presented it and called it a long overdue welcome home event. There weren't too many dry eyes as the coins were presented. We need to remedy that, and certainly having a Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Day as this bill calls for is long overdue.

The one thing that I ask Vietnam vets to please always do is when our young men and women are returning today from battle, that they always help the community to welcome them back, because no one would like to be treated the way that many Vietnam vets were treated.

This is a great resolution, and it is long overdue. I certainly support finally having a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I just would again urge passage. I think this is a very thoughtful thing of our colleague from California to have initiated. Frankly, I wonder why we didn't think of it sooner.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleague in his remarks, and especially his remarks as to why didn't we think of this before. I want to assure Vietnam War veterans, it has nothing to do with their service. We have had a number of wars since and perhaps we have been somewhat preoccupied with war, but we will never forget this important and very sacrificial group of veterans.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 189, a resolution that will honor the veterans of the Vietnam War in eastern Connecticut and across our country by calling for the establishment of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

As we know all too well, the Vietnam War was a painful and turbulent period in our Nation's history. Our military involvement there from 1965 to 1973 came at a time of great upheaval and change that divided our Nation. By the end of the war, more than 58,000 members of the Armed Forces had given the ultimate sacrifice. Much has rightfully been done to honor these lost heroes in the 30 years since the end of the war, including a breathtaking memorial not far away from this Capitol on our National Mall.

However, thousands of our troops came home after serving our country in Vietnam

only to be barraged by anti-war and anti-military sentiments rising from the deep and conflicting passions over our involvement in the conflict. As a result, thousands of young men who served our Nation were denied the welcome home they deserved—a painful memory that I hear about even today when I speak with Vietnam veterans.

Today, 30 years after they returned home, those dark days of war still haunt the veterans of Vietnam. Yet, I have been amazed by the strength and dignity of the Vietnam veterans community in eastern Connecticut. Since the end of the war, these proud men have been unmatched in taking care of their own and supporting one another. This past April, over 100 eastern Connecticut Vietnam veterans gathered once again in Norwich, CT for the 7th Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemorative Ceremony. I was proud to join them for the ceremony and to honor their service and sacrifice.

Regardless of what one thinks about our involvement in a military conflict, there is no doubt that any American who wears our Nation's uniform deserves a hero's welcome when they return home. That is why I am proud to support the resolution before us today, which expresses the sense of the House that there should be a day set aside every year on March 30 to honor the service of our Vietnam veterans by establishing a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." I sincerely hope that this simple resolution will provide our Vietnam veterans with the recognition they have so long deserved.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 189, which puts the House on record in support of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Day." This resolution honors members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975. In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam. March 30 would be an appropriate day to establish as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

More than 3 million Americans served in Vietnam, and nearly 58,000 lost their lives there. From mountain peaks to tropical rainforest, American soldiers served in hostile country and fought a war for which they were not trained. It was a war of savage, small-unit fighting unlike any other in American history and in a stunning outcome, American soldiers won all of the major battles. About 58,148 men were killed, mostly between the ages of 20 and 29, but some as young as 16 years old. About 2.9 million men in total were involved in the fighting. The average soldier—infantryman—saw about 240 days of combat in 4 years, thanks to the mobility of the helicopter.

As an American, I am very proud of the courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in this war, even though they were not sure of the purpose, to help stop what seemed to be the spreading of Communist beliefs and values. I am more than grateful to the men who gave so that we would be able to live as free as we do today. These men were brave, high spirited, and fearless. These men did something that most Americans never had to do. They risked life and limb in defense of their countrymen. They deserve to be honored for their efforts.

This resolution gives credit where credit is due. It will give Americans a chance to reflect on the men, women, and their stories that were short changed during this difficult time in our history.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 189.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PET WEEK

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 142) expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established a National Pet Week, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 142

Whereas this year marks the 26th anniversary of "National Pet Week", sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Auxiliary to the American Veterinary Medical Association;

Whereas animals and pets give companionship and pleasure in daily living, share the homes of nearly 69,000,000 individuals or families in the United States, and provide special benefits to elderly persons and children;

Whereas the people of the United States have a firm commitment to promote responsible care of animals and pets and guard against cruel and irresponsible treatment;

Whereas teaching kindness and respect for all living animals through education in schools and communities is essential to the basic values of a humane and civilized society;

Whereas the people of the United States are grateful to the veterinary medical profession for providing preventive and emergency medical care and assistance to animals, spaying and neutering animals to combat overpopulation, and contributing to the education of animal owners; and

Whereas the people of the United States are indebted to animal protection organizations, State humane organizations, and local animal care and control agencies for promoting respect for animals and pets, educating children about humane attitudes, and caring for lost, unwanted, abused, and abandoned animals: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) that there should be established an annual National Pet Week; and

(2) the goals and ideals expressed during National Pet Week should be guides for the

people of the United States to observe in the care of pets.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Con. Res. 142, a bill expressing the sense of Congress there should be established a National Pet Week. H. Con. Res. 142, which has 53 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS on May 3, 2007. H. Con. Res. 142 was reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2007, by voice vote.

National Pet Week was jointly founded in 1991 by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Auxiliary to the AVMA and is now widely celebrated throughout the United States and other parts of the world.

Each year National Pet Week's goals are to promote responsible pet ownership, celebrate the bonding and mutual admiration between animals and humans and promote public awareness of veterinary medicine.

Animals and pets provide companionship and pleasure to nearly 69 million individuals and families in the United States. These individuals have dedicated themselves to the care and responsibility of treating animals with love and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SHAYS for introducing this legislation and I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today we stand with 69 million households in celebrating the joy of pet ownership and recognizing the obligations of responsible animal care as we call on this Congress to establish a National Pet Week.

Some 63 percent of Americans have accepted the calling of pet ownership and have opened their homes to millions of cats, dogs, birds, fish, and other animals. For this generous action, they are rewarded with love, companionship and support. Studies have shown an additional benefit of pet ownership include a healthier life.

A National Pet Week would also honor those who provide medical treatment as well as responsible care for animals, who are certainly deserving of

such treatment. There are approximately 75,000 practicing veterinarians in the United States who perform a great service for this country by giving preventative and emergency care for animals. These veterinarians are also credited with educating pet owners about the benefits of spaying or neutering their animals, thus curbing pet overpopulation problems in the country.

Establishing a week recognizing pet ownership helps highlight many of the issues affecting pets and owners in America, as well as the issue of responsible treatment for animals in general. Sadly, problems such as animal abuse, neglect, overpopulation, hoarding, and organized fighting persist in this country. The people of the United States are indebted to the animal protection and humane organizations who promote respect for animals and provide care for lost, unwanted, abused, and abandoned animals.

It is the essential duty of a civilized society to teach its children the value of kindness and respect toward all living creatures, and this is the perfect opportunity to do so.

Therefore, I call on my colleagues to support the establishment of National Pet Week, to celebrate pet ownership, recognize those who provide responsible animal care, and educate our children about a standard of respect towards all living creatures.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Mr. SHAYS, upon the introduction of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 142, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FHA MANUFACTURED HOUSING LOAN MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2139) to modernize the manufactured housing loan insurance program under title I of the National Housing Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2139

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "FHA Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—*The Congress finds that—*

(1) *manufactured housing plays a vital role in providing housing for low- and moderate-income families in the United States;*

(2) *the FHA title I insurance program for manufactured home loans traditionally has been a major provider of mortgage insurance for home-only transactions;*

(3) *the manufactured housing market is in the midst of a prolonged downturn which has resulted in a severe contraction of traditional sources of private lending for manufactured home purchases;*

(4) *during past downturns the FHA title I insurance program for manufactured homes has filled the lending void by providing stability until the private markets could recover;*

(5) *in 1992, during the manufactured housing industry's last major recession, over 30,000 manufactured home loans were insured under title I;*

(6) *in 2006, fewer than 1,500 manufactured housing loans were insured under title I;*

(7) *the loan limits for title I manufactured housing loans have not been adjusted for inflation since 1992; and*

(8) *these problems with the title I program have resulted in an atrophied market for manufactured housing loans, leaving American families who have the most difficulty achieving homeownership without adequate financing options for home-only manufactured home purchases.*

(b) PURPOSES.—*The purposes of this Act are—*

(1) *to provide adequate funding for FHA-insured manufactured housing loans for low- and moderate-income homebuyers during all economic cycles in the manufactured housing industry;*

(2) *to modernize the FHA title I insurance program for manufactured housing loans to enhance participation by Ginnie Mae and the private lending markets; and*

(3) *to adjust the low loan limits for title I manufactured home loan insurance to reflect the increase in costs since such limits were last increased in 1992 and to index the limits to inflation.*

SEC. 3. EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PORTFOLIO.

The second sentence of section 2(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(a)) is amended—

(1) *by striking "In no case" and inserting "Other than in connection with a manufactured home or a lot on which to place such a home (or both), in no case"; and*

(2) *by striking "Provided, That with" and inserting ". With".*

SEC. 4. INSURANCE BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—*Subsection (b) of section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

"(8) INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR MANUFACTURED HOUSING LOANS.—Any contract of insurance with respect to loans, advances of credit, or purchases in connection with a manufactured home or a lot on which to place a manufactured home (or both) for a financial institution that is executed under this title after the date of the enactment of the FHA Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act of 2007 by the Secretary shall be conclusive evidence of the eligibility of such financial institution for insurance, and the validity of any contract of insurance so executed shall be incontestable in the hands of the bearer from the date of the execution of such contract, except for fraud or misrepresentation on the part of such institution."

(b) APPLICABILITY.—*The amendment made by subsection (a) shall only apply to loans that are registered or endorsed for insurance after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

SEC. 5. MAXIMUM LOAN LIMITS.

(a) DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—*Paragraph (1) of section 2(b) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)(1)) is amended—*

(1) *in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A), by striking "\$17,500" and inserting "\$25,090";*

(2) *in subparagraph (C) by striking "\$48,600" and inserting "\$69,678";*

(3) *in subparagraph (D) by striking "\$64,800" and inserting "\$92,904";*

(4) *in subparagraph (E) by striking "\$16,200" and inserting "\$23,226"; and*

(5) *by realigning subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E) 2 ems to the left so that the left margins of such subparagraphs are aligned with the margins of subparagraphs (A) and (B).*

(b) ANNUAL INDEXING.—*Subsection (b) of section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

"(9) ANNUAL INDEXING OF MANUFACTURED HOUSING LOANS.—The Secretary shall develop a method of indexing in order to annually adjust the loan limits established in subparagraphs (A)(ii), (C), (D), and (E) of this subsection. Such index shall be based on the manufactured housing price data collected by the United States Census Bureau. The Secretary shall establish such index no later than one year after the date of the enactment of the FHA Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act of 2007."

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES.—*Paragraph (1) of section 2(b) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)(1)) is amended—*

(1) *by striking "No" and inserting "Except as provided in the last sentence of this paragraph, no"; and*

(2) *by adding after and below subparagraph (G) the following:*

"The Secretary shall, by regulation, annually increase the dollar amount limitations in subparagraphs (A)(ii), (C), (D), and (E) (as such limitations may have been previously adjusted under this sentence) in accordance with the index established pursuant to paragraph (9)."

SEC. 6. INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

Subsection (f) of section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(f)) is amended—

(1) *by inserting "(1) PREMIUM CHARGES.—" after "(f)"; and*

(2) *by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

"(2) MANUFACTURED HOME LOANS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in the case of a loan, advance of credit, or purchase in connection with a manufactured home or a lot on which to place such a home (or both), the premium charge for the insurance granted under this section shall be paid by the borrower under the loan or advance of credit, as follows:

"(A) At the time of the making of the loan, advance of credit, or purchase, a single premium payment in an amount not to exceed 2.25 percent of the amount of the original insured principal obligation.

"(B) In addition to the premium under subparagraph (A), annual premium payments during the term of the loan, advance, or obligation purchased in an amount not exceeding 1.0 percent of the remaining insured principal balance (excluding the portion of the remaining balance attributable to the premium collected under subparagraph (A) and without taking into account delinquent payments or prepayments).

"(C) Premium charges under this paragraph shall be established in amounts that are sufficient, but do not exceed the minimum amounts necessary, to maintain a negative credit subsidy for the program under this section for insurance of loans, advances of credit, or purchases in connection with a manufactured home or a lot on which to place such a home (or both), as determined based upon risk to the Federal Government under existing underwriting requirements.

"(D) The Secretary may increase the limitations on premium payments to percentages above those set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B), but only if necessary, and not in excess of the minimum increase necessary, to maintain a negative credit subsidy as described in subparagraph (C)."

SEC. 7. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) *DATES*.—Subsection (a) of section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “on and after July 1, 1939,” each place such term appears; and

(2) by striking “made after the effective date of the Housing Act of 1954”.

(b) *AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY*.—Subsection (c) of section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) *HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY*.—

“(1) *AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY*.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may—

“(A) deal with, complete, rent, renovate, modernize, insure, or assign or sell at public or private sale, or otherwise dispose of, for cash or credit in the Secretary’s discretion, and upon such terms and conditions and for such consideration as the Secretary shall determine to be reasonable, any real or personal property conveyed to or otherwise acquired by the Secretary, in connection with the payment of insurance heretofore or hereafter granted under this title, including any evidence of debt, contract, claim, personal property, or security assigned to or held by him in connection with the payment of insurance heretofore or hereafter granted under this section; and

“(B) pursue to final collection, by way of compromise or otherwise, all claims assigned to or held by the Secretary and all legal or equitable rights accruing to the Secretary in connection with the payment of such insurance, including unpaid insurance premiums owed in connection with insurance made available by this title.

“(2) *ADVERTISEMENTS FOR PROPOSALS*.—Section 3709 of the Revised Statutes shall not be construed to apply to any contract of hazard insurance or to any purchase or contract for services or supplies on account of such property if the amount thereof does not exceed \$25,000.

“(3) *DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY*.—The power to convey and to execute in the name of the Secretary, deeds of conveyance, deeds of release, assignments and satisfactions of mortgages, and any other written instrument relating to real or personal property or any interest therein heretofore or hereafter acquired by the Secretary pursuant to the provisions of this title may be exercised by an officer appointed by the Secretary without the execution of any express delegation of power or power of attorney. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the Secretary from delegating such power by order or by power of attorney, in the Secretary’s discretion, to any officer or agent the Secretary may appoint.”

SEC. 8. REVISION OF UNDERWRITING CRITERIA.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Subsection (b) of section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703(b)), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) *FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS OF MANUFACTURED HOUSING PROGRAM*.—The Secretary shall establish such underwriting criteria for loans and advances of credit in connection with a manufactured home or a lot on which to place a manufactured home (or both), including such loans and advances represented by obligations purchased by financial institutions, as may be necessary to ensure that the program under this title for insurance for financial institutions against losses from such loans, advances of credit, and purchases is financially sound.”

(b) *TIMING*.—Not later than the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall revise the existing underwriting criteria for the program referred to in paragraph (10) of section 2(b) of the National Housing Act (as added by subsection (a) of this section) in accordance with the requirements of such paragraph.

SEC. 9. REQUIREMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR ASSISTANCE.

Section 2 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1703) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) *REQUIREMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR FINANCING*.—No insurance shall be granted under this section with respect to any obligation representing any loan, advance of credit, or purchase by a financial institution unless the borrower to which the loan or advance of credit was made, and each member of the family of the borrower who is 18 years of age or older or is the spouse of the borrower, has a valid social security number.”

SEC. 10. GAO STUDY OF MITIGATION OF TORNADO RISKS TO MANUFACTURED HOMES.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall assess how the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development utilizes the FHA manufactured housing loan insurance program under title I of the National Housing Act, the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and other programs and resources available to the Secretary to mitigate the risks to manufactured housing residents and communities resulting from tornados. The Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress a report on the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment conducted pursuant to this section not later than the expiration of the 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the FHA Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act of 2007, which I introduced with my colleagues Chairman FRANK, Mr. TIBERI and Mr. FEENEY, includes important provisions that will help revitalize the manufactured housing industry, which plays a critical role in helping Americans achieve the dream of home ownership by providing them with alternative opportunities for affordable housing. This bill passed the Financial Services Committee unanimously on May 28, 2007.

This \$8 billion a year industry provides jobs for people not only in the Second District of Indiana, but throughout the country. These homes house 22 million people in over 10.5 million homes.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen firsthand in my own district how these homes have continued a tradition of quality and safe construction over many years. They present a high quality, affordable housing opportunity for American families.

H.R. 2139 would raise the manufactured housing title I loan limits and annually index them for inflation. It will also give HUD the authority to increase insurance premiums and improve underwriting standards in order to make sure that the program is actuarially sound.

We have a proud and strong tradition in Elkhart and in other Indiana communities of providing first class housing for Americans, providing quality jobs for Hoosiers at the same time. It is part of who we are. In turn, these communities are extraordinarily proud of the role they play and that we play in our district in providing housing for American homebuyers.

Unfortunately, title I loan limits have not been adjusted for inflation since 1992 and the manufactured housing industry has experienced a major decline since that time. In 1992, in the midst of the last downturn, FHA insured 30,000 title I loans. In 2006, that number was less than 1,500. In Indiana alone, that number went from 377 loans in 1992 to only four last year.

These are more than just numbers. They represent a serious drop in a crucial component of affordable home ownership for Americans. This not only affects low and moderate income families that these loans are designed to help, but it affects the manufactured housing industry and the housing market as a whole.

Because of the drastic reduction in FHA title I loans, American families are left to struggle to try and find adequate financing options for their manufactured home purchases. This body has a responsibility to try and provide affordable housing options for American families, and this legislation does just that.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, June is Home Ownership Month, and it is only fitting that we pass this much-needed legislation. Today, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 2139, to strengthen the American housing market and to put more affordable housing opportunities within reach for American families.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2139, the Manufactured Housing Loan Improvement Act of 2007. It is virtually identical to legislation that passed the House last year, only it was called the act of 2006, and it passed by 412-6. Obviously, it was a very popular bill.

The bill that we are considering today would modernize the FHA title I manufactured housing loan program, which insures loans for manufactured homes owned on leased land, for lots used to site manufactured homes, and for a combination of manufactured homes and lots. The program is different from the insuring of manufactured homes under title II of FHA, in which the manufactured home is sited

on land also owned and mortgaged under the loan.

As the gentleman from Indiana stated, in 1992 some 3,000 loans were insured under the FHA title I manufactured housing loan program. However, last year this number dropped to around 1,500 loans. Clearly this legislation seeks to address the factors that have been widely cited as the reasons for the steep decline in the number of insured loans. These include vague underwriting standards; a portfolio cap on title I loans; a guarantee that is not sufficient for acceptance in the secondary market; loan limits that have not kept up with inflation, and, actually, they haven't been adjusted since 1992; and a resulting reduced private sector loan origination participation.

During the Financial Services Committee markup of this legislation, Congressman BACHUS offered and the committee accepted wording that would authorize the GAO to assess how the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development utilizes the FHA manufactured housing loan insurance program and other programs administered by HUD to mitigate the risk to manufactured housing residents and communities resulting from tornadoes.

Every year, an average of 800 tornadoes sweep across the United States, resulting in more than 80 deaths, more than 1,500 injuries and millions of dollars in property damage. One of nature's most powerful and violent storms, large tornadoes often record winds with speeds in excess of 250 miles an hour.

Florida and parts of my district were ravaged by these tornadoes earlier this year, which reminded us that natural catastrophes can strike with little warning, forcing communities to confront a loss of infrastructure and, unfortunately, sometimes a loss of life.

Many residents of homes have a place to go in the event of a tornado, whether it is a basement or an interior room. Manufactured housing residents do not have a basement and they often do not have an interior room. Despite rapid advances in tornado warning technology, residents of manufactured housing communities often do not have adequate access to proper shelter.

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That is why the House passed the Tornado Shelters Act, which was signed into law in 2003. That bipartisan bill authorized communities to use community development block grant money to construct or improve tornado-safe shelters located in manufactured housing park areas.

Unfortunately, it is not used enough. Often in the face of a tornado threat, it is said we can do two things: pray and prepare. Pray it won't happen again and prepare for the next line of twist-ers.

While the residents can pray, our government and this Congress can do much to help them prepare.

As we improve the title I manufactured housing loan programs, I hope we

can do everything in our power to ensure that residents of manufactured housing communities have adequate protection from natural catastrophes such as tornadoes. H.R. 2139 will facilitate greater access to manufactured housing, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE). This is an excellent piece of legislation. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle are in support and are participating in H.R. 2139.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the millions of Americans who live in manufactured housing across the country.

Over the years, the willingness of Americans to work hard and achieve their dreams has illustrated the health of our economy and our democracy. Hoosiers recognize the importance of safe, affordable housing to the realization of this American Dream, and my constituents sent me to Congress to make this dream more accessible to Hoosier families.

And so, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act, which will expand the opportunities of home ownership. I am also proud to have introduced CJ's Home Protection Act, which will add to the efforts of housing manufacturers to ensure the safety of the families in their homes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2139, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 477) recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 477

Whereas the President of the United States has issued a proclamation designating the month of June 2007 as National Homeownership Month;

Whereas the national homeownership rate in the United States has reached a record high of almost 70 percent and more than half of all minority families are homeowners;

Whereas the people of the United States are one of the best-housed populations in the world;

Whereas owning a home is a fundamental part of the American dream and is the larg-

est personal investment many families will ever make;

Whereas homeownership provides economic security for homeowners by aiding them in building wealth over time and strengthens communities through a greater stake among homeowners in local schools, civic organizations, and churches;

Whereas creating affordable homeownership opportunities requires the commitment and cooperation of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, including the Federal Government and State and local governments; and

Whereas the current laws of the United States, such as the American Dream Downpayment Act, encourage homeownership and should continue to do so in the future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) fully supports the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month; and

(2) recognizes the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation, and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 477 introduced by Congressman GARY G. MILLER of California. This resolution recognizes the importance of National Homeownership Month, which the President designated as June of this year.

Homeownership is one of the fundamental building blocks of our society. And it plays a fundamental role in achieving the American Dream. It helps to provide families with economic security and helps to build strong communities.

The national homeownership rate in the United States has reached a record high of almost 70 percent. This is the result of the hard work of both public and private sector organizations, nonprofit groups, and Federal, State and local government working together for a common cause: to ensure that families have a stable living environment and are in a supportive community.

Homeownership is a crucial indicator of our economic health. I believe that ensuring affordable homeownership for hardworking Americans is one of the most important tasks we have here in Congress. We must work together to encourage more opportunities for homeownership so that buyers are able to choose a housing option that meets their needs.

Owning a home helps families build financial stability, and it puts them on sound financial footing so they are able to invest in things like college and saving for retirement. This not only affects every American family; it allows our economy to prosper. It is important to ensure that while we are promoting homeownership, and that we are preparing homeowners for the responsibility of maintaining and paying off their home, that they understand this process as well.

The rise in predatory lending and in subprime loans has contributed significantly to the high rate of foreclosures in States like Indiana, my home State. Congress must work to ensure a level playing field for home buyers to purchase a home with a mortgage that they can work with and be able to pay. I urge Members to vote in favor of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 477 and am pleased to join with my friend from Indiana and am delighted that we are taking time on the floor today to commemorate homeownership in America.

Recognizing the many benefits of owning a home, the President designated June as National Homeownership Month as he has done for the past 6 years. To complement this designation, H. Res. 477 was introduced by the gentleman from California (GARY G. MILLER) to recognize that designation and the importance of homeownership in the United States.

Owning a home is a fundamental part of the American Dream, with economic security and hard work being rewarded. Homeownership is much more than knowing that one has a roof and four walls to shelter one's family. It is the symbol of the American Dream, and it forms the bedrock of our communities.

Many of my colleagues celebrate the designation of this month as National Homeownership Month because in America every citizen, regardless of race, creed, color, or place of birth has the opportunity to own a home of their own.

Today, the national homeownership rate in the United States has reached a record high, about 70 percent; and more than half of all minority families are homeowners. While many gains have been made, minority homeownership rates still lag. With minority households expected to account for two-thirds of household growth over the coming decade, improving the ability of such households to make a transition to homeownership will be an important test of our Nation's capacity to create economic opportunities for minorities and immigrants and to build strong, stable communities.

Buying a home is the largest personal investment most families will ever make. For the vast majority of families, the purchase of a home rep-

resents the path to prosperity. A home is a tangible asset that builds equity, good credit, borrowing power, and overall wealth. Not only does homeownership provide economic security for building wealth over time; it also strengthens and builds communities. Homeownership creates community stakeholders and inspires civic responsibility. People who own a home tend to be more active in charities, churches, neighborhood activities and more likely to vote and get involved with their community's growth, safety and development.

Further, families owning a home offer children a stable living environment, influencing their personal development in many positive, measurable ways both at home and in school.

Without homeowners, neighborhoods, schools and local businesses suffer. Homeownership helps fuel the economy. This happens mostly through people who spend money for home improvements.

I hope Congress will continue to explore new ways to put people on the path to homeownership so more Americans can realize its benefits.

In closing, it is apparent that the Federal Government, consumers and the housing industry are linked by our mutual goal of creating housing opportunities for more Americans. And although significant strides have been made, we still have much more work to do to achieve together for the American people, and our best hope of being successful is to work in close concert with each other.

As Congress considers future action to make homeownership more secure and available, we need to take care not to hamper the market's ability to provide opportunities for homeownership, and that way we can continue to open our communities and neighborhoods to new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

The resolution before us, H. Res. 477, recognizes the importance of homeownership in America and dedicates the House of Representatives to fostering an atmosphere conducive to community development and increased homeownership opportunities. Congress has a real opportunity here to forge a better America, an America where homeownership and security abounds. I know we all look forward to continue to work to further the American Dream, and I hope my colleagues will join with me and my colleague, Mr. DONNELLY, and join in supporting this important resolution that does just that.

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

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) for yielding time to me. I also want to commend him for his leadership.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 477, a resolution recognizing the goals and

ideals of National Homeownership Month, which falls in June of each year. I also want to commend my colleague on the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER), for introducing the resolution and for working with me on its language.

Owning a home is a fundamental part of the American Dream and is the largest personal investment many families will ever make. Homeownership provides economic security by increasing the stake residents have in their communities, including local schools, civic organizations, community-based organizations, and churches.

Improving homeownership opportunities requires the commitment and cooperation of the private and public sectors, including the Federal Government and State and local governments. Our current laws encourage homeownership to a significant degree, but need to be updated and augmented so that they will continue to promote homeownership in the future.

We need to do everything in our power to ensure that potential home buyers and current homeowners do not become victims of predatory lenders, as has been the case in recent times.

To improve the affordability, availability and quality of housing in America, I co-founded and I am currently the chairman of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus. The caucus continues to increase in number as more and more Members of Congress realize not only the importance of homeownership in urban dwellings, but those in rural America.

To increase homeownership, I introduced H.R. 1980, the Housing Assistance Counsel Authorization Act. It authorizes \$10 million for housing assistance counsel in fiscal year 2008 and \$15 million in fiscal year 2009–2014.

HAC, a nonprofit corporation, is the only national housing assistance group that specializes in rural areas and small towns. The House Committee on Financial Services has also held hearings on the bill and reported it favorably to the floor of the House of Representatives. A companion measure has been introduced in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I also introduced H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act. The bill authorizes \$30 million for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's RHED program in fiscal year 2008 and \$40 million for fiscal years 2009–2013. This bill has also been reported favorably on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Financial Services Chairman BARNEY FRANK, the ranking member; SPENCER BACHUS; Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS; and the ranking member, JUDY BIGGERT; and all their staffs for guiding the HAC and RHED legislation through our committee.

I have also authored a letter to the Housing Appropriations Committee requesting the funding for several programs that the administration's budget

would either eliminate or reduce their funding. I include for today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of that letter.

Again, June is National Homeownership Month. I strongly support the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month and recognize the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2007.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO: There is a housing crisis in rural America. We are requesting that you restore funding for the following USDA rural housing programs in fiscal year 2008: Section 502 direct homeownership loans, \$1.25 billion; Section 515 rental housing loans, \$100 million; Section 523 self-help housing, \$60 million; and Section 514/516 farm labor housing, \$50 million each.

The Administration's Fiscal 2008 budget takes square aim at these programs. The budget cuts spending for rural housing by some 71 percent and eliminates over \$1.3 billion in rural housing lending assistance targeted to low income families. If the Administration's budget is approved, it will be the first time in 40 years that the Agriculture Department has not offered direct lending assistance to help low income rural families improve their housing conditions.

According to the Economic Research Service of the US Department of Agriculture some four million rural families live in "housing poverty", a multidimensional indicator that combines measures of economic need, housing quality and neighborhood quality. What is more, the 2000 Census revealed that 5.5 million people, one-quarter of the non-metro population, face cost overburden and 1.6 million non-metro housing units are either moderately or severely substandard.

As you know, the President's budget calls for the elimination of the Section 502 Direct Loan Program, which is one of the nation's most responsible loan programs for rural communities. Under the present Section 502 program, borrowers may obtain loans for, the purchase or repair of new or existing single-family housing in rural areas. Borrowers with income of 80 percent or less of the area median may be eligible for the direct loans, and may receive interest credit to reduce the interest rate to as low as 1 percent. The loans are repayable over a 33-year period. In a given fiscal year, at least 40 percent of the units financed under this section must be made available only to very low-income individuals or families. The Section 502 direct loan program is an extremely efficient program which results in a total cost to the Federal government of only \$10,000 per loan. There currently is a backlog of more than \$3.4 billion in loan applications for this program. We encourage you to provide \$1.25 billion in funding for Section 502 in fiscal year 2008.

The President's budget also proposes to eliminate funding for the Rural Housing Service Section 515 program. The Section 515 program plays a critical role in facilitating affordable rental housing in rural areas, by providing funds both for new construction and for the repair and preservation of RHS Section 515 affordable rental housing units. The Section 515 program is the only authorized Federal program that provides direct loans for multi-family housing in rural areas. Units built under the 515 program provide affordable rental housing for persons of

low, very low, and moderate incomes living in rural areas, many of whom are elderly and disabled. The 515 program also provides funding for the repair and rehabilitation of existing 515 affordable rental housing units, in order to encourage owners to remain in the program and serve lower income families in rural areas. We encourage you to provide \$100 million in funding for Section 515 in fiscal year 2008.

The President's budget proposes \$9.75 million in funding for Section 523 Self Help Housing which is a reduction of over 70%. Self-Help Housing makes homes affordable by enabling future homeowners to build their homes themselves. Section 523 Self Help Technical Assistance Grants provided to qualified nonprofit and local government organizations to provide technical assistance to low and very low-income families who are building homes in rural areas in conjunction with the Section 502 Mutual Self-Help Housing Loan Program. The grant funds are used to assist eligible families in applying for Section 502 loans, provide pre-purchase homebuyer education, and supervise construction of the housing by the family.

Due to the tremendous success in serving minority households, doubling self help housing is one of the elements of USDA's 'Five Star Commitment to Increasing Minority Homeownership'. But despite the proven success of the self-help model and the momentum that it has built over recent years, budgetary restrictions have made it difficult for RHS to keep pace with demand for Section 523. In fiscal year 2007, a total of \$3 million was made available for self-help housing grants. However, the total necessary for extending grants for performing programs that expire in 2008 is \$60 million. We encourage you to provide \$60 million in funding for Section 523 in fiscal year 2008.

The President's budget reduces farm labor housing funding in Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Loans and in Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Grants by two thirds. As you know, there is a tremendous need for assistance for farm worker housing. Migrant and seasonal farm workers are some of the nation's most poorly housed populations. Farm workers and their families are some of the poorest yet least assisted people in the nation. Approximately 61 percent of farm workers earn incomes below the poverty level. 60 percent of their households are the ones who are also more susceptible to live below the poverty threshold which is six times the national rate. However, less than 20 percent of farm worker households receive public assistance in any form. We encourage you to provide \$50 million in funding for Section 514 and 516 in fiscal year 2008.

For these reasons, we urge you to reject the Administration's Rural Development budget. The Administration has already made substantial cuts in federal rural development spending. Over the past 6 years, federal spending on rural housing and community development programs have been reduced by more than 20 percent. We strongly urge you to reject the reductions proposed in the Fiscal 2008 budget and provide adequate funding for federal rural housing and community development programs.

Sincerely,

Rubén Hinojosa, Barney Frank, Rick Renzi, Paul W. Hodes, Charles A. Wilson, Ron Paul, Emanuel Cleaver, Bennie G. Thompson, Nancy Boyda, Michael E. Capuano, Maxine Waters, Tim Holden, Corrine Brown, Carolyn B. Maloney, Luis V. Gutierrez, Peter DeFazio, Darlene Hooley, Earl Blumenauer, Julia Carson, Geoff Davis, Lois Capps, Tom Allen, Mazie Hirono, Steve Kagen, John T. Salazar, Neil Abercrombie, Michael H. Michaud,

Phil Hare, Rick Larsen, Doris O. Matsui, Dan Boren, Lincoln Davis.

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Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I simply rise and urge the passage of House Resolution 477.

I have no other speakers seeking recognition and, with that, yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests. I want to thank my good friend, my colleague from Illinois, for his assistance in this. It is a terrific resolution. We look forward to its success.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of this resolution, which expresses the commitment of Congress to fostering increased homeownership opportunities in this country.

Earlier this month, President Bush designated June as National Homeownership Month, as he has done for the past 6 years.

I introduced H. Res. 477 to complement this designation and to elevate the discussion of housing opportunities in this Nation. This resolution conveys the support of the House for the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month and reiterates the importance of homeownership in the United States.

I would like to thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for bringing this important resolution to the floor today.

IMPORTANCE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP IN AMERICA

For millions of Americans in communities all across this country, owning a home is a basic part of realizing the American dream.

Aside from helping Americans achieve their dreams, homeownership also helps to build neighborhoods and strengthen communities. As millions of families have demonstrated, increased homeownership helps to build better communities, and better communities help to build a better America. Families who own homes have a vital stake in their communities, a stronger interest in the safekeeping of their neighborhoods, and a deeper commitment to the quality of their schools and public services.

Today, America's housing markets are the envy of the world. We enjoy the lowest interest rates and the highest homeownership rates of any developed nation. With the national homeownership rate reaching 70 percent, we have had success in promoting housing opportunities. However, we must still do more. We must work to help extend housing opportunities to all Americans who do not currently enjoy the benefits of homeownership.

ROLE OF CONGRESS

Our job in Congress, as responsible policymakers, must be to ensure that government helps, rather than impedes, homeownership in America. When I came to Congress, I made it my top priority to highlight federal policies that have hindered the availability of housing in this country and to find ways for government to positively impact homeownership in America. While we have done much to help Americans become homeowners, we must do more. We must remove the hurdles and needless regulation that keep homeownership out of the reach of some families in America.

And oftentimes in government, we pass policies and laws and regulations that sound really good, and when they are implemented they do the exact opposite of what we intend them

to do. Unfortunately, this trend is very apparent in our housing policies.

CONGRESSIONAL POLICIES

So far in this Congress, I am pleased that we have continued our important work of promoting responsible homeownership policies for our country.

Last month, the House passed the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act to reform Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) that have been at the forefront of creating affordable housing opportunities for American families. A new, credible, independent regulator with appropriate supervisory powers would reaffirm that the GSEs are adequately governed and will continue to provide reasonably-priced funds for housing finance. This bill ensures adequate regulation of GSEs while not adversely affecting the ability of the GSEs to fulfill their housing finance mission.

Another important needed reform to improve homeownership opportunities across our country is to the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). As the private sector mortgage market has become more efficient, the FHA program's inflexible rules and requirements have left it virtually irrelevant as a financing option. Not only can FHA reform provide a viable alternative for families seeking to purchase a home, but it can also help those facing uncertainty about being able to keep their current home.

To make the FHA program a viable mortgage option, we must ensure that the program's products are available across the country and that they meet the needs of borrowers. This includes not only eliminating the geographic barriers to utilization of the program in high cost areas, but also facilitating the purchase of entry-level homes, including condos and manufactured housing. The Committee on Financial Services passed an important FHA reform bill in May and I am optimistic we may consider it on the floor soon.

CONCLUSION

With June designated as National Homeownership Month, there is no better time to discuss these issues. Now more than ever Congress must continue to cultivate an environment in which more Americans may turn the dream of homeownership into a reality.

I am very pleased today that the President has made it a priority to promote affordable housing and homeownership, even while our Nation faces many other challenges at home and abroad. Along with Secretary Jackson and his team at HUD, the President has taken a leading role in finding new and innovative ways to expand homeownership in all areas of this country.

Fortunately, here in Congress, we have leaders from both sides of the aisle who are deeply committed to increasing housing opportunities for more Americans. I want to commend Chairman FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS, Housing Subcommittee Chairwoman WATERS, and Ranking Member BIGGERT for their work in pursuing policies to address affordable housing in the United States.

I look forward to continuing this relationship in the 110th Congress so that we will have success in the months and years to come in increasing homeownership nationwide.

In closing, it is clear that increased homeownership fosters stronger communities and a better America. National Homeownership Month is a reminder of the significance of housing issues in America. I urge all of my

colleagues to support this resolution and recognize the importance of homeownership in the United States.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 477, recognizing the goals and ideals of National Home Ownership Month. I'd like to thank my colleague from California Congressman GARY MILLER for introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, home ownership has long been acknowledged as a vehicle to build personal wealth, a source of pride and motivation, provided a sense of security to its owners, helped stabilize our neighborhoods and families and a tool that drives the Nation's economic engine.

Unfortunately, in recent years the goals of home ownership have proven elusive for many Americans. According to a recent report by the Center on American Progress, nearly one in three Americans is low-income, with an income below twice the poverty line. A further 1 in 20 Americans lives in extreme poverty, with an income below half of the poverty line.

That's why I have often joined with my colleagues in the House to call for the provision of adequate and affordable housing and a strong, safe and stable community for all Americans particularly those of low- and moderate income individuals and families and members of minority populations.

Furthermore, in the 110th Congress, I am sponsoring three housing bills: H.R. 172—Community Partners Next Door Act; H.R. 173—One Strike and You're Out Bill; and H.R. 174—Public Housing Drug Elimination Program. These bills take steps to address housing affordability, neighborhood safety and fairness in the enforcement of local and Federal statutes.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to ensure that the gap between the rich and the poor is narrowed and that all Americans have the opportunity to pursue the American dream.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 477.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NONADMITTED AND REINSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1065) to streamline the regulation of nonadmitted insurance and reinsurance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1065

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act of 2007".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Effective date.

TITLE I—NONADMITTED INSURANCE

Sec. 101. Reporting, payment, and allocation of premium taxes.
Sec. 102. Regulation of nonadmitted insurance by insured's home State.
Sec. 103. Participation in national producer database.
Sec. 104. Uniform standards for surplus lines eligibility.
Sec. 105. Streamlined application for commercial purchasers.
Sec. 106. GAO study of nonadmitted insurance market.
Sec. 107. Definitions.

TITLE II—REINSURANCE

Sec. 201. Regulation of credit for reinsurance and reinsurance agreements.
Sec. 202. Regulation of reinsurer solvency.
Sec. 203. Definitions.

TITLE III—RULE OF CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 301. Rule of Construction.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, this Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE I—NONADMITTED INSURANCE

SEC. 101. REPORTING, PAYMENT, AND ALLOCATION OF PREMIUM TAXES.

(a) HOME STATE'S EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY.—No State other than the home State of an insured may require any premium tax payment for nonadmitted insurance.

(b) ALLOCATION OF NONADMITTED PREMIUM TAXES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The States may enter into a compact or otherwise establish procedures to allocate among the States the premium taxes paid to an insured's home State described in subsection (a).

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as expressly otherwise provided in such compact or other procedures, any such compact or other procedures—

(A) if adopted on or before the expiration of the 330-day period that begins on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall apply to any premium taxes that, on or after such date of enactment, are required to be paid to any State that is subject to such compact or procedures; and

(B) if adopted after the expiration of such 330-day period, shall apply to any premium taxes that, on or after January 1 of the first calendar year that begins after the expiration of such 330-day period, are required to be paid to any State that is subject to such compact or procedures.

(3) REPORT.—Upon the expiration of the 330-day period referred to in paragraph (2), the NAIC may submit a report to the Committee on Financial Services and Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate identifying and describing any compact or other procedures for allocation among the States of premium taxes that have been adopted during such period by any States.

(4) NATIONWIDE SYSTEM.—The Congress intends that each State adopt a nationwide or uniform procedure, such as an interstate compact, that provides for the reporting, payment, collection, and allocation of premium taxes for nonadmitted insurance consistent with this section.

(c) ALLOCATION BASED ON TAX ALLOCATION REPORT.—To facilitate the payment of premium taxes among the States, an insured's

home State may require surplus lines brokers and insureds who have independently procured insurance to annually file tax allocation reports with the insured's home State detailing the portion of the nonadmitted insurance policy premium or premiums attributable to properties, risks or exposures located in each State. The filing of a nonadmitted insurance tax allocation report and the payment of tax may be made by a person authorized by the insured to act as its agent.

SEC. 102. REGULATION OF NONADMITTED INSURANCE BY INSURED'S HOME STATE.

(a) HOME STATE AUTHORITY.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the placement of nonadmitted insurance shall be subject to the statutory and regulatory requirements solely of the insured's home State.

(b) BROKER LICENSING.—No State other than an insured's home State may require a surplus lines broker to be licensed in order to sell, solicit, or negotiate nonadmitted insurance with respect to such insured.

(c) ENFORCEMENT PROVISION.—Any law, regulation, provision, or action of any State that applies or purports to apply to nonadmitted insurance sold to, solicited by, or negotiated with an insured whose home State is another State shall be preempted with respect to such application.

(d) WORKERS' COMPENSATION EXCEPTION.—This section may not be construed to preempt any State law, rule, or regulation that restricts the placement of workers' compensation insurance or excess insurance for self-funded workers' compensation plans with a nonadmitted insurer.

SEC. 103. PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL PRODUCER DATABASE.

After the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, a State may not collect any fees relating to licensing of an individual or entity as a surplus lines broker in the State unless the State has in effect at such time laws or regulations that provide for participation by the State in the national insurance producer database of the NAIC, or any other equivalent uniform national database, for the licensure of surplus lines brokers and the renewal of such licenses.

SEC. 104. UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR SURPLUS LINES ELIGIBILITY.

A State may not—

(1) impose eligibility requirements on, or otherwise establish eligibility criteria for, nonadmitted insurers domiciled in a United States jurisdiction, except in conformance with section 5A(2) and 5C(2)(a) of the Non-Admitted Insurance Model Act; and

(2) prohibit a surplus lines broker from placing nonadmitted insurance with, or procuring nonadmitted insurance from, a nonadmitted insurer domiciled outside the United States that is listed on the Quarterly Listing of Alien Insurers maintained by the International Insurers Department of the NAIC.

SEC. 105. STREAMLINED APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL PURCHASERS.

A surplus lines broker seeking to procure or place nonadmitted insurance in a State for an exempt commercial purchaser shall not be required to satisfy any State requirement to make a due diligence search to determine whether the full amount or type of insurance sought by such exempt commercial purchaser can be obtained from admitted insurers if—

(1) the broker procuring or placing the surplus lines insurance has disclosed to the exempt commercial purchaser that such insurance may or may not be available from the admitted market that may provide greater protection with more regulatory oversight; and

(2) the exempt commercial purchaser has subsequently requested in writing the broker

to procure or place such insurance from a nonadmitted insurer.

SEC. 106. GAO STUDY OF NONADMITTED INSURANCE MARKET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the nonadmitted insurance market to determine the effect of the enactment of this title on the size and market share of the nonadmitted insurance market for providing coverage typically provided by the admitted insurance market.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study shall determine and analyze—

(1) the change in the size and market share of the nonadmitted insurance market and in the number of insurance companies and insurance holding companies providing such business in the 18-month period that begins upon the effective date of this Act;

(2) the extent to which insurance coverage typically provided by the admitted insurance market has shifted to the nonadmitted insurance market;

(3) the consequences of any change in the size and market share of the nonadmitted insurance market, including differences in the price and availability of coverage available in both the admitted and nonadmitted insurance markets;

(4) the extent to which insurance companies and insurance holding companies that provide both admitted and nonadmitted insurance have experienced shifts in the volume of business between admitted and nonadmitted insurance; and

(5) the extent to which there has been a change in the number of individuals who have nonadmitted insurance policies, the type of coverage provided under such policies, and whether such coverage is available in the admitted insurance market.

(c) CONSULTATION WITH NAIC.—In conducting the study under this section, the Comptroller General shall consult with the NAIC.

(d) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall complete the study under this section and submit a report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate regarding the findings of the study not later than 30 months after the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 107. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this title, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) ADMITTED INSURER.—The term "admitted insurer" means, with respect to a State, an insurer licensed to engage in the business of insurance in such State.

(2) EXEMPT COMMERCIAL PURCHASER.—The term "exempt commercial purchaser" means any person purchasing commercial insurance that, at the time of placement, meets the following requirements:

(A) The person employs or retains a qualified risk manager to negotiate insurance coverage.

(B) The person has paid aggregate nationwide commercial property and casualty insurance premiums in excess of \$100,000 in the immediately preceding 12 months.

(C)(i) The person meets at least one of the following criteria:

(I) The person possesses a net worth in excess of \$20,000,000, as such amount is adjusted pursuant to clause (ii).

(II) The person generates annual revenues in excess of \$50,000,000, as such amount is adjusted pursuant to clause (ii).

(III) The person employs more than 500 full time or full time equivalent employees per individual insured or is a member of affiliated group employing more than 1,000 employees in the aggregate.

(IV) The person is a not-for-profit organization or public entity generating annual budgeted expenditures of at least \$30,000,000, as such amount is adjusted pursuant to clause (ii).

(V) The person is a municipality with a population in excess of 50,000 persons.

(ii) Effective on the fifth January 1 occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act and each fifth January 1 occurring thereafter, the amounts in subclauses (I), (II), and (IV) of clause (i) shall be adjusted to reflect the percentage change for such five-year period in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

(3) HOME STATE.—The term "home State" means the State in which an insured maintains its principal place of business or, in the case of an individual, the individual's principal residence.

(4) INDEPENDENTLY PROCURED INSURANCE.—The term "independently procured insurance" means insurance procured directly by an insured from a nonadmitted insurer.

(5) NAIC.—The term "NAIC" means the National Association of Insurance Commissioners or any successor entity.

(6) NONADMITTED INSURANCE.—The term "nonadmitted insurance" means any property and casualty insurance permitted to be placed directly or through a surplus lines broker with a nonadmitted insurer eligible to accept such insurance.

(7) NON-ADMITTED INSURANCE MODEL ACT.—The term "Non-Admitted Insurance Model Act" means the provisions of the Non-Admitted Insurance Model Act, as adopted by the NAIC on August 3, 1994, and amended on September 30, 1996, December 6, 1997, October 2, 1999, and June 8, 2002.

(8) NONADMITTED INSURER.—The term "nonadmitted insurer" means, with respect to a State, an insurer not licensed to engage in the business of insurance in such State.

(9) QUALIFIED RISK MANAGER.—The term "qualified risk manager" means, with respect to a policyholder of commercial insurance, a person who meets all of the following requirements:

(A) The person is an employee of, or third party consultant retained by, the commercial policyholder.

(B) The person provides skilled services in loss prevention, loss reduction, or risk and insurance coverage analysis, and purchase of insurance.

(C) The person—

(i)(I) has a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university in risk management, business administration, finance, economics, or any other field determined by a State insurance commissioner or other State regulatory official or entity to demonstrate minimum competence in risk management; and

(II)(aa) has three years of experience in risk financing, claims administration, loss prevention, risk and insurance analysis, or purchasing commercial lines of insurance; or

(bb) has one of the following designations: (AA) a designation as a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (in this subparagraph referred to as "CPCU") issued by the American Institute for CPCU/Insurance Institute of America;

(BB) a designation as an Associate in Risk Management (ARM) issued by the American Institute for CPCU/Insurance Institute of America;

(CC) a designation as Certified Risk Manager (CRM) issued by the National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research;

(DD) a designation as a RIMS Fellow (RF) issued by the Global Risk Management Institute; or

(EE) any other designation, certification, or license determined by a State insurance commissioner or other State insurance regulatory official or entity to demonstrate minimum competency in risk management;

(ii)(I) has at least seven years of experience in risk financing, claims administration, loss prevention, risk and insurance coverage analysis, or purchasing commercial lines of insurance; and

(II) has any one of the designations specified in subitems (AA) through (EE) of clause (i)(II)(bb);

(iii) has at least 10 years of experience in risk financing, claims administration, loss prevention, risk and insurance coverage analysis, or purchasing commercial lines of insurance; or

(iv) has a graduate degree from an accredited college or university in risk management, business administration, finance, economics, or any other field determined by a State insurance commissioner or other State regulatory official or entity to demonstrate minimum competence in risk management.

(10) PREMIUM TAX.—The term “premium tax” means, with respect to surplus lines or independently procured insurance coverage, any tax, fee, assessment, or other charge imposed by a State on an insured based on any payment made as consideration for an insurance contract for such insurance, including premium deposits, assessments, registration fees, and any other compensation given in consideration for a contract of insurance.

(11) SURPLUS LINES BROKER.—The term “surplus lines broker” means an individual, firm, or corporation which is licensed in a State to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance on properties, risks, or exposures located or to be performed in a State with nonadmitted insurers.

(12) STATE.—The term “State” includes any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

TITLE II—REINSURANCE

SEC. 201. REGULATION OF CREDIT FOR REINSURANCE AND REINSURANCE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CREDIT FOR REINSURANCE.—If the State of domicile of a ceding insurer is an NAIC-accredited State, or has financial solvency requirements substantially similar to the requirements necessary for NAIC accreditation, and recognizes credit for reinsurance for the insurer’s ceded risk, then no other State may deny such credit for reinsurance.

(b) ADDITIONAL PREEMPTION OF EXTRATERRITORIAL APPLICATION OF STATE LAW.—In addition to the application of subsection (a), all laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions of a State that is not the domiciliary State of the ceding insurer, except those with respect to taxes and assessments on insurance companies or insurance income, are preempted to the extent that they—

(1) restrict or eliminate the rights of the ceding insurer or the assuming insurer to resolve disputes pursuant to contractual arbitration to the extent such contractual provision is not inconsistent with the provisions of title 9, United States Code;

(2) require that a certain State’s law shall govern the reinsurance contract, disputes arising from the reinsurance contract, or requirements of the reinsurance contract;

(3) attempt to enforce a reinsurance contract on terms different than those set forth in the reinsurance contract, to the extent that the terms are not inconsistent with this title; or

(4) otherwise apply the laws of the State to reinsurance agreements of ceding insurers not domiciled in that State.

SEC. 202. REGULATION OF REINSURER SOLVENCY.

(a) DOMICILIARY STATE REGULATION.—If the State of domicile of a reinsurer is an NAIC-accredited State or has financial solvency requirements substantially similar to the requirements necessary for NAIC accreditation, such State shall be solely responsible for regulating the financial solvency of the reinsurer.

(b) NONDOMICILIARY STATES.—

(1) LIMITATION ON FINANCIAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—If the State of domicile of a reinsurer is an NAIC-accredited State or has financial solvency requirements substantially similar to the requirements necessary for NAIC accreditation, no other State may require the reinsurer to provide any additional financial information other than the information the reinsurer is required to file with its domiciliary State.

(2) RECEIPT OF INFORMATION.—No provision of this section shall be construed as preventing or prohibiting a State that is not the State of domicile of a reinsurer from receiving a copy of any financial statement filed with its domiciliary State.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this title, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) CEDING INSURER.—The term “ceding insurer” means an insurer that purchases reinsurance.

(2) DOMICILIARY STATE.—The terms “State of domicile” and “domiciliary State” means, with respect to an insurer or reinsurer, the State in which the insurer or reinsurer is incorporated or entered through, and licensed.

(3) REINSURANCE.—The term “reinsurance” means the assumption by an insurer of all or part of a risk undertaken originally by another insurer.

(4) REINSURER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “reinsurer” means an insurer to the extent that the insurer—

(i) is principally engaged in the business of reinsurance;

(ii) does not conduct significant amounts of direct insurance as a percentage of its net premiums; and

(iii) is not engaged in an ongoing basis in the business of soliciting direct insurance.

(B) DETERMINATION.—A determination of whether an insurer is a reinsurer shall be made under the laws of the State of domicile in accordance with this paragraph.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” includes any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

TITLE III—RULE OF CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 301. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or amendments to this Act shall be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the application of the antitrust laws. Any implied or actual conflict between this Act and any amendments to this Act and the antitrust laws shall be resolved in favor of the operation of the antitrust laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank, Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman GINNY BROWN-WAITE for her help and leadership on H.R. 1065, the Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act of 2007, as it has moved through the legislative process both in this Congress and in the 109th Congress, when it passed by 417-0. It has been a pleasure working with the gentleman and again I appreciate your leadership on this issue.

I also would like to thank the Capital Markets Subcommittee Chair PAUL KANJORSKI and Ranking Member SPENCER BACHUS of the committee for their support of this measure, as well as Chairman BARNEY FRANK for his support in moving this legislation to the House floor.

I reintroduced this bill along with Congresswoman GINNY BROWN-WAITE in February with strong bipartisan support and strong support from the Financial Services Committee. As I previously mentioned, this legislation is virtually identical to legislation that passed the House unanimously by a vote of 417-0 in the 109th Congress. The bipartisan support for this bill is a good example of how both sides can come together to introduce and pass legislation that is not about partisan politics, is not about Republicans or Democrats.

In short, H.R. 1065 would significantly improve the regulation of two specific areas in the commercial insurance marketplace, namely, surplus lines and reinsurance transactions.

Disparate and sometimes directly conflicting State laws in the surplus lines market create unnecessary inefficiencies and make it difficult, if not impossible in some cases, for producers and others to comply with their legal duties.

Testifying in 2005 in front of the Capital Markets Subcommittee on behalf of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the Pennsylvania insurance commissioner acknowledged the need for reform of surplus lines regulation, specifically with regard to the way premium tax allocation is handled. According to Commissioner Diane Koken, “Either Federal legislation or another alternative such as an interstate compact may be needed at some point to resolving conflicting State laws regulating multi-state transactions. The area where this will most likely be necessary is surplus lines premium tax allocation. Federal legislation might also be one option to consider to enable multi-state property risks to access surplus lines coverage in their home States under a single policy subject to a single set of requirements.”

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, addresses the area of surplus lines reform

that I just mentioned as well as necessary reforms in the area of reinsurance. Specifically, this legislation would prohibit the extraterritorial application of State laws and allow ceding insurers and reinsurers to resolve disputes pursuant to contractual arbitration clauses. This reform is long overdue and necessary to restore regulatory certainty to the reinsurance market.

Finally, I would like to note that while many legislative attempts to reform the insurance industry encounter some industry opposition, this bill, Mr. Speaker, is supported by the insurers, the reinsurers and the agents and brokers as well as by most of the State regulators.

I look forward to the passage of this legislation today.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Kansas for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1056, the Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act that my colleague, Congressman DENNIS MOORE, introduced. This bill is almost identical to the bill I introduced last year and the one which he referred to that passed the House by 417-0.

For States like Florida and many others on the gulf coast where commercial insurance has been difficult or impossible to come by, the only recourse is to turn to the surplus lines or non-admitted market. Certainly streamlining the rules in this market is crucial to the consumer and any State that is facing an insurance crisis. Unfortunately, today, the regulation of the surplus lines market is fragmented and cumbersome. Insurers and brokers who want to provide insurance across State lines are subjected to a myriad of different State tax and licensing requirements. Oftentimes these regulations will conflict, making it impossible for one company to comply with all of them.

This situation leaves policyholders underinsured and with even less of a choice in providers. Moreover, most of the companies that purchase insurance in the nonadmitted market do so frequently. These sophisticated commercial entities are large corporations that employ educated risk advisers with a thorough understanding of the market and their risk exposure. Yet in most States, including my home State of Florida, these companies are required to shop around in the admitted market where they know they will be denied coverage, they know that this has happened before and it will happen again, they know they can't get it.

They have to do this before they are permitted to shop in the surplus lines market. This practice is useless and cumbersome and it only adds to the cost for the policyholder. H.R. 1056 solves this quagmire, giving policyholders alternatives to restrictive markets.

The bill also acknowledges another program in the insurance industry, this time on the reinsurance front. Over the years, some State regulators have been taking it upon themselves to throw out arbitration agreements between reinsurance providers and primary carriers. These are contractual agreements decided upon by very sophisticated parties on both sides of the transaction in order to settle disputes without having to go to court. If these agreements are valid in one State, they should be valid in all accredited States. Therefore, H.R. 1056 prohibits States from voiding established, contractual arbitration agreements between reinsurers and primary companies.

Obtaining insurance already has its obstacles. Adding 49 other States' speed bumps of inefficient State rules does not help. And with reinsurance rates rising at crippling numbers, companies should be encouraged to stay out of the courts and follow their own arbitration agreements. Our bill provides commonsense solutions to the nonadmitted and reinsurance market and it enjoys broad support. I thank Mr. MOORE for sponsoring this important insurance reform with me.

I urge the Members of the House to support this bill.

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

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) who is a member of the Financial Services Committee as well as chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman from Kansas for yielding time to me. I rise in strong support of H.R. 1065, the Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act of 2007. Congressman MOORE from Kansas has been a very effective member of the Financial Services Committee and I commend him for his leadership on reinsurance legislation. I thank the gentleman for sponsoring this much-needed legislation and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

This important bill will harmonize and in some cases reduce regulation and taxation of this insurance by vesting the home State where it is headquartered with the sole authority to regulate and collect the taxes on a surplus lines transaction. Those taxes that will be collected may be distributed according to a future interstate compact. Absent such a compact, their distribution would be up to the home State.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will implement streamlined Federal standards allowing a sophisticated commercial purchaser to access surplus lines insurance. It will reduce uncertainty in this marketplace. It will also help protect contractual agreements between sophisticated parties entering into a reinsurance contract. For these reasons and more, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any additional speakers on this bill, but I wanted to take a moment to indicate that it is such a pleasure to work with Mr. MOORE, the gentleman from Kansas. He always looks at things in a very bipartisan manner and always with the end goal in mind of helping the consumer. I certainly appreciate that. I know that the policyholders out there do. I would certainly urge passage of this very important bill, H.R. 1056.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to return the compliment to Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE, the gentlewoman from Florida, and thank her very, very much for her hard work on this legislation and for her leadership. She also works in a bipartisan manner in the times I have seen her in our committee and on the House floor. I very much appreciate it. We need more of that.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1065.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BAIL BOND FAIRNESS ACT OF 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2286) to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure with respect to bail bond forfeitures.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2286

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bail Bond Fairness Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Historically, the sole purpose of bail in the United States was to ensure the defendant's physical presence before a court. The bail bond would be declared forfeited only when the defendant actually failed to appear as ordered. Violations of other, collateral conditions of release might cause release to be revoked, but would not cause the bond to be forfeited. This historical basis of bail bonds best served the interests of the Federal criminal justice system.

(2) Currently, however, Federal judges have merged the purposes of bail and other conditions of release. These judges now order bonds forfeited in cases in which the defendant actually appears as ordered but he fails to comply with some collateral condition of release. The judges rely on Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 46(f) as authority to do so.

(3) Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 46(e) has withstood repeated court challenges. In cases such as *United States v. Vaccaro*, 51 F.3d 189 (9th Cir. 1995), the rule has been held to authorize Federal courts specifically to order bonds forfeited for violation of collateral conditions of release and not simply for failure to appear. Moreover, the Federal courts have continued to uphold and expand the rule because they find no evidence of congressional intent to the contrary, specifically finding that the provisions of the Bail Bond Act of 1984 were not intended to supersede the rule.

(4) As a result, the underwriting of bonds for Federal defendants has become virtually impossible. Where once the bail agent was simply ensuring the defendant's physical presence, the bail agent now must guarantee the defendant's general good behavior. Insofar as the risk for the bail agent has greatly increased, the industry has been forced to adhere to strict underwriting guidelines, in most cases requiring full collateral. Consequently, the Federal criminal justice system has been deprived of any meaningful bail bond option.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to restore bail bonds to their historical origin as a means solely to ensure the defendant's physical presence before a court; and

(2) to grant judges the authority to declare bail bonds forfeited only where the defendant actually fails to appear physically before a court as ordered and not where the defendant violates some other collateral condition of release.

SEC. 3. FAIRNESS IN BAIL BOND FORFEITURE.

(a)(1) Section 3146(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end "The judicial officer may not declare forfeited a bail bond for violation of a release condition set forth in clauses (i)–(xi), (xiii), or (xiv) of section 3142(c)(1)(B)."

(2) Section 3148(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end "Forfeiture of a bail bond executed under clause (xii) of section 3142(c)(1)(B) is not an available sanction under this section and such forfeiture may be declared only pursuant to section 3146."

(b) Rule 46(f)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure is amended by striking "a condition of the bond is breached" and inserting "the defendant fails to appear physically before the court".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter on this bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Members of the Congress, of the House here, the bail bond system in our country is under considerable pressure. Some would even say that it is broken. The reason is that Federal courts increasingly use bail bonds to ensure

that a defendant appear in court but it also is used to make sure that a defendant complies with other requirements while awaiting trial.

□ 1600

As a result of a combination of these factors, there have been critical problems that have developed. When you merge the use of bail bonds, there is presented a greater risk of forfeiture, and, thereby, this has made it much more difficult, especially for those with limited means to obtain these bonds. Frequently, the amount of the bond goes up, sometimes a great deal.

Now, historically, of course, the sole purpose of a bail bond was to ensure that a defendant appears in court. When a bail bond is also used to guarantee compliance with collateral conditions of release, a court may direct the bond to be forfeited should the defendant violate any of these conditions, even if the defendant appears in court. This, of course, heightens the risk of forfeiture and makes it now virtually impossible for many persons to obtain these bonds, because the cost of the bond goes up.

Also, merging the traditional purpose of bail bonds with other conditions of release creates a perverse situation where, ironically, there are less incentives for the defendants who violate these conditions to then appear in court. As a result, thousands of defendants are failing to come to court, which increases the expense and effort by Federal law enforcement officers to secure their presence.

Also, family members and friends of the defendant, who pledge their homes, put the house up for capital, life savings or other assets, are at greater risk of losing their property as well. So, fewer family members and friends feel that they can afford to take the risk of assisting and procuring a bond.

Now, while wealthy defendants can use their own assets for collateral and gain pretrial release, those less-wealthy defendants are incarcerated before trial even when there is little or no risk of flight or threat to the public. Remanding a defendant into pretrial detention when he or she is neither a flight risk nor a danger to society also creates an undue financial burden on our Nation's prison system.

It's also highly unfair to an accused who, of course, thus far, has not been convicted yet of anything. So, hence, the Bail Bond Fairness Act.

What this measure does is attempt to address the problem by restoring the historical purpose of bail bonds; namely, that they be used solely to ensure the defendant's physical presence before a court. Under this measure, a Federal judge has the authority to declare a bail bond forfeited only under the circumstances of where the defendant actually fails to appear in court as ordered, and not simply because the defendant has violated some collateral condition of release.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill and am very pleased to com-

mend the leaders and members of the subcommittee on crime for helping us bring this measure forward in such an expeditious manner.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2286, the Bail Bond Fairness Act of 2007. Bail bonds are rare in Federal court, and this bill will ensure that bail bondsmen and defendants are treated fairly.

This legislation amends the Federal code to prohibit a judicial officer from forfeiting a bail bond when a defendant violates a performance condition other than failing to appear in court. On balance, I think it is unfair to hold bail bondsmen accountable for compliance with performance conditions such as drug testing, curfews and other non-appearance-related conditions.

A bail bondsman should be held accountable for ensuring the defendant appears at all court dates. It is hard to justify authorizing a court to forfeit a bond for performance conditions that a bail bondsman cannot enforce.

I want to acknowledge the commitment of my colleagues, Congressman WEXLER and Congressman KELLER, who sponsored this bill and have demonstrated leadership on this issue. For these reasons, I support the bill and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

Mr. CONYERS. I commend the ranking member, Mr. FORBES, for his good work on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the subcommittee chairman on crime, another gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2286, the Bail Bond Fairness Act of 2007. The legislation was introduced by Representative WEXLER and Representative KELLER on May 10 of this year and largely mirrors several other bipartisan bills introduced in the last three Congresses.

Historically, bail has been issued for the sole purpose of ensuring a defendant's appearance in court as ordered. In recent years, however, Federal judges have ordered bail bonds forfeited even when the defendants, in fact, appear in court, but they have violated collateral conditions of pretrial release.

Although actual bail forfeitures of bonds for violating collateral conditions are rare, and one of the reasons is that bail bonds, in fact, are rare, one reason cited is that some Federal judges now allow defendants to deposit their own funds in amounts that would be equal to the premium of a commercial bond underwriter, making the commercial bond unnecessary. Even so, the practice of attaching ancillary conditions to the issuance of a bond has created a barrier to pretrial release, because the risk of bond forfeiture has forced many commercial bond underwriters to avoid the Federal system altogether.

We find that commercial bond underwriters will opt to offer their services to defendants in the State system where a risk of loss is lower because they only have to be concerned about the defendant's appearance, not his behavior, or where they also maintain that friends and family of defendants are reluctant to post a bond for defendants because they cannot risk their homes or life savings based on a person's behavior. They may be able to risk it assuming he will show up in court.

H.R. 2286 would return the use of bail bonds to the historic purpose of limiting a judge's authority to order a bond forfeited to a defendant's failure to appear physically in court. It is important to note that the bill does preserve a judge's authority to impose conditions of release and to revoke the pretrial release and order pretrial custody, should a defendant violate any conditions of pretrial release. But so long as a defendant actually appears in court, the bond should not be revoked.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, you have heard from the other speakers here today about the fairness of this measure, and it certainly is a measure of fairness, how we treat bail bondsmen. And also as the chairman has pointed out, this is a matter of fairness of how we treat individuals who need bond, which they may not otherwise may have.

Even though this is a measure that is very fair, even fair measures don't make it into law without the hard work of individuals. That's why I want to compliment Congressman WEXLER on the good job that he has done. Congressman KELLER, who wanted to be here today to speak on this bill, has worked very hard and tirelessly for it in the committee. Unfortunately, his flight has been delayed, and he won't be here today. But I know if he were here, he would speak on the record here as he has spoken in the committee on this bill.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to one of the authors of this measure, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER).

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I first and foremost want to thank Chairman CONYERS for his cooperation and great support for H.R. 2286. I also want to thank Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH for working in such a bipartisan fashion.

I especially want to thank Congressman KELLER, Mr. FORBES mentioned just a moment ago. Mr. KELLER and I have worked hand in hand in pushing the Bail Bond Fairness Act, and I know very much that he wished to be here to speak this evening.

I also want to thank Mr. FORBES for his very kind words and his cooperation as well, as well as the sub-

committee chairman, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, the Bail Bond Fairness Act will ensure equality and fairness for all Federal defendants and will make it possible for bail agents to once again write bonds in Federal courts. This bill addresses a serious problem in the Federal bail bond system, created by requirements that bail agents not only ensure the appearance of defendants in court, but also guarantee other conditions beyond the agent's control, such as alcohol consumption and curfews.

As a result, bail bond agents have stopped writing bonds in Federal cases, and lower-income defendants have become unable to post bail while wealthier individuals do so easily. The result is that poor defendants can't afford bail and must, therefore, stay in jail at taxpayer expense.

H.R. 2286 would remedy these problems and allow professional bail agents to return to the Federal court system. The bill mandates that a bail bond may be forfeited only if a defendant fails to appear in court as ordered.

This legislation reaffirms the original purpose of a bail bond, to guarantee the defendant appears in court. Bail agents must be allowed to serve this purpose and cannot be expected to serve as full-time nannies for defendants whom judges determine are safe to be released.

It is important to note that the Bail Bond Fairness Act totally preserves the authority of the judge to grant or refuse bail. The judge, and the judge only, will continue to make a determination on flight risk and any possible threat to the community.

Judges will still have the discretion to determine who is eligible and who is not for pretrial release, what conditions accompany that release, and whether or not a suspected criminal is a flight risk. We all agree that if a suspected criminal is a threat to the society, to the community, he or she should stay in jail.

The bottom line is that bail bonds should guarantee appearance in court. Any other appropriate conditions set by the judge, such as alcohol or drug consumption, should not be tied to the bond.

This bill enjoys a great deal of bipartisan support, and I again want to thank Congressman KELLER, my colleague from Florida, as one of the prime sponsors and again thank Chairman CONYERS.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2286 restores the use of bail bonds to the traditional purpose of ensuring that a defendant appears in court as directed. It removes the risk that a defendant's family and friends will forfeit their homes, savings, or other assets even though the defendant appears, just because of failure to comply with some unrelated collateral condition. And perhaps most importantly, it will increase the

appropriate availability of bail bonds to all, not just the wealthy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2286, the "Bail Bond Fairness Act of 2007." I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to report this legislation favorably to the House. I am confident that working together we can address and resolve the real challenges regarding bail bond practices in the Federal judiciary.

H.R. 2286 reforms the current practice of placing performance-based pretrial release conditions on bail bonds. This practice apparently has had the unintended consequence of prompting some commercial bond underwriters to avoid the Federal system and placing a heavy risk on family and friends of defendants who would collateralize property to satisfy a bond. As a result, many defendants are being incarcerated pending disposition of their criminal cases who would otherwise not be confined.

H.R. 2286 restores bail bonds to their historic purpose by prohibiting the forfeiture of a bail bond in all situations except for a defendant's failure to appear. It does this by amending Rule 46(f)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure by striking "a condition of the bond is breached" and inserting "the defendant fails to appear physically before the court." The bill, however, preserves a judge's ability to revoke a defendant's bail status and order pretrial detention should a defendant violate any condition of pretrial release.

Mr. Speaker, to better understand the problems in the Federal bail bond system and to evaluate the efficacy of the H.R. 2286, this subcommittee held a legislative hearing at which we heard from an impressive panel of witnesses, which included: The Hon. ROBERT WEXLER, Congressman, Florida 19th District; the Hon. RIC KELLER, Congressman, Florida 8th District; Ms. Linda Braswell, MCBA, Braswell Surety Services, Inc., Stuart, Florida; and Hon. Tommy E. Miller, Magistrate, United States District Court, Eastern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for us to remember that the right to bail is guaranteed by the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Historically, the sole purpose of affording bail to a defendant is to ensure the defendant's appearance in court. In recent years, however, Federal judges have taken to merging the purposes of bail with other conditions of release and in many cases have been ordering bonds forfeited even in cases in which the defendant actually appears in court as ordered. The bail is ordered forfeited by the court upon a determination by the court that the defendant failed to comply with some collateral condition of release.

In support of these forfeiture determinations judges rely on Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 46(f) as authority. For example, if the defendant uses illegal drugs, fails to maintain a job, travels beyond a certain area, the defendant's bail may be revoked, and the defendant returned to jail and the bond forfeited.

Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 46(f) has been upheld by the courts against challenge. For example, in *United States v. Vaccaro*, 51 F.3d 189 (9th Cir. 1995), the court held that the rule 46(f) authorized bond forfeiture for violation of collateral conditions of release and not simply for failure to appear. Moreover, courts have cited congressional failure to act to change this ruling as ratification that it is correct.

Mr. Speaker, the consequences of forfeiting bond as a method of monitoring a defendant's performance rather than for its historically narrowly tailored purpose are several. First, because bond writers are forced to consider the defendant's performance and behavior while on pretrial release, the risk to bond agents has increased dramatically, forcing them to adhere to strict underwriting guidelines. The strict guidelines adversely and disproportionately affect poor and disadvantaged defendants by exacerbating the difficulty in obtaining pretrial release. This means, of course, that only defendants with significant assets are afforded the benefits of pretrial release. Poor defendants are therefore incarcerated before conviction, even those who pose no significant risk of flight and no threat to the public.

Second, family members of the defendant or anyone willing to raise collateral to help procure a bail bond for a loved one are also put at undue risk. This is because a person who puts up his or her home or other assets as collateral may nevertheless lose their property even if the defendant attends court appearances and is not a threat to the community. Thus, fewer friends and family are willing to assist in procuring a bond and those who do may unjustly lose their assets.

Mr. Speaker, a third unintended consequence of this practice of bail forfeiture for collateral pre-trial release violations places an undue financial burden and physical strain on the prison system. Last, revoking a defendant's bond for performance issue such as unemployment reduces considerably a defendant's incentive to make court appearances. Consequently, bond revocation for a performance matter has created a flight risk of a defendant who otherwise may not have been.

In short, placing performance-based conditions on a bail bond strays from the historic purpose of a bail bond, which is to ensure the appearance of a defendant before the court as ordered. The avowed intent of H.R. 2286, sponsored by Congressman WEXLER, is to restore bail bonds to their historic purpose by prohibiting the forfeiture of a bail bond in all situations except for a defendant's failure to appear.

It does this by amending Rule 46(f)(1) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure by striking "a condition of the bond is breached" and inserting "the defendant fails to appear physically before the court." The bill, however, preserves a judge's ability to revoke a defendant's bail status and order pretrial detention should a defendant violate any condition of pretrial release.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to support this much needed and thoughtful legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2286.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

ERNEST CHILDERS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 366) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 366

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF ERNEST CHILDERS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States.

It is an honor and a privilege for me to stand here before you today to talk about one such individual. His name was Ernest Childers.

Ernest Childers was the first Native American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action in 1943 at the battle of Oliveto, Italy, when he charged German machine gun nests against machine gun fire.

Although suffering a broken foot in the assault, Childers ordered covering fire, advanced up a hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests, and capturing an enemy mortar observer.

His courageous action helped American troops win the battle and save the lives of countless American soldiers. Childers was also awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his actions.

H.R. 366 would name the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma as the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic."

Until his death on March 17, 2005, Childers was Oklahoma's last Congressional Medal of Honor recipient still living in the State. It is only fitting

that we remember such a courageous soldier by naming a veterans outpatient clinic in his honor.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank you and Chairman FILNER for bringing these four suspensions to the floor today. These bills pay tribute to the extraordinary valor and fidelity displayed under fire by three soldiers and one Marine by naming VA facilities in their honor.

In earning the Medal of Honor, Charles George, Ernest Childers, Oscar Johnson and Raymond Murphy were bestowed this Nation's highest award for valor in combat. Generally presented to its recipients by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress, the medal is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor.

At a time when corrosive influences in our society concern many Americans, the intrepid self-sacrifice of these men, two of whom were Native Americans, endures untarnished. It is, therefore, entirely fitting that we name, in their honor, four Department of Veterans Affairs facilities that represent the fulfillment of this Nation's obligation to those who serve us and who, through their sacrifices, ensure our continued liberties.

The bill before us today, H.R. 366, was introduced by Congressman JOHN SULLIVAN, and would honor Ernest Childers, a Native American and Army veteran who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor in combat in Italy during World War II. I appreciate the initiative and hard work of my colleague from Oklahoma that he took in bringing this bill to the House.

A Native American of the Creek Nation from Oklahoma, Ernest Childers enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937 to earn extra money while attending the Indian school in North Central Oklahoma. Childers deployed from Fort Sill, Oklahoma to Africa to fight the Axis in World War II.

Second Lieutenant Childers, a member of the 45th Infantry Division, was cited for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action September 22, 1943 at Oliveto, Italy. Having already suffered a broken foot, he single-handedly captured enemy gun positions after ordering his eight troops to cover him with fire. Displaying exceptional leadership, initiative, calmness under fire and conspicuous gallantry, Lieutenant Childers served as an inspiration to his men.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the complete text of Lieutenant Childers' citation award be included in the RECORD.

The President of the United States in the name of the Congress takes pleasures in presenting the Medal of Honor to Ernest Childers.

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 45th Infantry Division. Place and date: At Oliveto, Italy, 22 September

1943. Entered service at: Tulsa, Okla. Birth: Broken Arrow, Okla. G.O. No.: 30, 8 April 1944.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action on 22 September 1943, at Oliveto, Italy. Although 2d Lt. Childers previously had just suffered a fractured instep he, with 8 enlisted men, advanced up a hill toward enemy machinegun nests. The group advanced to a rock wall overlooking a cornfield and 2d Lt. Childers ordered a base of fire laid across the field so that he could advance. When he was fired upon by 2 enemy snipers from a nearby house he killed both of them. He moved behind the machinegun nests and killed all occupants of the nearer one. He continued toward the second one and threw rocks into it. When the 2 occupants of the nest raised up, he shot 1. The other was killed by 1 of the 8 enlisted men. 2d Lt. Childers continued his advance toward a house farther up the hill, and single-handed, captured an enemy mortar observer. The exceptional leadership, initiative, calmness under fire, and conspicuous gallantry displayed by 2d Lt. Childers were an inspiration to his men.

Mr. Speaker, Ernest Childers continued to serve his Nation after the war. He taught jungle training in Panama, and winter training in Alaska before retiring in 1965 as a Lieutenant Colonel. A brief stint with the Job Corps program in Washington ended after he suffered a heart attack. Upon returning to Oklahoma, he spoke with students about the emotional cost of war.

Most recently, Lieutenant Colonel Childers wrote an inspirational message to the Nation against racism to discourage attacks against Arab Americans after our Nation was attacked on September 11, 2001. Childers wrote, "Even though, as a Native American, I have darker skin than some Americans, that doesn't mean I'm any less patriotic. Even during those times in our history when Native Americans were persecuted and discriminated against, we still volunteered for military service."

He said, "Remember, Native Americans didn't even receive the vote until World War I, yet we served in military action because, when all is said and done, we are loyal and patriotic Americans."

Ernest Childers died on March 17, 2005. His legacy of valor and courage for future generations of American lives on and it is supremely appropriate that we recognize his legacy by naming this VA facility after him.

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN), who sponsored this bill.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 366, which will designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Ernest Childers VA Outpatient Clinic to honor one of our Nation's finest military heroes.

Ernest Childers holds the distinction of being the first Native American to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action in 1943 at the battle of Oliveto, Italy, where he charged the German machine gun nest against machine gun fire. Although suffering a broken foot in the assault, Childers ordered covering fire and advanced up the hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests, and capturing an enemy mortar observer. His courageous action helped American troops win the battle and saved the lives of American soldiers. Childers was also awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his actions.

Born in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Childers enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937 to earn extra money while attending the Chilocco Indian School in north central Oklahoma. While stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, he was deployed to Africa to fight in World War II.

Childers retired from the Army in 1965 as a Lieutenant Colonel, but remained very active in the Tulsa community, serving Indian youth which led to the naming of the middle school in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma in his honor.

As a proud Creek Indian, in 1966, Childers was honored by the Tulsa Chapter of the Council of American Indians as "Oklahoma's Most Outstanding Indian."

Of his military service in World War II, Childers once said, "This American Indian has only one country to defend, and when you're picked on, the American Indian never turns his back." A fitting quote from a man who exemplified courage under fire and dedication to defending our Nation.

Until his death on March 17, 2005, Childers was one of Oklahoma's last Congressional Medal of Honor recipients still living in the State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to honor his life and legacy. We were honored to have him grace us with his model character, defend us with his bravery, and leave us all a life well lived.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional Members who have requested time, but I just would encourage a positive vote on this bill for, obviously, someone who loved our country very, very much, and would encourage Members to support this resolution.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 366.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 366.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 366.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHARLES GEORGE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2546) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2546

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF CHARLES GEORGE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center located at 1100 Tunnel Road, Asheville, North Carolina, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

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

In its history, the Medal of Honor has been awarded only 3,463 times. 3,458 of those were awarded for separate acts of heroism. I'm here today to tell you about one such act and the extraordinary individual who performed it. I am truly in awe of his courage and selflessness.

His name was Charles George. He was a Private First Class in the United States Army. PFC George distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on the night of November 30, 1952.

He was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. Subject to intense mortar and machine gun fire, and suffering several casualties throughout the advance, he fought

valiantly, and upon reaching the crest of the hill, leaped into the trenches and engaged with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat.

When friendly troops were ordered to move back upon completion of the assignment, he and two comrades remained to cover the withdrawal. While in the process of leaving the trenches, a hostile soldier hurled a grenade into their midst.

PFC George shouted a warning to one comrade, pushed the other soldier out of danger, and with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. Although seriously wounded in this display of valor, he refrained from any outcry which would divulge the position of his companions.

The two soldiers evacuated him to the forward aid station and shortly thereafter he succumbed to his wounds.

This brave young man epitomized courage and self sacrifice. To show our deep appreciation, and so that we never forget, H.R. 2546 would name the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

□ 1630

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2546, which would rename the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, the Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

This legislation was introduced by my colleague from North Carolina, Representative HEATH SHULER, and I appreciate his efforts to bring this bill to the floor for consideration so that we can pay tribute to yet another Medal of Honor recipient.

This legislation honors a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his comrades in arms and for his country. As a grateful Nation, it is fitting and right to offer tribute to him by giving his name to a facility that expresses our Nation's promise to those who served us in military uniform.

Private First Class Charles George was a native of Cherokee, North Carolina, and a member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. He served his country bravely in the U.S. Army and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on the night of November 30, 1952.

On that night in Korea, Private First Class George was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. During the execution of its mission, the group was subjected to intense enemy fire and suffered several casualties. PFC George fought valiantly and, upon reaching the crest of the hill, leapt into the trenches and

closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. When friendly troops were ordered to pull back upon completion of the mission, he and two comrades provided cover for the withdrawal of troops. While they were leaving the trenches, a grenade was hurled into their midst. PFC George shouted a warning to his comrades, pushed one soldier out of the way, and threw himself on the grenade. Even though severely injured and certainly in agony, PFC George remained quiet so that his comrades' position would not be disclosed. His companions evacuated him to the first aid station, where he shortly succumbed to his wounds.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I will submit the text of Private First Class George's Medal of Honor citation for the RECORD.

*GEORGE, CHARLES

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company C, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Songnae-dong, Korea, 30 November 1952. Entered service at: Whittier, N.C. Born: 23 August 1932, Cherokee, N.C. G.O. NO.: 19, 18 March 1954. Citation: PFC George, a member of Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on the night of 30 November 1952. He was a member of a raiding party committed to engage the enemy and capture a prisoner for interrogation. Forging up the rugged slope of the key terrain feature, the group was subjected to intense mortar and machine gun fire and suffered several casualties. Throughout the advance, he fought valiantly and, upon reaching the crest of the hill, leaped into the trenches and closed with the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. When friendly troops were ordered to move back upon completion of the assignment, he and 2 comrades remained to cover the withdrawal. While in the process of leaving the trenches a hostile soldier hurled a grenade into their midst. PFC George shouted a warning to 1 comrade, pushed the other soldier out of danger, and, with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. Although seriously wounded in this display of valor, he refrained from any outcry which would divulge the position of his companions. The 2 soldiers evacuated him to the forward aid station and shortly thereafter he succumbed to his wound. PFC George's indomitable courage, consummate devotion to duty, and willing self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the military service.

Mr. Speaker, Private First Class Charles George's incomparable heroism exemplifies the courage, self-sacrifice, and patriotism that are woven throughout the fabric of our Armed Forces. His consuming regard for his comrades exemplifies the very strong bond of those who served in the military feel for one another. PFC George made the ultimate sacrifice for us, and it befits that signal act that we name the Asheville North Carolina VA Medical Center in his honor.

I urge my colleagues to support this excellent legislation, introduced by Mr. SHULER, so that we can name the facility in honor of a very, very brave man who helped our country and certainly

the country of South Korea during the Korean War.

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in urging all of my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 2546.

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request that a great honor be bestowed on an equally great soldier. I am referring to PFC Charles George, a son of western North Carolina who bravely sacrificed himself for his fellow soldiers and for his country. Private First Class George came from Cherokee, NC. He was a proud member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and an exemplary soldier in the U.S. Army.

On the night of November 30, 1952, George's company was operating near the South Korean village of Songnae-dong. While charging an enemy camp, Private First Class George dodged mortar and machine-gun fire, jumped into the enemy's trenches, and engaged in hand-to-hand combat. When the American soldiers were ordered to retreat, Private First Class George remained behind to ensure the safety of his withdrawing companions. The enemy then launched a grenade into his company, at which point Private First Class George dove upon the explosive, absorbing the blast and saving his comrades. He died soon after while being evacuated by his fellow soldiers.

Private First Class George was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and is the only member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians to be given this mark of distinction. Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask that we bestow another honor upon Private First Class George by placing his name on the Asheville VA Medical Center. This center has a 112-bed acute care facility and a 120-bed extended care facility that serves veterans in western North Carolina and sections of Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. It provides quality and comprehensive primary, tertiary, and long-term health care to those who have valiantly sacrificed for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership on this issue, as well as the American Legion and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians for their diligent efforts to ensure that PFC George is given the honor he deserves. I ask that my colleagues support me in renaming the Asheville VA Medical Center the Charles George VA Medical Center.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2546.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2546.

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

There was no objection.

OSCAR G. JOHNSON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2602) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, as the "Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2602

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

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY, IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN.

The Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility". Any reference to that medical facility in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

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

Medal of Honor recipients have performed selfless acts of courage. When reading their citations, we are deeply humbled by the courage and selflessness of their actions to save their comrades and to defend this great country.

H.R. 2602 would name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, as the Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility.

The following is from the citation for Sergeant Johnson, who at the time of his action was a private first class in the United States Army. It was September, 1944, and the Allied Forces were attempting to break the German defense line in Italy known as the "Gothic Line":

He practically single handedly protected the left flank of his company's position in the offensive to break the German Gothic Line. Company B was the extreme left assault unit of the corps. The advance was stopped by heavy fire from Monticelli Ridge, and the company took fire behind an embankment.

Sergeant Johnson, a mortar gunner, having expended his ammunition, assumed the duties of a rifleman. As leader of a squad of seven men, he was ordered to establish a combat post 50 yards to the left of the company to cover its exposed flank.

Repeated enemy counterattacks, supported by artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire from the high ground to his front, had by the afternoon of 16 September killed or wounded all of his men. Collecting weapons and ammunition from his fallen comrades, in the face of hostile fire, he held his exposed position and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy, who several times came close enough to throw hand grenades at him.

On the night of September 16, the enemy launched its heaviest attack on Company B, putting its greatest pressure against the lone defender of the left flank. In spite of mortar fire which crashed about him and machine gun bullets which whipped the chest of his shallow trench, Sergeant Johnson stood erect and repulsed the attack with grenades and small arms fire.

He remained awake and alert throughout the night, frustrating all attempts at infiltration. On 17 September, 25 German soldiers surrendered to him. Two men, sent to reinforce him that afternoon, were caught in a devastating mortar and artillery barrage.

With no thought for his own safety, Sergeant Johnson rushed to the shell hole where they lay half buried and seriously wounded, covered their position by his fire, and assisted a medical corpsman in rendering aid. That night he secured their removal to the rear and remained on watch until his company was relieved.

Five companies of the German paratroop regiment had been repeatedly committed to the attack on Company B without success. Twenty dead Germans were found in front of his position. By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Sergeant Johnson was in large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempts to turn the exposed left flank. What an incredible hero, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. JOHNSON is no longer with us, but we can keep alive his memory by naming the facility in his honor.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2602, a bill to designate the VA medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, as the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Facility. This legislation was introduced by my colleague from Michigan, Representative BART STUPAK, and it will honor a soldier who served his country with gallantry and distinction under fire during World War II near Scarperia, Italy. I appreciate Congressman STUPAK's hard work and initiative on this legislation.

On September 16, 1944, Sergeant Johnson, a mortar gunner, expended

his ammunition and assumed the duties of a rifleman. As the leader of the squad of seven men, he was ordered to establish a position 50 yards to the left of his company to cover its exposed flank. Repeated enemy counterattacks had by that afternoon killed or wounded all of his men. Collecting weapons and ammunition from his fallen comrades, he continued to hold his exposed position and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy throughout the night. On September 17, 25 German soldiers surrendered to him; 25 soldiers surrendered to one very brave soldier.

Two men were sent out to reinforce him that afternoon, but were caught in devastating mortar fire. Sergeant Johnson secured their removal and continued to hold his position until his company was relieved on September 18. Twenty dead Germans were found in front of his position. By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Sergeant Johnson was in large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempts to turn the exposed left flank.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit Sergeant Johnson's complete Medal of Honor citation into the RECORD.

JOHNSON, OSCAR G.

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company B, 363d Infantry, 91st Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Scarperia, Italy, 1618 September 1944. Entered service at: Foster City, Mich. Birth: Foster City, Mich. G.O. No.: 58, 19 July 1945. Citation: (then Pfc.) He practically single-handedly protected the left flank of his company's position in the offensive to break the German's gothic line. Company B was the extreme left assault unit of the corps. The advance was stopped by heavy fire from Monticelli Ridge, and the company took cover behind an embankment. Sgt. Johnson, a mortar gunner, having expended his ammunition, assumed the duties of a rifleman. As leader of a squad of 7 men he was ordered to establish a combat post 50 yards to the left of the company to cover its exposed flank. Repeated enemy counterattacks, supported by artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire from the high ground to his front, had by the afternoon of 16 September killed or wounded all his men. Collecting weapons and ammunition from his fallen comrades, in the face of hostile fire, he held his exposed position and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy, who several times came close enough to throw hand grenades. On the night of 1617 September, the enemy launched his heaviest attack on Company B, putting his greatest pressure against the lone defender of the left flank. In spite of mortar fire which crashed about him and machinegun bullets which whipped the crest of his shallow trench, Sgt. Johnson stood erect and repulsed the attack with grenades and small arms fire. He remained awake and on the alert throughout the night, frustrating all attempts at infiltration. On 17 September, 25 German soldiers surrendered to him. Two men, sent to reinforce him that afternoon, were caught in a devastating mortar and artillery barrage. With no thought of his own safety, Sgt. Johnson rushed to the shell hole where they lay half buried and seriously wounded, covered their position by his fire, and assisted a Medical Corpsman in rendering aid. That night he secured their removal to the rear and remained on watch until his company was relieved. Five companies of a German paratroop regiment had been repeatedly committed to the attack on Company B

without success. Twenty dead Germans were found in front of his position. By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Sgt. Johnson was in a large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempts to turn the exposed left flank.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Johnson continued to serve his country after the war. He served as a foreman of a National Guard vehicle maintenance shop in Lansing, Michigan, giving his Nation 30 years of service with the National Guard. On May 13, Mr. Johnson died in Iron Mountain, Michigan, leaving behind a legacy of heroism and gallantry.

I support H.R. 2602 as a fitting tribute to a good man who served his Nation well, not just in war but also throughout his life. I certainly urge all of the Members to support this and would remind the Members that certainly Mr. Johnson is one of the many reasons why we do call this, Mr. Johnson's era, the "Greatest Generation."

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this wonderful piece of legislation, Congressman BART STUPAK from the State of Michigan.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2602, a bill to name the Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, after Oscar G. Johnson. I am proud to have authored this legislation and proud to bring it to the floor. Oscar Johnson was a friend of mine, and he was a legend in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

I would like to thank Chairman FILLNER and Ranking Member BUYER for their support of this legislation.

As was mentioned, Oscar Johnson was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner and a Dickinson County native. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions in combat near Scarperia, Italy, in September, 1944.

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I will not go through all the details, as that has already been done by the previous two speakers who have eloquently outlined the heroic actions of Oscar Johnson. Mr. HARE and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE did an excellent job in doing that. I would like to add a few other thoughts.

As was indicated, Sergeant Johnson's service to his country did not stop after he returned home from World War II. In fact, Mr. Johnson continued to serve honorably as a foreman of the National Guard vehicle maintenance shop in Lansing, Michigan, our State capital.

During his 30 years of service, Mr. Johnson worked alongside and guided young soldiers, Vietnam-era veterans, and newly enlisted women in our military service. Oscar Johnson quickly became a beloved member of his local community and exemplified the dedica-

tion and sacrifice made by all the men and women who served in the Armed Forces, especially during World War II. He was a local hero and a great American. Mr. Johnson is one of 68 World War II Medal of Honor recipients to have survived combat.

Mr. Johnson passed away in 1998 and developed a reputation for conducting himself with modesty, dignity and honor.

At this time, I will enter into the RECORD an article entitled, "A Soldier's Story," which appeared in the Iron Mountain Daily News after his death in 1998. This article eloquently describes Mr. Johnson's heroic actions during World War II and his commitment to this country.

A SOLDIER'S STORY
(By Jim Anderson)

Oscar Johnson was reluctant, in a newspaper interview, to relate the details of a World War II battle that earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"The way they describe my role, it sounds like I might have been a little better than I was," he said.

The story of the battle, as told in his medal presentation, is extraordinary.

Johnson, a soldier from Foster City, practically single-handedly defended the left flank of his company's position from a German paratroop regiment.

The certificate accompanying his Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration, tells it as follows:

Near Scarperia, Italy in September 1944, Johnson's company (Company B) was stopped by heavy fire from Monticelli Ridge and took cover behind an embankment. Johnson, a mortar gunner, having expended his ammunition, assumed the duties of a rifleman.

As leader of a squad of seven men, he was ordered to establish a combat post 50 yards to the left of Company B to cover its exposed flank. Repeated enemy counterattacks, supported by artillery, mortar and machine gun fire from the high ground, had by the afternoon of Sept. 16 killed or wounded all his men.

Collecting weapons and ammunition from his fallen comrades, in the face of hostile fire, he held his exposed position and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy, who several times came close enough to throw hand grenades.

That night, the enemy launched a heavy attack on Company B, putting its greatest pressure against the lone defender of the left flank.

In spite of mortar fire that crashed about him and machine gun bullets that whipped the crest of his shallow trench, Johnson stood erect and repulsed the attack with grenades and small-arms fire.

He remained awake and on the alert throughout the night, frustrating all attempts at infiltration.

On Sept. 17, 25 German soldiers surrendered to him. Two men were sent to reinforce him that afternoon, but were caught in a mortar and artillery barrage.

Johnson, ignoring his own safety, rushed to the shell-hole where they lay half-buried and seriously wounded, covered their position by his fire, and assisted a medic in rendering aid. That night, he secured their removal to the rear and remained on watch until his company was relieved.

Five companies of the German paratroop regiment had been repeatedly committed to the attack against Company B without success. Twenty dead Germans were found in front of Johnson's position.

According to his presidential citation, Johnson's heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety was in large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempts to turn the exposed left flank.

Oscar Johnson, one of the rare recipients of the Medal of Honor to have survived combat, died Wednesday at the age of 77.

He had gone on, after the war, to serve as foreman of a National Guard vehicle maintenance shop in Lansing. During 30 years of duty with the Guard, he saw a lot of changes.

"During the '50s, we got a lot of boys joining to avoid the draft," he said in a 1980 Panax Newspapers interview. "A lot of them were farm boys who knew a lot about equipment. I enjoyed working with them. Now we get guys in who have to be taught to drive a stick-shift."

The biggest change, he said, was working with women.

"I can't say anything bad about them," he said. "They make real good jeep drivers and they seem to have more responsibility toward their vehicles. They don't think a thing about pulling out a battery or crawling underneath with an oil pan."

He said the Vietnam-era veterans he worked with at the Guard were really no different than the veterans of World War II or the Korean War.

"The biggest difference is that they don't get as much attention," he said.

After his Guard service, Johnson retired in Dickinson County.

He was a regular church-goer.

A couple of years ago, he attended a Good Friday service at First Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain. I'm sure he attended many others—this happened to be one I managed to make.

Part of the service is the reading of the "Good Friday Solemn Reproaches," representing the agony and reproaches of the crucified Savior.

This line is included:

"I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder."

Those lines might have been echoing in my thoughts when I noticed Oscar.

The sight of his ruddy face and white hair made it especially clear that it took his sacrifices, and those of countless others, to stop the unspeakable horrors inflicted on Jews in Europe.

Near the end of the service, after a silence is kept for meditation on the mystery of redemption, there is a time to visit a cross at the altar.

Traditionally, one is to bow before the cross, touch it, or kiss it.

Oscar Johnson approached the cross, walking with a slight limp as he did in his later years, but with a sure confidence and grace.

He didn't bow before the cross, touch it, or kiss it.

What he did was this. He gave it a casual, respectful soldier's salute and limped back to his pew.

To this day, the memory of that simple gesture brings forward tears.

Maybe it's true, as Johnson claimed, that the Medal of Honor story made him sound a little better than he was.

It must also be true that he was more.

So it is fitting tonight that we honor Oscar Johnson, his years of service and his family by naming the Veterans Affairs Medical Facility in Iron Mountain Michigan the "Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility."

This legislation has been endorsed by the city of Iron Mountain, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American

Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Mr. Johnson was the last Congressional Medal of Honor winner living in the Upper Peninsula. As I stated earlier, he was a friend of mine. I first introduced this legislation in 2000, it is now 2007. It is time for the family and friends to have the honor of Oscar Johnson having his name attached to the VA Medical Facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan.

I would also like to thank the entire Michigan U.S. House delegation for co-sponsoring this legislation, and our two Senators, STABENOW and LEVIN, for their support of this legislation. And I thank the previous speakers.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2602.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 2602.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2602.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAYMOND G. MURPHY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 229) to redesignate a Federal building in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the "Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 229

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION.

The Federal building known and designated as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" located at 1501 San Pedro Drive, SE, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, shall be known and redesignated as the "Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Raymond G. Murphy De-

partment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

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

Mr. Speaker, on December 9, 1861, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced S. 82 in the United States Senate, a bill designed to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by authorizing the production and distribution of "medals of honor". On December 21 the bill was passed, authorizing 200 such medals be produced "which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and Marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantly in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war." President Lincoln signed the bill, and the Medal of Honor was born.

The first Medal of Honor was the Navy Medal of Honor. Raymond Murphy was a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps when he risked his life and went above and beyond the call of duty as a platoon commander in action against the enemy.

Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy mortar shell while leading his evacuation platoon, Second Lieutenant Murphy refused medical aid and continued to lead his men up a hill through hostile mortar and small-arms fire, while shouting words of encouragement to his men.

Under the increasing intense enemy fire, he immediately located casualties as they fell and made several trips up and down the fire-swept hill to direct evacuation teams to the wounded, personally carrying many of the stricken Marines to safety. When reinforcements were needed by the assaulting elements, Second Lieutenant Murphy employed part of his unit as support and, during the ensuing battle, personally killed two of the enemy with his pistol.

With all the wounded evacuated and the assaulting units beginning to disengage, he remained behind with a carbine to cover the movement of friendly forces off the hill, and although suffering intense pain from a previous wound, seized an automatic rifle to provide more firepower when the enemy reappeared in the trenches.

After reaching the base of the hill, he organized a search party and again ascended the slope for a final check on missing Marines, locating and carrying the bodies of a machine gun crew back down the hill.

Wounded a second time while conducting the entire force to the line of departure through a continuing barrage of enemy small-arms, artillery and mortar fire, he once again refused medical attention until assured that every one of his men, including all the casualties, had preceded him to the main lines.

Second Lieutenant Murphy's actions epitomize the "Marine Corps motto, Semper Fidelis, "always faithful," and demonstrate his loyalty and commitment to marine comrades-in-arms.

After the war, Mr. Murphy continued his service to his veteran comrades in New Mexico, serving as Director of Veteran Services at the VA center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Renaming the VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico is a fitting tribute to a tireless advocate of veterans.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are considering S. 229 on the House floor today. This Senate bill would name the VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico the Raymond G. "Jerry" Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Jerry Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honor and the Silver Star for heroism during the Korean War. Its companion bill in the House, H.R. 474, introduced by Representative WILSON, has the support of the entire New Mexico delegation as well as Governor Richardson from that State.

During his service in the United States Marine Corps, Second Lieutenant Murphy was cited for his "conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his life and above and beyond the call of duty as a platoon commander. He was twice wounded, but he repeatedly refused medical attention and continued to lead his men in an assault against a cleverly concealed and well-entrenched enemy force.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would submit for the RECORD the text of Lieutenant Murphy's Medal of Honor citation.

MURPHY, RAYMOND G.

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.). Place and date: Korea, 3 February 1953. Entered service at: Pueblo, Colo. Born: 14 January 1930, Pueblo, Colo. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a platoon commander of Company A, in action against enemy aggressor forces. Although painfully wounded by fragments from an enemy mortar shell while leading his evacuation platoon in support of assault units attacking a cleverly concealed and well-entrenched hostile force occupying commanding ground, 2d Lt. Murphy steadfastly refused medical aid and continued to lead his men up a hill through a withering barrage of hostile mortar and small-arms fire, skillfully maneuvering his force from one position to the next and shouting words of encouragement. Undeterred by the increasing intense enemy fire, he immediately located casualties as they fell and made several trips up and down the fire-swept hill to direct evacuation teams to the wounded, personally carrying many of the stricken marines to safety. When reinforcements were needed by the assaulting elements, 2d Lt. Murphy employed part of his unit as support and, during the ensuing battle, personally killed 2 of the enemy with his pistol. With all the wounded evacuated and the assaulting units beginning

to disengage, he remained behind with a carbine to cover the movement of friendly forces off the hill and, though suffering intense pain from his previous wounds, seized an automatic rifle to provide more firepower when the enemy reappeared in the trenches. After reaching the base of the hill, he organized a search party and again ascended the slope for a final check on missing marines, locating and carrying the bodies of a machine gun crew back down the hill. Wounded a second time while conducting the entire force to the line of departure through a continuing barrage of enemy small-arms, artillery, and mortar fire, he again refused medical assistance until assured that every one of his men, including all casualties, had preceded him to the main lines. His resolute and inspiring leadership, exceptional fortitude, and great personal valor reflect the highest, credit upon 2d Lt. Murphy and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

Mr. Speaker, after the Korean War, Jerry Murphy spent most of his adult life in service to New Mexico's veterans. He was Director of the Veterans Services Division of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, VA Regional Office from 1974 to 1997.

Jerry Murphy was a paragon of service because after his retirement he served as a volunteer at the VA Hospital, pushing veterans in their wheelchairs to their appointments. Many of those veterans did not know who was helping them, but that's the kind of man that Jerry was. This brave marine and true comrade left this Earth on April 6, 2007. Of course he was buried wearing his VA Hospital volunteer smock.

Mr. Speaker, no one could be more deserving of having a VA Hospital named after him than Jerry Murphy, who served his country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity well beyond the call of duty.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 229.

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL).

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation to rename the VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico after Raymond "Jerry" Murphy. I believe this naming will go far to honor a veteran who gave so much of his personal life and professional career to this Nation.

After serving as a Marine Corps captain in Korea and earning the Congressional Medal of Honor, Mr. Murphy spent over 20 years as the VA Director of Veterans Services at the very VA medical center this legislation would rename after him. He was a tireless advocate for veterans and helped thousands of veterans and their families over the decades.

While the entire delegation has risen in strong support of this legislation, it should be noted that both New Mexico's veterans' service organizations and John Garcia, the Secretary of Veterans Services in New Mexico and a veteran

himself, initiated this renaming, bringing the service of Mr. Murphy to our attention and suggesting the legislation.

Both Senator DOMENICI and Representative WILSON are to be commended for introducing this legislation, and Senator DOMENICI for getting it out of the Senate and getting it over here to the House so that we could act upon it.

Additionally, I would like to thank Chairman FILNER for his leadership on this legislation and his leadership on all veterans issues.

Unfortunately, Mr. Murphy fell ill with cancer and passed away before this honor could be bestowed upon him. However, this naming will ensure that future generations of New Mexicans will learn of the selfless work of Mr. Murphy, and hopefully many more will emulate him in devoting their lives to public service.

Mr. Murphy personified duty, and I'm pleased that this legislation will be passing the House today.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlelady from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) as much time as she may consume.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, in January of this year, I introduced the companion to the Senate measure that we're considering today, and I wanted to thank both my colleagues from New Mexico, Mr. PEARCE and Mr. UDALL, for their support of that legislation.

I'm very happy today that the House is taking up the Senate version of this bill, which is supported both by Senator BINGAMAN and by Senator DOMENICI. I am also very pleased that the governor of New Mexico, Governor Richardson, and a wide variety of veterans' organizations in New Mexico, have supported this legislation.

Jerry Murphy passed away on April of this year, on Good Friday. He was a hero in Korea, as my colleagues have pointed out, but it's the way he chose to spend the rest of his life that makes him so special to New Mexico's veterans. He was a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserves. He volunteered to go into the Marine Corps when it looked as though he was going to be drafted and sent to Korea in the Army and he thought the Marine Corps might suit him better. In 1952, he commanded an infantry platoon in the Fifth Marines in Seoul, Korea, and was a recipient of the Silver Star.

In February of 1953, he positioned his unit about the Imjin River facing the Chinese Communist troops. Their job was to continually push the Chinese lines to keep them from getting too dug in. He was commanding the reserve platoon, and as the battle went on and he sensed that the operation was not being executed as planned because there were no wounded coming back to the lines, he decided he had to go for-

ward and find out what was going on. When he took his platoon forward, he found that all the officers and the non-commissioned officers of the two assault platoons were dead or wounded, and there was mass confusion among the troops.

He very quickly took command, and in the midst of machine gun fire, he ordered his men to find their comrades and evacuate the area. He made several trips in the midst of heavy gunfire to rescue casualties. At one point, he was helping to lift a stretcher and he was hit in the back by the fragments of an enemy grenade. He refused medical attention and continued to lead his men to rescue their wounded comrades.

As he continued to command his reserves, he came face to face with two Chinese soldiers, and he killed them both. The Chinese entered the trenches as the last American wounded troops were being evacuated. Jerry Murphy picked up an automatic rifle and held off the Chinese Communist forces until all of the marines were safe.

He then went and counted all his marines. He noticed he had a handful still missing, and he went back to the top of the hill with a search team. He located the bodies of a machine gun crew and took them down the hill.

□ 1700

At this point, he was wounded a second time. He again refused medical treatment until all his men had preceded him into the main line. He eventually received treatment and returned to America.

In October, 1953, when he was in graduate school, Jerry Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honor. It was presented to him by President Eisenhower on October 27, 1953.

For more than 20 years after Jerry Murphy left the service, he dedicated his life to serving New Mexico veterans. He served at the VA hospital as Director for Veterans Services. For 23 years, he provided lots of support to all kinds of veterans in New Mexico. The neat thing is that even after he retired from the VA, he continued to volunteer at the VA hospital.

One of the VA hospital employees once told me that Jerry Murphy was a volunteer; he had his turquoise smock on, and he would push veterans to and from their appointments at the VA hospital. The veterans had no idea who it was that was pushing them around in their wheelchairs. He was always a humble servant. That is the kind of man he was: A quiet, humble servant, soft-spoken, a modest man who was concerned with his fellow soldiers. His humility really never ended. You know, if you think about this guy, he was a Marine, a Medal of Honor winner, and he chose to be put to rest wearing his VA volunteer smock. He will be missed by his family and his wife, Mary Ann.

I want to commend Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN for sponsoring this legislation and ushering it through the

Senate; my colleagues, Mr. PEARCE and Mr. UDALL, for cosponsoring the House version of the bill; Secretary John Garcia of New Mexico for first suggesting to all of us that it might be appropriate to name the VA medical center after Jerry; the chairman and ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Mr. BUYER and Mr. FILNER, for their leadership and willingness to bring this legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee for his work on this important bill; Senator DOMENICI, Senator BINGAMAN, Secretary Garcia, Governor Richardson, Congressman UDALL, and Congresswoman WILSON for their lead in recognizing Jerry Murphy's life of service.

We have heard about his exploits. We have heard about the valor that he displayed under fire. Many of us too often believe that heroism can only be exhibited in those extreme circumstances. But I would say that it takes more courage to live a life of service that he chose to live after his heroic exploits where he was awarded the Nation's highest award for valor where he received the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the Bronze Stars. This was a true hero. Yet, he wasn't faced with multi-million dollar book signing deals, no movie contracts; just a quiet life serving other veterans who are often overlooked.

The Korean War is often referred to in New Mexico by veterans of that conflict as "the Forgotten War," because so many of the veterans of that time have simply been overlooked. Yet, Jerry Murphy chose to live a life where he remembered each and every one of them. So, it is entirely appropriate today that we would name a facility in New Mexico for the guy who worked at the facility, always remembering those forgotten veterans. That is the kind of life that takes real valor and real heroism to live day after day.

For his quiet life of service, we are simply saying, Thank you for a job well done, Mr. Murphy. God bless you and keep you.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, at each opportunity granted us to consider a bill honoring the service of a Medal of Honor recipient, I stand in awe of the dedication to country and comrades these people displayed through their lives, whether those lives extended beyond their act of bravery or were ended in that the act.

Of the four Medal of Honor recipients to whom we have paid tribute today,

one made the ultimate sacrifice for his comrades and his Nation. Three survived the battle to return home where they continued to serve their Nation through service in the military and through service to the Federal Government. Many who lived and worked with them had no knowledge that these men had received America's highest award for valor in combat. Their lives of quiet humility only accentuated their moments of resounding achievement.

The great example of those lives and those moments will, with passage of these bills, Mr. Speaker, be enshrined in the namings that we are now considering.

We must remember that we are voting not simply to name four buildings; we are consecrating the gift of four lives lived well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 229.

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have had the opportunity I think twice now to be able to manage bills on the floor of the House. I want to say that today is a very proud day for me. These are four great, great men; heroes they are, one and all. I am honored, and I thank the committee for allowing me the opportunity to do this.

As my colleague said, this isn't just naming buildings after somebody. This is really a lasting memory of people who have given everything they have ever had. Everything we are as a Nation we owe to these four great people.

I urge my colleagues to unanimously support Senate bill 229.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 229.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND VOTER INTIMIDATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1281) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain decep-

tive practices in Federal elections, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1281

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON DECEPTIVE PRACTICES IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 618. Deceptive practices in Federal elections

"(a) Whoever, before or during a Federal election knowingly communicates election-related information about that election, knowing that information to be false, with the intent to prevent another person from exercising the right to vote in that election, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

"(b) As used in this section—

"(1) the term 'Federal election' means any general, primary, run-off, or special election for the office of President, Vice President, presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Commissioner from a territory or possession; and

"(2) the term 'election related information' means information regarding—

"(A) the time, place, or manner of conducting the election;

"(B) the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility for the election, including—

"(i) any criminal penalties associated with voting in the election; or

"(ii) information regarding a voter's registration status or eligibility;

"(C) with respect to a closed primary election, the political party affiliation of any candidate for office, if the communication of the information also contains false information described in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

"(D) the explicit endorsement by any person or organization of a candidate running for any office voted on in the election."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"618. Deceptive practices in Federal elections."

Section 594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "one year" and inserting "5 years".

SEC. 4. SENTENCING GUIDELINES.

(a) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Sentencing Commission, pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines and policy statements applicable to persons convicted of any offense under sections of title 18, United States Code, that are added or modified by this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The United States Sentencing Commission may, for the purposes of the amendments made pursuant to this section, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 21(a) of the Sentencing Act of 1987 (28 U.S.C. 994 note) as though the

authority under that section had not expired.

SEC. 5. REPORTING VIOLATIONS AND REMEDIAL ACTION.

(a) **REPORTING.**—Any person may report to the Attorney General any violation or possible violation of section 594 or 618 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) **CORRECTIVE ACTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Immediately after receiving a report under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall consider and review such report and, if the Attorney General determines that there is a reasonable basis to find that a violation has occurred, the Attorney General shall—

(A) undertake all effective measures necessary to provide correct information to voters affected by the false information; and

(B) refer the matter to the appropriate Federal and State authorities for criminal prosecution or civil action after the election.

(2) **REGULATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations regarding the methods and means of corrective actions to be taken under paragraph (1). Such regulations shall be developed in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, civil rights organizations, voting rights groups, State and local election officials, voter protection groups, and other interested community organizations.

(B) **STUDY.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and the Election Assistance Commission, shall conduct a study on the feasibility of providing the corrective information under paragraph (1) through public service announcements, the emergency alert system, or other forms of public broadcast.

(ii) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report detailing the results of the study conducted under clause (i).

(3) **PUBLICIZING REMEDIES.**—The Attorney General shall make public through the Internet, radio, television, and newspaper advertisements information on the responsibilities, contact information, and complaint procedures applicable under this section.

(c) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after any primary, general, or run-off election for Federal office, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report compiling and detailing any allegations of false information submitted pursuant to subsection (a) and relating to such election.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) detailed information on specific allegations of deceptive tactics;

(B) statistical compilations of how many allegations were made and of what type;

(C) the geographic locations of and the populations affected by the alleged deceptive information;

(D) the status of the investigations of such allegations.

(E) any corrective actions taken in response to such allegations;

(F) the rationale used for any corrective actions or for any refusal to pursue an allegation;

(G) the effectiveness of any such corrective actions;

(H) whether a Voting Integrity Task Force was established with respect to such election, and, if so, how such task force was staffed and funded;

(I) any referrals of information to other Federal, State, or local agencies;

(J) any suit instituted under section 2004(b)(2) of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C.

1971(b)(2)) in connection with such allegations; and

(K) any criminal prosecution instituted under title 18, United States Code, in connection with such allegations.

(3) **REPORT MADE PUBLIC.**—On the date that the Attorney General submits the report required under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall also make the report publicly available through the Internet and other appropriate means.

(d) **DELEGATION OF DUTIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall delegate the responsibilities under this section to a Voting Integrity Task Force established under paragraph (2).

(2) **VOTING INTEGRITY TASK FORCE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall establish a Voting Integrity Task Force to carry out the requirements of this section with respect to any general, primary, run-off, or special election for Federal office.

(B) **COMPOSITION.**—Any Voting Integrity Task Force established under paragraph (1) shall be under the direction of the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division and the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, jointly.

(e) **FEDERAL OFFICE.**—For purposes of this section, the term “Federal office” means the office of President, Vice President, presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Commissioner from a territory or possession of the United States.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the lead sponsors, the gentleman from Illinois, RAHM EMANUEL; the gentleman from New Jersey, RUSH HOLT; the gentleman from California, XAVIER BECERRA; the gentleman from California, MIKE HONDA; and the gentleman from Minnesota, KEITH ELLISON, with more than 50 other cosponsors of this important legislation to protect the right to vote. Obviously there is no more important issue that comes before this Congress than protecting the right to vote. It is the cornerstone right of our democracy. Without it, all other rights and privileges enjoyed by us are in jeopardy.

Protecting this right, however, has not been an easy task. Historically, it was not until passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that we began to accord the highest meaning to that right. Less than 40 years later, however, we endured the debacle of the Florida 2000 presidential election.

□ 1715

And the problems continue. In the most recent midterm and presidential elections, we learned of numerous incidents in which deceptive practices were used to thwart and frustrate citizens from exercising the right to vote. Some voters were, believe it or not, told to vote on the wrong day. Wednesday is not the right day to vote in congressional or presidential elections. Others were told that they could not vote without paying outstanding parking tickets. Others were told that they would be imprisoned if they voted without paying overdue utility bills. Ultimately, eligible voters were misled, deceived and disenfranchised in a number of other ways.

It is our collective intent in the Judiciary Committee to end this practice, and we are here talking about seriously protecting the right to vote.

I believe every Member of the House of Representatives cares deeply about this issue, and that is why we must pass the measure under consideration, for this bill explicitly prohibits deceptive practices, provides voters with greater Federal protection and increases the penalty for voter intimidation and misinformation in campaigns.

What makes me proud of this measure is that so many of our organizational friends in the voting rights community and the civil rights community as well have joined us in support of this legislation. Among them are the People For the American Way, the very historic Lawyers Committee For Civil Rights Under Law, the NAACP, the ACLU, the Jewish Council For Public Affairs, and the New York City Bar itself.

This is not an entire solution for reforming and improving the election process. Among other things, we also need to reduce our reliance on unverifiable electronic voting machines, which undermine accountability and our citizens' confidence in election results. We also need to ensure a fair allocation of voting machines in polling places, as well as a unified system of educating those who work the polls as to the rules and procedures. We should make election day a national holiday, so no one has to choose between their responsibilities as citizens and their responsibilities to their employers.

But this legislation is an important step and one that we should take today. Let's face it: If we allow the infrastructure of our democracy to remain frazzled and to decay, our citizens will rightly lose confidence in the legitimacy of the voting process, and we should work to keep that from ever happening.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this measure.

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

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield such time as he may

consume to the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. RAHM EMANUEL, whose genius brought this measure into existence. He thought long and hard about this before we all got on board.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and my colleagues Mr. HOLT from New Jersey, Mr. BECERRA from California, Mr. HONDA from California and Mr. ELLISON from Minnesota in joining me in sponsoring this legislation and bringing it to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when we had this legislation in the full committee by Chairman CONYERS. About a week earlier than that, I had taken my 10-year-old down to Selma for the anniversary of the March over the bridge. It was his birthday gift, and we went on that march with JOHN LEWIS. And through the museums we walked through, my son and I were reminded of how the State was used to intimidate voters from exercising their right to vote. America reached out and widened the circle of democracy by ensuring that those who wanted to exercise their right to vote had a chance to vote.

That week, when I came back from Selma, we were in the full committee marking up this legislation. What had happened, and I noted then in the committee and others had noted, and it was not unique, was that the baton of intimidation had been transferred from the State to parties. They intimidated voters using leaflets to falsify voting places, days of voting and what information was required to vote. Phone calls had been used, all types of information, to basically dissuade Americans from exercising their right to vote. Through the 1950s, 1940s, 1930s, et cetera, that was the voice of our State governments and apparatus, to intimidate voters.

That insane act of intimidation, in communities across America and neighborhoods, now that baton had been passed to State parties, who were doing the same thing, suppressing people's right to exercise their right to vote.

Three years ago in this hall in the President's State of the Union, he recognized a young woman from Iraq who voted. She held up her purple finger. Colleagues, on the Republican side of the aisle, they also marked their finger purple, recognizing the importance of voting. Iraq and the people of Iraq, Sunni, Shia and Kurd, had taken that step of courage and voted. She came here in the State of the Union in this hall, the hall of democracy that people around the world look at, and said, you protected our right to vote.

This legislation is intended to ensure that individuals do not receive phone calls lying and deceiving about where they vote; they do not receive leaflets telling them they need other information than they properly need to vote; and, most importantly, that the location of where they are voting had been changed, when it never had been

changed, all in an attempt to suppress the voting by individuals across communities and to depress the turnout of people who wanted to vote on Election Day.

The chairman of the committee noted other things we have to do, like a paper trail for voting to ensure the integrity on election day.

This legislation ensures that if you try to use acts of intimidation to deprive people of the right to vote, the United States Government, with the full force of its laws, will say there is a higher penalty and you will pay a price for that act of deception.

I commend Members on both sides of the aisle for bringing up this legislation. It is bipartisan in nature and in its finest sense it speaks to the voice of democracy. Whatever our policy differences on other subjects, we ensure that when people want to vote, they have a right to vote, and that the agencies of both our parties and our government don't try to intimidate people from exercising that right, but encourage them to vote.

That is what the Act here is. I am proud that this legislation not only receives bipartisan support, but wide support across both parties, because it speaks to what is so appropriately the American way and what is right about voting.

Mr. Speaker, nothing is more American than voting and nothing could be more un-American than deceiving one from taking the right to vote.

I want to thank the chairman for bringing this legislation to the floor today.

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

Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to hear the gentleman from Illinois talk about having made the trip to Selma with JOHN LEWIS this year. I had the privilege of doing that several years ago and learned the experiences that you can learn only by being there and walking down the avenues that great men like JOHN LEWIS traveled.

One of the things that is important for us to remember is we have heard discussions here today about the denial of the right to vote, and that denial changes from generation to generation in the methodology used to deny people.

At one time we heard discussions about the denial by the State of individuals' right to vote. We have also heard discussions about it is a denial to vote if you fraudulently give information to individuals about their voting rights. But it is equally a denial if you are here illegally and you are voting by non-citizen, and that is a denial to individuals legally voting in elections, and that is just as much of a problem. It is also a denial if we have people voting in elections when they are not legally entitled to do so.

So, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1281 addresses the very serious issue of integrity in the election system and it provides that whoever knowingly communicates

false election-related information about that election with intent to prevent another person from exercising the right to vote in that election or attempts to do so shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both.

We all want fair elections and we all want people to vote based on facts and not false rumors. I hope one day we will be able to reach the point where we are able to take away those false rumors. This legislation can't do that. But I am glad this legislation addresses the problem of knowingly and intentionally trying to give false information, and I support that approach.

I am also glad to see that ranking member SMITH's amendment to strike the part of the bill as it was originally introduced that would limit its prohibition on voting fraud to fraud committed within 60 days of a Federal election was adopted by the committee. If it is fraud, it is fraud, and it shouldn't have been limited to just 60 days. That amendment is included in this legislation on its floor here today.

Illegal voting by non-citizens can occur when voting registration forms are filled out more than 60 days before a Federal election. It is illegal for non-citizens to vote in Federal elections, and that raises an important issue of interpretation that I would like to take just a moment to address, Mr. Speaker.

We have to ensure that the courts give this bill its full intended scope to protect our elections from all fraud, all denial of people's right to vote.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires that a person registering to vote affirm that they are a U.S. citizen. If a non-citizen signs or attempts to sign any form that can be used for voting purposes, including a voter registration form, and that form states that they are a citizen when they are not, then that is a false statement.

This bill specifically defines election-related information to include "information regarding a voter's registration status or eligibility." If a non-citizen fraudulently votes for, say, candidate Jones, they will necessarily negate the legitimate vote of a legal voter that voted for candidate Brown. That effectively denies the legal voter's right to vote.

In the landmark case Reynolds v. Sims, the Supreme Court stated "the right of suffrage can be denied by a debasement or dilution of the weight of a citizen's vote just as effectively as by wholly prohibiting the free exercise of the franchise." So an illegally voting non-citizen in that case would violate the clear terms of H.R. 1281 and be subject to up to 5 years in jail.

Regarding the issue of intent, Black's Law Dictionary defines "constructive intent" as "a legal principle that actual intent will be presumed when an act leading to the result could have been reasonably expected to cause that result."

If someone knows they are not a citizen but they sign a voter registration form that states that they are a citizen, and then that person votes illegally and knows they are voting illegally, then they obviously know that their illegal vote is going to cancel out the vote of another legally voting citizen. That knowledge constitutes intents to deny another voter their right to exercise their vote, and it is properly punished under this legislation.

I certainly support that result, and I believe the court should interpret this legislation accordingly. After all, the bill is designed to protect the rights of legal voters, not illegal ones.

At the committee's markup, I offered a sentencing enhancement amendment to enforce this principle. However, I was deeply disappointed that it was ruled nongermane. It provided that, "if the offense results in voting in a Federal election by more than 10 persons who are not citizens of the United States, the offender shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years or both."

If we really want to stop this, we can get serious by making those penalties meet the crime. I believe that this was an incorrect germaneness ruling based on the rules and precedents of the House. I had certainly hoped to have a vote on this amendment before we got to final consideration here on the floor.

Increasing the penalties for those whose fraudulent, illegal voting negates the legal votes of more than 10 citizens is common sense, and I thought it would have bipartisan support.

Despite my disappointment on that score, I support this legislation because it provides another mechanism for punishing illegal non-citizen voting and other forms of fraud. However, this legislation does not go nearly far enough. It fails to address what the American people want, more reliable and accurate forms of voter identification. A better system of voter identification would increase confidence in the integrity of elections by preventing more illegal voters from denying citizens the right to vote by negating their legal votes with fraudulently cast ballots.

I hope some day both sides of the aisle can work toward that end. But, Mr. Speaker, as to today, we support this legislation and we are especially pleased with the fact that it reminds us that if we are denying the right to vote, it doesn't matter if it is the State denying it, it doesn't matter if it is done because of fraudulent information, it doesn't matter if it is done because someone is illegally voting and negating the vote of someone who is legally voting, or if someone is entering a voting booth who is not legally entitled to do so and they cast an illegal vote.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), the coauthor of this bill, who has worked in this area with the Committee on the Judiciary across the years. I have been very pleased about his work in trying to create an effective paper trail and other voter rights initiatives, and I am so happy that he is with us today.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished Chair, and I commend him for his work in this area, and I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act.

This important legislation, as you have heard, would make it a crime knowingly to communicate false information about an election with the intention of preventing another person from exercising the right to vote and would require the Department of Justice to take immediate corrective action on behalf of affected voters, as well as to refer such matters for appropriate prosecution.

It pains me deeply, as I think it does all here, that this is necessary still four decades after the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. It should pain us all that when the United States looks in the mirror, what we see staring back at us is an electoral system still rife with abuses. It embarrasses me to say this, but it is what we must do, take an honest look to begin to correct.

This legislation is essentially the legislation that I introduced in the previous Congress, along with a companion bill in the other body by Senator OBAMA. I am pleased that Representative EMANUEL and Chairman CONYERS and many others have joined to advocate this bill now.

Now, consider just a few examples. In the 2004 elections in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, fliers attributed to a non-existent organization called the Milwaukee Black Voters League were distributed in minority neighborhoods warning residents that "if anyone in your family has ever been found guilty of anything, even a traffic violation, you can't vote in the presidential election," and that "if you violate any of these laws, you can get 10 years in prison." It sounds like nonsense, but to those voters, that was intimidation.

It was no better in 2006. In a documented case in Virginia, a registered voter received a telephone message from a caller claiming to be from the Virginia Board of Elections informing him that he was not registered, and that if he showed up at the polls to vote, he would be criminally prosecuted. Again, it is easy to dismiss that as nonsense, but it is coercion.

□ 1730

It is disenfranchisement, it is deception.

Now there is no way to know exactly how many voters were deterred or led astray by such deceptive practices, but such practices are no less criminal than outright threats or intimidation.

Now as you've heard from the chairman and others, this is not the be all and end all of election reform legislation. We still have to prevent disenfranchisement that results from the shortage of equipment, equipment inequitably distributed among precincts. We still have to prevent disenfranchisement by manipulation of the registration lists. We still need to require that provisional ballots be counted if they are legitimate because under the Help America Vote Act, they must be offered to voters who are not on the registration list, but if it turns out that the voter is a legitimate voter, the provisional ballot is not required under law to be counted.

We must make sure that tabulation of results after the polls close is more transparent. I have various legislation that would deal with these things, as well as legislation that would ensure that every voter has a voter-verified paper ballot and that audits would apply in every Federal election. Those are some of the things we need to do.

But this is an important step to beat back, to subdue the cynicism about our government. When I talk with students, I often ask them what they think is the most ingenious invention of humans. And they, knowing that I am a scientist, often come up with some technological answer. I would argue that it is our constitutionally democracy. It has transformed not just America but the world, demonstrating that peaceful and productive government by the consent of the governed is possible.

That consent, the very cornerstone of the system, is given by the vote. And the Supreme Court has held that the right to vote is the most fundamental right as it is the preservative of all others. The measure before us will criminalize knowing acts of deception designed to prevent voters from voting.

Our democratic government works only if the people believe it does. Think about that. If we are to let people work their will at the polling place, we must remove coercion, deception, distortion and disenfranchisement. Cynicism about the process, cynicism about our ability to govern ourselves is at a critically high level. By passing this legislation, we can help to reduce that cynicism and help to realize the promise of the genius of Philadelphia 220 years ago.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am just delighted today that we can come in here on an issue that we agree on and recognize, as the gentleman just stated, that this is not the end all legislation. It is a small step, but it is a step. No matter what the legislation is that we pass, it is only going to be as good as the enforcement that goes behind, and we want to send out a message to prosecutors across the country who might get an opportunity to enforce this of how excited we are to put at least another tool in their hand where they can have

the possible imprisonment of up to 5 years for denying people the right to vote, whether it is by fraudulent information, or whether it is individuals that are illegally voting by noncitizens.

We have had reports to our committee of thousands of voters who are registered in as many as four States. While this may not be a perfect piece of legislation, it at least takes us a step in the direction we want to go.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I merely want to close by thanking the distinguished ranking member on the Crime Subcommittee, RANDY FORBES, for the excellent work that he performs all the time, but especially on this bill. I want no misunderstanding about our appreciation of this bill being about prohibiting deceptive practices against eligible voters.

This is not a measure that deals with prosecuting ineligible voters unless they try to deceive eligible voters. The issue of voter fraud is a very serious one, well publicized, and it is the intention of the Chair of the committee that the Subcommittee on Crime hold hearings on this subject because we think it is an important one that needs to be examined very clearly.

But today, we move forward from the 15th amendment in the Constitution, we move forward from the Voter Rights Act of 1965 that has been amended several times, and we now come to a specific set of practices that have been very detrimental in coercing and intimidating and confusing many voters.

I am so pleased that this committee at this day and time is prepared to deal with preventing voters from being disenfranchised by being misled on their way to polling. It has been documented and we are directly prohibiting these kinds of tactics and we are turning many of them from a misdemeanor into a felony. I congratulate all the members of the Committee on the Judiciary and particularly the sponsors of this piece of legislation, and urge support of the bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1281, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important bill.

We have come a long way since the Jim Crow era of voter disenfranchisement and intimidation, but we still have a long way yet to go to ensure an equal right to vote for all citizens. Every election, we hear shocking and disgraceful stories of voters being lied to about their voter registration or citizenship status, polling place information, or even the date of the election, in order to suppress the vote in certain areas. The targets of these tactics seem to always be the same: racial minorities, immigrants and poor communities.

Thomas Paine once said, "Voting is the right upon which all other rights depend." Throughout our nation's history, Congress has acted to ensure that right, granting African Americans and women the right to vote, prohibiting states from requiring the payment of

poll taxes to vote, and the passage and reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Today, we continue in that grand tradition with passage of this important legislation to make it unlawful to knowingly communicate false information with the intent to prevent another person from casting a ballot.

The right to vote may be the most basic right we have as Americans, but we must remain vigilant in protecting this right in order to ensure that it is not weakened or undermined by those who seek political gain at the expense of this basic tenet of democracy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1281.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act.

Tactics that attempt to deceive or mislead voters regarding elections, candidates, or voting procedures chip away at the very cornerstone of our democracy: the right to vote. I strongly support this legislation because it will track and expose these tactics for what they are in order to continue to prove that we are not living up to the true meaning of democracy. Every vote is not being considered. Every vote is not being counted.

Before and during the last election, there were reports of mass disenfranchisement and voter intimidation across the country. My district was subject to all types of deceptive flyers and phone calls targeted to black voters with misinformation designed to discourage them from voting. Mr. Speaker, as you know such tactics designed to prevent citizens from exercising their right to vote are not new. I am pleased that this legislation will make these types of acts a federal crime and set a penalty of up to 5 years in prison for any type of voter intimidation.

I urge my colleagues to value and protect the right to vote by voting for this important legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1281, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007. H.R. 1281 will hopefully go a long way in addressing a variety of election irregularities that have arisen in recent elections, including deceptive practices, voter intimidation, voter disenfranchisement, and an overall lack of trust in the electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, protecting the right to vote of all Americans is of paramount importance to me. The most fundamental aspect of American citizenship is the right to vote and to have full confidence that the vote is counted. Thousands of people have bled and died for the right to vote and their sacrifices shall not be in vain. Whenever this body is presented with inquiries to determine whether our voting system has been compromised in any manner, we have a solemn duty to investigate such matters.

As many of you know, election reform became a central issue in the wake of the irregularities identified in Florida in the 2000 Presidential Election. In June 2001, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, an independent bipartisan agency charged with monitoring and protecting voting rights, reported that "credible evidence shows many Floridians were denied the right to vote." After analyzing the 179,855 ballots that were invalidated, and finding that fifty-three percent (53%) were cast by black voters, the Commission concluded that in Flor-

ida, African-Americans were 10 times as likely to have a vote rejected as a white voter. This concern helped lead to the passage in 2002 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The Judiciary Committee held hearings on the legislation, and members of our Committee participated in the Conference Committee. Since the enactment of HAVA, concern about deceptive practices and election irregularities have not abated. There have been numerous published reports about these incidents in both the 2004 and 2006 elections. There are also a number of reported incidents that were not addressed by the HAVA legislation. These include the following:

Ohio—There were numerous reported irregularities in Ohio in the 2004 election, which led me to conduct a review and issue a much-cited report entitled, "What Went Wrong in Ohio." The irregularities identified included:

1. Newly registered voters in Lake County received letters informing them that their registrations were illegal and that they would be unable to vote. The letter was sent on falsified Lake County Board of Elections letterhead.

2. An elderly couple living on the North Side of Columbus received a call informing them that their polling place had changed and that they should vote "on the other side of town." The caller claimed to be a representative of the Franklin County Board of Elections. When the elderly couple called the board to verify the change, they learned that others in the area had received deceptive phone calls, including offers to hand-deliver absentee ballots to the Board of Elections office.

3. The misallocation of voting machines led to lines of 10 hours or more that disenfranchised scores if not hundreds of thousands of predominantly minority voters. In Franklin County, 27 of the 30 wards with the most machines per registered voter showed majorities for Bush, while 6 of the 7 wards with the fewest machines delivered large margins for Kerry.

4. Then-Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell's decision to restrict provisional ballots resulted in the purging of tens if not hundreds of thousands of voters. In Hamilton County, this resulted in the result where hundreds of voters who showed up at the right polling place, but were directed to the wrong table by election workers, had their ballots thrown out.

5. Mr. Blackwell's rejected voter registration applications based on paper weight. Ironically, forms obtained from the Secretary of State's office did not comply with his own paper weight directive.

6. Preelection "caging" tactics, selectively targeting 35,000 predominantly minority voters for intimidation. The Third Circuit has previously found these activities to be illegal and indirect violation of consent decrees barring the targeting of minority voters for poll challenges.

North Carolina—In 2004, more than 4,500 votes were lost because of a mistake in voting machine capacity. In Carteret County, these votes were lost because officials believed that a computer that stored ballots electronically could hold more data than it did.

Louisiana—In 2002, flyers stating voters may cast their ballots 3 days after the election "if the weather is bad," were distributed in public housing complexes in New Orleans.

South Dakota—In 2004 in South Dakota, Native American voters were prevented from

voting for failing to provide photographic identification upon request, despite the lack of such requirements under state or federal law.

Arizona—Latino voters in Pima County, Arizona were reportedly met at multiple polling places with a man who claimed he was “bent on discovering” how many illegal immigrants were voting in the 2004 primary election. Dressed in a black shirt with the image of a badge and the words “U.S. Constitution Enforcement” on his back, the man carried a camera and video recorder holstered in a tool belt as he entered polling places, looking for “anomalies.”

Wisconsin—In the days leading up to the 2004 presidential election, voters in Milwaukee’s African American neighborhoods received flyers from the fictional “Milwaukee Black Voters League.” The flier falsely claimed that individuals could be found ineligible to vote due to traffic violations, the criminal records of family members and voting in a previous election during the year.” Voters were also warned that violations of such “laws” could result in a ten-year prison sentence or forced separation from one’s children.

Virginia—Voters in eight Virginia counties were apparent victims of attempts at intimidation just before the 2006 election. Some received messages from callers claiming to be from the non-existent “Virginia Elections Commission,” telling them of incorrect voter registration information and possible criminal charges for voting. Other callers falsely claimed to represent a federal campaign and told voters that their polling places had changed, sometimes to addresses that did not exist.

California—In 2006, Latino voters in Orange County, California, received mailings from the “California Coalition for Immigration Reform,” falsely warning them in Spanish that “if you are an immigrant, voting in a federal election is a crime that can result in incarceration.”

Maryland—In 2006 certain candidates distributed fliers in predominantly African-American neighborhoods falsely claiming that the candidates had been endorsed by their opponents’ party and by prominent African American figures.

Florida—In 2004, over 4,000 potential voters, including students at the University of Florida and Florida A&M University, discovered their party registrations had been switched and their addresses changed. Changed addresses could have barred them from voting because they would have shown up at the wrong polling place.

Pennsylvania—In Pittsburgh, fliers printed on county letterhead stated that “due to immense voter turnout expected on Tuesday,” the election had been extended: Republicans vote on November 2, and Democrats vote on November 3. Across the country, voters received similar fliers in the 2004 presidential election.

1. Pennsylvania and Illinois/Abusive Robo-Calls—The media also detailed numerous instances of prerecorded phone calls designed to confuse voters. These misleading calls were made late in the evening, or during the night, in an apparent effort to generate anger at particular candidates. According to the Associated Press, one individual “received three prerecorded messages in four hours. Each began, ‘Hello, I’m calling with information about [candidate] Lois Murphy [in the Philadelphia area].’” The Philadelphia Daily News re-

ported that “[t]he calls, which begin by offering ‘important information about Lois Murphy,’ are designed to mislead voters into thinking the message is from her.” In Illinois, The Barrington Courier-Review reported that a resident received the following phone call—“Hi, I’m calling with information about [Candidate] Melissa Bean.” She received the same call a total of 21 times since October 24. Others reported receiving the same calls, none of which were paid for by Ms. BEAN’s campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1281 to make the necessary changes that will ensure the highest level of voter integrity.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1281 to make it unlawful for anyone to disseminate false election-related information about an election in order to prevent another person from exercising the right to vote. I commend Chairman CONYERS and Representative EMANUEL for their leadership in bringing this critical bill to the floor.

The pernicious practices that H.R. 1281 would combat are not just academic to me. During the Maryland governor’s race last year, there were numerous and substantiated reports of political operatives distributing false campaign materials on Election Day to confuse voters about the candidates, including endorsements they had allegedly received.

In recent elections in Maryland, including the 2006 elections, operatives have also spread false information about the time, place or manner of voting or qualifications for, or restrictions on, voting, or the political affiliations of candidates.

These grotesque practices are a direct assault on the most fundamental right of Americans: the right to vote and have that vote counted.

Over the past 40 years, tremendous progress has been made removing the most conspicuous obstacles and impediments to voting in order to guarantee that all Americans, regardless of their race or color, can vote. Unfortunately, there exists in our Nation a small but committed group of individuals who will sink to any low if they believe it will produce a victory. H.R. 1281 goes after these people, who are a disease on our democratic system.

I am hopeful that the House will overwhelming pass H.R. 1281 and send the message that deceptive campaign practices are un-American and anti-democratic.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor and strong supporter of H.R. 1281, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Act of 2007.

This is an issue that is close to my heart. I am grateful to my colleagues Mr. EMANUEL, for introducing this legislation, and Chairman CONYERS, for his consideration or H.R. 1281 in the Judiciary Committee.

The great promise of America is that every citizen has a vote, a voice in how our government is run. And we’ve seen in recent years where 100 or 50 or 5 or even 1 vote has changed the outcome of an election. So making sure that every U.S. citizen is able to vote is one of our most fundamental responsibilities.

When most people think of Voting Rights Act violations they think of the 1960s, when African Americans were prevented from voting because of the color of their skin. Many do not

realize that voter suppression still occurs today.

The targets of intimidation remain the same. This last election, minority and naturalized immigrant communities were the targets of deception, misinformation and voter intimidation designed to abridge their right to vote.

In the district I represent, California’s 47th, concerns were raised when about 14,000 registered Hispanic voters received a written letter, in Spanish, from the “California Coalition for Immigration Reform” informing voters that immigrants voting in a federal election were committing a crime “that could result in incarceration and possible deportation. . . .”

It also went on to advise voters that “the U.S. government is installing a new computerized system to verify names of all the newly registered voters who participate in the elections in October and November. Organizations against immigration will be able to request information from this new computerized system.”

The intent of the letter was to intimidate. Families were afraid that their personal information would be shared with anti-immigration groups if they voted. They were afraid of retaliation for exercising their right to vote.

Revisiting and reforming the voting rights laws will send a clear message to potential violators that deceptive practices are unacceptable and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

H.R. 1281 will strengthen the prohibition and punishment of deceptive practices that aim to keep voters away from the polls on Election Day.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which will go a long way in preventing future acts of voter intimidation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1281, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2643, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-211) on the resolution (H. Res. 514) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 513) supporting the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 513

Whereas Americans are living longer and the cost of retirement continues to rise, in part because the number of employers providing retiree health coverage continues to decline, and retiree health care costs continue to increase at a rapid pace;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States, but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States, less than ⅓ of workers or their spouses are currently saving for retirement and that the actual amount of retirement savings of workers lags far behind the amount that will be needed to adequately fund their retirement years;

Whereas many workers may not be aware of their options for saving for retirement or may not have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for their own retirement;

Whereas many employees have available to them through their employers access to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to assist them in preparing for retirement, yet many of them may not be taking advantage of employer-sponsored defined contribution plans at all or to the full extent allowed by the plans as prescribed by Federal law;

Whereas all workers, including public- and private-sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from increased awareness of the need to save adequate funds for retirement and the availability of tax-preferred savings vehicles to assist them in saving for retirement; and

Whereas October 21 through October 27, 2007, has been designated as "National Save for Retirement Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles;

(2) supports the need to raise public awareness of efficiently utilizing substantial tax revenues that currently subsidize retirement savings, revenues in excess of \$125,000,000,000 as of the 2006 Fiscal Year Budget;

(3) supports the need to raise public awareness of the importance to save adequately for retirement and the availability of tax-preferred employer-sponsored retirement savings vehicles; and

(4) calls on the States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing the retirement savings for all the people of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week which will soon be designated by the Senate as October 21 through October 27, 2007. I want to thank Senators CONRAD and SMITH for working with me and my esteemed colleague, Mr. JOHNSON of Texas, to bring attention to the importance of retirement planning for American families.

We are living in a time when workers are being asked to shoulder an increasing share of the cost of savings for retirement. Even with an employee-sponsored retirement plan and the promise of Social Security benefits, American families need to put additional money aside to ensure a financially secure retirement. For many American families, saving is becoming an increasingly difficult task as they struggle to meet their everyday obligations. Even in solidly middle income families, financial resources are stretched thin as parents work to meet other pressing needs, whether it is purchasing health care coverage, paying for college, meeting energy costs, or simply paying monthly bills on time.

Over the past several years, we have seen a dramatic shift in our retirement system. Most workers are no longer eligible for traditional pensions which provide a predictable monthly benefit throughout retirement. Instead, workers are now bearing more of the costs and investment risks of saving adequately for their retirement under defined contribution plans, like 401(k)s.

As a result, the value of most workers' retirement benefits and the security of their retirement is now directly linked to their investment decisions and the balance held in their account when they retire rather than their years of service.

The dramatic shift towards individual defined contribution plans is clear. In 1980, there were over 148,000 defined benefit plans that provided guaranteed benefits to workers, and there were approximately 341,000 defined contribution plans that relied on the returns on investments made by workers. By 2003, just over 20 years later, the number of defined benefit plans had fallen to just about 47,000, while the number of defined contribution plans had risen to nearly 653,000.

While this shift is empowering American workers to make more of their own financial decisions, many families are finding it difficult to save significantly to meet all of their retirement needs.

A study conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute shows that average 401(k) balances range from approximately \$4,500 for participants in their 20s with less than 3 years of service to just under \$200,000 for participants in their 60s with at least 30 years of service.

Unfortunately, a balance of less than \$200,000 may not be enough to finance

an individual's retirement years. For example, a worker in my own State of Pennsylvania with a \$200,000 balance who makes the financially prudent decision of purchasing an annuity could expect a maximum monthly benefit of about \$1,300. \$1,300 can go just so far in meeting monthly household expenses. Retirees have to ask can \$1,300 pay their mortgage, health costs, car payments, gas and leisure activities, and will it be sufficient in 5, 10 or 15 years given the increasing cost of living to meet their expenses and their expectations for retirement?

These concerns become more alarming as recent data show a decline in actual worker participation in employer-sponsored retirement plans. In 2004, only 40 percent of families had an individual who participated in either form of employer-based plan. This means that a majority of American working families are not currently participating in any retirement plan at work.

As our country shifts towards an increasing reliance on individual savings, workers are facing increased difficulty as they prepare for retirement. And it heightens the importance of educating our workers about the pressing need to save.

In my district, I have partnered with banks, credit unions and other financial institutions to host seminars to help provide families with the information they need to make educated, financially responsible decisions about their family budgets and to help them establish a habit of saving for the future.

□ 1745

I have also worked with schools in my district to help reach out to children, even at young ages, in order to emphasize the importance of saving for the future. It is never too early to learn that every little bit we save now will help in the long run. Whether you're a 16-year-old receiving your first paycheck or a 25-year-old getting your first real increase, or a 45-year-old with a mortgage and two kids who need braces, a habit of putting a little bit away each month in regular savings can, with the help of compound interest, add up to a secure retirement. The resolution before us today supports and encourages educational opportunities on a national scale and creates a collaborative effort to emphasize the importance of making saving for retirement a priority for all American families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution so that we can help make American workers more financially secure in their retirement years.

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Save for Retirement Week that will be celebrated during the week of October 21 to 27 this year.

Our national savings rate is abysmal. Despite our best efforts, there are

fewer traditional pension plans every year. The costs associated with retiree health continue to skyrocket, and the Social Security and Medicare board of trustees have long warned us that without change, Social Security and Medicare will be unable to pay future promised benefits. However, there is one bright spot for Americans who have employer-based retirement savings plans. We all know and love the 401(k) plan and its cousins, the 403(b) and the 457. These plans make it possible for Americans to take charge of their own financial future by putting away savings for retirement in a convenient, safe and well-performing manner.

For far too many people, there is too much month left at the end of their paycheck and they just don't get around to putting away money for their own retirement. With a 401(k) plan, the money for retirement is set aside before the other bills get paid. The paycheck that they bring home is then available for life's daily needs, while the money for retirement is going to work with compound interest. You know, Einstein said the most powerful force on Earth is the power of compound interest. For Americans who set aside part of their paycheck for a 401(k), the power of compound interest helps them pave their way to retirement.

Another great benefit of saving at work is that in most cases, the employer is going to match some of the amount saved. To the extent that an employer will match, for instance, the first 5 percent of your salary, that's a 100 percent rate of return on those savings. If someone who makes \$50,000 a year saves \$2,500, the employer will match it with another \$2,500. That's free money. So the employee starts out at a 100 percent rate of return. If the market performs as it traditionally has and returns an average of 8 percent a year, the employee's money doubles again every 10 years. So for an additional set-aside of \$2,500, in 10 years, that employee is likely to have \$10,000. That's powerful.

During the week of October 21 to 27, everyone who plays a role in retirement will be called to action. All the companies that sponsor retirement plans, all the companies that do the work to administer these plans, financial consultants and groups like the Employee Benefit Research Institute that runs the Choose to Save campaign are encouraged to bring this powerful message to more people.

In the clutter of everyday life, we are bombarded with advertisements for everything from breakfast cereal to fast cars. Advertisements for retirement savings don't always break through the clutter. Again, our negative savings rate goes to show that. Our support of the National Save for Retirement Week today will help that message break through, as communities across our great Nation join in a concerted, week-long effort to teach Americans the importance of saving.

I urge all my colleagues to join Representative SCHWARTZ and me in passing this legislation so that more and more Americans can choose to save.

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Texas for working with me to raise this important issue. It is my hope that we will continue to work together to encourage Americans to save for retirement.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 513.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the House will stand in recess until 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 6 p.m.

□ 1800

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H. Res. 189, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 2546, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

ESTABLISHING A WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 189, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 189.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 0, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 549]

YEAS—381

Abercrombie	Aderholt	Alexander
Ackerman	Akin	Allen

Altmire	Ehlers	LoBiondo
Andrews	Ellison	Loeb
Arcuri	Ellsworth	Lofgren, Zoe
Baca	Emanuel	Lowey
Bachmann	Engel	Lucas
Bachus	English (PA)	Lungren, Daniel
Baird	Eshoo	E.
Baker	Etheridge	Lynch
Baldwin	Fallin	Mack
Barrett (SC)	Farr	Mahoney (FL)
Barrow	Fattah	Manzullo
Bartlett (MD)	Feeney	Marchant
Barton (TX)	Filner	Markey
Bean	Flake	Marshall
Becerra	Forbes	Matheson
Berkley	Fossella	Matsui
Berman	Fox	McCarthy (CA)
Berry	Frank (MA)	McCarthy (NY)
Biggert	Franks (AZ)	McCauley (TX)
Bilbray	Frelinghuysen	McCollum (MN)
Billirakis	Garrett (NJ)	McCotter
Bishop (GA)	Giffords	McCrary
Bishop (NY)	Gillibrand	McDermott
Bishop (UT)	Gillmor	McGovern
Blackburn	Gingrey	McHenry
Blumenauer	Gohmert	McHugh
Boehner	Gonzalez	McIntyre
Bonner	Goode	McKeon
Bono	Goodlatte	McMorris
Boozman	Gordon	Rodgers
Boswell	Granger	McNerney
Boucher	Graves	McNulty
Boustany	Grijalva	Meehan
Boyd (KS)	Hall (NY)	Meek (FL)
Brady (PA)	Hall (TX)	Melancon
Brady (TX)	Hare	Mica
Braley (IA)	Hastert	Michaud
Brown (SC)	Hastings (FL)	Miller (FL)
Brown, Corrine	Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)
Brown-Waite,	Hayes	Miller (NC)
Ginny	Heller	Miller, Gary
Buchanan	Hensarling	Miller, George
Burgess	Herger	Mitchell
Burton (IN)	Herseth Sandlin	Mollohan
Butterfield	Higgins	Moore (KS)
Buyer	Hill	Moore (WI)
Calvert	Hinchee	Moran (KS)
Camp (MI)	Hinojosa	Moran (VA)
Campbell (CA)	Hirono	Murphy (CT)
Cannon	Hobson	Murphy, Patrick
Cantor	Hodes	Murphy, Tim
Capito	Hoekstra	Musgrave
Capps	Holden	Myrick
Cardoza	Holt	Nadler
Carnahan	Honda	Napolitano
Carney	Hoolley	Neal (MA)
Castle	Hoyer	Nunes
Castor	Hulshof	Obey
Chabot	Hunter	Olver
Chandler	Inglis (SC)	Pallone
Clarke	Inslee	Pascarell
Clay	Israel	Pastor
Cleaver	Jackson (IL)	Pastore
Clyburn	Jackson-Lee	Pearce
Coble	(TX)	Pence
Cohen	Jindal	Perlmutter
Cole (OK)	Johnson (GA)	Peterson (MN)
Conaway	Johnson, E. B.	Petri
Conyers	Johnson, Sam	Pickering
Cooper	Jones (NC)	Pitts
Costa	Jordan	Platts
Costello	Kagen	Porter
Courtney	Kanjorski	Price (GA)
Cramer	Kaptur	Price (NC)
Crowley	Keller	Putnam
Cubin	Kennedy	Radanovich
Culberson	Kildee	Rahall
Davis (AL)	King (IA)	Ramstad
Davis (CA)	King (NY)	Rangel
Davis (IL)	Kingston	Regula
Davis, David	Kirk	Rehberg
Davis, Lincoln	Klein (FL)	Reichert
Davis, Tom	Kline (MN)	Renzi
Deal (GA)	Knollenberg	Reyes
DeFazio	Kuhl (NY)	Reynolds
DeGette	Lamborn	Rodriguez
Delahunt	Lampson	Rogers (KY)
DeLauro	Langevin	Rogers (MI)
Dent	Larsen (WA)	Rohrabacher
Diaz-Balart, L.	Larson (CT)	Ros-Lehtinen
Diaz-Balart, M.	Latham	Roskam
Dicks	LaTourette	Ross
Doggett	Lee	Rothman
Donnelly	Levin	Roybal-Allard
Doyle	Lewis (CA)	Royce
Drake	Lewis (GA)	Ruppersberger
Dreier	Lewis (KY)	Ryan (OH)
Duncan	Linder	Ryan (WI)
Edwards	Lipinski	Salazar

Sali
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Saxton
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schmidt
 Schwartz
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sestak
 Shadegg
 Shays
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Shuster
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)

Smith (WA)
 Snyder
 Solis
 Souder
 Space
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stearns
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Sutton
 Tancredo
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Towns
 Turner
 Udall (CO)
 Udall (NM)
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walberg
 Walden (OR)
 Walsh (NY)
 Wamp
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Weiner
 Welch (VT)
 Weldon (FL)
 Bachmann
 Edwards
 Ehlert
 Ellison
 Ellsworth
 Emanuel
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 English (PA)
 Eshoo
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 Farr
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 Berman
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 Biggart
 Bilbray
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Bishop (UT)
 Blackburn
 Blumenauer
 Boehner
 Bonner
 Bono
 Boozman
 Boswell
 Boucher
 Boustany
 Boyda (KS)
 Brady (PA)
 Brady (TX)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown (SC)
 Brown, Corrine
 Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
 Buchanan
 Burgess
 Burton (IN)
 Butterfield
 Buyer
 Calvert
 Camp (MD)
 Campbell (CA)
 Cannon
 Cantor
 Capito
 Capps
 Cardoza
 Carnahan
 Carney
 Castle
 Castor
 Chabot
 Chandler
 Clarke
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Cohen
 Cole (OK)
 Conaway
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Costello
 Courtney
 Cramer
 Crowley
 Cubin
 Culberson
 Cummings
 Davis (AL)
 Davis (CA)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis, David
 Davis, Lincoln
 Davis, Tom
 Deal (GA)
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delahunt
 DeLauro
 Dent

[Roll No. 550]
 YEAS—381
 Diaz-Balart, L.
 Diaz-Balart, M.
 Dicks
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Donnelly
 Doyle
 Drake
 Dreier
 Duncan
 Edwards
 Ehlert
 Ellison
 Ellsworth
 Emanuel
 Engel
 English (PA)
 Eshoo
 Etheridge
 Fallin
 Farr
 Fattah
 Filner
 Flake
 Forbes
 Fossella
 Foxx
 Frank (MA)
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Garrett (NJ)
 Giffords
 Gillibrand
 Gillmor
 Bonner
 Gingrey
 Gonzalez
 Goode
 Goodlatte
 Gordon
 Granger
 Graves
 Grijalva
 Hall (NY)
 Hall (TX)
 Hare
 Hastert
 Hastings (FL)
 Hastings (WA)
 Hayes
 Heller
 Hensarling
 Herger
 Herseht Sandlin
 Higgins
 Hill
 Hinchey
 Hinojosa
 Hirono
 Hobson
 Hodes
 Hoekstra
 Holden
 Holt
 Honda
 Hooley
 Hoyer
 Hulshof
 Hunter
 Inglis (SC)
 Inslee
 Israel
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson-Lee
 (TX)
 Jindal
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (IL)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones (NC)
 Jordan
 Kagen
 Kanjorski
 Kaptur
 Keller
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kirk
 Klein (FL)
 Kline (MN)
 Knollenberg
 Kuhl (NY)
 Lamborn

Reynolds
 Rodriguez
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothman
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppertsberger
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Salazar
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 Sánchez, Linda
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 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Saxton
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
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 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sestak
 Shadegg
 Shays
 Shea-Porter

Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Shuster
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughter
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Snyder
 Solis
 Souder
 Space
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stearns
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Sutton
 Tancredo
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Taylor
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Towns

Turner
 Udall (CO)
 Udall (NM)
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walberg
 Walden (OR)
 Walsh (NY)
 Wamp
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Weiner
 Welch (VT)
 Weldon (FL)
 Weller
 Whitfield
 Wicker
 Tauscher
 Wilson (NM)
 Wilson (OH)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Wynn
 Yarmuth
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—51

Blunt
 Boren
 Boyd (FL)
 Capuano
 Carson
 Carter
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (KY)
 Davis, Jo Ann
 Dingell
 Doolittle
 Emerson
 Everett
 Ferguson
 Fortenberry

Gallegly
 Gerlach
 Gilchrest
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Gutierrez
 Harman
 Issa
 Jefferson
 Johnson (IL)
 Jones (OH)
 Kilpatrick
 Kind
 Kucinich
 LaHood
 Lantos
 Maloney (NY)
 Meeks (NY)
 Murtha
 Neugebauer
 Oberstar
 Ortiz
 Paul
 Peterson (PA)
 Poe
 Pomeroy
 Pryce (OH)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rush
 Sessions
 Simpson
 Walz (MN)
 Westmoreland
 Waxler

Lampson
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis (CA)
 Lewis (GA)
 Lewis (KY)
 Linder
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loebsock
 Lofgren, Zoe
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Lynch
 Mack
 Mahoney (FL)
 Manzullo
 Marchant
 Markey
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCaul (TX)
 McCollum (MN)
 McCotter
 McCreery
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McHugh
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNeerney
 McNulty
 Meehan
 Meek (FL)
 Melancon
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Mitchell
 Mollohan
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran (KS)
 Moran (VA)
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy, Patrick
 Murphy, Tim
 Musgrave
 Myrick
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal (MA)
 Nunes
 Obey
 Oliver
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor
 Payne
 Pearce
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Peterson (MN)
 Petri
 Pickering
 Pitts
 Platts
 Porter
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Putnam
 Radanovich
 Rahall
 Ramstad
 Rangel
 Regula
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Renzi
 Reyes

Gerlach
 Gilchrest
 Gohmert
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Gutierrez
 Harman
 Issa
 Jefferson
 Jones (OH)
 Kilpatrick
 Kind
 Kucinich
 LaHood
 Lantos
 Maloney (NY)
 Marshall
 Meeks (NY)
 Murtha
 Neugebauer
 Oberstar
 Ortiz
 Paul
 Peterson (PA)
 Poe
 Pomeroy
 Pryce (OH)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rush
 Sessions
 Simpson
 Walz (MN)
 Westmoreland
 Waxler

NOT VOTING—51

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1824

Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. VELAZQUEZ and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 549 had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

CHARLES GEORGE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2546, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2546.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 0, not voting 51, as follows:

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1830

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, I was unable to cast my vote on two resolutions. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on H. Res. 189, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,” should be established, and “aye” on H.R. 2546—To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the “Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably delayed and missed the votes on H. Res. 189, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”

should be established (rollcall 549), and H.R. 2546, To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" (rollcall 550).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 25, 2007, I was absent from the House for a familial medical emergency.

Had I been present I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 548—"yes"—H. Res. 189—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" should be established.

On rollcall No. 549—"yes"—H.R. 2546—To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

IN SUPPORT OF 100 PERCENT AIRPORT WORK SCREENING

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, America recently got a wake-up call when we learned that law enforcement had thwarted a Muslim extremist plot to blow up Kennedy Airport and the surrounding neighborhoods.

This is not the first time that we have had our security exposed at our airports. In March airport employees at Orlando International exploited a loophole in our security and placed a bag with an arsenal of weapons on the airplane. As workers, they never had to pass through a metal detector or had anyone check their bags or equipment.

That is why I introduced H.R. 1413 with my good friend Congresswoman NITA LOWEY from New York to implement a 100 percent worker screening pilot program at seven of our airports.

Listen up, America. It is unacceptable that we spend billions to secure our airports and airplanes from dangerous passengers, yet we leave the back door open to workers. I would hope that the Homeland Security Committee heard this wake-up call and scheduled a full committee markup as soon as possible so we can close this dangerous loophole.

IT IS TIME TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME FROM IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we begin to commemorate and celebrate the founding of this Nation, what a great Nation, July 4 brings all Americans together. We stand strong. We are bold and we are proud. I am proud to be an American.

But I petition this government, this Congress, this President that we must

resolve the Iraq crisis. Our soldiers are defined as they are, warriors for justice. But when you have a complete collapse of government, as was evidenced in the last 24 hours, suicide bombs, car bombs, an enormous toll and toll of lives being taken, our soldiers emerged in neighborhoods, sitting as sitting ducks, it is time to bring our troops home. And as long as we remain tone deaf to the American people, we undermine the values of this Nation that indicates we all are created equal.

It is time to bring our troops home from Iraq. It is time for a new policy and a new direction.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

REVISIONS TO THE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS AND BUDGETARY AGGREGATES ESTABLISHED BY THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008

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

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 207(d) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, I hereby submit the revised 302(a) allocations for the House Committee on Appropriations for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008. Section 207(d)(2) directs the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust the discretionary spending allocations for an Internal Revenue Service tax compliance program integrity initiative as provided in section 207(d)(1)(B) of S. Con. Res. 21.

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS: APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION
(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays
Fiscal Year 2007	950,316	1,029,465
Fiscal Year 2008	953,459	1,028,780

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 505, RECOGNIZING THE INNUMERABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE RECREATIONAL BOATING COMMUNITY AND THE BOATING INDUSTRY TO THE CONTINUING PROSPERITY AND AFFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (Mr. OBERSTAR) for his support of House Resolution 505 and for his

leadership on the committee. These days we face mounting challenges to improve our infrastructure and protect our highways and waterways from expanding populations and from terrorist attacks. Personally, I can think of no other person better qualified to lead this important committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 505 to highlight the important contribution of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to our quality of life and to our continued economic prosperity and to urge the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the American people to observe National Boating Day.

Boating is a famous symbol for south Florida, where I am from. Millions of residents and tourists take to the waters of south Florida by boat to fish, dive, snorkel, and view scenic tours along our pristine coastline and unique intracoastal waterway. Palm Beach County alone has over 40,000 registered boaters, and Ft. Lauderdale's majestic canals have earned it the nickname the "Venice of America."

But the significance of the boating community is not only symbolic. The recreational marine industry is a major economic force in Florida, responsible for over \$18 billion of revenues and 220,000 jobs statewide. And I should note that \$13 billion of the economic impact and 162,000 of those jobs as well as almost half of the industry's gross sales come from the tri-county region of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties.

As many of our colleagues know, the contributions of the recreational boating community extend far beyond the Sunshine State. The boating population exceeds 73 million individuals in our country and an estimated 18 million recreational watercraft. In addition, the recreational boating industry provides more than \$39 billion in sales and services to the U.S. economy and provides nearly 380,000 manufacturing jobs. Altogether there are approximately 1,400 active boat builders in the United States with contributions from all 50 States.

One need only look at the geographic diversity among members of our Congressional Boating Caucus, of which I am a proud member, to measure the broad influence and contributions of the boating community and the boating industry to our country and the quality of our life. Members come from 38 States, including Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and West Virginia. Clearly, boating is not just a coastal pastime; it is an American pastime.

In addition, boating also brings us closer to our national treasures. I strongly believe that an appreciation for environmental stewardship comes through interacting with nature. For example, it is hard to comprehend the beauty of coral reefs until you see them underwater with your own eyes.

Once you do, you begin to understand their importance and the need to protect them for the continued health of our oceans.

Boating gives us these cherished opportunities to commune with nature. It should be no surprise that boaters can be impassioned stewards of the environment, teaching future generations of boaters a healthy respect and appreciation for our natural resources.

It is for these and other reasons that I introduced House Resolution 505, recognizing the contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity and affluence of the United States. This resolution calls upon President Bush to issue a proclamation to observe National Boating Day with an appropriate time being July 1.

I was happy to have so many of our colleagues from the Boating Caucus join me in supporting this resolution, including the distinguished co-chairs of the caucus, the Honorable GENE TAYLOR from Mississippi and the Honorable CANDICE MILLER from Michigan. I am sure that they can attest that boating is an integral part of our economy and our quality of life not just for those along the coast but for the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues for adopting this resolution today and recognizing the contributions of recreational boating and the boating industry.

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

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

THE PROSECUTION OF FORMER U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing this week to examine mandatory minimum sentencing laws. Included in this hearing will be the opportunity to examine the issue of mandatory minimum sentencing in the case of U.S. Border Patrol Agents Ramos and Compean.

As the Members of this House well know, in February, 2006, the two agents were convicted in a U.S. District Court in Texas for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler. They were sentenced to 11 and 12 years in prison respectively, and today is the 160th day since the agents entered Federal prison.

The law that the agents were charged with violating, 18 United States Code, section 924(c)(1)(A), carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years. As enacted by Congress, the law requires a

defendant to be indicted and convicted either of "using" or "carrying" a firearm during and in relation to the commission of a crime of violence or "possessing" a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence.

However, neither Mr. Ramos nor Mr. Compean were ever charged with specific elements of the crime. Instead, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Western District Court of Texas, Mr. Johnny Sutton, extracted from the U.S. Criminal Code a sentencing factor, "discharging" a firearm, and substituted that sentencing factor for the congressionally defined elements of the offense. Ten years of each of their sentences were based on an indictment and conviction for a Federal crime that does not exist. The law they were charged with violating has never been enacted by the United States Congress but rather was fashioned by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In this case I can imagine how difficult it would be to obtain an indictment and conviction for "using," "possessing," or "carrying" a firearm when the Border Patrol agents were required to carry firearms as part of their job. That difficulty may well explain why this U.S. Attorney's Office unilaterally changed Congress's definition of a crime to a definition that would be easier for the prosecution to prove.

When this issue was brought to my attention and to the attention of my colleagues VIRGIL GOODE and former Texas State Judge TED POE, we were pleased to join forces with the Gun Owners Foundation, U.S. Border Control, U.S. Border Control Foundation, and the Conservative Legal Defense & Education Fund to file a friend of the court brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The brief urges reversal of these unjust convictions and 10-year mandatory minimum sentences by spelling out how charges contained in two counts of the indictment against the agents are fatally defective. I want to thank Chairman JOHN CONYERS for scheduling a hearing on this issue, as well as the Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism and Homeland Security for its willingness to investigate the injustice committed against these two border agents.

I encourage the chairman and the committee to take a thorough look at the action of the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas and his aggressive prosecution of law enforcement officers like Ramos and Compean.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I want to let the families of Compean and Ramos know that we are not going to forget these two border agents. They are heroes and should never have been sent to prison.

□ 1845

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HALL of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

U.S. TRADE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. trade deficit continues its relentless spiral upwards. More red ink. More outsourced jobs. More foreign imports. Nothing seems capable of slowing it down, neither the misguided Bush administration policy of forcing down the value of the dollar on global markets, nor a half-hearted, ineffective and ultimately unsuccessful attempt to increase U.S. exports. America wants results, not rhetoric.

According to recent reports, the current account deficit, which is the broadest measure of the trade deficit, reached \$193 billion just in the first quarter of this year. Every year the red ink gets deeper. This represents 5.7 percent of our gross domestic product. It is a heavy ball and chain on the economic growth in our country, and it is becoming heavier. The trade deficit in goods in the first quarter surpassed \$200 billion, and it dwarfed surpluses in services and income payments.

Although you won't hear it from the economists on the coasts, the gargantuan deficit in goods is a dagger pointed at the heart of the economy in parts of the country such as I represent. We need action in Washington to stop the loss of jobs due to the trade deficit hemorrhage and unfair foreign competition, including the remaining closed markets of the world in first world nations like Japan.

The trade deficit, Mr. Speaker, reveals two fundamental weaknesses in our national economic policy. First is our unforgivable utter dependence on imported petroleum, the primary category of trade deficit. American consumers end up paying twice for the government's failure to declare energy independence, first when they fill up, and second, when their own economy is undermined by the global oil giants working in tandem with the repressive kingdoms of the Middle East and other places.

One would think that our government would have heard the warnings long enough and often enough to take action against our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, and I mean real action, like energy independence within a decade.

The President talked about it in his State of the Union speech, but he has not followed up with action. In fact, in his administration we are importing a billion more barrels of petroleum annually from other countries. So we should not be surprised, maybe, considering the President and Vice President are both oil men at heart.

The other weakness revealed by the current account deficit is our failure to

develop a trade policy that makes as its priority the competitiveness of American jobs and American businesses. The government, rather, has pursued a policy that sends manufacturing jobs overseas to third world places like China, which represents a growing share of this red ink. Talk to tool and dye makers in Ohio, those who somehow have survived. Talk to workers in the auto industry or the auto parts sector; they must wonder whether it is the official policy of the United States Government to throw them to the wolves.

Where, they ask, is the policy for making the United States economy competitive here at home in each of the categories where we have lost the edge?

Together, the trade deficit with China from petroleum and from automotive products account for 95 percent of the total, and somebody's got to pay. In order to finance the deficit, Americans are borrowing and selling assets to the tune of approximately \$600 billion a year. Anything in your town been put on the chopping block yet? Debt service amounts to approximately \$2,000 a year for every working American. We are truly indebted.

Sooner or later somebody has to pay that bill, and the American people know who that somebody is. The Chinese government alone holds enough foreign reserves to purchase about 5 percent of the shares of all publicly traded U.S. companies. The U.S. trade deficit is the main source of that Chinese wealth. Dr. Peter Morici of the University of Maryland has written about the impact of our trade policy on economic growth. He notes that every dollar spent on imports that is not matched by a dollar of exports reduces domestic demand here at home and employment and shifts workers into activities where productivity is lower.

Productivity is at least 50 percent higher in industries that export and compete with imports, and reducing the trade deficit and moving workers into these industries would increase our gross domestic product. If the administration and Congress showed the fortitude to cut the trade deficit, and we're not talking about a balanced trade account, just cutting the deficit by half, the gross domestic product would increase by an estimated \$250 billion, or more than \$1,700 for every working American. That comes to 1 percent a year due to this halving of the deficit rather than the loss of 1 percent of economic growth every year due to this continuing failed trade policy, which has been in place for at least two decades.

If we could just cut the deficit in half, workers wages could once again keep pace with inflation, families would no longer fall further behind with each passing month, and we would have better jobs, better paying wages and better benefits.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately we will not see that economic growth until our

government deals with this trade deficit and stops the hemorrhage. That would require political courage. I would sure like to see some of it here in this town.

U.S. RECORDS \$193 BILLION FIRST QUARTER
CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT TAXING U.S.
GROWTH

(By Peter Morici)

Today, the Commerce Department reported the first quarter current account deficit was \$192.6 billion, up from \$187.9 billion in the fourth quarter.

The deficit was 5.7 percent of GDP. The consensus forecast was \$203 billion, and my published forecast was 195.8.

The current account is the broadest measure of the U.S. trade balance. In addition to trade in goods and services, it includes income received from U.S. investments abroad less payments to foreigners on their investments in the United States.

In the first quarter, the United States had a \$24.1 billion surplus on trade in services and a \$10.4 billion surplus on income payments. This was hardly enough to offset the massive \$200.9 billion deficit on trade in goods.

The huge deficit on trade in goods is caused by a combination of an overvalued dollar against the Chinese yuan, a dysfunctional national energy policy that increases U.S. dependence on foreign oil, and the competitive woes of the three domestic automakers. Together, the trade deficit with China and on petroleum and automotive products account for about 95 percent of the deficit on trade in goods and services.

To finance the current account deficit, Americans are borrowing and selling assets at a pace of about \$600 billion a year. U.S. foreign debt exceeds \$6 trillion, and the debt service comes to about \$2,000 a year for every working American.

A significant share of these funds was loaned to Americans by foreign governments. China and other governments loaned Americans more than 4.3 percent of GDP.

The current account deficit imposes a significant tax on GDP growth by moving workers from export and import-competing industries to other sectors of the economy. This reduces labor productivity, research and development (R&D) spending, and important investments in human capital. In 2007 the trade deficit is slicing about \$250 billion off GDP, and longer term, it reduces potential annual GDP growth to 3 percent from 4 percent.

FINANCING THE DEFICIT

The current account deficit must be financed by a capital account surplus, either by foreigners investing in the U.S. economy or loaning Americans money. Some analysts argue that the deficit reflects U.S. economic strength, because foreigners find many promising investments here. The details of U.S. financing belie this argument.

In the first quarter, U.S. investments abroad were \$420.8 billion, while foreigners invested \$623.6 billion in the United States. Of that latter total, only \$23.5 billion or less than 4 percent was direct investment in U.S. productive assets. The remaining capital inflows were foreign purchases of Treasury securities, corporate bonds, bank accounts, currency, and other paper assets. Essentially, Americans borrowed \$600 billion to consume 5.7 percent more than they produced.

Foreign governments loaned Americans \$147.8 billion or 4.3 percent of GDP. That well exceeded net household borrowing to finance homes, cars, gasoline, and other consumer goods. The Chinese and other governments are essentially bankrolling U.S. consumers,

who in turn are mortgaging their children's income.

The cumulative effects of this borrowing are frightening. The total external debt now exceeds \$6 trillion. The debt service at 5 percent interest, amounts to \$2000 for each working American.

The Chinese government alone holds enough U.S. and other foreign reserves to purchase about five percent of the shares of all publicly trade U.S. companies. The U.S. trade deficit is the primary driver behind this phenomenon.

CONSEQUENCES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

High and rising trade deficits tax economic growth. Specifically, each dollar spent on imports that is not matched by a dollar of exports reduces domestic demand and employment, and shifts workers into activities where productivity is lower.

Productivity is at least 50 percent higher in industries that export and compete with imports, and reducing the trade deficit and moving workers into these industries would increase GDP.

Were the trade deficit cut in half, GDP would increase by about \$250 billion or more than \$1,700 for every working American. Workers' wages would not be lagging inflation, and ordinary working Americans would more easily find jobs paying higher wages and offering decent benefits.

Manufacturers are particularly hard hit by this subsidized competition. Through recession and recovery, the manufacturing sector has lost 3.2 million jobs since 2000. Following the pattern of past economic recoveries, the manufacturing sector should have regained about 2 million of those jobs, especially given the very strong productivity growth accomplished in durable goods and throughout manufacturing.

Longer-term, persistent U.S. trade deficits are a substantial drag on growth. U.S. import-competing and export industries spend three-times the national average on industrial R&D, and encourage more investments in skills and education than other sectors of the economy. By shifting employment away from trade-competing industries, the trade deficit reduces U.S. investments in new methods and products, and skilled labor.

Cutting the trade deficit in half would boost U.S. GDP growth by one percentage point a year, and the trade deficits of the last two decades have reduced U.S. growth by one percentage point a year.

Lost growth is cumulative. Thanks to the record trade deficits accumulated over the last 10 years, the U.S. economy is about \$1.5 trillion smaller. This comes to about \$10,000 per worker.

Had the Administration and the Congress acted responsibly to reduce the deficit, American workers would be much better off, tax revenues would be much larger, and the Federal deficit could be eliminated without cutting spending.

The damage grows larger each month, as the Bush administration dallies and ignores the corrosive consequences of the trade deficit.

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

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

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

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

BRING THE SOLDIERS HOME

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, they say they care about the soldiers. The President and his administration talk a lot about the soldiers, but in Iraq, the situation keeps getting worse. There are another 18 months left in this administration, and unless the Republicans finally dig in and demand action instead of words, casualties will continue to rise at a horrendous rate. In the 18 months the President remains in office, 1,800 more soldiers will die and 18,000 more U.S. soldiers will be wounded if they keep up at the present rate.

We are suffering as mightily as we did in Vietnam, and the results are just as catastrophic and just as preventable. We have a choice, but this President chooses to spend more U.S. lives in Iraq, and he does so with the full support of the Republican Party, which is the only way he can survive.

The American people have spoken, the Democratic Party has spoken, we all said the same thing: Set a timetable and get U.S. soldiers out of Iraq's civil war. Even the majority of Iraq's elected Parliament has demanded a timetable for U.S. withdrawal, but the President ignores it all.

So far, the Republican Party has sat on its conscience and given the President every blank check he asks for. Too many Republicans in this House and Senate know the truth, but they remain silent and acquiescence and give up their congressional responsibility.

The American people have submerged the President's approval rating in an effort to get his attention, but he keeps ignoring the fact, the evidence and the lessons of history. And it is possible because blind allegiance has become the litmus test of the members of his party.

Republicans used to give the President blank checks, now they give him a rubber stamp veto to keep Americans fighting and dying in a war he lost several years ago. U.S. casualties will continue to rise at the President continues to escalate his stay-the-course policy in Iraq.

The President's stubbornness has nothing to do with taking new ground in Iraq, but it has everything to do with gaining rights to what's underground in Iraq, the oil wealth of the Iraqi people. That's why the rhetoric is already being planted by the administration with friendly media that Sep-

tember won't really matter when it comes to a progress report. As Frank Rich reported in the Sunday New York Times, the fix is already on. And I will enter this journalism into the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, June 24, 2007]

THEY'LL BREAK THE BAD NEWS ON 9/11

(By Frank Rich)

By this late date we should know the fix is in when the White House's top factotums fan out on the Sunday morning talk shows singing the same lyrics, often verbatim, from the same hymnal of spin. The pattern was set way back on Sept. 8, 2002, when in simultaneous appearances three cabinet members and the vice president warned darkly of Saddam's aluminum tubes. "We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud," said Condi Rice, in a scripted line. The hard sell of the war in Iraq—the hyping of a (fictional) nuclear threat to America—had officially begun.

America wasn't paying close enough attention then. We can't afford to repeat that blunder now. Last weekend the latest custodians of the fiasco, our new commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, and our new ambassador to Baghdad, Ryan Crocker, took to the Sunday shows with two messages we'd be wise to heed.

The first was a confirmation of recent White House hints that the long-promised September pivot point for judging the success of the "surge" was inoperative. That deadline had been asserted as recently as April 24 by President Bush, who told Charlie Rose that September was when we'd have "a pretty good feel" whether his policy "made sense." On Sunday General Petraeus and Mr. Crocker each downgraded September to merely a "snapshot" of progress in Iraq. "Snapshot," of course, means "Never mind!"

The second message was more encoded and more ominous. Again using similar language, the two men said that in September they would explain what Mr. Crocker called "the consequences" and General Petraeus "the implications" of any alternative "courses of action" to their own course in Iraq. What this means in English is that when the September "snapshot" of the surge shows little change in the overall picture, the White House will say that "the consequences" of winding down the war would be even more disastrous: surrender, defeat, apocalypse now. So we must stay the surge. Like the war's rollout in 2002, the new propaganda offensive to extend and escalate the war will be exquisitely timed to both the anniversary of 9/11 and a high-stakes Congressional vote (the Pentagon appropriations bill).

General Petraeus and Mr. Crocker wouldn't be sounding like the Bobbsey Twins and laying out this coordinated rhetorical groundwork were they not already anticipating the surge's failure. Both spoke on Sunday of how (in General Petraeus's variation on the theme) they had to "show that the Baghdad clock can indeed move a bit faster, so that you can put a bit of time back on the Washington clock." The very premise is nonsense. Yes, there is a Washington clock, tied to Republicans' desire to avoid another Democratic surge on Election Day 2008. But there is no Baghdad clock. It was blown up long ago and is being no more successfully reconstructed than anything else in Iraq.

When Mr. Bush announced his "new way forward" in January, he offered a bouquet of promises, all unfulfilled today. "Let the Iraqis lead" was the policy's first bullet point, but in the initial assault on insurgents now playing out so lethally in Diyala Province, Iraqi forces were kept out of the fighting altogether. They were added on

Thursday: 500 Iraqis, following 2,500 Americans. The notion that these Shiite troops might "hold" this Sunni area once the Americans leave is an opium dream. We're already back fighting in Maysan, a province whose security was officially turned over to Iraqi authorities in April.

In his January prime-time speech announcing the surge, Mr. Bush also said that "America will hold the Iraqi government to the benchmarks it has announced." More fiction. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's own political adviser, Sadiq al-Rikabi, says it would take "a miracle" to pass the legislation America wants. Asked on Monday whether the Iraqi Parliament would stay in Baghdad this summer rather than hightail it to vacation, Tony Snow was stumped.

Like Mr. Crocker and General Petraeus, Mr. Snow is on script for trivializing September as judgment day for the surge, saying that by then we'll only "have a little bit of metric" to measure success. This administration has a peculiar metric system. On Thursday, Peter Pace, the departing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the spike in American troop deaths last week the "wrong metric" for assessing the surge's progress. No doubt other metrics in official reports this month are worthless too, as far as the non-reality-based White House is concerned. The civilian casualty rate is at an all-time high; the April-May American death toll is a new two-month record; overall violence in Iraq is up; only 146 out of 457 Baghdad neighborhoods are secure; the number of internally displaced Iraqis has quadrupled since January.

Last week Iraq rose to No. 2 in Foreign Policy magazine's Failed State Index, barely nosing out Sudan. It might have made No. 1 if the Iraqi health ministry had not stopped providing a count of civilian casualties. Or if the Pentagon were not withholding statistics on the increase of attacks on the Green Zone. Apparently the White House is working overtime to ensure that the September "snapshot" of Iraq will be an underexposed blur. David Carr of The Times discovered that the severe Pentagon blackout on images of casualties now extends to memorials for the fallen in Iraq, even when a unit invites press coverage.

Americans and Iraqis know the truth anyway. The question now is: What will be the new new way forward? For the administration, the way forward will include, as always, attacks on its critics' patriotism. We got a particularly absurd taste of that this month when Harry Reid was slammed for calling General Pace incompetent and accusing General Petraeus of exaggerating progress on the ground.

General Pace's record speaks for itself; the administration declined to go to the mat in the Senate for his reappointment. As for General Petraeus, who recently spoke of "astounding signs of normalcy" in Baghdad, he is nothing if not consistent. He first hyped "optimism" and "momentum" in Iraq in an op-ed article in September 2004.

Come September 2007, Mr. Bush will offer his usual false choices. We must either stay his disastrous course in eternal pursuit of "victory" or retreat to the apocalypse of "precipitous withdrawal." But by the latest of the president's ever-shifting definitions of victory, we've already lost. "Victory will come," he says, when Iraq "is stable enough to be able to be an ally in the war on terror and to govern itself and defend itself." The surge, which he advertised as providing "breathing space" for the Iraqi "unity" government to get its act together, is tipping that government into collapse. As Vali Nasr, author of "The Shia Revival," has said, the new American strategy of arming Sunni tribes is tantamount to saying the Iraqi government is irrelevant.

For the Bush White House, the real definition of victory has become "anything they can get away with without taking blame for defeat," said the retired Army Gen. William Odom, a national security official in the Reagan and Carter administrations, when I spoke with him recently. The plan is to run out the Washington clock between now and Jan. 20, 2009, no matter the cost.

Precipitous withdrawal is also a chimera, since American manpower, materiel and bases, not to mention our new Vatican City-sized embassy, can't be drawn down overnight. The only real choice, as everyone knows, is an orderly plan for withdrawal that will best serve American interests. The real debate must be over what that plan is. That debate can't happen as long as the White House gets away with falsifying reality, sliming its opponents and sowing hyped fears of Armageddon. The threat that terrorists in civil-war-torn Iraq will follow us home if we leave is as bogus as Saddam's mushroom clouds. The Qaeda that actually attacked us on 9/11 still remains under the tacit protection of our ally, Pakistan.

As General Odom says, the endgame will start "when a senior senator from the president's party says no," much as William Fulbright did to L.B.J. during Vietnam. That's why in Washington this fall, eyes will turn once again to John Warner, the senior Republican with the clout to give political cover to other members of his party who want to leave Iraq before they're forced to evacuate Congress. In September, it will be nearly a year since Mr. Warner said that Iraq was "drifting sideways" and that action would have to be taken "if this level of violence is not under control and this government able to function."

Mr. Warner has also signaled his regret that he was not more outspoken during Vietnam. "We kept surging in those years," he told *The Washington Post* in January, as the Iraq surge began. "It didn't work." Surely he must recognize that his moment for speaking out about this war is overdue. Without him, the Democrats don't have the votes to force the president's hand. With him, it's a slam dunk. The best way to honor the sixth anniversary of 9/11 will be to at last disarm a president who continues to squander countless lives in the names of those voiceless American dead.

The truth about September will be that the President is still losing the Iraq war, but that's not what we will be told, nor will the President tell the American people that he has no plan to treat all the gravely wounded soldiers returning from Iraq. Already America has lost over 3,500 soldiers, as many as 53,000 more are gravely wounded. As many as 50,000 more may yet be afflicted with post traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury.

As the Associated Press reported over the weekend, our government is overwhelmed now in trying to care for our wounded, and the President has this Nation on course to see 20,000 more casualties before he leaves office. That's what will happen unless his own Republican Party finally tells him and the American people the truth about Iraq, and the urgent need to get their soldiers out of harm's way.

The Vietnam Memorial in Washington is a place where we commemorate the soldiers who died during the last failed war. Had enough people gotten through to the President back in 1968, there would only be one side of

that Memorial because we could have saved at least 25,000 lives. That's why we have to get through to the President today. The American people can't, the Democratic Party can't, even the Iraq Parliament can't. That leaves only the Republican Party to stop the memorial to Iraq's fallen heroes from growing any larger than it already will be.

We have a chance today to save U.S. lives by seeing the Iraq war for what it is and what it isn't. It is a civil war created by us, and it isn't in America's interest to be there.

Bring the soldiers home, Mr. President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to address the House, and it's good to be here before we go on 4th of July break to celebrate the birthday of this great country.

As you know, in the 30-something Working Group, we come to the floor to discuss a number of issues that are facing the American people, and also, I think it's important to identify our focus on the issues in Iraq and Afghanistan and the issues that are facing the American people.

I think, Mr. Speaker, the events over the weekend in Iraq and also in Afghanistan even give us further focus on making sure that the issues that are facing our men and women that are in harm's way are addressed here in the Congress. I think it's also very important for us to focus on what has not happened in this Congress as it relates to making sure that we meet the needs of our men and women.

We have appropriation bills that have been held up in the process that are now moving through the process. It's not because of the majority side's lack of will to be able to move them, it's the fact that we have some of our friends on the other side of the aisle that see it fit to slow the process down, but that argument is for another day.

As you know, I'm one of the Members, especially on this side of the aisle, that push for bipartisanship. Mr. Speaker, I spend quite a bit of time here on the floor talking about how when we work together, we're able to move the American agenda forward. And I look forward to continuing to stand up on behalf of bipartisanship here in the House to accomplish a goal

to be able to make sure that our men and women in harm's way are able to receive the representation that the American people voted for.

Mr. Speaker, I think also what we should touch on is the fact that we have sent a number of documents to the White House, and those documents happen to be law, or proposed law. We had a bill that passed both House and Senate emergency supplemental that had not only benchmarks in it, but also withdrawal dates that were sensible and that were timely to let the Iraqi Government know that we will not continue to reward a lack of action on their side and accomplishment on their side as it relates to securing Iraq. That was vetoed by the President. But I can say that not one Democrat went to the White House and stood behind the President and said that we will stop any override of the President's veto.

□ 2100

I am so glad that we did send that bill there to show the American people that we are willing to do the things that we need to do.

We also passed a nonbinding resolution against the surge in Iraq, the escalation, I must add, in Iraq of U.S. troops and personnel. That was a strong message that the American people wanted to send out. That was successfully passed. Now, we are going to have two reports when we get back July 15, I would say to Mr. LARSON, our Vice Chair, in a report in September. I think it is going to be very, very important for the Members to remember that we are Americans first, Members of Congress. Along with that, that first chair that I mentioned, and on the second hand, that we are from two different parties, because there are men and women who are counting on us to work together.

But those of us on this side of the aisle have to provide the leadership. If the leadership doesn't come from the White House, then we are here, sent by American taxpayers, American voters, to represent them from the said districts that we are from. But it is important that we provide that leadership and opportunity.

I would like to yield to my good friend, Mr. JOHN LARSON, from the great State of Connecticut. He is our Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus. I want to thank you, sir, for your leadership on this very issue of Iraq.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Well, let me first and foremost congratulate the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK), and Mr. RYAN and Mrs. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. MURPHY for continuing to come to the floor, the 30-somethings, and talk about issues that are so important to this country. There is no more important issue before this Congress or this country, than the war in Iraq.

There is no more important issue to the American public. But it is clear, and I think General Odom stated it

best, because as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) pointed out, this Congress, with its small Democratic majorities, has done what it can to end the war in Iraq and put a bill on the President's desk. The President opted to veto that bill. Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle opted to stay the course with the President of the United States.

As General Odom says, and I quote, "The end game will start when a senior senator from the President's party, or a senior Member from the House of Representatives, such as William Fulbright did to LBJ during Vietnam, stands up and says no, stands up and says let's end the war."

Let's create the kind of strategic withdrawal that we need in order to preserve our troops, in order to maintain our military's readiness, in order to bring sanity back into the lives, especially the reservists and the National Guard who have put out so much for us. We are going to go home at the end of this week and celebrate the Fourth of July while our troops are slugging it out there, while this administration goes through some endgame strategy where they sound like the Bobbsey twins getting together and say, "Well, now, all of a sudden, September 15 is only a snapshot of perhaps what will happen." A snapshot.

To the men and women who are putting their lives on the line every single day, it's time to end the war. That will only happen in this House of Representatives and in the United States Senate, as was pointed out by General Odom, when Members on the other side of the aisle recognize that they have to stand up and say "no" to the President. They hint about it. They talk about it.

Meanwhile, while they dither, we lost more than 23 soldiers this past weekend. How much longer can the insanity continue here without a strategy that provides us with the strategic withdrawal to an over-the-horizon force as has been advocated on this floor by colleagues on both sides of the aisle? Why is it that RON PAUL is the only presidential candidate who has the nerve on the Republican side to talk about it without fear of being called unpatriotic or in fact booed in an audience?

This Chamber should be a chamber where we have the opportunity to speak truth to power. Thank God for people like WAYNE GILCHREST. Thank God for people like WALTER JONES. But Members on the other side of the aisle need to join with this majority so that we can create an override if the President remains obstinate, along with the Vice President, in this myopic pursuit of victory. Victory. No definition of what "victory" is, other than "staying there for as long as it takes." We see that the Iraqi government is not living up to its proposals, that the surge is an entire failure. Yet, people come to the floor and people present in the newspapers arguments that somehow the surge might work, what it just needs is

a little more time, or perhaps what it needs is even more troops.

It is time to end this war. It is time to make sure that we have people on the other side of the aisle that are willing to speak truth to power and face up to the fact that it is in the best interest of our country, that it is the very American thing to do, to stand up for our troops, to provide for our families that are here at home worried sick about the prospect of sending their loved ones into this insurgent civil war nightmare we have come to call Iraq.

The American public is way ahead of this Chamber, way ahead of the Senate. We plead with our colleagues, especially as we go forward to this July 4 weekend, to find the courage of our forebears and to stand up, since we are the body that decides on war. You have Senator WARNER saying that he ought to reconsider the authorization of this war, to do what they did in Vietnam, to recognize that the Congress, during that era, stood up and deauthorized the Gulf of Tonkin resolution that put an end to an unjust war.

We know now, of course, that we found no weapons of mass destruction. We know now that we had no exit strategy. We know now that this administration's closest adviser that they took into their bosom was Ahmed Chalabi, who ultimately ends up saying, "So what? I lied to you. So what? I lied to you. You got what you wanted. You had a civil war in your country. The Iraqis are going to have to have a civil war in their country."

Americans soldiers, men and women who have served this country with honor, go over there to fulfill their duty to their country. We have a duty and a responsibility here to make sure that we are doing everything within our power to make sure that they are safe and secure. Instead, we have stuck them in the middle of a civil war. The military objectives of this war have long since been accomplished. It is time to bring the troops home.

I commend Mr. MEEK and Mr. RYAN for having come to this floor day in and day out and discussed this thing. But we have to turn it up. Especially for those of you in our viewing audience, continue to turn it up at home. Turn up the conversation and the dialogue that so many have taken to the streets, to protest, to talk about moving other Members of this great body to come and arrive at the same conclusion that most Americans have. It is time for the safe, secure and strategic withdrawal of our troops from Iraq.

Mr. MEEK, I thank you for the opportunity to come down here and address, along with you, Members of the 30-something Group, who have continued to speak truth to power here. I especially want to commend Mr. RYAN from Ohio for his efforts, as well.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, I am glad Mr. RYAN from Ohio has joined us, Mr. Vice Chairman. I just want to commend you for your work with the Iraq Watch Group and the work that you

have been doing here in the House, not only working with Members such as myself, but others that are trying to find a way that we, Mr. Speaker, can get our troops home more sooner than later. I think it is important that all Members focus on the fact that we come to the floor to make sure that we can work together.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to not only warn, but I would like to bring to the attention of the Members of the House that when that bipartisanship is blocked or Members are discouraged from voting on legislation, or voting in the affirmative, or slowing down the process, when we are trying to carry out the work that the American people sent us up here to do, then we have to rise up, the majority that the Vice Chairman speaks of so much, to do the things that we need to do on behalf of the people.

□ 1915

I think, Mr. LARSON, when you were talking, I couldn't help but reflect on what we were able to do last week as it relates to our military construction/VA spending bill, which was the largest single increase in VA in the 77-year history of the VA. It was a bipartisan vote that took place in the final analysis, and it was something that was well-needed.

This is far from what you remember under Republican control, when the chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee just got so fed up and could no longer tell the veterans groups in this country that he could help them, do what he thought he was supposed to have done on behalf of those men and women coming back, those men and women waiting in line 6 months to see a specialist or what have you. He was removed as chairman.

Now we are under a Democratic-controlled Congress, understanding our responsibilities, understanding we have two wars going on, understanding that the VA doesn't have all of the things that it needs to have because of the cuts that have been made, understanding there is a Secretary of the VA appointed by the President that was confirmed by the Republican Senate, understanding that he doesn't want to make career decisions like some Members have, one Member did, who used to be the Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee. And I have that in my document that I will bring up a little later.

But I think it is important that we keep the focus; that we work double time in making sure that our men and women that are taking the fight to almost an unseen aggressor in the middle of a civil war in Iraq, with no end in sight, that they know that we are here, especially the majority of us here in this House, and will do everything in our power, go to as many meetings as we need to go to and get legislation to this floor and keep it in the forefront.

I say this, Mr. LARSON and Mr. RYAN, because I know there are a number of

military families that are there waiting on their loved ones to come home. I know there is a wife waiting for a husband, or a husband that is waiting on the wife to come back. I know there is a child that wants to celebrate what my children celebrate, me walking through the door, their mother walking through the door, on a nightly basis, being able to do the things that families do. But if you are a soldier, you are deployed 12 to 15 months, Mr. Speaker, hands down. And we know with this surge that the troop levels have reached a level that has endangered the readiness of our country here. I think it is important.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield for a moment, I thank you again, because I do want to say that Frank Rich wrote an important column in *The New York Times* yesterday, and it is one that I will submit for the record. I think it also lays it out pretty clearly.

I would like to quote here. First he is quoting retired General William Odom. "For the Bush White House, the real definition of victory has become 'anything they can get away with without taking blame for defeat,' said the retired Army General William Odom, a national security official in the Reagan and Carter administrations," when Frank Rich spoke to him most recently. "The plan is to run out the Washington clock between now and January 20, 2009, no matter the cost."

"A precipitous withdrawal is also a chimera, since American manpower, material and bases, not to mention our new Vatican-sized embassy, can't be drawn down overnight."

And here is the important thing that I think Mr. Rich says. "The only real choice, everyone knows, is an orderly plan for withdrawal that will best serve American interests. The real debate must be over what that plan is. That debate can't happen as long as the White House gets away with falsifying reality, sliming its opponents and sowing hyped fears of Armageddon. The threat that terrorists in a civil war-torn Iraq will follow us home if we leave is as bogus as Saddam's mushroom clouds. The al Qaeda that actually attacked us on 9/11 still remains under the tacit protection of our ally, Pakistan."

"As General Odom says, 'the endgame will start when a senior senator from the President's party says no,' much like William Fulbright did. That's why in Washington this fall," he goes on to say, "eyes will turn once again to JOHN WARNER, the senior Republican with the clout to give political cover to other members of his party who want to leave Iraq before they are forced to evacuate Congress. In September, it will nearly be a year since Mr. WARNER said that Iraq was 'drifting sideways' and that action would have to be taken if this level of violence is not under control and this government is able to function."

"Mr. WARNER has also signaled his regret that he was not more outspoken

during Vietnam. 'We kept surging in those years,' he told *The Washington Post* in January, as the Iraq surge began. 'It didn't work.' Surely," Rich goes on to say, "he must recognize that his moment for speaking out about this war is overdue. Without him, the Democrats don't have the votes," and I repeat, without Republicans, "the Democrats don't have the votes to force the President's hand. With him, it's a slam-dunk. The best way to honor the sixth anniversary of 9/11," as we take up this week the 9/11 Commission response, "is to at last disarm a President who continues to squander countless lives in the names of those voiceless American dead."

Mr. Speaker, I include the entire Frank Rich article for the RECORD.

[From the *New York Times*, June 24, 2007]

THEY'LL BREAK THE BAD NEWS ON 9/11

(By Frank Rich)

By this late date we should know the fix is in when the White House's top factotums fan out on the Sunday morning talk shows singing the same lyrics, often verbatim, from the same hymnal of spin. The pattern was set way back on Sept. 8, 2002, when in simultaneous appearances three cabinet members and the vice president warned darkly of Saddam's aluminum tubes. "We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud," said Condi Rice, in a scripted line. The hard sell of the war in Iraq—the hyping of a (fictional) nuclear threat to America—had officially begun.

America wasn't paying close enough attention then. We can't afford to repeat that blunder now. Last weekend the latest custodians of the fiasco, our new commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, and our new ambassador to Baghdad, Ryan Crocker, took to the Sunday shows with two messages we'd be wise to heed.

The first was a confirmation of recent White House hints that the long-promised September pivot point for judging the success of the "surge" was inoperative. That deadline had been asserted as recently as April 24 by President Bush, who told Charlie Rose that September was when we'd have "a pretty good feel" whether his policy "made sense." On Sunday General Petraeus and Mr. Crocker each downgraded September to merely a "snapshot" of progress in Iraq. "Snapshot," of course, means "Never mind!"

The second message was more encoded and more ominous. Again using similar language, the two men said that in September they would explain what Mr. Crocker called "the consequences" and General Petraeus "the implications" of any alternative "courses of action" to their own course in Iraq. What this means in English is that when the September "snapshot" of the surge shows little change in the overall picture, the White House will say that "the consequences" of winding down the war would be even more disastrous: surrender, defeat, apocalypse now. So we must stay the surge. Like the war's rollout in 2002, the new propaganda offensive to extend and escalate the war will be exquisitely timed to both the anniversary of 9/11 and a highstakes Congressional vote (the Pentagon appropriations bill).

General Petraeus and Mr. Crocker wouldn't be sounding like the Bobsey Twins and laying out this coordinated rhetorical groundwork they not already anticipating the surge's failure. Both spoke on Sunday of how (in General Petraeus's variation on the theme) they had to "show that the Baghdad clock can indeed move a bit

faster, so that you can put a bit of time back on the Washington clock." The very premise is nonsense. Yes, there is a Washington clock, tied to Republicans' desire to avoid another Democratic surge on Election Day 2008. But there is no Baghdad clock. It was blown up long ago and is being no more successfully reconstructed than anything else in Iraq.

When Mr. Bush announced his "new way forward" in January, he offered a bouquet of promises, all unfulfilled today. "Let the Iraqis lead" was the policy's first bullet point, but in the initial assault on insurgents now playing out so lethally in Diyala Province, Iraqi forces were kept out of the fighting altogether. They were added on Thursday: 500 Iraqis, following 2,500 Americans. The notion that these Shiite troops might "hold" this Sunni area once the Americans leave is an opium dream. We're already back fighting in Maysan, a province whose security was officially turned over to Iraqi authorities in April.

In his January prime-time speech announcing the surge, Mr. Bush also said that "America will hold the Iraqi government to the benchmarks it has announced." More fiction. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's own political adviser, Sadiq al-Rikabi, says it would take "a miracle" to pass the legislation America wants. Asked on Monday whether the Iraqi Parliament would stay in Baghdad this summer rather than high-tail it to vacation, Tony Snow was stumped.

Like Mr. Crocker and General Petraeus, Mr. Snow is on script for trivializing September as judgment day for the surge, saying that by then we'll only "have a little bit of metric" to measure success. This administration has a peculiar metric system. On Thursday, Peter Pace, the departing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the spike in American troop deaths last week the "wrong metric" for assessing the surge's progress. No doubt other metrics in official reports this month are worthless too, as far as the non-reality-based White House is concerned. The civilian casualty rate is at an all-time high; the April-May American death toll is a new two-month record; overall violence in Iraq is up; only 146 out of 457 Baghdad neighborhoods are secure; the number of internally displaced Iraqis has quadrupled since January.

Last week Iraq rose to No. 2 in Foreign Policy magazine's Failed State Index, barely nosing out Sudan. It might have made No. 1 if the Iraqi health ministry had not stopped providing a count of civilian casualties. Or if the Pentagon were not withholding statistics on the increase of attacks on the Green Zone. Apparently the White House is working overtime to ensure that the September "snapshot" of Iraq will be an underexposed blur. David Carr of *The Times* discovered that the severe Pentagon blackout on images of casualties now extends to memorials for the fallen in Iraq, even when a unit invites press coverage.

Americans and Iraqis know the truth anyway. The question now is: What will be the new way forward? For the administration, the way forward will include, as always, attacks on its critics' patriotism. We got a particularly absurd taste of that this month when Harry Reid was slammed for calling General Pace incompetent and accusing General Petraeus of exaggerating progress on the ground.

General Pace's record speaks for itself; the administration declined to go to the mat in the Senate for his reappointment. As for General Petraeus, who recently spoke of "astounding signs of normalcy" in Baghdad, he is nothing if not consistent. He first hyped "optimism" and "momentum" in Iraq in an op-ed article in September 2004.

Come September 2007, Mr. Bush will offer his usual false choices. We must either stay his disastrous course in eternal pursuit of "victory" or retreat to the apocalypse of "precipitous withdrawal." But by the latest of the president's ever-shifting definitions of victory, we've already lost. "Victory will come," he says, when Iraq "is stable enough to be able to be an ally in the war on terror and to govern itself and defend itself." The surge, which he advertised as providing "breathing space" for the Iraqi "unity" government to get its act together, is tipping that government into collapse. As Vali Nasr, author of "The Shia Revival," has said, the new American strategy of arming Sunni tribes is tantamount to saying the Iraqi government is irrelevant.

For the Bush White House, the real definition of victory has become "anything they can get away with without taking blame for defeat," said the retired Army Gen. William Odom, a national security official in the Reagan and Carter administrations, when I spoke with him recently. The plan is to run out the Washington clock between now and Jan. 20, 2009, no matter the cost.

Precipitous withdrawal is also a chimera, since American manpower, materiel and bases, not to mention our new Vatican City-sized embassy, can't be drawn down overnight. The only real choice, as everyone knows, is an orderly plan for withdrawal that will best serve American interests. The real debate must be over what that plan is. That debate can't happen as long as the White House gets away with falsifying reality, sliming its opponents and sowing hyped fears of Armageddon. The threat that terrorists in civil-war-torn Iraq will follow us home if we leave is as bogus as Saddam's mushroom clouds. The Qaeda that actually attacked us on 9/11 still remains under the tacit protection of our ally, Pakistan.

As General Odom says, the endgame will start "when a senior senator from the president's party says no," much as William Fulbright did to L.B.J. during Vietnam. That's why in Washington this fall, eyes will turn once again to John Warner, the senior Republican with the clout to give political cover to other members of his party who want to leave Iraq before they're forced to evacuate Congress. In September, it will be nearly a year since Mr. Warner said that Iraq was "drifting sideways" and that action would have to be taken "if this level of violence is not under control and this government able to function."

Mr. Warner has also signaled his regret that he was not more outspoken during Vietnam. "We kept surging in those years," he told *The Washington Post* in January, as the Iraq surge began. "It didn't work." Surely he must recognize that his moment for speaking out about this war is overdue. Without him, the Democrats don't have the votes to force the president's hand. With him, it's a slam dunk. The best way to honor the sixth anniversary of 9/11 will be to at last disarm a president who continues to squander countless lives in the names of those voiceless American dead.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we a couple weeks ago had a big brouhaha here on what we would do as Democrats to protect the homeland, I think Frank Rich is exactly right: They are already trying to get us here, and this war has created more terrorists who are trying to get at the United States. Many may be here already. We don't know.

But if you look at what we wanted to do with the homeland security bill a couple of weeks ago, put 3,000 more

Border Patrol agents on the borders, make sure that we completely fund the cargo inspections coming in and out of our ports, make sure the technology is at our ports to find out if biological or chemical weapons are coming in, fund the first responders, fund the cops, fund the firemen, fund the equipment that they need for interoperability, so we have an agenda on how to protect the homeland that is much different than this one here.

But as Mr. Rich said, and there was also an article today in *The New York Times*, U.S. generals doubt the ability of Iraqi army to hold gains.

Now, no kidding. They had a big brouhaha with the speaker there, who was a Sunni Arab, who was put on leave at the request of a broad coalition of the three parties after incidents in which he lost his temper at other members and struck them or allowed his guards to rough them up. Now, I understand we have had a few brouhahas here in the House and in the Senate, but we didn't have an occupying force telling us to get along and get together.

These guys can't get their act together, Mr. LARSON, in a way that will allow them to take over their own country. When you look at what is going on here and the testimony before Congress on June 12 from General Dempsey, in charge of training the Iraqi army, he said there is a need to increase the Iraqi forces by at least 20,000 troops this year and a further expansion would be needed in 2008. That is not possible. He said, "However, the past few days of fighting have not yielded the kind of success that we needed. Despite the efforts to encircle leaders from al Qaeda and others there, we are not getting the job done."

We have so many cultural differences with the Iraqi people, the difficulties in training them, the lack of competence among the administration to jump on this, the lack of troops, on and on and on and on it goes.

I want to lend my voice to yours, Mr. LARSON and to Mr. KENDRICK MEEK from Florida, to say that it is time to bring these troops home. Let's redeploy in a very responsible way, protecting the safety of our troops, Mr. LARSON, which we all support, and make sure that we handle this politically and diplomatically, because we won this military battle, but now it is an occupation.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. As you have said on more than one occasion on the floor, Mr. RYAN, what we have needed all along here is a diplomatic surge, not a military surge. It is such a shame that we have abandoned so much of American foreign policy. In fact, more than 50 years of American foreign policy that were centered around deterrence, diplomacy and containment. Instead, we went into the wrong-headed policies of preemption and unilateralism, which have brought us to the quagmire that we are in today.

It breaks my heart to travel with JACK MURTHA to Bethesda and see the young men and women who are there, who have become the heroes, of course, in our country, but victims of a myopic, failed strategy with no exit in sight.

How much longer can the American public, or for that matter, this body, put up with the slogans that "we will stand down as the Iraqis stand up," when more of our troops are needed and less Iraqis continue to join us; when they decide that they are going to take the next couple of months off while we slog it out in a civil war?

Our soldiers don't know in many respects who the enemy is over there, because oftentimes they are getting played, one religious sect against another, settling ages of old scores rather than accomplishing any kind of goal of establishing a democracy or establishing a government or people that are going to stand up so that we can stand down.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, it is interesting that you would say that, and I can definitely share with you that we have to put a face on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I know time after time again there are some Members that are concerned that we may have a single focus on Iraq, and that is not the case. We are moving the House. We have appropriation bills that are moving through the process. We have legislation. We have the 9/11 legislation coming up this week. The Senate is fast at work, doing work before we leave on Friday. It is important to put a face on this.

I said before, Iraq, Iraq, and that other issue, Iraq. But look what it is doing to the country. Look where it is holding up the resources; where it is taking up so much of our time, not only of the Congress, rightfully so, because our troops are in harm's way.

We have a President that is saying "troops will be in Iraq," he said this in the past, "troops will be in Iraq as long as I am President." "We will be in Iraq," saying "we."

This is the first time he has not had a rubber stamp Congress since he has been President. I think it is important that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, those that have to vote with their constituents and for their constituents, make sure we can work towards measures in getting our men and women out.

But to punt the ball down and say, well, let's try on the next series of downs, we have to actually try to run the ball on fourth down. Running the ball on fourth down is having not only American families that are affected by this war in Iraq, but those that are not, letting their Members of Congress know that enough is enough.

Now, let me share this with you. We are going to fight the policy battle and we are going to make sure that our men and women have what they need to have that are in harm's way. That is

a no-brainer. I have never run into an American or even received a letter that says "I encourage you not to support the troops." Or "I don't support the troops." You never hear that. You always hear people support the troops.

The policy is an entirely different issue, and I think it is very important to say time after time again that to move in a new direction, that is the what the American people wanted last November, is being able to have not only the guts, but the integrity to move in that direction.

It is beyond good government. It is making a commitment to those who have made a commitment to us. And they are counting on us to stand up. And when I say us, I am not talking just about good Democrats. I am not just talking about Republicans. I am talking about all Members of the House.

The reason why it is very difficult, Mr. LARSON, as you know, to move the kind of legislation that we would like to move through this process, is because in the Senate they need a number of votes to be able to do so, 60 votes, I think that is the number.

Here in the House, the majority is not all that big, even though we are in the majority. I know that the record speaks for itself, and before we leave here tonight, I am going to read what I read a week ago into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD about the accomplishments of this Congress and what we have done as it relates to this issue of Iraq and where we have run into a roadblock with the President on not only vetoing legislation, with the help of our Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle that have been standing with the President.

I would like, if I can, I don't know if my chart is on the floor, Mr. LARSON, I had this chart with the President on it and the Republican Congress, where they borrowed so much money. I want to have a prop so I can make the point even clearer to the Members.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. You have been resilient in making this point, but I want to amplify a point you made, if I might. Again, I think Frank Rich says it fairly well. I think he puts a great deal of responsibility on Senator WARNER.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. This is the article you referred to earlier.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. The article in the New York Times written by Frank Rich.

□ 1930

I think Mr. WARNER has been on record publicly for having stated what he has. You mentioned the fact that this House has accomplished a tremendous amount, including, and I know you are going to reiterate it with your charts, including a number of agenda items that were accomplished in the first 100 legislative hours.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. That's correct.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. But over in the Senate, and most of the

general public isn't aware of this, they have a cloture rule. Cloture in the Senate means it takes 60 votes in order to pass something, which is why Mr. Rich in his article prevails upon Mr. WARNER, a senior Republican, to rein in Mr. MCCONNELL. Now MITCH MCCONNELL in the Senate has indicated that they continue to be obstructionists. Almost every single vote that has taken place over in the Senate, every single issue becomes a cloture vote which means that there are 60 votes needed in order to pass. Of course with only 50 Democrats in the United States Senate, that becomes impossible. So they become the obstructionist not only in the effort to strategically withdraw our troops and support the military and to revert back to a policy that makes sense, but also on every other issue that Democrats have been able to bring before and pass in this House of Representatives.

So, Mr. MEEK, I am pleased to join with you this evening and thank you for coming to the floor with this.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Vice Chairman, I just want to thank you for your continued leadership, and point out one fact before I go to my chart over here.

This is not an issue as it relates to, but in the 30-something Working Group, and let me just back up. In the 30-something Working Group, we like to have third-party validators. We like to have information so Members know exactly what they are voting on. We all have to go back home and talk to our constituents about the things that we have accomplished, and the resources we brought back to our district, and where we stood up on behalf of those that needed us to stand up for them.

There have been 47 key measures that have passed, 79 percent bipartisan consensus. I think that is important because what you are talking about as it relates to the Senate and what I have experienced serving with you in the 108th Congress and 109th Congress, we knew where our place was in those Congresses. We knew it was hard to bring a consensus vote because the leadership on the Republican side would fix the deck so we wouldn't have consensus, we wouldn't have bipartisanship.

With Speaker PELOSI, who encouraged bipartisanship where we can come together on issues, and these are major issues, these are not post offices. There is nothing wrong with naming post offices. I think Americans should be recognized at the local post office, and it is a wonderful privilege that we have here in Congress to do it. But I think it is important that everyone understands that across the board 47 key measures, and you know I love charts, Mr. LARSON, we are going to review those 47 key measures so Members know the time we have come together on behalf of the American people.

I say all of this to say when I spoke of the rubber stamp Republican Congress, and I have my rubber stamp, and that is one thing I have protected. It is

in my office and it is high up on the top of a cabinet. I keep my eye on it because I don't know, many of the charts I have had in the past that have been very, very effective in making the point to the Members, I call it a moment of clarity, fact versus fiction, someone, somehow these charts are leaving the floor. I don't know what is going on. I'm not saying anything, but I would love my charts back. Hopefully one of the Members will hear me.

President Bush, when you look at it, and this is by the U.S. Treasury, the foreign debt, when we talk about this war and we talk about the life of our men and women, many of them will never come home. A large number of our forces will never come home. And if they do come home, a number will come back with physical issues, emotional issues or mental issues that we have to deal with.

So what we did in an appropriations bill, over what the President calls for as it relates to mental health counseling, what the President has done in the past and what Members of Congress have done, the rubber-stamp Congress, the President, over 42 other Presidents, and this is my old chart. It is a new number, but this President has borrowed more from foreign countries than 42 other Presidents. So 42 Presidents over 224 years were only able to borrow \$1.01 trillion. This President, \$1.19 trillion at the end of the Republican control of the House. This is the Republican House here that allowed the President to rubber stamp.

Here is my point that I want to come back to that Mr. LARSON made earlier. We as Democrats and a few Republicans, sent a bill to the President that we consulted generals, we had hearings. The Appropriations Defense Committee had more hearings than the last Congress had combined on the whole issue of Iraq and this was just an emergency supplemental. I think it is important for the Members to understand that we sent that bill to the President and the President had a meeting. Members of the Republican Conference went down and had a lunch. They all came out and stood behind the President I think on the east steps, I saw it on television, and said we stand with the President and we have made a commitment to the President that we will not take part in overriding his veto as Members of the House.

Here is the Republican Congress, here is the \$1.19 trillion that we have borrowed from foreign nations. It reminds me of the past Congress. So when Mr. LARSON started talking about those willing to stand in the schoolhouse door of good policy, Mr. Speaker, I am seeing that and saying, "Okay, the American people have taken the majority from the Republicans." And I am speaking as a Republican, which is very highly unlikely here on this floor. Taken the majority from them and now giving it to the Democrats to move in a new direction. Just when we start carrying out the will of the

American people, Mr. Speaker and Mr. LARSON, how can we stop this from happening? What can we do?

So the Republican says, "Well, we don't have the votes on the floor because the American people have taken that away from us. Well, maybe in the Senate, maybe we can drum up something. We need to have bipartisan support, but we are not going to get it because we are going to stand in the way as much as we can?"

And I think it is important that the American people understand and Members of the House understand, both Democrats and Republicans, we were sent here to do something. I enjoy those Members who take extra time to work on the art of doing something and moving us in a new direction. But I see Members trying to find some sort of creative way to stop things that the supermajority of the American people want.

The first thing that they threw out, "Well, the Democrats will leave our troops without what they need."

That didn't happen.

"Well, the Democrats are soft on homeland security."

Then we pass a bill that has done more than the Republican Congress has done since Homeland Security has been created. As a matter of fact, it was a Democratic idea that started the Department of Homeland Security so we can have the consensus that we needed. And to have the Republicans come to the floor and say that, and the facts are not there to support their arguments.

But I wanted to have this illustration here of the Republican Congress with the President addressing the Republican Congress, the President is doing the State of the Union and the picture is taken this way to show the Republicans on that side, Mr. LARSON, to go back to your point, so we have a moment again of clarity, a moment to say that not only do we have illustrations to show how it happened in the past, and that is the beautiful thing about history, and it is good you can bring this history up, and it can be lifted off the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, but to be able to let Members know that there are only so many times that you can stand in front of the will of the American people and be rewarded. Because the American people, one thing that I saw, last November, I have said here on this floor the American spirit will always rise. The American spirit will rise above partisanship.

My message to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and we always say on the floor "my good friend." But you know what, they are good friends. We work with them every day. We live the same life. Many of them are away from their families. Some of them are living in this city. They miss their family members, so we go through some of the same things that our colleagues do. So we are all here in the Chamber and our card is the same shape, and we stick it in this machine

and we vote on behalf of the American people. But I can tell you this, the American people will not reward when you go out of your way to stop their will. That is the point I wanted to make.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. MEEK, I think you have made your point extraordinarily well. I especially want to commend, especially for the viewers and listeners who regularly tune in when the 30-Something Group comes to the floor, first and foremost, call up and thank courageous people like WALTER JONES, Republican from North Carolina; WAYNE GILCHREST, Republican from Maryland; RON PAUL, Republican from Texas, who more often than not sit almost isolated, almost ostracized on the other side of the aisle. And it is not that they don't have the respect of their colleagues, because I believe sincerely they do. What they should know is that they have the respect of America because they are willing to stand up and speak truth to power.

There are many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who would stand with them. Loyalty is important in any process, and certainly one can respect loyalty. Loyalty and fidelity are important concepts and in fact can be virtues. But when there is blind allegiance, and especially when men and women's lives are at stake, where is your voice? Will you stand together to have this institution, the United States Congress, stand up together, collectively, put an end to the war, find a process by which we together can end the war and provide, as you point out, as the most recent veterans' bill that we passed does, the greatest increase in 77 years for veterans, so that we provide the assistance to these brave men and women who have given their all. And also to provide the compassion and the caring for their family members who wait at home wondering what kind of policy is going to unfold here for them to see Congress bogged down the way it is in the obstinacy of an administration that says it is just going to run out the clock on its policy is wrong.

As Mr. Rich points out, if not Mr. WARNER, then who? And certainly we have heard the WALTER JONES and the WAYNE GILCHRESTS and the RON PAULS in the House, but we need other brave Members who have found their voice who are able when they go back home to listen to their fellow citizens and then come to this floor and join with those men of character and stand up for what they know is right.

We know that Mr. WARNER is thinking about it. We know he is talking about September. Twenty-three soldiers lost their lives this weekend. For people who are serving, tomorrow is today. The urgency is now. Find your voice prior to this July 4, strike a tone of independence from the administration that has got us here.

Historically this happened to a Democratic President during Vietnam.

It is not about Democrats or Republicans. It is about America, and it is about standing up for our troops in the field. It is about standing up for fellow Americans. It is about Americans finding their voice. Our citizens have found theirs. We need the Members of Congress here to join together, both House and Senate, to end this insanity and come together on behalf of the American public, and especially the brave men and women who serve our country so valiantly who we owe such a debt of gratitude to, and ought to show it through the courage of our policy convictions here on the floor, and then in the funding that we provide them to make sure that they have the kind of life that they richly deserve when they come home, and that we honor the memory of their sacred sacrifice that so many have made on behalf of this Nation.

□ 1945

I thank the gentleman again from the 30-Somethings for having continued to bring this debate to the American public.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. LARSON, I just want to thank you for not only your passion but your leadership. Again, I go back to third-party validators. I go back to the will and the desire. Many times we stood here on this floor and talked about, Mr. Speaker, if you give us the opportunity, if we become the majority, what we would do. Six months hasn't really even clicked by yet. Let's just say 7 months hasn't. We haven't enjoyed 7 months of being in the majority of this House. It just happened in January, and we're talking late January, mid-January, where the power changed here in this House of Representatives.

And the bills, the 47 major bills, at least three actions that we have taken, on the action we have taken on Iraq alone, major. The hearings that we've had in the Foreign Affairs Committee, double-digit hearings. Armed Services Committee, double-digit hearings. In Government Oversight, double-digit hearings. You didn't hear about these hearings because they weren't called in the last Republican Congress.

Mr. LARSON, when you were talking, I couldn't help but pull out of my book of information here, because every day we open this book, Mr. Speaker, and we find things, we call the National Archives, we call committees, we want to know what's going on here in this House, we want to know the Members that are trying to push these issues, moving in a new direction.

There's a bill, H.R. 13, by SAM FARR. He has nine cosponsors on that bill which is a bill that he has been working on. Representative LYNN WOOLSEY has legislation to bring the troops home, Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act. Mr. FARR's legislation is to repeal Authorization for the Use of Military Forces Against Iraq Resolution of 2002, Public Law 107-243, and require withdrawal of U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq. That's the title of his bill.

We move on to Representative DAVID PRICE, who has a Comprehensive Strategy for Iraq Act of '07 which would withdraw troops as quickly as possible from Iraq. He has a list of cosponsors that are moving down that line.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Congressman RON PAUL, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Congressman NANCY BOYDA.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I just want to make sure we don't leave anyone out. We have House Resolution 15, also expresses the sense of Congress and also immediate repeal which is done by Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. We have also ours truly, Congressman LARSON, JOHN B. LARSON, repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Forces Against Iraq Resolution. You have Representative ELLEN TAUSCHER.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. ELLEN TAUSCHER has done a terrific job.

If the gentleman would yield just for a moment, when you're reading through these things, I can't help but think of the time, and I know that you hadn't arrived here on September 11. I served with your mom. I can remember a time when this entire Congress stood together on the steps of the Capitol after September 11 and spontaneously broke into God Bless America. It's a time that will be forever seared in my memory.

I remember a time in our caucus just this past year when the Speaker, the gentleman from New York, stood up, at a time when we knew that we only had and could only muster Democratic votes, stood up and gave a speech that I will always remember, that drew our caucus together and allowed us to go forward and place a bill on the President's desk. It was something that everyone said couldn't be done, the politics were too raw, people were too far apart, we couldn't possibly come together. But when people rise and find their voice as the Speaker from New York did, then great things can happen. A Nation can move. People find their voice because within their heart resides the great spirit of this country as you pointed out. Within every piece of legislation that you're chronicling here is a deep-seated belief on the part of its sponsors that this is the right thing to do. There are many on that side of the aisle who will disagree. I respect people's positions regardless of how they come to them. But I know the great reservoir that exists on that side of the aisle that understands what's going on, that events are unfolding daily around us and the need for us to act is now. That tomorrow has become today, that the urgency can't wait for September 15 for yet another report. The time is to act.

I plead for our colleagues on that side of the aisle, because, as Mr. Rich points out, it cannot happen without this Congress coming together. And so either we will stand together as a United States Congress and send a message and help this President find a way forward by demonstrating as a Congress

did during Vietnam, no matter who the President is, that the right thing to do here is to bring our troops home safe, secure and strategically in a manner that will allow us to regroup and refocus and go after the enemy in Afghanistan where they continue to fester and grow and regroup, the people who actually knocked down the towers, the people who struck the Pentagon and but for those brave souls on Flight 93 would have surely hit this Capitol or the White House. It's time for us to come together in that spirit.

Mr. MEEK, if it weren't for you and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and CHRIS MURPHY and TIM RYAN coming here and repeatedly talking about it, if you're at home, you're thinking, has Congress forgot about this urgency. Do they not pick up the papers every day as we do? When I go home, and you said it, people talk about Iraq, they talk about Iraq, and then they talk about Iraq. The facts are that without Republican support, we cannot override a veto. The facts are that without a Republican Senate that will stop the cloture rule and Mr. WARNER, or following the paths of a great American in CHUCK HAGEL, comes forward and speaks truth to power. There are people on both sides of the aisle that are great visionary Americans. We just need to come together at this time and find our voice in the same manner that Americans have already found theirs.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you again.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. As we come to a close, Mr. LARSON, I just want to again thank you for joining not only Mr. RYAN and I tonight but you have been here before in the past. I would encourage, especially with you being in the top four of our leadership here in the House, our elected leadership as relates to the Democratic Caucus, I know that you give voice to many of us that are out here pushing every day. We have good people working, not only Chairman EMANUEL, but also Mr. JIM CLYBURN and also Mr. HOYER and Speaker PELOSI.

I think it's important that we continue to push this issue on, because we are going to need bipartisanship to be able to move this agenda of safety for our men and women that are in harm's way, move this agenda for those families that are waiting on their loved ones to come home, move this agenda, Mr. Speaker, that the American people want us to move in a new direction. If we can just put partisanship aside just for a moment to do that, it will be a place in history in this country that we stood up on behalf of those men and women that are in harm's way and we followed the will of the American people. I just want to thank you, Mr. LARSON, for being here.

Mr. Speaker, I can share this with you. A, we appreciate the Members who have worked with us on the 47 bipartisan measures. B, I think it's also important to know that as these issues move to the floor, many of these issues

never would have made it to the floor if it wasn't for the leadership of the Speaker and our leadership team and the great Members here in the majority and even some of our Members in the minority. You know, we like to share here, some of the bills, on eight bills combined, they have 79 cosponsors, 76 of them are Democrats, 3 are Republicans. As Mr. LARSON identified, some of those members of the Republican Conference that have come forth, Mr. Speaker, and said, hey, I've heard my constituents, I see what the American people are talking about, those moderate voices that are there. They should be commended. We spend a great deal of time letting them know, and I know when I see them in the hall and even some of my friends that don't necessarily see the light on this issue, we still take the time to talk in a very sensible way on this because this is work on behalf of the country.

We have Members that are Reservists, that are National Guard men and women, that are in the Coast Guard and other branches of the military, they're all counting on us to have those conversations and continue to work through the issues. You want to look at good government, you look at good government.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, Mr. LARSON reminded me of something on 9/11. Everyone came together. Yes, my mother was a Member of Congress at that time. I remember she voted against giving the President authorization to go to war after that as it relates to Iraq. But I think it's important to be able to reflect on the past and find times when we have come together and try to find those times in the future and also work with the President. As much as I disagree with him on this issue of Iraq, I do respect the office of the presidency. I know every Member of Congress does. All we can do is continue to try to work together. But I do share with the Members that it is going to take bipartisanship because there are ways that they can block this from happening.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it was an honor addressing the House. I thank the gentleman from Connecticut and the gentleman from Ohio for joining me.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE, THE STEM CELL DEBATE, AND PEAK OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HALL of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, in the few moments that we have together this evening, I wanted to talk briefly about three different subjects. The first one is a very timely one. It refers to a Supreme Court decision that I think is a very momentous decision.

When our Founding Fathers wrote our Constitution, they thought that they had implicitly placed in that Constitution all of the great guarantees of freedom and individual rights that were needed for this new Nation. But the ink was hardly dry on the Constitution before they wondered if people would really understand that it was the people who are to be preeminent in this new country, that there was to be a very limited government, and it would truly be a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Because they felt that what was very implicit in the Constitution might need to be stated explicitly, they developed 10 amendments, actually I think a dozen started through the process and 10 of them made it through the process, and we call them the Bill of Rights. They were adopted, of course, in 1791. And I think that it's no accident that that first amendment addresses two of the huge concerns they had from their past that should never blemish their new country.

□ 2000

The first of those dealt with what was a common practice in the countries they came from, that is, it was a State religion that was empowered by the State and supported by the State with revenues, taxes from the people, and this church could and did persecute other churches, and they wanted to make very sure that in this new country that that wasn't going to be a problem. So they wrote the establishment clause of the first amendment, which seems to me very clear language. A lot of people have trouble reading this and understanding what it says. I think the words say what they say. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

The government cannot establish a religion. "Or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." No church religion and everybody free to practice their religion as they please. Somehow we are interpreting that as requiring that there not be any religion in the public place, which is clearly not what they were concerned about. They wanted freedom of religion, not freedom from religion, and, too often, we're interpreting as freedom from religion.

But then the second part of this is equally important, and it addresses a second major challenge that they saw in establishing this new country. Because most of them came from a country where there was a king or an emperor who claimed and was granted divine rights, and the people had very few rights, only what the king chose to give them. Hard for us to understand that. It is so foreign to us that the king or the emperor should have divine rights. By that it means that the rights came from God to the king or the emperor, and he would then give what rights he wished to his subjects.

Abraham Lincoln understood four score and seven years after the establishment of our country, that is after

the establishment of the Declaration of Independence, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new Nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. That was very foreign to them. It's very commonplace to us, and we read those words and don't have any swell of pride or lump in our throat when we read them, as we should.

But then they wrote that second part of the first amendment, which, along with the second amendment, they believed would assure that never, ever could the government persecute the people. In this first amendment they said, "or abridging the freedom of speech or the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Now, the speech that they clearly were most interested in preserving was political speech, because that's the speech that made this country different from all the other countries that our Founding Fathers came from.

Tragically, it's just that political speech which was prohibited by the Campaign Finance Reform Act that we passed, and there was a court case, Right to Life, Wisconsin Group, broadcast ads before the 2004 race, in which they talked about issues. But they did mention the name of a candidate, I believe.

I am so proud of the Supreme Court decision. I am a little distressed that it was only 5-4. I would have thought that this would be such a clear-cut case that it would be 9-0, but let's be thankful for 5-4 rather than 4-5.

I really like the position of the majority. The portion of the law in question in this case states that labor unions and corporations, including nonprofits, cannot use money from their general treasuries to broadcast ads that run 30 days before a primary or 60 days before a general election.

On a nonpresidential year, my primary is in September, which means it is 60 days from November, so there can't be any ads during that time, and no ads before the 30 days before the primary. I would submit that very few people are thinking anything about an election 90 days before it occurs.

So what this legislation did was essentially prohibit any education before an election. The Supreme Court, in their ruling, created a constitutional safe harbor for genuine issue ads. It stated that only if the ad, and this is a direct quote, "is susceptible of no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate," can the ad be prohibited during the blackout period.

This is consistent with our philosophy in our country that we are innocent until proven guilty. The ad has to explicitly ask you to vote for or against a candidate. Mentioning his name, that's okay, if you don't indicate specific guidance to vote for or against the candidate.

I am very pleased with this legislation. You know, we are 1 person out of

22 in the world and we have a fourth of all the good things in the world. I don't know if you have ever asked yourself the question, how come we are so darn fortunate?

I think one of the reasons we have is the enormous respect we have for the rights of the individual. There is no other country, there is no other constitution that gives so many rights to the people, to the individual.

I think that this has established a milieu, a climate, in which creativity and entrepreneurship can flourish. I think that's one of the reasons why we are this world superpower, with only less than 5 percent of the people in the world. I think we put at risk who we are, and our preeminence as this golden city on a hill, if we put at risk these very precious individual rights and, prince among them, the right of speech. So I am very pleased. I am very pleased with the Supreme Court decision.

There is another thing which happened fairly recently last week, about less than 10 of us, I guess, were called to the White House from the Congress here, when the President gave his message on his veto of the embryonic stem cell bill that would have necessitated the destruction of embryos and the creation of embryonic stem cell lines.

What the President vetoed was S. 5, that's the Senate bill, and in the House we simply voted on S. 5. When you do that, then there is no question but what the two bills are the same, so you do not have to go to conference. So it went immediately from the House vote to the President's desk, where he vetoed it.

The Senate also passed S. 30, which is a very similar bill to our House bill 322. It was called the HOPE Act in the Senate, and it got 70 votes out of their 100 senators. We have 130 cosponsors of our bill in the House.

I hope that the House can do what the Senate did, and that is pass S. 30. If we pass S. 30, then it doesn't have to go to conference, and it can go directly to the President's desk, and S. 30 is sufficiently similar to our H.R. 322 that I can, with good conscience, support that bill.

I want to spend a moment, and have the first slide, I want to spend a few moments looking at embryonic stem cells so that when this comes to the news we have a familiarity with this so that we can understand the issues and what the President is talking about. We are talking about stem cells, and this slide here points to three primary stem cells in the body.

You see, we begin as two single cells, a single cell from the mother and a single cell from the father. Each of them having only half of the requisite number of chromosomes. They have a haploid number and the total number is a diploid number, so these two halves come together here in what we call the zygote, the two gametes come together to form a zygote, and then that begins to divide, and each us began our life as a single cell.

It divides, and we will have a chart a little later which will show a number of the other steps in this division process. But here we wanted to go very quickly to the gastro stage of the embryo where the three germ layers, and that's the first time we have a germ layer, where the three germ layers have developed, that's the ectoderm, the mesoderm and the endoderm. As these Greek terms imply, the ectoderm is outside; the meso, middle, is what's in the middle, and the endoderm is what lines the inside.

Here in this chart it shows the major tissues that develop from these three germ layers. It's very interesting that they retain their individuality throughout your life. I believe that a cancer metastasizes only to tissues of the same germ layer. So these characteristics that are established very early in the development of the embryo, a few hundred cells here by this time, this continues throughout the life of the person.

The ectoderm produces primarily your skin and your nervous system. The mesoderm produces most of your weight, it's the muscles and the bones, blood and so forth. Endoderm is the tissues which line the gut, lungs, in some our glands and so forth.

A unique, over there, a fourth category, the most unique germ cells, these are the germ cells themselves. These are the gametes, the sperm in the male and the ova in the female, from which the next generation will be produced. These are produced, these germ layers producing these things are resident in this very early embryo.

The next chart talks about several processes that you will hear a lot about in this discussion, but it might be worth looking at them, this is fertilization. In the fertilization process, the cells divide again and again in the body. The sperm divides many, many times and they end up as millions and millions of sperm. There are hundreds of the female sex cell and millions of sperm.

The last division, or the near the last division is what we call a mitotic division, and the number of chromosomes are cut in half. After that mitotic division, you then have the egg cell with only half of the needed chromosomes and the sperm with only half of the needed chromosomes. When they are combined, that's called fertilization, and that occurs, of course, to produce the zygote, which begin then to divide over and over again and ultimately to differentiate, that is to break down into these different kinds of cells, to differentiate into all of the cell types of our body.

There is a lot of talk since Dolly about cloning, and here's a little chart which looks at cloning. What you do in cloning is to take the nucleus out of an egg cell, and then you put another nucleus by one of two different routes, either by fusion or taking the nucleus out itself and putting it into the egg.

If you had done that right, and you have tricked this nucleus you put in

there to believe that it is a zygote, and that requires a little doing, then it goes on to divide, and now you have a, I guess it's an asexual way of reproducing.

We now have done that with lots of animals and different kinds of organisms. I saw two clones from the world's best Holstein cow, Zeta was her name, request she had two clones which, interestingly enough, didn't look like her mother and that's because the black and white Holstein cows, only whether it is predominantly black or white is determined by the genes. The actual spread of the pigment is not genetically controlled, and so her two daughters, which were clones of her, didn't look like her. Kind of interesting it, isn't it.

Parthenogenesis. Parthenogenesis occurs when there is no male sex cell involved, and it occurs in some lower organisms. Parthenogenesis is common, and it can be produced in others, in the frog, for example. What happens is you stop the mitotic division of the oocyte up here.

You stop that mitotic division so there is a diploid number of cells here. Then under appropriate circumstances, and usually in higher organisms, it requires some artificial stimulation. It will go on to develop a normal, adult, ultimately.

□ 2015

The next chart shows this process as it occurs in the body. Now, what we're talking about, when you're talking about cloning and embryonic stem cells, this all happens in a Petri dish. But what we, that's in vitro or in glass, as contrasted to in vivo or in life. And this is what happens in the normal fertilization and development of an ovum. The ovary has maturing cells in it and ordinarily, just one of those ruptures every 30 days, every 28 days. Sometimes it will be more than one, in which case you can end up with fraternal twins. But usually, just one. They don't always, by the way, get picked up by, there's a little funnel shaped end of the Fallopian tube here called the infundibulum. They don't always get picked up by that, and sometimes they just float out into the pelvic cavity.

And the sperm which are released in the uterus, in the vagina really, and then they make it up through the cervix into the uterus, they make their way all the way up the Fallopian tube, and some of them get out into the body. And if the ovum has not made it into the Fallopian tube, they may be fertilized out in the body, and we call that an ectopic pregnancy, and that has to be interrupted because neither the fetus nor the mother will make it if we let that continue.

But ordinarily, the fertilization occurs well up in the Fallopian tube. Several days, you see the days here as it gross and divides into two and four and eight cells and then on down until it finally implants, what, 8, 9 days later be-

fore it implants. And some of the birth control that we use simply prevents the implantation. The intra-uterine devices that were common a number of years ago, that's what they did. They simply prohibited the fertilized and several hundred cell stage embryo from implanting in the uterus.

Now, what we're going to be talking about is this eight-cell stage. That's about day 4 in the development of the embryo, and at that eight-cell stage, that's the time when an in vitro fertilization, they choose to take a cell from that. This is in a Petri dish remember, take a cell from that. Sometimes they get two to do a pre-implantation genetic diagnosis to make sure the baby's not going to have a genetic defect. And then they implant the remaining cells. And several thousand times we've had a perfectly normal baby from that.

The next chart simply shows in schematic form the development of twins. And they can split, either at the two cell stage, or they can split at the inter cell mass stage and we can get some indication of when they split by how the babies present themselves, whether they present themselves in a common amnion or in two different amnions.

I wanted to put this slide up here because what it says is that in nature, you can take half the cells away from the early embryo, sometimes a very early embryo, and each half grows into a perfectly normal baby.

And back in 2000, when this was first being discussed, before the President came out with his executive order, knowing this, and having had a course in a former life in advanced embryology, I suggested that we could ethically create true embryonic stem cell lines by using cells from an early embryo which should not hurt the embryo, because half of all the cells can be taken a way to produce identical twins, and each half produces a perfectly normal identical twin.

The next chart simply shows a little more detail on this, and it shows how the babies can be presented in separate chorionic sac or in a common fused chorionic sac, depending upon the time in which they, and they may share an amnion or not share an amnion, depending on the time when they finally split.

The next chart shows us some of the techniques that are used to try to get the equivalent of an embryonic stem cell, since the President and a large number of citizens object to the destruction of one life, the frozen embryo, with the hope that it will help another. And these are the techniques that have been tried to produce the equivalent of an embryonic stem cell. Reprogramming using embryonic stem cells and using embryonic stem cell and donor cells, and you fuse them and the hybrid cells, hopefully, will act like they were embryonic stem cells.

Or you could use differentiation using cell proteins. What is not understood by many people is that all of the

genes are not in the nucleus. There are a number of control factors that are in the cytoplasm. Indeed, they are really very important because they determine when genes are turned on and when genes are turned off. And each cell in your body has all of the genes there. And a liver cell is very different than a kidney cell or a skin cell. And that difference is determined by the control proteins out in the—some of them are smaller than proteins, out in the cytoplasm called here cell soup, for instance, which then turns on or turns off these genes inside the nucleus.

Well, we can, hopefully, get this cell soup from embryonic stem cells or something that behaves like an embryonic stem cell, which will then make the donor cell believe that it is, in fact, an embryonic stem cell, so maybe it will behave like an embryonic stem cell.

Then there's de-differentiation, using chemicals, antibodies or specific proteins. You see, when it differentiates to produce the individual germ layers, we have to de-differentiate it, bring it back to its primordial state so that it will now behave more like an embryonic stem cell. You can de-differentiate by using a lot of chemicals and so forth. These may be harsh. You may end up killing the little embryo. But if you do it right, you can trick these cells into believing that there's something other than what they are, and they then will behave as if they were an embryonic stem cell.

You've heard a lot of talk about some really good places to get cells that have some of the characteristics of embryonic stem cells. There are now umbilical cord blood banks, because of the belief that if you freeze the cord blood, which is the blood from the infant, if you freeze that cord blood, it may have in it cells that you can use in the future to help in restorative medical processes or make body parts.

These are not true embryonic stem cells, but they're certainly better than cells you get from somebody else. At least they're from that person and they have, they're more closely aligned with embryonic stem cells than if you simply got an adult body cell.

Then there's the bone marrow cells. And more recently you may have heard a lot about amniotic fluid. The amnion is the fluid in which the baby develops. He's very tiny. The embryo starts there. And obviously some cells will be sloughed off of these embryos, and as those cells will show up in the amniotic fluid, and so there's good opportunities to get something that behaves something like embryonic stem cells there.

The next chart shows, I think, four of the processes that were included in the President's white paper from the President's Council on Bio ethics. And altered nuclear transfer is one of those. This is kind of a cloning where you've altered the nucleus, so that it can't be truly said to be cloning, which is prohibited by law.

Altered nuclear transfers, oocyte assisted reprogramming, it's simply using the oocyte and it's primarily the proteins, that factors out in the cytoplasm which are doing this.

Embryo biopsy, and I have a chart in just a moment on that because this is the process which I suggested in 2000.

And then a really, really interesting one, cells from dead. And boy, put that in quotes because what we're talking about here are embryos that are the equivalent of the brain dead person, from which we get very good body parts. And there are embryos that will not go on to divide. They will ultimately die, and that state can be ascertained, and if they are not going to go on and divide, they will die. But they still may have viable cells that could be used to establish embryonic stem cell lines.

Obviously, some problems with this, you know. Who's to say that it's really going to die? And then there's the question about, are you really going to get a good stem cell line from a cell taken from an about to die embryo. But this is one possibility, and there are some strong proponents to this.

The next chart simply shows a quote from the white paper of the President's Council on Bio Ethics. And it quotes me down here at the bottom an asterisk, a similar idea was proposed by Representative ROSCOE BARTLETT of Maryland as far back as 2001. They said here, "It may be some time before stem cell lines can be reliably derived from single cells extracted from early embryos and in ways that do not harm the embryo. Thus biopsy.

But the initial success of the Verlinsky Group efforts at least raises the future possibility that pluripotent stem cells could be derived from single blastomeres removed from early human embryos without apparently harming them.

Now, this statement was made before the British, and they pioneered this, started doing the pre-implantation genetic diagnosis that I mentioned a few minutes ago. They now have, in several thousand cases, taken one, and sometimes they get a second cell, taken cells from the 8 cell stage embryo to do a pre-implantation genetic diagnosis. If there is no genetic defect, they implant the remaining cells. And as far as I know, they always had a perfectly normal baby.

Now, the big surprise would be that the baby wasn't perfectly normal. I've had people tell me, gee, it's eight cells, and you take two of them away so it's only three-fourths of a person.

No, when you take half the cells away from an early embryo to produce identical twins, is each one of them only half a person? Ask one. There are a lot of identical twins around. They'll just laugh at the notion that they're half a person. Of course they are not.

So this, the medical profession now has run past us with this technology. So we could today establish embryonic

stem cell lines from that second cell that they inadvertently take. And there have been hundreds of those that are just discarded because they have no use for them. Just one cell is all you need to do a pre-implantation genetic diagnosis. And Verlinky and Lanza, Lanza with a somewhat questionable publication, but both of them have claimed that they can produce a stem cell line from a single cell line.

Well, I thought I would spend these few minutes talking about this because this is of current interest and the Senate will be shortly trying to override the President's veto. They almost certainly will not be able to do that. His veto will be sustained, and our hope is that S. 30 will then be brought up in the House so that we can sign that so it gets to the President's desk. And I join those tens of millions of people in our country who believe and hope that there ought to be some really important contributions made to health care from embryonic stem cell lines. And we don't need to harm or kill an embryo to get an embryonic stem cell line. So we hope that S. 30 will be brought up to the House and we pass that. And the President already indicated that he will happily sign it.

PEAK OIL

The next chart now begins a discussion I want to spend the rest of our time on. And we have a number of charts here and again, I think this is the 32nd or 33rd time I've come to the well to talk about this subject. It wasn't cool to talk about energy and peak oil when I started talking about this, what, nearly 2 years ago I guess. But now it's common fodder for many discussions.

And this is an interesting little cartoon, and the fellow with his humongous SUV. The demand is filling up at the pump. The supply, and he's saying, just why is gas so expensive?

□ 2030

One of my colleagues asked me what he should tell his constituents when they ask him what can be done to reduce the price of gas? I told him it is very simple. Just tell them to drive less. Not only will they spend less on gas, but if they aren't using it, the supply and demand will be more in sync and the prices will come down. I can assure you that the prices will come down.

The next chart, it is this observation that Hyman Rickover referred to 50 years ago, the 14th day of last month, when he gave a very interesting talk to a group of physicians in St. Paul, Minnesota. He noted the enormous transformation, and they were then but 100 years into the age of oil when he gave his talk. Now we are about 150 years into the age of oil. But he noted the enormous transformation that this energy had made in the development of civilization. And this is energy here on the ordinate. It could just as well be population, by the way, because as we were able to mobilize more energy, our

population went up. We were able to grow more food, and, therefore, we could support more people. And if you could support more people, there were kind of automatically more people to support.

Well, this is the little depiction here, only 400 years out of this 8,000 years of recorded history. And his observation was that in span of human history, 8,000 years, the age of oil will be but a blip, about 300 years out of 8,000 years.

The Industrial Revolution, of course, started here with wood and then coal. And it was already sputtering when we discovered gas and oil, and then it took off, and population followed it. There is an interesting quote from Hyman Rickover's article. I didn't bring it, but he thought there would be 4 billion people in the world by the turn of the century. There were, in fact, almost 7 billion people in the world by the turn of the century. So even he had underestimated the contribution that energy would make to the increase in population.

I want you to note something up here at the top of this curve. Notice that if that little perturbation had not occurred there in about 1970, the Arab oil embargo, and if that curve had kept going up, it would be over the top of the chart a couple of times, wouldn't it? That curve was rising very steeply.

As a matter of fact, if you look at that curve, in each decade during this sharp rise, in each decade, the world used as much oil as had been used in all of previous history. Now, think about that for a moment. Had that continued, what that meant was that when we had used half of all of the recoverable oil in the world, we would have how much more time at current use rates? Ten years. Well, very fortunately, that slowed down. There was a worldwide depression, recession, you may remember, and we really learned how to become very much more efficient. So we have slowed that growth rate down. But notice more recently how rapidly that has been increasing. Largely because of the third world, China and India, industrializing. I think the last year for which I saw data, China increased their demand for energy 13 percent.

The next chart is a very interesting chart, and this depicts what the world would look like if the size of the country was determined by how much oil it had. A really distorted picture of the world, isn't it?

Look at Saudi Arabia there. Front and center, and you probably can't read the small print over there, between a fifth and a fourth of all the oil in the world. Now, I say that with a little trepidation because we really don't know how much oil is there. We know what they tell us. But you need to remember that most of these countries are OPEC, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela. And for years the OPEC countries were permitted to pump a certain percentage of their reserves. So if you wanted to pump more

oil, all you had to do was to have more reserves. And since there wasn't anybody looking over your shoulder, you could say you had whatever reserves you needed to have to pump as much oil as you would like to pump to support your economy. And that is true of most of these countries. Nobody looks inside, but this is the best guess as to how much oil these countries have.

A very important recent book was written by Matt Simmons called *Twilight in the Desert*. He questions that there is as much oil in Saudi Arabia as we believe, and he believes they may already be peaking in Saudi Arabia.

Talking about peaking, I just wanted to mention an article that appeared above the fold in the *Wall Street Journal* a few weeks ago, and it was about the second largest oil field in the world. The largest one, of course, is in Saudi Arabia. It is the giant Ghawar oil field that is still running down, still produces 5 million barrels of oil a day. The world produced 84 million, and it produces 5 million of that from that one field. The second largest field was the Cantarell oil field in Mexico. And it was named after a fisherman Cantarell, whose nets kept getting fouled, and if his nets were fouled, they knew who was at fault. There was only one oil field in Mexico, and that was Pemex. So he would take his nets to be replaced and they finally said, Where are you finding all that oil? And he said, Come, I will show you. And it was kind of bubbling up out of the ocean. And they drilled there, and for years it was the second-largest yielding field in the world, 2 million barrels a day. In the last 2 years, it has dropped down 10 percent a year. It is now 1.6 million barrels per day. So that field has peaked.

Just look at how anemic the United States is compared to Saudi Arabia. We would have fit in Saudi Arabia many times. We have 2 percent of the known oil reserves, and Saudi Arabia has 22 percent. So we would fit in there 11 times, and that is what it shows here.

Look at little Kuwait there that Saddam Hussein thought looked like a little corner province of Iraq when he went to take it. They are, I think, the fourth largest reserves. Iran is number two, Iraq is three, and Kuwait is four. There is some question about whether Iraq and Kuwait should reverse places.

Another interesting thing about this chart. Look at the pitifully small amount of oil that India and China have. A third of the world's population is over there in India and China, and they have a trifling amount, between them they have less oil than the United States.

The next chart shows how much oil we have. We have 2 percent of the known reserves in the world. We use 25 percent of the world's oil, and we import about two-thirds of what we use. Some people think, and they are right, this represents a huge national security risk.

Note that with only 2 percent of the world's oil, we pump 8 percent of the

world's oil. So we are really good at pumping oil. We ought to be. We have more oil wells in our country than all the rest of the world put together. And we are pumping our oil fields four times faster than the rest of the world.

The next chart, and we could spend a long while on this chart and we have only a very short time to look at it, but the gist of this chart is available immediately when you look at it. The big bars here show you when we found the oil. And the ordinate here shows how much we found. And you will notice that we started finding it way back in the 1930s, a big slug of it in the 1940s and 1950s, and we really exploded in the 1960s, didn't we? But from 1980 on down, though, there has been less and less, and that is in spite of the fact that we have ever better techniques for finding the oil, 3D-size, computer modeling, and we have a pretty good idea of the geology of the world. And it is only in unique geologic formations that you can expect to find gas and oil.

The solid black line here represents our consumption. It also represents our production because there is no big puddle of oil anywhere. We have used all we have produced; so this is a curve. We can call it the consumption curve, but it is also the production curve because we have used all we have produced. Notice since about 1980 we have been consistently losing more than we found.

Again, this perturbation in the 1970s that you saw before. We have been borrowing all this oil we used here that we didn't find. We borrowed it from back here.

And what will the future look like? We can use enhanced oil recovery and get it more quickly. But if we do, you can't pump it twice. If you pump it now, you won't pump it later.

The next chart, and this was predicted by M. King Hubbert in 1956. That is about here. M. King Hubbert predicted that the United States would peak in oil production in 1970. That was a brash statement. We were then king of oil, I think producing more oil than any other country in the world, and I think we may have been the biggest exporter of oil in the world. And he says in 14 years we are going to peak in oil production.

Notice the little blip here on the down side of what is called Hubbert's Peak. The next chart looks at the details of this, and we can see why this perturbation.

What M. King Hubbert predicted, by the way, was the lower 48; that is, Texas and the rest of the United States.

By the way, West Texas Intermediate is still the grade of oil, although they aren't producing very much now. It is still the grade of oil which you will see in the paper, West Texas Intermediate.

There are two other oil wells in the world now that may take over as the benchmark. One of them is Brent, which is really an inferior oil. It is heavier and sour. By "sour" we mean it

has a lot of sulfur in it that is hard to get out, and it is polluting if you don't get it out. That used to be the North Sea oil that the British produced, but now there are other oils that are grouped with that. And then there is a third oil, which is the Asian oil benchmark. And there is some argument now about which of those benchmarks we should refer to as the price of oil. We have been referring to West Texas Intermediate, which is a slight sweet crude, but there is not very much of that now, and because of the demand, the Brent, which always used to be lower in price, is now several dollars to \$5 or \$6 higher. So there is some and it would be interesting to watch what happens if they sort this out.

But notice what caused this blip on the way down. It was the oil found in Alaska that used to be a fourth of our production. It has now dwindled down. And notice here the big finds in the Gulf of Mexico, and you can hardly see a perturbation as we run down that slope.

The next chart is a chart which is used by one of the primary organizations that believes that you don't need to worry about oil, that it is going to be there for a long time. This is CERA, the Cambridge Energy Research Associates, and they use this chart to try to convince you, and I don't find it very convincing but I just will ask you to look at it to see if you think it is convincing, that M. King Hubbert really didn't know what he was talking about. The little yellow symbols here are M. King Hubbert's predictions. The actual lower 48 are the green ones, and they are telling you that these two curves are so far apart that you should question the validity of M. King Hubbert's analyses. They look pretty close together to me. And they also show the total U.S. production, which is the Alaska production. And, of course, that produces this little perturbation, slipping down the other side of Hubbert's Peak.

This chart is a quote from one of four different agencies, groups that have done studies on peak oil. This is the first one, and this is the so-called Hirsch report and it was done by SAIC, Science Applications International Corporation, a very prestigious science organization paid for by the Department of Energy. And they produced a big report with very serious language:

World oil peaking is going to happen. World production of conventional oil will reach a maximum and decline thereafter. That maximum is called the peak. A number of confident forecasters project peaking within a decade. Others contend that it will occur later. Prediction of the peaking is extremely difficult because of geological complexities, measurement problems, pricing variations, demand elasticity, and political influences. Peaking will happen but the time is uncertain.

□ 2045

"Oil peaking presents a unique challenge." And then they make this state-

ment, "The world has never faced a problem like this. There is nothing in history that we can rely on to help us through this without massive mitigation, more than a decade before the fact. The problem will be pervasive and will not be temporary. Previous energy transitions, wood to coal and coal to oil, were gradual and evolutionary. Oil peaking will be abrupt and revolutionary," is his statement.

The next chart is from a second of these studies, and there are a couple of these that we will go through very quickly. The Army Corps of Engineers did a study for the Army. And you can take their report and put in U.S. or world wherever they put Army. And the Army is clearly a microcosm of the United States and the United States is a microcosm of the world. But they say essentially the same thing; peaking is either present or eminent, with potentially devastating consequences.

Oil is the most important form of energy in the world today. Historically, no other energy source equals oil's intrinsic qualities of extractability, transportability, versatility and cost. And you really need to emphasize each of those.

The next chart. I wanted to show you this one because this was written just a couple of years ago. "The current price of oil is in the \$45-\$57 per barrel and it's expected to stay in that range for several years." I think it's, what, \$69 a barrel today? And after this it went up to \$78 a barrel, then fell back and is rising again. Oil prices may go significantly higher, and some have predicted prices ranging up to \$180 a barrel in a few years. Were that to occur, by the way, it would have disastrous effects on our economy.

The next chart is a schematic. And you can make this peak look steep or flat. Here we've spread out the abscissa and compressed the ordinate. But it's still a 2 percent growth, which doubles in 35 years, four times bigger in 70 years, eight times bigger in 105 years. Albert Einstein said that compound interest was the most powerful force in the universe. Very few people understand the power of exponential growth. It doubles in 35 years. That's the yellow shaded area. If, in fact, we are here near the peak where the demand is a bit more than the supply, which is why gas is \$3 a gallon at the pump rather than \$1, which it was not all that long ago, in 35 years the demand will be double? And if, in fact, we're peaking, the supply will be not more and maybe less than the supply now.

The next chart is a very interesting one because it includes a couple of predictions by CERA. There are two major organizations that I think are kind of in denial, one of them is CERA and the other one is ExxonMobil. All the other oil companies, watch their ads, they're pretty much admitting that we're at peak oil. BP is Beyond Petroleum. And Chevron has ads. It's very clear they believe that we've probably reached or we're about to reach our maximum production of oil.

Here we are, common curve, you've seen this a number of times, a stuttering in the 1970s and rising again. And they are predicting, and we don't have time this evening to go over some very interesting statistics. They're predicting we're going to find as much more oil as all of the known reserves yet to be pumped. And if we found that much more, in other words, if we go from the roughly two trillion barrels, which most authorities believe was the amount of oil which was recoverable, and we've recovered about half of that. If we went to three, then that moves the peak out they say to 2016. I just want to emphasize that for a moment. Even if we find as much more oil as all the known reserves in the world today, we push the crisis point out only 2016.

This chart further points out that if we use really aggressive techniques to develop that oil, like pumping live steam down there and sequestering CO₂ down there, pumping seawater down there, all the things we do to recover, we might recover a more quickly, which would push the peak out, but then look what happens? You fall off a cliff after that. You can't pump it twice; if you pump it now, you won't pump it then.

The next chart is a really interesting one. This occurs in one of their publications where they are saying there won't be any such thing as peak oil. And look what they show. They say it will be an undulating plateau. I won't argue. It's up and down. The price of oil is up and down. The price of gas is up and down. But they say it will be an undulating plateau. But notice, the undulating plateau falls off. There clearly is a peak. If there is only roughly two trillion barrels, then the peak is here. If we find another trillion barrels, that pushes the peak out to here. And then they have some confidence, I don't know how well-founded it is, that we're going to get a huge amount of oil from unconventional sources. And when we have more time another evening, we'll talk about the potentially huge amounts of oil that we can get from things like our oil shales in the west and the Canadian tar sands.

This next quote is an interesting one from one of the giants in this area. This is a quote from Laherrere, who says that "The USGS estimate implies a five-fold increase in discovery rate and reserve addition for which no evidence is presented. Such an improvement in performance is, in fact, utterly implausible given the great technological achievements of the industry over the past 20-years, the worldwide search, and the deliberate effort to find the largest remaining prospects." I think that he's right, that this is absolutely implausible.

The next chart is a quote from Hyman Rickover, as I mentioned earlier in that very famous speech he gave just a little over 50 years ago now. I suggest it's a good time to think soberly about our responsibility to our descendants, those who will ring out the

fossil fuel age. I led a delegation of nine members to China; we spent New Year's Eve in Shanghai. They began their discussion of energy by talking about post-oil. Post-oil. Mr. Speaker, I wish our guys got it as well as they.

We might give a break to these youngsters by cutting fuel and metal consumption so as to provide a safe margin for the necessary adjustments which eventually must be made in a world without fossil fuels. There will be a world without fossil fuels.

I have a few charts on conservation. California uses 65 as much electricity as we use; hard to argue they don't live as well as we. The next chart is a really interesting one. It shows the enormous potential for saving energy with lighting. And the incandescent bulb, we use that for brooding our chickens because 90 percent of all the energy is heat. Fluorescents are very much more efficient. Same amount of light from all of these, by the way. But look at the light emitting diodes, LEDs, over there; very little heat produced. Get an LED flashlight, you will forget when you put batteries in it, they just last and last.

The next chart is a really interesting one. I wish it were in living color so it's a little sexier to look at. This shows how satisfied one is with life compared to how much energy you use. Satisfaction with life here, how much energy you use there. Obviously we are way out there to the right. There we are, USA. But notice, there are 20-something countries that are as happy or happier with life than we are who use less energy than we. We don't need to use as much energy as we use to feel good about life.

The next chart is a really interesting one. It shows us the huge challenge that we have. And 85 percent of all of our energy comes from fossil fuels, only 15 percent of it from something else. And a bit more than half of that from nuclear. And 7 percent, and by the way, in 2000 our solar was 1 percent of 7 percent, which is .07 percent. It's been growing rapidly. It may now be .5 percent. But that's still a tiny, tiny percentage.

The next chart, I just want to look very quickly at something which has been in the press recently. And I have a couple of articles here I want to refer to very quickly. This is the energy that goes into producing corn. And if you see down here, almost half the energy that goes into producing corn comes from natural gas, and natural gas is a fossil fuel. There was a study done by the National Academy of Sciences, and then two of the authors there of that study wrote an article for the Washington Post, and it was March 25 of this year. And in both of these, in both the paper, and I have the paper here from the National Academy of Sciences and here is the article that was in the Washington Post. They point out that if we use all of our corn for ethanol, all of it, and discounted it for the fossil fuel input, it would displace 2.4 percent of our gasoline, only about one-fourth,

less than one-fourth, one-fifth, they have 80 percent fossil fuel input. They noted that you can save that much gas by tuning up your car and putting air in the tires.

A lot of people today are focused on soybeans and diesel. They said, and this is National Academy of Sciences, if we use all of our soybeans for diesel, it would displace 6 percent of our diesel. And if you discounted it for the fossil fuel input, and it's much more efficient producing biodiesel from soybeans, that 6 percent shrinks to 2.9 percent. Well, both of these are trifling. And obviously we're not going to turn all of our corn into ethanol and all of our soybeans into diesel. But if we did, it would displace, what, 2.4 percent of our gasoline and 2.9 percent of our soybeans. We have huge challenges.

And the next chart is really interesting. When people tell you, don't worry about energy, we have all this coal, 250 years at current use rate. It's true. Grow only 2 percent, remember that compound growth? It shrinks to 75 years. Use some of it to convert it to gas of oil, you have now shrunk to 50 years. And remember, in today's world there is no way not to share your energy with the world because energy is bought and sold on a world market. So if we share our 50 years with the world, it's now 12½ years of coal energy, with only 2 percent growth in the use of coal. Think about it for a moment.

The next chart, and we will come here to the floor again and we will spend the whole time talking about this one, because we have a huge challenge. I'm really very enthusiastic about challenges. There is no exhilaration like the exhilaration of meeting and overcoming a big challenge, and boy have we got one in this energy. We are the most creative, innovative society in the world, and with proper motivation, I think we can do it. But we need to understand the challenge before us, and that's when I will come to the floor again. And we're going to talk about all of these, the finite sources, the nuclear sources and all of these renewables. What is realistic to expect to get from them? Is there a silver bullet out there? I'll tell you now, except for one, the only silver bullet out there is nuclear fusion. I don't see any other silver bullet. And the chances of them getting nuclear fusion I think are about the same as the chances of you solving your personal economic problems by winning the lottery; great if it happens, but don't mortgage the ranch, don't bet it on happening.

I would just like to end with a very interesting quote from Hyman Rickover. "High energy consumption has always been a prerequisite of political power. The tendency is for political power to be concentrated in an ever smaller number of countries. Ultimately, the nation which controls the largest energy resources will become dominant. If we give thought to the problem of energy resources, if we act wisely and in time to conserve what we

have and prepare well for the necessary future changes, we shall ensure this dominant position for our own country."

This, Admiral Rickover says, is a huge challenge for us today, with only 2 percent of the known reserves, using 25 percent of the world's oil and importing about two-thirds of what we use.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back with the promise that I will come to the floor again and spend the whole time talking about the enormous challenges we have and the satisfactions that we will achieve as a nation when we do it, in spite of the difficulty.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today, on account of official business in district.

Mr. CUELLAR (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today, on account of inclement weather.

Mr. CARTER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, on account of travel delays.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and June 26 and 27, on account of illness in the family.

Mr. PAUL (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, on account of travel delays.

Mr. POE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, on account of travel delays.

Mr. WESTMORELAND (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, on account of illness in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

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

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

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 26, 27, 28, and 29.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, on June 28.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1099. An act to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make individuals employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain Federal health insurance; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 26, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2295. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wood Packaging Material; Treatment Modification [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0129] (RIN: 0579-AC32) received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2296. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Emerald Ash Border; Quarantined Areas; Maryland [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0028] received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2297. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's STARBASE Program 2006 Annual Report, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2193b(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2298. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of the acquisitions made from entities that manufacture the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States in fiscal year 2006, pursuant to Public Law 109-115, section 837; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

2299. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulation: Implementation of DOE's Cooperative Audit Strategy for Its Management and Operating Contracts (RIN: 1991-AB67) received May 25, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2300. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-31, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Turkey for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2301. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to the Taiwan Relations Act, agreements concluded by the American Institute in Taiwan on April 16 and April 17, 2007, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3311(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2302. A letter from the Chairman of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for the period October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2303. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Letter Report: Auditor's Preliminary Findings From Examination of Contract Between the Office of Contracting and Procurement and Venable, Baetjer and Howard, LLP," pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2304. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2305. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two Semiannual Reports which were prepared separately by Treasury's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) for the period ended March 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2306. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NARA Reproduction Fees [FDMS Docket NARA-07-0002] (RIN: 3095-AB49) received May 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2307. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2308. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Public Conduct on Bureau of Reclamation Facilities, Lands, and Waterbodies; Inclusion of Hoover Dam (RIN: 1006-AA52) received June 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2309. A letter from the Regulatory Analyst, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Protection of Eagles; Definition of "Disturb" (RIN: 1018-AT94) received June 6, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2310. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fastener Quality Act [Docket No: 070404076-7077-01] (RIN: 0693-AB57) received June 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

2311. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Change of address for submission of CREBs applications [Notice 2007-56] received June 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2312. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tier 1 Issue: Government Settlements Di-

rective #1 [LMSB Control No.: LMSB-04-0507-042 Impacted IRM 4.51.2] received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2313. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 72.—Annuities: Certain Proceeds of Endowment and Life Insurance Contracts (Rev. Rul. 2007-38) received June 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2314. A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2006, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 2277a-13; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Agriculture.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2011. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse" (Rept. 110-209). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 2669. A bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent solution on the budget for fiscal year 2008; with an amendment (Rept. 110-210). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 514. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2643) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes. (Rept. 110-211). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LANTOS:

H.R. 2844. A bill to promote United States emergency and non-emergency food and other assistance programs, to promote United States agricultural export programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 2845. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 and the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to enable the Secretary of State to respond to a critical shortage of passport processing personnel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H.R. 2846. A bill to improve the quality of classroom learning by empowering States to develop performance-based assessments that measure higher order thinking skills; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr.

TIERNEY, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 2847. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy worker

training program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CARDOZA (for himself and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 2848. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to promote energy independence and self-sufficiency by providing for the use of net metering by certain small electric energy generation systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, Financial Services, and Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLE of Oklahoma (for himself, Mr. BOREN, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. THORNBERRY):

H.R. 2849. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm Trail and Great Western Trail historic cattle-drive trails for study and for potential addition to the National Trails System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GINGREY (for himself, Mr. WU, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont):

H.R. 2850. A bill to provide for the implementation of a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. HODES (for himself, Mr. CASTLE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SUTTON, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. STARK, Ms. CASTOR, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WU, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BERRY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. BARROW, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. REGULA, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 2851. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 2852. A bill to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2853. A bill to require the Environmental Protection Agency to promptly notify State and local authorities and the public of certain enforcement actions under environmental laws; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-

structure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 2854. A bill to restore, protect, and preserve the natural, chemical, physical, and biological integrity, and the economic potentialities, of the New York/New Jersey Bight through designation and establishment of the New Jersey/New York Clean Ocean Zone and the regulation of various activities therein, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RODRIGUEZ:

H.R. 2855. A bill to provide for transitional emergency assistance to certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are severely injured while serving on active duty, to expand and improve programs for caregiver services for those members and veterans, to require improved screening and care for traumatic brain injury for returning servicemembers and veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ (for herself and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H. Res. 513. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week; to the Committee on Ways and Means, considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HOOLEY:

H. Res. 515. A resolution congratulating the Oregon State University Beavers baseball team for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. WELLER):

H. Res. 516. A resolution expressing the serious concern of the House of Representatives regarding the worsening situation in Sri Lanka; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. DICKS introduced A bill (H.R. 2856) for the relief of Alfredo B. de Perio, Myrna L. de Perio, Allan Rey L. de Perio, and Marc de Perio; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 23: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 45: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 89: Ms. FALLIN.

H.R. 303: Mr. EVERETT.

H.R. 367: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. DENT, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GILCHREST, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. RENZI, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mrs. SCHMIDT,

Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 462: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 551: Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 579: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. EVERETT and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

H.R. 697: Mr. SALI and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.

H.R. 734: Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. TIAHRT.

H.R. 741: Mr. HARE and Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.

H.R. 773: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 820: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SOUDER, and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.

H.R. 864: Ms. SOLIS and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 895: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 901: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 906: Mr. EHLERS and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 926: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 977: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1065: Mr. DENT, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 1098: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 1125: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. SKELTON, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 1147: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 1176: Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 1223: Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 1225: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1230: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1239: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 1371: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 1400: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. HILL, Mr. INSLER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SHULER, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 1422: Mr. EMANUEL and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1428: Mr. GRAVES.

H.R. 1457: Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 1551: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1567: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1632: Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 1649: Mr. GOHMERT and Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 1653: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 1665: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1718: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 1732: Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 1738: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1755: Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1772: Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 1813: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 1838: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1846: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1903: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 1929: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1956: Mr. MELANCON.

H.R. 1969: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 1992: Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 2004: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 2032: Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 2035: Mr. TIAHRT and Mr. BACA.

H.R. 2045: Mr. SNYDER, Mr. KIND, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H.R. 2049: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COHEN, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2060: Mr. MITCHELL and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 2066: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2091: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 2126: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2129: Mr. FALCOMAVAEGA.

H.R. 2131: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 2138: Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. GILLMOR, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 2159: Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

H.R. 2164: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 2169: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. KIRK.

H.R. 2185: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.

H.R. 2192: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 2204: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 2238: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2255: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2265: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 2266: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2295: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 2327: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2360: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 2371: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2394: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2434: Mr. POE.

H.R. 2443: Mr. ROSS and Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 2468: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 2469: Mr. REGULA.

H.R. 2488: Mr. LINDER and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 2508: Mr. BAKER.

H.R. 2537: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2552: Mr. RAMSTAD and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 2566: Mr. WYNN and Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 2567: Mr. ALLEN and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 2583: Mr. BOREN, Mr. KIND, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 2585: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 2588: Mr. POE.

H.R. 2593: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 2630: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2669: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CARSON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. STARK, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

H.R. 2702: Mr. COHEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2706: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 2712: Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 2715: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2725: Mr. WYNN.

H.R. 2729: Mr. SALAZAR.

H.R. 2765: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. PITTS, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2778: Mr. WEINER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. ARCURI.

H.R. 2813: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2818: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 2821: Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 2831: Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.J. Res. 12: Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. HIGGINS.

H. Con. Res. 83: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H. Con. Res. 127: Mr. ELLISON.

H. Con. Res. 136: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BAKER, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. LANTOS.

H. Con. Res. 137: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. BAKER.

H. Con. Res. 139: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. PENCE.

H. Con. Res. 160: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 162: Mr. ORTIZ.

H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. DENT.

H. Con. Res. 169: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. HONDA.

H. Res. 121: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H. Res. 145: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. DOYLE.

H. Res. 186: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. TOWNS.

H. Res. 194: Mr. GILCREST.

H. Res. 208: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MACK, Mrs. BONO, and Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 231: Mr. CONAWAY.

H. Res. 283: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 287: Mr. TANNER, Ms. CARSON, Mr. PORTER, Mr. FARR, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Res. 416: Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 426: Mr. COSTA, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 427: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H. Res. 457: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Res. 467: Mr. HOLT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 477: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mr. CALVERT.

H. Res. 482: Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MANZULLO, Ms. WATSON, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

H. Res. 489: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H. Res. 497: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H. Res. 499: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BAKER, Mr. FEENEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. GOODE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GINGREY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. POE, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. CARTER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. AKIN, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. GILCREST.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MS. GINNY BROWN-WAITE OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT No. 8: Page 96, line 14, strike "\$160,000,000" and insert "\$128,000,000".

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. CONAWAY

AMENDMENT No. 9: Page 58, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$2)".

Page 58, line 3, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$1)".

Page 60, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$1)".

Page 61, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$1)".

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA

AMENDMENT No. 10: Strike section 104 (page 49, beginning at line 21).

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA

AMENDMENT No. 11: Strike section 105 (page 50, beginning at line 4).

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. DEFAZIO

AMENDMENT No. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new title:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. In implementing the amendments made by section 5401(c) of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110-28), a resource advisory committee established under section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 500 note; Public Law 106-393), in addition to the duties assigned to the committee by subsection (b) of such section, shall—

(1) monitor projects submitted by that committee that have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture;

(2) advise the designated Federal official on the progress of monitoring efforts under paragraph (1); and

(3) make recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture regarding any changes or adjustments to the projects being monitored by the committee.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. DENT

AMENDMENT No. 13: Page 111, after line 17, insert the following:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce section 20(b)(1) of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2719(b)(1)).

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. DICKS

AMENDMENT No. 14: Page 39, line 17, after each dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 55, line 22, after the second dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 58, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 60, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,000,000)".

Page 61, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,000,000)".

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. ELLSWORTH

AMENDMENT No. 15: Page 93, line 11, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$2,630,000)".

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT No. 16: Page 18, line 23, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)(increased by \$1,000,000)".

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. INSLEE

AMENDMENT NO. 17: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE ____—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to issue any permit for, or otherwise approve or allow, importation of any polar bear or polar bear part under section 104(c)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1374(c)(5)(A)).

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 18: Page 20, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 19: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to limit outreach programs administered by the Smithsonian Institution.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 20: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to eliminate or restrict programs that are for the reforestation of urban areas.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. JINDAL

AMENDMENT NO. 21: Page 58, line 3, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000) (increased by \$2,500,000)” after the dollar amount.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. JORDAN OF OHIO

AMENDMENT NO. 22: Page 111, after line 17, insert the following:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is reduced by 4.3 percent.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. KINGSTON

AMENDMENT NO. 23: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with an entity that does not participate in the basic pilot program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note).

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. LOBIONDO

AMENDMENT NO. 24: Page 89, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. MCHUGH

AMENDMENT NO. 25: Page 55, line 22, after the second dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. MICA

AMENDMENT NO. 26: Page 21, line 5, insert “(decreased by \$4,000,000) (increased by \$4,000,000)” after the dollar amount.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MRS. MUSGRAVE

AMENDMENT NO. 27: Page 110, after line 18, insert the following new section:

SEC. 417. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 0.5 percent.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. NUNES

AMENDMENT NO. 28: Page 67, line 21, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(reduced by \$3,700,000)”.

Page 67, line 22, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(reduced by \$3,700,000)”.

Page 68, line 5, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT NO. 29: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. Appropriations made in this Act are hereby reduced in the amount of \$276,330,000.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. SHAYS

AMENDMENT NO. 30: Page 31, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$1,000,000)(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. UPTON

AMENDMENT NO. 31: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to purchase light bulbs unless the light bulbs have the “ENERGY STAR” or “Federal Energy Management Program” designation.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. WEINER

AMENDMENT NO. 32: Page 18, line 23, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)” after the first dollar amount.

Page 39, line 17, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)” after the first dollar amount.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. WEINER

AMENDMENT NO. 33: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Interior shall provide public access to the Statue of Liberty that is substantially the same as that access granted before September 11, 2001.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 34: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Clover Bend Historic Site.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 35: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Kymulga Grist Mill.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 36: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the George Washington Carver High School.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 37: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the San Juan Capistrano Historic Adobe Preservation.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 38: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Oroville Historic State Theater.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 39: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Casa Grande, Santa Clara, County, California.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 40: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Maritime History Center for Working Families.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 41: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Fort DeSoto.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 42: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Wesleyan College Historic District.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 43: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Scottish Rite Temple, Bloomington, Illinois.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 44: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the St. Joseph's College Theatre.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 45: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Brown Mansion, Coffeyville, Kansas.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 46: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Butler County Courthouse, Kansas.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 47: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Perryville Battlefield Merchants Row.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT NO. 48: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the William Cullen Bryant Home Homestead.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 49: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Rackliffe Plantation House.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 50: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Poplar Hill, Clinton, Maryland.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 51: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Wetzel County Courthouse, New Martinsville, West Virginia.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 52: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Curlee House.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 53: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Daniel Webster Farmhouse.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 54: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Zuni Pueblo Mission.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 55: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Santa Maria El Mirador.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 56: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Maverick Concert Hall.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 57: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the DeSeversky Center Building.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 58: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the 1883 Lighthouse, Sleepy Hollow, New York.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 59: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 60: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Fire Fighters Hall, Columbus, Ohio.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 61: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Spring Hill Historic Home.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 62: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Moravain College.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 63: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Philadelphia Art Museum.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 64: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the W.A. Young & Sons Foundry.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 65: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Embassy Theatre.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 66: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Pompion Hill Chapel.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 67: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Goodwill School.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 68: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Carnegie Library, Darlington, South Carolina.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 69: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Agricultural Reform Movement Building.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 70: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Granbury Historic Opera House Theater.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 71: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Henry County Courthouse, Virginia.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 72: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Gadby's Historic Site.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 73: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Lee-Fendall House.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 74: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Bremerton Public Library.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 75: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Wetzel County Courthouse, New Martinsville, West Virginia.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 76: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Ivy Green Birthplace of Helen Keller.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 77: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Detroit, Michigan, Charter County of Wayne for the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 78: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Killeen, Tennessee, for Water and Sewer Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 79: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Hayti, Missouri, Pemiscot Consolidated Public Water Supply District 1 for Water System Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 80: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Independence, Mississippi, Tate County School District for Water System Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 81: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Conrad, Montana, for Conrad Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 82: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Mount Airy, North Carolina, Surry County for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure along the I-77 and I-74 Interstates Corridor.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 83: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Troy, North Carolina, Montgomery County for the Pump Station Improvement Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 84: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Durham, North Carolina, for Water and Wastewater Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 85: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the borough of Sussex, North Carolina, for the Hamburg Avenue Water Line.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 86: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Murphy, North Carolina, Cherokee County for the U.S. Highway 74 19/129 Sewer Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 87: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Newark, New Jersey, Passaic Valley Sewer Commission for Wastewater Treatment and Storm Water Renovation.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 88: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Aztec, New Mexico, for Municipal Wastewater Treatment.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 89: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the township of Waterford, Michigan, Oakland County Drain Commission for the Evergreen-Farmington Sanitary Sewer Overflow Control Demonstration Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 90: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Seattle, Washington, Seattle Public Utilities for South Park Drainage Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 91: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Brooksville, Southwest Florida Water Management District for Peace and Myakka River Watershed Restoration.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 92: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Weston, FL, for Bonaventure Storm Water Pumps.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 93: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, Clinton County Municipal Authority for the Sewer Pump Station Construction in Woodward Township.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 94: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of East Providence, RI, for Nutrient Removal.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 95: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Town of Andrews, SC, for Water and Wastewater Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 96: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Gaffney, SC, for the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 97: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Rapid City, SD, for the Source Water Protection Initiative.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 98: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Town of Collierville, TN for the Public Works Department for Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 99: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Killeen, Tennessee, for Water and Sewer Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 100: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Eureka, California, for Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 101: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Eckley, Colorado, for Water Treatment Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 102: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Colchester, Connecticut, for the Flatbrook Road Booster Station.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 103: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Prospect, Connecticut, for the College Farms Subdivision.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 104: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Wolcott, Connecticut, for Storm Drainage and Other Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 105: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Stamford, Connecticut, for Stormwater and Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 106: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Tallahassee, Florida, for the Advanced Water Treatment Facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 107: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Sarasota, Florida, Sarasota County, for the Phillippi Creek Septic System Replacement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 108: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Callahan, Florida, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 109: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida, for North Beach Neighborhood Improvements, Phase II.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 110: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Jupiter, Florida, for Water Treatment Plant Enhancement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 111: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Brighton, Michigan, for the Mill Pond Lane Bypass Sanitary Sewer Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 112: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission for a Wastewater Treatment Facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 113: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Joplin, Missouri, for the Wildwood Ranch Sewer.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 114: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, for Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 115: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Rogers, Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure and Watershed Management.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 116: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, for Sewer Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 117: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Walthall County Courthouse, Mississippi.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 118: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of San Clemente, California, for Expansion of the Water Reclamation Facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 119: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Arcadia, California, for the Arcadia/Sierra Madre Joint Water Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 120: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Seaside, California, for Monterey Bay Outfall Dry Weather Diversion.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 121: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Big Bear Lake, California, Department of Water and Power To Upgrade the Pipeline Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 122: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Yucca Valley, California, Hi-Desert Water Agency for a Wastewater Treatment System.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 123: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Sacramento, California, Sacramento Department of Utilities for Downtown Sacramento Combined Sewer Improvement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 124: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Barstow, California, county of San Bernardino for the Sewer Master Plan Implementation, Phase II.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 125: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Manteca, California, for Water Treatment Infrastructure Upgrades.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 126: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Vallejo, California, for Mare Island Sanitary Sewer and Storm Drain.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 127: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of San Francisco, California, Public Utilities Commission for the Lower Mission District.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 128: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Huntington Park, California,

for the Slauson Avenue Water Line and Yard Rehabilitation.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 129: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Temple City, California, for the Sanitation Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 130: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Louisville, Kentucky, for the Louisville and Jefferson County Municipal Sewer District for the Shively Area Pump Stations Eliminations Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 131: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Lycoming Department of Planning and Community Development for a Water System for Muncy Industrial Park.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 132: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the New Castle, Pennsylvania, Lawrence County Planning Office for the Neshannock Township.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 133: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Coburg, Oregon, for a Wastewater System.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 134: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Zanesville, Ohio, Muskingum County Commission for the West Pike Sanitary Sewer.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 135: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Warren, Ohio, the Office of the Trumbull County Commissioners for the Scott Street Sanitary Sewer in Newton Falls.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 136: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Columbus, Ohio, Columbus Downtown Development Cooperation for the Scioto Mile River Level Park Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 137: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Port Clinton, Ohio, Ottawa Country for the Watermain and Sanitary Sewer Program.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 138: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the village of Rushville, Ohio, for Sewage Infrastructure Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 139: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Marcellus, New York, for Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 140: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the village of Lyndonville, New York, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 141: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of New York, New York, for the Twin Lakes Restoration Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 142: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Grambling, Louisiana, for the East Martin Luther King Tarbutton Road Sewer Extension.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 143: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the cities of Fall River and New Bedford, Massachusetts, and the town of Acushnet for Bristol County Sewer Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 144: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Winthrop, Massachusetts, for Storm Drain Remediation.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 145: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of West Springfield, Massachusetts, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for the Connecticut River Combined Sewer Overflow Clean-up.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 146: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Elyria, Ohio, for the Water Treatment Intake Plant.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 147: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of College Park, Maryland, for the Paint Branch Watershed Storm Management Plan.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 148: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Glencoe, Alabama, for Storm Drainage and Sewer Repairs.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 149: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Clanton, Alabama, for the Water Plant Upgrade Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 150: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Harlan, Kentucky, for the Baxter-Rosspoint Sewer Line Expansion.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 151: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the borough of Slatington, Pennsylvania, for Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 152: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, for Water Distribution Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 153: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this act may be used for the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, for Water Distribution Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 154: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the pueblo of San Felipe, New Mexico, for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 155: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Bernalillo, New Mexico, for Arsenic and Water System Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 156: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Fallon, Nevada, for the Wastewater System Improvement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 157: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Overton, Nevada, for the Collection System Infiltration Study.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 158: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Geneva, New York, Water District 12 for Water Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 159: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Halfmoon, New York, for the Halfmoon Water Line.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 160: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Goshen, New York, for the Hambletonian Park Water Main Replacement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 161: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Bethel, New York, for Sewer Extension.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 162: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Middletown, New York, for Water and Wastewater Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 163: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Rochester, New York, Monroe County Water Authority for the Southeast Service Area Reliability Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 164: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Rye, New York, for Sewer Pump Station Repairs.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 165: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the village of Mamaroneck, New York, for Sewer System Upgrades.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 166: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the village of Briarcliff Manor, New York, for Sewer Upgrades.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 167: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Buffalo, New York, Erie County Water Authority for the Ball Pump Station Emergency Power Generation.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 168: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Palatka, FL, St. Johns River Water Management District for Expansion of the Taylor Creek Reservoir.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 169: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Clearwater, FL, for Wastewater and Reclaimed Water Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 170: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Vienna, GA, for Sewer Treatment Facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 171: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Valdosta, GA, for the Valdosta Scott Water Tank Construction.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 172: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Mason City, IA, for Wastewater Treatment Facility Facility Expansion.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 173: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Twin Falls, ID, for the Auger Falls Wastewater Treatment Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 174: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the village of Johnsburg, IL, for Wastewater Conveyance and Treatment Works.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 175: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the village of Steward, IL, for Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 176: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the village of Hazel Crest, IL, for Water Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 177: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Village of South Chicago Heights, IL, for Wastewater Treatment Facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 178: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Northeastern Illinois Sewer Improvement Consortium, IL, for Sewer Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 179: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Virginia, IL, for a Water Treatment Facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 180: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Oregon, IL, Public Works Department for Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 181: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Village of Farina, IL, for Water System Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 182: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Carmel, IN for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 183: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the town of Linden, IN, for Water and Sewage for the Sewer Treatment Plant Expansion.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 184: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of South Bend, IN for the Sewer Overflow Sensory Control Network.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 185: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Evansville, IN, for the Mt. Auburn Neighborhood Sanitary Sewer System.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 186: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Charlestown, IN, for the Water Treatment Facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 187: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Fort Wayne, IN, for the Fort Wayne Storm Sewer Separation Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 188: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Town of Merrillville, IN, for Water Infrastructure Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 189: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Iola, KS, for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 190: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Larned, KS, for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 191: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Sedan, KS, for the Rural Water District Number 4 Chautauqua County for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 192: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Lexington, Kentucky, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government for South Elkhorn Pump Station and Force Main Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 193: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of La Grange, Oldham County, KY, Sewer District for the Ohio River Wastewater Treatment Plant in Goshen.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 194: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Peshtigo, WI, for Water System Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 195: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Holcombe, WI, the Lake Holcombe Sanitary District for Wastewater Treatment and Sewer System Upgrades.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 196: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Weson, WV, for the Jackson's Mill Waterline.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 197: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Pennsboro, WV, for Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 198: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Westover, WV, for Sanitary Sewer Service Upgrade.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 199: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Milton, WV, for Milton Water System Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 200: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Grandview, Texas, for an Elevated Water Storage Tank.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 201: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Hillsboro, Texas, for Water and Wastewater System Improvement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 202: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Cressona, PA, Cressona Borough Authority for the Cressona Belt Filter Press.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 203: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Fort Bend County, Texas, for a Water and Wastewater Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 204: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Sabinal, Texas, for a Wastewater Treatment Facility Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 205: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of San Antonio, Texas, San Antonio Water System for the Central Watershed Sewer Relief Line C-02.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 206: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Riverton, Utah, for the Water Pump Station.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 207: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Hershey, Pennsylvania, Derry Township Municipal Authority for Wastewater Treatment Facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 208: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Henry County, Virginia, Henry County Public Service Authority for Water Infrastructure Improvements.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 209: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Alexandria, Virginia, and Arlington County, Virginia, for Four Mile Run.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 210: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the City of Yardley, Pennsylvania, Yardley Borough Sewer Authority for Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 211: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Fairfax County, Virginia, Stormwater Planning Division for Stormwater Management Planning.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 212: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Longview, Washington, for a water treatment facility.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 213: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Fairfax County, Virginia, Stormwater Planning Division for Stormwater Management Planning.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 214: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for Skokomish, Washington, Skokomish Indian Tribal National for Wastewater Treatment.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 215: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Township of Cecil, Pennsylvania, Cecil Township Municipal Authority for the Miller's Run Sewer System.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 216: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Belfair, Mason County, Washington, for Wastewater Treatment.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 217: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Mountlake Terrace, Washington, for Water Main System Replacement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 218: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Mercer Island, Washington, for the Mercer Island Sewer Lake Line Replacement.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 219: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Borough of Stoystown, Pennsylvania, Somerset Township Municipal Authority for Stoystown Water Project.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 220: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Puyallup for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

H.R. 2643

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 221: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: None of the funds in this Act may be used for the city of Flint, Michigan, Office of the Genessee County Drain Commissioner for the North-East Relief Sewer.

H.R. 2829

OFFERED BY: MR. GARRETT OF NEW JERSEY

AMENDMENT No. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE IX—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 901. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used by the Securities and Exchange Commission to enforce the requirements of section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act with respect to non-accelerated filers under section 210.2-02T of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations.

H.R. 2829

OFFERED BY: MS. UPTON

AMENDMENT No. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE IX—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISION

SEC. 901. None of the funds made available in this Act (including funds made available in titles IV and VIII) may be used to purchase light bulbs unless the light bulbs have the "ENERGY STAR" or "Federal Energy Management Program" designation.