

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL (S.
1639)

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns over the Senate's Immigration bill.

I am disappointed that the Senate continues to maintain a "Z" visa program within the text that would reward illegal behavior. Notwithstanding how its proponents choose to characterize this plan, it represents de facto amnesty and is unfair to those who have patiently pursued the citizenship process legally.

We have some 12 million illegal aliens in this country. Granting amnesty will only push those numbers up, not down, as we saw after the implementation of Simpson-Mazzoli.

The White House and the Senate just do not seem to recognize the fatal flaw in their so-called immigration "compromise": If we cannot control our borders now, then how can we reasonably expect to manage future immigration programs that will inevitably increase the numbers of individuals seeking to enter this country illegally? The end results of this bargain, I fear, will be compromises to the rule of law and to the security of the homeland. And those we most certainly do not need.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA LAND GRANT EN-
HANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation that would put the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) on par with all of the other land grant universities around the country.

Land grant institutions play a significant role in ensuring that our nation remains the world leader in the production of food, fuel and fiber. Through a wide range of research and extension activities, U.S. citizens gain useful knowledge on the latest changes in agriculture-based technology that keeps our food supply safe while providing for critical health information on food and nutrition.

Congress authorized land grant status to the University of the District of Columbia in 1974, and since that time the University of the District of Columbia has played a major role in these efforts from an urban point of view as the only all urban land grant institution in the country.

Many are not aware that the University of the District of Columbia is an 1862 Land Grant

Institution with specific legislative authority to participate in various United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) research and extension programs. More particularly, the University has specific statutory authority to participate in research funding programs under the Hatch Act, similar to the authority given to other 1862 Land Grant Institutions. This is not the case, however, for the University's extension service activities.

Extension services at the University are awkwardly authorized under Section 208(c) of the District of Columbia Higher Education and Post Secondary Act of 1974, rather than Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act. While Section 208(c) of the District of Columbia Higher Education and Post Secondary Act of 1974 incorporates by reference the specific extension activities under Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act, this outdated statutory scheme presents significant barriers to the University's ability to effectively carry out extension activities. The barriers resulting from this statutory scheme present themselves in form and substance while raising issues of equity and fairness. USDA's implementation of the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) best highlights this inequity.

EFNEP is a formula-based nutrition education program authorized under Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act. In Fiscal Year 2006, the Congress appropriated \$62 million for the EFNEP program and USDA disseminated these funds, without any nonfederal matching requirement, to the various land grant institutions in the states and territories, except for the University of the District of Columbia. Under current law, Smith-Lever EFNEP funding is made only conditionally available to the University of the District of Columbia through Section 208(c) of the D.C. Postsecondary Education Act, which requires UDC to provide 100% matching funds for its EFNEP funding. UDC is the only 1862 Land Grant Institution required to do so. The language requiring the 100% match for District of Columbia EFNEP programs is clearly a relic of the budget and political climate that existed at the time the EFNEP provision was enacted for the District of Columbia in 1974.

Moreover, as a critical threshold issue, the University does not currently have access to any EFNEP funding because UDC is not in the Smith-Lever Act that guides the appropriations process; no one looks to the D.C. Postsecondary Education Act, so UDC is overlooked in the EFNEP funding allocation.

There is no reason why the District of Columbia's children should have less access to nutrition education programs than children in the states and U.S. territories. It is long overdue to remove this inequitable financial barrier. Neither the continued exclusion of the University from the EFNEP program nor the mandatory matching requirement is supported by USDA's policy goal of ensuring that the EFNEP program reaches all predominantly minority low-income youth and families with nu-

trition education that leads to sustainable behavior changes.

The legislation that I introduce today corrects this problem along with other barriers to the University's participation in the agricultural research and extension programs, and provides the authority needed for the University to participate in capacity building and facilities programs now being administered at the United States Department of Agriculture. The University of the District of Columbia functions with very limited resources in comparison to the large endowments of most other land grant institutions. Accordingly, a reduction in the current matching requirements for the Hatch Act state agricultural experiment station programs and the other Smith-Lever extension programs, similar to the reduction and waiver provisions authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill for some of the smaller 1862 Land Grant Institutions would be equitable and fair. For this reason, this legislation would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to reduce and waive the non-federal matching requirement if the Secretary finds that the University will not be in a position to secure nonfederal funds.

Finally, this legislation would allow the University to participate in USDA's competitive capacity and facilities grant programs. Participation in these grant programs would significantly enhance the University's teaching and agricultural research capacity building resources, and its ability to upgrade its research, teaching and extension facilities, thereby recognizing the importance of the University as the only all urban land grant institution performing valuable urban agricultural research and extension services to the District of Columbia community and a predominately African American student population. It is only fair that the University of the District of Columbia is afforded the same opportunity to compete for capacity building and facilities opportunities that the other small, minority-serving institutions are eligible to pursue.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I inadvertently voted "no" on Rollcall No. 573, the Inslee amendment to H.R. 2643. I intended to vote "aye" on this amendment, which would have prohibited the use of any funds in the bill to issue permits for importation of any polar bear or polar bear part. Protection of our threatened species is a critical objective and I believe that this amendment, had it passed, would have greatly assisted our efforts to protect the polar bear.

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

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

COMMENDING THE GLADES COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to the brave men and women of my district. Recently there was an outbreak of fires along Lake Okeechobee, Florida's largest lake. The fires started on May 27, 2007 along the Pierce Canal in Glades County, Florida. Boundary fires were created to protect the area.

Glades County EMS Director, Bob Jones, coordinated the mission and had everyone in place. Glades County Sheriff, Stuart Whiddon made his deputies available to help. Lighted signs were posted on the road and volunteers went house to house to warn people of the fires. The highway was closed and one family had to evacuate due to health reasons. No one was taken to the hospital or needed EMS assistance during the six days the fire burned.

Glades County is made up of all volunteer fire departments. Firefighters from Glades County Communities including Buckhead Ridge, Lakeport, Moore Haven, Palmdale, Ortona and Muse responded. These men and women were on site 24 hours a day. In order to protect the area, the volunteers inhaled smoke, and were surrounded by threatening flames. They were assisted by the following departments from neighboring Lee County: San Carlos, Port Authority, Bonita Springs, North Fort Myers, Estero, Fort Myers City, Bayshore, and Cape Coral. In addition, they were also assisted by the Brighton Seminole Fire Department.

I commend Glades County Manager Wendell Taylor, Deputy County Manager, Larry Hilton, and the members of the Glades County Commission, Butch Jones, Chairman, Paul Beck, Vice Chairman, Donna Storter Long, Russell Echols, and Bob Geisler for their presence and constant concern for the citizens of Glades county. I also commend Glades County staff who lent a helping hand.

Many firefighters lost days of pay in order to fulfill their obligation to protect the residents of Glades County. These brave men and women are a tribute to their communities and I commend them for their terrific hard work in battling these fires.

Glades County may be one of the poorest counties in the district, but the people who live and work there are what makes it rich.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOAN LOLMAUGH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Lolmaugh for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Clark County community through her work with Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Joan started her career with Clark County in 1992 as Manager of Clark County's Cultural Affairs Division. Over the course of her tenure with Clark County, Joan has overseen Win-

chester Cultural Center, the Clark County Museum and Aviation Museum, the Special Events unit which produces large community events such as the Renaissance Festival; the Summer Concert Series at the Government Center Amphitheater; the Galleries and Art Education Program and the Wetlands Interpretive Program, among other functions. Furthermore, Joan was appointed by former Governor Kenny Guinn to the board of the Nevada Arts Council, and in 2002 was honored by the Governor, receiving the Governor's Art Reward for service to the arts.

Prior to her time in Las Vegas, Joan served as assistant director at the Oregon Arts Commission and Director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. She was director and assistant professor of a graduate arts program at the University of Illinois-Springfield. She has served on the boards of the Western States Arts Federation and National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and is currently a member of the Death Valley National Park Advisory Commission. She has also been involved in a number of statewide arts organizations across the country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joan Lolmaugh. Her dedication to enriching lives through the arts is laudable and has enriched countless lives. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Joseph the Worker Church, in Fallsington, Pennsylvania, for its 50 years of service and continued dedication to the Bucks County community.

The St. Joseph of the Worker Parish was founded by Archbishop—and future Philadelphia Cardinal—John F. O'Hara on October 1, 1956. A church that once consisted of a small group meeting in a local elementary school has now developed into a vibrant and growing congregation. In the spirit of St. Joseph, the parish church and school are committed to hard work for the betterment of their community—for the religious and laity alike.

Madam Speaker, a strong community can shape the lives of children and young adults—something I saw first hand growing up in a working class family in Northeast Philadelphia. The St. Joseph the Worker Parish School educates 165 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students of the Parish community. Through quality education and service projects, St. Joseph students learn how to help others and become the leaders of the future.

Over the past 50 years, the parish has helped create a new St. Joseph's Home for Boys and the Martha's Cupboard food pantry. The food pantry's 12 hardworking volunteers service between 10 and 20 families each week with a 2-week supply of non-perishable food. The food is contributed largely from parishioners, in addition to school and community food drives. In conjunction with other organizations, parishioners package and deliver

meals, and purchase Christmas gifts for local needy families.

Madam Speaker, the St. Joseph Church and its congregation have long served as a model for community service, proving that the efforts of the few have profound effects on the many. I offer my congratulations as the parish welcomes Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and concludes their 50th anniversary ceremonies on Sunday, September 30, 2007.

The motto for the 50th anniversary events, "Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future," embodies the true mission of the St. Joseph the Worker Church. Madam Speaker, I am honored recognize the church's years of history and I thank the parishioners and clergy for their ongoing efforts to educate the youth and improve our society. I wish them another 50 years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF RETAIL DEPRECIATION BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to help our nation's 1.5 million retailers. The bill that I am filing today, along with my Committee colleagues Representatives PHIL ENGLISH, ARTUR DAVIS, and SAM JOHNSON, would provide a quicker cost recovery for improvements to retail-owned property.

Already, retailers or other commercial entities that rent, rather than own their property can recover the costs of improvements over 15 years. Owners of retail property, however, must write-off these same improvements to their property over 39 years. There is little reason for such a distinction; the wear and tear on the property is the same. In fact, studies by the Congressional Research Service, the Treasury Department, and other private economists have found that the current asset lives assigned to buildings and improvements are far too long.

Many small retailers own their buildings and are unable to afford the space in the more desirable malls. One of my constituents, Dave Ratner of Dave's Soda and Pet City in Agawam, MA, testified before Congress earlier this year on this issue. Dave employs 86 people in western Massachusetts at his four locations. He competes with the major pet care chain stores, which often lease pricey space in the malls. Because their property is leased, it is eligible for the quicker cost recovery, providing a significant tax advantage over Dave's shops.

Since half of retail spaced is owned and half is rented, Congress should try to create parity within this industry. Our retailers employ one in five American workers and generally must remodel their stores every five to seven years in order to keep up with customers' tastes and needs. These retail owners, the majority of whom have less than five employees, are often all you see along Main Street in the small cities and especially in rural areas. Ownership signifies a long-term commitment to the community. We should at least level the playing field for these community-based businesses.

We urge you to join us in supporting legislation to allow a quicker cost recovery for improvements to retail-owned property. It is one

way to help retailers remain competitive and stay on Main Street.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST
CLEVELAND MOSQUE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize First Cleveland Mosque on the occasion of its 70th Anniversary, and to celebrate all their contributions toward creating a more diverse and inclusive Northeast Ohio.

Founded in 1937 by Imam Al Hajj Wali Akram, First Cleveland Mosque is one of the oldest Muslim institutions in America. The Mosque has faithfully guided Cleveland Muslims, holding fast to the ideals of peace, equality and social harmony central to their faith.

As our world struggles to understand its beautiful religious diversity, the First Cleveland Mosque, since its inception, has been a force for ecumenism, encouraging dialogue between faiths and reaching out to their non-Muslim neighbors. The result has been a Cleveland faith community rooted in understanding and mutual respect.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the First Cleveland Mosque on the occasion of its 70th Anniversary. May all their efforts toward ecumenism continue to create a more peaceful Northeast Ohio and world.

THE GREAT LAKES WATER
PROTECTION ACT H.R. 2907

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Congressman LIPINSKI to introduce the Great Lakes Water Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the Alliance for the Great Lakes, National Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, Great Lakes Aquatic Network, Audubon Society and more, would set a date certain to end sewage dumping in America's largest supply of fresh water, the Great Lakes. More than forty million Americans depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, food, jobs, and recreation. We need to put a stop to the poisoning of our water supply. Cities along the Great Lakes must become environmental stewards of our country's most precious freshwater ecosystem.

The Great Lakes Water Protection Act gives cities until 2027 to build the full infrastructure needed to prevent sewage dumping into the Great Lakes. Those who violate EPA sewage dumping regulations after that federal deadline will be subject to fines up to \$100,000 for every day they are in violation. These fines will be directed to a newly established Great Lakes Clean-Up Fund within the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Penalties collected would go into this fund and be reallocated to the states surrounding the Great Lakes. From there, the funds will be spent on wastewater

treatment options, with a special focus on greener solutions such as habitat protection and wetland restoration.

This legislation is sorely needed. Many major cities along the Great Lakes do not have the infrastructure needed to divert sewage overflows during times of heavy rainfall. More than twenty-four billion gallons of sewage are dumped into the Lakes each year; Detroit alone dumped over thirteen billion gallons of sewage into Lake Huron in 2005.

These disastrous practices result in thousands of annual beach closings for the region's 815 freshwater beaches. Cook County beach closings nearly tripled from 213 in 2003 to 613 in 2004. According to the National Resources Defense Council, in a 92-day period from June 1 to August 31 in 2005, there were 87 days of beach closings in my District alone. This trend is echoed throughout the Great Lakes region and is one we need to reverse.

Protecting our Great Lakes is one of my top priorities in the Congress. As an original co-sponsor of the Great Lakes Restoration Act, I favor a broad approach to addressing needs in the region. However, we must also move forward with tailored approaches to fix specific problems as we continue to push for more comprehensive reform. I am proud to introduce this important legislation that addresses a key problem facing our Great Lakes, and hope my colleagues will support me in ensuring that these important resources become free from the threat of sewage pollution.

HONORING HERB CROUTHAMEL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Herb Crouthamel for nearly half-a-century of service to the families of Bucks County. On Friday, June 15—after 46 years of driving a school bus for Central Bucks West and Our Lady of Mount Carmel schools—Mr. Crouthamel drove his final route. During those 46 years driving the bus and the 81 years he has been a member of our community Mr. Crouthamel has developed lasting, personal relationships but most importantly, he has protected our children.

Madam speaker, Mr. Crouthamel served our country as a member of the U.S. Navy in World War II and went to school on the GI Bill after his return. He started his route by chance, supplementing his work as a car salesman, but soon it became one of his life works.

Students, parents and school administrators all hail Mr. Crouthamel's devoted commitment to students. He impresses the students he drives by knowing all of their names and his record shows his dedication to student safety, both on and off the bus.

Mr. Crouthamel may be giving up the bus route but he isn't giving up his service to our community. He plans to continue work for his local country store and he will also volunteer at the Doylestown Hospital after his retirement.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Crouthamel's commitment to children and the community is an inspiration. His years of service come with pub-

lic acclaim for his attention to both safety and the lives of local families. On behalf of the community and all the lives he has touched and protected, I would like to thank Mr. Crouthamel for his life-long commitment to excellence and service.

INTRODUCTION OF CORPORATE
ANTI-INVERSION BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation today to shut down a potential loophole in the anti-inversion provisions of the tax code. As many of my colleagues will remember, I lead the charge back in early 2002 to shut down the so-called "corporate expatriate" loophole. Corporate expatriates trade in their U.S. citizenship for citizenship in certain no-tax or low-tax havens through reincorporation or a corporate "inversion." These corporate expatriates often have little or no presence in these haven jurisdictions; some merely rent a mailbox to establish their new headquarters.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, some aggressive tax advisors were telling their clients that the climate was ripe for inversions as most stock prices were depressed. The only tax paid when a corporation departed was a tax on the gain of the stock or assets transferred to the new foreign parent company. As one tax advisor put it, "Maybe patriotism needs to take a back seat to improved corporate profits."

Despite the outcry from shareholders, taxpayers, and many of us in Congress, the leadership of the prior Congress fought enactment of a loophole closer. It was not until late in 2004, in the American Jobs Creation Act, that corporate expatriation was finally put to a halt. That bill used the same formula of my original bill—simply stating that if almost all of the shareholders of the new foreign company were the same as under the old American company and if the company had little real business in the host foreign country, then the corporate expatriate would be taxed as if it were still a U.S. company.

That new law put a chill on the market for corporate expatriation. However, earlier this year, one American company stated it was moving the headquarters of the operation to a foreign country with no corporate income tax. The company is not really changing its residency. Many have speculated that this is really a two-step process: move some administrative functions abroad to establish a minimal presence, and then give up U.S. corporate citizenship.

I think this would circumvent the intent of the original law and that is why I am filing legislation today to close that loophole. My bill would exclude any management or administrative functions, including the corporate headquarters, from the calculation of what constitutes substantial business activities in the foreign country. I am sure that many CEOs would not think it too much a sacrifice to relocate their office to the sunnier climes of some of these havens and thereby shave millions off of the company's tax bill. I urge my colleagues to support my legislation to prevent this type of tax avoidance.

I would also add that I do not view these events in a vacuum. Clearly, this Congress needs to look at more incentives to keep American companies and jobs here. I have discussed with Chairman Rangel holding hearings on how our tax code treats both domestic and foreign sources of income to make sure American companies can successfully compete in a global market. However, until such changes are made, I will continue my efforts to prevent "self-help" maneuvers, such as the fiction of corporate expatriation.

A summary of my bill follows:

BILL SUMMARY
PRESENT LAW

Section 801 of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 (AJCA) added section 7874 to the Internal Revenue Code. Section 7874 provides certain rules designed to remove incentives for corporations to engage in inversion transactions. However, the anti-inversion rules do not apply if the expanded affiliated group (EAG) of the corporation has business activities in the foreign country in which, or under the laws of which, the acquiring foreign entity was created or organized and such business activities are substantial when compared to the total business activities of the EAG. (For purposes of section 7874, the EAG is similar to the affiliated group permitted to file a consolidated federal income tax return, except that companies are considered to be in the expanded affiliated group if they are more than 50 percent owned by the common parent or other members (the consolidation rules required 80 percent) and foreign corporations may be included in the expanded affiliated group.) In explaining the reason for this legislative change, the "Blue Book" compiled by Joint Tax states, "The Congress believed that inversion transactions resulting in minimal presence in a foreign country of incorporation were a means of avoiding U.S. tax and should be curtailed." Staff of Joint Comm. on Taxation, General Explanation of Tax Legislation Enacted in the 108th Congress, at 343 (Comm. Print JCS-5-05).

On June 5, 2006, the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service issued Temporary and Proposed Regulations that, among other things, provide certain rules regarding the substantial activities test (T.D. 9265). The regulations provide both an all-facts-and-circumstances test and a bright-line safe harbor test to determine whether an EAG has substantial business activities in the acquiring foreign entity's country of incorporation when compared to the total business activities of the EAG. Under the general rule of the all-facts-and-circumstances test, the determination of whether the EAG has substantial business activities in the relevant foreign country, when compared to the total business activities of the EAG, is based on an analysis of all the facts and circumstances of each case. The regulations set forth a non-exclusive list of factors to be considered in the analysis. The weight given to any factor depends on the particular circumstances. The listed factors include, among other factors, the EAG's local employee headcount and payroll, property, and sales; the EAG's historical presence in the foreign country; its management activities in the country; and the strategic importance to the EAG as a whole of the business activities in that country.

The regulations state that the presence or absence of any factor, or any particular number of factors, in the list is not determinative, and that there is no minimum percentage of the group's total employee headcount, payroll, assets, or sales that must be shown to be in the foreign country.

The safe harbor test is satisfied if the EAG satisfies three conditions, relating to employees, assets, and sales. The first condition is that the group employees based in the foreign country account for at least 10 percent (by headcount and compensation) of total group employees. The second condition is that the total value of the group assets located in the foreign country represents at least 10 percent of the total value of all group assets. The third condition is that the group sales made in the foreign country accounts for at least 10 percent of total group sales.

THE BILL

The bill provides that for purposes of the substantial activities test of section 7874, any management or administrative activities, including the location of any corporate headquarters, taking place in the foreign country in which, or under the law of which, the inverted entity is created or organized shall not be taken into account as business activities. Under the bill, for example, if a U.S. company inverts to country X, and its management is located in country X or performs much of its management activities there, the activities of its management in country X are not taken into account for purposes of determining whether the activities of the EAG in country X are substantial when compared to the total worldwide business activities of the EAG. On the other hand, under that example if any management activities of the EAG take place outside of country X, such management activities are taken into account in applying the substantial activities test.

The bill modifies the statutory substantial business activities test, and accordingly limits the application of both the all-facts-and-circumstances test and the safe harbor of the regulations.

Under the bill, the term "management activities" includes any management activities, and therefore extends beyond top corporate management. For example, it would include management activities relating to operational units. Similarly, the term "administrative activities" includes departments whose function is essentially administrative in nature, such as accounting, as well as administrative activities relating to or performed by operational units.

IN CELEBRATION OF CLARA
BELLE LACEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clara Belle Lacey, on the occasion of her 80th birthday, and to celebrate her lifetime of contributions to Northeast Ohio.

Clara is fiercely dedicated to her family and her community. She helped her parents raise her siblings, and as a young working woman, she always ensured that they had extra presents and candy on the holidays. Clara's affection for and loyalty to her family and friends never wavers. She has boundless energy. Indeed, just being around her, one cannot help but be uplifted and touched by her radiance.

Clara has never been one to restrain her affection and concern for others. For decades she has been an outspoken community activist, committed to making Northeast Ohio a more peaceful, more equal, and more just community. She has been an invaluable asset to literally hundreds of organizations, grass-

roots movements, and city ward clubs. Her contributions to our community have been immeasurable.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, I have known Clara for decades, and I have been consistently blessed by her presence in my life. Please join me in honoring Clara Belle Lacey on the occasion of her 80th birthday. May we all aspire to be as caring and as loyal as she.

10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF ILLINOIS SCHOOL CONSERVATION
CORPS ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the 10th Congressional District of Illinois School Conservation Corps Act of 2007, a bill crafted by America's future leaders. I believe it is critical to engage younger generations in our civic process in order to help them begin to build a better tomorrow.

Earlier this year, I invited students from all across my district to participate in a Model Congress. The best and brightest high school students from around northeast Illinois turned out to spend a weekend listening to expert testimony, debating policy, and passing legislation on climate change and environmental conservation.

One of the bills the students considered establishes a pilot program in the 10th District of Illinois for the Secretary of Education to launch and support a School Conservation Corps. Any group of 10 students and an advisor may form a chapter of the Corps to receive grants to participate in various environmental protection and restoration activities. Assuming the roles of actual Members of Congress, the students debated many provisions of the bill, including the types of activities that shall be performed, the amount of initial and matching grants that may be made available, and the parameters of the program's evaluation and expansion.

I am proud to announce that with minor drafting changes, the bill I rise to introduce today is the same bill passed by the talented students of the 10th District on April 22, 2007. I want to recognize Lauren Blake and Will McGauran who played the majority and minority leaders of this Model Congress. These students, who will both be seniors at New Trier High School next fall, worked hard to build partnerships and find compromises to pass the legislation before them.

The complete Model Congress comprised of the following students, who each played a critical role in the proceedings: Edward Alvarez, Charles Arnowitz, Frank Austin, Carolyn Barnett, Andrew Barr, Steven Blumental, Josh Brown, Emily Buehler, Melissa Burns, Arvin Canda, Lauren Cannizzaro, Douglas Carr, Amy Cleveland, Angelica Cleveland, Simone Coburn, Bruce Codell, Jordan Cohen, Elyse Conklin, Dan Cowin, Semeka Cunningham, Joseph Delvin, Peter Drogos Phyll, Ellen Eichner, Gustavo Esquivel, Maria Estrada, Teresa Fabila, Brad Fink, Kevin Finkle, Sherrie Fortson, Stephanie Fortson, Rebecca Fowler, Rachel Fybel, Roberto Garcia, Ana Gaytan, Aaron Goldstein, Alex Gordon, A. William

Greene, Jake Grubman, Ray Gu, Robbie Gustafson, Patrick Hamann, Ryan Hamilton, Jacob Hanson, Brad Heinz, Adam Herbert, Jordan Heyman, David Isaacson, Joshua Jackson, Rachel Jackson, Lauren Jensen, Ari Kasper, Ruth Kee, Courtney Kennedy, Jacob Klein, Julia Kohn, Noah Kraff, Noam Kupfer, Geno Kurolapnak, Jake Lapping, Alex Lazakis, Austin Lin, Tyler Litke, Thomas Lovinger, John Maigler, Lauren McCall, Michael McCall, Monte Monaco, Neal Muller, Brooke-Lynn Navarro, Ariel Olswanger, Lauren Olswanger, Aaron Parker, Ami Pekaj, Stacey Podovik, Kiran Pookote, Jonathan Prohov, John Reid Sidebotham, David Reiss, Nils Robbins, Ben Rose, Ari Ruffer, Maya Samuel, Matt Schuelke, Ayal Sharvit, Samara Silverman, Matt Skalski, Matthew Sloan, Sarah Smith, Karolina Strack, Ilana Strauss, Kathryn Swanson, Gideon Sylvan, Steve Tapas, Lindsey Taylor, Anne Tomsky, Sam Travers, Roxanne Tully, Maddi Vering, Robert Wald, Rachel Weiss, Lauren Whalley, John Yang, Gale Young, Dominique Young, Jonathan Youshaei, John Zender, and Michael Zucker.

Members of the United States Congress should take cues from all these students on how to work in a more bipartisan manner to accomplish the most pressing issues that face Americans. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and invest in tomorrow's leaders.

RAYMOND G. MURPHY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for four bills that are before the House. H.R. 366, H.R. 2546, H.R. 2602, and S. 229 honor four Medal of Honor recipients who through their diligence and self-sacrifice protected the freedoms we hold dear today. As we move toward the Fourth of July recess, it is fitting that we pay tribute to these four men, two of whom were Native Americans.

H.R. 366 would pay honor to Ernest Childers by naming the VA Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, OK, the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic." A Creek Indian from Oklahoma, Ernest Childers enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1937 to earn extra money while attending the Chilocco Indian School in north-central Oklahoma. He was deployed to Africa to fight in World War II, and retired from the Army in 1965 as a Lieutenant Colonel. During action in 1943 in Oliveto, Italy, Childers ordered covering fire and 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 American soldiers. Ernest Childers was also awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his actions.

H.R. 2546 would honor the sacrifice of a Cherokee Indian from North Carolina, Private First Class Charles George, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country in

Korea. This legislation would name the VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center." Private First Class George displayed gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy, when enemy forces launched a grenade into his company and after calling out a warning to his comrades, he pushed one soldier out of danger, and with full knowledge of the consequences, unhesitatingly threw himself upon the grenade, absorbing the full blast of the explosion. It is more than fitting that we name this VA facility in his honor.

H.R. 2602 would pay tribute to Oscar G. Johnson by naming the VA Medical Facility in Iron Mountain, MI, the "Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility." Another of our World War II heroes, U.S. Army Sergeant Oscar Johnson led his company to protect the left flank of an offensive to break the German's Gothic Line. Under heavy fire, most of his company were either killed or wounded. Yet Sergeant Johnson held the line, and continued to single-handedly hold the line from September 16–18, 1944. On September 17, 1944, 25 German soldiers surrendered to him. He was sent two additional men to reinforce his position, but they were both injured and were removed to their rear. He remained on watch through the night, and when finally relieved of his post on September 18, 1944, 20 dead Germans were found in front of his position. By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Sergeant Johnson was in a large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempts to turn the exposed left flank.

The final bill under consideration is S. 229, which would honor Raymond G. "Jerry" Murphy by naming the VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, NM, the "Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center." Serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in Korea, Second Lieutenant Murphy had positioned his unit above the Imjin River facing the Chinese Communist troops. On February 3, 1953, American forces attacked the Chinese Communists who were dug into high ground. As the battle went on, sensing the operation was not being executed as planned, Lieutenant Murphy led his reserve platoon up the hill to find all the officers and noncoms of the two assault platoons dead or wounded and confusion among the troops. In the midst of machine gunfire, he ordered his men to find their comrades and evacuate the area. Jerry Murphy made several trips in the midst of heavy gunfire to rescue casualties. At one point, Jerry Murphy was helping lift a stretcher when he was hit in the back by fragments of an enemy grenade. He refused medical attention and continued to lead his men to rescue their wounded comrades, holding off the Chinese Communist troops with an automatic rifle until all the Marines were safe. Wounded a second time, Second Lieutenant Murphy continued to refuse treatment and provided cover for his troops, until all Marines were safe and accounted for. The House companion bill for S. 229 is H.R. 474, introduced by Congresswoman HEATHER WILSON.

The four men we pay tribute today served their country with honor, valor, and courage. The three Medal of Honor recipients who survived to return to the United States continued to serve their country in the military and in

public service. After his retirement from the military in 1965, Ernest Childers continued his public service as a leader among the Creek Nation, and spoke out against racism. Oscar Johnson continued to serve his country as the foreman of a National Guard vehicle maintenance shop in Lansing, MI, and served for 30 years with the National Guard. Raymond Murphy dedicated 20 years of his life helping veterans in New Mexico, serving as the Director of the Veterans Services Division of the Albuquerque, NM, VA Regional Office from 1974–1997. After his retirement from the VA, he continued to volunteer at the VA hospital in Albuquerque. As a final tribute to the veterans he cared for, upon his death this past April, Raymond Murphy requested to be buried in his VA Volunteer smock.

It is right and fitting that we pay tribute to these Medal of Honor recipients, who through their service to a grateful Nation, continue to provide inspiration, pride and encouragement for generations to come.

DECEPTIVE PRACTICES AND VOTER INTIMIDATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1281, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007. As Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, the committee that has original jurisdiction on matters that relate to Federal elections, I encourage this measure to prevent voter suppression.

Over the past 100 years, this body has passed legislation regarding the very sacred franchise, the right to vote, that has significantly increased participation of all Americans across the Nation. No longer is the right to vote only made available for white, male land owners. Women, African-Americans, young people and others have been guaranteed their right to vote through the Constitution and various landmark legislation.

Therefore, any attempt to prevent an eligible American from exercising this fundamental right should be met with swift protective action. During the last election cycle, just north of this House in Maryland, fliers were distributed in African-American communities which falsely stated that candidates had been endorsed by their opponent's party and by prominent African-American leaders. Distributing this type of misleading information and intimidating voters through nefarious tactics are direct threats to our democracy that must not be tolerated.

Attempts to knowingly communicate false election-related information, with the intent to prevent Americans from exercising their right to vote, will be met with fines and/or imprisonment. The House and the nation should remain committed to ensuring that all eligible Americans have a guarantee that they will be able to exercise their right to vote free from intimidation and false pretenses.

I stand in full support of H.R. 1281, the Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on vote No. 563, an amendment offered by Mr. ANDREWS, I was recorded as "nay." I intended to be recorded as "aye." I thank the Speaker for providing me with the opportunity to correct the record.

TRIBUTE TO VASIL AND FLORENCE RUCHO

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vasil and Florence Rucho of West Boylston, MA, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Rucho's life together exemplifies the finest qualities of the institution of marriage, and their commitment to their family, their faith and each other should serve as an example to us all.

Vasil married the former Florence George at St. Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church on June 30, 1957. The young couple met while working at the Table Talk Pie Company in Worcester, MA, and romance soon blossomed. Shortly thereafter, they married and were blessed with two wonderful children, Melanie and Christopher.

Despite the demands of raising a young family, Vas and Flo always found time to help others and gave freely to their church, their family and their friends. They never failed to lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need, and were there to celebrate the joyous moments as well as to lessen the burden in times of pain and sorrow.

Together Vas and Flo share an extraordinary work ethic and devotion to their family that is altogether too rare in these more modern times. After they were married, Vas continued to work at the Table Talk Pie Company while taking on a second job at the family business, Dian's Flower Shop. Mrs. Rucho was widely known in the close-knit Main South neighborhood as one of the first women to work at the local McDonalds. Her friendly face and warm smile graciously welcomed countless families that came to dine at the restaurant. Despite their rigorous work schedules, Vas and Flo made certain that every summer their family vacationed together with friends on Cape Cod for 2 weeks. Those vacations are fondly remembered by all.

In later years as their children married, Vas and Flo became "Maya" and "Papu" to their five beautiful grandchildren. Their daughter Melanie and her husband Fr. Peter have two children, Nicholas and Alexandra. Their son Christopher and his wife Julie have three sons, Matthew, Brian and William. Family dinners at Vas and Flo's home are a feast to savor. Neighbors and family members alike eagerly look forward to the magnificent array of Christmas decorations adorning their yard each holiday season. For Vasil and Florence, there is no greater joy in life than to be sur-

rounded by their children and grandchildren, especially during the holidays.

Madam Speaker, too often in this Chamber we take notice of world leaders and historic events without recognizing the families that are truly the bedrock of America. Vasil and Florence Rucho have together over half a century demonstrated they are one such family. It gives me great pleasure to humbly ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Vasil and Florence Rucho on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. I look forward to joining them and the entire Rucho family this Saturday evening, June 30, at a celebration in honor of this tremendous milestone in their remarkable life together.

THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION IN AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this afternoon the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the Millennium Challenge Corporation in Africa. The MCC program, which was announced by President Bush on March 14, 2002 and established in January 2004, marked an incredible new approach to U.S. foreign assistance. It is based on the principle that assistance is most effective when it promotes good governance, investments in people, and economic freedom. Its goal is to reduce global poverty through the promotion of sustainable economic growth.

Grants from the Millennium Challenge Account are limited to countries with a per capita income less than \$3,465. In addition, eligible countries must have an established record that satisfies 16 performance indicators in the three areas I just noted. One of the most important is a pass/fail test for fighting corruption. Seven grants—called compacts—have been signed so far for countries in Africa, with a total value of about \$2.4 billion. Additional compacts are pending for the Continent.

The establishment of the Millennium Challenge Account is innovative in several respects. For one, it mandates that program proposals be developed solely by qualified countries themselves with the involvement of a broad base of their civil society. It also provides assistance to countries without regard to U.S. strategic foreign policy objectives, providing an opportunity to countries that may normally be overlooked by the United States as well as other bilateral donors. However, it cannot be said that the MCC for that reason does not serve U.S. interests. In fact, authentic development as envisioned by the MCC principle leads to a more prosperous, peaceful, and just world for all of us.

Finally, I would assert that MCC is most laudable because it recognizes the potential of the poor to lift themselves and their country out of the clutches of poverty if they are provided with the necessary infrastructure and tools. An important correlative to this is the incentive provided by MCC to the recipient country's government to focus on and respond to the needs of the poor segment of their population. The MCC provides an important means of empowerment for those who have the greatest difficulty attaining it.

A glance at the various compacts and threshold programs in Africa highlights the extraordinary needs and the necessity of expanding those programs. The subcommittee held a hearing on Africa's water crisis just a few weeks ago on May 16th, where we lamented the fact that over 1.1 billion people in developing countries do not have adequate access to safe water and approximately 2.6 billion people live without basic sanitation. We heard testimony that the reasons for these deficiencies are rooted in inequalities. The poor not only have significantly less access to water, but even when they do have access, they pay significantly more for it. The MCC with its focus on programming for the poor is one mechanism that the United States is utilizing to address this issue at its root cause.

On the political level, it is worth noting that our parliamentary colleagues in developing countries do not always have the resources they need to fulfill their role in a democracy. The MCC threshold program in Malawi will provide the National Assembly of that country with the capacity for all 13 committees to meet and perform their oversight function—a first in Malawi's history.

As with all new programs, the MCC has encountered challenges in Africa that we examined in the course of the hearing. One of the greatest has been providing disbursements in a timely manner while ensuring accountability and sustainability. Another that we are encountering time and again in numerous development efforts for Africa, including programs for HIV/AIDS, is partner country capacity. It is extremely difficult to implement country-driven initiatives when the country itself is lacking educated, experienced personnel to do the work. However, neither of these or other challenges warrant scaling back on MCC programming, but instead provide the opportunity to search for solutions to these issues together with the recipient country government as well as other bilateral and multilateral assistance donors. The MCC is not the total solution to African development, but it is an important and significant contribution, both in terms of resources and philosophy, to a more global strategy.

VETERANS EDUCATION TUITION SUPPORT ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Education Tuition Support Act of 2007 or the VETS Act to address some of the difficulties our military personnel when they are activated while attending college.

Thousands of military reservists have been activated to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan directly from their college campuses. Unfortunately, students who serve in the military face unique hardships when called upon to defend the United States.

Most colleges and universities refund tuition and fees to students when the activation occurs during the academic calendar. However, instances have occurred when a servicemember has not been reimbursed.

Servicemembers have also been known to face difficulties reregistering for classes after

returning home after activation. In addition, activated military personnel have received collection notices for student loans while serving in combat zones.

The goal of the VETS Act is to provide our servicemembers with certain rights when they must delay their educational pursuits to defend our country.

The legislation requires colleges and universities to refund tuition and fees for unearned credit, and in addition, guarantee our servicemembers a place when they return home.

The bill would also amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to treat student loan debt the same way it treats other forms of debt by capping interest at 6 percent during deployments.

Finally, the legislation would give servicemembers 13 months to begin paying their student loans after an activation should they decide not to return to school immediately.

The deferment will give them time to re-adjust back to civilian life should they decide they need extra time to go back to school.

Senator SHERROD BROWN has introduced the VETS Act in the U.S. Senate and I am proud to introduce companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

The VETS Act is centered on the recommendations made by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) based on the experiences of the group's members.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation to give rights and protections to the servicemembers activated while attending a college or university.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLLINATOR HABITAT PROTECTION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing, along with my colleagues, ALCEE HASTINGS and RANDY KUHL, the Pollinator Habitat Protection Act. This legislation amends the Department of Agriculture's conservation programs to put a greater emphasis on increasing habitat and establishing cropping and integrated pest management practices to protect native and managed pollinators.

The bill also states that the Secretary of Agriculture should designate pollinator protection as a "national priority resource concern" for the conservation programs administered by the Department.

As Congress prepares to reauthorize our national agricultural policies, raising awareness and placing a greater emphasis on pollinators and their habitat could not come at a more important time—particularly as research and newspaper headlines continue to highlight the collapse of bee colonies and general population declines and threats to pollinators.

The risks to our food supply and ecosystems from which pollinators are declining cannot be underestimated. Pollinators are integral to the very survival of an astounding number and variety of plant life that sustains us. The numbers tell the story—nearly 75 percent of the world's flowering plants, more than two-thirds of the world's crop species, and one out

of every three mouthfuls of food have a direct connection to pollinators. Disruptions of localized pollinating systems and declines of certain species of pollinators have been reported on every continent except Antarctica.

Populations of a variety of pollinator species have been declining in recent years, due to a loss of habitat, improper use of pesticides and herbicides, and replacement of native plant species with non-native or engineered plants. The introduction of non-native, invasive species—either by accident or through farming practices—has significantly contributed to this problem.

I introduce this bill as one important step to address these problems by recognizing the contributions that pollinators make to our agricultural production and our food supply. Another step is the legislation of my colleague ALCEE HASTINGS, H.R. 1709, which I support and which authorizes research funding to strengthen native bee, as well as honey bee, populations. I look forward to working with the Agriculture Committee and the House to ensure pollinators and their habitats receive further attention and protection as we reauthorize the Farm Bill in the coming weeks.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today deeply disappointed that proposed legislation to deal with our failed immigration laws fell short today on a procedural vote in the other body.

An impressive bipartisan coalition of Senators—including Arizona Senators KYL and MCCAIN—worked tirelessly for the past several months to craft immigration reform legislation. Unfortunately, their efforts were not fruitful.

Doing nothing to address our nation's immigration crisis is irresponsible. The Federal Government cannot continue to shirk its responsibility to protect our borders. Today's failure leaves the burden of dealing with illegal immigration on State and local governments.

My district in Southern Arizona deals with the negative impact of illegal immigration every day. I will not relent in my efforts to find ways to remove the unfair burden placed on local law enforcement, health and social service agencies and our public schools.

I urge my colleagues and the leadership of the House to come together in a bi-partisan fashion to craft smart immigration reform that is tough, practical, and effective. We must roll up our sleeves and exhibit the leadership that is needed on this critical issue.

The House has already made some progress. I applaud our efforts to address the problems we face along our border in our Homeland Security Appropriations bill. This includes adding more border patrol agents and increasing the use of technology to secure our border. I also urge fully fund federal programs, such as SCAAP, that reimburse local law enforcement agencies for the apprehension and detention of illegal immigrants.

The cost and burden of illegal immigration remains primarily on the shoulders of local and state governments, especially those on the border. The fight for Comprehensive Immi-

gration reform goes on and it must remain a top priority in Congress. We must pass comprehensive immigration reform.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration 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, with Mr. WATT (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of H.R. 2643, the Interior and Environment Appropriations Act of 2008 and to commend Chairman DICKS and Ranking Member TIAHRT for their leadership in shepherding this bill through the legislative process. Madam Chairwoman, I support this bill because it focuses our efforts on global climate change and ensures that America's water and air will be cleaner.

It is said the Arctic region is warming fastest, threatening the livelihoods of indigenous hunters by thawing the polar ice-cap and driving species like polar bears toward extinction by the end of the century. Today, more than one third of the world's population lives within 60 miles of a shoreline. Thirteen of the world's twenty largest cities are located on a coast. Because of their precarious location and unique meteorology, these cities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of global warming. As industrial and commercial centers, many are also net contributors of greenhouse gas emissions, extending the effects of global warming.

Given the earth is "committed" to rises in temperature over the next 30–40 years, it was only rational these futures be built into business models. But reducing emissions did not need to be at the expense of competitiveness: in fact, carbon trading, clean technologies, and sustainable energy generation all promised new opportunities for skilled jobs and economic growth.

Houston is also experiencing more frequent and more powerful storms and rain fall, in terms of flooding, some of the old structural solutions—the concreted bayous of Houston need additional measures to ensure the safety of the population. Unfortunately, Houston's development pattern had made such weaknesses more acute. The city represented "classic urban sprawl over coastal ecology." With its large, low density population and high density roads and impervious surfaces the city was highly vulnerable to flooding. Before the development arrived, the natural ecology of the Houston delta would have managed increases in rainfall and flooding. But the constructed environment had pushed back forest and wetland ecologies and undermined natural flood alleviation mechanisms.

The major causes of flooding in the Houston basin are due to Houston's highly developed area; the intensity and duration of Texas rainfall; and flat topography with little storage. These conditions led to Houston suffering heavily at the hands of flooding—most recently, the \$5 billion price tag after the inundations accompanying Tropical Storm Allison. The flooding heavily damaged the urban infrastructure and, because of the release of human waste from sewers and medical waste from hospitals, posed a severe public health risk.

Improving the security of our nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructures has become a top priority since the events of 9/11. This legislation takes significant actions in assessing and reducing vulnerabilities relating to the toxic contamination of our water system. The quality of water should be of the utmost importance when it comes to the health and well-being of the people in this country but the effects of storm water compromises this quality. Individuals who swim in front of flowing storm drains are susceptible to earaches, sinus problems, diarrhea, fever, and rashes; these individuals are 50 percent more likely to develop a variety of symptoms than those who swim 400 yards away from the same drains.

In a ranking of environmental risks posed to the metropolitan Houston area, an Environmental Foresight Committee has identified water pollution as having a relatively high risk. Houston needs to address the trash and odor problems in our waterways which significantly affect quality of life, and economic tourism, development.

Maintaining the biological soundness of the state's rivers, lakes, bays, and estuaries is of great importance to the public's economic health and general well-being. The fact that greater pressures and demands are being placed on the federal government pertaining to security of our water resources makes H.R. 2643 paramount to reexamine the process for ensuring that these important priorities effectively address the maintenance of a proper ecological environment of the bays and estuaries of the nation and the health of related living marine resources.

It is time that we as Americans start becoming more aware and better activists in keeping the air we breathe clean. Air pollution can damage trees, crops, other plants, lakes, and animals. Breathing polluted air can make your eyes and nose burn. It can irritate your throat and make breathing difficult. Each day, air pollution causes thousands of illnesses leading to lost days at work and school. Air pollution also reduces agricultural crop and commercial forest yields by billions of dollars each year.

There are 900,000 children in Harris County alone who are at risk of the health effects from the pollutants in the air. Children are more vulnerable to air pollution than adults because they spend more time outdoors than adults, are usually outdoors most in the summer when air pollution levels are highest, and have immature immune systems.

It is time to put a stop to global pollution, it is time to build a better and healthier earth and we can do so by supporting H.R. 2643.

For these reasons I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

IN TRIBUTE TO BILLY E. SHIELDS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, this past week the nation commemorated the bravery and heroism of firefighters who risk their lives every day to protect the lives and safety of others. I would like to turn my colleagues' attention to the accomplishments of Phoenix firefighter Captain Billy Shields, who is leaving the ranks of his brother and sister firefighters this Friday, June 30, to start a new phase of his life.

When Captain Shields retires from the Phoenix Fire Department and the United Phoenix Firefighters Association Local 493, where he served as president, he will do so with a long record of accomplishments. He has been a stalwart advocate for his fellow firefighters, and as president of United Phoenix Firefighters Association, advanced improvements in fire health and safety standards for firefighters, ambulance and emergency response personnel in Arizona.

Since 1997, Captain Shields has led the way in negotiating contracts for the United Phoenix Firefighters Association that protected the job rights of firefighters and the security of their families. He worked with management, city officials and other community stakeholders and reached a consensus to enhance fire and emergency response capabilities. Because of his work, Central Arizona's fire services are state of the art.

It is important to recognize that Captain Shields is unique among union leaders in his commitment to working closely with the business community to improve the local economy. He was appointed to the Greater Phoenix Economic Council where he serves on its Executive Committee. He has labored to advance an economy for a new generation. He was one of the visionaries who helped advance the biotechnology industry in Arizona with the establishment of the Translational Genomics Research Institute, which is known to Arizonans simply as T-Gen. He partnered with others to improve education at all levels—preschool, primary, secondary and higher education. To help accommodate the explosive growth we are facing in Central Arizona, he has played an instrumental role in the development of our transportation infrastructure and the expansion of transportation options.

All Arizonans who have had a chance to work with Captain Shields are indebted to him for his commitment to make our communities a better place to live, work and raise a family. I've seen this commitment first hand. I worked closely with him as Mayor of Tempe and as an Arizona State Senator, and came to rely on him as a friend and counselor. It has been a pleasure to work with him and I look forward to the chance to collaborate with him as he undertakes new challenges.

Captain Shields, I am proud of your service. Arizona is proud of your service, and forever indebted to you for making our communities stronger, safer and more secure. Marianne joins me in wishing you and your family the very best in this new chapter of your life.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration 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, with Mr. WATT (Acting Chairman) in the chair:

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the Chairman, Ranking Member, and staff of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee for their continued support of the Florida Everglades in the FY08 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill.

This legislation includes funding for implementation of the Modified Waters Deliveries Project. This project is critical to Everglades Restoration, and will ensure natural water flows continue through Everglades National Park.

The Florida Everglades is a unique and precious ecosystem that must be preserved for future generations. Everglades Restoration is a long-term investment that will ensure the Everglades is restored and protected.

I am pleased that the Chairman included \$72 million for Everglades Restoration, which is so critical to ensuring continuation of this vital project. The Interior share of funding combined with the appropriations made to the Army Corps of Engineers in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill will help to ensure restoration moves forward. This funding is a step in the right direction, showing the continued support of the Committee for Restoration. As the FY08 Appropriations cycle moves forward, I will work to ensure that Everglades Restoration remains a top priority.

I thank my colleagues from Florida for their continued support of the Florida Everglades and Restoration funding. Additionally, I would like to thank the President for his steadfast support as well as the Governor of Florida. Floridians understand the great benefit the Everglades provide not just to our ecological diversity, but also to our economy, which is so dependent upon tourism and ecotourism.

On behalf of the residents of Southern Florida I am so proud to represent, I thank the Chairman, Ranking Member, and their hard-working staff for their support of this funding.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTH ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

For five decades, the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama have provided safe, positive places for children and adolescents. B.R. "Babe" Wilson Jr., Arthur Tonsmeire, and Jack Harris formed the area's first Boys Club of Mobile on McDuffie Island with 20 boys as members. Today, the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama have 11 clubs and a 150-acre day camp.

The clubs are open year-round and offer members help with homework, classes on computers, organized athletics, arts and crafts, and life-skill programs such as the Job Ready Program. In 2006, there were over 17,000 registered members, and youth served in Mobile and Baldwin counties through the Boys and Girls Clubs' community outreach.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America began in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1860. At a time when parents labored 12 hours a day, six days a week, many of their children were left unsupervised. Elizabeth Hamersley, along with sisters Mary and Alice Godwin, encouraged others to invite these boys into their homes for refreshments—an effort which eventually grew into the Dashaway Club. In 1906, 53 of the organizations united in Boston to form the Federated Boys' Clubs, now known as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

It is my sincere hope that the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama will continue its vital service to the children of south Alabama for another 50 years. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama, along with executive director Mary Zoghy, the staff and many volunteers for their dedication and hard work as well as for being a positive influence on the lives of so many young men and women throughout south Alabama.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT BRUCE
HORNER, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of one of the bravest and most dedicated heroes of our Nation.

Sergeant Bruce Horner was part of the search and recovery operations for American soldiers captured by Al Quaida terrorists in southern Baghdad when he was killed by an enemy sniper on June 1, 2007.

An 18-year veteran of the Army, Bruce Horner was a proud non-commissioned officer, mentor and leader to younger soldiers.

He came from a family with a long tradition of military service and did not take his responsibilities to lead younger soldiers lightly.

Sergeant Horner is survived by his wife, parents and the soldiers he left behind, who are continuing the hard work of protecting our Nation's freedoms in Iraq.

SGT. Bruce Horner is gone, but he will never be forgotten.

His memory lives on through the family he left behind and in the soldiers that he so ably led.

Our community and Nation honor Sergeant Horner's memory and we are grateful for his 18 years of faithful and distinguished service to America.

COURTNEY AMAYA CROWDER
MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Courtney Crowder, formerly of my staff, and his wife Byinna on the birth of their first child, Courtney Amaya Crowder. Courtney was born on June 17, 2007 and weighed 8 pounds. Faye joins me in wishing Courtney and Byinna great happiness during this very special time in their lives. A Raleigh native, Courtney served on my district staff in several capacities with distinction and will always remain a member of team Etheridge.

As a father and grandfather myself, I know the joy, pride, and excitement that parents experience upon the entrance of their child into the world. Representing hope, goodness, and innocence, a newborn allows those around her to see the world through her eyes as a new, fresh place with unending possibilities for the future. Through a child, one is able to recognize and appreciate the full potential of the human race. I know Courtney and Byinna look forward to the changes and challenges that their new daughter will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch her grow.

I welcome young Courtney into the world and wish Courtney and Byinna all the best as they raise her.

HONORING BRODIE CLARK

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Brodie Clark, a student at Greenwood High School in Kentucky's Warren County School District. Brodie is the recipient of the spring 2007 Outstanding Student Award from Carnegie Learning, a publisher of research-based math curricula for middle school and high school students. Brodie received this award for his success in math, and also for his ability to appreciate the practical applications of math concepts—not just memorized formulas—in his everyday life.

Brodie is a 10th grade Algebra II student, and enjoys using the Carnegie Learning curricula in Ms. Lee's Algebra II class. Brodie has excelled beyond Ms. Lee's expectations and has challenged himself to complete every Algebra II unit before the end of the school year; a task which is nearly complete. He has emerged as a leader in his Algebra II class, helping other students understand the material and stay on task.

In his spare time, Brodie enjoys playing disc golf, a sport in which he constantly uses math. "Whether I am trying to figure out the distance to the basket, or my score, addition and subtraction are constantly being performed. I have to think about the angle I am going to throw the disc, and what speed I want to throw it," said Brodie. "Thanks to math, I am able to do all of this in my head with ease. Playing disc

golf and doing math allows me to combine my two favorite things."

Brodie received the Outstanding Student Award from Carnegie Learning, a developer of math programs for middle school, high school, and postsecondary students. Carnegie Learning is helping students across the Commonwealth of Kentucky increase their achievement in math, and in a recent evaluation by the Kentucky Committee for Mathematics Achievement, was the only one of nine curricula to receive the top ranking in every category in the committee's assessment of intermediate and middle grades math intervention programs.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brodie's achievement in math education, and in encouraging more students to appreciate the importance of math and science education. In the global economy of the 21st century, knowledge of math is absolutely critical. While our Nation is concerned by reports that our students are falling behind in basic math skills, Brodie Clark is proving that our students can succeed if they have access to quality resources, and the support of dedicated family and teachers. I would also like to thank Carnegie Learning for recognizing his exceptional efforts.

HONORING LINCOLN FALLS AND
MILLVIEW WESLEYAN CHURCH

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lincoln Falls and Millview Wesleyan Church and their commitment to serving the Sullivan County area for well over 100 years.

The Millview Church was established in 1843 and Lincoln Falls was established in 1877. They celebrated their first annual Camp Meeting in 1907. On July 15, they will celebrate that 100th anniversary.

Dr. Harry F. Wood, the district superintendent, will speak at the celebration service. An old-fashioned picnic will follow.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Lincoln Falls and Millview Wesleyan Churches for their 100 years of joint camp meetings and for over 100 years of distinguished service to Sullivan County, PA, and the United States of America.

NATIONAL HERITAGE FELLOW
HAZEL DICKENS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the National Heritage Fellowships.

The National Heritage Fellowships are a proud tradition that honors our Nation's diverse cultural heritage and West Virginia has been truly blessed by the music of Heritage Fellow Hazel Dickens, who was awarded this lifetime achievement recognition in 2001.

As we celebrated West Virginia's birthday last week, the words of Hazel Dickens were

close to all of our hearts, "On the green rolling hills of West Virginia, Are the nearest thing to heaven that I know."

Hazel is a living legend, a spirited, talented daughter of West Virginia, and an important part of our musical heritage. Her legacy will be preserved for future generations when our efforts to create a Mountain Music Center are completed.

There is something about her plain and sometimes painful poetry that makes us all think, if just for a moment, what a treasure home is, especially West Virginia.

To Hazel, and all of the Heritage fellows, I extend my greatest thanks for their continued contributions to our Nation's arts heritage. They have given us a great gift.

IN RECOGNITION OF HERBERT
WOODARD, SR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, on July 8, 2007 there will be a grand celebration honoring the 100th birthday celebration of Mr. Herbert Woodard, Sr., a resident of my Congressional District—Wilson, North Carolina. On this special occasion, Mr. Woodard's family, friends and members of the community will join together to pay special tribute to this extraordinary man.

Mr. Woodard is a remarkable person with an entrepreneurial spirit. Although he only received a fourth grade education, his work ethic demonstrates that diligence and determination produce lifetime rewards. As a self-employed businessman, Mr. Woodard's businesses have ranged from that of a gas station to baseball parks and hotels. He sold and delivered coal to local businesses, and has even cleaned septic tanks. As an accomplished and humble businessman, he has gained the respect and admiration of his community.

Madam Speaker, although a skilled and savvy businessman, Mr. Woodard always makes a practice of giving back to the community. Each holiday season, Mr. Woodard gives turkeys to senior citizens at his church. He also donates to charitable organizations that provide services to children and veterans.

It is with great pride that I acknowledge the achievements of Mr. Woodard. His many accomplishments have made him a well recognized figure in Wilson, North Carolina. It is with sincere pride that I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in marking this monumental occasion in the life of Mr. Herbert Woodard, Sr.

HONORING FORMER CONGRESS-
MAN GUY ADRIAN VANDER JAGT

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former Congressman Guy Adrian Vander Jagt, who passed on June 22 at 75 years old.

Although I prevailed in a contested primary election with Congressman Vander Jagt in

1992, I hold him in the highest regard for his gifted oratorical skills and his ability to advance the cause of the Republican Party.

Congressman Vander Jagt was born in Cadillac on Aug. 26, 1931 to Dutch immigrant Harry Vander Jagt, a livestock dealer and rancher, and his wife Marie.

He began preaching at Tustin Presbyterian Church while still a student at Cadillac High School.

By the time he graduated from our mutual alma mater, Hope College in Holland, Michigan, in 1953, he had won the National Oratorical Championship, was undefeated in four years of unscripted speaking competitions at the state and national level and won the Michigan Debate Championships a record three years in a row.

Congressman Vander Jagt's first job after graduating from Hope was as news director and anchor for WWTW in Cadillac. In 1958 he left for Washington, D.C. to accept a position as a public relations assistant to Michigan Congressman Robert McIntosh and commenced the study of law at Georgetown University Law School.

He left Washington shortly thereafter to study law full time at another mutual alma mater of ours, the University of Michigan, where he received his juris doctorate degree in 1960.

After passing the Michigan bar, he entered private practice in Grand Rapids, and in 1964 married Carol Dorn. That same year he began his career in public service by winning election to the Michigan Senate.

In 1966 he went on to win a special election to the U.S. House of Representatives. He worked hard to win the confidence of his Congressional colleagues. In 1974, they reposed such confidence in him that he was elected to lead the National Republican Congressional Committee, working throughout the United States to elect Republican candidates to Congress.

He would tirelessly lead the NRCC, becoming the longest-serving national political party committee chairman in American history.

In what was surely one of the greatest moments in his career, in 1980 he was chosen personally by Governor Ronald Reagan to deliver the keynote address at the Republican National Convention in Detroit. Reagan would later write: "My desire was simple. I wanted the best—Guy Vander Jagt." He was even considered a potential candidate for vice president at the time.

Congressman Vander Jagt would serve 27 years in the House, and when he retired in 1993, he returned to private law practice and became a premier attorney with his firm.

Madam Speaker, the thoughts and prayers of my wife, Diane, and I are with the friends and family of Congressman Vander Jagt at this difficult time.

I respectfully request that my remarks be accepted into the RECORD.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT
EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R.

1830, which seeks to renew the Andean Trade Preferences for 8 months. This legislation is vital to expanding trade between the United States and Latin American countries. We must break down trade barriers with our allies in Latin America. Trade has strengthened the economies of our strongest allies in the region, including Colombia and Peru, and is vital to democracy. Andean countries rely on trade with the United States to bolster their economies and produce jobs; Andean Trade Preferences have provided over 1.5 million jobs in the region. I ask my colleagues to support our allies in Latin America by voting "yes" on H.R. 1830.

HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of the House Fellows Program on the completion of their weeklong program. As an initiative of the Office of the Historian, this has been a unique opportunity for a select group of secondary education teachers of American history and government.

This weeklong workshop is designed to help educators improve the knowledge and understanding of the "People's House." One of the goals of the program is to develop curricular materials on the history and practice of the House for use in schools. Each Fellow prepares his or her brief lesson plan on a congressional topic of their choosing, and these plans become part of a teaching resource database on the House.

During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow will have the responsibility to present their experiences and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government. Over the next 5 years, in selecting a teacher from every congressional district, the House Fellows Program will be able to impact over 10,000 high school teachers, providing an inside account of how the House of Representatives functions, and energizing thousands of students to become informed and active citizens.

I know that all Members will join me in congratulating the following teachers who have successfully participated in this week's program: Ms. Lee Adelizzi, Toms River High School South, Toms River, New Jersey (NJ03, SAXTON). Mr. Anthony Escalera, Montclair High School, Montclair, California (CA26, DREIER). Mr. Matthew Carter, Rialto High School, Rialto, California (CA41, LEWIS). Mr. Herbert Fischer, Wadleigh High School of Performing Arts, New York, New York (NY 15, RANGEL). Mr. Scott Kaplan, Largo High School, Largo, Florida (FL10, YOUNG). Mr. Kent Padgett, Jefferson City Public School District, Jefferson City, Missouri (MO04, SKELTON). Ms. Elaine Tubb, Charles County Public Schools, LaPlata, Maryland (MD05, HOYER). Mr. David Williams, Prince William County Public Schools, Manassas, Virginia (VA10, WOLF). Ms. Valerie Ziegler, Abraham Lincoln High School, San Francisco, California (CA12, LANTOS).

I thank the Office of the Historian for sponsoring this program. Under the leadership of

Dr. Robert Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler, along with their staff, the Office of the Historian is dedicated to preserving, presenting, and fostering the history of the House of Representatives, the "People's House."

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARRY S
TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL MU-
SEUM AND LIBRARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Harry S Truman Presidential Museum and Library. Fifty years ago, on July 6, 1957, former President Harry S Truman, the "Man from Independence, Missouri," proudly dedicated his library. The 33rd President of the United States was not a wealthy man, but through his efforts and determination, he helped raise over a million dollars to build a place to store and exhibit his presidential papers, letters, artifacts, photos, interviews, historical records, and scholarly collections.

After leaving office, people could still visit with President Truman at the library where he greeted library patrons and easily conversed with visitors. Often, he would arrive earlier than the staff and was even known to pick up the phones and supply directions to the library. He was a beloved figure who was always seen walking with a cane in his hand and a smile on his face. It is no surprise that C-SPAN recently did a survey and Harry S Truman ranked fifth on the list of most popular Presidents.

When you enter the library, you are met with an amazing mural painted and designed by the famed Missouri artist, Thomas Hart Benton. The mural captures the history of our area with images of American Indians, settlers, scouts, and the common man forging and founding Independence and the Opening of the West. At one point, Benton wanted to include President Truman in the mural but Truman would have none of this. He stayed true to his character, only offering his distinct brand of criticism to the working artist rather than his likeness. That is until Benton challenged Truman to climb the scaffolding and paint alongside him. Truman responded heartily by picking up a paintbrush.

The Harry S Truman Library was the first Presidential Library to be created under the provisions of the 1955 Presidential Libraries Act. It was established to preserve administrative correspondence and historical materials relating to former Presidents. Truman's vision was to raise funds for the building and then transfer the land, the building and all its contents to the government. Due in large part to Truman's efforts, the public now has access to numerous Presidential documents that give insight into the personal lives and roles of our country's past and present leaders. Many Presidents have followed suit, and the Truman Presidential Library is one of twelve presidential libraries in our Nation operated by the Federal Government.

Mr. Truman, or "Mr. Citizen" as many came to call him, cared deeply for the American public. As a former farmer, soldier, and busi-

nessman, he drew on these experiences to become a well respected United States Senator and President. If you visit the library in person or delve into Truman's life on the library's website, you come to learn fascinating things about his life.

You discover that he was a modest man who endured great disappointments and recovered from each with greater vigor and success. In his lifetime, Truman was denied entry into West Point because of his poor vision, yet he demonstrated unforeseen courage and leadership on the battlefield during World War I. He had the daunting task of becoming President after Franklin D. Roosevelt's unexpected death during World War II, yet he rose to the difficult challenges and saw the Marshall Plan put in effect and the allies of NATO join forces. Many of his Fair Deal initiatives, while positive and groundbreaking, stalled, but his Civil Rights victories forced our Armed Forces and Federal Government to halt and make illegal any further discriminatory practices.

As a proponent for self education, President Truman's vision for the library was to make these materials available to the people in a place suitable for exhibit and research where anyone could come and learn about the government and the presidency. His reason was that, "the papers of the Presidents are among the most valuable sources of material. They ought to be preserved and they ought to be used." His common sense attitude and foresight are gifts that have proven to be invaluable.

It is with great appreciation and high regard that I congratulate and thank the Truman Presidential Museum and Library for an amazing 50 years. Under the Truman Library Institute Board and the leadership of Directors Philip C. Brooks, Benedict Zobrist, Larry Hackman and now Michael Devine, the Truman Presidential Museum and Library has hosted Presidents, heads of state, and many dignitaries. All visitors are assisted by a professional staff that provides expertise and a wealth of experiences for amateur historians, young people, and industrious scholars seeking information about President Harry S Truman, his life and times. They amazingly seem to know where to retrieve documents and photographs; they meticulously recreate rich and detailed displays, and are the stewards of priceless artifacts and information.

Madam Speaker, please join with me as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Harry S Truman Presidential Museum and Library that has fulfilled the 33rd President's wish to make available America's history to America's people.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration 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:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the report accompanying H.R. 2643 urges the Environmental Protection Agency to study the health and environmental effects of using trona in air pollution control systems. Trona is a naturally occurring, non-toxic mineral widely used in food additives, in glass manufacturing, paper, laundry products and medicine. It is odorless, non-combustible and stable in the air. Trona is a key ingredient of baking soda. In the United States, the Green River Basin of Wyoming is home to the world's largest deposit of this incredibly useful mineral, and the Wyoming trona industry alone produces close to 20 million tons of trona and employs more than 2,000 people every year.

For almost 20 years, trona has also played a critical and growing role in air pollution control at coal-fired power plants, cement plants, municipal incinerators and similar facilities around the country, including Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Virginia and Washington. Texas-based Solvay Chemicals, Inc. pioneered the use of trona in air pollution control systems, and it is the only company in the United States that produces trona products for that purpose.

Trona works in air pollution control systems, and it works well. The EPA, which has repeatedly approved the use of trona in air pollution control systems since 1989, reports that those systems have actually reduced sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 85 percent and hydrochloric acid emissions by 95 percent at several power plants around the country, without increasing particulate matter emissions.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RE-
LATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, H.R. 2764, contains language that undermines the Mexico City Policy. While the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman NINA LOWEY (D-NY) drafted a bill that included excellent funding levels for foreign nations in need of assistance, her amendment would essentially gut the Mexico City Policy. This will have a devastating effect on women and families overseas.

The Reagan administration, in 1984, restricted U.S. population aid by terminating USAID support for any foreign NGO that was involved in promoting or performing abortions as a method of family planning in other nations. This was called the "Mexico City Policy," named after the location of the United Nations population conference where the policy was first announced. In 1993, President Clinton rescinded the policy imposed by the

Reagan and Bush administrations. As his first act in office, President George W. Bush restored the Mexico City Policy on January 20, 2001 and released a letter stating, "I will veto any legislation that weakens current Federal policies and laws on abortion, or that encourages the destruction of human life at any stage."

The Mexico City Policy should not have been weakened. Taxpayer dollars should not, in any way, be used to promote abortion as a method of family planning. The United States should never be active in promoting abortions overseas. Instead, the U.S. should offer family planning programs that support the health of the mother, child and family unit.

There are several known organizations that use U.S. foreign aid funding to promote and provide abortions, as well as sterilizations, overseas. In 1998, newspapers were filled with stories of women participating in U.S. funded family planning programs who were forced to undergo sterilization procedures, especially in Peru. There were also stories of women coerced to participate in family planning programs by threatening to withhold food, clothing and shelter from their family.

In response to these atrocities, I introduced an amendment to the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill in 1998 that defined the meaning of "voluntary participation" in family planning programs. It was to ensure the NGOs receiving USAID funding for family planning programs understood what voluntary participation meant and required informed consent for women on the benefits and risks associated with different family planning methods. Since it was enacted for fiscal year 1999, there have been several violations and vulnerabilities in countries receiving funding. These violations and vulnerabilities were identified and corrected by USAID.

Without strong direction from the United States on how taxpayer dollars are spent, we will continue to find violations that are destructive to women and families.

It is due to the Lowey amendment, which undermines the Mexico City Policy, that I will be voting against final passage of a bill that contained important foreign aid for countries in need, such as Israel. It is unfortunate this amendment was adopted, and organizations that promote and perform abortions to the women overseas will be able to receive U.S. taxpayer funding. It is my hope the Senate will take up this bill and strike this harmful language.

Tonight, I will vote against H.R. 2476 on the basis that it clearly undermines good policy and subjects what could have been a good piece of legislation to a veto by the President. I urge my colleagues to vote against final passage of this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration 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:

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chairman, two days ago the House voted to defeat an amendment to H.R. 2643 offered by Mr. PETERSON that would have lifted the moratoria on the Outer Continental Shelf for natural-gas only leasing. While I voted against the amendment, I wanted to elaborate on my views on this matter.

I certainly support the gentleman's goal of increasing our access to domestic supplies of natural gas, and we have demonstrated that it is possible to explore and produce oil and gas in our oceans and remain environmentally responsible at the same time. There are dozens of platforms operating off the coast of California today, producing nearly 30 million barrels of oil and 60 billion cubic feet of natural gas each year while releasing a negligible amount of that into the environment. There hasn't been a spill of larger than 50 barrels since 1996, and there has not been a truly significant spill in nearly 40 years.

This demonstrates that when oil and gas development is done correctly, it can be a tremendous resource with little detrimental environmental impact. I support taking a close look at areas that are currently under a moratorium, so that we understand both the opportunities and the risks of opening up these regions.

Unfortunately, we are sorely lacking up-to-date information on the oil and natural resources of our Outer Continental Shelf. Earlier today I chaired a hearing in the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, in which the Acting Director of the Minerals Management Service, Walter Cruickshank, testified that the most recent data on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts was collected in the late 1970s. When opponents of Outer Continental Shelf development argue that 80 percent of the oil and gas is already accessible to leasing, they are using badly outdated data.

If we are going to have this discussion, we need to have a much better knowledge of the extent and value of the oil and gas resources of the Outer Continental Shelf. Only then will we be able to really look at the big picture and determine the proper balance between energy development and other important resource values, including tourism, fisheries and national security, to name a few.

My primary concern with Mr. PETERSON's amendment is that it proposed to allow for gas-only leases.

Unfortunately, this idea is, quite simply, not feasible.

There are various reasons I come to this conclusion. Most fundamentally, however, is the simple fact that oil and gas are often co-located and it is unrealistic to assume or assert that the industry would be interested in buying a lease that would preclude development of any oil found in the leased tract. As the former director of the Minerals Management Service, Johnnie Burton, said in a Senate hearing just last year, the vast majority of comments they received from the oil and gas industry on this idea were negative, because it was, "not terribly practical." The fact is, as Ms. Burton put it, "you never know what you are going to find until you drill."

I maintain that we should certainly be taking a hard look at those areas that are currently off limits, many of which may be appropriate

places to explore. As Chairman of the Energy and Mineral Resources subcommittee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to help craft a forward-thinking energy bill that looks at the big picture, and admit that there is no silver bullet for solving our nation's energy challenges. We must increase domestic production of fossil fuels while at the same time focusing on renewables, conservation, and ensuring that we strike the proper balance of development of our nation's abundant resources and good environmental stewardship.

HONOR OF CITY OF HASTINGS,
NEBRASKA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor a community in Nebraska's Third Congressional District, the City of Hastings, for being named the Greenest City in America by Yahoo! Incorporated. The contest to be the Greenest City in America began on May 14 and ended earlier this month.

Residents of Hastings made an online pledge on Yahoo's website to live their everyday lives in a more environmentally-friendly way and then followed through on their pledges. I am proud Hastings earned this title, and I look forward to its ongoing efforts to make the City as eco-friendly as possible.

This contest and the improvements Hastings made on its way to the top are perfect examples of an effective and fun way to protect our environment and learn about activities which can improve our lives. This is also a perfect example of how a private company—not a government mandate—can encourage cities throughout America to improve their local communities. This was not a government program compelling improvement, it was a private company helping towns and cities do what is right, and I commend both Hastings and Yahoo for their stewardship.

I hope other companies follow Yahoo's lead, as I hope other communities in our country follow Hastings' example.

RECOGNIZING "NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH"

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today Representative MCDERMOTT and I introduced a resolution to designate November as national homeless youth awareness month.

Earlier this month the Ways and Means Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee on which I serve as Ranking Member held a hearing on "disconnected youth." That's a group that includes young people who often drop out of school, don't work, and wind up on the streets. These young people may have family conflict issues, may experience abuse and neglect, or may be or have been in the past involved in the foster care

system. Research completed by the University of Chicago suggests there were nearly 25,000 homeless youth in Illinois in 2004, including 6,353 in the northern Illinois region where the Congressional district I represent is located.

Despite an infusion of millions of dollars in Federal assistance and the dedicated efforts of many interested adults, too many children are troubled, homeless, and disconnected from their families and others who would like to help. Federal initiatives such as the Runaway and Homeless Youth program, the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Discretionary Grants program, and the Chafee Foster Care Independence program have been directed at these problems in recent years.

Yet better serving these children and preventing more youth from winding up on the streets will require better use and coordination of current program funds. We also need to recognize, as one witness at out recent hearing put it, that “strengthening families is the best way to prevent the suffering and social disconnection among our young people.” Even as we applaud those young people, including foster youth, who overcome tremendous challenges to succeed in school and beyond, it is hard to overstate the importance of strong families to the raising of young people who grow up to be productive adults. Last year in the Deficit Reduction Act we included specific funds to support private groups that work to strengthen families and promote healthy marriage, which is the foundation for raising healthy children. I am eager to see how those efforts pay off, including to reduce the turmoil in homes that results in too many children ending up on the streets.

We also must acknowledge that kids are connected, and especially as they get older, through their schools. That really means through the circle of friends, teachers, coaches, and other mentors they rely on as they become more independent and develop the habits and skills needed for life on their own.

Kids in foster care already have suffered the trauma of being removed from their own parents. In addition to being bounced from home to home, many foster children suffer the additional turmoil of being bounced from school to school. Studies show high school students who change schools even once are less than half as likely to graduate as those who don't change schools. So it is no wonder there is “a 20 percentage point difference between the high school graduation rates of foster youth and their peers,” according to the Kids Count organization.

At this hearing, we heard from Rep. MICHELE BACHMANN of Minnesota. She and her husband have helped raise 23 foster children, and she discussed the importance of achieving stability in their lives, and especially stability in home and school. I have attached her testimony as further evidence of the importance of such stability, and the need for programs to promote it.

In addressing the issue of youth homelessness, we should start by doing whatever we can to ensure that young people in the foster care system complete at least high school, vastly improving their chances of getting a decent job and supporting themselves. One way to do that would be to provide more foster youth especially the opportunity to stay better connected to their schools, including by re-

maining in a single school whenever possible. That might mean offering scholarships so those in private schools can stay there, or so those who might benefit from private school could do so. Or it could involve something as mundane as bus vouchers so kids can continue going to their current public or private school even if they are sent to live in a foster home across town.

Such efforts will increase the chances foster youth graduate and can create the foundation for a productive and happy life that is the American dream. That will also mean far fewer wind up on the streets, as is the goal of the resolution introduced today. We should all support that.

[Statement of the Honorable Michele Bachmann, a Representative in Congress from the State of Minnesota, June 19, 2007]

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INCOME SECURITY AND FAMILY SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. Chairman, Congressman Weller, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to discuss the educational challenges faced by disconnected and disadvantaged youth, specifically foster children.

I am Michele Bachmann, a first-term Member of Congress serving Minnesota's Sixth District. I have a special interest in the quality of education received by foster children because over the course of six years, my family cared for 23 high-need teenagers through the Lutheran Social Services' Treatment Foster Care program.

I believe every child deserves the chance to gain a high-quality education. Growing up, I attended public schools where I was taught using a rigorous curriculum despite the fact that my community was not particularly affluent. While I was in school, my parents divorced and almost overnight my stable, middle-class family was changed forever. Although times were extremely tough, whenever my three brothers and I would become frustrated my mother would tell us to concentrate on our schoolwork, because no matter what happened, no one could ever take our educations away from us. She was right—I left my public high school with a quality education and went on to graduate from college, then law school, and finally to earn an L.L.M. in tax law.

Years later, when my family began to take in foster children, I felt that although our circumstances were very different, I could identify with their pain and frustration. All of them had challenges considered serious enough that they were unable to be placed through the traditional county foster care systems, and our family's role was to provide them with a safe home and see them through to their high school graduations.

We quickly learned that our foster children had very different needs than most children. Almost all of them had been given Individualized Education Plans—individual plans designed for students with special educational needs. Many of the kids had been under the care of counselors, many suffered from eating disorders, and others had difficult behavioral or learning issues. All of them had switched schools at least once, and as a result of their tumultuous home lives, none of them had very strong educational backgrounds.

While through the years some of our foster children performed better in school than others, my husband and I noticed some common problems. Many times, we got the impression that the kids were seen by both their peers and their teachers as if they were only going to be there short term. Although their teachers were welcoming, little special attention

was provided to ensure that they caught up to their classmates, and their other needs were often not considered because there were so many other students to attend to. They became small fish swimming in a very large pond.

We also began to notice that not all of our foster children were presented with the quality of coursework we had thought they would receive. Many of them were placed in lower-level classes, as if they were not expected to succeed. One of the kids remarked to me once that she was in “stupid people math.” Another brought home an 11th grade math assignment that involved coloring a poster. Yet another told me she had spent an entire week of classes watching movies, and others were being selected for the “School to Work” program, in which high school students attended classes for half of the day and were then sent to work minimum-wage jobs at local businesses. Although it had been evident to us from the beginning that because of their backgrounds, our foster children were going to struggle in school, it was frustrating to see that rather than being given the leg up they needed, so many of them felt that they were being left behind. Unfortunately, national studies indicate that this is an extremely common experience for foster children.

What made this experience so heart-breaking is we could clearly see that despite our wishes, our foster children did not get the same opportunities or attention that our biological children received in their school. Our biological children's classes were smaller and more rigorous, the teachers knew all of the students, the students knew each other, and parents were able to be much more involved in their children's educations—all goals which are not always attainable in a large school, but which could have done wonders for our foster children.

As a result of these experiences, I believe it is imperative that Congress examine creating a federal school choice program for foster children, through which foster parents are given the option to place children in their care in either a public or private school long-term, depending on their specific needs. Such a plan would allow foster children requiring more individual attention to attend a school better equipped to help them. Just as important, for the first time in their lives, these children who have become so used to being uprooted would have the chance to be placed in an environment where they could have their special educational needs met and feel as if they belong, where they could remain enrolled even if their homes changed.

Currently, the federal government operates a program for older foster children—the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program—which assists them in transitioning from foster care to life on their own. Among other things, the Chafee Program provides vouchers of up to \$5,000 to foster children ages 16 through 18 for education and training. Congress should consider extending this voucher program to foster children of all ages, so foster parents are able to best meet the educational needs of the children in their care by either allowing them to choose a private school or providing them with the funds necessary to transport their children to their original school even if it is outside of their immediate area.

Additionally, Congress should consider extending the extremely successful D.C. school choice program aimed at low-income students, which has drawn more than three times the number of applications as there are available spots. Creating a similar program to serve D.C. foster children as well as those who come from low-income families would be an important step in the direction of giving the option of school choice to all foster children.

In closing, even if placed in the best families, foster children often face the possibility that they will have to change homes, and as a result they must find a safe place of their own where they can become accepted and gain a sense of stability. Although for many foster children school can be such a place, the cases of many others show that under the current system, this is not always possible. I hope my family's experiences highlight the special challenges facing foster children as well as the need for an examination of whether limiting their educational options is truly in their best interests. I thank the Subcommittee for holding this hearing, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, Congressman Weller, and Subcommittee members for the opportunity to share our story today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 564, the Brown-Waite of Florida Amendment, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall 565, the Campbell of California Amendment No. 51, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "no."

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE
TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, this House recently approved H. Res. 295, sponsored by my good friend and colleague from New York, Rep. PETER KING, as well as 35 other Members from both sides of the aisle, to recognize the strong alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States and to express the House of Representatives' appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its contributions to international efforts to combat terrorism. This resolution properly acknowledged the longstanding and heartfelt friendship between our two great countries.

This coming Saturday, June 30, 2007, marks the 125th anniversary of the Korean-American Treaty of Amity and Commerce, which was signed in 1882, and the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the Republic of Korea and the United States, which was ratified in 1957.

Saturday June 30th will also mark another historic milestone in the ever growing relationship between the people of the United States and the people of the Republic of Korea when, in a ceremony to be held right here on Capitol Hill, representatives of both governments are expected to sign the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

The proposed Free Trade Agreement—which still requires Congressional approval before coming into force—is a natural extension of the strong affinity between our two countries, marked by extraordinary diplomatic, political, military, and economic cooperation. Al-

though the devil is always in the details, I understand that this agreement could potentially be the most commercially significant free trade agreement signed by the United States in more than a decade. As many of my colleagues already know, South Korea is already the United States' seventh largest export market and sixth largest market for U.S. agricultural products. In fact, according to the latest statistics, our annual bilateral trade totals nearly \$80 billion. Any agreement that can open up more Korean markets to U.S. goods and services can only have a positive effect on the American economy by creating more and better jobs, enriching consumer choice, and boosting U.S. industry and manufacturing.

But there's more at stake here than just economic growth; this FTA recognizes our special relationship with South Korea and reinforces the message that the United States stands squarely behind our friends and allies. I would ask my colleagues to consider just a couple of points:

South Korea is the fifth largest tourism generating country to the United States (with over 800,000 Koreans visiting the U.S. annually);

South Korea has the largest foreign student population in the U.S.;

Nearly 2 million Americans of Korean descent live in communities all across our nation—which is why I support giving serious consideration to South Korea's entry into the Visa Waiver Program;

South Korea is a strong, unwavering ally in the U.S.-led Global War on Terror, having dispatched troops to Iraq (the third largest contingent after the United States and Great Britain), and Afghanistan (where a South Korean soldier was killed during hostile action), and to Lebanon in support of peacekeeping operations; and,

South Korea is a key partner in the Six-Party Talks to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue.

Madam Speaker, I believe that South Korea may be the premier success story of U.S. foreign policy in the post-World War II period. Having assisted South Korea in transforming itself from a war-torn, impoverished economy into a successful democracy with a free enterprise economy (the world's 11th largest), South Korea is now an indispensable partner with the United States in promoting democracy and free market economic principles.

The anticipated ceremony marking the conclusion of negotiations toward a U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement will be another opportunity to celebrate and honor the 125 years of friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Korea and the United States. Whether you're for free trade agreements or against them, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic significance of the U.S.-Korea alliance and its growing importance in the years to come.

STATEMENT AGAINST
CONGRESSIONAL PAY INCREASE

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the current system of administering pay increases for Members of Con-

gress. Since I was first elected by Kansans to represent them in our Nation's capital, I have opposed the hidden process by which Members of Congress receive an annual pay raise.

Right now, the House Agriculture Committee is reauthorizing the farm bill. For Kansans and rural citizens across the country, this is perhaps the most significant piece of legislation Congress will consider this year. Unfortunately, the Democrat-crafted budget does not include enough funding to meet the needs of our Nation's agricultural producers, fulfill the environmental and conservation needs of our country and carry out food stamp and nutrition programs. Congress has been irresponsible with taxpayer dollars for too long and the limitless spending is catching up with us. Vital legislation, like the farm bill, that supports millions of Americans does not have the money available to it to meet the needs of our country.

Members of Congress should not receive a pay increase when the federal budget is this tight. Congress needs to follow the lead of American families and cut out spending that is unnecessary. We should begin today by cutting out the automatic pay raise for Members of Congress.

TO COMMEMORATE CHANGE OF
COMMAND, COAST GUARD STA-
TION, HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity today to commemorate the Change of Command at the Coast Guard Air Station located at Houston's Ellington Field. Captain Norman S. Schweizer was relieved of his command by Commander Sean M. Mahoney on Monday, June 25, 2007.

Captain Schweizer was born and raised in Miami, FL, and graduated from Florida State University in 1984, earning a bachelor of science degree in accounting. Following Officer Candidate School in 1984, his first assignment was as the Assistant Operations Officer at Group Key West, FL. After 20 years of service, Captain Schweizer assumed the duties of Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Air Station in Houston, TX. His accomplishments include two Meritorious Service Medals, four Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and the Commandant's Letter of Commendation.

The Air Station's new commander, Sean M. Mahoney, is a native of Fishkill, NY, and a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy where he received a bachelor of science degree in government. His first assignment was as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the *USCGC Morgenthau* in Alameda, CA. Due to honorable service, his decorations include the Air Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Commandant's Letter of Commendation, and two National Defense Service Medals. He is also a recipient of the Air Force Association of Canada's Air Search and Rescue Award.

Captain Schweizer has played an integral role in leading Air Station Houston in its service to a wide range of Coast Guard missions including search and rescue, homeland security missions, environmental protection, and

maritime law enforcement cases. Over the past 2 years alone, Air Station personnel flew over 4,445 flight hours. "Always Ready" flight crews supported nearly 1,000 hours in support of President Bush, homeland security patrols, and military escorts. Houston's personnel responded to over 300 search and rescue cases, saving or assisting nearly 1,100 lives, including an outstanding effort to rescue 890 individuals following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Again, I am privileged to recognize Captain Norman S. Schweizer, Commander Sean M. Mahoney, and Air Station Houston for outstanding service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLUE NOTES
DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a musical group from my district that, for the past 50 years, has traveled Michigan's Upper Peninsula, U.P., entertaining crowds with traditional drum and bugle corps music. The Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps began in Ishpeming, MI, on Halloween night in 1957 as an all-boy junior corps. Founded by two dedicated young men, Joe Mayrand and Jim Medlyn, the Blue Notes and Drum Bugle Corps performed in local parades for the first time in the summer of 1958.

In 1959, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps was expanded and an all-girl color guard was added, under the direction of Mary Blight. In 1960, women were accepted into the Blue Notes horn line for the first time.

Over the next few years, with strong support of hard working parents and the entire Ishpeming community, along with sponsorship by the American Legion Post 58, money was raised to purchase new uniforms and instruments. With a proud community behind them, the Blue Notes soon grew into a competitive drum and bugle corps, well known throughout the Midwest.

During their 20-year existence as a competitive junior drum and bugle corps, the Blue Notes won numerous titles, including 9 State championships. The Corps participated in contests across the Midwest and Canada. Sadly, despite their successes, interest in the Corps dwindled and, in 1977, the junior corps disbanded. Drum and bugle corps music was absent from the Ishpeming area for the next 7 years.

However, in 1984, a group of junior corps alumni, then in their twenties and thirties, came together to consider reviving the corps. After discussions and practice, the group gathered and marched through the July 4th parade in Ishpeming, to honor the high school's 100-year reunion celebration.

The alumni corps' performance electrified the crowd. Having received such a tremendous reception, the alumni group decided to officially reunite and, since then, the revived Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps have been performing every year since.

The revived Corps expanded its membership to include not only Blue Notes alumni, but

other drum corps alumni and, any musicians interested in sharing their talents. Today, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps has members from across Michigan's western U.P., including the communities of Ishpeming, Negaunee, Marquette, Gladstone, Gwinn, Ontonagon, Kingsford, Iron Mountain, and even Hurley, WI.

The Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps' membership level has fluctuated throughout the years. While having only 8 members in 1984, the Corps boasted 54 members in 1999. Due to these changes in membership, members of the Corps came to realize that the group's continued existence would require a strong recruiting drive. A committee was formed to concentrate on recruiting new members. They targeted younger musicians, those aged 18 to 21, in order to ensure the Corps would remain vibrant even after its older members leave the group.

The recruiting committee's efforts successfully brought several younger members into the group. After seeing the enthusiasm these young people brought to the drum and bugle corps activity, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps extended membership to high school students.

Today, the 2007 Blue Notes "50th Anniversary Corps" has members ranging in age from 14 to 60. They come from all walks of life, but are united by a passion for drum and bugle corps music. Marquette County's only drum and bugle corps, and one of two active drum and bugle corps in the Upper Peninsula, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps are the pride of Ishpeming. Every summer, they conduct 20 performances across Michigan's Upper Peninsula, participating in parades, playing at community celebrations and keeping the drum and bugle tradition alive throughout the U.P.

Madam Speaker, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps' stalwart members, who revived the group after the junior corps disbanded in 1977 and their current members, should be commended for their dedication. This month, the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps celebrates its 50 year anniversary. As the Ishpeming community and Michigan's U.P. honor the Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps I would ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting them, congratulating them on 50 musical years and wishing them many more years of spreading drum and bugle music throughout our Upper Peninsula.

SALUTING FRED RASCHKE: GALVESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce has chosen Mr. Fred Raschke as its Business Leader of the Year because, as Galveston Chamber of Commerce President Gina Spagnola said, "Fred is an extraordinary man who is committed to his family, his faith, his friends as well as service to our community."

Mr. Raschke is an honors graduate of the University of Texas and a graduate of Texas Tech University School of Law. He is a partner of the Mills Shirley law firm and a member of numerous legal organizations including the Fifth Federal Circuit and American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Association of Defense Counselors. His legal practice areas include defense litigation, negligence defense, personal injury defense, toxic tort defense, premises liability, gas, and electric utilities.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Raschke's commitment to community service has made him a partner with all the people of Galveston. Mr. Raschke is very involved with several different community organizations including the Salvation Army, Boy Scouts of America, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce and the Galveston Historical Society. He has also served on boards of various Galveston area organizations, including the UTMB School of Nursing Alumni, Development and Community Relations Advisory Council, the Galveston County Economic Alliance, and the Galveston Rotary Club.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to join my friends at the Galveston County Chamber of Commerce in saluting Fred Raschke for both his professional accomplishments and his dedication to the Galveston community.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Chairman, I am a committed advocate for small businesses, which are a driving force in the economy of the Hudson Valley. To help support these businesses, I cosponsored the Small Business Tax Relief Act, which provided a number of tax breaks to local small businesses including enhancement of the work opportunity tax credit and the ability to claim the work opportunity tax credit against AMT liability. I was proud to see the President sign that small business tax relief package into law earlier this year. The bill we considered today, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, included over \$580 million for the Small Business Administration. Small businesses are a vital part of the 19th district of New York and the country as a whole, and I am committed to helping small business owners succeed in the 21st century and beyond.

During consideration of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill I voted against an amendment proposed by Congressman GARRETT that would have extended a moratorium on enforcement of

section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. I am concerned that the amendment would have weakened the Sarbanes Oxley system, which is designed to ensure transparency in America's corporations and protect innocent share-

holders and employees from corporate malfeasance. I have not forgotten what led to the demise of companies like Enron and Worldcom, and I am committed to ensuring that such tragedies are not repeated. I look forward to

continuing to work with colleagues to pursue ways to support small business growth and corporate accountability.